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".

HANDOUTS TABLE OF CONTENTS
September 10, 2019

Handout Introduction ................................................................. Page 2

Schaumburg Township District Library (STDL) Genealogy Blog .......... Page 4

Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society (NWSGS)
Program for October 5, 2019 ...................................................... Page 5

DuPage County Genealogical Society (DCGS)
Program for September 18, 2019 ............................................... Page 6

Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois (CAGGNI)
Program for September 21, 2019 ............................................... Page 7

Schaumburg Township District Library (STDL)
October 8, 2019 Genealogy Program ........................................ Page 8

Illinois Governor Protects Personal DNA Data .............................. Page 9

Even Funerals Are Now Livestreamed .......................................... Page 11

Millions Of Books Are Secretly In The Public Domain .................. Page 13

"5 Go-To Sites You Should Consider” ............................................ Page 16

“The Joys of Clutter” .................................................................. Page 19
Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program “handouts” document for our September 10, 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”!

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
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. While you are in the area of my blog link, check out the box right next to it for a link to the Veterans History Project interviews I have been conducting over the last year. Great stories of service from those who have so honorably served! Here is that link:

https://www.schaumburglibrary.org/veterans-history-project

You can also 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!
Handout #2 – NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHWEST SUBURBAN GENEALOGY SOCIETY WILL BE ON OCTOBER 5, 2019

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning October 5, 2019. The program for the morning is titled “Family Tree Maker”. The speaker for the morning will be Nancy Thomas.

Nancy is the Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group (FTM-SIG) leader for CAGGNI and has been searching for her ancestors and her husband’s for over 30 years. She published the Roeser Family: Ancestors and Descendants for a family reunion using Family Tree Maker software.

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.

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT REGULAR SOCIETY PROGRAM ON SEPTEMBER 18, 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.dcgso.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.

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.

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, September 21, 2019 at the NIU Conference Center in Hoffman Estates, IL between 10:30am to 12:30pm. The program scheduled for this day is “Murder on the Meadow”. The speaker will be Deborah Fandrei.

This program explores the history of a 100-year-old murder that took place in Lake County. The audience is introduced to the people, the evidence and the science of the time and then asked to vote as a jury about what they have heard.

Debbie Fandrei has been the curator of the Raupp Museum in Buffalo Grove for 20 years.

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.
Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, October 8, 2019. Our guest speaker is Jane Haldeman. The title of the presentation is “Probate Records: Looking Beyond the Will”

Probate records were probably generated upon your Ancestor’s death even if they didn’t have a will. Estate settlements and sales, receipts or cancelled checks, property transfers, guardianships and more provide clues to understanding your ancestor or identify an elusive one.

Jane G. Haldeman is a Chicago-area based professional genealogist and owner of It’s Relative, with more than 25 years of research experience. She lectures on a wide range of topics both locally and nationally. She is the National Co-Chair for the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2019 Conference in Washington, DC. She is a former president of both the Illinois State Genealogical Society and Fox Valley Genealogical Society in Naperville, Illinois and the author of A Genealogist's Guide to Springfield, Illinois. Jane may be reached info@itsrelative.net and genealogy@mindsafire.com.

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.

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

8
Handout #6 – ILLINOIS GOVERNOR SIGNS INITIATIVE TO PROTECT PERSONAL DNA DATA

The following was found at Dick Eastman’s Blog at www.eogn.com dated July 26, 2019.

Dick Eastman · July 26, 2019 · DNA, Legal Affairs · No Comments

Illinois residents’ genetic testing results will now be protected under a new state law passed by state Senator Rachelle Crowe (D-Glen Carbon) and signed by Gov. J.B. Pritzker on Friday.

“As technology advances, we have to update our laws to reflect ways it can be improperly used, and the personal data of private citizens is being used inappropriately every day,” Crowe said. "Keeping genetic information confidential is crucial to protecting a person’s right to privacy.”

The legislation prohibits companies that provide direct-to-consumer commercial genetic testing, such as Ancestry.com and 23andMe, from sharing test results with health or life insurance companies without the consumer's consent.


Comments by Tony Kierna

I initially got a little nervous when I first saw this Eastman article. Could it be that Governor Pritzker was going to ban discovering matches to our genetic cousins so that we would have no matches? I hope not.

The world of genealogy DNA testing and processing has changed so dramatically from when it first started a relative few years ago. Then, all we thought would happen is we would magically discover unknown cousins who had all the answers to our family history that we were unable to discover or just did not work enough to make those discoveries. For some, this may have been true, but for most of us we just discovered genetic cousins at 2nd, 3rd or 4th level based on our centimorgan numerical value we received. We also started discovering that most testing was done to just give us a percent value on our ethnicity levels.

Then we realized that there was not a whole lot of information uploaded by the person having the DNA tested. So we know we were a 100 number centimorgan match but had no idea on how we were connected.
Then we saw DNA testing being used heavily by adoptees in the hope of making a discovery that would lead them to the path of who their parents were.

Still more uses of DNA other than pure genealogy. Police started using the DNA databases to submit DNA possibly from cold cases. They then received matches, some that may have been promising enough to talk to their match and find out if they knew of any relatives that may have been in a given area at a given time associated with a crime. They are generally not lucky enough to have the unknown perpetrator in the database itself from his own submission. It is the higher matched cousins of the mystery person who are being asked what they can share on their family history that might lead the police to the perpetrator. Many cases are now being solved in this manner.

And finally, there is the case of sperm donors of the past that may have turned out to be very popular. Their sperm may have created many, many babies who as they grew older discovered that if they submitted their DNA they could get matches to all of their half-siblings all over the world. How about that?

So Genealogy DNA has come a long way since we thought all we were going to do is discover our cousins!

Privacy on DNA? Seems like that horse is out of the barn a long time ago? So what is Governor Pritzker taking the lead on regarding DNA privacy? Sounds like a good idea. The newly passed legislation (in Illinois) forbids commercial oriented DNA testing companies like Ancestry.com and 23andMe from sharing your DNA results with Health companies or Insurance companies. However, there is still a catch there. If you give permission to the DNA testing company they can (and probably would) share that information. So I guess the lesson here is to really look at the details of what they can do with your data and make sure you find the right spot to be sure they DO NOT share the data if you do not want them to.

It is still worth giving credit where credit is due when our elected officials take a position to protect our DNA data from just automatically being sold by the DNA testing companies.
Handout #7 – NOW EVEN FUNERALS ARE LIVESTREAMED

The following was found in Dick Eastman’s Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated August 1, 2019.

Dick Eastman · August 1, 2019 · Current Affairs · 2 Comments

From an article by Paris Martineau in the Wired web site:

“In a culture obsessed with tweeting and Instagramming every moment of life, it’s little surprise that streaming extends to death. Funeral livestreaming services have been around for more than a decade, but the practice [of live streaming videos of funerals] has recently exploded in popularity, says Bryant Hightower, president-elect of the National Funeral Directors Association. He estimates that nearly 20 percent of US funeral homes now offer the service—a big number in an industry resistant to change—in response to demand from clients. Tech-savvy entrepreneurs offer livestreaming as a service to hesitant funeral directors.”

“The videos are not solely for the benefit of remote viewers. Natalie Levy and her family found that it proved most useful to those that attended. ‘One of the things that we were told was: You’re not going to remember anything,’ she says. ‘[Everyone is] saying all these wonderful things, they’re telling these stories and you can't process it,’ the grief and shock is just too much.”

You can read the full story at: http://eogn.com/20190801-1.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Do you want to be a video star on your way out? Maybe, maybe not? Nonetheless, livestreaming of funeral services seems to be a growing trend and is not just for famous people anymore. In all honesty, to this day I have not encountered one of these events at any wake or funeral I have attended recently. I guess all the people that wanted to participate in this end of life event found the time to actually be present at the service and funeral.

As Dick Eastman notes above, it may very well be that the created videos will be viewed by those that may have actually attended live but want the chance to better hear and process all of the words that may have been spoken by family and friends about the deceased.

It is well-worth reading the article associated with the link above. It does show that sudden deaths may not allow for family to be able to make funeral services in person as opposed to someone who is gravely ill and is on the path to death. Family can sense that they need to have time set aside in these cases for the eventual death.
The article also notes that being of a particular faith in which the body of the deceased is committed to the ground or to cremation within 24 hours also does not allow for much planning or time to allow friends and relatives to gather on-site.

Even though I have not personally seen this process in action, the article notes that some of the funeral homes have actually been doing livestreaming since as far back as 2010.

The article also mentions that are actual businesses who offer Livestreaming services for these kind of events. The company mentioned in the article is OneRoom. Viewings of such events once recorded are not available to the public. Access is given with a usercode to friends and family to ultimately gain access to these recorded funerals.

The article does state that about 20% of funeral homes do offer this service now. Years ago when it started, the recordings were often of poor quality and poor audio because of technical limitations. Those problems do seem to have been solved with high-speed internet hotspots and microphones. The article states that these recordings of livestreaming are amazingly high quality end product recordings.

The entire concept of livestreaming funerals piqued my curiosity. I did some searching and found some links related to the subject to share with you:

https://www.usurnsonline.com/funeral-resources/how-to-livestream-a-funeral-or-memorial-service/

https://www.funeralguide.co.uk/blog/live-stream-funeral-etiquette

https://lifehacker.com/how-to-livestream-a-funeral-1836966287

https://www.funeralhome-philadelphia.com/10-latest-trends-funeral-planning/

Here is a link to the company website for OneRoomStreaming that is in the business of providing the service to livestream funerals:

https://oneroomstreaming.com/

If you think this is a great idea for the day you will be the one leaving this earth, talk to family, express your wishes that you would like such an event to happen at your funeral. Or express just the opposite if you are not interested. But remember, much of this will be about your surviving friends and family. Maybe it can and would be good for them. So don’t just shut the door on them doing a livestreaming of your funeral.

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
Genealogists are usually told that books published prior to 1924 are in the public domain and can be freely copied. Indeed, that is true. However, we also have been told to be cautious about copying large amounts of data published in books published in 1924 or later because those books might be under copyright. However, there are millions of exceptions.

Indeed, many books published between 1924 and 1964 may have fallen out of copyright. The problem is that determining the copyright status of a 1924 or later book has always been almost impossible. However, thanks to the New York Public Library, we can now determine copyright status easily.

According to an article by Matthew Gault in the Motherboard web site:

“Prior to 1964, books had a 28-year copyright term. Extending it required authors or publishers to send in a separate form, and lots of people didn’t end up doing that. Thanks to the efforts of the New York Public Library, many of those public domain books are now free online. Through the 1970s, the Library of Congress published the Catalog of Copyright Entries, all the registration and renewals of America’s books. The Internet Archive has digital copies of these, but computers couldn’t read all the information and figuring out which books were public domain, and thus could be uploaded legally, was tedious. The actual, extremely convoluted specifics of why these books are in the public domain are detailed in a post by the New York Public Library, which recently paid to parse the information in the Catalog of Copyright Entries.

“It amounts to an explosion of new books once lost to the mire of potential copyright claims. And they’re all free.”

The same article provides a lot of additional details, including where to download these free public domain eBooks. The list is expanding daily so if you don’t find what you want today, check back again later. You can read more at: https://tinyurl.com/eogn190806.
Comments by Tony Kierna

As genealogists we are inclined to use books in our research. But with using any material from books that are published we run the risk of using book material possibly in an illegal manner on those books that are still in copyright protection status. Books published before 1924 can be thought of as being in the Public Domain and material in them is able to be used without the fear of copyright infringement. But there has always been concern on books published after 1924 to 1964 where copyright protection would need to have been re-established by the author. It was always a gray area not knowing if you used such material whether you are infringing on existing copyright protection.

Now the New York Public Library has made this task much easier to determine because it has a project in which it investigates books within this time span to determine if they are or are not still in copyright protection. The beauty of this is that if they are not in copyright protection it does appear that these books can be accessed electronically in many cases as an online PDF. This means you do not have to hunt down an actual copy of a book that may be of great importance to you as a researcher for you to use. It may now be out there electronically.

Google Books has been a great source of copyright free books that are now in electronic PDF format and are fully searchable. You could also find within Google Books many books for which they are NOT in electronic PDF format requiring you to track down via WorldCat where such a book may exist in a collection. Then it is up to you to jump through hoops trying to figure out how you can gain access to it or not.

Within the article in the above Dick Eastman link you will ultimately find where to go to be able to see which of these published books from 1923 to 1964 can be found. Here is that link:

[https://botsin.space/@SecretlyPublicDomain](https://botsin.space/@SecretlyPublicDomain)

You can browse around this site and see which books have been posted as now being more readily available without having to worry about the book still being in copyright status. You can establish an account with the site also to do much more with the information. I do not see a way to search the site to see if a book of interest is in the index. If you explore the site you will find much about “bots” and joining the group. I claim no knowledge about what all this even means related to finding books that are no longer in copyright protection. You may also notice that many of the books now available electronically can be accessed within the Hathi Trust site. This site too has provided much access to copyright free material in a similar fashion to Google Books. So it is important if you are looking for free copyright book material to also access the Hathi Trust in addition to Google Books. Here are the links:

[www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com)

[https://www.hathitrust.org/](https://www.hathitrust.org/)

I did notice that books linked to the Hathi Trust still had some restrictions on access but many more I looked at had full links to the PDF of the entire book available to view and search online.
If nothing else also explore the Hathi Trust site where you can actually search for what could be free, electronic PDF version of books to view. Use search terms such as "genealogy“, "family history", the surname of a family of interest with the term family search such as "Rogers family history" to see if a book exists that more directly connects within your research. You can select the "catalog” search and use the above terms and then see if you get hits. You can also use your search term by default across all different kinds of fields within the record. Connecting to family history books published over 100 years can really help you see massive family trees, a branch of which you connect to. I saw many books published in the 1880s and 1890s.

Use Google Books. Use the new site to see newly identified copyright free book material. Additionally, use the Hathi Trust to find free, online books in PDF format. It is another great source.
I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “Five Go-To Sites You Should Consider”. The author of the article is George G. Morgan.

The author points how so much has evolved over the years since the Internet was started. Many researchers have abandoned previously used resources for research such as libraries, archives, courthouses, museums, genealogical and historical societies and other resources that hold original records. Even using formerly popular online resources, such as message boards and mailing lists have been replaced with Facebook and other social media platforms. DNA testing and the ability to connect with cousins who are biologically connected was never foreseen years ago. And access to modern genealogical databases is now another major research tool used almost exclusively.

Yet there are still core online resources that also may be falling to the wayside as incredible research tools. The author wanted to highlight what are 5 continuing long established resources he uses as his “go to” websites. Here are the 5 “go to” sites from George G. Morgan:

- **CyndisList @ www.cyndislist.com**
  - Started in 1997
  - Has 337,000 links related to genealogical resources.
  - Organized into categories and subcategories
  - Completely searchable
  - Site is considered your “card catalog” to locating web-based genealogical resources.

- **FamilySearch Research Wiki @ https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page**
  - Source for quality research guidance.
  - Almost 90,000 articles in the wiki
    - Geographical locations
    - Record types
    - Methodologies
    - Includes links to sub-topics
    - Includes research strategies
    - Includes historical backgrounds
• **David Rumsey Map Collection @** [https://www.davidrumsey.com/](https://www.davidrumsey.com/)
  - Placing our ancestors into a geographical place and time is critical in our research.
  - Determining geopolitical connections at the time of your ancestors is also critical.
  - Historical maps and the visual perspective they provide are critical to help our research.
  - David Rumsey started his map collection more than 30 years ago.
    - Includes material from the 16th century to the present for the entire world.
    - He has donated his entire physical map collection to Stanford University.
    - More than 91,000 items have been digitized.

• **Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System @** [https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm](https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm)
  - Maintained by the United States’ National Park Service
  - Computerized database contains facts about Union and Confederate soldiers and sailors
  - 6.3 million soldier records in the database.
  - Source of the data is the General Index Cards in the Compiled Military Service Records at NARA.
  - Partnered with Howard University to incorporate African American sailors who served in the Union Navy.
    - 18,000 African American sailors are included
  - Includes regimental histories of over 4,000 Union and Confederate units.
  - Includes information on 364 of the most significant Civil War battles as part of the NPS’ American Battlefield Protection Program ([www.nps.gov/abpp/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/abpp/index.htm))

• **Google Books @** [https://books.google.com/](https://books.google.com/)
  - Includes digitized out-of-copyright books.
    - Books published prior to December 31, 1923 (the date will advance by one year each succeeding year.)
    - These are considered in the public domain
    - Public domain definition differs country by country.
    - Content of every one of these books can be searched and results are identified where your search term appears in the pages.
• Can include search terms within quotes.
  
  o Includes copyright books also
    
    ▪ Can see a “snippet view” of the book if your search matches to one of these books.
    
    ▪ This can at least let you know a book of interest exists for you to consider purchasing or discovering in another manner.
  
  o Can set up a free account at Google Books allowing you to set up a personal “My Library”
  
  o Family and local histories can also be found.

These are stalwart sites that should not go the way of the dodo bird. Re-visit them if you have not been to one of them lately and see what they can do for your research now. These sites have age but they are not getting old because they are well-maintained and updated frequently.

You may have your own “go to” sites but these are “classic” and should not be forgotten.

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
Handout #10 – “THE JOYS OF CLUTTER”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the August/September 2019, Volume 14, Number 3 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled “The Joys of Clutter”. The author of the article is Sue Lisk.

The author offers some tips and resources on how to go about all of that “stuff” you have accumulated via your genealogy research. This can be papers as well as objects. It also may involve the determination as to whether something you have is “trash” or “treasure”. You may have a gut feeling on making the decisions on what to do with this stuff but it would certainly help to get some outside advice as to guidance to help you through the process.

The author identifies the following 5 sources to tap into for some guidance and help:

- **Ancestralfindings.com @ https://ancestralfindings.com/**
  - Site is maintained by Will Moneymaker
  - Podcast can be reached at [https://ancestralfindings.com/organizing-tips-help-tidy-genealogy-home-office](https://ancestralfindings.com/organizing-tips-help-tidy-genealogy-home-office)
    - At end of the first three sections click on “Read More” for further info on the topic.
    - **Straightforward and practical guidance.**
      - Physical storage combined with electronic scans
    - Store documents for each family according to record types.
    - Create labels for photos and change them as needed as further information is discovered.
    - Use plastic storage trays for memorabilia and artifacts.

- **Thought.Co.com @ https://www.thoughtco.com/**
  - Kimberly Powell presents offers well-considered hints for organizing at [https://www.thoughtco.com/organizing-your-genealogy-files-1420709](https://www.thoughtco.com/organizing-your-genealogy-files-1420709)
She does not try to convince you that any one system is the best.

She offers a variety of options to be creative.

“The best organizing system is the one that works for you”.

Outlines commonly suggested ways to organize:

- Surnames
- Family
- Family line
- Event type

Decide whether to use file folders, binders or electronic storage.

Some combination of folders, binders and electronic storage is often the best.

**Org4life.com @ [https://www.org4life.com/](https://www.org4life.com/)**

Hazel Thornton is a professional organizer.

Her organizing post is at [https://www.org4life.com/organize-genealogy-research-materials](https://www.org4life.com/organize-genealogy-research-materials)

Not necessarily designed for genealogy but has many applications.

Ask yourself questions related to organizing.

- Are you the genealogist in your family or are there others? Other genealogists may affect your decision on how to organize.
- How much material and storage space do you have?
- Will others be able to understand your organizational system in the future?

Julie Morganstern has an organizational formula known as S.P.A.C.E.

- Gather your material and Sort it.
- Purge the items you are unlikely to need in the future.
- Assign a home to your items e.g. designate the rooms and locations in your home where the material will be kept.

**Containerize the materials.**

- Folders?
- Binders?
- Computer?

Equalize e.g. maintain your system in order and follow the rules you established.
• **Ancestry.com @ www.ancestry.com**
  
  
  o First, clear your desktop
  
  o Create “Current Research” folder on desktop for temporary storage.
  
  o Rename files with meaningful names in a consistent manner.
  
  o Organize your materials
    - FamilyRoots Organizer Color-Coding System
  
  o Seek out an “organizing buddy” or group and commit your goals to writing.
  
  o **Make a habit of sticking to your established practices.**

• **FamilySearch.org @ www.familysearch.org**


  o Document your research each day

  o “Understand” a family being researched.

  o Study more than names and dates of a family and view them in the context of their community.

  o Organize paper files by using one folder for each family.

  o Always create research logs for each family studied.

  o **Using computers exclusively to organize is discouraged.**

  o Save documents in multiple formats and multiple locations.

+++++++++++++++++++++++++++