



Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



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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 or call 262-723-9150.

REMINDER– If you have any knowledge of the names of cemetery sextons in our area, please let us know, we are trying to gather a listing for reference, thank you. Send to wcgsssec@gmail.com.

Summer 2019 Meetings



July 2nd - 6:30pm Delavan Community Centre – 'An Evening with FDR'

Ed O'Brien of Harvard IL will be presenting a historical impression of FDR and his life, please come and join us!

Aug 6th-6:30pm-Delavan Community Centre

This meeting will be our night for our annual Ice Cream Social, including a few Cemetery Tour Costumed Re-enactors

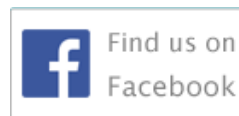
Sept 3rd—5:30pm-Annual Society Member

Dinner– To be held at Foley's in Lake Geneva, more info to follow.

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www.facebook.com/wcwgcs



*Welcome to our newest members:
Correction from last newsletter-new member Cathy Banks is from WY , not IA as previously stated, our apologies . We welcome you all and hope your information searches ahead are successful, thank you for joining our WCGS family.*

From the President's Desk



Karen Weston—2019 President WCGS

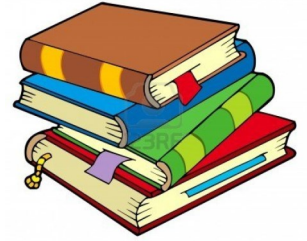
June 2019

The Board has identified what we hope are some interesting topics for the rest of the year. In July, we will have a FDR interpreter courtesy of Diana's Bird's contacts. August will see our usual Ice Cream Social and we are inviting those Society members who participated in last year's Hillside Cemetery tour to reprise their persona for the group. We have not finalized all the details for the annual dinner in September, but are working to bring in a speaker from a local museum who will talk about their Civil War collection. Family History month is October and we're planning a video on the Norwegian immigrant experience. Martha Hay will speak about using GEDMatch in November. December will be elections, the Christmas potluck and take-away Bingo.

I wrote last time about keeping up with the literature; one way is through blogs. Two blogs that I follow are *Vita Brevis* and the *Weekly Genealogist*. Both are available through AmericanAncestors.org, but do not require a membership to NEHGS to access. *Vita Brevis* is a series of short essays on a wide variety of genealogical topics by both NEHGS staff and interested genealogist. Articles have included a series on evaluating documentary sources, news about changes and new resources at NEHGS, and reports on personal genealogical research projects. Readers can comment on the articles and may make connections to other researchers on a related line. I commented on an essay about pirate ancestors and got several responses from other researchers on that Connecticut family. The *Weekly Genealogist* is more like a news magazine. It announces new NEHGS databases and upcoming events (such as webinars), focuses a brief spotlight on a locality resource (i.e. a cemetery or historical society), provides links to articles of genealogical interest, and takes a weekly survey. This week's survey asks about interviewing relatives; some previous ones have asked about inherited physical characteristics and occupations of ancestors. The list of links might cover implications of DNA testing, a Canadian shipwreck from the Irish famine, the Great Boston molasses flood, and many other topics that may be of genealogical interest. Both blogs have archives and can be subscribed to through AmericanAncestors.org.

Karen Weston

WCGS Library Page



WHO KNEW?

WCGS library includes research info from many areas, including surrounding counties. McHenry Co. Illinois borders Walworth Co. to the South.

Recently, while surfing thru info from this Illinois Co., I came across 4 volumes of Marriage records with dates of 1837-1899. These books are INDEXED and contain 18 lines of info on couples including: their names, their parents names (including MAIDEN name of Mother), their residences, their age at NEXT birthday, their place of birth, grooms occupation, what number of marriage it is for both, listing minister or Justice of Peace, place of marriage and names of witnesses. This is a wealth of genealogical data.

Other info in the library includes 1872 Atlas/Platbook, Records of McHenry County that includes 1892 History Directory Index and list of Old Settlers. All cemeteries in McHenry Co were copied in the 1980's and are in 4 volumes, fully indexed, and divides the county thus: Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast.

Another great resource for research is the early newspapers from Harvard, Illinois. I have mentioned this in the past, but worth doing again. The actual papers are online, free, no registration or library card needed and these are digitized so fully searchable with a name, event, date etc. Simply go to the Diggins library, left side column, go to newspapers. One can even print off this site and turn the pages of the papers! It takes a few short seconds and then the term entered will highlight on the page also.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Bird

Library Committee:

Diana Bird

birddiana1@gmail.com

Judy Rockwell - jjrockwell@gmail.com

Marilyn Traver - msearchin@gmail.com

***** Please note, the Library Committee is requesting that any projects that people are working on be communicated to them so they are better able to assist and/or keep track of current projects, thank you!*****



His & Hers, Here & There *By-Chris Brookes*

His & Hers, Here & There

This month's column is coming to you from Chicago where I am attending a week-long summer school session of the Victorian Society of America. Between all the Chicago-Lake Geneva connections, I'm discovering personal history as well.

On Monday, we had a lecture about Chicago history and then walked around the Loop. Among other things, I learned terra cotta is not always the reddish-brown color I recognized. Many of the terra cotta buildings were white – a glazed coating on each brick – perhaps bricks my Grandpa Jacobson made when he worked for the Northwestern Terra Company! And, of course, I remembered Mary Leiter's famous malaprop when she returned from an ocean voyage and exclaimed, "I'm so happy to be back on terra cotta!"

That's not all – a guided tour of the Impressionist exhibit at the Art Institute included collections of Martin Ryerson (Bonnie Brae) and Frederick C. Bartlett (House in the Woods) who summered on Geneva Lake. Also collections belonging to Henry Field (brother of Marshall) and Bertha Palmer (of hotel fame).

And there's more ... an end of day reception at the Cliffdwellers Club overlooking the Buckingham Fountain and Lake Michigan.

Today, after a busy morning visiting three homes – one designed by Howard Van Doren Shaw (more LG connections) – I nodded off briefly, only to awaken as we were passing by Lake View High School which my dad attended. So there I was in Dad's boyhood neighborhood reflecting on how much the Howard Van Doren Shaw house (Ragdale) resembled my childhood home in Lake Geneva – an arts & crafts house with warm exposed wood features, bright wallpaper and curtains, and screened in porches upstairs and down.

Meanwhile, back to HVD Shaw. He designed six homes on Geneva Lake for Chicagoans. You'll have to take the boat tour to really appreciate Aloha Lodge, House in the Woods, Villa Hortensia, Alta Vista, and Allegheny. The sixth house, Rehoboth, home of Hubbard and Rosalie Sturges Carpenter, was demolished in 1954. Or you can

read about these homes and the man who designed them the article "Architect of Timeless Grace" in the February 2018 issue of *At the Lake* magazine.

Today ended with a walking tour, in the rain, of a portion of Graceland Cemetery, a place I have wanted to visit for 10 years or more. Members of many of the Sturges families were originally buried in Graceland, alongside the who's who of Chicago, only to be disinterred and reburied in Oak Hill Cemetery in Lake Geneva. Potter and Bertha Palmer's classical monument could be seen through the mist eerily rising on the bluff overlooking Lake Willowmere. Daniel Burnham, of the 1909 Plan of Chicago (and Dr. Will MacDonald's house on Main Street, LG) is buried among the trees on its own island. Ernie Banks granite headstone is marked with a baseball and glove. And other monuments proclaimed familiar names: Ryerson (Bonnie Brae), Wacker (Fairlawn), Hutchinson (Wychwood), Marshall Field, Pinkerton, William LeBaron Jenney (Landmark Building), and yes, Howard Van Doren Shaw!

The plan for the rest of the week includes a visit to the site of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, lots of Frank Lloyd Wright, the Driehaus Museum, Prairie Avenue walking tour, and the Chicago River boat tour. Lots more to come, and many more connections and stories to share with you, I'm sure.



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AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

Heart Prairie - Mr. Wm. Robinson has been adding to his comforts by investing in one of those popular Delavan windmills. It would be hard to beat Heart Prairie in its improved farms. -----Mrs. Haddon and child, spent Sunday with her sister, Mrs. Mary Cooke. (The Delavan Republican, July 8, 1887)

Lake Geneva - O. L. Blakeslee has quit the hotel business and the Lake House is now now a public house. It had been used as such for about forty years.-----Mr. Ingalls, of Linn, attended the funeral of his brother-in-law, Mr. Snell, late of Chicago, who was murdered there last week. Mr. Snell is an uncle of lawyer Ingalls, of Elkhorn.-----The Dramatic Club played "The Spy of Atlanta" at the Opera House Tuesday evening.-----
-Mr. J. M. Carey, of Genoa Junction, called on friends here last Friday. (Delavan Republican, Wednesday, Feb. 15, 1888)

Walworth - Clarence Bilyea and Miss Carrie Smith were married on the 8th inst., at the bride's home in the town of Linn. The Rev. Satterfield, pastor of the M.E. church, of Big Foot, Ill., officiating.-----Mrs. Lewis Bennett, an old resident of this town, was brought here and buried in the cemetery located at the State line. She had been living at Mason City, Iowa, for several years with her children, having died at the home of Mr. John McGraw, who is her son-in-law. (Delavan Republican, Feb. 15, 1888)

Darien - E. E. Park is again on the sick list. Mr. Park is subject to severe attacks of rheumatism in his chest and arms, which are so severe at times as to render him insensible.-----Joseph Taylor and I. L. Saxton have traded places.-----F. Niskern, Jas. Turner and G. S. Bedell departed for Elkhorn on Monday, to serve as jurors during the Spring term of the Circuit Court.-----On last Sunday morning, Mr. and Mrs. Dann living two miles southeast of the village had the great misfortune to have their youngest child, a boy four months old, smothered to death; funeral services were held at the Baptist church Monday at 1:30 P.M. Rev. Melat, of Allens Grove officiating.-----Mrs. Olympia Brown Willis, of Racine, spoke at the Town hall Monday evening, subject, "the worth of a Vote," for some reason but few were out to hear the lecture. We understand that the ladies have organized a woman suffrage Club, and will hold their first meeting at the residence of Mrs. Vanderhoof, all the ladies in town are invited to attend this meeting, held at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon. (The Delavan Enterprise, Wed., February 15, 1888)



Being a Student at a Country School—By Diana Bird—part 2

We did have field trips, each Fall and Spring everyone would walk across the field behind the school to the woods. We would bring back leaves, flowers, bark, fungus, rocks etc. We were told by the older boys that a hermit lived in the woods up in an old treehouse. I never saw him, but thinking now it was probably an old deer stand. We had a sledding party at a toboggan hill not far away and we also had a Spring trip every year to Chicago, Milwaukee, or Madison to visit a museum, or to the Capitol, factories, etc. A bake sale was held to raise money for the bus rental and everyone's Mom brought something and then in turn bought something. We also played baseball against another country school each Spring and sold concessions, popcorn, candy bars, fudge, and pop to raise money for the school trip.

At Christmas all the students performed and put on a program for parents and local people. The room was divided by a large curtain, dividing the room from the "audience". Everyone had multiple speaking or singing parts. There were songs and play parts to learn, props to make, and simple costumes to figure out. We were treated at the end by the "big guy". Everyone received a bag with candy, peanuts, and an apple. We celebrated other Holidays as well, including Halloween, Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day and May Day. At the end of every school year we had a cleanup day, picking up paper, sticks, and raking the yard. A pile of wood was there, we added to it and had a cookout when the job was done, our families came to school for the noon dinner too, bringing hot dogs and dishes to share.

Discipline was handled by the teachers, many times it was writing on the blackboard or writing at home what you won't do again over and over, maybe 100 or 500 times. I will not talk, I will not chew gum, I will not fight, I will not shoot spitwads, etc. It could be seen on the blackboards front and side of the room on any given day. Another punishment was to have a small circle drawn on the blackboard and one had to stand facing it and keep your noise in the circle.

Our family moved to another dairy farm, this time in Illinois on March 1st of my 5th grade. Again the school was down our gravel road, a longer distance than before, about a mile and a half. This School was 2 rooms and the kids were from the local farms, maybe 10 to 12 families.

The 2 teachers were older ladies and had been teaching her for many many years. When we went to register at the new school, we got a list of the textbooks and workbooks needed, and had to buy all of the them. My brother was a grade behind me so for textbooks he could use them the next year with a new workbook. The book list came in the mail in August and my mom promptly got us in the car and headed for the bookstore in hopes of getting the needed books used.

We rode bikes for our commute, and in bad weather had a carpool with 3 other families, 8 or 9 kids piled into a car. Our car must have been a real mess by spring.

The building was a typical rectangle with an addition for the 2nd room. The addition had an upper grade room, furnace room and bathrooms. The bathroom doors were in the classroom, a disruption when bathrooms were needed. The school was on a corner with only a small garage, no parking lot or driveway, parents just stopped along the road. There were no school pictures taken, no field trips or milk delivery. (continued on page 8)

At this school, they played different games at recess. One I liked the best was called Ani-i-over and we played baseball and kickball in the sheep pasture across the road. We had 3 recesses a day and after the noon recess, most days our upper grade room teacher would read a few chapters out of a library book from the public library. Some days we could talk her into extra read time. In the winter, the game of Caroms was played. We had 2 boards and held tournaments among the few students.

The kids had duties to be done before dismissal. In the upper grades we did major sweeping, cleaned the erasers and the blackboard, burned the trash when weather permitted (only boys could do this job), cleaned both bathrooms, (my job in 7th grade for the year, only girls could do this and at the end of the year the teacher gave me a dollar), and shoveled snow so the teachers could get their cars out.

At the end of my 7th grade the county closed all the rural schools. There were only 18 kids in our school the last year and no one in 8th. In the upper grade room we only had 8 kids.

So ended my education in small rural schools and the beginning of school in a small town. There were almost 30 kids in my grade, bus rides to and from school, hot lunch in a cafeteria, only 1 recess a day, school pictures, homework assignments, and text book that were given out at school.

I think I was lucky to have had the experience of a rural school education, although my daughter says it all sounds like a Laura Ingalls Wilder story, and looking back maybe that was the greatest part of it all.

Diana Bird



Editors Note: I hope you have enjoyed Diana's article as much as I have. It brought back a lot of memories from my own rural school education at Parker School, located on what is now Hwy 67 just east of Prairie View road, on the north side of the road. It closed in 1959 or 1960 when they consolidated to Walworth Grade School. The building was transformed to a residence and is still standing, but I cannot drive by and think of it as anything other than my old school. My father had also attended that school, walking across fields from the farm on Prairie View. I do remember snow forts, grass forts, baseball games, outside toilets, an inside water hand pump in the kitchen off the main room, separate cloak rooms, ringing the handbell, and the crazy play equipment that now would be considered too dangerous to play on. Wonderful memories for you too hopefully!

Meeting Recaps for May and June 2019

May 7th—The Digital Estate-Judy Rockwell

The May 7th meeting was presented by Judy Rockwell and gave us information regarding our Digital Legacy and our Digital Estate. Judy stressed to us that when we have a presence on social media we need to back up our data and assign legacy contacts when needed. Facebook has a method to assign a contact but we should check out all of our social media pages including Google, Microsoft, Yahoo, Twitter, Instagram, I cloud, and any Password Manger account you may have and make sure we do updates when needed. Flash drives for storage and also an external drive on your computer for file storage is a good idea. She mentioned Google Photos as a source to send phone photos direct to the “cloud”. Gedmatch.com handles a lot of uploads from family tree contributors and is a public forum that is also used in police work. The message was to make sure you are aware of the digital presence you do have and to make sure you assign legacies and do backups to make sure your information is passed on. Here are some websites with information to assist you in preserving your digital estate.

www.everplans.com/digital-estate

www.ionos.com

www.thedigitalbeyond.com

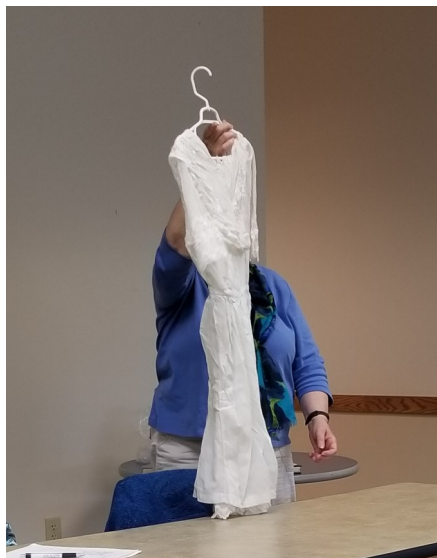
www.apple.com

June 4th Meeting—Rituals of Romance-

Karen Weston gave a presentation of the reasons behind our known wedding traditions, followed by a show and tell of wedding mementos and finery from their own families.

Here are some pictures of the wedding mementos brought by members..

Karen Weston - Wedding Dress-early 20th Century



Al Grueling's Shadowbox



Nancy-Framed Marriage Certificate

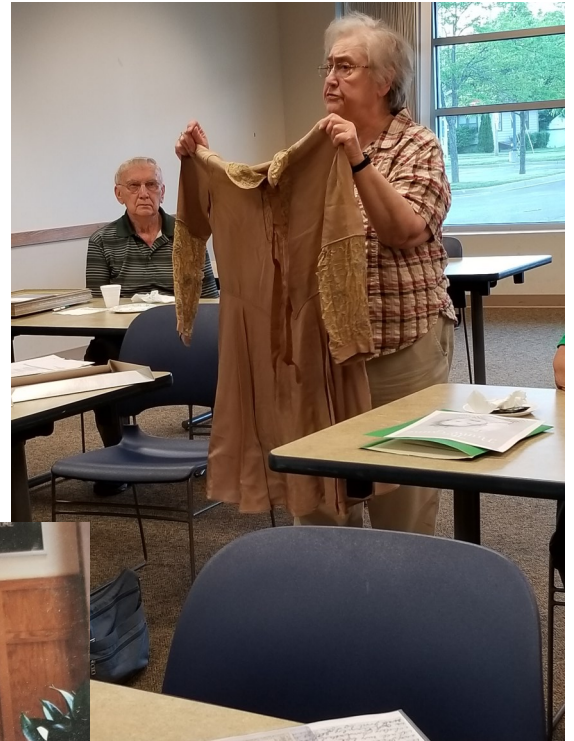


2 Pictures from Judith's photo album of displays of wedding finery at her church, beautiful dress!



Frances "Aunt Frank" Hartigan Patrick
Great Grand Aunt of Chris Jacobson
Brookes

Karen— lovely wedding finery, well preserved



I tried hard to match the pictures to the right reference, please let me know if I need corrections! I have one more picture of a couple that I cannot identify. I will ask at the next meeting and include it in the newsletter.



Frances' wedding dress displayed in Ironwood MI museum -Married John Bartow Patrick 25 April 1906

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	
BLOOMFIELD - Hillside Cemetery- Genoa City	\$23.00	
DARIEN - Darien Cemetery	\$22.00	
DELAVAN - 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	
EAST TROY - Oak Ridge Cemetery	\$18.00	
St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery	\$25.00	
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 (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$12.00	
LAGRANGE -LaGrange Pioneers (reprint of 3600 names, full index)	\$27.00	
LaGrange Township Cemeteries	\$10.00	
LYONS - Hudson/Lyons (Old Quaker) / Wija Farm Cemeteries (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$12.00	\$12.00
St. Joseph & St. Killian Catholic Cemeteries (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$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 tombstone pics included)	\$12.00	
SUGAR CREEK - 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	
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)	\$20.00	
WHITEWATER - St. Patrick's Calvary	\$15.00	
Hillside Cemetery	\$25.00	
Unknown Burials	\$18.00	
Index to the Annals of Whitewater	\$12.00	

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Shipping and handling as follows: \$6.50 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

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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

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                         |                                                                 |                           |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| PRESIDENT      | Karen Weston                                                                                                                                                                                        | 9601 N. Kyle Dr.        | Whitewater, WI                                                  | wcgspres@gmail.com        |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | Judy Rockwell                                                                                                                                                                                       | N6619 Grove Rd          | Elkhorn, WI                                                     | wcgsvpres@gmail.com       |
| SECRETARY      | Marilyn Traver                                                                                                                                                                                      | 473 E. Geneva St Lot 10 | Elkhorn, WI                                                     | msearchin@gmail.com       |
| TREASURER      | Martha Hay                                                                                                                                                                                          | 455 Fellows Road        | Genoa City, WI                                                  | wcgstreasurerwi@gmail.com |
| DIRECTOR(S)    | Diana Bird<br>Karen Helwig<br>Linda West<br>Dolores Schutt                                                                                                                                          |                         | Harvard, IL<br>Whitewater, WI<br>Lake Geneva, WI<br>Clinton, WI |                           |
| OTHERS:        | Newsletter Editor: Peggy Schutt <a href="mailto:wcsnewsletter@gmail.com">wcsnewsletter@gmail.com</a><br>Library Committee: Diana Bird, Judy Rockwell, and Marilyn Traver<br>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