



Walworth County Genealogical Society



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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.

Membership Dues are owed for 2020, the amounts due are listed on the last page of this newsletter, thank you!

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 wcgsec@gmail.com.

Winter 2020 Meetings



March 3rd- Research Day
WCGS Library, Elkhorn- Meeting at 1:30pm, research from 10am to 3pm. If you have been wanting to visit the library and get help on a project, this is your opportunity!

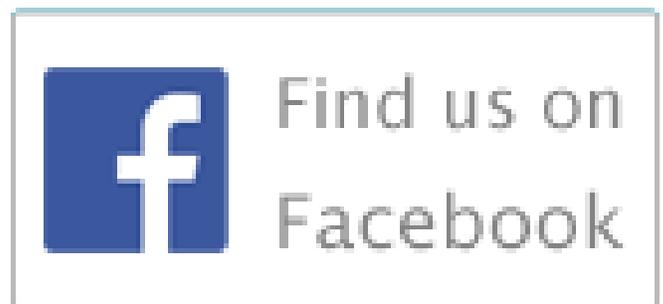
April 7th- 6:30pm—Delavan Community Center
Program is yet to be determined.



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www.facebook.com/wcwgcs

From the President's Desk



Karen Weston—President WCGS

Walworth County Genealogical Society – President's Letter 2/15/2020

I want to apologize to all of you for not writing a column in the last issue. Family complications, mostly related to my youngest son breaking his hip, scrambled my schedule for weeks.

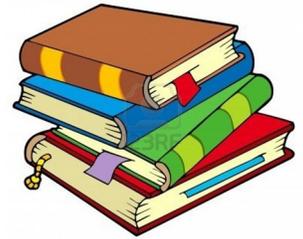
We had an interesting Show and Share meeting in February at the Library. Karen Helwig talked about a biography of Laura Ingalls Wilder written by a relative of her late husband. Peg and Raven discovered that they are both descended from the same Mayflower passenger. I gave an example of finding an official source, a will, confirming information I knew from mostly from family memories and photos.

The March meeting will also be at the Library. We will be inviting the public to join us for a research afternoon. If you want help others or have a research problem of your own that you would like to discuss with other genealogists – please come!

Two other short items -- One, I've mentioned in the past using blogs for genealogy research. If you are interested in keeping up with genealogical news - such as changes in records access, collections added to various repositories, new genealogical tools - you might want to investigate Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, which has been reporting genealogy news for about twenty-five years. Two, the Canada's History website recently added a very nice beginner's guide to genetic genealogy which discusses some of the ethical issues to be considered, the ABC's of DNA testing, case studies, and a list of further resources.

The Board is working on the program for the year. We are looking at an Irish program, talking with the Elkhorn public library on a joint presentation remembering the end of World War II, another round of Genealogy Jeopardy, and have a speaker identified for the annual dinner in September. If you have additional suggestions, please contact a member of the Board.

WCGS Library Page



The Homestead Search

When we begin our research we automatically start at the area where we know our ancestors lived. We check out all the court records, cemeteries, etc., eventually looking for maps.

We would love to find a map of the location of their farmland; to walk their land, or go there to see if the buildings are still standing. It is a thrill to be able to walk through their house knowing that they lived there. It's like stepping back in time. I was able to do that in Sharon at my great-uncles home on Grace Street a few years ago.

The one thing we try to find out is all the places where our ancestors lived. Trying to follow their trail backwards is a challenge and maps are a great help. Books that will help in the search are atlases for countries/cities, state maps for cities/counties, plat maps to locate farmland in a particular county and township and section.

We have plat books of Walworth County from 1857 thru 2016, (some years missing). Plat books give the year, township, section, landowners name and acreage. Not in Walworth County? No problem, we have the Atlas of Rock County 1873-1909 and Racine/Kenosha County 1908 Atlas. Also, Wisconsin Atlas 1878, World Atlas 1861, and a large International Atlas book. Since ancestors are in the past, these older books are very helpful in backtracking.

A lot of our ancestors came from across the ocean which will lead you to check out our tourist/road maps of several Countries: Germany, France, Italy, British Isle, Scotland, Great Britain, Medieval England and many more. Also some of the larger city maps and their areas are printed in their language.

Come in and take a trip to your ancestor's home. HAPPY TRAVELS.

Marilyn Traver

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Diana Bird

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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!*****



AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

East Delavan - The event of the week is the oyster supper to be held at the residence of Mr. H. W. Spencer's, in West Geneva, on Friday evening the 13th inst. It is expected that his large residence will be more than full.

Mr. George Van Velzer has bought the Cotton farm in Walworth, and will move there in March next. This is a splendid farm and Mr. VanVelzer is fortunate in securing so valuable a prize. We dislike very much to lose so good a neighbor but feel that our loss will be his gain.

Mr. John McDougall will soon take a four weeks tour east; he will visit New York and many other important points. May health, peace and prosperity attend him all the way round. (January 13, 1882, Delavan Republican)

Walworth - It is reported that B. H. Merwin, of Delavan has bought Jim Ford's residence. We hope it is true, for Walworth wants good men to locate here.

The patrons of Kaye's Park creamery gave their buttermaker a surprise party last Thursday evening. Of course he treated them to buttermilk, ice and cream.

It is rather late for coons, but Dr. Campbell captured a ten pounder on the 4th over on the east line, which he presented to Mr. and Mrs. Marshal Coon, who will raise it for a pet. It looks as if some one would have to move into town in order to have a candidate for town office. We have not yet seen any one around shaking hands as we formerly did. (March 10, 1898, The Enterprise)

Darien - Rodney Seaver is now nicely located in his new store building, north of

H. J. Heyer's hardware store, where he will welcome all his old and new customers. James Gunning, a former resident and well known here, has been in very poor health the past few months at his home in Beloit. By advice of his physician he went north to Friendship, Wis., and is now improving. Mrs. E. J. Baldwin, of Utica, N.Y., and Miss Hattie Baldwin, of De Kalb, Ill., arrived yesterday for a two weeks' visit with the former's cousin, Mrs. D. T. Griswold. Oliver Trenfield is assisting Ed Wells in the cigar factory. (July 25, 1907, The Delavan Enterprise)

South Grove - (continued from last issue, was cut off) Several from this vicinity attended the farmer's institute at Delavan. Frank Clapper won first prize on sample of oats. U.S. Kitley spent a couple of days in Chicago with his wife, who is under a physician's care. F.H. Wells moved from Peter Kline's house, to his father's at Allen's Grove last week. W. H. Winter returned from his Chicago visit last week. Mate Dotzenrod visited at home from Thursday until Monday. Milo Gile went to Delavan one day last week. (March 10, 1898, The Enterprise)

Thank you Shirley for mentioning my 4th Great Uncle Rodney Seaver in your column, I have been waiting for years for a relative to make it in your notes!!! —Peggy Schutt

Meeting Recap for February 2020

The WCGS Annual Show and Share meeting was held at the Elkhorn Library this year. Our members brought several unique items, thank you all for sharing and telling us about your treasure!

Karen Weston brought an ancestors' will for us to see that was an official source of info for her, Karen Helwig brought a wooden spoon, and also a one of a kind butcher knife that was made from a file, both items were handcrafted by her Grandfather. She also showed us a book published as a biography of Laura Ingalls Wilder that was written by a relative of her husband, it is called Prairie Fires, written by Caroline Fraser and is a Pulitzer Prize winning book.

Kay Sargent showed us a Clark County IL book, Janet Alley gave us background information on an ancestor of hers that had made a pipe organ for a church in MA that she hopes to visit.

Judith Schulltz gave us information and showed us a newspaper article about a Great Uncle that had worked on building the tower of the Racine City Hall, and let us know a Great Grandfather had been a census enumerator for the 1910 Census.

Mike Hay found long lost information in an obituary in the card catalog on Ancestry, a reminder to us all to just keep poking around even though we think information will never be found, Nancy Osmalek informed us about the flooding damage that ruined some of her treasures, and then showed us a framed family tree embroidery display that had been saved from major damage.

Raven DeLange told us about her recent discovery that she is a Mayflower descendant of Mayflower Passenger Stephen Hopkins. I was delighted to hear of her discovery because I also have the Stephen Hopkins link, so I have a new cousin!

*****Please note our next meeting on March 3rd will again be held at the Elkhorn Library*****



Editor Note——When you are speaking to friends and relatives about your genealogy research, please mention our WCGS library as being an excellent resource for them if they are interested in pursuing their own search. The all volunteer staff is dedicated to assisting in ancestry research, and their Mayflower Silver Book Collection is not found anywhere else in Southern Wisconsin. Our WCGS group is blessed by the staff that takes care of the library, thank you sincerely to all of you.

Notes from other Societies:

Mon. Feb. 17, 2020 Gateway, Burlington WI
"Reading Between the Census Lines for YOUR Family History Research"

Tips, troubles & treasures when using the historic censuses

The public is invited to a free genealogy workshop on Monday, Feb. 17, 2020, 6 pm at Gateway Center in Burlington, Wisconsin. The workshop explains tips, troubles and treasures that can be found when using the historic censuses for building your family tree.

The census is MORE than names and dates every 10 years. It can help you FIND your family, discover MORE ancestors, build your family tree plus the story of your family. Census schedules answers many questions, but also create new questions, of course.

Census records are the foundation in researching your family tree with genealogy-RICH facts of names, birthplaces, residences, marital status, occupations, and many more things you will be surprised to find. The census is also a picture of a moment in time of our nation and our ancestors in that moment in time.

The program/workshop touches on a bit of census history, important TIPS on the schedule's anatomy, little known details, TRAPS to avoid; and even what the enumerator's REAL job was. Learn how to work with errors, bad handwriting, duplicates, and misspellings. Learn tips on discovering maiden names, and research methods that might even help find that MISSING great grandfather (hopefully.)

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, there is humor to be found in the census, maybe a few family secrets, names that you didn't know your ancestor used, and facts that will open up other areas of family research. The program focuses on practical tips, links, sources, and research methods that will help you "Read Between the Census Lines." It is presented by Judith D. Schulz, family history researcher and President of the Genealogical Society.

The workshop is free and guests are always WELCOME.

WIFI is free and participants are invited to bring their laptop. Memberships are available as well.

This is also POTLUCK night, so everyone is to bring a dish and their own drink, alcohol is not allowed. Plates, silverware and napkins are provided.

The Genealogical Society meets in Burlington and offers programs, workshops and methods for anyone wanting to trace the genealogy of their ancestors; not just from local places, but from any place in the world. Members and guests attend the Society's programs from 65 miles around, with ancestors from everywhere in the world.

MORE INFORMATION is on the website <https://burlingtongenealogical.weebly.com/program-workshop.html> or The Facebook page: "Genealogy Society of Burlington" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/354944627972917/>



Contributions from Members

Diana Bird's daughter Danielle has sent us another very informative article in the hopes it may be a helpful link to a fellow researcher, thank you Danielle!

A Google Translate Primer

Searching for genealogical records often takes place across borders - and languages. Standard forms might be easy to sort out, but what about extra comments in the margin? Or when research involves reaching out to the Archives division in Croatia? It might be time for a translator, so how about letting the internet do it? Google provides what is arguably the best free online service, with around a hundred languages (even Latin). Simply:

Open translate.google.com.

Use the two drop-down menus to select the languages to be translated from and into (the left side also has the option to detect language - useful if the word or sentence is a mystery, though it isn't foolproof).

Type what needs to be translated into the left side. (Diacritical marks aren't usually necessary, but can help in some languages.)

Read the result!

Keep in mind that misspelled or archaic words and abbreviations will often not translate. Google may suggest an alternate spelling, but it is sometimes better to turn to a foreign language dictionary or to look up lists of words commonly used in genealogy documents.

A lesser-known feature is the ability to translate entire websites.

Copy the website address (*see below).

Paste the address into the left side box on the Google Translate page. Select the to and from languages.

A blue link will appear in the right box. Click on it.

Peruse the translated web page.

Many websites, especially those catering to tourists and researchers, have their own translations into English. Though these may be more accurate than Google Translate, they also might contain less information than the original. Google does a fairly good job with text, but cannot translate words in photos, for example. Links may not always be clickable or apparent.

And don't be afraid to send emails translated with Google to foreign archive offices or libraries! I usually lead with the translated version and add my original English version at the end. I try to keep it as simple as possible and use shorter sentences. It helps also to translate the results back into English so any huge mistakes become apparent.

*For non-Apple computers, use mouse to highlight by placing the arrow at the start of what needs to be copied. Hold down the button on the left side of the mouse. While continuing to hold down the button, drag the mouse to highlight area of text or web address. You can also click quickly several times in a row to highlight an entire web address if the arrow is over it. Then, click on the right-side mouse button. A menu will appear. Choose copy. To paste this text, move the arrow over the Google Translate box or empty page and click the right mouse button again. This time choose paste from the menu.

(You can also copy by using a shortcut once the text is highlighted: Hold down the Ctrl key and also push the C key for copy. Hold down the Ctrl and V keys to paste.)

Member Contributions



© Marilyn Traver
October 15, 2003

This poem was prompted because I had been looking for my Great-Uncle Frank's burial plot and couldn't find it. While I was looking at one headstone trying to rub it clean with my hand so I could read it, I had a feeling as if he was saying "look over here" (to my left). Unable to read the stone clearly and coming up with another name, I checked out the size of this family plot and decided that the other area didn't belong to them. I ended up walking the whole cemetery, (it is a small one) thinking he had an unmarked plot.

Later, I checked in with David, the caretaker of the cemetery and we had a wonderful afternoon checking his records, updating them and taking pictures of hand drawn plots of the cemetery that he had on paper. He even lent me the use of his tripod so I could take good digital pictures. Then we went out to the cemetery. David took me right to Uncle Frank. He was buried in that other family's plot next to his parents after all, right where I had been standing. He even had a nice flat head stone.

I found out that David is a poet and he read a lot of his poems to me. While I was driving home, some words popped into my head, so I sent him this poem with the thank you card I had bought.

THANK YOU

As I am driving down the road
A few words came to mind
But before I could write them down
They disappeared from time.

So true, sincere and dedicated
You have a very great art
Your poems at times had made me laugh
They are truly from your heart.

Thank you for sharing your happy life
For a moment or two with me
It made the afternoon go by
And forget my problems, you see.

When someone says they do something
I have to try it too,
But as you can see for yourself
This is hard for me to do.

To write a poem I cannot do
And mocking you, I'm not
Nor making fun of all your work,
So, this card is what I got.

Thank you for helping me with my genealogy last Saturday.

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)	\$10.00	
RICHMOND - Richmond & East Richmond Cemeteries	\$15.00	
SHARON - Oakwood	\$25.00	
SPRING PRAIRIE - Hickory Grove	\$12.00	
German Settlement / Mount Hope / Diener Cemeteries (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$15.00	
SUGAR CREEK - Millard Cemetery	\$20.00	
Hazel Ridge Cemetery	\$15.00	
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	

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

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

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Regular meetings of the WCGS are the first Tuesday of each month at the

Delavan Community Centre, 826 E. Geneva St., Delavan, WI.

Library Hours: Matheson Memorial Library, 101 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, WI- Every Tues. 10-3pm, 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

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WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY