

# Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume 21 Issue 4

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July-August 2012

## Guest Speakers for 2012

August 7th, 6:30 PM: Ice Cream Social—Chris Brookes as Mary Delafield Sturgis—  
History of Lake Geneva

September 4th, **Annual Meeting and Dinner:**

5:30 PM Doors Open

6:00 PM Annual Dinner (see Page 33)

7:00 PM Program: Maureen Brady presents Quaker Family Research  
History

\*\*\*Membership renewals NOT due until December 31, 2012\*\*\*

October 2nd, 6:30 PM: Speaker: Karen Weston—Native American Genealogy

November 6th, 6:30 PM: Round table discussion. “What are we doing here?”

## Special Events

Saturday, September 29th, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM: Family History Fair at Burlington High School: Keynote speakers will be Hilda and Emily Demuth, authors of Plank Road Summer, and soon to be released, Plank Road Winter. Hosted by the Burlington Genealogical Society we will have a table and need volunteers to man the table.

***Don't forget to bring an item for Lakeland Animal Shelter!***

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## President Power

### Who Knew They Were Listening

I recently had a pleasant moment with my children that I would like to share with our members. Just in case you think your children aren't paying attention, HA! Boy, have they got us fooled.

Let's begin by telling you I have two children both in their early 20's, Shon my son and his younger sister Tiffany. I got involved with genealogy when my kids were in their early teens and let's just say to this day my daughter has a standing order of not going to the cemetery ever again unless it's for my funeral.

Being raised 5000 miles away from the family meant only being able to afford to go home for funerals and that was the chance to catch up on family history research. Needless to say Tiffany had more exposure to this than her older brother who was not present for most of those trips. Although both of my kids were stunned to see a dining room table appear at holiday time, the only aspect of family history I remember them liking was looking at pictures.

While growing up I recall my father's family consisted of him, Grandma, Grandpa, my aunt and Gary. As I got older I wondered about Gary. Always thought he was a "late" born child of Grandma and Grandpa. As the years went by I noticed he was referred to as Cousin Gary by everyone. You see where this story is headed don't ya?? How could Cousin Gary be a "son"? As a kid you didn't push issues that nobody wanted to talk about, so I let it go until I started doing genealogy. It became known to me that Gary was in fact my Aunt's son and he was raised by Grandma and Grandpa. Although I've never heard why he was raised by my grandparents, but I have my theories and one day I'll ask.

A couple weeks ago my son had a birthday. His sister and I took him out to dinner. In this day and age of technology the conversation turned to everyone who had been sending birthday wishes throughout the day via cell phone, emails and Facebook. I had asked him if he had wished Gary a Happy Birthday yet. He looked a little puzzled and then said, "No when's his birthday?" I said, "Same as yours, don't you remember?" After a little memory jogging, he did remember that he was Gary's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday present. And then my daughter, who never wants to discuss family history, pipes up and said "who's Gary, your cousin?" I paused for a moment and said "yes I think so". And Shon looks at me and says "What does that make him to us (referring to him and his sister)?" My first thought was of Shirley Sisk's cheat sheet on cousins, because I knew this was going to get weird. My second thought was "really?" of all the genealogy topics to stumble onto it had to be the Cousin one. For the next 25 minutes we hashed over how Gary was related to my Dad, to me and then to the kids. Shon was on his Palm pilot looking up cousins and relatives. I'm going over in my head trying to recall the layout of the family tree and still wishing for Shirley's cousins sheet. Finally Shon looks up and said, "so if in fact he's Aunties son, he's your Cousin, that would make him our Cousin once removed because he's one generation from your Grandpa". I was dumbfounded. You would have thought the words had just come out of the mouth of one of our speakers. I said, "Yes I think you're right. How did you figure that out?" He gave me one of those "Mom really" looks and said, "Isn't this what you've been doing all these years?" Who knew either one of them were paying attention when I was doing all that research. We had a good chuckle and proceeded to share a birthday dessert when Tiffany says, "So does Gary have any kids?" I rolled my eyes, looked at her and said, "I think he has a daughter but we're not going there tonight."

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
ANNUAL DINNER

at  
The Community Bank Center  
Delavan, WI  
September 4, 2012

Doors open at 5:30pm, Dinner 6:00pm, Meeting and program begins at 7:00 pm:

Guest Speaker, Maureen Brady, "Quaker Family History Research"



**MENU**

Sliced roast beef in au jus, roast pork loin, garlic mashed potatoes, broccoli/cauliflower vegetable, pistachio salad, red jello fruit salad, relish tray, dinner rolls w/ butter, and éclair pie.

WCGS ANNUAL DINNER

**RESERVATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations (Member) \_\_\_ (x) \$17.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Non-member) \_\_\_ (x) \$21.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and check payable to **WCGS**:

Mail to: Walworth Co. Genealogical Society,

P. O. Box 159, Delavan, WI 53115-0159

# Ketchum's Korner

Deb Ketchum, Librarian



The hottest summer on record hasn't seemed to deter the brave at heart from getting out and doing their family history research.

Our library has been busy with visitors researching all topics. The surnames that have popped up this season are:

Baverle	Park	Wetherbee
Burgett	Schilz	
Camodeca	Schmumacher	
Cito	Schwenn	
Chito	Smith	
Gray	Weber	
Harrison	Werschkul	

The library has received quite a few book donations and a piece of equipment an all-in-one printer.

Here is a list of the books. They will be added to our shelves shortly.

- The 3-volume set of DAR (Daughters of American Revolution) Index Centennial edition 1990. These books are extremely helpful for gaining proof of lineage to the Revolutionary War period. An alphabetical index of last names of individuals connected to the war.
- God's Acre by Barney E. Daley (1984)  
This book covers the history of Ye Old Burial Ground in South Windsor, CT. It includes lots of photographs and stone epitaphs along with some insight on carvings and architecture preservation in cemeteries.
- Tracing Your Ancestry by F. Wilbur Helmbold (1977) w/ a Step By Step Workbook .  
Although this book was done 35 years ago, it still is a very good useful tool for beginners.
- Spring Grove Cemetery, Delavan, WI 1866-1942 burials  
This is a small book that was put out by the Delavan Cemetery Association in 1942.
- Oldstone's Guide to Creative Rubbings is a pamphlet on doing rubbings of all different kinds of items from coins to tombstones. This item was placed in the pamphlet file cabinet.
- 1952 City Directory for Janesville, Rock County, WI
- 1950 Yearbook for Walworth High School, Walworth, Walworth County, WI
- Bob Reek also sent WCGS a copy of the 1882 History of Walworth County, WI book and a copy of the 1912 History of Walworth County, WI Volume II book. These books need some repair done to bindings before they can be put out for use to the public.
- This one our members should recognize. Death Beyond The Willows by Greg Peck is a book about how a wedding day in American's heartland turned tragic. Mr. Peck was a guest speaker for one of our meetings where he introduced his book of a accident that took the lives of family members on their wedding day.



## AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

**North Walworth** - Carroll Harris and Way Siperly are pulling stumps for R. S. Trumble. They are using an improved stump pulling machine, which is said to be a hummer.-----Mrs. G. W. Flitcroft and little daughter Ada returned last week from several days' visit with relatives in Janesville.----J. Siperly is finishing the interior of Milton Luther's house.-----Robert Buckels, Jr., departed last week for Highland, Wis. (Delavan Republican, Thursday, Dec. 22, 1898)

**Lake Geneva** - Capt. and Mrs. W. N. Johnson have returned from their visit with friends in New York.-----Mrs. O. Hatch and little daughters and Mrs. Barnhart, of East Delavan, visited relatives here last Sunday.-----The public library is being improved. The books are to be catalogued, new ones have been added and a new librarian, Mrs. Susie Kinney, placed in charge. (Delavan Republican, Thursday, Dec. 22, 1898)

**Darien** - Harold and Merton Siperly were quite sick last week.-----F. W. Siperly is erecting a large barn for Geo. Young.-----Mrs. John Horder is confined to the house with rheumatism.-----Mrs. Frank Langdon and two children, of Belvidere are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Johnson.----Miss Mattie Fryer was called to Preston, Iowa, the first of the week, by the illness of her aunt, Miss Addie Barnes.-----Mrs. Genie Dann returned Saturday from West Virginia, where she has been with the Salvation Army.-----Born, to Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Cusack, Wednesday, June 19, a girl. (The Delavan Republican, Thursday, June 20, 1901)

**Allen Grove** - Wm Wiley, of Sparta, is the guest of his sister, Mrs. J. Niskern.-----Mr. and Mrs. A. E. McKinney last Saturday evening were assisted by about thirty of their friends in celebrating their thirtieth wedding anniversary. All report a pleasant evening.-----W. H. Van Horn returned Monday morning from St. Paul, where he has been attending Head Camp M. W. A. Mrs. Van Horn and daughter will remain in St. Paul visiting her sister, Mrs. Kelsey. (The Delavan Republican, Thursday, June 20, 1901)

**South Richmond** - Robert More is visiting his sister in Ohio-----Verne Wheeler, of Darien, is employed at F. H. Wilkins' farm.----John Delaney, Charles Robinson and Geo. Christie each shipped hogs to Chicago last Monday.-----Miss Lena Magalsky is very ill at the home of her brothers with rheumatism. Dr. Rood, of Darien, is in attendance. (Delavan Republican, Thursday, Dec. 22, 1898)

**Sharon** - George Burton, who has been sick with la grippe for several weeks, which at last resulted in the aggravating of an old chronic ailment, died at his home in this village Tuesday morning, at ten minutes after eleven o'clock, aged 53 years, 11 months and 22 days.-----Yesterday morning at 7:45 o'clock, at her home in this village, occurred the death of Mrs. Julia Swart, of old age and heart failure, aged 86 years, 1 month and 23 days, after a brief illness, dating back to last Sunday. (from The Reporter, and printed in The Delavan Republican, Thursday, March 16, 1899.)



# Do You Know?

By Marilyn Traver

## *How to find the enumeration District?*

The enumeration district can be found by searching census district maps and descriptions.

Type along with me to see how it works.

To start with, go to

<http://1940census.archives.gov>

Click on ‘**Get Started**’. Scroll down reading the instructions, click on “**start your search**”.

You can choose **BROWSE** or **SEARCH**. I clicked the **Search tab** where I filled in the state, county, and town. (I entered Wisconsin, Juneau, Mauston); I clicked on **search**. Now, it shows “Mauston not found” so I went back and clicked on the **Browse tab**. Entered the state, county. And clicked on **search**. Now I can see the results of this search.

You can click on **MAP (1)**. This will show you the first section of the map of Juneau County. Since this is north part of the county I will have to check out the other sections until I find Mauston or Seven Mile Creek township. By clicking on **description** I can pick the map section I need as it states the areas enumerated for

that map. I choose the last one by clicking on “more+” for more descriptions that shows **ED 29-26: SEVEN MILE CREEK TOWN**, for the enumeration district number.

**We are on a roll! We can go back by clicking on the upper left corner to the backup arrow. Click on the Enumeration Districts tab and enter the number.**

I clicked on **Census Schedules (1)**. This will take you to the census records. Move your cursor over the thumbnail of the census and click on view full screen. Now you can scroll down until you find the name Warren Wilcox. Kenneth Wilcox should be with them also. Yup! There at the bottom of the first page (how could I be so lucky?) is Warren Wilcox, Kenneth Wilcox and Lula Wilcox, daughter-in-law. Also my gr-uncle Frank Porath is listed just above Warren’s name. I have just found my grandfather and my parents listed living together on the same farm. (Frank Porath lived on the next farm).

**Well, that wasn’t so hard. It just takes time to scroll through the census.**

I hope these instructions help anyone afraid to try searching by the enumeration districts.

Good luck in your research using the 1940 Federal Census.

## *Are You Related To Me?*

As members of WCGS we all are aware that we are part of a much bigger family. In an effort to get to know our members better, we are starting this column and will spotlight a different member each newsletter. To kick off this column, Marilyn Traver has graciously agreed to be the first.

### **1. How did you get interested in genealogy?**

After I found 3 generations of my father's side of the family in the 1900 Federal Census I started looking for birth records. I wanted to find my grandfather's birth certificate. Results: It doesn't exist. My grandfathers' youngest sibling's name is the first one listed in the courthouse birth records.

### **2. Names, places and date of ancestors.**

Gr-gr-grandfather (William Wilcox) lived in Rutland, NY around 1850's and before, then moved to Ohio. They moved back and forth a couple times. Last move to Ohio was to Darke County. Then in 1854 he and his family left Rutland, NY and came to Wisconsin. Williams' father David Wilcox lived in New York.

### **3. Names and places:**

James Palmer-WI Dells, WI; William and Franklin Wilcox-Rutland, New York and Mauston, WI; Charles Davis-Mauston, WI; David Wilcox, Rutland, Jefferson Co, NY. Donald Hoover, New Lisbon, Juneau Co, WI.

### **4. Burial areas:**

Rutland Cemetery, Jefferson Co, New York; Baraboo, WI; Rose Cemetery and Mauston Cemetery in Mauston, Juneau Co, WI; Wisconsin Dells cemetery, WI Dells, WI.

### **5. Any Vets in your family line?**

My gr-grandfather (Franklin Wilcox) was in the Civil war.

### **6. Have you visited the old homestead? Does it still exist today?**

In 1964 I lived in my gr-grandfathers' house for a year. The farm existed and the house was rented out. Today the only thing standing is the smokehouse; all the rest has been torn down. As I understand it, the brick house across the road was his fathers' home and that is still being used as a home today

### **7. Anything interesting happen while researching?**

After I was visiting Franklin's grave I saluted him (he was a GAR vet). When I got half way back to my car, I felt a breeze across the back of my neck and looked back toward his grave. The small US flag was blowing in the breeze and the tree leaves were not moving at all. Where did the breeze come from?

### **8. Any surprises in your research?**

The newspapers are very graphic in their descriptions of accidents. After I saw the death record of my paternal gr-grandmother I looked for the obit. Instead, I got a graphic description of the auto-train accident. Even went so far as to stating that her son saw the accident from the opposite side of the tracks on his way home from town. Also in the death records she is listed as Mrs. Franklin Wilcox, her given name was not listed.

### **9. Please contact WCGS to network with me.**

*Thank-you, Marilyn for being the first and thanks for all your help putting this together.*

## *Springfield/Union Cemetery Walk*

The temperature was predicted to be a hot 92 degrees, but the breeze and overcast sky actually made the day quite pleasant. Except for our members who participated, membership support was disappointing. Only one of our current members showed up.



Our presenters from left to right were: Tim Schinke portraying his ancestor, Charles F. Schinke; Jennifer Coon as Emma Gott; Nancy Lehman as Lucinda M. Gott telling about Edward L. Gott & his family; Chris Brookes as Maggie Olp Webster; Mary Summers telling about her ancestor, Charles G. Harms (Pagel); Michael Ferenz as Henry Olp telling about his patriarch Jacob Olp & his family; Pat Blackmer as Hannah Weeks telling about her husband Arnold and their four sons; and Michael Hay telling the story of Nathan Chapel, a War of 1812 Veteran.



After the welcome by WCGS President, Deb Ketchum, Michael Ferenz (left) told the story of Old Abe, the War Eagle, who was the mascot of the 8th Wisconsin Infantry throughout the Civil War.

Then, Mike Hay (right) read the Gettysburg Address.



*(continued on page 39)*

*Springfield/Union Cemetery Walk (continued)*



Almost 20 people were in the first group, after that small groups went through. By the end of the walk, we calculated that about 52 people had come through. The comments from visitors were very positive.



Hannah Weeks



Maggie Olp Webster



Mary Summers

*(continued on page 40)*

*Springfield/Union Cemetery Walk (continued)*



Lucinda M. Gott and her niece Emma



Diana Bird demonstrated “divining” when a tombstone is missing.



Karen Schinke and Mike Hay



Tim Schinke

Karen and Tim Schinke are the caretakers of Springfield/Union Cemetery. Not only did they volunteer their time to our cemetery walk, but they also donated water for the very thirsty presenters and visitors. We thank them very much for their efforts!

A very special thank-you to Chris Brookes, who overcame tremendous adversity to make this program successful.

We thank everyone who volunteered and hope to see more support from the membership next time.

**PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE BY WCGS**

Walworth Co. Probate Record Index - 1848-1930	\$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
Button-Kronwall Family Scrapbook (Linn & Bloomfield, & Hebron, IL Township)	\$25.00
Walworth County Pre-1907 Death Index	\$22.00
<b>BLOOMFIELD</b> - Hillside Cemetery- Genoa City	\$23.00
<b>DARIEN</b> - Darien Cemetery	\$22.00
<b>DELAVAN</b> - Delavan Area Cemeteries (Spring Grove, Old Settlers, St. Andrews, Arboretum and some church burials)	\$ 3.50
East Delavan Union Cemetery	\$25.00
World War I Service Records (Delavan Area only, includes every name index)	\$20.00
History of Delavan School 1982 - index only	\$18.00
Delavan Sesquicentennial Supplement	\$20.00
Images of America- Delavan	\$20.00
<b>EAST TROY</b> - Oak Ridge Cemetery	\$18.00
<b>ELKHORN</b> - Hazel Ridge Cemetery	\$20.00
Mount Pleasant Cemetery	\$15.00
Images of America-Elkhorn	\$20.00
<b>GENEVA</b> - Lake Geneva Area Obituaries (updated through June 30, 2010)	\$25.00
Pioneer Cemetery	\$15.00
Union Cemetery- plus some Geneva/Lyons Townships	\$20.00
<b>LAFAYETTE</b> - White Oak Cemetery	\$ 7.50
Hartwell-Westville-Sugar Creek Lutheran Cemeteries	\$12.00
<b>LAGRANGE</b> -LaGrange Pioneers (reprint of 3600 names, full index)	\$27.00
LaGrange Township Cemeteries	\$10.00
<b>RICHMOND</b> - Richmond & East Richmond Cemeteries	\$10.00
<b>SHARON</b> - Oakwood	\$15.00
<b>SPRING PRAIRIE</b> - Hickory Grove	\$25.00
<b>SUGAR CREEK</b> - Millard Cemetery	\$15.00
<b>TROY</b> - Little Prairie	\$15.00
<b>WALWORTH</b> - Walworth Center (Walworth Village listings)	\$20.00
Brick Church Revised 2007	\$20.00
Cobblestone, WI/Bigfoot, IL (two different cemeteries in one book)	\$18.00
<b>WHITEWATER</b> - 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: \$2.00 for the 1<sup>st</sup> book and \$1.00 for each additional  
 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 \$12 individual, \$15.00 family, \$7.00 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.

## WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

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Past-President: Francis "Bud" Tweed				
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  
other times by appt - call 262-215-0118 or 262-728-6182

The membership year runs from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> thru Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. The newsletter is published bi-monthly.

\*\*\*\*Dues are \$12 for an individual, \$15.00 for a family, \$25 contributing, \$7 student.

MEMBERS: Want email meeting minutes or not?? Contact Kay - [wcgs04@yahoo.com](mailto:wcgs04@yahoo.com)

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

**E-Mail us at [societynews@walworthcgs.com](mailto:societynews@walworthcgs.com)**

DELAVAN, WI 53115-0159  
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