



# Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter

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July - August 2016

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.

***2016 Dues are due! If you haven't paid your dues and are not a Lifetime Member, please send in your payment 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](http://www.walworthcgs.com) or call 414-217-4900.*

## 2016 Meetings, Events

**August 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 pm** - Ice Cream Social - bring your own toppings to share. You can play Genealogy Jeopardy with Karen Weston!



**September 6<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm** - 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner at Geneva Bay Centre Covenant Harbor (see page 41)

**September 17<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am 'til 3:30 pm** - Tri-County Family History Genealogy Fair at Gateway Technical College, Madrigano Auditorium, in Kenosha, WI

**October 4<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm** - Matt Rutherford from the Newberry, Chicago's Independent Research Library Since 1887.



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## Notice!

### New Library Hours

In an effort to be available to folks with full time jobs, our Genealogy Library will have extended hours the **third** Tuesday of each month . The new hours for the **third** Tuesday will be 10:00 am until 7:00 pm.

## WCGS Library Page



Diana Bird

Marilyn Traver

Judy Rockwell

\*\*\*\*\* Library Committee \*\*\*\*\*

A change in our library staff at Matheson Memorial Library in the Mary Bray Room in Elkhorn!

We now have a Library Committee to maintain our library resources. Our society board has decided to go with a committee instead of one librarian in order to share the responsibilities among several people with new ideas. The committee consists of Diana Bird, who was instrumental in setting up the library in Elkhorn, and Judy Rockwell, who was/is a librarian by career, and Marilyn Traver, who has spent many hours researching in our library.

The committee members are currently comparing the book inventory with the computer index in order to figure out the best plan for our collection and to make it easier for library users to find the information they are looking for.

Our library is staffed every Tuesday from 10:00 to 3:00, the 3rd Tuesday we are open until 7:00 pm, and the 3rd Saturday of the month we are open from 10:00 until 2:00. We are always looking for more members to help staff the library and help visitors with their research. Consider joining the current group of members at the library so no one has to be working alone.

Look for a “wish list” to appear on this page in the future.

To contact any of the members:

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

Judy Rockwell - [jjrockwell@gmail.com](mailto:jjrockwell@gmail.com)

Marilyn Traver - [msearchin@hotmail.com](mailto:msearchin@hotmail.com)

They will be delighted to hear from you!

The committee will be busy revamping the library, so stop in and check their progress!



## From the President's Desk



Mike Hay & Chris Brookes- WCGS Co-Presidents

### Mike's Message:

Man, it's *HOT!*

I like warm weather, but *really!* Campaign fever is rampant, but brings back thoughts of elections years ago, when men came home from work, bathed, and dressed (suit and tie), and took the wife (dressed in "Sunday Best") to the local polling place to do their civic duty.

It seems those days are gone, but not forgotten by genealogists. I recall my family's polling place at one time located at Pete Martin's Tavern, which couldn't sell liquor on voting day, anyhow! Big change today.

Our Library Staff are hard at work doing a refresh of our research materials. Judy Rockwell, Diana Bird, and Marilyn Traver (presently recovering from knee-replacement surgery) are toiling to make our materials easier to use. You might want to stop in and see the changes.

Our upcoming meeting on August 2, will be our Annual Ice Cream Social, so bring your favorite toppings to share, and be prepared to play "Genealogy Jeopardy" with Karen Weston. On September 6th we will have our 28th Annual Dinner at Geneva Bay Covenant Harbor. Details are available on our WCGS website. Also on September 17th, the Tri-County History Fair will take place in Kenosha from 8:30am until 3:00pm at Gateway Technical College, Madrigano Hall. The Kenosha group made a very good showing at our fair last year and I think we should attend their event this year. If you would like to ride-share or car-caravan on that day, call Mike @ 414-217-4900.

### Chris's Co-Comments:

A couple days after our August meeting, I'm off to New York to teach a class for teachers called Immigration Impact. We visit the Lower East Side Tenement Museum which was a tenement apartment building housing over 7,000 working class immigrants from the years 1863 to 1935. When the last tenant was evicted in 1935, the landlord locked the door and it was not opened again until 1988, when the building was turned into a living history museum. Fund raising, research, and restoration took about five years. Today guides offer six narrated tours describing the lives of the Italian, Jewish, German, Irish families who resided in the ever-changing neighborhood over the years.

In addition to the apartments, the German saloon owned by John Schneider, which occupied the basement storefront from 1864-1886, opened in 2009. Apparently it was a "hotbed of political activity in its day... The German Reform Club, of which Schneider was a member, and the 8th Assembly District both held meetings in the space. Saloons were a central community center for German immigrants on the Lower East Side."

Did your immigrant ancestors enter through Castle Garden or Ellis Island? Where and how did they live? Check out the website for the Tenement Museum <https://www.tenement.org>



## *Reinette McCrea*

*By Christine Brookes*

Mike's mention of voting inspired me to tell you about Reinette Thompson Lester McCrea, a pioneer in the women's suffrage movement.

The Illinois State Suffrage Movement organized in 1869. State Conventions were held annually. The 1909 convention was held in Chicago. The State Board of Directors decided to try educational automobile tours in the spring of 1910. The newspapers all agreed to publicize the tour; two reporters from the Chicago Tribune rode in the car with the speakers, with reporters from other publications meeting them at various tour stops. Mrs. McCrea entertained the speakers at her summer home, Blacktoft, in Lake Geneva. She also organized the Northside Branch of the State Association, later known as the Chicago Equal Suffrage Association.



Have you seen this monument in Lake Geneva?

Reinette, a charter member of the Lake Geneva Garden Club, willed \$5,000 to the city for a statue of the Three Graces (Beauty, Charm, and Joy) to be dedicated to her best friends in Geneva whose names are engraved on the base. The base is also designed to be a fountain "in order that man and beast may have a cooling drink in hot weather."

Names engraved on the pedestal are her sister Agnes Thompson Allerton, Mary Delafield Sturges, Martha T Rumsey, Mary T. Leiter, Dora T. Bartlett, Otilie M. Wacker, Emma B. Dunlap, Helen L. Fairbank, Mary H. Strong, and May L. Leland – all Geneva Lake residents with interesting stories in their own rights.

Reinette was born in 1855 in Canton, Illinois. Her father was A.C. Thompson, a Revolutionary War soldier. Her first husband was John T Lester, member of the Board of Trade in Chicago; she raised his three children. Secondly she married Wiley S McCrea, financier and member of Chicago Stock Exchange. Reinette died in Chicago in 1916. She is buried in the family plot in Oak Hill Cemetery, Lake Geneva.



# WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

**A GRAND NIGHT IS PLANNED AT THE GENEVA BAY CENTRE  
COVENANT HARBOR  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

5:30 Social Gathering  
6:00 Buffet Dinner  
7:00 Program: The Year in Review  
Members: \$20 per person  
Non-members: \$25 per person

Help yourself to the mouth-watering buffet:

Salad bar

Entrees: Chicken Piccata (pan fried chicken breasts lightly floured & seasoned)  
Angel hair pasta  
Meatballs  
2 sauces on the side – creamy lemon piccata sauce & marinara sauce

Sides: Seasonal veggies, Soup, Bread/rolls

Desserts: Fresh fruit, Selection of Sweets

Beverages: Soda, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate

The chef will accommodate any food issues/allergies if notified in advance.

**RSVP BY AUGUST 26**

**CLIP AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending:

\_\_\_\_\_ Members (\$20 each) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-members (\$25 each) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Send reservations and checks (payable to WCGS) to:  
WCGS, PO Box 159, Delavan, WI 53115-0159  
OR reserve through PayPal: [www.walworthcgs.com](http://www.walworthcgs.com)



## AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

**Lyons** – 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.-----Mr. Henry Erdley has been quite sick. Dr. L. N. Hicks, of Burlington, is the attending physician.-----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. (Wed., Nov. 13, 1889 – Delavan Republican)

**North Walworth** - John Farrel departed last week for the far West.-----J. R. Siperly, assisted by his son Fred, is building a barn for Fred Haley.-----Miss Bertha Welsh is assisting Mrs. Ira Hoag for a week or so as seamstress.-----While working on Mr. Dardis' house, Mr. William Madden fell and broke his leg.-----Mr. and Mrs. S. H. VanSchaick are visiting their daughter, Mrs. F. C. Peck, in Baraboo.-----Mrs. Anna Myers of Beloit, has been the guest of her sister, Mrs. Geo. Fury, for a short time.-----Mrs. Clarence Randall is on the sick list as is also David Phelps.-----Clinton Lackey has returned from Minnesota as he found the climate of that state too cold for him. (Thurs., January 12, 1899 –The Delavan Republican)

**Richmond** - 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.-----School is out in district No. 2 for a two weeks' vacation. The same teacher, Miss Ida Doud, will teach the winter term. (Wed., Nov. 13, 1889 –Delavan Republican)

**South Grove** – We learn that Wm. Markell has sold his farm to A. Mason for \$6,000.-----The streets of South Grove present about the same appearance to me as they did over 30 years ago, when we used to journey to the burg to get whisky and water for southern Wisconsin cradlers, engaged with the old barton grapevine or turkey wing, cutting down the black sea Canaca club or the hedgerow. But times have changed—another generation has grown up and covered the earth. Instead of using the turkey wing they mount the self binder and quickly demolish a harvest, which 35 years ago took long weary weeks to accomplish. Where is the old store that stood on the corner? Where is the broom factory

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## *Around the County Tidbits*

that flourished directly after the great American Civil War of '65? Gone to the 4 wings of the universe. On yonder hilltop stands the South Grove cemetery, where 30 years ago my grandfather's remains were interred, to wait the tap of Gabriel's drum on resurrection morning. ( Wed., Nov. 13, 1889—Delavan Republican)

Note: I added this last interesting item just because of the way it was written about South Grove, but the author's name was not listed. I looked through the South Grove cemetery listing for someone who could have been "grandpa" who died in 1859, but found no one. But some stones are unreadable and others may not have had a stone. It would have been so interesting if I could have found a "match" that was grandpa. Shirley

## *June Program Re-cap*

Our June meeting presented Nancy Rockwell from the Family History Center in Elkhorn, WI. Nancy showed the Family Search website then answered questions from the audience. .



We had a very good turnout for our program with quite a few guests.

## News from Neighboring Societies

**Burlington Genealogical Society** - Wed. August 17th, 2016 @ Burlington Gateway, (496 McKanna Parkway, Burlington, WI) "The Genealogy Kitchen Sink"

Wednesday, September 21st - Cannot meet at Gateway - Field trip to be announced

**McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society** - Thursday, August 11th, 7:00 pm @ The Pointe (5650 NW Hwy in Crystal Lake next to Target) . "A 60-Minute Crash Course: Beginning Genealogy Using Accredited Methods .

Thursday, September 8th, 7:00 pm - "Time Travel with Google Earth"

**British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL)** - Saturday, Saturday 17th, 10:00 am @ The Community Church, 5714 Broadway St. (two blocks west of U.S. Route 12), Richmond, Illinois. "Preserving Family Heirlooms" will be presented by Tina Beaird.

**Kenosha Genealogy Society** - Monday, September 12th, 6:30 pm until 9:00 pm @ Madrigano Auditorium of Gateway Technical College, 3320 30th Avenue, Kenosha, WI. "Family Search" will be presented by Caron Brennan.

Saturday, September 17th, Tri-County Genealogy Fair @ Madrigano Auditorium of Gateway Technical College, 3320 30th Avenue, Kenosha, WI.

**German Interest Group** - Monday, August 1st, 7:00 pm @ Saint Mark Lutheran, 2921 Mount Zion Avenue, Janesville German Genealogist, Bob Rettammel , Bob will provide a case study of how he searched for his German ancestors, particularly his great-grandfather's family. Bob will discuss the records used to begin a search in finding a German Connection: vital records – birth, death, and marriage; census records, city directories, newspapers, and naturalization records. He will provide information on the genealogical structure in Germany, the reasons for German emigration, and working with a genealogist.

*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 [wcsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wcsnewsletter@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.

## Ancestor Inquiry

Do you have an ancestor who held public office? Do you have an ancestor who pushed for a change that made things different? Let me know. I'm going to check mine and let you know in upcoming issues. If you have an ancestor who made a difference, you should brag about it. Here is your chance!

**KENOSHA,**

**BURLINGTON** (Racine County)

**WALWORTH**

**COUNTY**

**GENEALOGICAL**

**SOCIETIES**



# Tri-County Family History Genealogy Fair

## Professional Genealogy Speakers

- Mike Karsen – “My Cousin, The Gangster”
- Dan Hubbard – Civil War: Researching at Appomattox Court House
- Dan Niemiec – Explaining Italian Church and Civil Records
- Judy Rockwell – Life Writing”: Sharing with Our Families
- Steve Szabados – Polish Immigration: When, Where, Why & How

## WHEN:

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016**

**8:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.**

## WHERE:

**GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**MADRIGRANO AUDITORIUM**

3320-30<sup>TH</sup> Avenue

Kenosha, WI

Vendors  
History Centers  
Raffle  
Door Prizes  
Free Admission  
Free Parking

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](mailto: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?

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

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

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

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

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

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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](mailto: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
<b>BLOOMFIELD</b> - Hillside Cemetery- Genoa City	\$23.00
<b>DARIEN</b> - Darien Cemetery	\$22.00
<b>DELAVAN</b> - 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
<b>EAST TROY</b> - Oak Ridge Cemetery	\$18.00
St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery	\$25.00
<b>GENEVA</b> - Lake Geneva Area Obituaries (updated through June 30, 2010)	\$25.00
Pioneer Cemetery	\$15.00
Union Cemetery— plus some Geneva/Lyons Townships	\$20.00
<b>LAFAYETTE</b> - White Oak Cemetery	\$ 7.50
Hartwell-Westville-Sugar Creek Lutheran Cemeteries (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$12.00
<b>LAGRANGE</b> -LaGrange Pioneers (reprint of 3600 names, full index)	\$27.00
LaGrange Township Cemeteries	\$10.00
<b>LYONS</b> - 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
<b>RICHMOND</b> - Richmond & East Richmond Cemeteries	\$10.00
<b>SHARON</b> - Oakwood	\$15.00
<b>SPRING PRAIRIE</b> - Hickory Grove	\$25.00
German Settlement / Mount Hope / Diener Cemeteries (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$12.00
<b>SUGAR CREEK</b> - 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
<b>TROY</b> - Little Prairie	\$15.00
<b>WALWORTH</b> - 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
<b>WHITewater</b> - 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: \$5.50 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.

## 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
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DIRECTOR(S)	Diana Bird Karen Helwig Judy Rockwell Dolores Schutt		Harvard, IL Whitewater, WI Elkhorn, WI Clinton, WI	
OTHERS:	Newsletter Editor: Martha Hay <a href="mailto:wcgnewsletter@gmail.com">wcgnewsletter@gmail.com</a> 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. 1<sup>st</sup> thru Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto:msearchin@hotmail.com)

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

Email us at: [societynews@walworthcgs.com](mailto:societynews@walworthcgs.com)

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