



Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume 28 Issue 4

ISSN - 1008-5765

July-August 2019

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.

Autumn 2019 Meetings September 3rd-5:30pm



Annual Dinner at Foleys in Lake Geneva. After dinner Marrilee Lee, from the Hoard Museum and Ft Atkinson Historical Society will talk about their new Civil War collection.

October 1st-6:30pm—Family History Month- Karen Weston will speak about Beginning Genealogy

November 5th-6:30pm—Martha Hay will talk about GEDMATCH.

December 3rd- 5:30pm- Christmas Party and Elections

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www.facebook.com/wcwgcs



Welcome to our newest members: 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

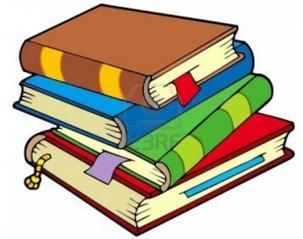
President's Letter – August 2019

This is going to be short as I am late submitting it and owe our editor an apology for the delay. We have some excellent programs planned for the fall beginning with the annual dinner on September 7 at Foley's in Lake Geneva. Our Dinner speaker is Merrilee Lee, director of the Hoard Museum in Fort Atkinson, who will be speaking about the museum's resources – in particular its' Civil War collection.

I've been spending much of the summer with my new grand-daughter, so one of the things on my mind has been how to pass on our genealogical research to the next generations. Have we told our children and grandchildren the family stories that were told to us? Have we written down our own stories as our Vice-President Judy Rockwell has tried to teach us? Have we made provision in our wills or other documents for the disposition of our research? Try to identify a younger family member who is interested and willing to take over your research. If your family does not want your files, talk to your local genealogical and historical societies – they might not have space for disorganized materials, but most should be interested in summaries, especially if the family is local. If like me, your family is not local, you might contact societies in areas where you family did live (my papers might end up in Virginia since my husband's people have been there since 1650).. Here in Wisconsin, the Area Research Center Network is interested in collections relating to their regions.

If you have any ideas for next year's programs, please let a board member know as we will soon begin planning for it.

WCGS Library Page



AUG 2019

Family histories are important and while we may not know anything of our family, genealogy research can help with that.

Without fail, that brick wall is around the corner and everyone bumps into it at one time or another. Try as we might it's hard to get around it and we can get so frustrated that we can't think clearly. When that happens we need to take a break—get a cup of coffee, kick back and breathe slowly to clear your mind. While taking that breather, think/do something totally different. Then when research ideas pop up, write them down. Make a list of what you are looking for and the sources...add "other peoples' researches" if an idea came from there.

That's where we come in.... We have a lot of donated Family Histories in our library. 7 shelf sections of Family books: hard and soft covers and 3 shelf sections of 3-ring binders with small files of more family surnames. There is a large variety of surnames from A-Z; popular names and unusual names; impossible to list each and everyone in this article. It's worth the time to look thru them. Who knows? You may come across another branch of your tree, or even more information on your family branch. Keep in mind to look at ancestors' siblings histories.

In our selections some families are very thorough in every detail, along with family stories, including the female side of the family and even have every name indexed along with sources. Others are brief with pedigree charting, a few with only just local research. The binders have small files of surnames others have found about their families. If you are lucky, they could tie in with the hard cover books. We haven't had time to check that out.

Stop in and check them out. I know that the books have helped others who have stopped in to do research in the past. You could be the next. If you would like to share your research just print them out and donate them to our library with our thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Traver

Library Committee:

Diana Bird

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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!*****



AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

Elkhorn - Curt M. Treat, late of the Clinton Independent, has purchased the Elkhorn Independent, and will soon assume the duties of his new location. Curt is in many respects a success. He brought the Clinton Independent out of nothing, and made it a success, and it is fair to presume that with the glorious past record of the Elkhorn Independent, as a booster, he will give it a mighty lift up the Hill of Difficulty, which seems to confront local paper in these hard times.-----We have only time to announce that Mr. J. W. Sankey, of the Elkhorn Independent, died of pulmonary consumption on Wednesday, the 18th instant.

(The Delavan Republican, Delavan, Wisconsin, Friday, December 20, 1878)

Walworth - The foundation of the German church is completed and ready for the carpenters.-----E. J. Higbee has been appointed commissioner of weeds.-----The sick are getting well and no others are taking their places. Dr. Campbell, our new physician is having good luck with his first attempt in practice.-----The Assistant State Superintendent was down to visit our High School last week. He tried to get the school board together, but they were so badly scattered that his efforts proved unavailing. The present teacher had never been reported by the clerk to the state, consequently we may lose our school money by the neglect. (The Delavan Republican, Wednesday, May 6, 1891)

East Delavan - The death of Edw. Hollister occurred at his home in this place, Sat., May 2, after a painful illness of two months. He leaves a wife, two sons and a daughter.-----Born, April 27, to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. L. Willis of Beloit, Kansas, a son.-----Rev. W. L. Jones visited relatives in Chicago the past week. -----Mrs. Geo. DeCroff has been visiting her sister at Marinette, Wis., for a couple of weeks. (Delavan Republican, May 6, 1891)

North Walworth -Mr. C. E. Ferow is putting in a new cistern and having his well dug deeper. Ed. Jones is doing the work.-----

-One day last week P. Campbell's house took fire from the chimney and but for the timely assistance of Mr. LaFevre would have been destroyed.-----School opened Monday morning with an attendance of thirteen.-----M. S. Freer and family now occupy the Totten house. (Delavan Republican, May 6, 1891)

Allens Grove - Farmers are so busy our streets seem nearly deserted during the day.-----Mr. Downs was a welcome caller on Monday, though his errand was an unwelcome one to us, for his goods continue to travel towards Delavan.-----Mrs. Frank McAffe had the misfortune to step on a nail, nearly three weeks ago, and is still confined to her easy chair.-----The invalids are getting out into the sunlight and gradually taking up the burdens of life again.-----Mrs. Totten, of Delavan, was at the Grove last week, calling on old friends and caring for her lot in Mt. Philip. (Delavan Republican, May 6, 1891)

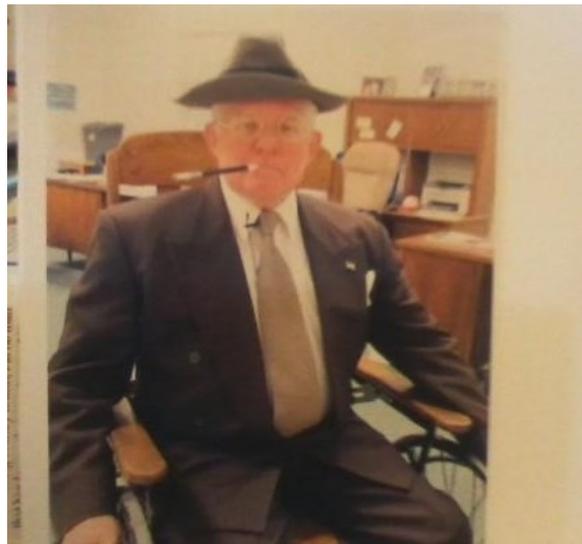
South Grove - We omitted mention last week of the arrival of a little daughter on the 4th last, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Knaub. It is the prettiest baby in town and -well, if you don't believe it, just ask George.-----C. B. Cline, Jr., had the misfortune to have one of his hands badly injured recently between two sticks of timber.-----We understand that Joseph Conley is building a dam across the stream which flows through his place and will stock the water with fish, but of what variety we did not learn. (The Sharon Reporter, Thursday, June 25, 1891)

Meeting Recaps for July and August 2019

July 2—A Visit with Franklin Delano Roosevelt

We took a step back in time and spent an hour with Franklin Delano Roosevelt! For all of us history lovers it was a wonderful presentation of some well known and not so well known facts about our 32nd President. The presentation was mixed with humor and reminiscences from the past, we all enjoyed our visit with FDR.

Edward O'Brien is a Graduate of Aurora University and Northern Illinois University. He has been a Teacher of American History, and elementary principal, junior high principal, and a superintendent. He has presented his historical impressions to schools, public events, historical societies, and area nursing homes. His special area of interest has been American Military and Political History. He is an avid reader and has done significant research on the characters he presents. Ed is married to Sharon a Registered Nurse. They are the proud parents of 7 children and 12 grand children. They make their home in Harvard, Illinois.



August 6th - Ice Cream Social and Local Historical Figure Presentations

We enjoyed our Annual Ice Cream splurge, and while we savored our ice cream delights, we also delighted in listening to a few historical figure portrayals by Chris Brookes and Karen Weston. Chris Brookes portrayed historical figure Lucy Baker, a music professor that taught in the early years of UW—Whitewater Normal School. Chris had also portrayed Lucy Baker during the cemetery walk last year in Sept at Hillside Cemetery in Whitewater.

Karen Weston portrayed two women, Agnes Hosford Salisbury and Laura Hamilton, both associated with UW-Whitewater themselves or through members of their families.

Thank you both for sharing your acting talents with us!



With Sympathy

The month of July 2019 is now noted as being the month of passing for our long time member Louise Sannes, and also as the month of passing for Al Lehman, the husband of our long time member Nancy Lehman. I know their families have our deepest condolences for their losses and also have our abiding sympathy during their time of bereavement. God Bless.



*Lord, may those whom
You have called home
rest in the radiance of
heaven's light.*

UNKNOWN

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Notes from other Societies:

From Rock County Genealogical Society-

UW Rock Co, Wm hall, Janesville- 2019 Annual Scholarship conference on September 14, 2019, from 9am – 5pm. \$30.00/ non-members. Program to include:

□ *Genetic Genealogy II – I had my DNA Tested; Now What?* Bradford provides a brief introduction to DNA testing, but then focuses on using results from most popular autosomal-DNA tests.

□ *Google Alerts - a Tool for Family Researchers:* Bradford describes Google's free Alert search tool to continuously track newly added online content (web sites, images, videos, news, blogs or books) and automatically notify you of results.



• *Finding Gold at the Charles Tallman Archives:* This PowerPoint program identifies many of the hidden treasures in the Rock County Archives collection including photos, probates, marriage license applications, family histories, town histories.

□ *Give Your Past a Future, or 30 Years of Collecting: Organizing your genealogical files for yourself and your successors:* Will your research materials be useful to others or end up in a dumpster?

Location: University of Wisconsin at Rock County, Williams Hall, 2909 Kellogg Ave., Janesville, WI

Program Presenter(s): The Rock County Genealogical Society Librarian, Ruth Anderson and Chairperson & Webmaster, David Bradford combine efforts for this all-day conference.

Adding Social Media to Your Genealogy Repertoire

Saturday, September 21 at 10 AM - Noon

The British Interest Group of Wisconsin & Illinois (BIGWILL) welcomes Tina Beaird as guest speaker from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon on Saturday, September 21, 2019 at the Community Church, 5714 Broadway, Richmond, IL 60071.

Pins & Needles - Adding Social Media to Your Genealogy Repertoire. Many of us have used Facebook to find distant cousins and former high school friends. When it come to Genealogy, lots of social media sites are popping up to help make searching for ancestors even more rewarding. Tina will guide us through a fun session as to how to use sites like Pinterest, Flickr, History Pin and more which will help us find, identify and share ancestors.

Tina Beaird is a local history librarian and owner of Tamarack Genealogy in Oswego, Illinois. As a member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild and the Association of Professional Genealogists, Tina lectures extensively on topics including military research, Scottish genealogy resources and archival preservation. She serves on the board directors for the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board, the Northern Illinois Historic League, and the Oswego Heritage Association.

BIGWILL, a genealogical special interest group for those who wish to research family history and ancestry in the British Isles, meets at 10:00 am on the third Saturday of January, March, May, July, September and November at the Community Church, 5714 Broadway (2 blocks west of Hwy 12) in Richmond, IL 60071.

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

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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

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