



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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August 13, 2019 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our August 13, 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. 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 SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

THE SOCIETY WILL NOT BE MEETING DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY AND AUGUST 2019.

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning September 7, 2019. The program for the morning is titled **“Genealogy Cloud Computing”**. The speaker for the morning will be **Thomas MacEntee**. I think this will be a “live” webinar with Thomas MacEntee making the presentation from off-site.

Cloud computing – the practice of storing data on a remote server – is a practical solution for genealogists. Learn how the cloud works, how to keep your data safe, and the latest cloud programs.

Tired of keeping your genealogy research data on multiple CDs, DVDs, flash drives, hard drives and in different locations? Cloud computing – the practice of storing data on a remote server – is a practical solution for genealogists. Learn not only how cloud computing works, but also the latest cloud programs and how to keep your data secure and private.

Thomas MacEntee is a genealogy professional specializing in the use of technology and social media to improve genealogy research and as a way to connect with others in the family history community.

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 **"The Basics of DNA Testing for Ancestry"**. The speaker for the program will be **Robert Sliwinski**.

This presentation covers the basic information in an easy to understand format that helps empower the public to make informed decisions about DNA Testing for ancestry. Covered are the different types of DNA used and their origins, the tests available on the market, a guide to the testing companies and what to expect for your money. Testing companies covered include AncestryDNA, Family Tree DNA, 23 and Me, My Heritage, Genographic 2.0, Living DNA, GPS Origins, and Helix. Tests covered include Y-DNA (Paternal), MtDNA (Maternal) and Autosomal (Family Finder, Relative Finder and AncestryDNA's test).

You may visit the society's web page at:

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 AUGUST 17, 2019 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, August 17, 2019 at the Schaumburg Township District Library between 11:00am to 12:30pm. The program scheduled for this day is "**Untying the Knot: Divorce Records**". The speaker will be **Kimberly Nagy**.

There is a wealth of information to be found in divorce records including marriage dates, birth dates of the couple and their children, and locations. Beyond this, these records offer an insight into their personalities and possessions. This session will explore the process of finding divorce records and how to get the most information from those records.

Kimberly Ormsby Nagy, MD PLCGS has been researching her ancestry for over forty years. Now retired from her career as a Trauma Surgeon she can devote all her time to her passion - Genealogy! She is very involved in lineage societies and has served as Registrar for several - either preparing or approving applications for membership.

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.

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Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, September 10, 2019.

We will have another “break-out” session for our gathering on September 10, 2019. Our previous attempts proved to be quite a good success. I would like us to build on those successes and afford those participants the opportunity to meet with those again or sample other groups.

After an initial introduction of new participants at the start of our normally scheduled meeting, we will establish our “breakout” groups at approximately 7:45 PM. We would have these breakout discussions from about 8:00 PM until about 9:30 PM. These groups would consist of about 7 to 8 participants. They would discuss some common topic of genealogy that interests them or from which they could learn even more to assist their research from sharing with others in the group and learning from others within the group.

The groups we previously tried seemed to work out quite well. I want to go with those same groups and am open to suggestions to attempt to add others or delete those that may not have a following.

I want to reconvene the following groups:

- Polish Researchers
- German Researchers
- Czech Researchers
- Irish Researchers
- Italian Researchers
- British Researchers
- Scandinavian Researchers
- Colonial Americans Researchers
- DNA/Adoption Researchers (NEW as of 12/16!)

I also will have a Beginner’s Group that I will lead.

We will also have the computer in the room for anyone to access the internet.

I would also encourage participants to bring their personal laptop or netbook to these sessions and tap into the internet via our WiFi network. I saw many researchers doing this at our last breakout session and they found it very productive to access internet information while being in one of the groups if they wanted to show something to someone else at the table.

Please remember that the group’s composition is based on the numbers that will participate. If only one person is present to participate in the Polish group, then we cannot have a Polish group that evening. I cannot guarantee there will be enough participants to form a group. In that case I would always recommend participating in another ethnic group of interest if that is also in your research interests or join me at the Beginner’s Group.

The key to this effort is to be flexible in selecting a group to work with.

I look forward to our next "break-out" session on September 10, 2019.

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.

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Handout #6 – THE LEGAL POWER OF GENEALOGY IN COLONIAL AMERICA

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated June 25, 2019.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [June 25, 2019](#) · [History](#), [Legal Affairs](#) · [One Comment](#)

By the time he was 18, George Washington was a competent genealogist — and he had to be. In Washington's Virginia, family was a crucial determinant of social and economic status, and freedom.



How did Washington understand his family, and what can that tell us about the world in which he lived and played such a significant role? Thanks to a document long ignored by biographers and historians alike, we now know how fully he grasped the basic truth that genealogy is power.

Inscribed by Washington in distinct sections during the late 1740s and the early 1750s, decades before the American Revolution, the two sides of this document, held at the Library of Congress, help us to see how Washington viewed the importance of his family connections, including as a route to inheritance, and also how these relationships were crucially connected to the lives of enslaved people.

You can read the full story in an article by Karin Wulf in the *Smithsonian* web site at: <http://bit.ly/2X6kj5i>.

My thanks to newsletter reader Neil Barmann for telling me about this story.

Comments by Tony Kierna

I guess we are in pretty good company knowing that George Washington was an avid genealogist. He needed to keep track of family history because so much was connected to advancing his economic status by knowing his family history and showing that he should be the person to inherit property and possessions.

In essence the same family history pursuit can be used and is used today to find someone who is in line for an inheritance. I actually had someone contact me regarding a letter they received from Israel that was related to a possible inheritance he was in line for. All things have to line up properly and initially

go down this trail when the person who dies does not have a will established to allow for the distribution of his property. When that happens, the state or governmental institution has to establish those through family ties that are in line of succession to inherit property and wealth from a deceased individual without a will.

Take a look at all that is written in the link above. It fascinates me about keeping track of your family history for purposes of proving you are the one entitled to receive something after the death of an individual in your family history chain. The article above also shows images of the original documents that Washington created showing his family history. A 1750's version of a pedigree chart!

The article also provides insights into the trail of the Mount Vernon estate famously associated with George Washington. Starting in the 1670's the trail shows how it ultimately led to the inheritance of it by Washington. It does appear Washington was a lucky individual because the children of his half-brother would have been the ones to inherit the estate but they all died in early childhood leaving Washington next in line. Who knows how things would have been if those events had not occurred.

The article also describes events and documents Washington created to identify and list slaves that were part of his estate and that of his half-brother. The article also shows the complexity of slaves that were viewed as under the possession of Washington and those that were under the possession of his wife Martha Washington. While Washington may have wanted to emancipate slaves under his ownership after his death, he could not affect those that were considered under the ownership of his wife Martha.

If you are doing genealogy for the fun of it, maybe consider taking a look at what you have done to be sure you have identified your family history to unashamedly establish you are in line to possibly inherit something from an ancestor preceding you!! Or, if you don't want to look greedy, just do your genealogy for the fun of it!

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Handout #7 – BEWARE OF WEBSITES SELLING FAKE DNA KITS

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated June 27, 2019.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [June 27, 2019](#) · [DNA](#), [Scams](#) · [One Comment](#)

An "epidemic" of counterfeit products being sold online is duping millions, [according to the Better Business Bureau](#).



One woman thought she was buying a real AncestryDNA kit online, a gift for her parents and her 100-year-old grandmother in Puerto Rico. She found the DNA-testing kits on a website called ZoooDeals.com. After she paid \$200 on her debit card, her relatives actually received authentic-looking kits. They followed instructions, filling vials with saliva and mailing them. But when she called the company to check on results, Ancestry told her the vial numbers were already used to test someone else's DNA.

You can read more in an article by Nina Pineda and Steve J. Livingstone in the WABC web site at: <https://7ny.tv/2xi7Z2s>.

Obviously, this rip-off was not caused by AncestryDNA. In fact, AncestryDNA is also a victim of this scam.

If you wish to purchase a DNA kit, I suggest you purchase the kit(s) directly from one or more of the companies that are performing the testing services, not from a "deals" web site you never heard of before.

The valid genealogy DNA testing web sites include: [AncestryDNA](#), [MyHeritage DNA](#), [FamilyTreeDNA](#), [23andMe](#), [LivingDNA](#), and [FindMyPast DNA](#). All of these are reputable DNA testing companies that have been in the genealogy business for some number of years and have earned excellent reputations. You can trust their web sites to be fully legitimate.

Yes, there are other genealogy DNA testing companies but the above is a list of the more popular ones.

COMMENT: Just because you had your DNA tested by one company some time ago doesn't mean that the test results are 100% accurate. All the DNA testing companies frequently update their databases of historical DNA. As the historical data is updated, test results often change to reflect the new data.

See my earlier articles at <http://bit.ly/2DN6o8y> and at <http://bit.ly/2HxniKH> for an explanation.

Comments by Tony Kierna

It just seems like more and more online purchases we make are potentially fraudulent and can cause us to potentially take a financial hit.

I had my DNA tested years ago through Family Tree DNA. When I did it, I simply went to their website of the company and went through the order process to receive a kit. I did not think much more about that. I charged the order to my credit card. I received the kit. Submitted my DNA and received my results. I never even thought about doing a general internet search looking for DNA kit prices lower than what the company was offering.

Today, DNA testers can search online and may very well discover websites offering well-known DNA kits for lower prices than what the companies themselves charge. As the story from the link above shows doing that can come back to bite you.

As the article notes above all seemed to go according to plan with the original purchase. The family received what looked like a legitimate test kit. They submitted their saliva and received an ID to check back with Ancestry DNA for their results. Unfortunately, Ancestry DNA told the customer that the kit number they received had already been allocated to another DNA customer, one who probably contacted Ancestry DNA directly for a test kit. The customer tried to contact the company for a refund and sorely discovered the company could not be reached and was not responding to the customer. The customer lost the money spent on the kit and did not have too much recourse because they charged the DNA kit to their debit card rather than to a credit card.

If you have not submitted your DNA for genealogy testing and you are thinking about doing that now, listen to the basic suggestion offered in the article above:

"If you wish to purchase a DNA kit, I suggest you purchase the kit(s) directly from one or more of the companies that are performing the testing services, not from a "deals" web site you never heard of before."

Stick with the known providers for DNA testing such as Ancestry DNA, Family Tree DNA, My Heritage, 23andMe, Living DNA and FindMyPast. It will look like you will be paying more and it may be hard to not select the big "discount" provider, but in the long run you will truly get your money's worth and won't be ripped off. And whenever charging an online charge, use your credit card and not your debit card. You will have many more avenues of recourse through the use of the credit card rather than through your debit card.

For all of you that have had your testing done with valid companies, thank your lucky stars that it all worked out quite well for you and you did not lose any money selecting a "discount" provider that ripped you off.

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Handout #8 – GENETIC GENEALOGIST ANSWERS 9 COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT DNA TESTING

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated July 18, 2019.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [July 18, 2019](#) · [DNA](#) · [4 Comments](#)



If you are unsure about all the facts surrounding DNA testing to prove the origins of your family tree, you need to read Sunny Morton's interview of DNA expert Diahana Southard published in the *LDS Living* web site at: <http://bit.ly/2Z8k0Uk>.

It will be time well spent.

One comment: Read carefully section #2: **How accurate are those ethnicity results?**

"Ethnicity results are the most popular feature of DNA testing. However, they're also the weakest part of the test, scientifically speaking. The good news is that ethnicity results are gradually getting more accurate and more specific. These changes sometimes cause confusion, though."

Comments by Tony Kierna

Diahana Southard is a well-known genetic genealogist. She is popular as a presenter on the genealogy program circuit at a national level. I thought it was very interesting to hear from her on what she thinks are the most popular questions she receives related to genealogy DNA testing.

As the Dick Eastman article above notes, take a long look at the number item on Diahana's list regarding "How accurate are those ethnicity results?"

Check out the link above for the full list or just look at the list below from that link. In the list below I have extracted some material from the full response by Diahana. It is well-worth looking at the entirety of her responses to the questions she commonly receives.

1. **What might DNA testing tell me?**

Your ethnicity and your biological connections to others that tested within the same company.

2. **How accurate are those ethnicity results?**

Pretty good but the testing is reviewed as more and more data is entered into the company's data base on populations. Yes, your ethnicity percentages could change but those changes will represent an even more accurate measure of your ethnicity.

3. **Then what meaning does DNA ethnicity have?**

Some people find it emotionally meaningful to discover something about their ethnic heritage, even if the accuracy is still iffy. Some people grow up knowing nothing about where their families came from. Others only know about the origins of one or two branches, say, from Germany. They don't know they also have Basque or Jewish roots.

4. **What if I don't have any mysteries on my family tree?**

Statistically, you probably do have mysteries: you just don't know about them. Many people have been raised by families who weren't biologically related, and were never the wiser. Children born into difficult circumstances have been quietly adopted out of families—maybe even yours.

5. **What if I don't want to know about secrets on my family tree?**

In my personal and professional life, I've encountered hundreds of DNA surprises. A few are awful. But most end up leading to positive experiences. For example, I know of a man who never married and never knew that he had fathered a daughter. She found him through DNA testing. Now he knows his daughter and three grandchildren, and he has gratefully transitioned into the role of father and grandfather, even though it has been difficult at times.

However, if you're not ready to learn something unexpected, don't test. Probably no one is exempt from some sort of mystery in their family. People continue to test at unprecedented rates so discoveries may happen any time after you get your results.

6. **What if my DNA results have surprises in them?**

First, make sure you understand your results correctly. I've talked with a lot of people who thought they found something unusual in their results and they were wrong. There are a lot of helpful people and information online to help you sort your DNA results, but like other information on the internet, it isn't always accurate.

7. *How should I talk to my DNA matches (including those unexpected ones)?*

Reaching out to a new DNA match can be intimidating. That's especially true for unexpected relationships or family secrets. So think of this contact like a first date. The goal of a first date isn't marriage: it's a second date. Start a conversation and be honest, but don't tell your whole life story. Perhaps say something like, "It looks like you're a close DNA match to me. Do you have any ancestors in Ohio?" (Or who are German, or whatever you already know about your biological relatives.) Wait to broach more sensitive topics until you've established a dialogue.

8. *What else should I consider when it comes to DNA testing?*

Each company has its own terms and conditions. Read them carefully before you test. Watch for issues you may care about. What may the company do with your personal and health information? Are law enforcement agencies able to match samples from crime scenes to your DNA (and by extension, your relatives' DNA)? Read informed consent policies about including your DNA in research projects. If you're super concerned about privacy, you shouldn't test. Just like every other area of our lives, there's no guarantee that your data won't be breached.

9. *What do you think your Latter-day Saint perspective brings to the world of DNA testing?*

To me this is another manifestation of the Lord doing his work in the latter days. We cannot be exalted without a family. We all have to be linked to each other. The Lord is committed to helping us find every single person who has ever lived and giving them back their family trees. So many family relationships are being revealed and confirmed through DNA testing that just could not have been found any other way.

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Handout #9 – “HASSLE FREE HERITAGE TRAVEL”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the July/August 2019, Volume 5, Number 3 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “Hassle Free Heritage Travel”. The author of the article is Lisa A. Alzo.

Just anecdotally we hear about all of the negatives of travel, especially air travel. Flights are expensive. They overbook. You pay fees all over the place for simple things. Flights are delayed. Weather can cause your plane to arrive at a completely different destination. And on and on!

So you have made the big decision to do a trip to an ancestral location. What can you do to make it work better than hoped for? The author, Lisa A. Alzo, even mentions a website that refers to these family history excursions as “Immersion Genealogy (<https://immersiongenealogy.com>)”. She offers 7 tips to consider to make a successful trip:

• Plan Early

- The earlier you start planning, the better.
- Consider the schedules of other family members if making a joint trip.
- Consider the time of the year for airfares e.g. airfares to Europe may be higher in the summer.
- If flying, start searching 6 months in advance of the trip for airfares.
- Use online services for searching.
 - Kayak @ www.kayak.com
 - FareCompare @ www.farecompare.com
 - Yapta @ <https://yapta.com>
- If driving try search services like:
 - Yelp @ www.yelp.com
 - Trip Advisor @ <https://www.tripadvisor.com>
 - AAA Travel Services @ <https://www.aaa.com>
- If going abroad, don't forget to factor in costs for parking, copying materials, service fees, snacks and beverages etc.
- Rick Steves has good advice on getting cash when overseas:
 - <https://www.ricksteves.com/travel-tips/money>

• Know Before You Go

- Google your destination to see if the town has its own website.
- Look for an online site for the Chamber of commerce or a Visitor's Bureau website.
- Learn about the currency availability, ATM availability and local laws.
- If going overseas, register your trip with your Embassy or Consulate.
 - Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) @ <https://step.state.gov/step>
- Set research goals of Who, What, When, Where, Why.
- Consider hiring a professional researcher or guide in the city for an efficient trip.
 - Guide can help with language differences
 - Guide is generally familiar with the locations of interest.
 - Kathryn R. Willson has a big list (13,200 groups) of Facebook Genealogy Groups all over the world to connect to:
 - <https://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list>

- **Do Your Homework**

- Think about what you will do when you arrive at your destination:
 - Visit with relatives
 - Cemetery exploration
 - Researching in the archives
- Create a typed itinerary of your goals
- Create a list of people to contact in advance of the trip
 - Have them put you on their calendar
 - Trip App Trello @ <https://trello.com>
- Research as much as possible BEFORE YOU LEAVE ON THE TRIP so as not to waste time on mundane information there.

- **Pack with a Purpose**

- Start putting your travel materials together early, especially if flying. Driving gives you a little bit more of leeway.
 - Clothing
 - Shoes
 - Toiletries
- If flying, be aware of luggage fees and size restrictions on luggage.

- Be selective on what electronic devices you will take with.
 - Smartphone
 - Digital Camera
 - Tablet
- Plan on bringing your family tree in some version electronic or in print or both.
- Bring writing tools e.g. paper, pencil, pens.
- Don't bring any originals of any documents or photos. Bring only copies.
- Leave some space in your luggage anticipating bringing materials back home.
- Check out a free PDF packing list @ http://yourgenealogytoday.com/Packing_List.pdf

- **Set Realistic Expectations**

- Be prepared mentally and emotionally that you may NOT find what you are looking for.
- Be prepared that you will not meet family members by happenstance unless you arranged in advance to meet.

- **Be Flexible**

- Build in some wiggle room into your plans for the unexpected. Even if it you use it just to rest that can be invigorating.
- Be flexible when meeting relatives for the first time
 - They may want you to stay much longer than you planned.
 - They may want you to meet other relatives that you may not have even been aware of.
- The author shares her story of a visit to the archives at which the archivist was familiar with the family being searched. The archivist was able to introduce the author to this family member who it turned out had a family tree with one piece of information the author had been seeking all along!

- **Share Your Experiences**

- Share your experiences with family at home as well as with newly discovered family from your trip.
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - Instagram
 - A newly created blog
 - The Accidental Genealogist @ <https://www.theaccidentalgenealogist.com>

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Handout #10 – “PRESERVING OLD FAMILY LETTERS”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the July/August 2019, Volume 5, Number 3 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

Another good article in this issue is one titled “Preserving Old Family Letters”. The author of the article is Melissa Barker.

In this article the author gives us all good points on how we best handle and preserve the old letters we may be lucky enough to already have in our possession from our ancestors or that we may be lucky enough to discover in the future. The author notes that many of these letters could be war letters, letters written from our ancestors on the battlefield. You may also have love letters between two individuals from whom you may be directly descended. Some of the letters may be migration letters of our ancestors telling us about the departure from area/country on their way to a new home in another location.

Whatever the contents or type of the letters your most important part of having them is to preserve them.

Here are suggestions from the author on what do with these letters:

• **Let’s Get Organized**

- o Maybe you have piles of these letters sitting in boxes all folded up and still in their envelopes.
 - **Arrange the letters in date order.** Use the date of the letter or the date of the postmark, but be consistent on how you use dating for all the letters.
 - If the letters are from multiple family members you can arrange them by surname and within date order by surname.
 - **You can also consider arranging them by topic** e.g. keep war letters grouped, love letters grouped, migration letters grouped and then within each group put them in chronological order.
 - **The author says the key is consistency once you set up a system.**

• **Unfolding and Flattening**

- o Do you leave the letter folded in the envelope or take it out?
 - **Yes, take the letter out of the envelope.**
- o **Folds in the letters will weaken them over time and tears could then start.**
- o Process the letters out of the envelope:

- Unfold each letter and be careful now not to mix up the letters and the envelopes. Associate the envelope with the proper letter.
 - Use a plastic paper clip to keep letter with the envelope. Do NOT use a metal clip.
 - Metal clips could cause rust and damage the letter.
- Folded letters may not lie flat
 - Lay the letter on a clean, dry surface away from sunlight to allow the fold to loosen up.

• **Encapsulating**

- You will now start work on a process “to enclose something or completely cover something”.
 - Purchase archival document sleeves that are acid free, lignin free and have passed the P.A.T. test (Photographic Activity Test).
 - Material may be Mylar, Polyester or Polypropylene.
 - Get right size so that the entire letter fits within the sleeve.
 - Don't use sleeves bigger than you need so the letter does not move around in wasted space.
 - Put the envelope in the sleeve with the letter.
 - Do not let any glue from the envelope flap to touch the letter.
 - The sleeve will now close around the document by static electricity.
 - Once encapsulated you can put them into archival file folders or three ring binders.
 - Not formally included in the article itself, I did some searching for tips from the National Archives on their suggested methods of preservation of family papers in your possession:
 - <https://www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives/storing>
 - <https://lisalouisecooke.com/2018/06/27/preserving-old-letters/>
 - <https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2017/03/01/how-to-save-grandmas-love-letters/>
 - <https://www.loc.gov/preservation/care/paper.html>

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