

# Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



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May June 2015

## Guest Speakers/Programs for 2015

**July 7th - 6:30 pm** - Patrick M. Quinn, former Archivist with Northwestern University and a native of Lake Geneva, will relate to us about Civil War soldiers who came home to Geneva and surrounding townships.

**July 18th - 1:00 pm** - Cemetery Walk at Hudson Cemetery, Lyons Road north of Hwy 36 - We will have presenters highlighting specific individuals resting here.

**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!*

*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:

Happy Summer!

Our May get-together went very well, with three new members signing on and the presentations were very well received. A big thank you is in order to all of you who participated.

Martha and I went on vacation over the Memorial Day holiday and came home with some kind of illness. As a result, we were unable to attend the June meeting at the ARC. We heard that quite a few people attended.

We've traveled around to several other societies telling them about our cemetery walk and Family History Fair and encouraging their participation. We would like our members to help in the procurement of items that we can put into our silent auction or gift bags. Contact Mike or Chris with any questions.

Martha reports that she has only received one response to the survey that has been included in the last two newsletters. In order for the society to continue to offer programs that are of interest to the members, we need you to let us know your requests.

### Chris's Co-Comments:

Thanks so much to all who came out for the May meeting and especially for those who brought guests. I think we gave everyone great information and a good showing all around. Appreciation goes to our lineage society representatives: Pat Blackmer, Karen Weston, Nancy Lehman, Louise Sannes, Marra Andreas, and Deb Ketchum.

Ten members and five guests attended the June meeting at the ARC in Whitewater – a good turnout for important information from Karen Weston. I found several items of interest in the diaries of Mrs. Baker and more pieces for my map project. We are fortunate to have an ARC in our area and the ability to request items be sent here from other centers.

Next up is the Cemetery Walk Saturday, July 18 at the Hudson Cemetery in Lyons. Contact Deb Ketchum if you are available to help. The more the merrier. (HINT: that day you can call me Olive!)

Finally, as we begin planning the October Family History Fair, think about how you can be involved. Is there a business you could approach for a raffle/silent auction item? Do you have a new or "gently used" item to donate? It's not too early to start collecting things. Can you spend an hour or two at the WCGS table or helping someone else? We are the hosts for this event so SAVE THE DATE and plan to participate! Saturday, October 18, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 700 N Bloomfield Road, Lake Geneva. Contact me to volunteer. Thanks!



Deb Ketchum, Librarian

# Ketchum's Korner



Just a reminder that the Matheson Memorial Library now has the Ancestry Library edition available for in-library use only. Patrons can do ancestry research whenever Matheson is open.

If you come across a page that requires a subscription to view, write down the source information. Then come visit our library on Tuesday as we have the Ancestry Worldwide edition available for research. We also have other subscription sites that can be viewed to further your research.



Now let's discuss newsletters. Most societies publish a newsletter and either send it in the mail or many have gone to electronic mail. Societies also have a "free share" system. That means they get our newsletter for free in exchange for theirs. Shortly WCGS will have a file containing the digital newsletters available on the library computer. They will remain there for a six month duration and then if there's any useful research material pages will be printed and filed in the related areas.

Over the years WCGS has acquired an array of newsletters from societies, but also from members. If you receive a newsletter and are finished with it, donate it to our library. It doesn't matter if it's recent or old ones you've been hanging onto. After a six month period the newsletters are torn down for pertinent genealogical information to be kept. Quite a few newsletters contain indexes, obits, etc. that members donate while researching family history. If you do choose to donate partial newsletters please make sure the society newsletter source is on the pages. Newsletters in a foreign language could be translated with several of the available internet sites.

Quite often I find indexes for cemeteries in other cities that have nothing to do with the society that published it. I've found death indexes for Michigan in Illinois newsletters or cemetery indexes for Pennsylvania in Ohio newsletters. Our own Wisconsin State Genealogical Society has indexes to all sorts of places within the state of Wisconsin. These newsletters are then torn down and indexes placed in the appropriate "County" binders in our Wisconsin section.

Further down the road I would like to see a name index of material within the Newsletter binder. So if anyone out there has some free time to come into the library and work on a project, your time would be appreciated.



# Wives and Mothers

By Chris Brookes

About a year ago I wrote about Charles Minton Baker, first District Attorney of Walworth County, and his second wife Eliza Holt Baker. I'm thinking about them again because of our meeting at the Area Research Center in Whitewater. I was actually able to hold and read Eliza Baker's diaries from 1862-1864! Through her spidery handwriting the who, what, when, where, why of life here during the Civil War came to life.

Speaking of the Civil War, as we commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its conclusion, do you know what your Civil War ancestor's wife did during that time? Did she run a farm? Was she left a widow? Did she file a homestead claim? The May Update from Ancestry.com offers a guide, *Tips for Finding the Stories of the Women in your Family Tree*. "The mothers and other women in our family history research all have stories to tell, but sometimes those stories get overlooked with the men in our family tree taking the center stage in many records."

I've found this to be true in my character research. I try to portray women as historically accurate as possible, but where to begin if all the information is about her husband? The article suggests developing a timeline and trying to fill in the blanks. For example, Elizabeth Hadley Farr (Mrs. Asa Farr) was widowed October 6, 1863, when her husband was killed in the Battle of Baxter Springs, Kansas by Quantrell's Raiders. She was 35 years old and her two children, ages 17 and 15, were still minors at the time. How would you try fill in the blanks? Well, I wondered what a widow woman could do to support her family at that time. She became a seamstress, and Mrs.

Baker's diary confirms this, noting that Mrs. Farr came over to do a fitting for her. Studying the lives of contemporaries, including her husband, helps re-create the world in which she lived.

In the case of Mrs. Farr, I was fortunate to have her maiden name. If you are having trouble finding maiden names, the Ancestry guide gives seven possible sources: vital records, records of siblings, church records, middle names, probates, obituaries, and witnesses/sponsors. Some of my information on the Farris came from the book *Walton Family Records* by Josiah Proctor Walton. Asa Farr's middle name was Walton – his mother's maiden name. Elizabeth's middle name was Green – her mother's maiden name.

For some more good tips and examples, check out the Ancestry guide. If you don't have an Ancestry subscription and you would like a copy of the guide, contact me. I've downloaded it.



<http://www.hhhistory.com/2014/01/historical-personal-diaries-treasure-in.html> This is a site written by Pam Meyers who wrote *Love Finds You in Lake Geneva!!*

# *Proposed Changes to Society By-Laws*

At the June 4 meeting of the Board of Directors, the following proposed revisions to the By-laws of the Society were approved. The proposed amendments are presented to the membership for approval one month prior to the vote. The vote on the changes to the By-laws will take place at the July 7 meeting. Contact Mike Hay or Chris Brookes if you have any questions prior to the vote.

## **Proposed Revisions to BY-LAWS of the WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

*Some of the proposed changes are grammatical only and do not change the meaning of the article or section. Other changes reflect the current practices of the Society by omitting or inserting information.*

### **Article IV – OFFICERS**

**Current:**

Section B: All officers shall assume office beginning of fiscal year January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Proposed:**

Section B: All officers shall assume office at the first Board meeting following the election.

### **Article V – NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Current:**

The President shall appoint a nominating committee of three, of which one shall be the President or Treasurer to prepare a slate of officers and directors to be presented at the November meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee.

**Proposed:**

The President shall appoint a nominating committee of three, of which one shall be the President or Vice-President to prepare a slate of officers and directors to be presented at the November meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee. The President shall serve as Nominating Committee Chair for the year in which the Vice-President is elected. The Vice-President shall serve as Nominating Committee Chair for the year in which the President is elected.

### **Article VI – ELECTIONS**

**Current:**

Section B: The candidates with the majority number of votes for any office or directorship shall be elected.

**Proposed:**

Section B: The candidates with the majority number of votes for any office or directorship shall be elected. In case of a tie vote, the candidates may serve jointly.

### **Article VII – TERM OF OFFICE**

**Current:**

Section A: The President, Vice-President, and Secretary shall be elected for a two year term in December and may serve a succeeding two year term. After having served two contiguous terms, these officers shall not be eligible to be elected to the same office for a period of at least two years. The President shall be elected in even numbered years and the Vice-President and Secretary shall be elected in odd numbered years.

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**Proposed:**

Section A: The President, Vice-President, and Secretary shall be elected for a two year term in December and may serve a succeeding two year term. After having served two consecutive terms, these officers shall not be eligible to be elected to the same office for a period of at least two years. The President shall be elected in even numbered years and the Vice-President and Secretary shall be elected in odd numbered years.

**Article VIII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**Proposed:**

The President shall:

4. The President shall serve as Nominating Committee Chair for the year in which the Vice-President is elected.

**Proposed:**

The Vice-President shall:

2. The Vice-President shall serve as Nominating Committee Chair for the year in which the President is elected.

**Current:**

The Treasurer shall:

1. Collect the dues of the members, care for and report all funds to the Society, and write and sign all check drawn on the treasury.

**Proposed:**

The Treasurer shall:

1. Collect the dues of the members, care for and report all funds to the Board and Society, and write and sign all check drawn on the treasury.
2. Provide necessary documentation to the Board for preparation of the Annual Budget.

**Article IX – MEETINGS**

Section A:

9. Program

**Current:**

- a. Programs for the even numbered months, with the exception of December, will feature a speaker program.
- b. Programs for the odd numbered months will consist of workshops or special events. These programs may be held at other locations.

**Proposed:**

- a. Programs shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

**Article X – LIBRARY**

**Current:**

Hours – The Society Library shall be opened hours agreed upon by the Board Directors.

**Proposed:**

Hours – The Society Library shall be opened at hours agreed upon by the Board of Directors and Matheson Memorial Library.

**Article XI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Proposed:**

4. The Board shall meet quarterly (in December, March, June, September) with the first meeting called between the election of officers and the first general meeting of the fiscal year.



## AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

**East Delavan** - Mrs. Wm. Degroff is on the sick list.-----Mrs. Wm. Grosbeck is suffering from a severe stroke of paralysis.-----Walter Woodford was laid up last week with a felon on his hand.-----Farmers have commenced spring work. Mr. Church has sown grain already.-----Last Tuesday evening a goodly number of the Literary Society assembled at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kishner's for a sociable time, which they greatly enjoyed. The society gave Mr. and Mrs. Kishner a handsome hanging lamp, which Mr. T. F. Williams presented to them in behalf of the Society, with a few very appropriate remarks to which Mr. Kishner cheerfully responded. The company were then served with refreshments. The ladies treated to candy and the gents to cigars. At a late hour the company dispersed all declaring they had had a splendid time. (Wed., April 3, 1889, Delavan Enterprise)

**North Walworth** - Mr. John Lackey, has recently purchased of Mr. Weed of Delavan, 100 acres of land joining his father's farm on the south. No doubt John intends to make a pleasant home for some nice young lady.-----Mr. C. A. Bassett was aroused from his slumbers last Thursday night by the alarm of fire, but he discovered only a few sparks. No damage done.-----R. S. Trumble and C. A. Bassett each lost a cow last Saturday, the former by its eating too much ground feed, and the latter by breaking a leg.-----Our early spring had a sudden freeze up, last Friday.-----Mrs. W. C. Van Velzer, son and daughter of Delavan, visited at Mr. R. S. Trumble's a couple of days last week. (April 3, 1889, Delavan Enterprise)

**Delavan** - Mr. F. K. Phoenix is enjoying a visit from his cousins, Major Wm. Kelsey, of Columbia City, Ind., and Mrs. Annie Bronk, of Johnstown, Pa., their father, Truman Kelsey, being a resident of Delavan several years ago.-----

U. S. Hollister, of New York City, W. C. and Dr. Elmer Hollister, of Chicago, were in town over Sunday, visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrenus Hollister. With the Delavan portion of the family present, a complete family reunion was had on Monday, and a photograph was taken of the group by Wilkins.-----Chas. Horton and wife, of San Antonio, Texas, arrived at the residence of his brother, Wm. Horton, last week and remained a few days. It was quite a happy surprise as they were not expected.-----Miss Loraine McLean left on Monday morning for Chicago. From there she will go to Lake City, Iowa, to visit her sister, Mrs. S. S. Field for several weeks.-----Mrs. A. Smith, of Milwaukee, is visiting at Thomas Ege's. Mr. and Mrs. Smith were formerly residents of Delavan, Mr. S. being the captain of the steamer Dauntless. (Wed., Sept. 11, 1889, The Delavan Republican)

**East Troy** - Julius Karcher has finished his engagement as principal of the school in the village of Troy, and rumor has it, is to seek his fortune in the state of Washington. Mary E. Blood now takes full charge of the above school for the remainder of the school year.-----Mary Monahan, a teacher in the Milwaukee schools, is at home for vacation.-----Mrs. Chas. Heath has taken possession of her cottage in the village and is greeting friends and neighbors once more. She passed the winter with her daughter, Mrs. W. H. Morrison, at Madison.-----W. S. Keats has been on the sick list the past ten days. Dr. Canright is the attending physician.-----Town meeting day passed off quietly with two tickets in the field, but so near alike that there was no zest in the race for office. F. L. Fraser, Robt. Porter and Henry Shields, Supervisors; W. G. Keats, Clerk; James Monahan, Treasurer; and S. B. Tullar, Assessor, were elected for the ensuing year. (Wed. April 9, 1890, Delavan Republican)

# PROGRAM RECAP

Mary Ann Schmidt graciously agreed to give a program for the April meeting, "Travels for my family genealogy research". She described her journeys to Germany, Poland and South Africa in search of her family's true history. The program held the attention of all the members and guests and we all came away with the main message from Mary Ann's talk: NEVER GIVE UP.



Members listen raptly to the program.



Mary Ann Schmidt



More members listening to the program.

Our May meeting was once again a "bring a friend" workshop with representatives of lineage societies and others.



Nancey Lehman - DAR



Karen Weston - Colonial Dames and Daughters of 1812  
Pat Blackmer - Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865  
Dan Richardson - Sons of Union Vets



Marra Andreas - Sons of Norway



Louise Sannes - Society of Mayflower Descendants



Deb Ketchum - Introduction to Walworth County Genealogical Society



## News from nearby Societies

**Burlington Genealogical Society:** June 17, 7:00 pm - Using Newspapers in Genealogy  
July 15 , Society Picnic

**British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL)** July 18 -  
(Unfortunately we have no information at this time - please check the web site)  
BIGWILL meets in Richmond, Illinois in The Community Church, 5714 Broadway St. (two blocks west of U.S. Route 12)

**McHenry County Genealogical Society**  
July 9, No Meeting. Saturday July 11, 2015  
Summer Conference at McHenry County College. Their usual meetings are held at The Pointe, located at 5650 NW Hwy in Crystal Lake (next to Target).

**Stateline Genealogy Club at Beloit Public Library** July 10, 2015 – “Exploring ‘IrishAncestors.net’ created by Sean Quinn”, by Vicki Hahn. An extensive web site for anything Irish. Learn techniques for using websites to search for any ancestry. They meet at the Beloit Public Library from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm.

### *Welcome New Members*

Jean Morissy

Ruth Klewin

Peggy Schutt from Janesville, WI joined at the May meeting and is researching surnames: Schutt and Seaver

Dolores Schutt from Clinton, WI who also joined at the May meeting and is researching surnames: Reader, Welch, and Schutt

Kathleen Baker from Monterey, CA just joined this month and is researching surnames: Dunn, Mullen, Delaney, and Gaffney

Welcome to all of you!

### **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 you can help!

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 [wgsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wgsnewsletter@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

1. 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?

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2. Would you be interested in a group research trip to the Newberry Library in Chicago or the Historical Society in Madison?

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3. What topics would you like to see as a program?

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4. What project or projects would you like to see the Society focus on?

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5. What suggestions do you have to help increase our membership?

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6. Would you be willing to take part in workshops presented by the Society?

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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 [wgsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wgsnewsletter@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 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 reprint)	\$14.00
East Delavan Union Cemetery	\$25.00
History of Delavan School 1982 - index only	\$18.00
<b>EAST TROY</b> - Oak Ridge Cemetery	\$18.00
St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery	\$25.00
<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

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 lifetime), \$18.00 family (\$200 lifetime), \$7.50 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.

DSTK 1/14

## WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

CO-PRESIDENTS	Michael Hay Chris Brookes	455 Fellows Road 721 S. Curtis St. #139	Genoa City, WI Lake Geneva, WI	wcgspres@gmail.com cbrookes@wi.rr.com
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DIRECTOR(S)	Chris Brookes Karen Weston Ila McErlean Martha Hay		Lake Geneva, WI Whitewater, WI Delavan, WI Genoa City, WI	
OTHERS:	Newsletter Editor: Martha Hay <a href="mailto:wcgsnewsletter@gmail.com">wcgsnewsletter@gmail.com</a> Past-President & Librarian: 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

The membership year runs from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> thru Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto:jawadusti@yahoo.com)

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

Email us at: [societynews@walworthcgs.com](mailto:societynews@walworthcgs.com)

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