Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume 23 Issue 1 ISSN - 1008-5765 January - February 2014

Guest Speakers/Programs for 2014

Tuesday, January 7th, NO MEETING - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Tuesday, February 4th, 1:30 pm.: Show and Share - bring in a tale or an item of interest

Tuesday, March 4th, 1:30 pm: Researching Processes - Deb Ketchum shares various steps to follow

Tuesday, April 1st, 6:30 pm: Ancestor Stories: "Good and/or Bad" - Bring in a story to share!

Tuesday, May 6th, 6:30 pm: Bring a friend along for an introduction to WCGS - Membership Drive

Please consider a donation for the food pantry in your area during this holiday season!

IN THIS ISSUE

From the President's Deskpg 2	The History & Herstory of Walworth
Ketchum's Kornerpg 3	Countypg 7
2nd Prize Student Essaypg 4	M&M Tipspg 8
Around the Countypg 6	Are You Related to Me pg 10



From the President's Desk

Mike Hay - WCGS President

Happy New Year!

As we start our endeavors once again the weather seems to be fighting us, but if we can just keep moving we can make it.

Our plans for this year include a program entitled "Discover Your Family Tree" being presented Thursday Feb. 20 2014 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at The Community Center in Delavan as part of the Park & Recreation Department's Adult program. Any members who would like to help with this program can contact me at wcgspres@gmail.com or by telephone at 262-279-6541.

We also plan to continue our successful presentations at senior living centers. Our sessions at Arbor Village/The Terraces in Lake Geneva helped to infuse some cash into our Society. If you have a senior facility in mind that we could contact for a program or would like to participate in a program, please contact me.

At our recent budget meeting, headway was made in preparing a new budget for the Society. We may have to increase the lifetime membership fee in the future, but these things are still in the planning stage for right now. We have been checking the lifetime membership rates for other societies, and will make a determination in the near future.

Our scanner/copier in our library room is in need of replacement as is the old PC. The cost of repair for these units would be more than the cost to replace them with new equipment. We have determined that major purchases, such as these should be replaced by special fund raising. So we are asking every member for a small donation, of five dollars or more, to be placed into an "equipment" fund for this purpose. We will be creating a PayPal "Equipment Fund" donation page on the WCGS web site (www.walworthcgs.com) for those members who would like to donate in that manner or if paying by check, put "equipment fund" in the memo section, and we will have a jar at the meeting for this fund as well. In the past, this equipment was purchased from bequests dating back some years. Unfortunately, we have not received such donations for several years.

Membership fees pay for the day to day operations of the Society, printing of the publications that we sell, as well as insurance for the Society, and membership fees for the state and national groups to which our group belongs.

We haven't heard from any of you folks regarding our request that you consider putting on a program describing your methods of researching your ancestors, so please get back to us about that. We know many of you have traveled abroad in your quests and your experiences would be invaluable to the rest of us. So contact any of the board members and let us know what we can do to help you set up a program for the group.

We are excited about the new year. Share our excitement and help us make our society more successful for the future.



Deb Ketchum, Librarian

Ketchum's Korner



The WCGS library starts 2014 off with several boxes of genealogical materials to add to our collection. Although most of the additions are newsletter type information it is still a welcomed site. There are issues that will add to our Milwaukee, Connecticut, Ohio, Illinois sections and from the Wisconsin Genealogical State Society. In order to utilize the space we have available, I've been taking the older newsletters and discarding non-essential information. This has enabled us to put more useful information on the shelves. Among the other items received are newsletter type information from Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Tennessee and Virginia for the United States. Across the ocean we have Irish Family History and British Isles booklets.

Now this information is from about 1979 thru 1998, back in a timeframe where internet research was limited and publications were the sources for information. There are indexes of all kinds and queries throughout. I strongly recommend looking through it if you're researching any of those areas.

Some of the other items received were:

Biography Record of the Class of 1870 - Yale University published in 1904

History of the Indiana Historical Society 1830-1980

An English Settler in Pioneer Wisconsin: Letters of Edwin Bottomley 1842-1850

Norwegian Local History: a bibliography of material in the collections of the Memorial Library, UW-Madison published in 1989

Lauderdale Lakes Association Directories for years 2001-03; 2005-07; 2007-09 and 2009-11

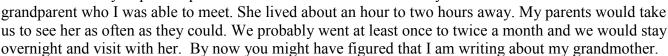
Several books on the Chicago area such as The Great Chicago Fire by Ross Miller

History Fair Student Essays Contest

The last newsletter, we reprinted the winning essay from our "My Favorite Ancestor" contest. Second place went to Emily Faul for her essay titled "The Grandest of Them All Jennette Lillian Pestow Kreutzer.

The following is her essay:

A woman who was not physically able to birth a child ended up with five. That includes a set of twins! She was a very practical woman and a very important person to me. Because she was the only



Whenever I would visit her or she would visit us we would always bake together. She was the best at baking sweets, although her specialty was her German style potato salad. My grandmother was all German. Her husband, Robert, my grandfather, was also all German. My grandmother was brought up and raised in West Bend, Wisconsin. She lived there her whole life. She graduated from West Bend high in 1957. She was then legally joined to the man of her dreams in 1958. Her name changed from Jennette Lillian Pestow to Jennette Lillian Kreutzer.

About a year after she got married they had their first child, whom doctors said she would never have because of female problems she had in high school. But her first child was born safely, happily, and healthfully. Over the next 11 years she managed to have four more children including twins. She was definitely a busy lady!

In the 60's she went to school to be a nursing assistant. After she finished her schooling she got a job at Samaritan Nursing Home in West Bend. She always had funny stories and pictures to show and tell me about during the days she worked at the assisted living home. She worked as a nursing assistant for 10 years on second shift, then she took a position in the activities department for 26 years until the end of her career. She worked at Samaritan for a total of 36 years. As an activity director, she worked with arts and crafts with the patients and absolutely loved her job.

One of her hobbies was crocheting. Almost every year for Christmas or a birthday she would make us a scarf or a blanket. She used the softest and the prettiest yarn ever. I actually sleep with one of the blankets she made me. She loved cats but her husband didn't so she didn't have one during her marriage. Another thing that she loved to do was go up north to her cabin in Oxford, Wisconsin. My grandparents would spend weekends up there fishing, hunting, and spending time with friends and family.

My grandmother loved the theater. She went to multiple Broadway shows. She wasn't able to travel when she was young because it wasn't feasible and she had children. So once her children grew up she traveled to Jamaica, Germany, Alaska, and New York. On the weekends or on a rainy day, my grandmother would take a bus with the old folks and go to gamble. She loved gambling.

I had a great connection with my grandma. Whenever we went to visit her we would always go to the theater. Another thing we did together was play cards. We would play games like Old Maid or Slap Jack. She had special things she would do or say to us. She would give us "hinder binders" which were like "wedgies". She would give us "butterfly kisses". We would also play "chins" with each other.

(Continued on page 5)

"My Favorite Ancestor"

(Continued from page 4)

My physical connection to her is she is my maternal grandmother. I miss her dearly and not a day goes by that I don't think of her. She was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer seven months before she passed. Toward the end she was put in a nursing home called Samaritan. It is the nursing home that she worked in for 36 years. I would imagine that it was very awkward for her.

About two months before she died she gave all of her possessions to all of her sons, daughters, and grandchildren. All of us received things she personally assigned us to having and I still don't know why, but she gave her wedding ring to my cousin Shannon who is a month younger than me.

I wonder why she didn't give it to one of her two own daughters but that was her decision. I got my grandmother's pearls and my mother and I got a lot of her necklaces, earrings, and rings. When I visited her she would always give me an update of her jewelry. I would then go through all of her jewelry and ask when did she get this piece, where did she get this piece, and who gave her this piece. It was a regular routine between the two of us. When I was younger and I had to go to the bathroom, I would go through her makeup and I would put on as much as I could figure out. But I always walked out with her brightest red lipstick on. My mom and grandma laughed at me and I would just say, "What! I just want to look like Grandma!"

I miss my grandmother with all my heart but I know that she is in a better place now. I also know that I will one day see her again.

News from Neighboring Societies

British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL) has its next meeting on March 15, 10:00 am until Noon. The topic will be "Find Your American Ancestor Using Canadian Records". This will be a live webinar with Kathryn Hogan, a noted genealogist and speaker. BIGWILL holds its meetings in Richmond, IL in the Community Church of Richmond, 5714 Broadway Street.

Burlington Genealogical Society will be presenting, "To Share or Not to Share, and if so, Where?" a presentation and round table discussion led by Dick Amman, BGS coordinator, Wednesday, February 19, 2014 from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Burlington Gateway Building, 496 McCanna Parkway, Burlington, WI; the last building at the end of the parkway. They will discuss pros and cons of sharing one's family history research, either in print or on line and examine ways and places for sharing. Parking is free and handicap accessible.

Program Recap

We forgot (shame on us!) to take any pictures at the December Pot Luck, but we had a pretty good turnout. President Mike Hay was a little worried at the start of the Bingo when the numbers on his card didn't get called out until the game was well under way. Everyone appeared to have a good time

Reminder

If you haven't paid your dues yet, please get them paid as soon as possible. The society is only able to continue operating if we receive the support of our members!

Have a story to tell? Send it to wcgsnewsletter@gmail.com and I will put it in the newsletter. Our members have been researching for years and I'll bet they all have interesting stories. Why not send me yours?



AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

Fairfield - Mrs. Mary C. Johnson and daughter Belle, came down from Lima last Friday.-----B. Conry has been suffering from a severe carbuncle on his neck, for the past week.-----Ada Fletcher, of Whitewater, is visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Serl.-----Mr. and Mrs. William Jonson are happy over the safe arrival of a ten pound son.-----Mrs. Crawford, of Omaha, Neb., is visiting her aunt, Miss Carrie Dalton, at the residence of Aaron Thompson.-----Mr. and Mrs Laverne Wheeler will make their home with her brother, Grant Wilkins near Delavan, this summer.-----Much sympathy is expressed for Harry Chamberlain, who recently met with such a painful accident, in which he lost three fingers of his right hand by coming in contact with a buzz saw. The injured member is healing as rapidly as could be expected.----

Farmers in this section find that the winter has been too severe for the clover, many fields need to be plowed and re-seeded. Parsnips, salsify, strawberries, etc., have also suffered from the extreme freezing. (The Delavan Republican, Thurs., April 20, 1899)

Darien - Mrs. Wm. Rood is on the sick list.----Henry J. Heyer will erect a barn in the near future.------Chas. McCarthey's four-year-old son is
dangerously ill.------Jas. L. Turner planted two
acres of potatoes last Saturday.------Mrs. Henry
Rockwell is seriously ill with heart and lung trouble
------Mrs. Chris. Urkfritz is very low at this writing
with pneumonia.-------Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ryer
spent Sunday with her parents in Richmond. (The
Delavan Republican, Thurs., April 20, 1899)

Allen Grove - Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Linkins took a trip to the home of their parents at Naples and Valley, III., returning on Monday.-----Mrs. Gregg, an old lady who has been living with her son on the Justin Wright farm for some time past, died there on Sunday afternoon.----Those who returned on Monday to their respective school duties after spending the Thanksgiving vacation with friends here are as follows: Grant Stockwell. Harry Dykeman, to Rockford Business College; Miss Anna Brandt, Eben Cox, to Whitewater Normal, and Miss Iva Niskern, to Berlin High School .-------Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Wilkins returned to their home at Montello, Wis., on Monday of this week.------Miss Louise Conry, of Chicago, spent Thanksgiving with her father and sisters here. (Delavan Republican, Thurs., December 6, 1900)

East Delavan - Randall Williams' children are on the sick list-----30° below zero here last Sunday night. My, but it was chilly.-----Mrs. Chas. Dodge is visiting a few days with her parents at Mukwonago.----- F. J. Ball has been appointed clerk of the M. W. A. lodge of East Delavan, F. D. Cowles having resigned. (The Enterprise, Delavan, Wis., Thurs., Jan. 28, 1897)



The History & Herstory of Walworth County

By Chris Brookes

As some of you may know, I spend as much time, or more, on the genealogies of the historical characters I portray as I do on my own family. This winter I am knee-deep in the family history of Mary Delafield Sturges who "appeared" at the WCGS Ice Cream Social in 2012. John Ross Delafield compiled a two volume genealogy, *Delafield*, *the family history*, with this spirit in mind:

"The story of this book well shows that men succeed only as each is energetic, wise and upright. The life of a strong family is the record of such men because of whom it is long and runs through the centuries. Few would long be remembered but for their families.

"A good ancestry is no more than a strong foundation to build upon. It will hold the greatest achievements any of us can rear. Yet all depends upon the life and work of each individual. A foundation alone, no matter how fine, will not avail or endure. We must each build and so build that those who come after us will find that foundation not weakened but greater than before.

"Those who achieved still live though the records of their day which have come down to us; of the others little or nothing is known. This book seems to say to each of us, 'Go out and accomplish things yourself and persevere.'"

"Few would long be remembered but for their families" is the line that speaks to me. I think that is what we are all about in the WCGS – finding the line that runs through the centuries, the foundations on which we can build with our own accomplishments.

Another outstanding feature of this Delafield book may inspire those of you who have completed your family history to the best of your ability. Each chapter begins with a narrative description of events in (the place) at the time of (the particular branch of the family). For example, "Events in Ireland in the Time of Thomas de la Ffelde (1428 – 1451)". Depending on the time period, there is information on government, foreign affairs, home affairs, religion, architecture, clothing, military weapons and garb, etc. If your personal research is done, consider enriching your story with information on the time and place where they lived.

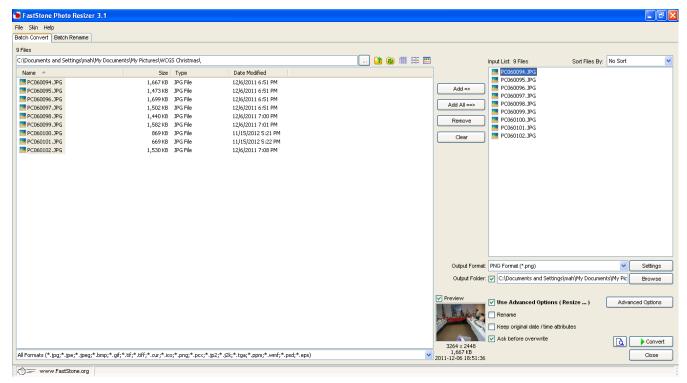
So to bring things closer to home, what was Walworth County like in the time of our ancestors, and who were those hardy pioneers? At the time Walworth County was surveyed (1835) and named for Chancellor Reuben H. Walworth of New York, only two counties existed in the present limits of the state, Milwaukee and Racine (which included Walworth County). "The County was first organized in 1838, and consisted of five towns: Elkhorn,... Delavan,... Geneva,... Spring Prairie,... and Troy." (New Combination Atlas of Walworth Co. Wis. 1873). The Territory of Wisconsin was created out of part of the Michigan Territory in 1836. Walworth County was separated from Racine County in 1839 - a perfect square divided into 16 townships of 36 square miles each. Elkhorn, the county seat, lies at the geographical center of the County. A model county for the future state of Wisconsin.

Each town and township has its story, each founder his-story, and each woman her-story. Here are a few names I'll write about in future newsletters to help bring the past to life through genealogy: The Company of Geneva, Col. Samuel Phoenix, Jesse Meacham and Adolphus Spoor, Geneva Van Slyke, and Katherine McCotter. In addition, I will try to put them into historical context and make connections among them.

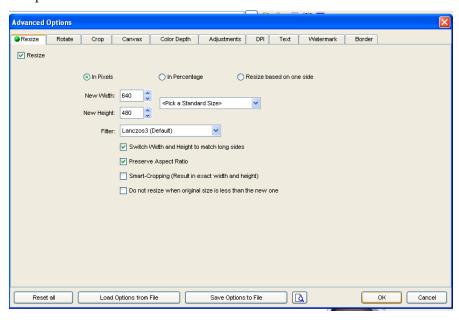
M & M Tips

Photo Resizing

When you download pictures from your digital camera do you find that the photos are very large? Then when you try to place the photo into a document or web page you get an error that it is too big, or you have to play with the photo in your document to get it to fit. I ran into this problem and needed a quick and easy way to resize the photos. I searched the web looking for a free software solution, and found a product called "FastStone Photo Resizer"



You can select any or all of the pictures in a particular folder. The software allows you to convert many pictures at one time. When you click Advanced Options, you get the following screen where you select the size you want and other options:



(continued on page 9)

Long time member Peggy Gleich sent this article. In truth, I asked her to send me some articles for the newsletter and she has graciously done so.

Peggy Rockwell Gleich February 16, 2005

Senior Moment

I was reminded of this story by a joke sent to me. A couple of weeks ago in Elkhorn when I went to get back into my car - or so I thought. Just like mine, Chevy Lumina, (the beautiful) shiny blue.

I couldn't figure why the key wouldn't work so I dropped my bags, took off my gloves (it was darned cold), checked to see if I had the right key, stuck it back in, darn near broke it off, trying 3 or 4 more times. The stuff on the seat looked different; but that didn't seem to bother me a bit. (Actually it was too clean on the inside, too, now that I think about it.) I just thought the last snow/rain really took the salt off the car nicely. Then all of a sudden I looked up, then around the truck that was next to me.....and there sat my dirtier blue Chevy Lumina!

How embarrassing. I'm waiting for the police to show up or someone to come walking up to me as I slink over to my own vehicle, feeling like a duffus. (That's slang for "dumbbell.")

I'm darn lucky I didn't have bells and whistles and sirens going off! I'd have been scared out of my shoes! This will be my story for tomorrow's Writer's Group. Almost side by side, two cars of the same make, model and color and I walk to the wrong one,because it was cleaner??

Since I wrote this I've received several e-mails back telling me of harried stories of family and friends who also had this happen. The only thing different is they actually got into the cars then, but they wouldn't start. But, the best one was a cousins' story about the 1957 Chevy that did start and was driven quite a ways down the road, only to find out it wasn't theirs!

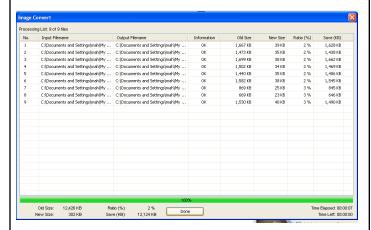
Photo Resizing

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You can click on <Pick a Standard Size> or enter a new width and new height. Switch Width and Height to match long sides and Preserve Aspect Ratio keeps the picture looking exactly like the original picture.

If you don't want to overwrite the original pictures or add pictures to the working folder, you can select a different output folder. You also have the option to select different output types.

When you are ready, make sure Use Advanced Options... is selected. You can rename the pictures by selecting rename. You can keep the original date / time attributes and ask before overwrite if you wish. Then click on Convert...



The Image Convert will list the pictures converted with the old size, new size, ratio by percent, and how much disk size is saved on each picture. Click Done when the display shows 100% in the green line.

You can also enlarge pictures this way, but the quality suffers when you enlarge pictures. It is better to start with a larger digital photo and decrease the size.

I've been using this software for a while for web sites and the newsletter and have found it easy and quick.

To download the software copy and paste the following into your browser:

http://download.cnet.com/FastStone-Photo-Resizer/3000-2192_4-10319476.html

There are other free software packages for resizing photos, but I have found this one to be the easiest and have not had any problems with it.

Hre You Related To Me?

The spotlight, this newsletter, is on past president and current treasurer and librarian, Deb Ketchum. Deb has been a very active member since 2003.

1. How did you get interested in genealogy?

I always wanted to know if I really had Indian heritage.

2. Names, places and date of ancestors.

Evan Evans - Wales - Ohio and Kentucky

3. Names and places of interest:

Prince William County, Virginia Augusta County, Virginia Fleming County, Kentucky

4. Burial areas

Brown County, Ohio Fleming County, Kentucky Wales

5. Any Vets in your family line?

Yes... Nathaniel Hughes - Revolutionary War James Baldwin - Civil War

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

Yes. The home of great-great grandfather Henry Baldwin in Laurens, South Carolina

7. Anything interesting happen while researching?

I researched Great-grandma Blanche Evans Troute's line in a matter of moments back to Evan Evans

8. Any surprises in your research?

Not yet.

9. Please contact WCGS to network with me.

I'm looking for more members to fill out the "Are You Related to Me?" form. If you need a form, email me at wcgsnewsletter@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.

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		\$20.00
Walworth Co Directory of Prairie Farmers & Breede	rs (soft cover reprint)	\$30.00
1882 Walworth County Index to History Book		\$30.00
1912 Walworth County Index to History Book	1.	\$29.00
Area Research Center UW-Whitewater Resource Gu		\$12.00
Declaration & Naturalization Papers Vol I \$18.00	Vol 2 & 3 (combined)	\$15.00
Walworth County Pre-1907 Death Index		\$22.00 \$23.00
BLOOMFIELD - Hillside Cemetery- Genoa City DARIEN - Darien Cemetery		\$23.00 \$22.00
DELAVAN - Delavan Area Cemeteries (Spring Grove, Ol	d Sattlers St. Androws Arboratum and sor	
East Delavan Union Cemetery	d Settlers, St. Andrews, Arboretum and Sor	\$25.00
History of Delavan School 1982 - index only		\$18.00
EAST TROY - Oak Ridge Cemetery		\$18.00
GENEVA - Lake Geneva Area Obituaries (updated th	rough June 30, 2010)	\$25.00
Pioneer Cemetery	3	\$15.00
Union Cemetery- plus some Geneva/Lyons Township	os	\$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) \$27.0		
LaGrange Township Cemeteries \$10.0		
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.		
RICHMOND - Richmond & East Richmond Cemeterie	es	\$10.00
SHARON - Oakwood		\$15.00
SPRING PRAIRIE - Hickory Grove		\$25.00
German Settlement / Mount Hope / Diener Cemeterie	s (DVD tombstone pics included)	
SUGAR CREEK - Millard Cemetery		\$15.00
Hazel Ridge Cemetery	.d. d\	\$20.00
Mount Pleasant Cemetery (DVD tombstone pics included Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery (DVD tombstone pics)		\$15.00 \$15.00
TROY - Little Prairie	s included)	\$15.00 \$15.00
WALWORTH - Walworth Center (Walworth Village lis	tings)	\$20.00
Brick Church Revised 2007	ungs)	\$20.00
Cobblestone, WI/Bigfoot, IL (two different cemeteries	in one book)	\$18.00
WHITEWATER - St. Patrick's Calvary	in one book)	\$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: \$4.00 for the 1st b	ook and \$2.00 for each additional	
To order these publications, circle the selection(s), ma	ake check payable to WCGS and	mail to:
WCGS, PO Box 159, Delavan, WI 53115.		
Membership (Jan 1st- Dec 31st) is \$12 individual, \$15	5.00 family, \$7.00 student	
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WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

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OTHERS: Newsletter Editor: Martha Hay wcgsnewsletter@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 or 262-728-6182

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 Kay - sargent@idcnet.com

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

E-Mail us at societynews@walworthcgs.com