Malworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume 24 Issue 4

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July - August 2015

Guest Speakers/Programs for 2015

August 4th - 6:30 pm - Walworth County's own Ginny Hall will present "The Secret History of Walworth County" in conjunction with our Ice Cream Social

Members are reminded to bring their favorite toppings to share!

September 8th - 5:30 pm - WCGS Annual Dinner - Our 27th Anniversary - Our dinner this year will be traditional Irish fare served at Foley's Irish Woods Restaurant - Located on Hwy 50 between Lake Geneva and Hwy 67 (parking in the rear)

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:

Hot Hot Hot!

Our Lyons cemetery walk was a hot topic, followed with a wet topic, and a tornado warning thrown in for good measure. A big thank you is in order to all of you who participated.

Martha and I will be travelling to Hoopeston IL for the 77th annual Grider family reunion. Sometimes the four and 1/2 hours of travel time each way for a 2 hour gathering is a bit disheartening, but family is family.

Speaking of family, we were saddened at the passing of Peggy Gleich, longtime member and past president of our society. Martha and I were in attendance at her services as were several other WCGS members and representatives of other societies who had dealings with Peggy in the past.

Martha is still waiting for responses to the survey that has been included in the last few newsletters. Please respond so that we can know what you folks would like to see and hear, and to keep our society on the go and grow.

We are preparing for our Family History Fair, and we would like all members to help us gather items to include in our silent auction and possible raffle in order to obtain the funds to continue our existence. We also need volunteers to help with the event setup.

Our 27th annual WCGS society dinner will be held again at Foley's Irish Woods on Highway 50 just west of Lake Geneva, with Corned Beef & Cabbage or Shepherd Pie being offered for your enjoyment. Following the dinner, we have plans for our own version of a Victorian parlor game. So, mark your calendars for September 8th at 5:30 pm and make your reservations at www.walworthhcgs.com or by mail at WCGS, PO Box 159, Delavan WI, Delavan WI 53115-0159. Member price is \$20.00 each, non-member \$25.00 each. Soft drinks and gratuity are included.

Chris's Co-Comments:

Busy, busy with Family History Fair planning. Come to the August meeting to hear all about it. It's our Big Event. Your help is needed and appreciated so say YES when you are called to lend a hand!



There have been several Civil War presentations around the state and the county this year. In the March/April newsletter, I listed a few books donated by Kay Drexler. One of them was Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Wisconsin by Thomas McCory. If you want to know more about the GAR, this is the book to read. There are 360 pages of great information. It was published in 2005.

GAR was an organization specifically for Union veterans of the Civil War. Only soldiers who had been honorably discharged from service could join. It never allowed veterans from other conflicts to join either and eventually all the members of the Post would die and the Post would be closed.

Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Wisconsin covers every aspect of the veterans' organization within Wisconsin and at the National level. There are fifteen chapters of history stories. Rosters of all Posts broken down by Names, Post Number, County, and Detail. These rosters also show when the Post was chartered (started) and extinct (closed). Several Posts closed and were reactivated a few years later. At their highest there were about 400 Posts in Wisconsin. Some Post numbers were also reused more than once.

The Post In Detail chapter contains pages that tell everything known about a specific post. Post names, members, location, membership by the years, history of the Post and quite a few have pictures of members and such.

A list of all Annual Encampments starting with the first one on June 19, 1867 in Madison is also in the book. An Annual Encampment was a yearly function held within the state of Wisconsin.

National Encampments have been held since November 1866. Milwaukee hosted for the first time in August 1889 when the National membership was almost 400,000. A far cry from the 393 members when Milwaukee hosted again in September 1943. Lucius Fairchild was the first member from Wisconsin to achieve a position at the National Office in 1869.

A chapter on "Where They Joined" is several pages of the camps. The most famous is Camp Randall in Madison. The book has history with street maps of the camp.

What did Daisy Wright, Augusta Scholcher and Lucille French have to do with the GAR? In the mid-1920's most of the boys were now old men and needed help recording what was happening at meetings. So women were brought in as secretaries. They were just there to be stenographers and received no rights to the organization according to the National Office. Wisconsin decided to be a bit different. The women were furnished Post badges and wore them proudly. There are pictures of some of the Post badges.

So if this book has peaked your curiosity stop by our library and take a look at it.



Olive Maria (Waite) TRAVIS

Hudson Cemetery Story

By Chris Brookes

"Memory is like the fragrance of the flower that re- mains after the petals have fallen"	began meeting. In 1844, the town was separated from Geneva and called Hudson.
For the WCGS Cemetery Walk, I was asked by our board member Ila Travis McErlean to portray her great grandmother Olive Travis. During my research I discovered Olive was the granddaughter of Spencer Weeks who has a long entry in the <i>History of Wal-</i> <i>worth County Wisconsin</i> by Albert Clayton Beckwith from which the above quote is taken.	Olive was born September 5, 1849. When she was six years old, the train depot was built, and the village changed its name to Lyons in Lyons Township. Two years later the Methodist Episcopal church was built at a cost of \$2700 – the first in town. Later Olive became the first organist at the church. In 1860 the Lyons Hotel was built and became a gathering place for the cattle salesmen. There was also a milk factory that had a cheesemaker named Henry Cheeseman!
Here are highlights of the presentation about Olive and her husband Francis "Frank" Willett Travis.	Two of Olive's Weeks relatives served on the town board which met at the Town Hall; meetings were
Olive is part of the ninth generation in America on both her mother's and father's sides. Her mother was Elvira Weeks, one of the eight children of Spencer	allowed, but NO gambling! Mr. Francis "Frank" Willett Travis was born 31 De-
and Elvira of Darien, Genesee Co, NY. Her father was Joseph Ellicott Waite – always called Ellicott be- cause he was named for the "Founding Father of Western NY" Joseph Ellicott, the land agent and sur-	cember 1845 in Elba, Genesee Co, NY in 1845. His family, Nathaniel Ireland Travis and Juliette Griffin Travis, came to Walworth County in 1850 when he was four years old. His grandfather Daniel, a Quaker,
veyor. Ellicott had 14 brothers and sisters. His father Russel Waite had three wives: Mercy that was the wife who gave him the 15 children, Polly was #2, and the grandmother Olive remembers was out of a story-	also married three times. They bought land just a few farms over from Ellicott and Elvira Waite. Frank and Olive knew each other almost all their lives but didn't marry until 1868 – the War of the Rebellion
book, Cinderilla Clark	intervened. At the first war meeting in Lyons, \$2,000 was subscribed (\$5,400 by the end of the war). Frank
Elvira and Ellicott married in 1842 and headed west to buy land in the Wisconsin Territory. Letters from them to Elvira's sisters and brothers described the cold winter, taking a sled pulled by oxen to go to	joined the Union Army in 1863 as a private in the 9 th Battery of the Wisconsin Light Artillery organized in Burlington. Most of the war he served in the west pro- tecting settlers from the Indians. In 1864 their regi-
church meetings, and the cheap prices of crops and stock. Elvira expressed her loneliness to her sister – they didn't even have a cow!	ment was assigned to General James Blunt's Division (Blunt was the incompetent commander at the battle of Baxter Springs, Kansas where most of the 3 rd Wis- consin Cavalry was massacred by Quantrill's Raid-
Lyonsdale had been founded (1837) just five years before their arrival. The White River was dammed to improve the water power for a sawmill and later a grist mill. The Methodist Episcopal church classes	ers). The men called him Fat Boy behind his back.

(continued on page 41)

Finally Frank was mustered out in 1865 at Fort Leavenworth. Of the 70 men from Lyons who served, 30 died of disease or in battle. Poor Mr. Dayton lost two sons, John in the 22nd WI Infantry and William in the 36th WI Infantry. He erected the oak flagpole on Depot Street in their memory. It was called the Republican Flagpole.

Frank and Olive married in 1868 and had five sons and one daughter: Vernon married Jean Rooney and moved to Montana; Milton married Nora Rule and moved to Minnesota: Willet (aka Frank) married Winifred Hibbard and moved to Los Angeles; Mable, who married Theodore Spiegelhoff, Jr., Dwight, who married Clara Dalrymple, and Roy, who died of diphtheria at age 7, are all buried in Hudson cemetery.

Frank joined Luther Crane GAR post in Burlington.

He was a farmer and beekeeper. Son Willett age 17, was attending the Dixon Normal School in Illinois when diphtheria broke out. He brought it home, and his seven year old brother Roy caught it and died. Olive died five days later on 9 August 1891. Frank died of locomotor ataxia, a disease which affects the ability to control the movement of arms and legs, 4 November 1901 after an illness of 17 years.

Three seems to be a lucky number in the Weeks, Waite, Travis family. Olive's uncle, Lewis Spencer Weeks, was the third husband of Esther Wilcox McMillen Purdy Weeks. He was known to have accumulated the largest fortune in Lyons in his time – a lucky man but also a very hard worker, as were all the Weeks, Waite, and Travis settlers of Lyons, Wisconsin.

Hudson Cemetery Walk Lyons, WI			
Since Chris Brookes' column was about the woman	school teacher in 1868.		
she portrayed at the Cemetery Walk, I thought it	Charles married Almira Storms. He was also in the		
might be interesting to hear about the other	Civil War and the second owner of the family farm.		
"residents" we presented:	Lucia married Charles Storms.		
	Millard married, moved to Illinois and ran a gro-		
JOHN S. SPOOR (presented by Karen Weston):	cery store.		
Brothers John and Sylvanus Spoor were born and	Mary married Edwin Abbott.		
raised in New York. In the fall of 1835 they came to	Isabella "Belle" married James Stover and lived in		
Wisconsin, having secured work with the surveyors	Milwaukee, WI.		
who were mapping the new territory	George married Julia Norris, lived in Illinois and		
	worked for the railroad.		
They settled in Walworth County and in the spring of	Harry died young.		
1836 John's wife, Marietta Bivens, joined him with	John Sylvanus married May Lindsey and lived in		
their two sons. They built a cabin by East Troy. In	New York.		
1842, John bought land from George Smith who had bought it form the government in 1839.	Jesse married Olin and moved West.		
	ANN BARRON CAMPBELL (presented by Char-		
John went on to build a farm that was in the family for	lene Staples):		
over a hundred years. In 1943 the farm was sold to	Ann's father, Captain Garrett Barron lived at the time		
Waldo Baumann.	of her birth on land granted to him for service in His		
	Majesty's 29 th Regiment of the foot and Eastern Bat-		
John and Marietta had 14 children:	talion of the Militia.		
Harrietta married Wesley Campbell.			
Julia married Frank Nims.	This regiment was in Boston, Mass. in 1770 during		
Wallace died in 1862 in the Civil War in Nashville,	the Boston massacre. This land was in Hinchen-		
TN.	brooke, Quebec, Canada. Capt. Barron was wounded		
Sarah married a Webster and moved to Colorado.	in a naval action on Lake Champlain and discharged.		
William married Minerva Sutton. She was the first	(continued on page 42)		

(continued from page 41)

Ann's Mother was Catherine Nichols of that place. Ann was born October 2, 1802 and died June 2, 1883.

This family came to the Lyons area in the fall of 1837 and counted as one of the first families to settle here.

Her husband Peter Campbell (1786-1854) came to Lyons in 1838 settling in Section 10. Their marriage took place on April 14, 1819. The couple had nine children: James, John, Mary, Almira, Robert, Catherine Garrett, Alice, and Emily.

GEORGE S. MALSCH (presented by Judy Malsch Anderson):

There are five generations of the Malsch family buried in the Hudson Cemetery.

The oldest residents of the family are Johann Sabastian Malsch (1803-1879) and his wife Barbara Elizabeth Herrman (1803-1881). They were born in Thuringen, Germany.

From this marriage two children were born, Carl and Christiane. Christiane married Johann Casper Nobler (later became Nesslar). Carl married Friederike Harm in 1865 and they had eight children. One of those was George S. Malsch born in 1868.

George married Clara Von der Heide who was 20 years younger than himself. George and Clara had two children, Gordon S. and Sara Marie. Sara never married but Gordon married Hazel M. Volkman in 1938. They had four children, twins Gloria S. and Gordon S. Jr., Jane, and Judy. Hazel died in 1951 and Gordon married Edna Rhodes in 1954.

The Malsch family resided in the Town of Lyons for many years. Their farm and other land is noted in the 1890 Walworth County Plat book.

Gordon Malsch sold the farm he had lived on his entire life to Duane Clark who in turn sold it to Walworth County.

It is now the White River Park located about 3 miles from the Hudson Cemetery.



Chris Brookes as Olivia Maria Travis

Karen Weston Relating the story of John Spoor And his Family

Charlene Staples Presenting the story of Ann Campbell And her Family



Judy Malsch Anderson Relates the story of her ancestor George Malsch And family



AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

 \cdots Darien – Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Rockwell's little son has been quite sick but under the treatment of Dr. J. F. Rood is fast recovering his usual good health.-----J. B. Johnson contemplates the erection of a new warehouse in place of the one burned last year.-----Mrs. Mary McCannon will soon erect an upright to her present dwelling.------Jerry Johnson is reported as quite sick with typhoid pneumonia.-----Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Bailey mourn the death of their infant son, which occurred on Friday. Funeral services were held at the house Saturday afternoon; Rev. Dr. Collie officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Bailey have the sympathy of a large circle of friends in their sad affliction.-----Mr. L. E. Hastings is yet confined to the house by reason of his recent illness. (Delavan Enterprise, Wed., April 3, 1889)

Fairfield – E. F. Welch and wife returned on Thursday last from a six weeks' visit in York state.-----J. Barrett and family moved to Janesville on Saturday last.-----Mrs. Alva Johnson has been seriously ill for the past two weeks but is now slowly improving.-----Mrs. Cornelius Dykemn continues in guite poor health.----Post master Loomer has been on the sick list for a week past, but is thought to be improving.-----Earl Livingston who was so seriously injured by the falling of a tree some two weeks since, we regret to say, still lies in a very critical condition. (Delavan Republican, Wed., April 9, 1890)

Troy – The republican ticket was elected straight with the exception of Treasurer.-----Mrs. E. T. Adkins met with quite a painful accident on last Monday night by slipping on some ice. She dislocated one of her ankles, but is getting along nicely .-------Geo.Lake and F. E. Loomis are at Chicago receiving medical treatment from Dr. Parks.-----Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Odell were surprised on last Wednesday evening by about thirty of their

friends. A pleasant evening was spent and all went home wishing Mary many more birthdays. (Delavan Republican, Wed. April 9, 1890)

Delavan - Last Thursday the relatives here received a telegram from Pickering, Ontario, announcing that Mrs. Margaret Burke, wife of Charles Swallow, was dangerously ill. Her mother, Mrs. Capen started on the next train for Canada, but shortly after her departure another dispatch came announcing the death on Wednesday afternoon. Maggie, as she was familiarly known, was a daughter of the late M. J. Burke, and a sister of Mrs. Thos. Swallow, of Delavan. She was married to Charles Swallow only a little more than a year ago, when she was only 16 years old. She was a sweet girl and beloved by a large circle of devoted friends who will deeply mourn her sudden death. The funeral was on Saturday last, and burial in Pickering.-----Last Sunday, George Collie, residing near the lake shore, stepped out of his carriage to turn a cow into the yard, leaving his horse unhitched, when it started to run. Mr. Collie made a dash to get hold of the lines, and in doing so, was knocked down between the wheels, one of which passed over his body, inflicting quite severe injuries. A physician was summoned, who, on examination found that three of his ribs were broken, besides the bruises sustained. he is 77 years old, and has been badly afflicted with asthma for a number of years, and it is feared this mishap will be a serious affair with him. At the present time he is quite comfortable considering what he passed through.-----Two men in Richmond have swapped farms, and both got the best of the bargain they think, which is much better than going to law. John Delaney traded the Serl farm of 120 acres with M. E. Utley for his farm, possession having already been given. (The Delavan Enterprise, April 29, 1897)

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Program Recap

Our June meeting was held at the Area Research Center. Unfortunately, Mike and I were not feeling well and were unable to attend. However, we heard that it was pretty well received.

Our July meeting featured Patrick Quinn telling about the men who fought in the Civil War from Walworth County and made it home and how they lived their lives.



Mike Hay listens to Chris Brookes introducing Patrick Quinn.



Ouite a few people came to hear Patrick. Several guests attended.

Walworth County Genealogical Society Annual Dinner

Foley's Irish Woods W3905 Hwy 50, Lake Geneva Tuesday, September 8th

5:30 pm Cash Bar6:00 pm Dinner

Menu

Your choice of:

Corned beef and cabbage: Authentic Irish Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner with soup or salad choice.

Shepherd's Pie: Spicy beef with carrots and onions, topped with garlicky mashed potatoes served in a hot black kettle

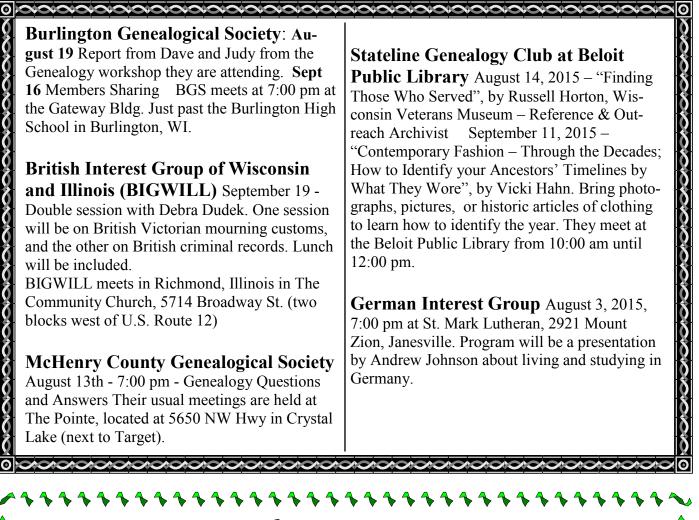
Soft drinks are included with the price along with free refills.

Mail the reservation form to: WCGS, P.O.Box 159, Delavan, WI 53115-0159

Walworth County Genealogical Society Annual Dinner Registration Form

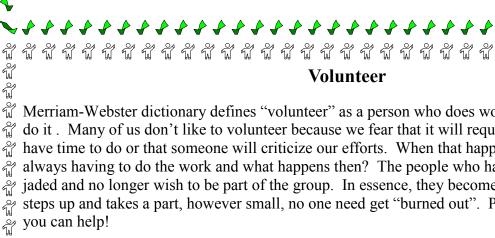
Name:	Number of Reservations		
Address:	Members (\$20.00 each)		
City, State, Zip:	Non-members (\$25.00 each)		
Telephone #:	Choice		
Email:	Corned Beef & Cabbage: #		
	Shepherd's Pie: #		
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Sharla Belk Calloway from Milton, GA--- Sharla contacted us on the WCGS contact email and let us know that she would be visiting the area and wanted to search the library for family information. We met her at the library and stayed open late so she could do the research. Sharla is researching surnames Hoyt, Britten, Hopkins and Kuehne on one side and Belk, Koeppen, Drevelow and Snow on the other



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

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Walworth County Genealogical Society

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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 wcgsnewsletter@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				
 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? 				
2. Would you be interested in a group research trip to the Newberry Library in Chicago or the Historical Society in Madison?				
3. What topics would you like to see as a program?				
4. What project or projects would you like to see the Society focus on?				
5. What suggestions do you have to help increase our membership?				
6. Would you be willing to take part in workshops presented by the Society?				
, 				
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 wcgsnewsletter@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 rep	rint)		\$20.00
Walworth Co Directory of Prairie Farmers & Breeders			\$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
BLOOMFIELD- Hillside Cemetery- Genoa City			\$23.00
DARIEN - Darien Cemetery			\$22.00
DELAVAN - Delavan Area Cemeteries (Spring Grove, Old S	ettlers. St. Andrews. Arboretum a	nd some church burials reprint)	\$14.00
East Delavan Union Cemetery			\$25.00
History of Delavan School 1982 - index only			\$18.00
EAST TROY - Oak Ridge Cemetery			\$18.00
St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery			\$25.00
GENEVA - Lake Geneva Area Obituaries (updated through	iah June 30, 2010)		\$25.00
Pioneer Cemetery	.g.: ca.:c cc, _c c, _,		\$15.00
Union Cemetery– plus some Geneva/Lyons Townships			\$20.00
LAFAYETTE - White Oak Cemetery			\$ 7.50
Hartwell-Westville-Sugar Creek Lutheran Cemeteries (D	VD tombstone pics include	ed)	\$12.00
LAGRANGE -LaGrange Pioneers (reprint of 3600 name		54)	\$27.00
LaGrange Township Cemeteries			\$10.00
LYONS - Hudson/Lyons (Old Quaker) / Wija Farm Cem	eteries (DVD tombstone n	ics included)	\$12.00
St. Joseph & St. Killian Catholic Cemeteries (DVD tom			\$12.00
RICHMOND - Richmond & East Richmond Cemeteries			\$10.00
SHARON - Oakwood			\$15.00
SPRING PRAIRIE - Hickory Grove			\$25.00
German Settlement / Mount Hope / Diener Cemeteries (DVD tombetone nice inclu	ded)	\$12.00
SUGAR CREEK - Millard Cemetery	DVD tombstone pics inclu	ueu)	\$15.00
•			\$20.00
Hazel Ridge Cemetery Mount Pleasant Cemetery (DVD tombstone pics include	vd)		\$15.00
Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery (DVD tombstone pics include			\$15.00
TROY - Little Prairie	ciudeu)		\$15.00
	ao)		
WALWORTH - Walworth Center (Walworth Village listin	ys)		\$20.00
Brick Church Revised 2007	ana baak)		\$20.00 \$18.00
Cobblestone, WI/Bigfoot, IL (two different cemeteries in	Dife DOOK)		\$18.00 \$15.00
WHITEWATER - St. Patrick's Calvary			\$15.00
Hillside Cemetery			\$25.00
Unknown Burials			\$18.00
Index to the Annals of Whitewater			\$12.00
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	ifetime), \$18.00 family (\$2	200 lifetime), \$7.50 studen	t
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PHONE SURNAMES _			

I do ____ or do not____ give my permission to have my information printed in any WCGS media.

DSTK 1/14

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

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DIRECTOR(S) OTHERS: Newsletter Ec Past-Presider Historian: Pa	nt & Librarian: Deb Ke		Lake Geneva, WI Whitewater, WI Delavan, WI Genoa City, WI	

Regular meetings of the WCGS are the first Tuesday of each month at the Delavan Community Centre, 826 E. Geneva St., Delavan, WI. Library Hours: Matheson Memorial Library, 101 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, WI- Every Tues. 10-3pm other times by appt - call 262-215-0118 The membership year runs from Jan. 1st thru Dec. 31st. The newsletter is published bi-monthly.

****Dues are \$15 (\$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 Barb - jawadusti@yahoo.com

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

Email us at: societynews@walworthcgs.com