



*Scan either of the above Quick Response (QR) codes with your QR code smartphone reader and you will be taken to the genealogy blog I author for the library titled "Tony's Genealogy Blog at the Schaumburg Township District Library".*

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## June 11, 2019 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our June 11, 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

handout item was completely created by me then you will see that noted at the top. In this case, the entirety of the handout was created by me and will not be shown in Italics.

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](http://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](http://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 AUGUST 24 (?), 2019**

**THE SOCIETY WILL NOT BE MEETING DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY 2018. THEY WILL RE-GATHER AGAIN ON A STILL UNDETERMINED DAY POSSIBLY IN AUGUST 2019 (POSSIBLY AUGUST 24, 2019) INSTEAD OF A SEPTEMBER PROGRAM THAT WOULD CONFLICT WITH LABOR DAY.**

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning "To Be Determined" 2019. The program for the morning is titled "To Be Determined". The speaker for the morning will be To Be Determined.

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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**Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT  
REGULAR SOCIETY PROGRAM ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2019**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED BY THE SOCIETY DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2019.**

Please note that meetings that will take place for the society will occur between September 2019 and May 2020. The September 2019 program will occur at the DuPage County Historical Museum located at 102 E. Wesley Street in Wheaton, IL. The October 2019 through May 2020 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, September 18, 2019 between 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the DuPage County Historical Museum. Refreshments are offered at 6:30pm. The program scheduled for that evening is "To Be Determined". The speaker for the program will be To Be Determined.

You may visit the society's web page at:

[www.dcgs.org](http://www.dcgs.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 JUNE 15, 2019 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY**

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, June 15, 2019 at the Schaumburg Township District Library between 10:30am to 12:30pm. The program scheduled for this day is **"Explore U.S. Church Records: Find Family"**. The speaker will be **Jacquie Schattner**.

Church records provide surprising information, not just baptisms, marriages and deaths. They provide clues to much more, including town or origin and immigration information, how active families were in their church, and their financial situation. Church records predate government records, and often provide information on under-represented people: women, minorities, immigrants and young children. You will learn how to identify your ancestor's place of worship, access surviving records and solve research problems such as maiden names and overseas birthplaces. Come find out what new and exciting information you may find in church records!

Jacquie Schattner has been actively researching her family's ancestors since 1996. She volunteered at the local Family History Center for 15 years, teaches genealogy at local high schools and area libraries. She is active in several genealogy societies including CAGGNI. Jacquie received her B.S. degree from the University of Illinois. She is a retired school secretary, allowing her free time to pursue new information. Living in Palatine, Illinois she is happily married for 39 years, and has 3 grown children and 2 sons-in-laws and 6 adorable grandchildren.

You may visit the organization web page at:

[www.CAGGNI.org](http://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.

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**Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON JULY 9, 2019**

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

Our program is titled "The Latest in Chicago Vital Records Online". Our speaker for the evening will be Dan Niemiec.

This is an ever-evolving presentation on the available Chicago birth, marriage, and death records on-line. Dan Niemiec, genealogy correspondent for Fra Noi, will explain how to get free and fee-based genealogy records.

Dan Niemiec has been the Italian genealogy correspondent of Fra Noi for 10 years (over 120 monthly columns). He is co-founder and immediate past president of the Italian genealogy group called POINTers In Person, Chicago-North chapter. He has given many presentations to local and national genealogy conferences and societies. His Italian ancestral lines go back to the mid-late-1600s, and his Polish lines go back to the mid 1700s. By tracing descendant lines from his ancestors, he has found over 77,000 relatives, the result of 25 years of original research.

Dan has been speaking and writing about genealogy for over a decade. Years of participating and coaching high school forensics have made his presentations both informative and entertaining. Dan's background in computers and databases has made him an expert at genealogy web site search techniques.

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](http://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.

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## Handout #6 – PREDICTION: THE DEAD WILL TAKE OVER FACEBOOK IN THE NEXT 50 YEARS

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated April 29, 2019.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [April 29, 2019](#) · [Business News](#), [Online Sites](#) · [2 Comments](#)



An interesting article by Charlie Osborne in the ZDNet web site says that "Analysis suggests that the deceased will soon outnumber the living on the network."

"An analysis of Facebook user levels in 2018 was conducted, in which the research team estimate at least 1.4 billion current users will die before 2100. Based on this estimate, memorial accounts could outstrip active ones by 2070.

"However, if you take Facebook's potential expansion rates into account, the Oxford team says that the number of deceased users could be as high as 4.9 billion by 2100."

Obviously, that assumes there is no change in Facebook's current business practices and the company continues to function in the same manner it has in the past few years, all of which is doubtful.

You can read Charlie Osborne's article and watch a video at:  
<https://zd.net/2Lbxs7s>.

### Comments by Tony Kierna

**DISCLOSURE: I AM NOT A PARTICIPANT OF FACEBOOK SO WHILE I MAY BE AWARE OF THE CHANGES I DO NOT SEE THEM PERSONALLY IN REAL LIFE FOR MYSELF.**

Facebook over the years has been actively evolving. You have your active, living participants as a given, strong base. However, over the years, because so much of what is placed on Facebook has been important to the participants, much has recently been developed to account for such materials staying online after the death of that Facebook participant. This is what has been referred to as "memorializing".

In fact, I also included a "memorialize" topic about Facebook in the May 2019 Handouts package. Here is what was mentioned in that article by Dick Eastman:

*"This may be a new method of memorializing your deceased ancestors and other family members. Facebook has launched a new tool to help users memorialize loved ones.*

*Facebook on Tuesday announced changes to how it handles the profiles of users who have died, including using artificial intelligence to help keep the profiles of deceased people from showing up in places that might cause distress.*

*Facebook is also creating a separate section on profiles of the deceased that will be dedicated to tributes. By clicking on different tabs, users will be able to switch between the deceased person's preserved, original timeline and a second feed where others have left memories, photos or other posts in remembrance.*

*More than 30 million people already view memorialized profiles every month, the company says.*

*You can read more in an article by Michael Cappetta and David Ingram in the NBCNews web site at: <https://nbcnews.to/2G2tmZD>".*

*The popularity of Facebook is astounding. The numbers of participants is outstanding. And over time, still a rather long period of time, those that have died will far outnumber those that are living participants on Facebook through the process of memorializing.*

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## Handout #7 – U.S. VERSION OF “WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?” RETURNS TO TV ON NBC THIS TIME

*The following was found in Dick Eastman’s Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated May 7, 2019.*

[Dick Eastman](#) · [May 7, 2019](#) · [Video & Television](#) · [11 Comments](#)

The following is a press release from NBC:

Hit Documentary Series Produced by Ancestry(R) and Shed Media Returns with All New Episodes



UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. – May 6, 2019 – The Emmy Award-winning documentary series “Who Do You Think You Are?” returns to celebrate all new journeys of self-discovery, connection and diversity on NBC with 13 episodes. A new group of celebrities will celebrate culture and set sail on their mission to connect with their personal history.

From executive producers Lisa Kudrow, Dan Bucatinsky and Ancestry, the global leader in family history and consumer genomics, the series returns to NBC at a time when ancestral and genealogical exploration is enjoying unprecedented popularity. Cutting-edge research tools and billions of digitized records from Ancestry will provide remarkable insights into the star’s background and illustrate the cultural mosaic that connects us all together.

“Dan and I could not possibly be happier to be back at NBC where we get to work with Paul Telegdy, George Cheeks and Meredith Ahr. It honestly feels like we’re back home,” said executive producer Lisa Kudrow.

“Now, more than ever, people are looking to connect with their ancestry to uncover a deeper understanding of who they are,” said Meredith Ahr, President, Alternative and Reality Group, NBC Entertainment. “We’re excited to once again travel around the world with some of our favorite celebrities as they get answers and surprises about family members who came before them.”

Each week a different celebrity will go on a poignant search to trace their family tree with the help of historians and experts, unlocking past mysteries and unbelievable real-life stories across the world and through time.

“Lisa Kudrow and Dan Bucatinsky, along with our team at Shed Media, have made ‘Who Do You Think You Are?’ not only a great television show but a genre-defining brand. We are thrilled to come back home to NBC. It couldn’t be a more

perfect fit," said Mike Darnell, President, Warner Bros. Unscripted and Alternative Television.

"Who Do You Think You Are" will be produced by Shed Media and Is or Isn't Entertainment. Lisa Kudrow, Dan Bucatinsky, Pam Healey and Stephanie Schwam will executive produce.

Ancestry, the global leader in family history and consumer genomics, harnesses the information found in family trees, historical records, and DNA to help people gain a new level of understanding about their lives. Ancestry has more than 3 million paying subscribers across its core Ancestry websites with an extensive collection of over 20 billion records and nearly 15 million people in the AncestryDNA network. Since 1996, users have created over 100 million family trees and 11 billion ancestor profiles on the Ancestry flagship site and its affiliated international websites. Ancestry offers a suite of family history products and services including AncestryDNA(R), Archives(R), AncestryProGenealogists(R), Newspapers.com(TM) and Fold3(R). AncestryDNA is owned and operated by Ancestry.com DNA, LLC, a subsidiary of Ancestry.com Holdings LLC.

**Comments by Tony Kierna**

*It looks like the series that originally aired on NBC will be returning back to that home when the next set of 13 new episodes airs. For the past 7 years the show has appeared on TLC. I also believe that there were fewer new episodes on TLC over the last year. Only 8 to 10 new episodes appeared on TLC during its run on that channel. Over the entire 7 year run on TLC, 51 new episodes were produced overall.*

*As of this blog post, no premiere date has been established. Also, there is no list of "stars" identified that will be participants in the new series of 13 episodes on NBC.*

*It is amazing that this show has been on the air already for almost 9 seasons, having debuted in 2010.*

*The fact that NBC has committed to creating 13 new episodes all to appear under the banner of one season is very promising. The recent number of episodes creations on TLC for the recent season was only 4 new episodes.*

*The producers of this series seem energized to return back to the original network of NBC. That added energy could re-stimulate the creation of some great new episodes with even more star-studded casts of entertainers.*

*I will certainly share any new updates as to the premiere date and the new cast of "stars" who will have their family history researched when that becomes available. At least know "Who Do You think You Are?" will be returning to the airwaves with 13 new episodes back on the station that originally brought it to air at NBC.*

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## Handout #8 – DELAWARE MAY INCREASE THE EMBARGO PERIODS FOR BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH RECORDS

*The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated May 8, 2019.*

[Dick Eastman](#) · [May 8, 2019](#) · [Legal Affairs](#) · [3 Comments](#)

The following article was written by Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson of the [IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee](#):



As previously reported in the IAJGS Records Access Alert, a bill before the Delaware House will increase the embargo periods for birth marriage and death records. On May 7, it was amended and passed by House. The embargo periods were further extended. The bill now would extend embargo periods to:

- Birth from 72 years to 100 years
- Marriage from 40 to 70 years an
- Death records from 40 to 50 years

The original bill maybe accessed at: <https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail/47308>.

The amended bill may be read at:  
<http://legis.delaware.gov/json/BillDetail/GenerateHtmlDocument?legislationId=47426&legislationTypeId=5&docTypeId=2&legislationName=HA1>

To read the previous posts about the Delaware legislation go to the IAJGS Records Access Alert archives. To access the archives go to: <http://lists.iajgs.org/mailman/private/records-access-alerts>. You must be registered to access the archives. To register for the IAJGS Records Access Alert go to: <http://lists.iajgs.org/mailman/listinfo/records-access-alerts>. You will receive an email response that you have to reply to or the subscription will not be finalized. It is required to include your genealogical affiliation (genealogy organization, etc.)

### **Comments by Tony Kierna**

*I know the above is information on the state of Delaware. That is not my point of making you aware of this developing proposal. Rather, as researchers we should be concerned to see such hefty time intervals that will limit our access to Vital Records on our ancestors. The Eastman article above paints this as more than a proposal. It indicates that this has in fact been passed.*

We cannot ignore the concerns we hear about every day regarding the protection and privacy to all kinds of data. From Facebook to Public Trees online, data is currently out on these and other platforms that are now targets to limit access totally or increase the access time for this data. **What you see above are significant increases in time before Vital Records data for births, marriages and deaths can be accessed.**

If you thought in Delaware that waiting 72 years to access birth record information was long, now you will need to wait 100 years.

**I still read into this that the limitation is increasing for what would be "certified" documentation. You may have access to a wider range of Years of Vital Records when asking for "un-certified" or "genealogical" access. So maybe all is not actually lost. But privacy cuts a big swath and in the future there may be no distinction between "certified" or "un-certified" requests. Maybe 100 years will have had to pass before you can request vital records data regardless of the certification status.**

My suggestion is to be on the watch when you hear such proposals to limit access to Vital Records by increasing the time interval before they can be viewed. It is a trend that is here to stay.

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## Handout #9 – “TURNING ON THE MEMORY TAP”

*The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the May/June 2019, Volume 5, Number 2 issue of Your Genealogy Today.*

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I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “Turning on the Memory Tap” by Karen Dustman.

One of the most important activities for a beginning genealogical researcher is to meet with and interview various members of your family e.g. parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents etc. This will allow you to capture the stories of their lives for which you can begin your research efforts to prove out or disprove or flesh out and develop further with research. Far too many researchers do not take the time to actually capture the stories face to face with relatives. Not a good thing, but it happens. So interview your family members. Capture their stories on video or audio because you can use them in the future to research.

When interviewing, you will generally start with basic questions such as asking for your name, birthdate, birth location, early childhood, schooling, occupation etc. However, after these basic questions and depending on the person you are interviewing, you may discover that you just entered “interview desert”! What is that? This can easily happen if the person you are interviewing is shy or reluctant and just cannot get past giving a simple “yes” or “no” answer to a question you ask. Phrase your question in such a way that the interviewee cannot give you just a “yes” or “no” response. You want the interviewee to give you a story that is deep and detailed as best as possible.

But what do you do when you need to simply pull out so much more from the person you are interviewing?

The author suggests the following to keep the stories flowing and containing plenty of stuff for you to use:

- **Use Photo Prompts**

- Pictures can unlock vivid memories of time and place, plus unleashing the stories that go with them.
- Ask your subject to pick out a picture they especially like.
  - What is special to them about the picture?
  - What is the story behind it?
  - Who are the individuals in the photo and how do you know them?

- **Use Magazines as Memory-Joggers**

- Have some older magazines to use with the interviewee.

- Visuals contained in the magazine can bring out memories.
- Old advertisements can be a great source to trigger old memories about the item in the advertisement and how it may have connected to the person being interviewed.
- If you will be interviewing someone born in the 1930s, bring some magazines from the 1940s or 1950s.
  - Ask them about what fashion expectations existed for them.
  - Let them thumb through the older magazine and see what stories are triggered by what images.

#### • Ask for a Drawing

- Give the interviewee a pencil and some paper and ask them to draw something you ask:
  - "Draw me a picture of the street where you grew up".
    - Who were the neighbors they knew?
    - What were the main streets of town?
    - Where was the school, grocery store etc.?
  - Each place they can draw can elicit those memories to give you so much more.

#### • Things to Consider as the Interviewer

- Listening is an art. Do not "step" on the stories once they start to flow.
  - Don't immediately try to re-steer a veering away story.
    - This story may be even more important than what you started to ask with a different question.
- Your own enthusiasm can be contagious.
  - Tell the person how much you enjoy hearing their stories.

#### • Sample Questions to Consider To Use in an Interview

- "What was the first job for which you actually got paid?"
- "What was the most adventuresome or foolhardy thing you ever did?"
- "Was there a special turning point that shaped your life?"
- "What was your biggest disappointment as a child?"
- "What accomplishment are you most proud of? Why?"

Just remember that when you are interviewing someone to capture those stories, phrase your question so you do not receive a simple "yes" or "no" answer. You want full stories that you can work with. Use the tools that are out there that they alone can trigger some great stories such as with photos or magazines. It is very common for the person being interviewed to feel uneasy. After all, to them you

may be a total stranger. Put them at ease. Be enthusiastic yourself and the stories may flow like water!

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## Handout #10 – “HELP! I’M DROWNING IN DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOS”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the May/June 2019, Volume 5, Number 2 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

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I thought that another good story in this issue is one titled “Help! I’m Drowning in Documents and Photos” by John M. Hoenig.

Sometimes having fewer items is great for us. We can better process the material we have and organize it better. But as a researcher you will discover that as you research you will collect more and more “stuff” related to your research until it becomes overwhelming and unorganized. Now what? The author offers some great solutions for you to organize all that you may have collected before it gets out of hand.

Here are some things to consider:

- **Paper Collections May Have Been Easier to Manage**

- Research material from 15 years ago was generally in paper format.
- Perhaps we had a few hundred of things.
- Now we may have thousands of photos and documents that cannot be thumbed through because they are now on hard drives.

- **Document History and Provenance**

- Is the document I have originating in electronic form or paper?
  - Maybe the paper copy originally came from a digital electronic that was scanned at too low of a resolution making the paper hard to read.
  - Create files from scans at high resolution and save as TIFF files and not JPEGs. There will be some loss of quality with JPEGs.
  - A copy of an original document or image is acceptable. But a copy of a copy of a copy ultimately reduces the readability of that document.
- The provenance of your information is important:
  - A researcher using Ancestry.com could not find an ancestor in one of the 1915 New York census series of data. They had exact address of location. Turned out Ancestry had filmed a copy of this census from an original Albany, New York copy. Another copy existed in a Brooklyn courthouse. Researcher went to the Brooklyn located data and found what they were looking

for. Point is that knowing the provenance of where something came from is important. Same with your own data you accumulate.

- Similar situation on an Ancestry.com piece of data. Passenger record image from Ancestry.com was not legible. Researcher discovered that an alternative image of the data was easily readable and thus realizes there are likely at least two copies of the data.
- Properly identify your material as to source of origin.

#### • **A Three Component System**

- Give documents a unique identifying number. Author's father's name was initially spelled HONIG. Became HOENIG when he came to the United States. Author gave family unique ID of H147.
- Author created a Word document that serves as an inventory list for all H documents:
  - Identifying Information
  - Source
  - Provenance/History information
- Author also created an Excel spreadsheet to identify this material
  - Each row pertains to a person
  - Each column pertains to a type of document
  - He enters in an "H" type number in the cell for the document.
  - Color codes the cell content e.g. dark green presumes record does not exist etc.
  - Color code of yellow means author has the document.
  - Color code of magenta means he has the document but unsure if it pertains to his ancestor.
  - Digital "H" documents then can appear among other identified ancestors' records without starting a new number for that document.

#### • **Complexities of Organization and Documentation**

- Would like to designate whether a document is an original or a copy of a copy etc. but not always possible to know this.
  - When known if document is "Original", author appends an ORG to designate it as an original document.

The author does describe a complex way to keep track of your documents and photos. Hi system is worth investigating and can better be appreciated by truly reading the entire article in this journal. You can also benefit from the images contained in the article that shows his process, especially the image of the spreadsheet he uses to document the images and documents he has.

The lesson to be learned is to have some form of organization of all of your materials. Many times we use examples of how others organize. Sometimes the light bulb lights up, sometimes their system just does not make sense to you. The best system is the one that is easy for you to set up and that works for you. Something is better than nothing!

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