

# Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



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July - August 2013

## Special Event

**Hands-On Open Forum Genealogy Research:** Questions and answers - view the websites - view the software - become a member of WCGS or Mayflower Society or DAR or DUVCW. When: August 13, 2013, Tuesday 4pm - 8pm --- Where: WCGS Library, Mary Bray Room, Matheson Memorial Library, Elkhorn, WI -- Free will donation

## Guest Speakers/Programs for 2013

August 6th, 6:30 pm: Ice Cream Social - Chris Brookes will portray Mrs. Asa Farr, "A Civil War Wife's Story" free to members, \$5.00 for non-members

September 3rd, 5:30 pm at the Red Geranium in Lake Geneva, Our 25th Anniversary Annual Dinner - Menu and Reservation on page 30 or sign up on-line and pay with PayPal at <http://www.walworthcgs.com>

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

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

From the President's Desk.....pg 26	First President of East Troy...pg 31
Ketchum's Korner .....pg 27	Are You Related to Me..... pg 32
Around the County.....pg 28	Program Recap ..... pg 33
Do You Know? .....pg 29	Cemetery Walk.....pg 34
Annual Dinner Info .....pg 30	Publications Page ..... pg 35



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

Mike Hay - WCGS President

Many thanks to all who participated in the cemetery walk at Oakwood Cemetery in Sharon on July 6th. Those who did not attend missed the spectacular "Avenue of Flags" honoring veterans of our Armed Forces, as well as hearing the stories of the folks being honored at the cemetery walk.

In the past week, we encountered a shortage of funds of the society, resulting from increases in our expenditures for the operation of the group. In our continuing effort to help the society grow, our publicity expense got a little too high, and when combined with the increase in postage and other items, surpassed our resources.

The Board of Directors has acted to counter this situation by making some changes to the membership fees. These changes include the institution of a Lifetime Membership, in order to raise funds immediately. The newly approved fees are:

1. Lifetime Membership - Individual \$50.00, Family \$100.00
2. Annual Membership - Individual \$15.00, Family \$18.00, and Student \$7.50
3. Fee for sending newsletters by US mail - \$5.00 yearly
4. Non-member fee for speaker programs \$5.00

The rates will be increasing on January 1, 2014. Current members may renew now through December 31st at the old rate of \$12.00 for individual or \$15.00 for family. They may also pay for an additional year (2015) at that same rate if paid before December 31, 2013.

The \$5.00 fee for newsletters by US mail will begin January 1, 2014.

The Board has also made some changes to operational expense tracking, so the Society should be on a sound footing for the future.

This Society will have been in existence for 25 years as of September, and we want it to continue on into the future. The joy we have found in researching our ancestors lives leads us to try to instill that feeling in others, and in doing so, encouraging them to join our Society. Please help us in that endeavor.



Deb Ketchum, Librarian

# Ketchum's Korner



At one time or another all of us have experienced the frustration of tying specific family history to our files. I have found this scenario holds true for libraries too.

When researching the history of a cemetery and the families to be represented in the annual cemetery program my first stop was the WCGS library. Much of the information used for the booklet is pulled from the Walworth County history books. Other information is pulled from items in the township box. Then my sources moved to people involved with the cemetery and such. This year's cemetery was Oakwood in Sharon. In the Sharon township box was an 8 page copy of a small booklet titled "List of Dead buried in Sharon Cemetery during the space of 41 years from July 1835 to July 1876" compiled by Wallace A. Root. Not thinking anything of it, I pulled it from the box and put it with all the other information I had acquired. Once I sat down to review all my information I noticed a couple people had given me this same list.

Now for a little insight. The first "Sharon Cemetery" was a burial area located in town at what is now called Goodland Park. Shortly after the Oakwood Cemetery was established an order came down for the in town burial site to be closed due to lack of care and deterioration. All those who had been buried there were to be moved to Oakwood. Over the years it was believed that some of the burials from town to Oakwood were those on the List of Dead. I compared the list to the index that WCGS had done. No matching names were found between the two. There are 286 names on this list. That's quite a few names not to have a match. Upon closer review I didn't recognize any of the names to stand out as "Walworth County" names.

Puzzled I decided to do some research on this "List of Dead" and see how it tied to the Sharon Cemetery. Best place to start was on the computer. I "googled" Sharon Cemetery Wisconsin, not revealing any more than what I already knew, I moved on to Sharon Cemetery USA. There were a few but nothing jumped out. Lastly I "googled" the entire title of the book and got the same book.

I returned to the list of Sharon Cemeteries in USA. I started pulling each one up on Find-A-Grave's website and comparing them to the List of Dead. By process of elimination I finally found a match for the "List of Dead". It belongs to Sharon Cemetery, Sharon Center, Ohio. Upon finding this confirmation, I have relabeled the List of Dead and it now rests on the shelf with the other Ohio information. I suspect long ago it was donated, which most of the Ohio findings are, and at that time either put in the file cabinet under Sharon or labeled as such and put in the Sharon township box. Nowhere on this index does it state a town, city or state. Just goes to show, even the depository libraries have issues with tying information to the correct area or families.



## AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

**South Grove** - Mrs. D. J. Wise, of Clinton, is visiting her daughter in this place.-----Mr. Van Valkenburg, of Schoharie County N.Y. was visiting relatives in this place last week.-----C. B. Cline, Jr., had the misfortune to have one of his hands badly injured recently between two sticks of timber.-----We omitted mention last week of the arrival of a little daughter on the 4th Inst, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Knaub. It is the prettiest baby in town and--well, if you don't believe it just ask George. (The Sharon Reporter, Thursday, June 25, 1891)

**Darien** - Mrs. E. Hillman died on Tuesday and was buried Thursday last from the Baptist church, Rev. E. G. Updike preaching the funeral sermon. She leaves a husband and three children to mourn her death.-----Jabez Che-sebro died on Thursday after a long illness.-----Mrs. Cyrus Lippitt, one of the oldest settlers of this place, died on last Saturday. She was buried from her home on Monday. Her husband is very feeble and was not able to attend the burial of his wife.-----Surprise party at Charles Allen's on last Saturday evening, for the young people. (The Delavan Republican, Friday, June 10, 1881)

**Millard** - A little daughter of C. Kinne narrowly escaped being killed last week. She was standing in the road and saw a team coming on the road at breakneck speed; thinking she would be safe and still watch the horses she ran to the barn door, but had scarcely reached it when the horses dashed in. She sprang aside soon enough to avoid being trampled under foot, while the horses demolished the harness and a roller.-----J. Jackson's family have returned to Ft. Atkinson. Mr. J. was doing a good business when he went West a year

ago, but he has returned to the Fort satisfied with Wis.-----Harvey Hulce has been very sick with rheumatism, but is better again.-----Nick Wells is also able to work again.-----The annual meeting of the Literary Society was held last Friday at Frank Weaver's. The following officers were elected for the coming year: Pres., Miss Ella Weaver; Vice Pres., Mrs. J. Flitcroft; Secy., Mrs. M. L. Ladd; Treas., Mrs. Geo. Kinne; Librarian, Miss Helen Gray. (The Delavan Republican, June 10, 1881)

**East Delavan** - Mrs. Geo. DeCroff has been visiting her sister at Marinette, Wis. for a couple of weeks.-----The death of Edw. Hollister occurred at his home in this place, Sat. May 2, after a painful illness of two months. He leaves a wife, two sons and a daughter.-----Born, April 27, to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. L. Willis of Beloit, Kansas, a son.-----Mrs. Alvin Calkins, and son, of Delavan, visited at Mrs. J. Vincent's last week. (Delavan Republican, Wed., May 6, 1891)

**Allens Grove** - Farmers are so busy our streets seem nearly deserted during the day.-----Mrs. Frank McAfee had the misfortune to step on a nail, nearly three weeks ago, and is still confined to her easy chair.-----A May social was held at Mrs. A. E. McKinney's Friday evening, Miss Lottie McKinney was crowned Queen of the May.-----Mr. Boyce was at home over Sunday, but is spending a few weeks in doing his part toward making a Delavan house habitable for a recent dweller in Allens Grove.-----Mrs. Totten, of Delavan, was at the Grove last week, calling on old friends and caring for her lot in Mt. Philip. (Delavan Republican, Wed., May 6, 1891)



# Do You Know?

By Marilyn Traver

## TIMELINE.... IS IT REALLY NECESSARY?

Not if you want to miss important parts of your ancestor's life. Beginners usually don't write down timelines (and some of us ole' timers also). We are excited at finding the dates and places to go with names and we are on a roll so why bother with wasting the time to write all that down? But, think about what you are doing; you are *thinking timeline* when going on to the next step in researching and looking for places of a certain year. Don't rely on your memory, no matter how good it is. You could miss some minute detail. Write down the timeline for all the names you are researching to visually see what you have done and what needs to be found. By doing a timeline, you get a fuller picture of the life of your ancestors.

For example, my dad talked very little about going to California, and no dates were mentioned or why. Only that he had a friend who lives out there and would like to see him again. All this time, I thought dad lived on the farm all of his life. Now that I've been doing research of my fathers' side of the family, I'm curious to see if I can find when he went out there. When the 1930 census came out his name wasn't mentioned at the home farm so he apparently wasn't living there. I knew he and mom were married in LaCrosse, WI but he isn't listed there either. So where was he? There were several places his name was listed in California, but I didn't have any idea what town his friend lived in. I did know dad was single at the time so that and his age was all I had to go by. I found a Kenneth Wilcox listed at Anaheim, California, in a place listed as a lodger. The age, and birth place of his father and mother all fit. So I'm 99% sure this is my father.

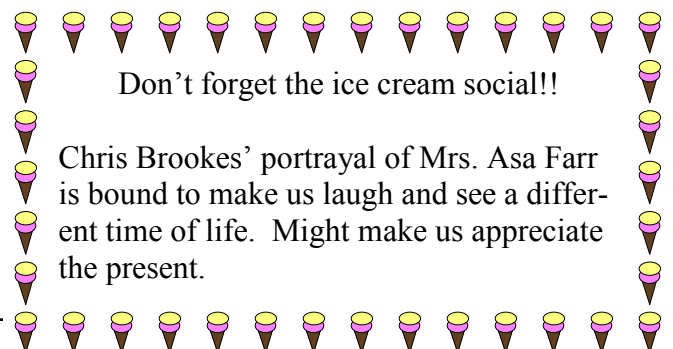
This tapped my memory of a letter I came across when going through his stuff I collected after my parent's deaths years ago. Now to find it.....This letter was written by dad, to his brother and sister back home and it described the trip to California. He had the date and address in the upper right hand corner. It was dated Dec 15, 1929 at Anaheim Calif. This is the proof I needed. CONFIRMED! The letter was in such detail, I can take the trip today by his directions!

If it hadn't been for writing down the timeline, I may not have persisted looking for other towns/states for him after not finding him at home in the 1930 census. So many times a person's name isn't there at the time of census taking and one assumes that they were just missed but lived there, just as I had at the beginning. Now to find when he came back to Wisconsin. Looking at letters sent to him to different addresses will help fill in the timeline after he left California up to his marriage in 1936.

The timeline list helps keep you in control of your researching. It lets you know what years are missing and with that in mind you can concentrate on that alone, and not get sidetracked. If you find you are getting sidetracked, write down what you have found and the source, so you can go back to it at a later time. Then get back to what you started out looking for.

Keep on track!

Starting with what you know; what you've researched, documented, and been told by family members, is the first step. Then do the math of dates, places, and timing to see if any thing is missing in the lifeline of that person and family. If you hit a brick wall, go back to the beginning and search that and newer resources. Never think that you are done with searching at the beginning. New information is always being added on the Internet which could be helpful and lead you in a different direction to the conclusion of your search. Picking up on little notes of census or immigration information helps with getting a full picture of the life you are looking into. This means more researching, but makes life more interesting, for you and finding out theirs. Putting all the information you have found down in a timeline and filling it up, makes for a good story when putting it all together.





# 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER

**A GRAND NIGHT IS PLANNED AT THE RED GERANIUM  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**

5:30 Cash Bar

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Program

\$25 per member / \$30 per non-member including gratuity

Your choice of:

## **CHICKEN "ANGELINA"**

Boneless breast of chicken marinated with garlic, thyme, rosemary, lemon, oregano and cracked black pepper. Grilled on the open hearth and finished under the broiler with "Bruschetta" style tomatoes and Asiago cheese.

## **PECAN CRUSTED FRESH WHITEFISH**

Fresh whitefish pecan crusted, pan seared and enhanced with a lemon beurre sauce.

## **BISTRO SIRLOIN STEAK**

Grilled to perfection on the open hearth, topped with a Bourbon demi-glaze with mushrooms.

All dinner entrees are served with chef's selection of vegetable, starch, rolls and butter, and a house salad.

The following drinks are INCLUDED in price along with free refills:  
Coffee, Tea, Ice Tea, Milk, Lemonade Coke, Diet Coke and Sprite.

*Red Geranium, 393 N Edwards Blvd & Hwy 50 East (by Walgreens), Lake Geneva*

**RSVP BY AUGUST 26**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of entrée:

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken "Angelina"

\_\_\_\_\_ Pecan Crusted Fresh Whitefish

\_\_\_\_\_ Bistro Sirloin Steak

Total: \_\_\_\_\_ members x \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ non-members x \$30.00

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send reservations and checks (payable to WCGS) to:  
WCGS, PO Box 159, Delavan, WI 53115-0159

# First President of East Troy

*Submitted by Marilyn Traver*

East Troy's first president was August Wilmer from 1900-1903.

August was a very influential citizen with his public-spirit and business capacity, working for the better good of the community. According to his bio "he is a man of forceful individuality and marked initiative power, he has been well equipped for the larger duties of life and for leadership in his community, while his probity of character and his genial personality, obliging nature and every-day common charitableness have gained for him universal esteem and friendship in the town and county where he has made his home."

He was born in East Troy Township on March 1, 1835 the son of Bernard and Elizabeth Wilmer, natives of Germany. His education came from the public schools and the German schools, along with a Milwaukee commercial college. He spent the winter months teaching school for seven terms and farmed in the summer. In 1868 he and Theodore Haller engaged in merchandising and in 1871 Wilmer Brothers firm was organized. Later to become Wilmer Brothers & Company when his son, Charles B., joined the firm. They enjoyed a large trade throughout the surrounding country, having a complete and carefully selected stock of general merchandise all year long.

Having been, more or less, active in the Democrat party affairs, August was also chairman of the town board for six years, president of the village for 4 years, treasurer of the school district for nineteen years, and member of the Catholic Church. He and Mary Ann Boyle were married in 1868. Mary Ann, the daughter of John and Mary Boyle, was born in

Scotland in May of 1842, emigrated to America and lived in the state of New York, until 1860 when they came to East Troy, living their lives out there on a farm.

He lived for 69 years living in the same area, owning a farm of 160 acres with his brother, Bernard, having started with 120 acres. This farm was three miles east of East Troy. August died in the village in 1892, his wife having passed away in 1887. Together they had two children, Charles B. and Mary, wife of R. T. J. O'Leary.



## M&M Tips

For those of you who are interested, Dane County Area Genealogical Society has their newsletters on their website: [www.dcags.org](http://www.dcags.org).

Burlington Genealogical Society's August 21st program will be "The Genealogy of a Place and How to Document It" presented by Dick Ammann. This is especially important for people whose family lived in a named area, never moved off the land, and suddenly live in a different named area.

BIGWILL (British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois) will be offering "Space-Time for Family Historians / Timewarps and Curved Space Aren't Just for Physicists" presented by Daniel Hubbard, September 21, 2013. BIGWILL meets in Richmond, Illinois.

Pat Blackmer and Kay Sargent have been working on setting up the Family History Fair. Anyone interested in helping in any way can contact Pat at [blackmerpa@aol.com](mailto:blackmerpa@aol.com).



## *Are You Related To Me?*

The spotlight, this newsletter, is on Barbara Hale, who has been a member since 2011. Barbara's family has been in this area for quite awhile.

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

I became interested in genealogy by listening to my Grandparents and Aunts tell stories of their past.

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

My 2nd great-grandfather, Peter Noblet, came from France to Walworth County in 1846. Another ancestor, Arthur Blomgren, came to Jefferson County in 1904. My ancestor, Oliver Hale, moved from New York to Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois.

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

See above.

**4. Burial areas**

I have relatives buried in Belvidere, Boone County, IL; Spring Praire, Walworth County, WI; Florenceville, Howard County, Iowa; Jefferson, WI; Burr Oak, Iowa; Tidaholm, Sweden; and Brouviller, Moselle, France.

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

Yes, my grandfather and my great-grandfather, and my 2nd great-grandfather all served.

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

Yes, I have visited the old homestead.

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

I found my great-grandmother's middle name. It had not been written down anywhere. I also found out that my grandparent's house, which was a log cabin (one of the first in Jefferson, WI), was taken apart and reset in a historical place.

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

I was surprised to find out that I lived only 5 miles from my 2nd and 3rd great-grandfather's 990 acre farm and that so many of my family were in the Civil War and other military.

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

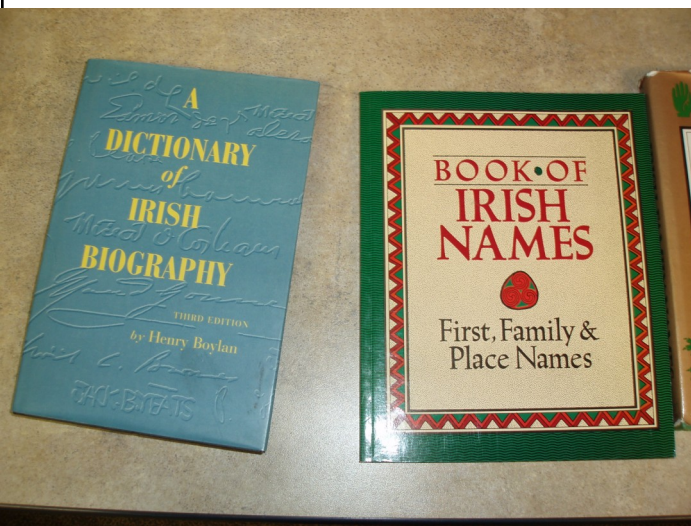
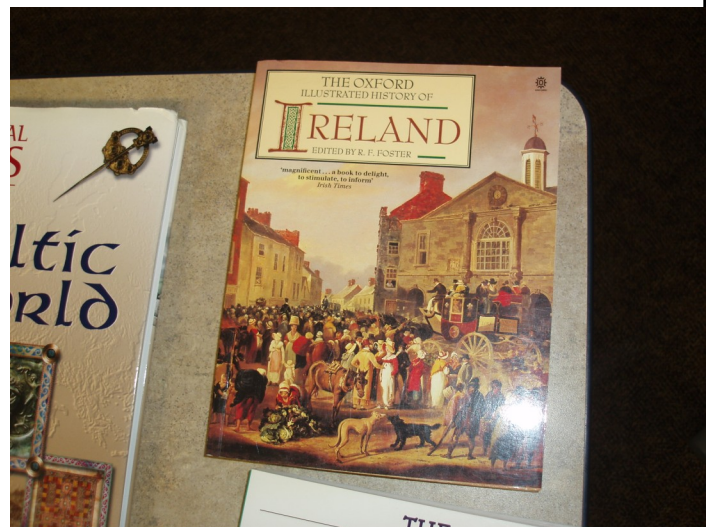
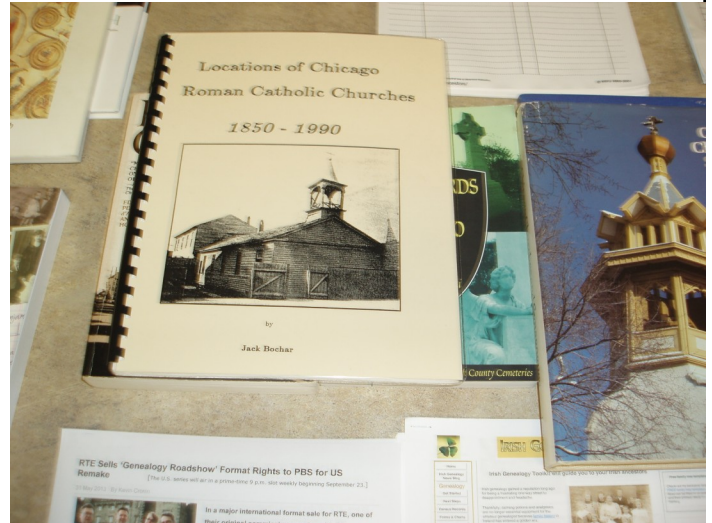
*Any member who would like to contribute an article to the newsletter is welcome to submit it to [wcgnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wcgnewsletter@gmail.com). We'd love to hear from you and why wait for February's show and share?*

*Also, if it is of special genealogical interest, we could even get it posted to our website, [www.walworthcgs.com](http://www.walworthcgs.com).*



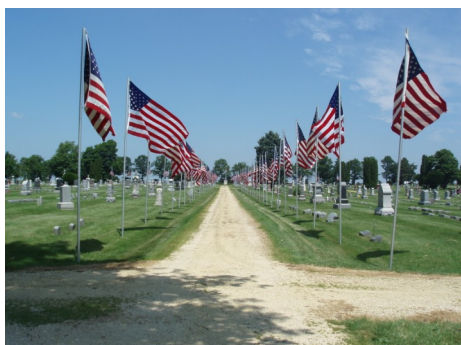
# PROGRAM RECAP

Our June meeting presented, Dan Kane, with Irish Research and Genealogy. He brought with him many books on Irish research, *see pictures below*, and made the evening interesting by passing out cards with Irish history information that selected members would then read aloud.





## *Cemetery Walk* *Oakwood Cemetery, Sharon, Wisconsin*



“Avenue of Flags”



Jerry Gibbons explains about the flags.



Every flag pole has the name of a veteran.



Nancy Feuerstein McDonald talked about the Stoll Family.



Ken Stenke talked about the Knaub family.



Maps and pictures of the Knaub family and buildings in Sharon.



Robert and Carol Olson represented the Brigham family.



Louise (Bilyea) Sannes portrayed Louisa Bilyea wife of Edward.



Chris Brookes portrayed Rachel Schellenger, wife of Almon.

The day was bright and sunny, and quite hot. Most of the presenters were stuck in the sun. Oakwood Cemetery does not have a lot of trees. The members welcoming the visitors moved the welcome table around the tree all day so as to get some shade. Whether it was the hot weather or the timing being too close to the fourth of July, the turnout was not as good as we had hoped. Learning about the history of the Avenue of Flags (99 on that day) and that the Sharon Fire Department volunteers maintain them; and Chris Brookes' watermelon and cantaloupe treats made the day worthwhile.

## 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

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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
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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)**

DELAVAN, WI 53115-0159  
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WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY