

# Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume 24 Issue 6

ISSN - 1008-5765

November December 2015

## Guest Speakers/Programs

**December 1st- 5:30 pm** - Annual WCGS Christmas Pot Luck with a Special Guest! WCGS will provide the entree, you bring a side dish to pass. This will be followed by the Election of Officers, Ugliest Christmas Sweater Contest then - **BINGO!**

**2016 Dues are due! If you are not a Lifetime Member, please send in your payment as soon as possible.**

## Guest Speakers/Programs 2016

**January 5th - NO MEETING**

**February 2nd - 1:30 pm** - Show and Share - Come and meet your fellow members and bring something interesting to show or a story to share or just your companionship.

**March 1st - 1:30 pm** - Family memories in miniature

**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:

Snow and time is flying!

Following our December meeting, my last year as your co-president will begin. I have been an officer in our society for some 5 years, and, I believe, we have done some good work. In addition to manning our library room on the second and third Tuesdays each month, and preparing the newsletters and maintaining the web-site, Martha and I have performed liaison duties with neighboring societies, presenting our society's assets and benefits. Now is the time for other members to consider stepping up and taking more active roles.

Recapping our 2015 activities: Our February show and share was well received and met some new folks and got some new members. Our witch ancestor program in March had to be cancelled but stirred a great deal of interest so when we re-scheduled it for October, the room was full. The cemetery walk, unfortunately, was a burn out/rain out/blow out. All the weather that could destroy the program happened. So we try again next year. Check out the pictures from the Family History Fair in this issue. We had hoped for a larger turnout, but it was what it was and we had some happy recipients of our door prizes and raffle items. Too many family history events were going on all over the area which helped dampen the attendance at our event. Kenosha Genealogy Society has scheduled the next joint event for September 17 2016 to avoid the same problem. We need to support this program because we are co-hosting it and it promotes our society as well as Kenosha and Burlington.

At our December meeting, we elected the new Board: Vice-President: Karen Weston; Board of Directors: Karen Helwig, Diana Bird, Judy Rockwell, and Dolores Schutt, Co-Presidents Mike Hay and Chris Brookes are continuing their second year as well as Co-Treasurers Deb Ketchum and Martha Hay. Feel free to contact any Board member if you have an idea for the Society.

Wish everyone a happy and healthy Holiday Season and a prosperous 2016!!

### Chris's Co-Comments:

Happy Holidays to Everyone! Halloween. Thanksgiving. Christmas. All wonderful times of family traditions and memories. We've had a beautiful fall season – no need for snowsuits under Halloween costumes. Dad carved artistic pumpkins and wired them for lightbulb eyes. Thanksgiving – a day football and food for me – turkey and Nana's 24-hour salad. And Christmas is around the corner. We open one present on Christmas Eve and the rest Christmas morning. What are your traditions and memories? Remember to add Take-away Bingo and the WCGS holiday party to your list – Tuesday, December 1 at 5:30.



Deb Ketchum, Librarian

## Ketchum's Korner



Another year has come and gone, the WCGS library has had a steady stream of visitors this past year. As customary, research has been a broad range of topics which proves to be most helpful to our visitors.

The WCGS library provides information for more than just Walworth County. We have information worldwide and access to various paid websites. This year I noticed quite a few of our visitors were not avid computer users. They had no idea of how to research online, which is not a bad thing. They were able to find useful information from other materials in the library. So next year I would like to focus on adding new materials to our library that doesn't require the internet.

I'm asking our readers to suggest materials to help with all aspects of research. If you know a book - send me the title and author. It could be a book on families or countries or history whatever you have found as a valuable resource. If you know of an index that could be useful to others - send me the title and where to acquire. Do you receive newsletters from other Societies? How about donating it to the library when you're finished with it?

Send suggestions to Deb Ketchum at [debgenvol@gmail.com](mailto:debgenvol@gmail.com) or WCGS, P.O. Box 159, Delavan, WI 53115.

The end of year brings us to the holidays. The WCGS library will be open through **Dec. 15th, Tuesday** and **Dec. 19th, Saturday**. The library will reopen Jan. 12th, Tuesday for the next year.

If you have a need to use the library during the holidays call me and I may be able to accommodate, Deb Ketchum 262-215-0118.

**Merry Christmas!!!**



# The Newberrys of Lake Geneva

By Christine Brookes

Mary Janzen Quinn introduced us to the Newberry Library at our November meeting. Founded in 1887, the library has served as Chicago's independent research library for the past 128 years. The funding for the library came from a bequest in the will of Walter Loomis Newberry who died at sea in 1868 enroute to France where his family was waiting. According to an article in the New York Times in 1885, Mr. Newberry's body was preserved in a cask of rum and returned to Chicago for burial at Graceland.

A little more Newberry research links the family to the maritime history of Geneva Lake. Walter and his brother Oliver were involved in shipping in Buffalo, NY. Shortly after the War of 1812, Oliver traveled by sailboat from Buffalo to Detroit, MI. Finding the port a war-ravaged mess, Oliver went home to Buffalo. A few years later the Erie Canal reduced shipping rates and Oliver returned to Detroit to open a shipbuilding yard. He became known alternately as the "commodore of the lakes" or "the steamboat king," the owner of the largest fleet on the lakes. In 1833, he constructed the steamboat *Michigan*, which was the largest steamer on the lakes at the time. The same year, Walter moved on to Chicago.

Lucius Newberry, a cousin, tracing his ancestry to a common ancestor, Benjamin Newberry (1624), married and started his family in Connecticut, then removed to Chicago. His son Edwin Oscar was a steamboat captain on Lake Michigan (possibly on one of his cousin's boats) and also worked as an accountant. Shortly after the Great Chicago Fire, Oscar brought his family to Lake Geneva, gave up accounting, and became "Captain Oscar," piloting the largest steamer on Geneva Lake named after his father Lucius Newberry.

The family story goes that Captain Oscar was out fishing one fine day in 1874 when a sudden storm came up. He hailed the *Lady of the Lake* which was passing by at the time, captained by his friend Ed

Quigley, and he expected to be rescued. Captain Quigley ignored him and left him to ride out the storm. Oscar vowed to build a bigger boat and run the *Lady* off the lake. The *Lucius Newberry* was launched on April 24, 1875.

Captain Oscar's daughter Ida, at age 16 ½, christened the double-decker, side-wheeled steamer with a bottle of champagne, but the boat failed to launch. Apparently the grease was cold so the boat could not slide down the ramp into the water. After two hours of jumping, pulling, pushing, dancing, and yelling, the *Lucius Newberry* finally glided into the bay.

Ida Wolcott Newberry secretly married Charles Sumner French who served four terms as the second mayor of the Village of Geneva, later becoming postmaster, president of the Board of Education, and founder of the Equitable Electric Light Company.

Five children blessed their union, and each child carried a family name into the next generation as Ida did in forwarding her Connecticut Wolcott heritage: Eleanor Ermina, named after Charles' mother; Mary Elizabeth, named after Ida's grandmother; Charles William, named after Charles' father; Henry Lucien, named after Ida's grandfather; and Sidney Byington, whose middle name was his grandmother's maiden name.

The family home on Geneva Street was built in 1888, one block north of the lake and two blocks from Captain Oscar's home on Wisconsin Street. The carriage house at the back of the property also remains, and has been restored to match the Queen Anne style house.

The Newberrys – another link between Chicago and Lake Geneva.

# Program Recap

Our October program was presented by member, Sylvia Linton, who told us about her ancestor, Reverend George Burroughs, who was hung as a witch on August 19, 1692. We had a pretty good turnout - what does that say about us?



Co-President, Chris Brookes, makes the upcoming announcements.



The group seems to be enjoying the program.



Sylvia Linton

Our November meeting consisted of a short program presented by Mary Quinn who gave us information about the Newberry Library, an update of the slate for the upcoming society election, and we made ornaments for the Christmas tree we put up at the Walworth County Historical Society for the December 5th, 6th, and 12th Christmas tree walk.



# Program Recap



Blank ornaments and decorations to choose from.



Some of the results - aren't we a talented bunch?!

# Family History Fair



Our raffle tables looked festive and were a great success. Not a single item was skipped. A very special thanks to Chris Brookes for sacrificing her apartment to keep and bundle the raffle prizes before the Fair.





## AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

**Delavan** – Died in Chicago on Sunday evening, Sept. 8th, 1889, Mr. Trumbull Dorrance Thomas, aged 84 years. The remains were brought to Delavan on Monday evening, and funeral services held at the residence of O. G. Stowell, on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock, Rev. Chas. Holmes officiating. The remains were interred in Spring Grove cemetery. Mr. Thomas was one of the very earliest settlers in Delavan, coming here in 1836. He was a resident of this place for 37 years, and through all that time had proven himself to be an honored, worthy citizen. He moved to Chicago in 1874, and made his home with his son. The three children, Mr. E. A. Thomas and C. Edgar Thomas, of Chicago, and Mrs. Eva Cooper, of Moline, Ill., were present at the services.-----

U. S. Hollister, of New York city, W. C. and Dr. Elmer Hollister, of Chicago, were in town over Sunday, visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrenus Hollister. With the Delavan portion of the family present, a complete family reunion was had on Monday, and a photograph was taken of the group by Wilkins.-----

Dr. Collie attempted to preach at the Congregational church on Sunday morning, but he was so exhausted from his recent trip to Europe that he fainted, and the congregation was dismissed. We are glad to learn that he is convalescent.-----

Mr. F. K. Phoenix is enjoying a visit from his cousins, Major Wm. Kelsey, of Columbia City, Ind., and Mrs. Annie Bronk, of Johnstown, Pa., their father, Truman Kelsey, being a resident of Delavan several years ago.-----

Chas. Horton and wife, of San Antonio, Texas, arrived at the residence of his brother, Wm. Horton, last week and remained a few days. It was quite a happy surprise as they were not expected.-----

Mrs. Al. Smith, of Milwaukee, is visiting at Thomas Ege's. Mr. and Mrs. Smith were formerly residents of Delavan, Mr. S. being the captain of the steamer Dauntless.-----

(above clippings all taken from The Delavan Republican, Wednesday, September 11, 1889)

**Delavan** - The body of Charles Edgar Thomas, who died in Chicago last Friday, arrived in Delavan last Monday on the noon train for burial. Brief services were held at the grave in Spring Grove cemetery by Rev. J. P. McCullough. Mr. Thomas was a son of the late Trumbull Thomas, who for many years carried on a merchantile business in this city. Edgar was associated with his brother Emmet in the hoisting business in Chicago, at which they were remarkably successful. Deceased died from an attack of pneumonia, and was 55 years old. Emmet is now the only survivor of the four children. (from the Delavan Enterprise, Thursday, November 28, 1901)

**Elkhorn** – Elkhorn had two fires since yesterday. The residence of John Martengill was burned about midnight last night, and a fire was started at Hotel Elkhorn this morning, but was put out without much damage.-----Between Delavan and Elkhorn, five minutes talk for a dime. Cheaper than car fare. Try the toll line of the Walworth County Telephone Co.----- (from The Enterprise, Delavan, Wisconsin, Thursday, February 1, 1900)

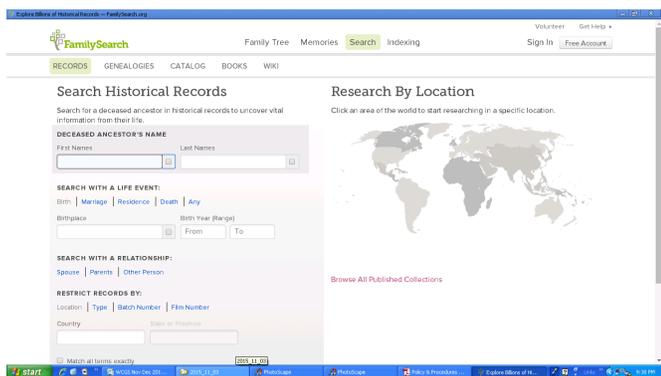
**North Walworth** – Died- Buckles – On Thursday, July 4th, 1889, of scarlet fever, Lydia May, youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Buckles, of North Walworth, aged one year, nine months and nine days. She was an unusually bright and attractive child and her death is a sad blow to the stricken parents. (The Delavan Enterprise, Wed., Sept. 11, 1889)

# M & M Tips

Mike and I attended the November meeting in Kenosha. The speaker was Maureen Brady, who presented a program on the changes and updates on FamilySearch.org.

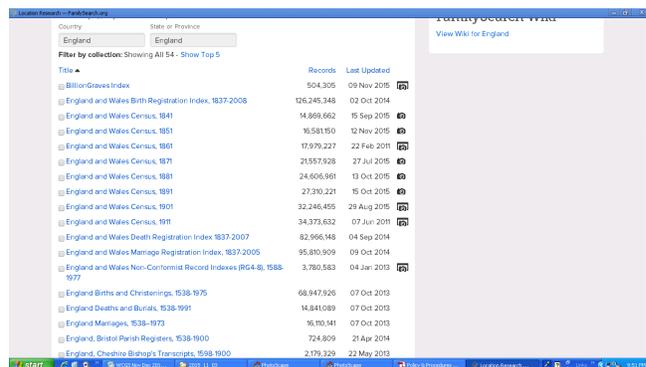
Maureen told us that she had prepared her notes the day before and when she checked out the site on the day of the program, she discovered some things had already been changed yet again. She had to reprint her handouts.

FamilySearch.org is scanning and putting more and more documents on the internet so it is important for researchers to check it often. One very important point Maureen stressed is how to search. The people building the website of FamilySearch.org had a program for the Family Center people explaining how to search so the results are better.



The way most of us search is to fill out the Deceased Ancestor's Name information on this screen. The Family Search folks say that we should select the lo-

cation where we want to search first. By doing that, we can filter out the areas of the world we aren't looking in. They also suggest drilling down even further by using the Filter by Collection before entering your deceased ancestor's information.



The above screen lists all the databases you will be able to search through, as well as the number of records in each database. The camera to the right indicates that the records can be viewed online.



**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](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

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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<br>Chris Brookes                                  | 455 Fellows Road<br>721 S. Curtis St. #139 | Genoa City, WI<br>Lake Geneva, WI                           | wcgspres@gmail.com<br>cbrookes@wi.rr.com    |
| VICE-PRESIDENT                                                                                                                                                                     | Karen Weston                                                  | 9601 N. Kyle Dr..                          | Whitewater, WI                                              | wcgsvpres@gmail.com                         |
| SECRETARY                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                               |                                            |                                                             |                                             |
| CO-TREASURERS                                                                                                                                                                      | Deb Ketchum<br>Martha Hay                                     | 262 S. Wisconsin St.<br>455 Fellows Road   | Whitewater, WI<br>Genoa City, WI                            | debgenvol@gmail.com<br>m.k.hay.mh@gmail.com |
| DIRECTOR(S)                                                                                                                                                                        | Diana Bird<br>Karen Helwig<br>Judy Rockwell<br>Dolores Schutt |                                            | Harvard, IL<br>Whitewater, WI<br>Elkhorn, WI<br>Clinton, WI |                                             |
| OTHERS: Newsletter Editor: Martha Hay <a href="mailto:wcgsnewsletter@gmail.com">wcgsnewsletter@gmail.com</a><br>Past-President & Librarian: Deb Ketchum<br>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. 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

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

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

DELAVAN, WI 53115-0159  
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WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY