



Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume 26 Issue 1

ISSN - 1008-5765

January - February 2017

Please consider making a donation to the local food bank, or to the Lakeland Animal Shelter. If you bring your donation to the meeting, one of our members will make sure the donation gets delivered.

If you haven't paid your 2017 dues, please do so as soon as possible.

In the event a meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, we will post a message on the website www.walworthcgs.com or call 414-378-9879.

2017 Meetings, Events

January - No Meeting - Happy New Year

February 7th - 1:30 pm - Annual Show and Share - Round table discussion - bring something to show and/or share to fellow genealogists.

March 7th - 1:30 pm - Researching Irish Ancestors - Jon Domencich, President of the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin (IGSW),

April 4th - 6:30 pm - Treasures of the WCGS Library - WCGS Library Committee: Diana Bird, Marilyn Traver, and Judy Rockwell. We will meet in the WCGS library room at Matheson Memorial Library in Elkhorn.

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Notice!

Library Telephone!

Our library room now has a telephone! The number is .(262) 723-9150. Anyone can leave a message for the library staff!

WCGS Library Page



Diana Bird

Marilyn Traver

Judy Rockwell

***** Library Committee *****

Atlases, Maps, Platbooks

WCGS library has a wealth of information in atlases, on maps and in plat books.

The earliest map of Walworth Co. 1857, and later plats and maps can show you, the changes thru history, of a particular parcel or area. Plats can show locations of early churches, cemeteries, schools, houses, creeks, roadways, train tracks, woods, subdivisions and layouts of towns.

Names of those who farmed (owned or rented) also are included and the number of acres. On early plats, one can see towns in detail. Using all the maps together you can see the town additions and road development.

A really great atlas we are lucky to have is the 1859 Johnson World Atlas. This shows the maps in the world at that time, is really nice for searching for towns across the oceans, and is pretty easy to read. This is an original book, rebound, so one has to be careful using it. One benefit of this book shows the different borders and country names at that time. I was always told that our family was German, but finding the town of origin in France, near the German border, helped out with census records, and that area has vineyards and farms, hence, my G G Grandpa after immigrating, was a farmer here.

WCGS also has later world atlases and plat books for other counties in WI and other States, so stop in and check these resources.

Submitted by Diana Bird

To contact any of the members:

Diana Bird - 815-943-3690 - leave a message if no answer

Judy Rockwell - jjrockwell@gmail.com

Marilyn Traver - msearchin@hotmail

They will be delighted to hear from you!



From the President's Desk



Chris Brookes & Martha Hay- WCGS Co-Presidents

Chris's Message:

Dear Friends –

Welcome to 2017! I believe this is going to be a great year for WCGS. Lots of plans are in the works and we need all of you to be involved in growing the Society and making them happen.

The Library Committee has almost completed the inventory and plans to provide a chart showing the new locations of all the subjects. The April meeting will be held at the library to give members and guests an orientation to our collections. Also you are invited to volunteer some time – a couple hours a month? – helping visitors who drop in to ask questions or do research. Please consider giving some time to the Society this year.

The Budget Committee successfully drafted a balanced budget for the membership to approve in February. We ended 2016 in the black and want to move forward in 2017. To fund some equipment for the library, newsletter printing, and some special speakers we need to increase membership, dues, and donations. Please consider introducing a friend to WCGS, paying your dues on time, and, if you can, adding a little extra donation to support our projects.

Programs are planned and scheduled by the Board. Our March meeting will feature Jon Domencich, President of the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin (IGSW). (Jon's family were the first whites in Franklin, WI). He will present information on research sources and what is available at the Irish Immigration Library in Milwaukee. Remember it's at 1:30 in the afternoon at the Delavan Community Room. If you have a suggestion for a program or speaker, please share with one of the Board members.

Let's make 2017 a year of giving – time, talent, ideas, friendship, cash – to WCGS.

Thanks! See you at the meeting.

Martha's Co-comments:

This has been the strangest winter so far. We haven't had enough really cold weather to kill the viruses running rampant and I caught them. I have been ill since January 3rd and am finally feeling like it is leaving me.

We have been discussing ways to build up the membership. At the February meeting, we tossed around different ideas to make genealogical research interesting and fun.

We've been thinking about more events in our library room to introduce our collection to not only the membership (some members have rarely been in there) but also the public.



Parents

By Christine Brookes

Where Did They Meet?

I was at the bank the other day opening an online account. Had to pick out security questions. Have you read through the question choices lately? One stood out to me – I didn't choose it, but it has a good story behind it. In what city did your parents meet? Would you know the answer to this question or perhaps the story of your parents' first meeting?

My parents met at the dentist's office. Mom was the hygienist; Dad had recently moved to town with his parents, and he brought his mother to the office for her appointment. I don't know if it was love at first sight, but there must have been a spark there. He continued to make regular appointments and, as they got to know each other, started dating.

She soon felt comfortable enough to reveal her sense of humor. Could this stuffy older man, by 13 years, put up with her youthful, prankish ways? On the day of his appointment she prepared the tray of instruments for the dentist with all the rusty tools from the garden shed and covered it with a pristine white cloth. He came in, sat in the chair. She moved the tray in front of him, whisked off the cloth, and in her most professional manner, said, "Open wide!"

Fortunately he laughed! And the rest is history.

As genealogists we look for the names, dates, and places, but having a back story adds so much more to the family tree? I encourage you to fill out your family information with stories and anecdotes you know so they are passed along to future generations.

M & M Tips

Marilyn Traver tells us that the Walworth County courthouse has made some changes. Visitors do not have the freedom to look through items the way they used to. I hope the costs don't rise too much and make it harder for people on fixed income to gather information.

Mike Hay met a new cousin recently. A woman who lives in the state of Utah was Googling her

father's name and the search results showed the web site Mike and I have been building for the Grider (Mike's maternal grandmother) Family. We set up an email address that people can click to in order to send us information or ask questions. This woman sent an email and asked about the web site. Mike sent her our telephone number and she gave us a call. We spoke for over an hour and she was tickled pink to find family she didn't even know she had. Definitely makes the hard work worthwhile!



AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

Millard – Last Wednesday evening occurred the marriage of Harry Loomer, of this place, and Miss Nellie Rockwell, of Cold Spring. Both these young people are well and favorably known. Congratulations are extended.-----Mrs. Nellie Gray, a respected resident of this place, died at her home last Thursday after a long illness.-----Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Hanson are nicely settled on the farm again.-----Carl Herbst delivered hogs at Palmyra Monday, at \$4.60 per cwt. (The Delavan Republican, end of Nov., 1900)

Fairfield – A company of 60 friends of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Palmer walked in unannounced last Wednesday evening, in celebration of their 12th wedding anniversary. In behalf of the company Mr. J. McFarlane presented the host and hostess with a handsome lamp, after which the guests adjourned to the Woodman hall, where the camp served an oyster supper. The evening passed very pleasantly with music and social chat. -----Miss Agnes Rice, of Fulton, has been the guest of her sister, Mrs. Eugene Serl.-----Fairfield creamery paid 98 cents for 4 percent and 93 cents for average test for October milk.-----Albert Munroe has decided to leave his farm and take up other lines of work; and on Thursday last disposed of his stock, etc., at public auction. (The Delavan Republican, end of Nov., 1900)

Richmond – School is out in district No. 2 for a two weeks' vacation. The same teacher, Miss Ida Doud, will teach the winter term.-----Saturday evening about sixty young friends dropped in to help Homer Taylor celebrate his twenty-first birthday. The evening was spent in dancing until twelve o'clock when they departed, leaving behind them all good wishes for the future. Among those from abroad were Mr. J. Fisher, from LaGrange; Frank Cooke, of Whitewater; Theron Cutter and Stevie Serl, of Fairfield; James and Flora Waters, of Janesville; Ray Taylor, of Milton. (Delavan Republican, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1889)

Lyons – The oyster supper last Tuesday evening was a pleasant feature of the week's programme. Mrs. G. V. Weeks and Mr. and Mrs. O. Gillett furnished some excellent music which was much enjoyed by all. The society cleared \$13.35.-----Mrs. Phoebe Healey is entertaining her sister, Mrs. Robinson, from Genesee Co., N. Y., and also a niece from the same place.-----Mr. Chas. Stubbs has purchased Mrs. Hubbard's house and his family is now nicely settled in the same.-----The Ladies social will be held on Friday evening of this week at the residence of Mrs. S. J. Frazer. (Delavan Republican, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1889)

Program Recap

Our Christmas Pot Luck, elections, Take-away-Bingo night went quite well with everyone present enjoying themselves. We had a visit from Lady Bacon who related Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol and taught us Victorian manners.



Jennifer Coon and Karen Weston



Al Gruling, Shirley Sisk, & Karen Helwig



Nancy Lehman and Al Gruling



Lynn Coon



Peggy Schutt and Nancy Osmolak



Judy Rockwell and Dolores Schutt



Sharon Worm and Diana Bird



Carol Krupski and husband



Marilyn Traver



Left: Chris Brookes



Right: Loretta Nussbaum

News from Neighboring Societies

Burlington Genealogical Society - Will present on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 - "Using Ancestry Efficiently" Workshop & Presentation by Lou Corrigan, genealogist and researcher. And on Wednesday, April 19th, 2017 - "Think Like the Smithsonian!" Bring an object (or prop) with an ancestor story and the evidence you found plus research tips. Meets in Room 100 - Gateway Technical School, 496 Parkway, Burlington, WI.

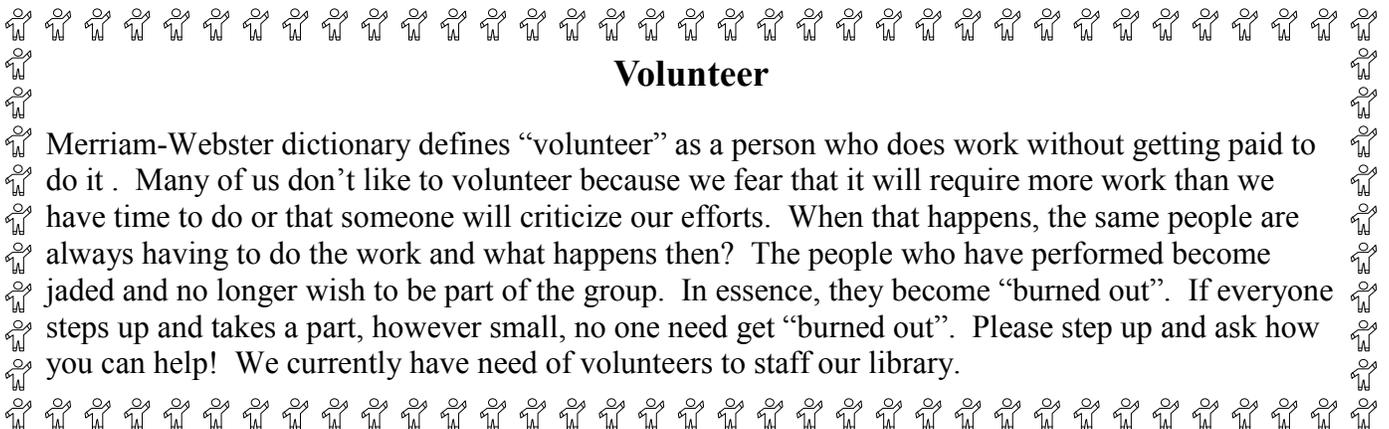
McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society - Thursday, March 9th, 7:00 pm @ The Pointe Outreach Center, Crystal Lake, IL will present Researching Colonial America with Jane Haldeman And Thursday, April 13th, 2017 - What's New in Technology for Genealogy in 2017 with Ed Rosenthal

British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL) - Saturday, March 18th, 2017 - "The Borderers" will be presented by Jackie Torrance. Jackie is president of the Scottish Genealogy Group of the Illinois Saint Andrew Society and a past officer of BIGWILL. The 14th and 15th centuries were tumultuous times throughout the Borders between

England and Scotland. Eventually, the people of this area became part of the Plantation of Ulster, and, subsequently, the Scots-Irish. This presentation will examine the topography, the Riding Families, and the unique laws pertaining to the area.

Kenosha Genealogy Society - Monday, March 13th, 6:00 pm - @ Madrigano Hall, Gateway, Kenosha - Discussion about the UW Parkside Archives and Area Research Center. Unearthing the past: Finding and using Land and Property records for genealogy and historical research.

Editor's note: If you have an announcement from any group you are a member of and would like to see it in our newsletter, please send me the information at wcgnewsleter@gmail.com



Volunteer

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "volunteer" as a person who does work without getting paid to do it. Many of us don't like to volunteer because we fear that it will require more work than we have time to do or that someone will criticize our efforts. When that happens, the same people are always having to do the work and what happens then? The people who have performed become jaded and no longer wish to be part of the group. In essence, they become "burned out". If everyone steps up and takes a part, however small, no one need get "burned out". Please step up and ask how you can help! We currently have need of volunteers to staff our library.

Below is a survey to help the society be more responsive to our members and to assist us in gaining new members. Please fill it out and bring it to the next meeting or send it to WCGS, P.O. Box 159, Delavan, WI, 53115-0159, and make it attention to: WCGS Newsletter Editor or email it to wgsnewsletter@gmail.com. You, the members of WCGS, know what programs you would like to see. Without your input, we can only guess what you are interested in. Please help us make good decisions.

Survey

1. Are there any past programs we have presented that you would like to have us repeat? If the answer is “yes” which programs and why?

2. Would you be interested in a group research trip to the Newberry Library in Chicago or the Historical Society in Madison?

3. What topics would you like to see as a program?

4. What project or projects would you like to see the Society focus on?

5. What suggestions do you have to help increase our membership?

6. Would you be willing to take part in workshops presented by the Society?

I'm desperately looking for more members to fill out the “Are You Related to Me?” form. If you need a form, email me at wgsnewsletter@gmail.com and I will be glad to send it to you.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE BY WCGS

Walworth Co. Probate Record Index - 1848-1939	\$35.00
CD in pdf and searchable	\$25.00 plus \$1.00 s/h
1857 Walworth Co. Atlas - township maps and index	\$16.00
1873 Walworth Co. Atlas - maps & Index (soft cover reprint)	\$20.00
Walworth Co. - Directory of Prairie Farmers & Breeders (soft cover reprint)	\$30.00
1882 Walworth County Index to History Book	\$30.00
1912 Walworth County Index to History Book	\$29.00
Area Research Center UW-Whitewater Resource Guide	\$12.00
Declaration & Naturalization Papers Vol I \$18.00 Vol 2 & 3 (combined)	\$15.00
Walworth County Pre-1907 Death Index	\$22.00
BLOOMFIELD - Hillside Cemetery- Genoa City	\$23.00
DARIEN - Darien Cemetery	\$22.00
DELAVAN - Delavan Area Cemeteries (Spring Grove, Old Settlers, St. Andrews, Arboretum and some church burials reprint)	\$14.00
East Delavan Union Cemetery	\$25.00
History of Delavan School 1982 - index only	\$18.00
EAST TROY - Oak Ridge Cemetery	\$18.00
St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery	\$25.00
GENEVA - Lake Geneva Area Obituaries (updated through June 30, 2010)	\$25.00
Pioneer Cemetery	\$15.00
Union Cemetery— plus some Geneva/Lyons Townships	\$20.00
LAFAYETTE - White Oak Cemetery	\$ 7.50
Hartwell-Westville-Sugar Creek Lutheran Cemeteries (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$12.00
LAGRANGE -LaGrange Pioneers (reprint of 3600 names, full index)	\$27.00
LaGrange Township Cemeteries	\$10.00
LYONS - Hudson/Lyons (Old Quaker) / Wija Farm Cemeteries (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$12.00
St. Joseph & St. Killian Catholic Cemeteries (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$12.00
RICHMOND - Richmond & East Richmond Cemeteries	\$10.00
SHARON - Oakwood	\$15.00
SPRING PRAIRIE - Hickory Grove	\$25.00
German Settlement / Mount Hope / Diener Cemeteries (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$12.00
SUGAR CREEK - Millard Cemetery	\$15.00
Hazel Ridge Cemetery	\$20.00
Mount Pleasant Cemetery (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$15.00
Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$15.00
TROY - Little Prairie	\$15.00
WALWORTH - Walworth Center (Walworth Village listings)	\$20.00
Brick Church Revised 2007	\$20.00
Cobblestone, WI/Bigfoot, IL (two different cemeteries in one book)	\$20.00
WHITewater - St. Patrick's Calvary	\$15.00
Hillside Cemetery	\$25.00
Unknown Burials	\$18.00
Index to the Annals of Whitewater	\$12.00

Shipping and handling as follows: \$6.50 per book

To order these publications, circle the selection(s), make check payable to WCGS and mail to:
WCGS, PO Box 159, Delavan, WI 53115.

Membership (Jan 1st- Dec 31st) is \$15 individual (\$100 lifetime), \$18.00 family (\$200 lifetime), \$7.50 student

NAME _____ email _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ SURNAMES _____

I do ___ or do not ___ give my permission to have my information printed in any WCGS media.

DSTK 1/14

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

CO-PRESIDENTS	Michael Hay Chris Brookes	455 Fellows Road 721 S. Curtis St. #139	Genoa City, WI Lake Geneva, WI	wcgspres@gmail.com cbrookes@wi.rr.com
VICE-PRESIDENT	Karen Weston	9601 N. Kyle Dr..	Whitewater, WI	wcgsvpres@gmail.com
SECRETARY	Marilyn Traver	473 E. Geneva St Lot 10	Elkhorn, WI	msearchin@hotmail.com
CO-TREASURERS	Martha Hay	455 Fellows Road	Genoa City, WI	m.k.hay.mh@gmail.com
DIRECTOR(S)	Diana Bird Karen Helwig Judy Rockwell Dolores Schutt		Harvard, IL Whitewater, WI Elkhorn, WI Clinton, WI	
OTHERS:	Newsletter Editor: Martha Hay wcgsgnewsletter@gmail.com Library Committee: Diana Bird, Judy Rockwell, and Marilyn Traver Historian: Pat Blackmer			

Regular meetings of the WCGS are the first Tuesday of each month at the

Delavan Community Centre, 826 E. Geneva St., Delavan, WI.

Library Hours: Matheson Memorial Library, 101 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, WI- Every Tues. 10-3pm
other times by appt - call 262-279-6541

The membership year runs from Jan. 1st thru Dec. 31st. The newsletter is published bi-monthly.

****Dues are \$15 (\$100 Lifetime) for an individual, \$18.00 (\$200 Lifetime) for a family, \$25 contributing, \$7.50 student.
\$5.00 additional per year to receive the newsletter through the mail.

MEMBERS: Want email meeting minutes or not?? Contact Marilyn Traver, msearchin@hotmail.com

Visit the Walworth County website and uncover your roots! <http://www.walworthcgs.com>

Email us at: societynews@walworthcgs.com

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 159
DELAVAN, WI 53115-0159