



# Walworth County Genealogical Society



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May-June 2018

**Mission Statement**-The WCGS was organized for the purpose of bringing together family researchers who can network together and promote preservation of heirlooms and documents. Our goal is to help others find their ancestors, to educate them about genealogy, to copy cemeteries in the area and to stimulate interest in the county and genealogy.

In the event a meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, we will post a message on the website [www.walworthcgs.com](http://www.walworthcgs.com) or call 262-723-9150.

## SUMMER 2018 Meetings



June 5th -6:00pm - Elkhorn- Community Room at Matheson Library- Researching with DNA - by Michael Stumpff, MD, PhD, will give a presentation on the 3 principal roles in Genealogy.

July 3rd- This meeting has been cancelled due to the holiday.

August 7th- Delavan Community Centre, Delavan WI. Ice cream social and Genealogy Jeopardy by Karen Weston!

\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125
\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175
\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200

## IN THIS ISSUE



From the Co-President's Desk.....	Pg 2
Library Page .....	Pg 3
Remarkable Women.....	Pg 4
Around the County Tidbits .....	Pg 5
Member Stories.....	Pg 6
Meeting Recaps.....	Pg 7
This N' That.....	Pg 8



[www.facebook.com/wcwgcs](http://www.facebook.com/wcwgcs)



*A heartfelt welcome to new members Charlotte Anderson of Elkhorn, Janet Miller of Janesville, and Steve Brown of Elkhorn. We hope you enjoy spending time with us and are successful in your family searches.*



## From the President's Desk



Chris Brookes & Martha Hay- WCGS Co-Presidents



From Chris—May 19, 2018 – I watched the royal wedding this morning (4:00 AM!). The pomp and circumstance, history and genealogy was all on display. Isn't it said that if you can connect your family to a royal line, you've got it made because of the hereditary documentation required for kings and queens? And now an American is added to the family tree of the Royal House of Windsor which goes back to George V in 1917 when the name was changed from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. Prior to that, Queen Victoria ruled as the last monarch of the House of Hanover (1714– 1901). Did you know that the law relating to the line of succession was changed in 2013? Under the Succession to the Crown Act, male heirs to the throne of Great Britain no longer take precedence over their sisters. Therefore, Princess Charlotte was not bumped out of 4<sup>th</sup> in line by the birth of her brother Louis. She is the first royal princess to be born within the direct line of succession since the Princess Royal in 1950. The system of male preference primogeniture had been in place since the Act of Settlement of 1701.

Well, enough of this Royal Watching. Let's talk about DNA. Our speaker in June is David A Stumpf, MD, PhD, a retired physician, who has apparently been interested in genealogy since the age of 8. According to his website: "As a boy when family would gather, I could always be found asking questions and as young as 8 years old I began documenting stories and collecting demographics, pictures and documents ... Combining my experience as an MD and PhD in healthcare and academia, I have become an expert in genealogical research, with a specialty expertise in Dutch records. As a retired pediatric neurologist I have also become an expert in the complexities of DNA use in genealogy." Dr. Stumpf comes to us highly recommended.

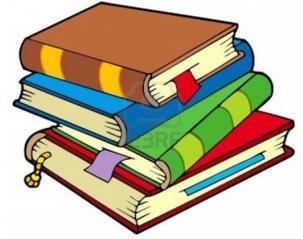
***Remember time and location change for our June meeting!***

***June 5th, 2018- 6:00 pm - Researching with DNA***

***(Being held in conjunction with Matheson Memorial Library  
at the Community Room at Matheson Library in Elkhorn!)***



# WCGS Library Page



## LIBRARY REPORT

Magazines, newsletters and journals are often overlooked when researching our ancestors.

Inventory of the WCGS library holdings continues with magazines and newsletters. A complete list will be available when it is finished. Until then, here are a few examples that you might not know that we own.

*Family Tree Magazine* covers all aspects of ancestry and the family tree. (2010-2015)

*National Genealogical Society Quarterly* includes useful sources, helpful research strategies, compelling historical accounts, and interesting case studies. (1940-2017)

*New England Ancestors* (now *American Ancestors*) includes useful sources, research strategies, historical accounts, and case studies. (2003-2009)

*Wisconsin Magazine of History* is the full-color quarterly magazine of the Wisconsin Historical Society. It shares with readers articles about Wisconsin culture and the people, places and events of Wisconsin's past (1971-Present)

*New England Historical and Genealogical Register* is the oldest journal in the field, focusing on authoritative compiled genealogies. Typical articles solve genealogical problems, identify immigrant origins, or present treatments of multiple generations. (1979-2014)

*Ancestors West* is a publication of Santa Barbara County California Genealogical Society (excerpts 1978-1999)

*Connecticut Nutmegger* contains original articles relevant, but not limited to, Connecticut/New England genealogy, transcribed probate records, Bible/Family records and other archival information. (1971-1987)

*The Hoosier Genealogist* contains indexes and other data to help access rare source material such as diaries, ledgers and public records in Indiana. (1989-1998)

*Western New York Genealogical Society Journal* contains unpublished records, queries, book reviews, Bible records, articles for the beginner and for the advanced researcher.

*Historical Review* features current scholarship on all facets of the Missouri's history. It also contains reviews of and notes on recently published books about the history of the state and local areas and the lives of Missourians. (1967-1994)

Stop in and see what you might find in these and the many other newsletters, on our shelves.

Submitted by Judy Rockwell

To contact any of the members:

Diana Bird - 815-943-3690 - leave a message if no answer.

birddiana1@gmail.com

Judy Rockwell - jjrockwell@gmail.com

Marilyn Traver - msearchin@gmail.com

They will be delighted to hear from you!



## Remarkable Women

“Remarkable Women of Geneva Lake” is the name of the Mother’s Day boat cruise and tour of the Black Point Estate on Geneva Lake. As part of my new position at Black Point Estate and Gardens, I was privileged to narrate the cruise to and from the estate and accompany the guests on their tour of the “Big House” of Conrad and Catherina Seipp. I wrote about the Seipp family of Black Point in the last newsletter.

In preparation for the cruise, I learned that around Geneva Lake lived Remarkable Native American women; Pioneer women; the original Cheesehead; charitable women, social reformers, and philanthropists in their own right; environmentalists, educators, authors; suffragists & suffragettes (there is a difference); politicians, advocates, feminists, business women; travelers, athletes, musicians, horticulturalists; and computers!

Yes, computers – the women who performed difficult mathematical calculations before modern-day calculators and machines were invented. Harvard University Observatory was the first institution to hire women to process astronomical data. In 1905, Mary Ross Calvert started work at Yerkes Observatory, as assistant and computer for her uncle, astronomer Edward Emerson Barnard. Barnard was also professor of astronomy at the University of Chicago, and the discoverer of Barnard's star. In 1923, when he died, Mary Calvert became curator of the Yerkes photographic plate collection and a high-level assistant, until her retirement in 1946. If you haven’t seen the film *Hidden Figures*, it’s based on the true story of women working as human computers at NASA in the 1960s – remarkable!

Do you recognize the name Anna Jarvis? She knew a remarkable woman - her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis. Ann had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the Civil War. She created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. When she died in 1905, Anna wanted to honor her mother by continuing the work she started so she started a campaign to make Mother's Day a recognized holiday. Anna believed a mother is "the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world." In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day, held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday to honor mothers. Who are the remarkable women you know? Perhaps your mother? I think my mom was one of the remarkable women of Geneva Lake in her own way – not as an activist or a philanthropist, but as graceful lady who always supported and encouraged her family. To this day I can see her sitting at the kitchen table playing solitaire, waiting for me to get off the school bus and tell her about my day. Thanks, Mom!



# AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

North Walworth – John Farrel departed last week for the far West.-----Mrs. Clarence Randall is on the sick list as is also David Phelps.-----J. R. Siperly, assisted by his son Fred, is building a barn for Fred Haley.-----Miss Bertha Welsh is assisting Mrs. Ira Hoag for a week or so as seamstress.-----While working on Mr. Dardis' house, Mr. William Madden fell and broke his leg.-----Mr. and Mrs. S. H. VanSchaick are visiting their daughter, Mrs. F. C. Peck, in Baraboo.-----Clinton Lackey has returned from Minnesota as he found the climate of that state too cold for him. (The Delavan Republican, Thursday, January 12, 1899)

Allen Grove – Rev. Potter finds that unlike the wicked, of whom we read, he cannot stand in slippery places. After the light snow last week, he had two falls, cutting a gash in his hand to the bone. Dr. Campbell plastered it up and he is around again, though somewhat stiff-necked.-----Hanging lamps were on a strike last week. At Dr. Campbell's a large one fell on the show case, breaking the glass and ruining several dollars' worth of candy. At the parsonage one fell on the dining table. Fortunately no damage was done beyond breaking the bowl of lamp.-----Messrs. John and Jim Riley have been filling the ice house at the creamery.-----Mrs. Mary Woodard had a severe attack of the croup last week.-----Mrs. John Niskern has been quite ill of late. (The Delavan Republican, Thursday, January 12, 1899)

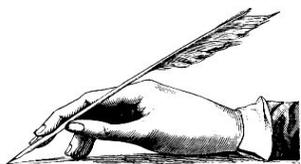
Fairfield – Miss Agnes Rice, of Fulton, has been the guest of her sister, Mrs. Eugene Serl.----- Mr. Wilson More is improving his residence by the addition of a new kitchen.-----Fairfield creamery

paid 98 cents for 4 percent and 93 cents for average test for October milk.-----Albert Munroe has decided to leave his farm and take up other lines of work; and on Thursday last disposed of his stock, etc., at public auction.-----A company of 60 friends of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Palmer walked in unannounced last Wednesday evening, in celebration of their 12th wedding anniversary. In behalf of the company Mr. J. McFarlane presented the host and hostess with a handsome lamp, after the guests adjourned to the Woodman Hall, where the camp served an oyster supper. The evening passed very pleasantly with music and social chat. (The Delavan Republican, end of November, 1900)



Elkhorn – Mrs. Emily Barrett, wife of Rev. Newton Barrett, D.D., died here on Tuesday morning, Nov. 5th.-----Abram Norton and Robert Porter left on Monday for San Francisco, Cal.-----Mrs. T. W. Harvey took her departure on Wednesday, for Monroe, Mich.-----The livery stable of W. H. Spencer has changed hands, the purchaser being Frank Brooks, a son-in-law of W. J. Stratton.-----Our people dispose of the fallen leaves of shade trees, by burning them in the street, creating an intolerable smudge, and running risks of fire if the wind should rise. When we reach the next grade of civilization they will be pressed into bricks by a miniature hay press and dried for kindlings. (Delavan Republican, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1889)

## NEW FEATURE! Member Stories to Share



We are excited to announce a new feature for our Newsletter! We know you all have unique family stories, and we would like to hear about a story you think others would find interesting. It doesn't have to be about someone famous or notorious, whatever you want to contribute is welcome. Please keep it short so I can get at least two to three on a page. I know you like to tell family stories, we all do, so let's share!

### **From Dolores Schutt- Iroquois Theater Fire 1903-Chicago IL**

A first cousin twice removed of Peggy's and mine, Rena Knopp, along with her fiancé, Joseph McClelland attended a theater performance on December 30, 1903, at the Iroquois Theatre. They had just become engaged and this was to be an engagement celebration. The theatre had opened in Nov. of 1903 and was considered the most modern in design and technology as well as 'absolutely safe'. It was a Christmas-New Year holiday weekend with mostly women and children in the packed overcrowded audience. A single spotlight started a small fire which erupted into an uncontrollable blaze that killed over 600 people including Rena and her fiancé. The couple were brought back to their hometown of Harvard, IL. A double funeral was held, and was attended by an immense crowd. They are buried side by side in the Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Harvard. A large tombstone tells of the tragic death. For more information on this tragedy the Harvard Diggins Library has a book titled "Tinderbox: the Iroquois Theatre Disaster of 1903" by Anthony Hatch.



### **From Chris Brookes- WCGS Co-President**

My Ancestry DNA matches list over 400 cousins, none of whose names are at all familiar to me. Discouraging to say the least. But, we're always reminded to keep on checking because new info is added all the time. So recently I checked again – and surprise! – there were three shared ancestor hints – 2 names I recognized on my Irish side! One, wouldn't you know it, had a private tree, so I asked nicely and after several emails back and forth, she added me as a guest to her 9,000 member tree. Sure enough, there were 26 Hartigans, including my great-great grandparents. The McCabes are still a mystery, but somewhere, sometime, they will be found and, if I keep checking, I'll find them!

Breaking news – a new Irish relative showed up tonight. She just joined Ancestry in 2017 and is possibly my 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin 1x removed!



## WCGS Meeting Recaps—April and May 2018

### April 3rd—“Writing Your Own Obituary”—Judy Rockwell & Judith Schulz

This was a very informative session about composing obituaries, and since we spend a lot of time reading others’ obituaries it was an interesting topic to explore. Judy and Judith had a lot of knowledge about internet links that are helpful, I have listed some below for your reference. There were 5 main tips for us-1. Just get started. 2. Get your facts straight 3. Write a longer version for internet. 4. Use it as an opportunity to expand into a memoir for your posterity. 5. Leave your composition along with a photo if wanted where it can be found readily when needed.

#### **Websites:**

<http://www.obituaryhelp.net/>

<http://howtowrite.weebly.com/how-to-write-an-obituary.html>

<http://www.creative-funeral-ideas.com/free-obituary-template.html>

<http://connect.legacy.com/inspire/how-to-write-an-obituary-or>

<http://www.cremationsolutions.com/How-To-Write-An-Obituary-c165.html>

<http://www.obituaryguide.com/writeyourown.php>

<http://www.obituary-searches.com/>

#### **Books**

Rubin, Gail. *A Good Goodbye: Funeral planning for those who don’t plan to die*. Albuquerque, New Mexico: Light Tree Press, 2010.

Cullen, Melanie. *Get It Together: organize your records so your family won’t have to* 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Berkeley, California: Nolo, 2008.

### May 1st Getting Your House To Talk - Michael Re- hberg

Michael presented information on searching through many types of land records and maps for information on our relatives and how they lived their lives.

Michael encouraged the use of several types of maps to begin a phase of research that would tell you how the land was obtained, a “Genealogy” of land so to speak. By researching the land you might be able to determine who owned the land, who actually lived there, and when they lived there.

He gave an explanation of the Legal Land Description that we could understand., I appreciated that lesson. Most of us have come across atlases that could pinpoint properties our ancestors lived on, and knowing how the original surveys were done has added to our knowledge, thank you Michael. The Wisconsin Historical Society([www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org)) has a collection of maps online, including Sanborn maps, maps of Indian lands etc., if you are a lover of maps, you will find a lot of information there to keep you busy. The UW system also has maps in their digital collections.

31	32	33	34	35	36
30	School 29 LANDS	28	27	H.B.C.G.S 26 LANDS	25
19	20	21	22	23	24
18	17	16	15	14	13
7	H.B.C.G.S 9 LANDS	8	10	School 11 LANDS	12
6	5	4	3	2	1



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# THIS N' THAT



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Some interesting articles from the LA Times on DNA and the role it played in the recent capture of the Golden State Killer, sent to us by Karen Memory. I leave it to each of you to decide for yourselves how you feel about the identity security part.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-golden-state-dna-match-20180427-story.html>

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-dna-golden-state-killer-20180426-story.html>

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-golden-state-killer-genealogy-20180427-story.html>

## ***Book Suggestions referenced by Karen Memory:***

America's Women in the Revolutionary War Era, 1760 - 1790

By Grundset, Eric G.

2011-08 - National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Tracing Your Female Ancestors

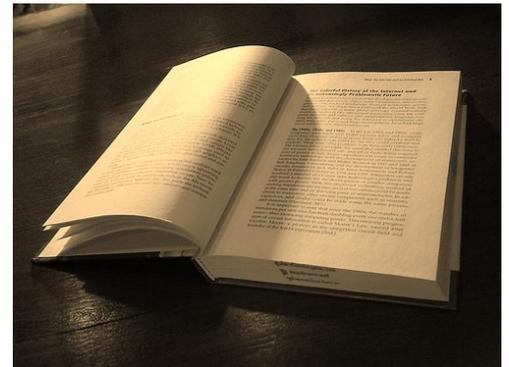
By Philibert-Ortega, Gena

2013-01 - Moorshead Magazines Ltd.

A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Female Ancestors

By DeBartolo Carmack, Sharon

1998-01 - Betterway Books



## ***In honor of the 2018 Mothers Day***



### **Things our Mothers Taught Us.**

1. APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE. "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside, I just finished cleaning".
2. RELIGION. "You better pray that comes out of the carpet."
3. TIME TRAVEL "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into next week!"
4. LOGIC "Because I said so that's why"
5. MORE LOGIC "if you fall and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me"
6. FORESIGHT "Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you're in an accident"
7. MEDICAL SCIENCE "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they will stay that way"
8. JUSTICE "One day you'll have kids and I hope they turn out just like you!"



## WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

CO-PRESIDENTS	Martha Hay Chris Brookes	455 Fellows Road 721 S. Curtis St. #139	Genoa City, WI Lake Geneva, WI	wcgspres@gmail.com cbrookes@wi.rr.com
VICE-PRESIDENT	Karen Weston	9601 N. Kyle Dr..	Whitewater, WI	wcgsvpres@gmail.com
SECRETARY	Marilyn Traver	473 E. Geneva St Lot 10	Elkhorn, WI	msearchin@gmail.com
TREASURER	Michael Hay	455 Fellows Road	Genoa City, WI	wcgstreasurerwi@gmail.com
DIRECTOR(S)	Diana Bird Karen Helwig Judy Rockwell Dolores Schutt		Harvard, IL Whitewater, WI Elkhorn, WI Clinton, WI	
OTHERS: Newsletter Editor: Peggy Schutt <a href="mailto:wcsnewsletter@gmail.com">wcsnewsletter@gmail.com</a>				
Library Committee: Diana Bird, Judy Rockwell, and Marilyn Traver				
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, phone 262-723-9150  
other times by appt - call 262-279-6541

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 Marilyn Traver, [msearchin@gmail.com](mailto:msearchin@gmail.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**