

Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume 21 Issue 2

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March-April 2012

Guest Speakers for 2012

May 1, 6:30 PM: Ted Johnson of Godfrey, Leibsle, Blackburn & Howarth on "Estate Probate - What you should know when losing a loved one"

June 5, 6:30 PM: Ellie Getting—Jewish Museum—Jewish History

July 3, 6:30 PM: Karen Weston—UWW-ARC—Native American Research

August 7, 6:30 PM: Ice Cream Social—Chris Brookes—History of Lake Geneva

September 4, 6:30 PM: Annual Meeting—program to be announced

Special Events

July 21, 1:00 PM—4:00 PM—Cemetery Walk—Union Cemetery, Springfield

Don't forget to bring an item for the Food Pantry!

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President Power

Are you as lost as I am? With early summer, clocks springing ahead and slowing down for spring that still feels like winter I seem to be stuck with no motivation to get anything done. Then out comes the 1940 census. I tried to resist the urge to go hunting, knowing everybody else would be doing it too, but only lasted 3 days. This is the year I can see my parents on the census and so far I still haven't found my Dad and his family. I'm a little puzzled, apparently they weren't living where I thought they should be uummm genealogy dilemma as usual. Of course that kicked me into gear to straighten out some of my family history in order to go back and start again. Nothing like a new toy to get you motivated to clean up the cobwebs.

On the flip side WCGS has kick started 2012 with a Board meeting to establish progress for the upcoming year. Members can expect to see changes on the website in the next few months. There will be new cemetery books coming out shortly. Plans are already in motion for the yearly programs being done. See below for more information. Any questions feel free to contact myself or any other Board member. Contacts on back page.

Due to a scheduling conflict the programs for April and May have been reversed. For those of you who missed the April meeting it was Marshall Wren on the 1940 Census. If you would like to see this program, he will be doing it for the Burlington Genealogical Society on Wednesday, April 18th at 7pm. BGS meetings are held at Gateway Technical College in Burlington. Currently, our May meeting will be Ted Johnson, the attorney, on what you need to know when losing a loved one as far as probate, wills, and such.

On the horizon, this year's cemetery walk will be July 21st, Saturday, at Union Cemetery in Springfield (between Lyons and Lake Geneva). There are quite a few veterans buried in the cemetery. If you have family or would like to portray someone from the cemetery for the program, let me know.

Burlington Genealogical Society has the reins on the Family History Fair in the fall. They have picked Sept. 29th and are looking for vendors or organizations to display wares. Also if you would like to give a mini session on a genealogy topic they are looking for people.

Come early summer WCGS will be releasing several new cemetery index books:

Quaker - Lyons

German Settlement - Spring Prairie

Hudson - Lyons

Mount Olivet - Elkhorn

St. Joseph's - Lyons

St. Kilians - Geneva

To close out 2012, at our yearly Christmas B-I-N-G-O party, instead of a general display of Christmas, the members will be asked to bring a Christmas item related to your heritage to display at the December meeting. The item along with a 3x5 card explaining who, what, and where.

Ketchum's Korner

Deb Ketchum, Librarian



In our Family History section is a book of Civil War letters written between Gideon von Bachelles, a soldier in the 8th IL Cavalry serving in DC and VA, and Carrie Peterson, a young woman in Chicago, IL. The first letter is dated December 15, 1864 and the last one July 4, 1865 with a follow up of a certificate for Physician Surgeon dated September 1866 for Gideon. Below is the first letter Gideon sent to Carrie and thereafter the letters are about once a month.

Fairfax Co., VA December 15, 1864

Dear friend Carrie,

Your kind letter of 6th reached me on the night before yesterday's. I was very much pleased to get a letter from a friend. I thought always since I enlisted that my conduct, had displeased all my friends as much as it did my uncle. You may therefore believe, that your letter may me very much pleasure because I did not expect to be remembered so well as to get such a favor. I will therefore try to return it as good as I can. In your letter you did write about my photographs and expressed the wish to have one of them, you shall have one, certainly, as soon as they come from Washington - I only did get two from half a dozen, they are fortunately given out, the other four were not ready when I left Washington. I shall get them as soon as they are ready. If they should not be ready to the 20th I will send you an Ambrotype, which I can get taken here in town, so that you do get it to Christmas.

I will not say a word of excuse about my going away without seeing you. I was too bashful to come alone and my uncle did not invite me to go with him. - Next time I shall make it better.

I just received a very nice letter from my uncle, he is very much pleased with my studying medicine - please tell him that I am very much obliged to him and that I will answer his letter in few days. We had a very nice Thanksgiving Day; In the morning, I went to church, that is, a meeting before Chaplain's tent; in the afternoon I took a ride with one of our doctors. It was a very warm day for this time of the year. The winter did arrive here now and brought with him snow, rain and cold weather. I took several days ago a sled ride - what do you think of that? Doctor's Colored boy went, as soon as the snow was deep enough, and borrowed a sled, and surprised me by asking if I did not like to take a sled ride?

I like the soldiers-life first-rate it agrees with my constitution better than staying in the Store, when I was in the store I was always sick and unwell and now I am stronger and healthier than I was ever before; I have now a very good place - a very little works and plenty of time to study. I met with the doctors and the chaplain, the best educated Officers of the Regiment; I don't take care of my horse, the doctors boy does do it for me - I only ride him. My whole work for the day is Putting up Prescriptions in the time from 8 to 9 o'clock in the morning, and after that time I have to keep the books and make reports, returns and (??) all the other time of the day I have for studying. The Doctors and I have every day a "Quiz" on Anatomy and we intend to go through the whole anatomy in three months that length of time we stay here.

You think I had forgotten you and all your relations. I never did forget any of my friends and I send always my respects to all of them in every letter I wrote to my uncle, and did ask about everything concerning them. I cannot forget easily those who treated me always with so much kindness. Your claim to be my first young lady friend in this country is right - I have only few lady friends in this and none in the other country and you are the first from all.

How is your brother George getting along is he satisfied with his place in Greenbay? Sincere regards to him. Let my hear from you very often. Excuse my poor English - I may say this is my first English letter I ever did write. Kind regards to your parents and all inquiring friends. Hoping you will have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year I remain.

Yours truly, Gideon von Bachelles

P.S. My letters go in care of Dr. Stull Asst. Surg. 8 ILL Cal.

AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

This first item is the conclusion of a series of notes from a clipping found in my grandma's diary of happenings in and about Delavan in 1898.

Aug. 3 - Assembly closed--last speaker, Jahu Miller. Firm of Jackson & Jackson Co. changed hands, P.R. Jackson retiring.

Aug. 14 - Excursion train from Freeport arrived, bringing 200 passengers accompanied by the Henney brass band.

Aug. 21 - Death of Mrs. Jane Bibbins.

Aug. 31 - Death of S. G. Austin.

(next part is torn and skips to November.)

Nov. 27 - Death of Rev. E. L. Harris. Contract for the extension of C. M. & St. P. railroad awarded to McIntosh Bros., of Milwaukee.

Dec. 8 -Death at Darien of James Weed.

Dec. 15 - Death of Mrs. Joseph Howard. Death of Frank Moore.

Dec. 16 - Death at Shell Rock of Mrs. Mary Gibson.

Dec. 18 - News receive of the death of E. G. Mason.

Dec. 24 - Fire damaged M. E. church.

Dec. 26 - Lecture by Jahu DeWitt Miller.

Dec. 27 - Knights of Pythias ball, hand's orchestra.

Dec. 31 - At 12 o'clock, death of the remarkable year '98 and birth of the Happy New Year of '99.

Fairfield - J. B. Monroe shipped a lot of fat cattle to Chicago last week.-----John Dykeman, Jr., wears a broad smile--all on account of a fine baby boy.-----T. Cutter is having a tussel with the measles.-----Mr. C. Dykeman and family had a narrow escape on their way to church on Sunday last. The coupling of the bobbs broke loose and the occupants of the sleigh were thrown violently to the ground, all of them being more or less bruised. (from Delavan Republican, Jan. 23, 1889)

Island Jots - Owen McNulty, who returned home from Sioux Falls, Dakota, was taken very sick last week and is under the medical care of Dr. Rodman. We hope for his speedy recovery.-----John McNulty returned home last Friday from a three weeks visit to his brother, Rev.

M. H. McNulty, of Mt. Hope.-----John O'Keef saw a wolf cross the road near his father's residence and put a hound on his track, and they are hunting him at this writing. (from Delavan Republican, Jan. 23, 1889)

Williams Bay - W. G. DeGroff and family returned from their trip to Boston, Mass. last Saturday, having been absent about six weeks.-----A stone weighing twelve tons was drawn from the depot to the observatory ground Saturday. It required four teams and two wagons.-----A Blix has contracted to build a \$1,000 cottage at Glenwood Springs for Luther Colburn. Mr. Colburn may be sure of having a clean and honest job done, as there is not a better carpenter and builder in this section than the said A. Blix. (from the Delavan Republican, Sept. 26, 1895)

Sharon - Mrs. R. Perkins, Mrs. A. Hyde, and Mrs. Ed Stocking and sister, all started for Independence, Iowa, on a visit, last Thursdy morning.-----Mr. Wm. Veley of the Central House, will have a Grand Party at his hall on Friday evening, October 1st, 1890. Tickets including supper, \$1.50. A good time is anticipated, and all who wish to participate should not fail to attend.-----Our old friend, P. H. LaBundy, has walked around with unusual alacrity for several weeks past. Upon inquiring the cause we were told that it was 'a boy'. (from The Sharon Reporter, Sept. 23, 1880.)

Elkhorn - Dr. Young's grey team ran away, last Saturday, smashing the cutter and tearing the harness to pieces. The cutter tipped over near L. Hollenbeck's throwing the Doctor and driver, Steve Lowe, Jr. out, the team running for all they were worth till they struck a telepone pole and wrecked things.-----Mr. S. R. Edwards, Sugar Creek, has rented his farm to E. Mallory, and contemplates purchasing a home in Elkhorn. He has looked at several places, among them being L. E. Allen's home and lot on South Wisconsin street. Elkhorn will welcome him and family whenever they may come. (from the Delavan Enterprise, Feb. 22, 1894)

East Troy - While the complaint of hard times is quite general throughout the country, East Troy moves along with its usual equanimity and confidence. To be sure money is not so plenty as in former years when the country was at the zenith of prosperity, but there seems to be no serious cause for complaint. Plans for building and improvements are being made, and no doubt many of our readers would be surprised if told that \$10,000 worth of improvements are to be made during the coming year. (from the Delavan Enterprise, February 22, 1894.)



Do You Know?

By Marilyn Traver

WESTWARD HO!

Just how far west are we going? It depends on what year and if it is a state or territory. If you didn't know why your ancestors took a chance of traveling over such dangerous and uncharted lands alone or with their families, you might after this search. A little history knowledge isn't a bad thing. Thought you were all done learning history when you got out of school, didn't you? I wasn't interested in history when in school and I never thought that 40 years later I would be actually looking for it. However, this time it isn't what the teacher wants to teach me but what **I** want to learn. Big difference.

You would think that before the Civil War there wasn't much "out West" to search. However, smaller locations don't mean it's any easier. The territories or smaller towns weren't as diligent as larger cities in keeping official records so sometimes they are incomplete or missing.

Pre-Civil War: West of the Mississippi River included states such as Minnesota, Arkansas, Texas and parts of California (Gold Rush era). Of course other areas west won't have official states until years later. After the Civil War, from 1865 – early 1900's, there are more states to check out: Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and others that have become official states in the United States of America.

Even "out West" had their newspapers, which is the living history of the community. This is a good place to help you learn how it started, what has happened; possibly listing how your ancestors were involved in their community, with names and addresses and occupations.

Below is a list of different states and territories to look for on the Internet, before and after the Civil War. These are not the only sites to research. Do your own fishing expedition to find other sites in the state or territory you are looking for.

To begin your search, go to the national resources such as the LOC Chronicling America Project, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> or your favorite genealogical database. Once you start searching through data, you can then narrow your search to specific states or geographical areas, in the time era you are looking at. It is suggested to start this way rather than looking helter-skelter which would take longer to get the info you need. Organization in researching is vital and saves lots of time. Don't forget to make notes of all the resources you have checked out to keep from repeating your work and wasting your valuable time.

Most of the listings below will include other links, which will lead to more information. Don't rely on these only; use the regular resources such as obits, cemeteries, census, court, church, and military records of the area, just like you do for your local search and existing family trees (not to be overlooked). If nothing else you will have confirmation or additional hints from the information you have gleaned from the digital newspapers.

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> is a place of digital historic newspapers for different areas.

<http://www.wyone newspapers.org> This can be browsed by the city, county, year or all newspaper titles.

Google books at <http://books.google.com/books>; Hathi Trust, <http://www.hathitrust.org>; and the Open Library, <http://openlibrary.org> have digitized out of print books of histories of the American West and of family histories. There are also college archival resources and databases, which have digitized historical information. In most cases this is an on going project to keep checking out.

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Do You Know?

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Pre-Civil War Era continued:

Arkansas Cemetery Records: <http://www.interment.net/us/ar/index.htm> you can search by county. The site also has a list of other links to death records, census, and newspapers.

<http://www.arkansasties.com> search by counties, other links for vital records, free maps and directions, census records, marriage records county public records. Some are free sites and others are sites you must pay to see. The Forum is worth looking at. So much more information listed there.

<http://www.ark-ives.com> is a site that includes state history and genealogy information. Arkansas Civil War, Black History, Folk life in Arkansas, and so much more to learn from this site, Arkansas County Records are a few of the links they have. The Biodex link, <http://www.ark-ives.com/documenting/biodex.asp> for a massive search of many resources at once. To get there click on CARAT and then click on Biodex, if you are not already in the site.

California online archives is <http://www.oac.cdlib.org> It has many digital documents, family research stories, a large resource of information and outbound links for more researching. Not strictly genealogical but worth looking at.

<http://www.californiagenealogy.org> is a good site to check out if you are not sure where your relatives lived back in those days.

Iowa Genealogical Society has a website with information on obituaries, links and county research guides. Their website is: <http://www.iowagenealogy.org> If your family lived in the Iowa area, check out the WPA 1930s Graves Registration site. The site is <http://iowawpagraves.org> and has an ongoing county project listing.

Kansas has Territorial Historical records at <http://www.kansashistory.us/ksstateorg.html>. They have info on museums, libraries, genealogy groups and much more. Part of the Kansas Heritage Group is <http://www.ksheritage.org>. Kansas Memory Project has oral

histories and images, primary source materials and much more at <http://www.kansasmemory.org>. Kansas Gen-Web projects: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/index.html>. If you are looking for personal detailed information check <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/index.html>.

Missouri has a couple of good sites for you to check out: <http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy> is the Midwest Genealogy Center to visit on a trip. They have a large variety of databases, which can be checked out before going on a trip, to know what they have available. Some databases can be accessed from the internet with the use of a Mid-content or reciprocal library card. The state archives could be used as a starting point of your research: <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/about/presentations.asp>. This site has archives and records, with reference service in the state library. A large website to look through.

Minnesota People Finder: <http://greatriversnetwork.org/index.php?specialcollection=mhs>. Type the word **index** in the search box and it will go to a list of what to choose from. This is a subset of information offered by the Historical Society. The genealogy website is <http://www.genealogylinks.net/usa/minnesota/index.html>. There is a list of outbound links through county and statewide resources. It's a good place to start.

Oregon Obituary Database: <http://www.oregongenealogy.com/obitdata.htm>. Don't forget to check out the photos and index link.

The Portal to **Texas** history is: <http://texashistory.unt.edu>. This website has extensive digital archives including books, newspapers and maps. Also there is a website for Texas Heritage Online: <http://texasheritageonline.org> to check out their collection list.

In the next issue:

After the Civil War.



Membership Renewal Time Has Passed!!

If you haven't paid your dues, this is the last newsletter you will receive so please send your payment now.



We'd Like Your Help!!!

In order to make the newsletter more interesting to all members, we would like all the members to give us ideas that we can use in its preparation. We want to make this newsletter of interest to everyone, so that it represents all of us.

Give us your ideas!!



Genealogy:

Tracing yourself
back to better people.



Upcoming

BIGWILL Seminar

19 May 2012

Richmond-Burton Community High
School, Richmond, Illinois



“Courting Your English Ancestors”

a full-day seminar

Michael John Neill will present:

**“Thomas and Elizabeth Frame – 19th
Century English Immigrants to Chi-
cago”**

“Court Records Besides Probate”

**“The American Naturalization Pro-
cess Before 1920”**

**“Problem-Solving Approaches and
Techniques”**

Contact BIGWILL at:

<http://www.bigwill.org> for particulars.
Pre-registration is recommended.

M & M's Tips

Martha found a direct ancestor in the civil war so she joined the Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW), Mary Chesebro Lee, Detached Tent #23. It was her maternal great-grandfather who served with the 6th New York Heavy Artillery. No one in the family ever mentioned it before because the family relationship was not passed on down to her mother and siblings for whatever reason.

This was the Lent side of the family, which was Martha's grandmother's maiden name. In going back further, we discovered her Revolutionary War patriot whose descendant, Nelson Burton Lent was the publisher who produced the book, History of the Lent/Van Lent Family in 1903. It turns out that this Revolutionary War patriot was the common ancestor for Martha and Nelson Burton.

The Lent family settled in Westchester county, New York and one time had major holdings in the county. In fact, the current city of Peekskill, New York is comprised in part of Ryck's Patent, which was the property of Ryck (Richard) Van Lent. In later years, the majority of Van Lent family dropped the Van from their name. Others did not use the Van Lent at all and started the Riker/Ryker line.

While we were researching the families in Westchester county, we visited many cemeteries including the infamous Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. This cemetery is built on land unsuited to the building of houses because of its terrain. The roads through the cemetery wind around a mountain and have steep precipices which can frighten the unwary. To change direction, generally requires backing up and maneuvering carefully. The roads meet at odd angles and it feels like you are making a U-turn. When you get out of the car to photograph a stone, you must be very careful or you may end up on the level below your intended one. If the stone is facing out towards the drop-off, you find yourself leaning forward as you take the picture so as not to fall backwards down the hill (mountain?).

We did take a photograph of the tombstone of Washington Irving, who wrote the famous "Legend of Sleepy Hollow". The story actually took place just to the south of the present cemetery in what is known as The Burial Ground at the Old Dutch Church.

This church and cemetery date back to 1621 and are still in use today. In walking around the cemetery and photographing family monuments, we noticed an older gentleman with white hair and a full white beard leaning on a tombstone watching us. He asked what family we were looking for and Mike replied that Martha was descended from the Dyckman and Lent families. He looked at Martha and said, "I guess I should say, Hi cousin! I'm Bill Lent." It turns out he is indeed a distant cousin and he is the sole volunteer caretaker at the burial ground. He also has a plot for himself when the time comes. He told us that the original grave markers were made of wood and the way they would get rid of the tall weeds and grass were to burn the grass. Of course, you know what happened to the grave markers.

Bill Lent then went on to talk about Washington Irving and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow". Irving was a student at the school conducted at the church, and the characters in the saga were all based on members of the extended Lent family. Bill conducts tours of the grounds and the church (he is a deacon), during which he tells his belief as to how Irving came to write the tale. There is a tombstone in the graveyard adjacent to the church that has an image which, when the sunlight strikes it at a particular angle, seems to become three dimensional and is quite impressive. Perhaps, when Irving was a young man attending classes during the summer, he saw this apparition while taking a break from studies in the hot church and was inspired to write his famous story.

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
Button-Kronwall Family Scrapbook (Linn & Bloomfield, & Hebron, IL Township)	\$25.00
Walworth County Pre-1907 Death Index	\$22.00
BLOOMFIELD - Hillside Cemetery- Genoa City	\$23.00
DARIEN - Darien Cemetery	\$22.00
DELANAVAN - Delavan Area Cemeteries (Spring Grove, Old Settlers, St. Andrews, Arboretum and some church burials)	\$ 3.50
East Delavan Union Cemetery	\$25.00
World War I Service Records (Delavan Area only, includes every name index)	\$20.00
History of Delavan School 1982 - index only	\$18.00
Delavan Sesquicentennial Supplement	\$20.00
Images of America– Delavan	\$20.00
EAST TROY - Oak Ridge Cemetery	\$18.00
ELKHORN – Hazel Ridge Cemetery	\$20.00
Mount Pleasant Cemetery	\$15.00
Images of America-Elkhorn	\$20.00
GENEVA - Lake Geneva Area Obituaries (updated through June 30, 2010)	\$25.00
Pioneer Cemetery	\$15.00
Union Cemetery– plus some Geneva/Lyons Townships	\$20.00
LAFAYETTE - White Oak Cemetery	\$ 7.50
Hartwell-Westville-Sugar Creek Lutheran Cemeteries	\$12.00
LAGRANGE -LaGrange Pioneers (reprint of 3600 names, full index)	\$27.00
LaGrange Township Cemeteries	\$10.00
RICHMOND - Richmond & East Richmond Cemeteries	\$10.00
SHARON - Oakwood	\$15.00
SPRING PRAIRIE - Hickory Grove	\$25.00
SUGAR CREEK - Millard Cemetery	\$15.00
TROY - Little Prairie	\$15.00
WALWORTH - 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
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: \$2.00 for the 1st book and \$1.00 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

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

MEMBERS: Want email meeting minutes or not?? Contact Kay - wcgs04@yahoo.com

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

E-Mail us at societynews@walworthcgs.com

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