

# Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume 22 Issue 5

ISSN - 1008-5765

September - October 2013

## Special Event

**Family History Fair:** Faith Christian School, Williams Bay, WI  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

## Guest Speakers/Programs for 2013

Saturday, October 12th, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm: Family History Fair at Faith Christian School, Williams Bay, WI

Tuesday, November, 5th, 6:30 pm: DNA Research - Penny Kresl explains the use of DNA in genealogical research.

Tuesday, December 3rd, 6:00 pm: Christmas Pot Luck and Bingo  
Election of officers (vice-president, secretary, & 2 board members).

***Don't forget to bring an item for Lakeland Animal Shelter!***

## IN THIS ISSUE

From the President's Desk .....pg 50	Genealogy Trivia quiz.....pg 54
Do You Just Belong.....pg 51	Program Recap .....pg 55
Around the County .....pg 52	Are You Related to Me..... pg 58
Do You Know? .....pg 53	Publications Page ..... pg 59



## **From the President's Desk**

Mike Hay - WCGS President

Our Family History Fair is slated for October 12th at Faith Christian School in Williams Bay, with Burlington Genealogical joining us for the presentation. My thanks to our vice-president Pat Blackmer for her efforts in setting up the particulars. Working together with Pat are Kay Sargent and Chris Brookes, and they were joined by Deb Ketchum working at the library preparing the handout bags.

We are anticipating a great turnout, which includes our society members as well. We need to support the presenters for all of the effort that has gone into this presentation!

On September 17th and the 28th, we presented programs at the Terraces complex in Lake Geneva. We had a lot of interest on both occasions, and earned some all-important money for the society. The attendees were excited about the fact that so much information is available on the internet to help them search their ancestor's data. Sylvia's "Stories of Your Life" went over very well and we may well be returning for another presentation in the future.

Our 25th anniversary celebration dinner was a huge success (at least I thought so) and we had 21 members there to help celebrate who received certificates thanking them for their service to the society as well as good wishes sent in by former officers who could not be with us but wanted to acknowledge this achievement. We are looking forward to many more years of success in the pursuit of our goals.

Martha is currently preparing certificates for those who could not be in attendance to thank them for their support in the past many years and to have something to remember this milestone, so look forward to receiving your copy.

I'm always open to any suggestions and/or comments from our Society members. You can contact me at the email address or phone number shown on the back page of this newsletter.

*Beginning our 26th year!!*

# DO YOU JUST BELONG

In the January-February 2009 newsletter Volume 18 issue 3, then president, Bud Tweed, published this poem which was given to him by his Aunt Gertie, who was a very active member of several societies. It has as much importance today as it did in 2009. Please read it carefully. This is posted in memory of Bud.

Are you an active member  
The kind that would be missed  
Or are you just contented  
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings  
And mingle with the crowd  
Or do you stay at home  
And crab, both long and hard?

Do you take an active part  
To help your society along  
Or are you satisfied to be  
The kind who "just belong"?

There is quite a program scheduled  
That means success if done  
And it can be accomplished  
With the help of everyone.

So attend the meetings regularly  
And help with hand and heart  
Don't be just a member  
But take an active part.

Think this over.  
Are we right or are we wrong?  
Are you an active member  
Or do you just belong?

## M&M Tips

Burlington Genealogical Society is putting on "Tips on using Family Search (the free genealogy website)", Wednesday, October 16, 2013, 7-9 pm. Burlington Gateway building. Free program, guests welcome. Bring your laptop, if you wish: free WI-FI at the meeting.

We're going to decorate a Christmas tree at the Walworth County Historical Society this year. We have to supply the tree. Does anyone have a tree they are planning to replace or know anyone who is planning to get rid of a fake Christmas tree that we can have for this?

I know it's early, but please think about the

Christmas potluck and send some ideas for the main dish. We had fried chicken last year, and barbecued pork the year before. Although, I could eat fried chicken every day, some people aren't that fond of the bird.

For those of you who receive Word documents in email, but do not own Microsoft Word, download the free program Open Office. <http://www.openoffice.org/download/> It will allow you to open, read, and modify .doc and .docx files. If someone sends you a .docx file (the newer version of Word) and you have an older version of Word, you can save the file as a .doc using Open Office then use the file in your version of Word if you wish. I do this because I'm more familiar with Word although I can use Open Office as well.



# AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

**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 Prk, Chicago, is spending a few weeks with relatives at the Gray farm. (Delavan Republican, Wed., August 27, 1890)

**Lyons** - Mrs. Phoebe Healey is entertaining her sister, Mrs. Robinson, from Genesee Co., N. Y., and also a niece from the same place.--  
-----The oyster supper last Tuesday evening was a pleasant feature of the week's programme. Mrs. G. V. Weeks and Mr. and Mrs. O. Gillett furnished some excellent music which was much enjoyed by all. The society cleared \$13.35.-----Mrs. Gill has moved to Geneva, where she will spend the winter.-----  
-Mr. Chas. Stubbs has purchased Mrs. Hubbard's house and his family is now nicely settled in the same. (Delavan Republican, Wed., Nov. 18, 1889)

**Darien** - Mr. L. Bradburn, of Hampshire, Ill., is visiting his sister, Mrs. Marks-----Mr. Wm. Dodge, of Springfield is visiting his sister, Mrs. H. Wright.-----On account of poor health Mr. Will Gunning will remain in town for the present.-----Mr. C. Rockwell sold his village residence on Saturday to I. L. Saxton for \$1,000. Mr. Rockwell now expects to move his family to Missouri, where his son John resides. (Delavan Republican, Wed., Nov. 18, 1889)

**Allen Grove** - Louis Mosher was in town over Sunday and on Monday moved his family down beyond Freeport, Ill., where he has a good position as section foreman.-----Mrs. J. Conry went to Chicago last Saturday for a visit with her daughter, Mrs. J. Kraus.-----Mrs.

James McKinney, mother of Mr. A. E. McKinney, of this place, died in Chicago last Friday. The body was brought here on Saturday evening, the funeral being held at the home of A. E. McKinney. Burial took place at Mount Phillipp cemetery. (Delavan Republican, Thurs., June 14, 1900)

**North Sharon** - 104 in the shade last Sunday-----The North Sharon creamery company is getting plenty of milk now-a-days as the Walworth creamery is not running at present on account of a bursted boiler.-----Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tuck and children, of Beloit, have been visiting her sister, Mrs. Sherman Mereness, the past week.-----Mrs. Carrie Wright and son Earl, of Chicago, are visitors at E. P. Shager's. (Delavan Republican, Thurs., Aug. 9, 1900)

**Williams Bay** - Messrs. John Pierce and Jonas Heminger of Fontana, shipped their goods to their new home in Clark county.-----  
-Mr. Bensen has the foundation completed for his new residence in the north part of town.----  
----Rev. Cotton has resigned his position as pastor at this place. Mr. Cotton's work has been highly satisfactory for the past year and it should be regretted by every person of our prosperous village that satisfactory arrangements could not be made to have the good work continued. We earnestly hope that Mr. Cotton will meet with success in his new field and that the same will be appreciated. -----  
Mrs. Otis Dodge visited her sister, Mrs. Joseph Lackey, a few days last week. (The Enterprise, Thurs., Oct. 4, 1900)



# *Do You Know?*

By Marilyn Traver

## **DOCUMENTATION IS NECESSARY**

I'm sitting in the courthouse looking through the index of births. ....Hmmm, well this looks familiar. And this name and this name also and there's another name I recognize. When I came across my first cousins names I had this weird feeling that I've done this before, years ago. I don't remember when or why, nor did I find any papers on it. I guess I wasn't too serious at that time. Maybe someone had told me the records were public and I went just to see if I could find my birth record. I don't remember it was so long ago. I thought that next time I'll make a list of what I'm looking for and where I find it along with the research dates and keep that paper handy. Next time came and went with the same reaction. When I finally was really serious in research, I then realized how much time I was wasting, looking up the same things over and over again. But it did help in that the names began to feel like they were part of the family and also the process I was going through to get the information I needed was getting familiar. When doing something I'm not familiar with, it takes me a little longer to accomplish what I want; until I understand the why's and what fore's of what I'm doing and what to expect. Then I'm on a roll.

I later looked at the websites and found a form for resources, to fill out when you looked for information, whether you found it or not. I printed it out and started using it and what a time saver that became. I then was able to move on ahead. You can use the form anyway you want: by the date of your research, where, or a sheet for each name you researched, so you know exactly where you looked and possible notes as to where you want to research next.

You can create your own form to suit your needs. I created my own for the death, birth and marriage index records. Since I live too far away to drive to the courthouse anytime I want, I used Excel so I could sort anyway I wanted or needed to at any

time. I made columns for the DATE RE-SEARCHED-NAME-BIRTH DATE-VOL,- PAGE-DATE INFO COPIED-OTHER INFO( sometimes used for parents names). At the top of the page I put the name and town of the courthouse. I then proceeded to put down all the names I knew in my family, keeping families in groups on the sheets. When going through the index at the courthouse, I literally wrote down every Wilcox name and other related surnames I could find. Then when I got home I would look over my lists of names and check what I needed the records for the next time and know exactly where to look for it. For the marriage records I had a column for the spouse and date of marriage. If needed, the parents names (this helps when there isn't any birth records). My death listing helped me to find my gr-grandmother. In the index it was written "Mrs. Franklin Wilcox" not using her first name anywhere. I was passing this name up all the time until I did this listing and upon realizing that Franklin was my gr-grandfather, I decided to check out Mrs. Wilcox's record. And his name was listed as husband. If I hadn't written down the group of names I may not have known it was the person I needed, as I was only looking for the given first name.

Documentation is important not only to save time but if you need to go back and get a certified copy, you know exactly where to look. This isn't strictly for court records, but website information, magazines and newspapers and any other source where you get information from. The ol' timers realize how important this is and sometimes need to be reminded. But for you 'new comers' take heed and save your precious time for other researching. It really doesn't take much time to write the date and location of the research, with name and page of book or other source. Just get into the habit of doing it and it will become second nature.

Enjoy your researching knowing that you are doing a thorough job of it.

## Genealogy Trivia Quiz

While looking through Society records from the past for ideas for the Annual Dinner booklet, I discovered this quiz and put it into the Dinner booklet. Several members at the dinner suggested that I put it in the newsletter along with the answers, so here it is.

1. A ( ) bracket is used to indicate \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Use \_\_\_\_\_ only when recording information.
3. Real Estate tax lists are found at the \_\_\_\_\_ office.
4. 1790 was the year of the first American \_\_\_\_\_.
5. People were usually buried \_\_\_\_\_ to where they lived.
6. SASE means \_\_\_\_\_.
7. A surname is a \_\_\_\_\_ name.
8. Always list your \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Naturalization records prior to 1928 are found in the \_\_\_\_\_ where naturalization took place.
10. One of the world's largest collections of genealogical material is found in \_\_\_\_\_.
11. The years of 1830-1860 were the years of the most \_\_\_\_\_ from Europe.
12. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ everything that's written.
13. County lines have \_\_\_\_\_ over the years.
14. Always use a person's \_\_\_\_\_ name in genealogical research.
15. Most books on genealogy are found in section number \_\_\_\_\_ in the library.

10. Salt Lake City  
11. immigration  
12. believe  
13. changed  
14. full legal (or given)  
15. 900

1. maiden name  
2. pencil  
3. County treasurer's  
4. census  
5. close (or near)  
6. self-addressed stamped envelope  
7. last  
8. sources  
9. county

Answers:

# PROGRAM RECAP

Our August meeting was the Ice Cream Social. After a short meeting presided over by President Mike Hay, everyone helped themselves to ice cream, cookies, and various toppings. We were then entertained by Chris Brookes in her role as Mrs. Asa Farr, a Civil War wife describing life while waiting for her soldier to return home.



Chris Brookes and President Mike Hay



Chris Brookes as Mrs. Asa Farr

## 25th Annual Dinner Party

The party was held at the Red Geranium in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. To commemorate our 25th year, everyone present received a certificate for their support of our Society. Donna Kjendlie and Peggy Gleich, both past-presidents, could not attend the function but graciously sent letters that Martha Hay read. *More pictures on the next pages.*



Our Cake - YUM!

# 25th Annual Dinner Party



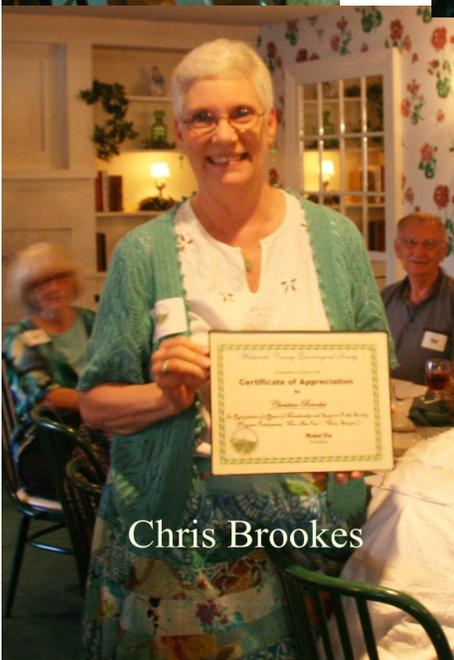
Al Gruling



Karen & Russell Helwig



Carol Bakko



Chris Brookes



Deb Ketchum



Sylvia Linton



# 25th Annual Dinner Party



Diana Bird



Karen Weston



Shirley Sisk



Kay Drexler



Kay Sargent



Mary Jordan



Pat Blackmer



Sue Morgan

# *Are You Related To Me?*

The spotlight, this newsletter, is on Chris Brookes, who has been a member since 2010. Chris has entertained us at the last two Ice Cream socials and has taken part in several WCGS programs

## **1. How did you get interested in genealogy?**

Over the past 35 years I have sporadically attempted to gather family information. Moving back to Lake Geneva in 1990 and spending time with my aunt, a historian and teller of tales, inspired me to search for the truth behind some family legends.

## **2. Names, places and date of ancestors.**

James Harkness (1776-1861) and Mary Rhodes (1777-1833) and their 10 children settled in the town of Lafayette, Walworth Co. in 1837. The Harkness family migrated from Scotland to Northern Ireland, and in 1718, sailed for the Colonies, arriving in Boston, eventually settling in Pelham, Hampshire Co., Massachusetts.

## **3. Names and places of interest:**

Jacob (son of James and Mary) 1800 Salem, Washington Co., NY -1874, married Jerusha Hill 1811-1886  
Augusta (daughter of Jacob and Jerusha) 1839 Ohio -1923, married Theodore Balsley 1834 NY -1887  
Loretta (daughter of Augusta and Theodore) 1871 Lafayette -1945 LG, married William Best 1869 England -1945 Lake Geneva  
Lloyd (son of Loretta and William) 1895 LG -1949 LG, married Marion McCabe 1896 Michigan -1987 Elkhorn  
Shirlee (daughter of Lloyd and Marion) 1922 Lake Geneva -2007, married James Howard Jacobson 1909 Chicago -1975 San Antonio, TX  
Christine (daughter of Shirlee and JH) b 1949 Elkhorn, WI

## **4. Burial areas**

Augusta Harkness Balsley buried Valhalla Cemetery, Milwaukee  
Theodore Balsley buried White Oak Cemetery, Lafayette  
Oakhill Cemetery - plot at the top of the hill shared with Burton family:  
William and Loretta Best  
Lloyd and Marion Best  
JH and Shirlee Best Jacobson (memorial marker); JH buried in San Antonio, TX, Shirlee's ashes scattered

## **5. Any Vets in your family line?**

I qualify for DAR through James Harkness, member of the Committee of Correspondence, Minuteman enlisted April 19, 1775, at the Lexington Alarm as a Private, discharged as Corporal Aug 25, 1779, New London CT.  
James Harkness, son of the above, formed a company of militiamen during the War of 1812, appointed Captain.

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

The homestead for this branch of my family is Mitchellsacks farm in Dumfriesshire, Scotland where I visited in 2008.

## **7. Anything interesting happen while researching?**

When I first visited Scotland in 2000, not knowing that I had even a drop of Scottish blood, I felt inexplicably at home. On a return trip a few years later, I discovered the name Harkness in connection with the battle of Enterkin Pass in Dumfriesshire. Finally in 2008, I was able to visit Dumfries, picked a B&B online and asked the innkeeper to arrange a taxi or driver for me. Bruce Harper, the landlord, introduced me to Peter, the driver, and asked where I wanted to go. Dalgarnoc Cemetery where the Harknesses are buried. Never mind, Peter, I'll take her myself, she's probably my cousin!

## **8. Any surprises in your research?**

Surprise, I'm Scottish! That Irish connection was really John, the younger (Scottish) brother of James "Long Gun" and Thomas "The Martyr" Harkness, seeking refuge from the Covenanting Wars by fleeing to Northern Ireland where his (Scottish) son, John, was born. This John Harkness, at about age 20, crossed the ocean to Boston and brought the Harkness name from Scotland through Ireland to America.

My cousin had traced the Harknesses from Walworth County to Pelham, Massachusetts. I traced the Harknesses from Dumfries, Scotland to Northern Ireland. John was connecting link between our stories. It pays to talk to your relatives!

## **9. Please contact WCGS to network with me.**

**PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE BY WCGS**

Walworth Co. Probate Record Index - 1848-1930	\$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)	\$ 3.50
East Delavan Union Cemetery	\$25.00
History of Delavan School 1982 - index only	\$18.00
<b>EAST TROY</b> - Oak Ridge Cemetery	\$18.00
<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)	\$18.00
<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

AA

Shipping and handling as follows: \$4.00 for the 1<sup>st</sup> book and \$2.00 for each additional  
 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 \$12 individual, \$15.00 family, \$7.00 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

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	Kay Sargent	W7489 Pleasant St.	Delavan, WI	sargent@idcnet.com
TREASURER	Deb Ketchum	605 W. Walworth #201	Elkhorn, WI	debgenvol@gmail.com
DIRECTOR(S)	Mary Jordan Karen Weston Ila McErlean Martha Hay		Walworth, WI Whitewater, WI East Troy, WI Genoa City, WI	
OTHERS:	Newsletter Editor: Martha Hay <a href="mailto:wcgnewsletter@gmail.com">wcgnewsletter@gmail.com</a> Past-President: 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 or 262-728-6182

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

\*\*\*\*Dues are \$12 for an individual, \$15.00 for a family, \$25 contributing, \$7 student.

MEMBERS: Want email meeting minutes or not?? Contact Kay - [sargent@idcnet.com](mailto:sargent@idcnet.com)

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

**E-Mail us at [societynews@walworthcgs.com](mailto:societynews@walworthcgs.com)**

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