



Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume 27 Issue 1

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Jan-Feb 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 or call 414-378-9879.

Winter 2018 Meetings

February 6th- 11:00AM-Show & Share Meeting at Geneva Lake Museum, 255 Mill St, Lake Geneva WI 53147. Bring a bag lunch, take a tour, optional Tues@2 program. See page 3 for more info on this meeting, please join us!



March 6- 1:30pm- Matheson Memorial Library, Elkhorn WI. The WCGS Library staff volunteers will show us the re-organizing work they have done to make the library easier for us to use.

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www.facebook.com/wcwgcs



2018 Membership fees are due in January, you can pay thru mail to WCGS PO Box 159 Delavan WI 53115-0159 or bring to meeting. Due amounts are listed on last page, thank you!



From the President's Desk



Chris Brookes & Martha Hay- WCGS Co-Presidents

Chris's Message:

Program planning was the main topic at the December Board Meeting. Your Officers and Directors came up with several ideas for 2018, but we also want to hear from you. It is your Society. What topic(s) interest you? If you've ever said or thought about not coming to a meeting because the program didn't appeal to you, this is the time to let us know what you would like.

Here are some of our ideas: showing off the new arrangement of our WCGS library; records funeral directors need; DNA; Genealogy Jeopardy; document preservation; Whitewater Cemetery Walk; Annual dinner at 841 Brewhouse or Foley's. The Wisconsin Historical Society and Black Point Estate both have speaker's bureaus. Discussion of specific ethnicities included: French-Canadian, Scottish, Cornish, Welsh, Scandinavian, 1600s New York.

Now it's your turn. Send your suggestions to me or Martha, come to the February 6 meeting at the Geneva Lake Museum to share your ideas, or attend the next Board Meeting at 1:30 on March 8.

Speaking of the Show & Share meeting on Tuesday, February 6 - remember the special time and place: **11:00 a.m. at the Geneva Lake Museum**, 255 Mill Street, Lake Geneva. Bring a bag lunch, beverage, and something to show or share. We'll have our own meeting and sharing time, eat lunch, and then have a docent-led tour of all the museum has to show and share with us. Our tour will conclude about 1:30, in time for anyone who is interested to attend the Tuesday @ 2:00 program on the History of Mardi Gras (Free for GLM members / \$5.00 for non-members).

Looking forward to hearing from you - and making 2018 a great year for WCGS!



Show & Share Field Trip

Tuesday, February 6, 2018
11:00 a.m.

Meet at the Geneva Lake Museum
(carpooling recommended)



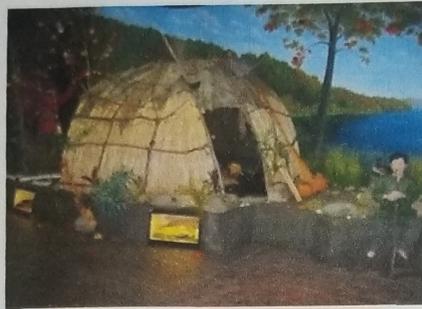
Bring
Bag lunch, beverage, and
something to show & share

Agenda

11- 11:45 WCGS meeting,
show & share
11:45-12:30 Lunch
12:30-1:30 Docent-led tour
of what the museum has to
show & share

OPTIONAL

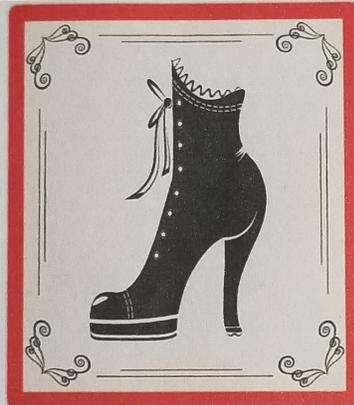
Tuesday @ 2:00 program
The History of Mardi Gras
FREE for museum members
\$5.00 for non-members



Geneva Lake Museum
255 Mill Street
Lake Geneva

Free parking
behind the museum

Enter under the Mill Street
Room awning



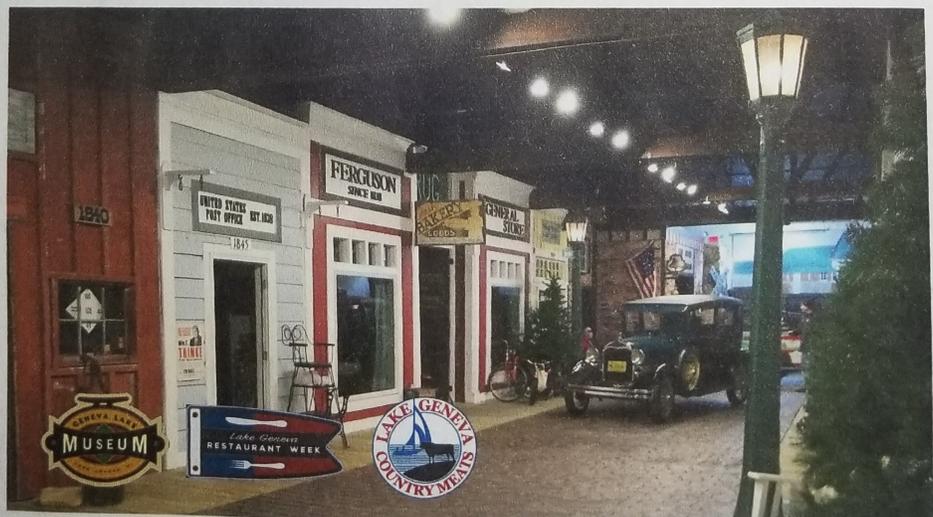
Shoe La La

**New Exhibit
Open**

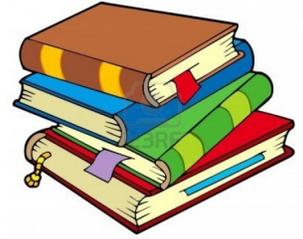
**Northwestern
Military and Naval
Academy**



For more information call
262-248-6060



WCGS Library Page



LIBRARY REPORT

This report will give a look back at the 2017 activity in the WCGS library.

There were 185 people that physically signed in, and probably more were there that didn't. This does not include contacts via the phone, website, email, or mail.

Over the years, we have kept record of Surnames researched and you can find those in the front of the white three-ring binder for registrations. Most of the surnames also identify who was the researcher and gives their contact info.

Surnames researched in 2017 alphabetically are: Alexander, Austin, Berger, Busch, Claffey, Cole, Crumb, Driscoll, Eichmann, Fick, Fuller, Gorski, Greene, Gutke, Haase, Hewson, Hormann, Johnson, Kirkham, Klages, Krueger, Kruger, Latrivieune, Markusson, Meyer, Murray, Nass, Naughton, Nelson, Norton, Pfeifer, Pleuss, Porsche, Quinn, Radke, Rahn, Rappold, Rossmiller, Rumpf, Schultz, Shumacker, Stewart, Swoboda, Tucker, Welch, Whaler

The majority of the researchers were from Wisconsin and Illinois, but also from North Carolina and Washington state.

The Mary Bray room where WCGS library is located has added the Matheson Library microfiche reader and their microfiche making a nice and convenient research addition. Also WCGS sold the large table and chairs, and Matheson replaced all the tables and chairs that had been there, making the room set-up easier to change, also added was a direct phone line to the room with messaging capabilities.

The library committee finished the book inventory, shelved new donations, and rearranged the stacks making them more user friendly.

WCGS purchased a hand-held scanner and anyone may use the device after purchasing the cd card for \$9, and it can be used in your personal computer and brought back to load more.

Your library committee is always seeking member input for book purchases, ideas, or anything needed to improve the library. Take some time and come in to see the changes, and volunteers are always appreciated.

Respectfully submitted, Diana Bird

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!



His - Story

So what does a grandma do when her 5 year old grandson calls and asks, "Who is my great-great grandpa?" RESEARCH!

OK – his dad (check), his grandma (me - check), my dad (great-grandpa - check), his dad (great-great grandpa – Albert John Jacobson), and a bonus for great, great, great grandpa (Christian Jacobson born in Norway). Then you make him a family tree and order a DNA spit-kit.

Albert John Jacobson was born in Chicago February 8, 1875. For over 40 years he was associated with Northwestern Terra Cotta Company of Chicago and was their building superintendent for out of town construction. This company provided terra cotta decoration for many buildings in Pittsburgh, so perhaps that was where he was working when he met Ruth Hanes. I do know they married in Pittsburgh Dec. 28, 1904.



Before 1909, the couple was back in Chicago where Albert's two sisters and their husbands lived. My dad, James Howard Jacobson, their only child, was born there in 1909. Northwestern Terra Cotta supplied extensive decorative moldings on many landmark Chicago buildings including the Civic Opera House, the Chicago Theater, the Wrigley Building, and the Randolph Tower.

In 1925 Albert was asked to superintend the terra cotta construction on the American Insurance Building in Columbus, Ohio, so the family moved to that location. When the terra cotta business declined and the family lost money in banking investments during

the Depression, Albert and Ruth were supported by their son's endeavors in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Albert died Feb. 14, 1957, at age 82 in Walworth, Wisconsin.

The third great-grandpa bonus for the name of Albert's father, Christian Jacobson, reveals he was also in the construction trades. Born in Norway about 1851, he arrived in Chicago in 1873. He was a fine fresco painter. According to the McCook Tribune, McCook, Nebraska, "A boy in charge of the passenger elevator in the Grand Pacific hotel, Chicago, lost control of the machine Tuesday morning as it was making an upward passage, and advised two passengers on board at the time to jump off at the next landing. In attempting to do so, Christian Jacobson, a painter employed in the hotel, was killed. The tragedy was quite needless as the automatic appliance caused the elevator to stop naturally on reaching the upper story."

Now we're waiting to find out how much Scandinavian DNA the Ancestry test will reveal for the great, great grandson of Albert John Jacobson.

**Grandmothers are
a little bit par-
ent, little bit
teacher, and al-
ways a
best
friend...**





AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

By Shirley Sisk

North Walworth – Miss Josie Bunnell, of Chicago, is home for a few days visiting her parents.-----Mr. S. U. Phelps left Monday for Grand Rapids, Michigan. We are sorry to lose S. U. as he is one of our best young men, but console ourselves with the thought that he will return with the birds in the spring.-----Mr. E. W. Bunnell and Miss Jennie Ferow, were united in marriage Wednesday evening, Nov. 6, the Rev. Dr. Collie performing the ceremony. The scene of the ceremony was the residence of the bride's father, C. E. Ferow, where about seventy-five invited relatives and friends had assembled to witness the formula of this happy event. Mr. S. U. Phelps, who acted in the capacity of best man, and Miss May Griswold, the bridesmaid, were the first to take their place beneath the lovely arch which had been prepared. (etc.) (From the Delavan Republican, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1889)

Lyons – The oyster supper last Tuesday evening was a pleasant feature of the week's programme. Mrs. G. V. Weeks and Mr. and Mrs. O. Gillett furnished some excellent music which was much enjoyed by all. The society cleared \$13.35.-----Mrs. Gill has moved to Geneva, where she will spend the winter.-----Mr. Chas. Winsor has been spending a few days at home, but returned again to St. Paul on Monday-----Mrs. Phoebe Healey is entertaining her sister, Mrs. Robinson, from Genesee Co., N.Y., and also a niece from the same place. (Delavan Republican, Wed., Nov. 13, 1889)

Millard – Last Wednesday evening occurred the marriage of Harry Loomer, of this place, and Miss Nellie Rockwell, of Cold Spring. Both these young people are well and favorably known. Congratulations are extended.-----Mrs. Nellie Gray, a respected resident of this place, died at her home last Thursday after a long illness.-----Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Hanson are nicely settled on the farm again.-----Carl Herbst delivered hogs at Palmyra Monday, at \$4.60 per cwt.-----Mrs. Pollock and baby, of Whitewater, have been visiting Mrs. Harry Weaver. (The Delavan Republican, end of November, 1900)

Darien – John Fogel is quite ill with lagrippe. Hugh D. Long was quite ill with lagrippe last week. Mrs. John LaBundy was quite ill last week.-----Mrs. Augusta Heyer returned from Milwaukee last Tuesday evening.-----Mrs. Anna Matteson will occupy the Patsy Cannon residence this winter.-----On account of the cold weather Ed Wells will not finish his residence until spring.-----Work on M. Flaherty's residence is progressing rapidly. The carpenters will finish this week.--Will Leason will move his family onto the farm owned by his father-in-law, Mr. Bulger, of Walworth.-----Swan Henderson was called here from Chicago Monday evening by the death of his brother-in-law, Mr. Chas. Fehrm.-----Messrs. David Dykeman, E. H. Clough and E. Bunnell left for Washington state on Tuesday evening to spend the winter.--Chas. Eckert, a former resident of this village, now of Sioux Falls, is renewing old acquaintances here this week. (The Delavan Republican, end of Nov., 1900)



The 2017 WCGS Christmas Potluck dinner was held on 12-5-2017 at the Delavan Community Centre in Delavan WI. The WCGS society purchased the meat entrée selections, and the members were asked to bring a dish to pass. We all enjoyed the many selections brought by the talented cooks and bakers and all of the yummy buffet options were enjoyed equally well by those of us who may be less talented at cooking and baking but very appreciative of good home cooked food. Thank you to the

WCGS staff that purchased the meat and organized the food prep, it was a very delicious meal made even better surrounded by good company. Then the real fun started with the Take A Way Bingo! We always expect a little excitement and craziness, and grateful there were no serious injuries from gifts being tossed around and/or unwrapped. We all look forward to this every year, lots of smiles at all of the tables, and of course the snacking during Bingo was part of the fun too!



Below is the 2018 Calendar of Events, please mark info on your calendar. Everything is subject to change, but this is the current schedule, thank you!

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| FEBRUARY 6 – 11:00am | – Show & Share @ Geneva Lake Museum |
| MARCH 6- 1:30pm | Show off new library – Judy |
| APRIL 3- 6:30pm | Diana-check on record keeping/funerals |
| MAY 1- 6:30pm | -Bring a Friend—DNA-Chad, Mike & Martha |
| JUNE 5- 6:30pm | (open for suggestions) |
| JULY 3 | CANCELED DUE TO HOLIDAY – NO MEETING |
| AUGUST 7- 6:30 pm | Ice cream social-Genealogy Jeopardy by Karen Weston |
| SEPTEMBER 4- 5:30 | Annual Dinner (location to be decided) Brew House or Foley’s |
| SEPTEMBER-LATE | Cemetery walk with UW of Whitewater |
| OCTOBER 2- 6:30pm | TBD |
| NOVEMBER 6- 6:30pm | TBD |
| DECEMBER 4- 5:30 | Elections and Christmas Party |
| DECEMBER 6- 1:30pm | BOARD MEETING – with new Board |



Online Research:

Ancestralfindings.com is worth your time if you are looking for help with research tips. Below are 3 references to articles on their website that might interest you.

- 1. Middle name research– this is helpful information when you are trying to find a maiden name within the family that has eluded you. This was recently posted on our Facebook page, and has the most shares so far.**
- 2. Immigration records– gives a basic explanation of the information on records you might find, also gives link to the pre-Ellis Island immigration point of Castle Garden from 1820–1892. 1892 is the year Ellis Island opened.**
- 3. Orphan Trains in America-this is an informative article, also has links to PBS videos about the orphan trains.**

Here are some reading suggestions from Karen Memory:

The Stranger in My Genes: A Memoir

By Griffeth, Bill

2016-09 - New England Historic Genealogical Society(NEH

9780880823449 Check Our Catalog

Bill Griffeth, longtime genealogy buff, takes a DNA test that has an unexpected outcome: "If the results were correct, it meant that the family tree I had spent years documenting was not my own." Bill undertakes a quest to solve the mystery of his origins, which shakes his sense of identity.

Song of the Plains: A Memoir of Family, Secrets, and Silence

By Myers, Linda Joy, PhD

Publisher Comments

Ever since she was a child, Linda Joy Myers felt the power of the past. As the third daughter in her family to be abandoned or estranged by a mother, she observed the consequences of that heritage on the women she loved as well as herself. But thanks to the stories told to her by her great-grandmother, Myers received a gift that proved crucial in her life: the idea that everyone is a walking storybook, and that we all have within us the key to a deeper understanding of life--the secret stories that make themselves known even without words.

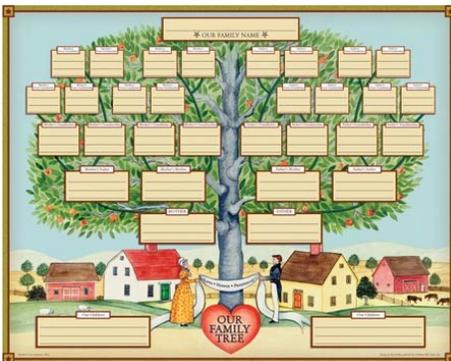
Song of the Plains is a weaving of family history that starts in the Oklahoma plains and spans over forty years as Myers combs through dusty archives, family stories, and genealogy online. She discovers the secrets that help to explain the fractures in her family, and the ways in which her mother and grandmother found a way not only to survive the great challenges of their eras, but to thrive despite mental illness and abuse. She discovers how decisions made long ago broke her family apart--and she makes it her life's work to change her family story from one of abuse and loss to one of finding and creating a new story of hope, forgiveness, healing, and love.

Karen Memory has also given us a history reference to explore:

The *Journal of the American Revolution* is free. The current issue contains an article on Hessian soldiers of the American Revolution, with a link to a journal which (also online) includes articles on Hessian soldiers who remained in the US after the war. Here is the link to the article, which in turn contains the link to the journals and their tables of contents: <https://allthingsliberty.com/2018/01/hessians-journal-johannes-schwalm-historical-association/>

"If you don't know history, you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree."

— [Michael Chrichton](#)



Humorous Quotes to make you smile on a gray winter day



"The reason I talk to myself is because I'm the only one whose answers I accept."

— [George Carlin](#)

"Reader, suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself."

— [Mark Twain](#)

"There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor."

— [Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol](#)

"Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?"

— [George Carlin](#)

Family Ties

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a special occasion for families.

W E H P E N R E L A T I V E S F
 S T E L P I R T R E H T A F R S
 S B R O T H E R S A M R W E B R
 K C M E S D E M P P E O L I O E
 L I L O H L E A O T O A M D N T
 O G N A C T R W S T T U E T D S
 F E E N N E O I Y I H S S N D I
 F G U N N C S R O L C E E E A S
 S A N T E F E N B E W R R R U H
 P I S I L O S S N F D E E A G U
 R R W A L N L D T L L C N P H S
 I R H I I B A O I O I A I P T B
 N A L S F N I H G E R U H E E A
 G M U D T E C S N Y Y N R T R N
 E O A S Y N E G O R P T U S N D
 C D I T N E R A P D N A R G O N

ANCESTOR
 AUNT
 BOND
 BROTHERS
 CHILDREN
 CLAN
 COUSINS
 DAD
 DAUGHTER
 DESCENDANTS

FATHER
 FOLKS
 GENEALOGY
 GRANDPARENT
 HALF BROTHER
 HALF SISTER
 HUSBAND
 KIN
 MARRIAGE
 MOM

MOTHER
 NEICE
 NEPHEW
 NEWLYWED
 OFFSPRING
 PARENTS
 PROGENY
 RELATIONS
 RELATIVES
 SIBLING

SISTERS
 SON
 SPOUSE
 STEPPARENT
 TRIPLETS
 TWINS
 UNCLE
 WIFE

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|
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| TREASURER | Michael Hay | 455 Fellows Road | Genoa City, WI | wcgstreasurerwi@gmail.com |
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| OTHERS: Newsletter Editor: Peggy Schutt wcsnewsletter@gmail.com | | | | |
| 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. 1st thru Dec. 31st. The newsletter is published bi-monthly.

****Dues are \$15 (\$100 Lifetime) for an individual, \$18.00 (\$200 Lifetime) for a family, \$25 contributing, \$7.50 student.
\$5.00 additional per year to receive the newsletter through the mail.

MEMBERS: Want email meeting minutes or not?? Contact Marilyn Traver, msearchin@gmail.com

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

Email us at: societynews@walworthcgs.com

DELAVAN, WI 53115-0159
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WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY