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Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program “handouts” document for our March 12, 2019 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.

What does this really mean?

Prior to this “new” process, our program handouts would actually be paper handouts that were based on me often printing up the first page related to a web site that I wanted to mention. Then on the paper for the web site I would handwrite what things of importance are associated with the web site that the researcher should know. Maybe it was a new web site or maybe an important date related to a significant event or maybe a new database was released. Whatever it was I noted it on the paper of the first page of the web site.

The source for the vast majority of what is in the Handouts is the monthly Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Newsletter. From within this larger document I extract information on upcoming genealogy programs local to our area, important items from Dick Eastman’s Online Genealogy Blog, as well as I summarize some key periodical articles of interest that I think are important to be aware of. The Handouts simply provide me with the opportunity to focus in on what I consider are important genealogical bits of information important to the researcher as well as to share my own personal thoughts on why it is of note.

You will also see a small redesign of the PDF Handout package. You will now see a Table of Contents on Page 1 listing what the following “handouts” are by topic. Within the Table of contents you can quickly access the handouts by using the hyperlinks and bookmarks that will get you quickly to your handout of interest. You will no longer have to scroll through the entire package of handouts to get to the one you want.

I also plan on use the “yellow highlight” tool within Word and highlight certain areas of these notes that I think are important to note. The visual highlighting will take your eyes to areas of importance to note. Please let me know if you think this OK or if it may be a distraction? I thought I would give it a try.

Going forward I plan on creating this document on a monthly basis that will include my notes regarding a web site of interest and a link to the web site itself.

The reader of this “handout” list can themselves then read my overview summary of the site and then link to the site directly themselves to get more details or print out what they want from site.

I will clearly identify my own comments when the handout is a combination of material that came from some other source such as Dick Eastman’s blog as well as my own comments. I will indicate my comments in Italics, clearly marked so the reader can distinguish between the original verbiage and my own comments. If a
This program “Handout” information will then be uploaded to the Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Blog that is titled “Genealogy with Tony”. This blog will be accessible from the library’s main web site page at www.schaumburglibrary.org. Select “Local History and Genealogy” at the top of the page, then look for the icon on the Local History and Genealogy page that says “Tony’s Genealogy Blog”. Open the blog link and then look at the right hand sidebar of the blog and you will see the “Handouts” information. The direct web address for the blog I author is http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com

Here we go with the list of “handouts”!

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Handout #1 – VISIT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY GENEALOGY BLOG

I will continue to remind participants of our library’s genealogy blog. You can access it through our library home page at www.SchaumburgLibrary.org by looking for the tab called “Services”, pull down for “genealogy”. This will take you to my genealogy page at the library. Scroll down a little and look for the bi-colored blue and black box. In the black part of the box is a hot link titled “Tony’s Genealogy Blog”. Click on the link for the blog title and you will get to my blog.

Or you can just go directly to the blog at:

http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com

You will find postings on upcoming programs, both at our library, and elsewhere in the area. You will also find a myriad of other kinds of postings, especially those that I offer on “Genealogy Tips” to help make your research efforts more productive.

You will also find our Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Newsletter and our “Program Handouts” at the blog as PDF files for you to view online, or download and save to your own computer for future referral.

Please remember that the blog will be the place to retrieve the newsletter and the “handouts”. I do not plan on making paper handouts of these available for distribution at the program or for mailing to individuals.

Try to visit the blog frequently to see what is going on. Subscribe to the blog via the icon in the lower right part of your screen that simply states “Follow”. By clicking on the “Follow” link you will subscribe to the blog and will receive follow-up e-mail notices when I publish a new post.

Our blog is the way of the future and the future is here now!

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Handout #2 – NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHWEST SUBURBAN GENEALOGY SOCIETY WILL BE ON APRIL 6, 2019

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning April 6, 2019. The program for the morning is titled “Pinning Together Your Genealogy Past with Pinterest”. The speaker for the morning will be Debra Dudek. (PLEASE NOTE THIS PROGRAM WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 2, 2019 BUT WAS CHANGED TO APRIL 6, 2019.)

This meeting will take place at the Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 W. Central Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005 at 10:00 AM. There is a round table discussion that takes place at 9:00 AM prior to the main meeting/program that starts at 10:00 AM. Participants are invited to attend this round table and bring their research questions for discussion.

You may visit the society web page at:

http://www.nwsgenealogy.org/

Please note that it has happened once in a while that the society may change a program schedule without actively sharing that fact. Checking their web site may also not give you notice of such a change if they do not change the web site. That is still the first place to check. You may also want to contact someone at the society if a phone number is available to verify that a program is still scheduled as they had advertised. That is always not available either.

We do our best here to try to be sure that information we convey about programs is accurate. However, sometimes we are unable to convey changes unless we are made aware of those changes.

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Please note that meetings that will take place for the society will occur between September 2018 and May 2019. The September 2018 program will occur at the DuPage County Historical Museum located at 102 E. Wesley Street in Wheaton, IL. The October 2018 through May 2019 programs are once again taking place at the Wheaton Public Library in the Lower Level. The address of the library is 225 N. Cross St. in Wheaton, IL. Please note the times for refreshments and the program. Refreshments are offered at 6:30 PM. The meeting will start at 7 PM and last till no longer than 8:45 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, April 17, 2019 between 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the Wheaton Public Library. Refreshments are offered at 6:30pm. The program scheduled for that evening is “Mapping the Past: Navigating Your Family History with Maps”. The speaker for the program will be Dr. Daniel Hubbard.

Mapping the Past looks at different types of maps and how to use them to understand your ancestors' towns and migrations; changing borders and extracting data and even names from maps.

You may visit the society’s web page at:

www.dcgss.org

The society also has a blog that you can visit to find out about “this and that” related to the society as well as find genealogical tips. You can visit the DuPage County Genealogical Society blog at:

http://dupagecountygenealogicalsociety.wordpress.com/

Please note that it has happened once in a while that the society may change a program schedule without actively sharing that fact. Checking their web site may also not give you notice of such a change if they do not change the web site. That is still the first place to check. You may also want to contact someone at the society if a phone number is available to verify that a program is still scheduled as they had advertised. That is always not available either.

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGGNI) NEXT PROGRAM ON MARCH 16, 2019 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, March 16, 2019 at the Schaumburg Township District Library between 10:30am to 12:30pm. The program scheduled for this day is “What’s New in Technology”. The speaker will be Ed Rosenthal.

Ed Rosenthal will present his very popular annual survey of emerging technologies. Sharing of the insights he gains from keeping tabs on new developments in the computing and digital imaging scenes will provide us all with a glimpse of what new tools will soon be available to leverage in our favorite obsession — genealogy!

Ed Rosenthal has served several terms over the years as president of CAGGNI and has been doing family research for over 30 years with Family Tree, RootsMagic, Family Search and is excited about the “new kid on the block” My Heritage.

He’s worked at Pepsi, Rockwell, Motorola and NEC directing engineering and software projects after previously spending over 20 years in the broadcast business building television facilities. He is a certified Project Management Professional with a master’s degree in project management from Keller.

This will be Ed’s 20th CAGGNI annual “What’s New in Technology” presentation, which was started under the direction of the late Anne Jacobs. He will be presenting his popular annual survey of emerging technologies and share some insights on new developments that we can use in our research.

You may visit the organization web page at:

www.CAGGNI.org

Please note that it has happened once in a while that the society may change a program schedule without actively sharing that fact. Checking their web site may also not give you notice of such a change if they do not change the web site. That is still the first place to check. You may also want to contact someone at the society if a phone number is available to verify that a program is still scheduled as they had advertised. That is always not available either.

We do our best here to try to be sure that information we convey about programs is accurate. However, sometimes we are unable to convey changes unless we are made aware of those changes.

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Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, April 9, 2019.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Paul Milner. Paul will present a program titled “New Resources for British Isles Research”.

Learn what new primary and secondary sources have become available and how to access them. Keep up to date on the constantly changing face of British Isles research by learning about recently released original records, new indexes, book, CD-ROM and web sites.

Paul Milner, a native of northern England, is a professional genealogist and internationally known lecturer with 30 years’ experience, specializing in British Isles research.

Paul has been designing genealogy workshops, writing books, and lecturing for over 35 years. He holds an advanced degree in Theology and is particularly knowledgeable about the church and its role in record keeping. As a genealogist he speaks on a variety of topics relating to research in the British Isles, migration to North America and research methodology.

He is the 2018 recipient of the Utah Genealogical Society Fellow Award.

He is currently the book review editor of the British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois Newsletter (BIGWILL) and is the former book review editor of the FGS FORUM.

Paul is a past board member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, and the British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois.

Doors will open at approximately 7 p.m. so you can pick-up handouts, review books and journals, and network with other participants. Tony Kierna will start the program at 7:30 p.m. with introductions of new participants and a brief review of handouts and genealogical matters.

For further information, contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.

You may visit the library’s web page at:

www.SchaumburgLibrary.org

to view a Calendar of Events section of the library web page for this program and for many more non-genealogical programs offered by our library.

You can also visit the Genealogy Blog of the library that is authored by Tony Kierna. Visit the blog at http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com for all things related to genealogy and the genealogy programs at the Schaumburg Township District Library.
Handout #6 – UNDERSTANDING CEMETERY SYMBOLS

The following was found at Dick Eastman’s Blog at www.eogn.com dated January 30, 2019.

Dick Eastman · January 30, 2019 · Genealogy Basics · No Comments

Have you ever stared at a cemetery symbol on a grave and wondered if it meant something or if it was merely decorative? Understanding cemetery symbolism can give you clues to understanding your ancestor’s lives.


Comments by Tony Kierna

As I write this it is the first week of March 2019 and we are in the grip of zero degrees on the thermometer! Way colder than it should be but now is the time to start thinking of cemetery related topics. This time of the year is like “spring training” for cemetery work and research. Now is the time to prep for your eventual visits to cemetery this coming summer. Get all of your cemetery equipment organized e.g. water containers, brushes, orange construction flag markers etc. Think past just the physical aspects of cemetery research. Start thinking about all the things you may start discovering on the headstones and gravestones that you will discover. Since space was limited on these marking devices, entire stories of that person’s life had to be compressed down to symbols that took the place of a story.

The link above is very good. It will give you insights into some of the most common symbols you may encounter on gravestones and what they mean. Sometimes the interpretation of the symbols is not what you might think. Here is the list of the symbols identified and their meanings:

- Anchor – could be a symbol for a seaman but is also viewed as a sign of hope.
- Angel – the departed has taken flight into heaven; sometimes specifically St. George or St. Michael.
- Arches – can signify a triumph over death and the entrance into heaven.
• **Book – perhaps a scholar or teacher is buried there;** maybe an early death where a life story was not yet completed.

• **Broken Obelisk – could signify the cutting short of someone’s life especially the head of the family.**

• **Butterfly – symbol of resurrection; deceased will rise from the grave as a new person.**

• **Celtic Cross – can be a religious or secular symbol; may indicate Irish or British Isles connection.**

• **Cherubs – signify a soul that has gone to heaven; often indicative of the death of a child.**

• **Christian Cross – eternal life and resurrection; three ends may represent the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.**

• **Crown – symbolizes Christ.**

• **Dove – represents the Holy Spirit; with an olive branch it symbolizes peace.**

• **Draped Flag – grief and mourning; also could represent a military connection.**

• **Finger Pointing Down – God is reaching down for the soul of the deceased.**

• **Finger Pointing Up – departed has gone to heaven and is encouraging others to look up.**

• **Fleur-de-Lis – Lily of France; French lineage; possible Boy Scout connection.**

• **Flowers – deceased was in the full bloom of life.**

• **Flowers on a Cross – growth in Christ or immortality.**

• **Grapes – symbolize the blood of Christ or the Last Supper.**

• **Handshake – final farewell; God reaching out to bring deceased to heaven.**

• **Kiwanis – deceased was a member of the Kiwanis.**
Kin Crawler is a web crawler/search engine that works in a similar method as Google but with one major difference: it is constantly crawling the web looking for any pages that pertain solely to genealogy. Once it finds a genealogy-related web site, Kin Crawler indexes each page and puts the words or cache into a database on the Kin Crawler server. The search engine then takes whatever you type in and searches the database for matching words. It then tries to return a list of pages that best match your query.

Kincrawler.com has over 3 million pages in the index so far. These first 2 million crawl has mainly been the free content from the USGenweb, Rootsweb pages, and many other sites that are considered to be good free alternatives to using pay sites. The plan is to expand that “web crawl” to as many genealogy sites as can be identified. If you don’t find what you want on Kin Crawler today, you might return in a few months and try again. By that time, Kin Crawler probably will be expanded significantly.

Kin Crawler is a non-commercial web site, started by and maintained as a personal project by Anthony Marshall. He writes, “My main hobbies are genealogy and web programming so I decided to combine the two in an attempt to make the largest ‘free form’ genealogy specific search engine on the internet. My main goal is to help others find their family history by creating a genealogy search that is completely free and linked to pages that are also completely free.”


Comments by Tony Kierna

Always worth trying a resource that is accessing lots of web data, especially if you can find something new for “free”. They may be accessing material that is not being accessed by Ancestry or FamilySearch or any other big time provider of genealogy data. The nice thing about Kin Crawler is that it is only looking for material that has a genealogy connection. This means searching it should not pick up extraneous unrelated material that would cause you to have to filter through excluding non-genealogical material.
I did try it and really experienced mixed results. I simply used KIERNA as a search term and no hits even were discovered. Not a good sign. I tried searching for FICHT and was presented with a list of only 27 total hits. Doing the same on Ancestry or FamilySearch would have given me hundreds if not thousands. I tried to be even more specific and entered in “JON FICHT” as a search term (within quotes) and literally received only one hit along with hits that were associated with "Ad" sites. It just did not seem like putting the name in quotes really brought results for "jon ficht". I was seeing results given to me that were for names like "jonas" that I did not expect to see since I searched for the name "jon ficht" within quotes. I was disappointed by that.

Granted, this new crawler is new and has relatively few pages in its total search. Maybe give it some more time as it expands and you may very well find something of interest to you that you have not discovered elsewhere. Like anything else that is brand new it may not produce the results you hoped for. However, it could sure develop into something bigger down the road. I am just not seeing anything special at this early stage of development with surnames that literally produced almost zero results for me.

Keep it in mind. Bookmark the site and visit in the future to see if you have any more success than I did with a few surnames.

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Handout #8 – WHY WAS THE INFORMATION REMOVED FROM ONLINE?

The following was found in Dick Eastman’s Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated February 4, 2019.

Dick Eastman · February 4, 2019 · Genealogy Basics, Legal Affairs, Online Sites, Uncategorized · 15 Comments

NOTE: This is a slightly updated version of an article I published three years ago. I have added a new section about the restrictions recently added by the European GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).

Several newsletter readers have sent messages to me expressing dissatisfaction with records that were available online at one time but have since disappeared. I am offering this republished article as an explanation about why we should not be surprised when that happens. I will also offer a suggestion as to making sure you keep your own copies of online records that are valuable to you.

Two newsletter readers sent email messages to me recently expressing dissatisfaction that a set of images of vital records has been removed from a popular genealogy site. Indeed, removal of any online records of genealogical value is sad, but not unusual. Changes such as these are quite common on FamilySearch, MyHeritage, Ancestry.com, Fold3, Findmypast, and many other genealogy sites that provide images of old records online. Removal of datasets has occurred dozens of times in the past, and I suspect such things will continue to happen in the future. I thought I would write a brief explanation.

Contracts

In most cases, information of genealogical value obtained from government agencies, religious groups, museums, genealogy societies, and other organizations is provided under contractual agreements. The contracts specify what information is to be provided, how it is to be made available, and what price the web site owner has to pay to the provider for the records. All contracts also have a defined expiration date, typically 2 years or 3 years or perhaps 5 years after the contract is signed.

When a contract nears expiration, the two parties usually attempt to renegotiate the contract. Sometimes renewal is automatic, but more often it is not. Maybe the information provider (typically an archive) decides they want more money, or maybe they decide they no longer want to supply the data to the online genealogy service. For instance, in the time the information has been available online, the information provider may have learned just how valuable the information really is. The information provider may decide to ask for more money or may even refuse to provide the information any more since the provider may have a NEW plan to create their own web site and offer the same information online on their new site for a fee.

Sure, that stinks for those of us who would like to have the information everywhere; but, it makes sense to most everyone else. I am sure the budget officer at most any state or local government archive thinks it makes sense.
Every contract renegotiation is different, but it is not unusual to agree to disagree. The contract ends, and the web site provider legally **MUST** remove the information from their web site. The same thing frequently happens to all the online sites that provide old records online.

**GDPR**

Another issue that has become a problem recently is the European GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). These new rules apply to all public records in Europe. These regulations arose because of the concept of the “right to be forgotten,” mostly concerning people who had legal problems in the past but have since reformed and do not want the old records to constantly create new problems. The regulations are generic and open to various interpretations. While not specifically requiring information about ancestors of 100 years ago or even earlier to be removed from public view, many people and organizations have taken a conservative approach and deleted any record sets that are even slightly questionable under the new rules.

A full discussion of the GDPR would consume hundreds or even thousands of web pages so I won’t attempt that here. Instead, you can find many online articles that address the issues created by the GDPR by starting at Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Data_Protection_Regulation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Data_Protection_Regulation) and then moving on to [https://duckduckgo.com/?q=gdpr&t=hi&ia=news](https://duckduckgo.com/?q=gdpr&t=hi&ia=news).

One problem for web publishers is how to create two separate services: one to display European records that comply with the GDPR and also create a second service that displays records from the rest of the world. Some web publishers have simply removed ALL records that might not comply with the GDPR regulations, regardless of the geography involved.

**The moral of this story**

If you find a record online that is valuable to you, **SAVE IT NOW!** Save it to your hard drive and make a backup copy someplace else as well. If there is no option to save, make a screen shot and save it on your hard drive and save another copy in the cloud or some other place where it will last for many years. Just because you can see the record online today does not mean that it will be available forever.

**Comments by Tony Kierna**

*Dick Eastman has brought this up many times in the past. It looks like this topic is once again important due to the new privacy laws that were enacted in Europe (GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)) causing material that was once online to suddenly no longer be available.*

*The previous main reason for data disappearing from online was due to altered contractual relations between the owner of the data (let’s say Cook County, IL) and the user of the data (let’s say FamilySearch). Sometimes a provider at time of the end of a contract just decides they no longer want to provide the data online. It is their call to not re-up the contract and just exit the supplier business. That is our loss as researchers to no longer have the data available to us. Sometimes, the*
provider sees value to the data that was not experienced at the outset of the contract. Now perhaps they are asking for much more money from the user of the data to extend the contract into a new term with new cost/money arrangements between the provider and the user. Maybe the user does not want to pay more and simply lets the contract end. Again, for the end user researcher this data is no longer available.

Oftentimes, it is a third situation which takes precedence. The provider of the data realizes the value of the data and simply chooses to end the existing contract when it expires for the purpose of creating a subscribable database of that data for which they then charge and start collecting money for the service. This is exactly what happened between FamilySearch and Cook County, IL a few years back when Cook County chose to not extend the contract with FamilySearch and start their own database service for a fee.

Now in Europe a new set of privacy laws was recently put into effect in 2018 tightening up privacy laws. The end result of this new law is that much data that was available online has now become “private” under the new law and has been removed from access. So in this case, it was not an economic decision to start a new database and charge for it for material that was available for free. In this case the data was deemed to be “private” and had to be removed from access.

There is only one major lesson for researchers to learn from these series of events. If you search for something and discover something promising online that either are database results or images, it is imperative that you save and capture the data and the images for your future use. DO NOT ASSUME ANYMORE THAT YOU CAN COME BACK TO A SITE EVEN A DAY LATER AND FIND THE MATERIAL. Download the discovered data immediately because you may have only one choice to capture it.

I was lucky to have captured over 100 images of birth, marriage and death certificates from Cook County when they were available online years ago. Today, each of those would cost me $17. I feel good about that.

Save your discovered data immediately. Do not think you will be able to do it tomorrow!

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Handout #9 – “BAY WATCH”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the February/March 2019, Volume 13, Number 6 issue of Internet Genealogy.

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I thought that a good article in this issue s one titled “Bay Watch”. The author of the article is Sue Lisk. The drift of the article is for genealogy researchers to consider using eBay as a genealogical source of information. You can find out some interesting pieces of information without having to spend a dime purchasing anything.

The author suggests the following ways on how to use eBay to make genealogical discoveries on your ancestors:

• Search By Surname
  o The author used her own last name “Lisk” which is neither common or rare according to her knowledge of the name.
  o The name is associated with a relatively well-known manufacturing company in Upstate New York.
  o She was able to discover antique enamelware the first Lisk company produced, as well as specialized parts for aerospace and defense created by its successor company GW Lisk Company.
  o This kind of search is very helpful for fairly unusual surnames.

• Search By Surname and Town Name
  o Put each item in quotes.
  o The author again used her own research interests using both “Lisk” and “Clifton Springs” and received similar results from using her surname only (GW Lisk Company).
  o She tried “Phinney” and “Cooperstown” and got a hit for a check from 1858. She believes it was signed by an ancestor of hers. The author suggests if you do get any possible results that may be promising take a screenshot of the item and save it for future reference.

• Search By Town Name
  o The author suggests that before you use this search technique you have to have some knowledge of the town name you will use.
  o The author again used a town name associated with her research “Clifton Springs”.
  o She discovered a photo associated with a Universalist Church dating back to the mid-to-late 1800s. The photo was part of a
postcard for sale on eBay that contained sketches of all of the
towns churches back to 1907.

• **Search By Surname and Item Name**
  - The author suggests that it helps to know if your family was
    involved in a specific industry. If you do, a combination
    surname and item name search may prove helpful.
  - Sellers on eBay are inclined to mention the name of the item in
    their description of what is for sale.
  - The author knew from previous research that the surname
    “Haight” was associated with ancestors in the silversmith
    business. She used “Haight” and “spoon” as search terms.
  - She discovered a spoon for sale produced by J.W. Haight. The
    seller provided some details as to the description of the spoon
    that included year made, maker’s name, and hallmarks on the
    handle. The author is not sure if this is her ancestor but now
    has some further details for future research.

• **Search By Institution Name in a Specific Location**
  - The author notes that it is helpful in advance to know if your
    ancestors were associated with a public institution such as a
    university, a hospital or an asylum.
  - The author used a search term of “Syracuse University” which
    brought up a 1940 yearbook of the university’s Forestry Club.
  - Details that were able to be seen were:
    - Photos with the club member’s names
    - Pages describing activities of the club
    - One photo even identified members of the “Beaver
      Patrol”
  - The author also did a search using “Children’s Hospital” and
    “Boston” and discovered an 1881 art print that contained the
    following:
    - 2 sketches of the exterior of the hospital
    - One showing an interior scene of the hospital showing
      the staff caring for the sick.
    - Another sketch showed the administrator in his office.
  - The author also did a search using “Willard Asylum” and “Ovid”
    and discovered a 1903 photo album devoted to the mental
    health facility.

• Use your imagination to create terms to use for searching based on
  some accumulated knowledge from your research.

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18  3/6/2019
Handout #10 – “1867 VOTER REGISTRATION”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the February/March 2019, Volume 13, Number 6 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that another interesting article in this issue is one titled “1867 Voter Registration”. The author of this article is Diane L. Richard.

This post-Civil War article on voter registration can be very informative for anyone discovering slavery in their ancestral lines. Voter records of all kinds can generally help the researcher and these are especially important to pick up the trail on ancestral slaves post-Civil War.

The author breaks down the article into the following 4 categories:

- **First, let’s examine the relevant law**
  - The relevant law is identified as Chapter CLIII of Statutes at Large of the United States, Section 5 that said:
    - “delegates elected by the male citizens of said state, twenty-one years old and upward, of whatever race, color, or previous condition, who have been resident in said State for one year previous to the day of such election, except such as may be disenfranchised for participation in the rebellion or for felony at common law ....”.

- **Second, let’s examine the significance of the law**
  - Surviving 1867 voter registrations are invaluable.
  - Reconstruction Acts of 1867 implemented regulations regarding voter registration.
  - These are the first lists to include whites, (who took oaths), those who were previously designated as free persons of color AND those previously enslaved.
  - Does not mean that all who “could” vote did in fact register to vote.
    - Many may have been dissuaded from voting through threats etc. that were developing post-Civil War.

- **Third, let’s examine what you might learn from these records**
  - These lists may take the form of Oaths of Allegiance, Poll Books, Poll Lists, Registries of Voters and Voter Registration Records.
It may be a simple list with a “color” designation indicated.

Some lists are even more informative providing great details:

- Residency information including state, county and precinct.
- Where born
- Whether/when naturalized.

Fourth, let’s examine the records we can access documenting those registered to vote in the circa 1867-69 time period

State-by-State Resources

- Alabama Voter Registration Records Database @ www.archives.state.al.us/voterree as well as through Ancestry.com (subscription) @ http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=60968
- Arkansas Voter Lists 1867 (Book) from the Arkansas Genealogical Society, searchable index for 25 counties.
- Florida Voter Registration Rolls, 1867-68 @ www.floridamemory.com/collections/election1867
- Louisiana (Check state archives for details)
- Mississippi Reconstruction Voter Lists and Election Returns, 1867-69 (not online) @ http://zed.mdah.state.ms.us/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=82246&query_desc=kw%2Cwrdl%3A%201867%20voter
- Texas (Online) via Ancestry, Texas, Voter Registration Lists, 1867-69 @ http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2274. Details provided here, Voters Registration of 1867 @ www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/votersreg.html.
- Virginia African American Poll books, 1867, being transcribed as part of Transcribe, Library of Virginia @ www.virginiamemory.com/transcribe/collections/show/2
9. Once the project is completed the link address may change.

Lots of great information in this article especially all of the links to the various resources noted on a state-by-state basis.

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