



# 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](http://www.walworthcgs.com) or call 262-723-9150.

## Winter 2019 Meetings



**REMINDER**— 2019 Dues are due now. See last page of newsletter for amounts due, thank you!

**Feb 8th— 11:00am FRIDAY!** This Show and Share meeting will be held at the Geneva Lake Museum, 255 Mill St, Lake Geneva WI 53147. Bring your own lunch and beverage, and an item to Show and Share. Free parking behind the museum. Enter under the Mill Street Room awning. Show and share 11—11:45. Lunch 11:45-12:30. Tour 12:30 to 1:30.

Plans are still being finalized for the March 5th WCGS member meeting, it will be a day meeting, held at 1:30.

**March 7th—1:30** -Board Meeting, Delavan Community Centre, Delavan , WI.

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

*Welcome to our newest member Janet Alley. She is from Elkhorn, and she was recruited by Marilyn Travers when Janet wandered into the Elkhorn WCGS library, welcome again.*





## From the President's Desk



Karen Weston—2019 President WCGS

Below is Karen's 'Inaugural Address' as the WCGS 2019 President. Thank you Karen for volunteering to lead us in the coming year, I am sure I speak for all of our fellow WCGS members in showing appreciation for those among us who volunteer their time and efforts staffing our WCGS library and as officers and helpers. Without volunteers we would not have the organization we all enjoy being a part of, so thank you to all.

### From Karen:

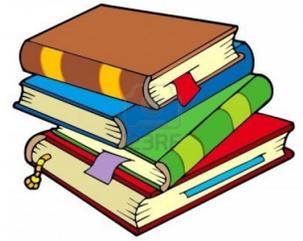
Thanks go first to Mike Hay and Chris Brooks, who are rotating off the Board, for their many years of service to the Society. Thanks to the returning and continuing members, although we've juggled some of the roles. And lastly, thanks to our new Board member, Linda West, who joins us for her first term.

The Board met in December and worked on the 2019 program schedule. We have some interesting ideas and would welcome additional comments. We plan to do another joint program with Matheson Memorial Library. We're also looking at speakers from the state local history program's speaker's bureau. One idea we are pursuing is a talk on marriage customs and we are looking for vintage wedding gowns to display - if you have one, let me know. If there are topics that you would like to see us find a speaker for or if you would like to present a topic, please let a Board member know.

We have an interesting Gevea Lake museum tour for February 8 at 11am and I look forward to seeing you there.



## WCGS Library Page



### Library Report:

We have had 197 people who had signed in to the Mary Bray Room, which helps Matheson Library with grants. There may have been some who forgot to sign in. This is more than last year not counting any phone calls, website requests, email, or mail requests. Of those who filled out the registration form in a 3 ring white binder, a couple people came from the state of Iowa and the rest are from adjoining counties; Rock, Jefferson, Racine, Kenosha and Waukesha. There is an index in the front of the binder, listing the researched names and the researcher. This is to help in networking with other researchers.

There were 59 surnames listed for researching. The surnames in alphabetical order are: Alley, Baumeister, Bluett, Boyd, Bridgeman, Brunner, Buff, Cleary, Conroy, Dorn, Ellsworth, English, Estep, Fisher, Fogarty, Gauger, Gott, Hegeman, Heggie, Hildebrant, Hoddison, Holcolm, Jones, Kellogg, Koldeway, Kozak, Massey, Mauch, Mealy, Meeks, Messer, Mielitz, Monka, Moon, Morgan, Ohlson, Olp, Ostermann, Patterson, Petrie, Pinnow, Puff, Reckner, Roberts, Robinson, Rohdo, Russel, Severson, Sharp, Shellgran, Sticken, Sutter, Trulsson, Wagner, Watson, Weeks, Wilcox, Williams, Willich.

Judy has been busy doing inventory on the magazines/pamphlets when not helping with research.

Peggy and Delores Schutt have been working on indexing obits from our binders. This is a large job and more volunteers are welcomed. If you can, bring your laptop. We have only one computer available the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week.

Diana and Marilyn have been doing inventory and shelving the donated books throughout the year and will continue.

More projects to do for more volunteers. Volunteers are always needed!

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Traver

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!



## Alice Sherman Barber

By Chris Brookes

Alice Sherman Barber

If you've ever sat in the magazine reading area of the Lake Geneva Public Library perusing a periodical or just enjoying the view of the lake, you can thank the family of Alice Sherman Barber. Their donation made this addition possible.

Last summer a cousin of Alice's daughter Caroline contributed a box of old documents and photos to the library. From a composition book of Caroline's we learned:

"Alice Lovyse Sherman was born at Jericho, Wisconsin November 28, 1858 in a farm house on the SW corner of what was known as Jericho Corners... The house in which [mother] was born had formerly been a tavern owned and operated by Jerry Parsons... Jericho Corners was named after Jerry Parsons..."

Jericho Corners is an unincorporated community in the Town of Mukwonago, Waukesha County. Alice's father, William Sherman, lived to be almost 100 years of age (1809 – 1908). He married Louisa Parsons in 1835; she died in 1900. They had eight children, Alice being the youngest, born in 1858.

Alice attended the Whitewater Normal School from 1874-78. During this time "she roomed and boarded with the Rays, cousin James Parsons and the David Fairchilds." In 1876, she visited the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and saw President Grant at the White House while in Washington, D.C.

After graduation Alice taught "her first school in the Lyons District, 1 ½ miles north of Springfield, and boarded with the Armstrongs." She transferred to the Locust School and then taught in La-Crosse, and Milwaukee. Alice furthered her own education at the University of Michigan, being one of three women to earn a degree in dentistry in 1890.

Caroline wrote: "She commenced practice of dentistry in L. Geneva August 1, 1890 and continued in practice here for more than 40 yrs. until failing health prohibited further hard work. She was respected and loved by her clientele. She has maintained the high standard for hospitality and culture which is now left to her only daughter – Caroline Elise Barber."

Her clientele included many of the prominent lakeshore families.

Alice married Joel Barber, an early settler of Geneva, on May 14, 1892. He had come to the area in 1848, worked as a carpenter and then bought one-half interest in the mill. In 1863, Joel became the President of the Village of Geneva. They lived at 1305 Main Street. Joel passed away in 1889; Alice continued to practice dentistry until 1933. She died at her home June 27, 1938; aged 79.

Her biography in *1914-15 Woman's Who's Who of America* indicated she favored woman's suffrage. Next time you're at the Lake Geneva Library, look on the east wall of the magazine reading area for the plaque honoring Alice Sherman Barber, D.D.S.





## AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

Note: Punctuations and spellings are as listed in the newspaper.

**Elkhorn** – Last evening at eight o'clock, at the residence of the bride's parents, near town, Miss Lizzie Minshall and Mr. John A. Shepard were united in marriage. Rev. G. C. Lochridge performed the ceremony.-----McGee Bardwell, an inmate of the County Asylum, died last Thursday morning. He was about forty years old and had been in the Asylum since 1884. He was sent from Sharon, where the body was taken for burial.-----H. F. Philips says he will soon paint and paper the Baptist church at Spring Prairie, and that it will be about the "sleekest" job ever seen in the county.-----A flying squirrel was found in a tub of water at J. C. Reed's one morning, recently, dead. The little fellow's thirst overcame prudence and he got more water than he wanted. (The Enterprise, Delavan, Wis., Thursday, October 28, 1897)

**Brick Church** – Walworth - L. H. Felter and Walter McNally went to Antioch, Saturday evening, on their wheels, returning Sunday afternoon.-----L. H. Felter goes to Tennessee next Monday with some friends from Antioch on a fishing and hunting trip, expecting to be gone all winter.-----Leslie Ryer went to Kansas City, Monday, to work for his brother-in-law in an agricultural implement establishment.-----Ron Greenman had a slight stroke of paralysis last week, but is able to attend to business again.-----Frank Adams, of Sharon, has rented L. H. Felter's farm and takes possession this week.-----Ira Mereness went to Iowa last Wednesday to visit his brother John.-----Will Bowdish is on the sick list and will take a two weeks vacation. (The Enterprise, Delavan, Wis., Thursday, October 28, 1897)

**Darien** – Among our flourishing farming towns there are very few that for the richness of its soil, the worth of its productions, and the general intelligence and industry of its inhabitants that can compare with the excellent town of Darien. It also contains a small village, which is now rapidly growing. There is great deal of business done there, and we see heavy consignments of lumber. This village is finely located and has beautiful scenery around it. A fine location and its pleasant surroundings will soon fill it with inhabitants, now that it is laid out in town lots. We invite travelers to visit it. (The Wisconsin Messenger, published at Delavan, Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 3, 1856, Devoted to freedom, news, agriculture, morality and general improvement. Volume I, number 15)

**Delavan** - Whoever visit our pleasant and thriving village will have missed one of its most interesting features if they fail to visit the state Institution for the education of the deaf and dumb, now so well conducted by its courteous and much esteemed principal, Mr. Officer. The good order among the pupils, the parental care he exercises over them, his centering industry as a teacher, and the good arrangements, will all be of deep interest to all who take an interest in those who are deprived of one of the most important senses. The means used to impart a knowledge of language to those who cannot hear, and the rapid transmission of ideas by signs are deeply interesting to the curious, while the divine will see a sublime subject of reflection in the modes of reaching an immortal spirit shut out from all intercourse with others by deafness. (The Wisconsin Messenger, published at Delavan, Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 3, 1856, Volume I, number 15)

## Member Stories to Share



### From Raven De Lange:

A painting of my 7th great grand parents HonYerry Tewahowagarahe Doxtator and his wife, Sarah (Two Kettles Together) Tyonajanegan Montour.

HonYerry and Sarah were brave warriors, and fought in the Revolutionary war, side by side... you'll see them depicted in the painting below (just off left center)

Sarah Tyonajanegen was an Oneida woman who fought in the August 6, 1777 Battle of Oriskany during the American Revolutionary War. Armed with two pistols, she rode into battle and fought alongside her husband, Han Yerry,(various spellings) and her son, Cornelius. Sarah Tyonajanegen helped her husband reload his gun after a musket ball



THE ONEIDAS AT THE BATTLE OF ORISKANY BY DON TROJANI

struck him in the wrist. After the battle she rode on horseback to bring news of the outcome to local rebels and Indians.

Hon Yerry was a head warrior throughout the Saratoga campaign and was assisted by Sarah Tyonajanegen who transported messages for the rebels. General Horatio Gates ordered Colonel Peter Gansevoort to "deliver to her Three Gallons of Rum, for a Winter's supply for her Family" as a reward for her services. This was one of the bloodiest battles of the Revolutionary war, and my Great Greats fought and survived... and here I am....

## December Meeting and Christmas Party

2019 WCGS officers were elected, the new officers are listed on the last page of this newsletter. Let's all thank those among us that are able to volunteer their time for the continuation of the WCGS organization, thank you very much for your efforts on our behalf. Thank you also to the past officers that have contributed to the mission of the WCGS, I know you will continue to be active, your contributions are acknowledged here. Especially Martha's French Silk pie on Board Meeting days! Then we adjourned for the Christmas Party, enjoyed the food, the company, and once again had fun with take away bingo. Dan Richardson once again played his role as the bingo caller with his usual flair and kept us entertained while we watched our bingo cards.



## **'This in That' from your Editor**

***I was so excited to see Raven DeLange's member story contribution, her ancestry is unique within our WCGS group, and I know you enjoyed it as much as I did, thank you Raven.***

***Still looking for contributions to the newsletter from members—how about sending me memories and/or pictures of your experiences in a one room schoolhouse? I am 65 years old, and attended the last classes held at Parker School southwest of Walworth on what is now Hwy 67, a few miles west of Hwy 14. Lots and lots of memories of my 1st grade there and I will happy to share, but I want to hear about your memories too! Share pictures of your ancestors attending those one room schools, it is interesting to see how they dressed and studied and played.***

***What are your thoughts about the most recent methods of capturing criminals through use of DNA matching? Are you concerned about privacy, or does the good it can do outweigh the privacy issue? I can publish your comments anonymously if you wish.***

***I really am interested in sharing each others experiences in doing research, our successes and failures both. Our meetings would be 6 hrs long if we all were sharing stories about our searches, so sending me your stories to publish here will allow us to find out more about your experiences and still get back home before midnight!***

***Another interesting idea might be to send me pictures of ancestors that you think resemble you or someone in your present day family. Some of the most exciting experiences for me while doing research is finding photos of relatives and just being stunned by the resemblances within my present day family of cousins, children, grandchildren. It seems to bind us all together in that common knowledge of lineage. It might be as simple as sharing the same facial features, but I have found it can also be a shared interest or hobby from a relative you never knew, or that you have met during your search.***

***Send me what you have, and I will publish! Email me at [wcgnewsletter.com](mailto:wcgnewsletter.com), or you can mail it to me at 3130 Afton Road, Janesville WI 53548***



## WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Karen Weston	9601 N. Kyle Dr.	Whitewater, WI	wcgspres@gmail.com
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OTHERS:	Newsletter Editor: Peggy Schutt <a href="mailto:wcgnewsletter@gmail.com">wcgnewsletter@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)

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WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY