

Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume 23 Issue 3

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May - June 2014

Guest Speakers/Programs for 2014

Tuesday, June 3rd, 6:30 pm: Meeting at University of Wisconsin, Area Research Center, Whitewater - Karen Weston will present a short program followed by independent research - for carpool information, please check the website: www.walworthcgs.com

Tuesday, July 1st, 6:30 pm: Judy Rockwell will present "Lifewriting". Bring a picture or memento that triggers fond memories to write about.

Saturday, July 19th, 1:00 pm: Cemetery Walk - St. Peter's in East Troy in conjunction with the East Troy Historical Society (details to follow).

Tuesday, August 5th, 6:30 pm: Ice Cream Social - bring your favorite toppings to share

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 - WCGS President

Welcome to summer (almost)!

It has been a long time waiting for the decent weather to arrive, but it seems to have arrived. Martha, Jon and I traveled to the Green Bay area to attend my Irish relatives' Memorial Day get-together at the family plot in Eaton Township, Brown County.

This year marks the second time we have participated in the gathering, and it was very enjoyable to be welcomed as a member of the extended family. The annual event consists of chatting with family members while strolling around the family cemetery, then participating in a prayer ritual while holding hands; this year encircling the most recent addition. There wasn't a dry eye left when we were done. It's a very special way of honoring the departed.

It's refreshing to feel the acceptance by the other members of the family and I don't know if it is because of the Irish heritage, but each year thanks is given to the ancestors for having the courage to come to this land leaving the familiar things behind (the family came over during the years of the Irish Potato Famine).

We attended the Burlington Genealogical Society's Board meeting which was devoted in part to plans for the Family History Fair which will be held on September 27, 2014 from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. It was brought up at this meeting that the Kenosha County Genealogical Society has expressed an interest in participating with Burlington and Walworth County making it a tri-county event for the future. Burlington will have this year, we will host next year's Fair, and Kenosha will host in 2016. We're hopeful that this will create a greater interest in the Family History Fair going forward.

We are still looking for volunteers to assist at the library. We seem to be the only society in the area that has a staffed library to help visitors with their genealogical research. The knowledge that we have all gained through our shared research is very helpful to those who stop by our library room and they are very appreciative of our efforts.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the July Cemetery walk at St. Peter's Cemetery in East Troy. We need folks who would be willing to put on presentations at the gravesites of selected people, folks who would be interested in being guides for the visitors, and folks to man the entrance table.

Our July meeting (July 1, 2014) will have Judy Rockwell presenting "LifeWriting", which can be a very fulfilling endeavor. My first introduction to this program left me with a pleasant, nostalgic feeling that has lasted for a long time. If you bring a picture or a memento and write about it, you, too, can experience the connection to times past.



Deb Ketchum, Librarian



Ketchum's Korner

Editor's note: Deb Ketchum has been very busy at her place of work getting ready for their Summer Retreat and is spending any free time getting the cemetery book for St. Peter's Cemetery in East Troy completed so as to be printed by the time we do the cemetery walk, that she is unable to write her page. I offer this information.

A short while ago, the Sharp copier that we had in the library gave up the ghost and suddenly just quit working. We had built up some money in our Equipment Fund and Mike and I found an HP 7610 All-in-one Series on sale at Best Buy, so we purchased it. This printer/scanner/copier is an ink jet color printer. The Equipment Fund is slightly in the hole now, but we will be continuing the fund as we will be needing to purchase a new computer to replace the old Dell computer as well as other equipment in the near future.

The HP7610 Series printer/scanner/copier will print duplex for those reports that need to be printed on two sides. This will save paper which is also another expense.

The HP7610 Series printer/scanner/copier is also attached to the network at the library. If you bring in your own laptop, you can attach to the printer through the network. The fees for copies applies to anything you print.

The HP7610 Series printer/scanner/copier also has a USB port for scanning documents or pictures directly to a flash drive. The first four documents or pictures anyone scans at one time is free, but the fee for copies will start at the fifth document or picture in order to not allow any one person to "hog" the machine.

Mike and I met with some of the East Troy Historical Society members to gain some insight into prominent citizens who are buried at St. Peter's Cemetery. We imparted information about the cemetery walk and some of the members showed great interest in joining in the presentation. We would like very much to hear from our members who might also know of or be related to someone who is buried at St. Peter's Cemetery so that we can develop a good list of prospective presentations to include.

Martha Hay



The History & Herstory of Walworth County

By Chris Brookes

The Buckingham Girls

According to *The Ancestors of Ebenezer Buckingham, who was born in 1748, and of his descendents*, Benjamin Hale Buckingham, son of Alvah and Anna Hale, married Martha Euretta Potwin Nov. 11, 1845, in Ohio. They had four children; two died in infancy, and Anna Sophia and Rosalie Amelia survived.

Cousin Ebenezer Buckingham, son of Ebenezer and Eunice Hale, married Lucy Sturges May 5, 1853, in Zanesville, Ohio. They had three children Kate, Clarence, and Lucy.

The first Buckingham in America settled in Connecticut in 1639. Five generations later, the brothers Alvah and Ebenezer (mentioned above) headed to Ohio, Ebenezer with a grip sack, an axe, and 12 ½ cents in his pocket. In 1810, Ebenezer started a trading post at Zanesville which expanded into Buckingham Store & Warehouse with Alvah and brother-in-law Solomon Sturges joining as partners in 1816. From that meager beginning, the Buckinghams went on to build the first grain elevator in Chicago, and rise to wealth and prominence in business and society.

Anna Sophia Buckingham was born Oct 8, 1846, in Zanesville, Ohio, to Benjamin Hale and Martha Euretta (Potwin) Buckingham. She graduated at Miss Haines' school in New York City, married Frank Randolph Chandler in 1868, in Chicago, and after marriage travelled in Russia, Turkey, Spain, Palestine, Egypt, Greece, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Italy, Hol-

land, and Switzerland. Mr. Chandler was a mortgage banker in Chicago who became a real estate mogul.

Anna's sister Rosalie Amelia Buckingham was born July 5, 1860, in Chicago. Their father Benjamin died in 1864 when Rose was only four years old, but mother and daughters continued to live well, inheriting considerable property and money. Between the ages of 13 to 19, Rose acquired an education by traveling through Europe with her mother, studying languages and music. She was said to be a very gifted harpist and was described by a Chicago socialite in the following terms:

"Rose Buckingham, belonging to a distinguished family, was as lovely in mind as she was in body. I think when she stood beside the harp, which she played beautifully, she was an inspiration to those who saw her. A great favorite in society, she was generous in contributing her skill on the harp for charitable purposes. She loved her art and was always willing to help others."

Rose married Harry Gordon Selfridge in 1890 when she was 30 years of age and a successful property developer. She had purchased land on Harper Avenue in Hyde Park and built 42 villas and artists cottages within a landscaped environment. If you watch *Mr. Selfridge* on PBS Sunday nights at 8:00 PM, you know his story - the retail genius who rose from childhood poverty with a single mother to establish one of the best department stores in the world, Selfridge's in London.

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The History & Herstory of Walworth County

By Chris Brookes

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The wedding ceremony was officiated by Rev. David Swing. Following the service, the Chandlers hosted an elaborate wedding supper in the ballroom of their home. Even though fourteen years separated the sisters, the Chandlers and the Selfridges lived together in the Buckingham house on Rush Street until 1898, when the Selfridges purchased a city house on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago.

Anna Chandler also purchased a house in the 1890s. The story goes that Mr. and Mrs. Chandler, while visiting the 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago, got temporarily separated, and when they met again, Mrs. Chandler told her husband, "I just bought a building." It happened to be the exhibit from the island of Ceylon, a replica of a Buddhist temple, which cost \$28,000, was moved on 23 freight cars to Lake Geneva, and named Ceylon Court. It was reassembled on the Chandler's property next door to the Selfridge's summer home, Harrose Hall.

Selfridge's in London opened in 1906. Rose did not greatly enjoy her life in London. She missed her home and family in Chicago and returned there to see her sister Anna three or four times a year. In 1916, while living at Highcliffe Castle, Rose opened a tented retreat called Mrs. Gordon Selfridge Convalescent Camp for American Soldiers on the castle grounds. She died while helping nurse British soldiers during the influenza pandemic of 1918, and is buried in St. Mark's Churchyard at Highcliffe.

Anna Chandler died in 1922 and Frank in 1933. Both are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Lake Geneva. Near their elongated tombstones is a memorial arch erected by Anna and Rose for their mother, Martha Euretta

(Potwin) Buckingham, the wife of Benjamin H. Buckingham, but she is not buried there.

Anna's and Rose's cousins Kate, Clarence, and Lucy Buckingham were the three children of Ebenezer Buckingham, Jr. and Lucy Sturges. Kate and Clarence were among the attendants at Rose and Harry's wedding. None of the three married, but their legacy remains in Chicago today – the Buckingham Fountain. Kate used a portion of her inheritance (\$750,000) to build The Clarence Buckingham Memorial Fountain. She also established the Buckingham Fountain Endowment Fund with an initial investment of \$300,000 to pay for maintenance. In memory of her sister Lucy, she donated her own Asian collection to the Art Institute as the Lucy Maud Buckingham Collection. In addition she furnished the Gothic room with a medieval collection in memory of Lucy, and finished the Jacobean Room in the name of her parents. Clarence died in 1913, Lucy in 1920, and Kate in 1937.

It is thanks to Benjamin Hale Buckingham, who collected 300-400 names in the genealogy of his grandparents Ebenezer & Esther, that we know the Buckingham story today. Please remember to designate a custodian of your genealogical records so all your hard work will be preserved for the future.

News from neighboring Societies

Burlington Genealogical Society's next program, Wednesday, June 18, 2014, 7:00 pm, Gateway Building, 496 McCanna Parkway, Burlington will be about using stock photos and images to enhance family history.



AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

Fairfield - Mrs. Julia Ann Dykeman, wife of Cornelius Dykeman, Sr. , died Saturday afternoon, Aug. 16, 1884, aged about 80 years.

She came here from Schoharie Co., New York, at an early day and has lived here about forty years. She was a zealous member of the M. E. Church, although her last years were years of suffering. She leaves her aged husband and six children. The remains laid at rest in the village cemetery.-----Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Kane were visited by their son from Illinois a short time ago.-----Mrs. F. M. North, of Syracuse N. Y. who has been visiting relatives here during the past two weeks, started home on Tuesday of this week. She was on her return from a business and pleasure trip to Chamberlain, Dakota. (Delavan Republican, Friday, August 22, 1884)

Darien – Mrs. Houghton is reported as dangerously ill.-----Frank Armbruster of this place has been granted a pension.-----Mrs. I. L. Saxton and little son visited her sister, Mrs. C. Crumb of Milton, over Sunday.-----Mrs. Keyes, mother of Mrs. Olive Fulkerson, is quite sick but at this writing is reported as some better.-----Mr. John Cook, of Portage who has been spending several weeks with his daughter, Mrs. E. S. Barrett, returned home on Tuesday.-----Died at the home of her son at Albany, N. Y., July 30th, 1889, Mrs. John Hillman, aged 80 years and 9 days. the remains were brought to Darien for interment arriving here on the morning of Aug. 2nd. Mrs. Hillman was a former resident of this place, but for a number of years had made Clinton, Wis. her home, spending the winters with her son E. E. Hillman of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She leaves

a large family of children to mourn her death. (the Delavan Enterprise, Wed., Aug 7, 1889)

Allen Grove – Mr. Cyrus Palmerton died Saturday at his home, caused from a paralytic stroke he sustained last Wednesday. The funeral was held from Fairfield church Monday at 5 p.m. He had made his home here for twenty-five years. He leaves an invalid wife and two sons to mourn the loss. -----George Hess left Wednesday for Doylestown to attend the funeral of his grandmother, Mrs. Hall, and remained a week to visit relatives.-----Mrs. Mate Sweet was called to Ft. Atkinson Monday on account of her daughter, Mrs. Spicer, being sick.-----Jim Le Valley came out from Iowa to visit his uncle, B. F. Le Valley, and others.-----A birthday party was given for Miss Mazie Macafee at her home Monday evening, February 10. A good crowd was in attendance, and a good time was enjoyed by all. Cake and ice Cream were served. (The Delavan Enterprise, Thursday, February 13, 1902)

Millard - John Sherman, now at the Milwaukee hospital, is getting along as well as could be expected.-----Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rogers' little son Amos has been very sick with pneumonia, but was much better last Sunday.-----A. W. Count has a large Norman horse, weighing 1500 pounds, which he wishes to sell. It is six years old, kind double and single, and a fine work horse.-----Mark Barker and family and Mr. Cooper and family came from South Dakota last week.

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AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

(continued from page 30)

Mark came to work his father's (James Barker's) farm, and Mr. Cooper to work his wife's grandmother's (Mrs. Ann Bigelow's) farm. Mrs. Cooper, better known here as Cora Bigelow, spent her childhood days in Millard. (Delavan Republican, Thursday, March 17, 1898)

Richmond – James McFarlane, who has been quite ill, is convalescent.-----The family of O. A. Crumb are quite sick at the present writing.-----Mrs. T. Cavaney spent last week with her mother, at Johnstown Center.-----Misses Austin and Clark, of Rock Prairie, were pleasant visitors here Friday.-----Miss Elizabeth DeLaney, of Walworth, spent Saturday and Sunday at the paternal home.-----

Many of our people played cinch at the home of John Delaney, Friday evening. The first prizes were awarded to Mr. Myron Holbrook and Miss Laura Holbrook. (The Delavan Republican, Thursday, Feb. 15, 1900)

Tibbets – Perry Welch is taking possession of the farm which he recently bought of John Rand.-----Homer Davis is moving onto his father's farm.-----Audie Hanson is billed for an entertainment with his talking machine Friday evening, March 18. "There will be a hot time in the old town tonight." Admission 10 and 15 cents. (unknown paper, March 1898).

PROGRAM RECAP

Our May meeting, "Bring a Friend", was very well received. All the tables were busy, and the treats were delicious. Mara Andreas brought her family tree to show; drawn out on a large sheet. David Linton dressed up in a traditional Scots outfit, kilt and all. He also played the bagpipes for us. Here are some pictures of the event for those of you who missed it.



Mara Andreas



David Linton

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PROGRAM RECAP

(Continued from page 31)



Kay Drexler (German) and Chris Brookes (Irish) at their respective tables.



Sylvia Linton “mans” her English table.

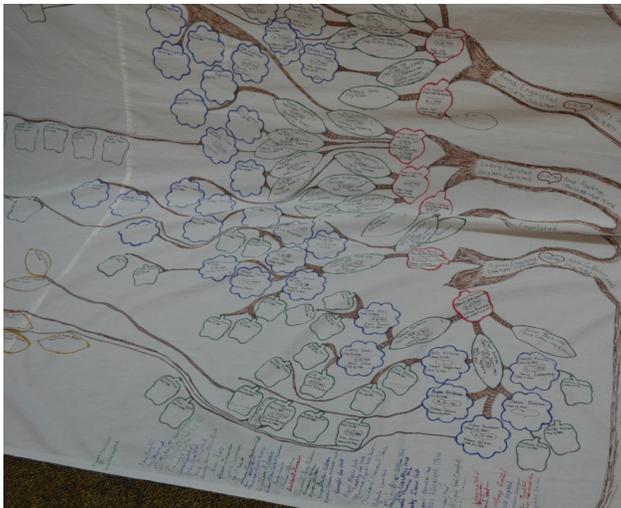


Pat Blackmer looks busy at her genealogy table.



Mara Andreas' Norwegian area was busy most of the evening.

The two pictures below are just a couple of snaps that I took of Mara's family tree. We didn't have enough space to allow me to take a photo of the entire sheet and there was no one tall enough to hold up the ends without it sitting on the floor. It is absolutely amazing! Thank you, Mara, for bringing it in!



Are You Related To Me?

The spotlight, this newsletter, is on past president, vice-president, director, Donna Kjendlie. Donna is also a teacher of many classes and has been a member since 1989.

1. How did you get interested in genealogy?

As a teenager, I wanted to know more about my father's side of the family and especially his mother's home in Germany. After asking her and being told she was an American now, I waited for another 20 years until a lady friend asked if I was interested in genealogy. I took several of her classes and was on my way to a 35+ years of researching.

2. Names, places and date of ancestors.

Elfrieda Winifred Bollwahn was from Gingst, Isle of Ruegen, Germany 24 August 1874 - 1 June 1958
Herman Joseph Lange/Long was from Prohn, Pommen, Germany 5 April 1857 - 2 May 1941
Other Walworth County names include: Goegge, Voss, Lehman, and several other collateral lines.

3. Names and places of interest:

Sharon, Fontana, Darien, Walworth County
Alden, Hebron, Harvard, McHenry County, IL

4. Burial areas

Walworth Cemetery, Walworth, Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Harvard, IL

5. Any Vets in your family line?

Several Longs were in World War II, and a cousin was in Korea

6. Have you visited the old homestead? Does it still exist today?

Yes, the Long homestead in Fontana; I owned my maternal grandparent's home for twenty years; and visited several areas in Gingst and surrounding areas on the Isle of Ruegen

7. Anything interesting happen while researching?

I have learned to watch where I walk when in a cemetery, be prepared for the unexpected, and knowing the fact that your research is never done.

8. Any surprises in your research?

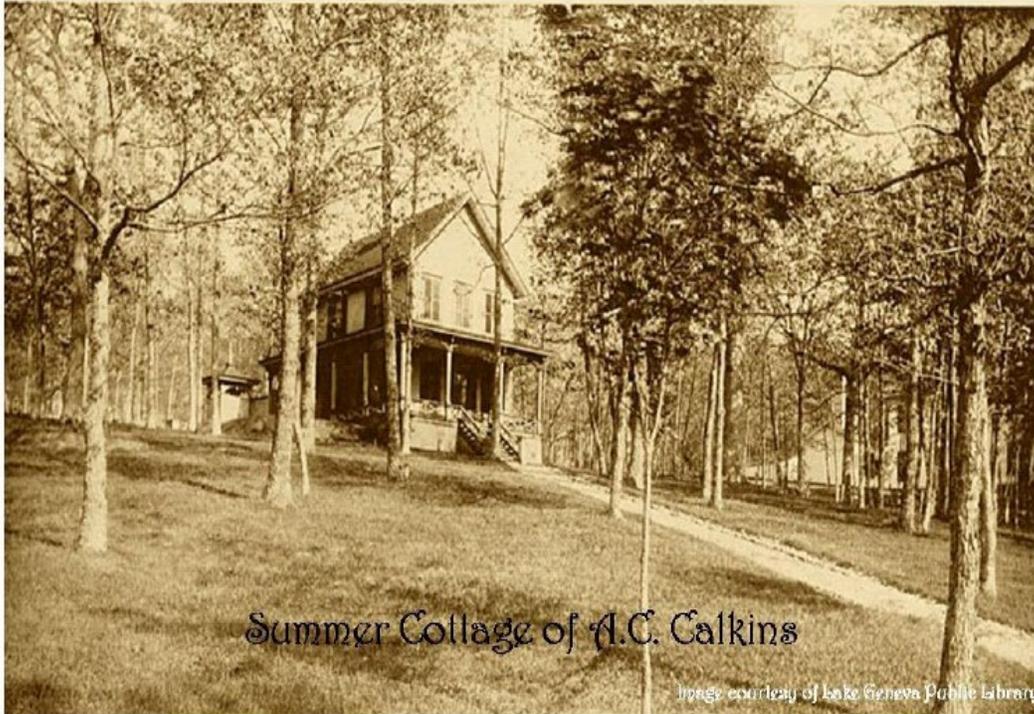
When I was in Germany, I was offered a chance to visit the church that my great-grandparents went to. It was built in 1248 and I was able to sit in all 12 pews just so I might have a chance to sit in the one that they may have used. Very emotional.

9. Please contact me at Kjendlie@charter.net if you have information or would like to network with these families.

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. I have a Word document form that you can type directly into and email back to me, or you can print it out and send it in through snail mail. You never know which of our members is a distant relative.

For Anyone Interested

Journey to Geneva 1872



A living history theatrical experience
at
Geneva Lake Museum
255 Mill Street

Friday, June 13 7:00 PM

Saturday, June 14 7:00 PM

Sunday, June 15 3:00 PM

\$40 per person

Call 262-248-6060 or come by the Museum
to reserve your seat on Main Street for
This unique production!

All proceeds benefit the Geneva Lake Museum, a 501(c)(3) charitable institution.

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Michael Hay	455 Fellows Road	Genoa City, WI	wcgspres@gmail.com
VICE-PRESIDENT	Pat Blackmer	2148 Horseshoe Lane	Delavan, WI	wcgsvpres@gmail.com
SECRETARY	Barbara Hale		Elkhorn, WI	jawadusti@yahoo.com
TREASURER	Deb Ketchum	N6444 U.S. 12/67	Elkhorn, WI	debgenvol@gmail.com
DIRECTOR(S)	Chris Brookes Karen Weston Ila McErlean Martha Hay		Lake Geneva, WI Whitewater, WI East Troy, WI Genoa City, WI	
OTHERS:	Newsletter Editor: Martha Hay wcgnewsletter@gmail.com			
	Past-President: Deb Ketchum			
	Historian: Pat Blackmer			
	Librarian: Deb Ketchum			

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 (\$50 Lifetime) for an individual, \$18.00 (\$100 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>

E-Mail us at societynews@walworthcgs.com

DELAVAN, WI 53115-0159
P.O. BOX 151
WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY