

Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume 24 Issue 2

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March—April 2015

Guest Speakers/Programs for 2015

Tuesday, April 7th: 6:30 pm - "Travels for my family genealogy research"
Mary Ann Schmidt describes her journeys to Germany, Poland and South Africa in search of her family's true history.

Tuesday, May 5th: 6:30 pm—Membership Drive - Bring a Friend - workshop - Lineage Societies and more

Tuesday, June 2nd: 6:30 pm—Karen Weston, Archivist at the Area Research Center at the Anderson Library at UW White-water - We will be Car Pooling from both Elkhorn and Delavan for this event.

Please consider a donation for either the local food pantry or Lakeland Animal Shelter

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From the President's Desk

Mike Hay & Chris Brookes- WCGS Co-Presidents



Mike's message:

Happy Easter!

The cold weather has moderated to some extent, and we are grateful for that! Most of our members have told us that this winter was physically demanding on them, so let's hope we have gotten past that. I for one am tired of feeling run down because of the weather. Our March meeting had to be called off at the last minute because of the threat of icy roadways, but we have rescheduled the Salem Witch program for our October meeting. We had several folks express interest in the subject, so that meeting should have good attendance.

Our workshop on March 31st was a resounding success with over 20 people taking advantage of the expertise of our members who came in to help. The visitors ranged from beginners to veteran researchers who asked for assistance in computer research. We want to give a big "Thank-You" to our members who attended and shared their searching abilities with these folks. Most of them left saying they would return and we did gain a family membership at the workshop with other folks stating they were strongly considering joining our group. The library was very pleased at the outcome of our workshop and have encouraged us to repeat it.

Our meeting for April will feature Mary Ann Schmidt who will tell us about her travels in researching her family both in Europe and South Africa. We are looking forward to hearing about her adventures in genealogy. We hope to see you there!

Chris's Co-Comments:

Over the winter Mike and Martha Hay and I began revising the *Policy & Procedures Manual* that guides the Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs of our society. The original document we have been working from was written in 1997 for the Zion, IL society, later adapted for a consortium of 50 societies known as the Northeastern Illinois/Southeastern Wisconsin group, and finally revised and edited in 2001 for the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Many of the procedures do not apply to our society, so we have been fine-tuning the document to reflect the current practices of WCGS.

Some of the adaptations we are making will also affect our by-laws. These changes will be detailed in the May/June newsletter, and the membership will vote on the revised by-laws at the July meeting. Stay tuned.



Deb Ketchum, Librarian

Ketchum's Korner



The WCGS library has acquired a boxful of books discarded by the Whitewater Public library thanks to Kay Drexler. They are:

- A Dictionary of Names, Nicknames & Surnames of Persons, Places & Things by Edward Latham; 1904
- Badger Boneyards: The Eternal Rest of the Story by Dennis McCann; 2010 (a Wisconsin book)
- Discovering Your Africa-American Ancestors by Franklin C. Smith & Emily A. Croom; 2003
- They Became Americans: Finding Naturalization Records & Ethnic Origins by Loretto Dennis Szucs; 1998
- Searching For Your Wisconsin Ancestors in the Wisconsin Libraries by Carol Ward Ryan; 1998
- The Very Quiet Baltimoreans by Jane B. Wilson; 1991 (about Baltimore cemeteries)
- Hidden Sources: Family History in Unlikely Places by Laura Szucs Pfeiffer; 1999
- Reading Early American Handwriting by Kip Sperry; 2001
- Finding Your Canadian Ancestors by Sherry Irvine & Dave Obee; 2007
- A Guide to Finding Your Ellis Island Ancestors by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack; 2005
- Walking with Your Ancestors: A Genealogist Guide to Using Maps & Geography by Melinda Kashuba; 2005
- Genealogical Resources of the Minnesota Historical Society by MN Historical Society; 1989
- Our Italian Surnames by Joseph G. Fucilla; 2003

Two great GAR books: The first book Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Illinois: Transcription of the Death Rolls, 1879-1947 by Dennis Northcutt & Thomas Brooks (2003) contains death records of more than 32,000 members of the Department of Illinois, who served in Civil War units from 36 states and territories. The second is Grand Army of Republic Department of Wisconsin by Thomas J. McCrory (2005) contains information on the Posts in WI and their officers.

The last two books is a two volume set titled Maryland Genealogies from the Maryland Historical Magazine indexed by Thomas Hollowak (1997) and contains all the family history articles published in the Maryland Historical Magazine from 1906 through 1976. Some families named in the various articles: Abington, Auld, Ball, Bartlett, Belt, Berry, Bladen, Blakistone, Bonvile, Brengle, Briscoe, Brooke, Caile, Calvert, Chew, Christison, Churchill, Clements, Cohen, Coplestone, Croker, Cromwell, Dent, Dixon, Dorsey, Dunn, Egerton, Ellicott Elliott, Emory, Fairfax, Faris, Fox, Foxworthy, Frisby, Fritchie, Frith, Gary, Gerard, Gist, Goldsborough, Gordon, Gough-Carroll, Hall, Harrison, Harwood, Haskins, Hausil, Hawley-Halley, Highland, Hollyday, Hungerford, Hynson, Jones, Kemp, Key, Lambdin, Lane, LeCompte, Lee, Levis, Linthicum, Lloyd, Loockerman, Lowe, Lowndes, MacKeeles, Marsh, Merryman, Monroe, Morgan, Murdock, Neale, Owens-Owings, Pearce-Levy, Pennock, Plater, Poe, Price, Pritchett, Randall, Ridgely, Rigbie, Rockhold, Sewall, Sharpe, Skinner, Smallwood, Smith, Snead, Sparrow, Sprigg, Stansbury, Stevens, Stewart, Sweetser, Tasker, Taylor, Tilghman, Todd, Webb, Weems, West, Winchester-Owens-Owings-Price, Wise, Wrightson, and Young-Woodward-Hesselius.



What did your ancestor do?

By Chris Brookes

A 2006 article on Ancestry.com highlighted "America's Top 10 and Most Unusual Jobs from 1880 Census." Tim Sullivan, CEO, MyFamily.com, Inc., parent company of Ancestry.com, commented, "The census reveals more than just numbers -- it builds stories. By providing information on occupations, household members, names and ages of family members, language of origin, social status and more, census data connects our past to the present and creates a vivid snapshot of the lives of our ancestors."

Have you run across any unusual employment in your family lines? In 1880, the Top 10 included carpenter, dressmaker/tailor, clerk, school teacher, blacksmith, miner, cotton mill worker, farm worker, laborer, and servant. The article goes on to say, "The 1880 Census reveals the lure of the "Wild West" during that time period. Almost 30,000 individuals reported their occupation as "Saloon Keeper." There was also a significant number of "Cattle Herders," "Cowboys," "Saddle and Harness Makers," "Horse Dealers," "Street Sweepers" (to clean up the after the horses on the big city streets) and even an "Outlaw" appeared on the census taker's list."

Just a few decades earlier, occupations (many now obsolete) might need more explanation. Here are a dozen Colonial occupations just for fun from:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rigenweb/ocupaton.html>

CARTWRIGHT: one who made carts or wagons

CHANDLER: one who made or sold candles

COOPER: one who makes or repairs wooden casks, kegs or tubs

CORDWAINER: a shoemaker or worker of leather

DRAPER: originally, a maker of woollen cloth, later a dealer in cloths of all kinds

FELLMONGER: one who removes hair or wool from hides in preparation for leather making

FORGER: blacksmith

GLAZIER: a glass cutter

INTELLIGENCER: a spy

LIMNER: one who illuminated books or parchments; one who paints or draws

SAWYER: one who cuts timber into logs or boards

SUTLER: a person who followed an army camp peddling provisions and supplies

Occupations in Great Britain followed similar patterns to the US, except for quirky ones like: "Artificial Flower Maker," "Capsule Maker," "Coffin Maker," "Corset Maker," "Fancy Box Maker," "Powder Puff Maker," and "Surgical Instrument Maker."

Sullivan concluded, "A variety of occupations sounded more like machinery than jobs people would perform. "Button Polisher," "Envelope Folder," "Feather Curler," "Silk Winder" and "Boot Clicker" (someone in charge of lace holes on a shoe) were among those listed. Some people showcased their seeming lack of occupation, listing job such as "Old Bachelor," "Good Talker," "Bird Fancyier," and "Gent at Large."

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What did your ancestor do?

By Chris Brookes

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So to build your ancestor's story, check out the occupation line in the census and find out if there is a link from past to present. I know

from personal experience, teachers run through the generations in my family.

Welcome to New Members

Long time member, Mary Jordan, brought a friend to the February Show and Share and he and his wife joined our group.

David J. Buchanan and Linda Christian live in Delavan and are researching surnames; Christian, Deschner, Borgert, and Whitney.

We received a membership online on April 4th.

Susan Bogie resides in the state of Texas and is researching surnames; Bogie, Gay, Gear, Bourn, Henbest, Hull, Peacock, and Pollock.

Our March 31st workshop brought us another new family membership.

Tom Mehnert lives in Kansasville and is researching surnames; Mehnert, Mason, Hages, and VanOchten.

We welcome these new members and look forward to working with them and getting their ideas to continue building our society. We also hope that we can assist them in their research with the combined experience of our members.

M&M Tips

In our research, we often browse through family trees to see if anyone has found information that I am looking for. We've run across quite a few trees that we are pretty sure are nothing more than guess work. When we first started the family tree and used Ancestry, we made a mistake of assuming that the posted trees were based on fact and (oops!) merged the data into our tree. It took quite a while to clean out the invalid data and we learned our lesson. Now we are much more cautious and look carefully. If the posted tree displays multiple children with almost the same names such as a Mary and a Maria with almost the same birthday you can be pretty sure that this tree was thrown together without any verification. It makes you wonder why some people think it's good research just to make wild assumptions and post the data as if it is factual.

I've run into a strange situation and would like to know if anyone has had this same problem. My father's parents were married in West Virginia in 1904 and I have been able to find their marriage certificate online. My father's mother's maiden name is listed as Stacic, yet we were told that her maiden name was Kula and indeed on the death certificate of their first son her name is listed as Kula. I'm not sure where to go with this information. Does anybody have any ideas for me?

Several people that came to the genealogy workshop at the library mentioned that they were not aware of the WCGS nor were they aware of our library room. Let's make it a personal project to inform people that we meet that our group does exist and that you don't have to be FROM Walworth county.

In researching my mother's family from New York, we were looking for anything

that had the surname Dyckman in it. We ran across the name of a Presbyterian minister, Reverend Silas Constant, who travelled large distances administering to the souls of his people before a church was finally built for him at Yorktown, New York. The journal he kept can be found online and if you had any ancestors in the area of Blooming Grove and Monroe, Orange County, New York and/or Crompond or Yorktown, New York he may have encountered one of your ancestors. If not, his journal is simply interesting reading in that he not only performed his ministry duties, he also helped whatever family that would give him food and a bed. There are several websites where you can read the journal for free. Search Google with Journal of Reverend Silas Constant.

I've noticed that many of the people who are doing research seem uncomfortable when they discover that an ancestor married sisters. We tend to think of life today as the way it was many years ago, but things were very different back then. For example, diseases caused by bad water and sewage were common in the cities and many young women worn out by child bearing would succumb to these diseases. Also, it was quite common for women to contract puerperal sepsis or postpartum metritis following child birth or miscarriage and before the days of antibiotics, many women died. The man would need a woman to care for his children and the closest woman would be a sister-in-law, but she could not live in his house as a single woman and thus a marriage would take place. In this day and age, it is quite difficult to imagine taking on a spouse you might not even like very much simply because of "duty" knowing that, for most, it would be "as long as you both shall live".



AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

Tibbetts Doings – Mr. Thomas Hooper, of Palmyra, visited his daughter, Mrs. Geo. Weaver last Thursday.-----Mrs. E. J. Williams and daughter departed for their home in Stockton, Kan., this week.-----Misses Frankie Fountain and Amanda Morris attended the teachers' meeting in Delavan, Saturday.-----Messrs. Geo. Newman, Henry Oleson, Misses Amanda Morris and Lizzy Dooley spent Sunday with Geneva Friends. (The Delavan Enterprise, Thurs., Oct. 25, 1900)

Millard – Mrs. Ernest Mayhew, of Spring Prairie, visited her mother, Mrs. W. A. Owens, and sister, Mrs. E. Webber last week.-----Mrs. C. H. Taylor has gone to Battle Ground, Indiana, to visit a sister.-----Mrs. W. T. Finch, of Buena Park, Chicago, is spending a few weeks with relatives at the Gray farm.-----Mr. George Fuller and family, of Johnstown, came down to the ice cream social Saturday evening, and spent Sunday at E. S. Barker's. (Delavan Republican, Wed., August 27, 1890)

East Troy – Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Potter and little daughter started for their home in O'Brien Co., Iowa, Monday morning last week. A several weeks visit with their brother, Rev. Thos. Potter, of this place, is ended. The brothers had been separated for a good many years.-----Sunday morning, January 20th, Mrs. H. B. Gilbert, in passing to a neighbors, slipped and fell, breaking her arm above the wrist and severely spraining the wrist. Dr. Scott was called and Mrs. Gilbert made as comfortable as possible.-----Thursday of last week the wife of Mr. Geo. Harlow had a slight stroke of paralysis. One side of the person being affected. Later in the week Mrs. Harlow had another shock, and the family and friends are seriously alarmed.-----We learn that Mrs. Dwight Burgit is so far recovered from an attack of throat difficulty as to be considered out of danger.-----Geo. Harlow and Chas. Kuhl were engaged in sinking deeper the well of Mr. H. B. Gilbert, when Mr.

Harlow was suddenly called to his wife's assistance. Mr. Kuhl was in the bottom of the well when he missed the steady hand of George at the windlass above. We are sure that Kuhl took the matter coolly, especially if he had his pipe with him. (Delavan Republican, Wed., Jan. 30, 1889)

Walworth – Mills D. Clark, formerly a resident of this place, is here making an agreeable visit to his mother and brothers.-----Mrs. Frank Maxon is going to have erected a very fine residence this spring and summer, here at the corners, for her own use. She has decided to leave the farm, having procured the services of a faithful and trusty tenant. She has already commenced drawing stone for the foundation.-----Our caucus, held last Wednesday, ground out the following nominations: Chairman, Edgar Maxon; Ass'ts, Ames Mulford and H. G. Douglass; Clerk, E. W. Ripley; Treasurer, F. M. Pollard; Assessor, A. D. Crumb. Judging from the excitement engendered by antagonistic conversation, the election will on April 2nd, turn out one or two different names that the caucus put into the hopper. (Delavan Republican, Wed., April 3, 1889)

Darien - Miss Clara Jones of Big Foot, and Mr. Murray Wheeler, of Darien, were united in marriage on Sunday, March 31.-----Mrs. J. J. Heyer returned from Milwaukee Monday noon, accompanied by her nephew, Mr. Otto Heyer, of Milwaukee.-----Mrs. Hattie Wright spent three days of last week with her mother at Springfield, Wis.-----Died, Friday forenoon, March 28th, the nine weeks old infant son of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Bailey, of Tumor of the bowels. Services were held at the residence Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock, Rev. Collie delivering the discourse. (Delavan Republican, Wed., April 3, 1889)

PROGRAM RECAP

Our February Show and Share meeting was attended by a small group.



There weren't very many of us, but the stories were very enjoyable!

Unfortunately, the March meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

News from nearby Societies

Burlington Genealogical Society: April 15, 7:00 pm Writing Your Obituary, Part II Attendees are asked to bring a draft of their obituary. May 20, 7:00 pm Using Maps in research facilitated by Jay.

British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL) May 16 - Unfortunately the May meeting has not been finalized as yet. Please check their website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wiilbig/ as the time get closer for the program. BIGWILL meets in Richmond, Illinois in The Community Church, 5714 Broadway St. (two blocks west of U.S. Route 12)

McHenry County Genealogical Society April 9, 2015 @ 7pm will present *Tales of Serendipity in Genealogical Research Presented by Delray Palmer* and on Thursday, May 14, 2015 @ 7pm will present *Finding your English Ancestors, the Big Four Presented by Paul Milner*. Their meetings are held at The Pointe, located at 5650 NW Hwy in Crystal Lake (next to Target).

Stateline Genealogy Club at Beloit Public Library April 10, 2015 –

“Lifewriting Workshop – writing our own stories to share with our families, the kind of stories we wish our ancestors had written”, by Judy Rockwell. Bring a photo from your past that you might like to write about. Learn how to see more about your ancestors’ lives in the process of reflecting your own life.

May 8, 2015 -“Getting Your Genealogy Paperwork Organized A to Z” – webinar – Judy Nichols. Use this opportunity to bring your paperwork and folders/ notebook supplies to work on your own organizing, if you wish. They meet at the Beloit Public Library from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm.

Wausau Family History Center:

Annual Wausau Family History Conference .Saturday, May 2, 2015. If you’re interested, mark your calendar! Look for the agenda and registration form in early 2015.

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”.

New member, Nancy Osmolak, stepped up to be a “greeter”. There is no reason why the chore cannot be shared. Who else would like to step up? It’s the easiest way to get to know all the members and guests who may consider joining our group would feel more welcome. We’ve been trying to be available to welcome everyone, but sometimes we have other chores that must be done. We are asking for help. Please consider stepping up.

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 wcsnewsletter@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 wcsnewsletter@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)	\$18.00
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: \$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 (\$50 lifetime), \$18.00 family (\$100 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

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OTHERS:	Newsletter Editor: Martha Hay wcgnewsletter@gmail.com Past-President & Librarian: Deb Ketchum 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 262-215-0118

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 Barb - jawadusti@yahoo.com

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

Email us at: societynews@walworthcgs.com

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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