

Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume 21 Issue 3

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May-June 2012

Guest Speakers for 2012

June 5, 6:30 PM: Ellie Getting—Jewish Museum—Jewish History

July 3, 6:30 PM: No Meeting—see Special Events

August 7, 6:30 PM: Ice Cream Social—Chris Brookes—History of Lake Geneva

September 4, 6:30 PM: Annual Meeting—program to be announced

Special Events

July 21, 1:00 PM—3:00 PM—Cemetery Walk—Union Cemetery, Springfield

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

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President Power

Let me begin with there will be **no meeting in July**. Being July 4th is Wednesday after our meeting day it has been decided to cancel the traditional general meeting for July. Now on the other hand, WCGS will be holding their annual Cemetery Revisited program in July. This year as our contribution to the celebrations of the Civil War the Union Cemetery in Springfield has been chosen. See the flyer page elsewhere in this newsletter.

By now the newness of the 1940 Census should be sinking into our research models. I dabbled a couple times with it, then decided to take a serious look around. I found all of my maternal people that I knew of and where they lived. Looks like most of them were still in the same place in 1935. When I switched to my paternal side that was a whole different story. Unlike my maternal side which is grandparents with a dozen kids, on my paternal side it's grandparents and two kids. And trying to locate aunts and uncles has always been an adventure. I started out looking for my dad. He was born in 1935 which would make him 5 years old in 1940 and I thought that would be relatively easy since he was old enough. What was I thinking?? It always turns into a genealogy puzzle. I started with the county and town I knew that everyone lived in. Of course the census for my town is broken into two parts. Even though I saw lots of familiar names, probably cousins and such, not what I was looking for. Now I look at how the county was broken down. There's about 20 towns broken into five districts. So now I start weeding out the other towns I knew they had lived in, went to school in, was born in, was buried in and still not coming up with anything. Ok if all else fails start at the beginning which is what I did and wouldn't you know it the very last district in a town I had never heard of, there they were. Voila! I found them. I immediately went to Google map and looked up the town. It turns out to be a hole in the wall town about 8 miles down the road from one of the other towns I already had in the family tree. I went back to the census and noticed they had moved since 1935, too. Amazing! Just goes to show you, census from 1880 or 1910 or 1940, doesn't matter what year, it can be a challenge finding the folks even if you think you had the information and it proves to be a different story.

I gave up the Library page to run the flyer for the cemetery walk. I have a couple items for the Library though. First, more volunteer help would be appreciated to cover our Tuesdays. You don't need to know anything specifically, just like genealogy and talking to people about research. Please, if you can help get in touch with one of us.

The Matheson Memorial Library has upgraded their WI-FI service. Apparently there were some issues with people not being able to get the signal in the library. There was a signal receiver on both levels of the library. This has now been upgraded and is located downstairs. Hopefully, it will make the internet a little faster, too. That was the issue with WCGS. We could get a signal but the internet service was just so slow. Hopefully over the next couple weeks we will notice a difference. So feel free to come visit with your laptop.

Springfield Union Cemetery Historic Walk
SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2012

FROM 11:00 AM

TO 3:00 PM



Historic Cemetery Walk and Re-enactment

*Remembering the families and honoring the veterans
War of 1812, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korea*

**Springfield Union Cemetery – Hwy 120 North, use entrance north of Hospital Road
Lyons Township, Walworth County, Wisconsin**

**Sponsored by The Walworth County Genealogical Society, Inc.
& The Springfield Union Cemetery Board**



AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

Some of us get frustrated with the big space between the 1880 and 1900 Federal Census when trying to find someone or find out something about them. All of these items were found in The Enterprise, Delavan, Wisconsin in the edition of Thursday, April 25, 1895. Hopefully there is something here that will help someone with a new clue or with someone they needed to locate.

Whitewater - The little son of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Alexander, Neal Dow, died April 14th, aged 9 months.-----Mrs. Anna Hahn died at her home in this city Saturday, April 13th, of apoplexy, aged 77 years.-----Mrs. Nancy Peterson died at her home in the First Ward last Monday, at the age of 67 years.-----Miss Olive E. Burnham, of Heart Prairie, and Frederick Cooley, of Chicago, were married at the bride's home April 17th, by Rev. F. W. Millar.-----Little Margaret Gutchie had the misfortune to break her leg one evening last week.

Williams Bay - Mr. Joseph Keats, our hotel keeper, is sick with the quinsy.-----C.M. Williams has got the cellar to his new store almost finished.-----Among those who visited Delavan last week were L. E. Francis, S. V. Flint, and G. W. Boville.

Walworth - The funeral services of "grandma" Cornue occurred last Sunday at the S. D. B. church.-----Miss Abbie Babcock spent last week with her sister, Mrs. Stella Brown, in Darien.-----Mrs. Eula Ransom, of South Haven, Mich., is spending a few weeks with her grandmother, Mrs. F. Sutherland.

Fontana - David Porter is convalescent, and R. G. Ripley is failing.

Sharon - An infant child, seventeen months old, of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Vroman, died of cholera infantum, Tuesday.-----Mrs. Geo. Phelps died April 12th, aged 79 years, and was buried from the Lutheran church Sunday, Rev. L. L. Lipe officiating. She was the mother of David Phelps, of Delavan.

South Grove - "Aunt Mary" Carey died at her home in Clinton, Thursday, April 18, aged 91.-----Ben Kline and Wilber Spicer have new wheels ordered.-----The young people enjoyed a very pleasant evening at Sherman Clapper's on Wednesday.

Brick Church - Walworth - Mrs. Peter Christenson is on the sick list.-----L. Greenman bought a fine young horse last week of Mr. J. Lloyd.-----We are pleased to note that Bert Adams is able to be out again after several weeks of sickness with the grip.-----Mr. John Lloyd will engage in the tobacco culture again, this season. He has a fine bed of young plants started, enough for ten acres.-----The axle to the churn at the Farmers' factory broke last Sunday morning. Will Traver hitched his span of trotters to the carriage and with H. S. Bell made a trip to Fort Atkinson, for repairs, returning in time to have all in running order Monday morning.-----Mr. Will Rouse and wife, of North Geneva, visited his brother Rufus, last Saturday and Sunday.



Do You Know?

By Marilyn Traver

Westward Ho! (continued from last issue)

Searching for your ancestors out west

AFTER the CIVIL WAR

Arizona has a website: <http://genealogy.az.gov> with searches for birth and death certificates. PDF links include copy of the original certificate. This does **not** take the place of a certified document. This next site will help you in locating historical and genealogical material. www.lib.az.us/archives/famhistory.aspx is the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records website. They have Services for Genealogists, collections, photographs and finding aids and inventories.

Colorado Historic Newspapers from 1859 – 1923 are online at www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org. The digitized newspapers can be transferred to PDF file. <http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/hrd/> is the Colorado State Archives website with indexed records.

Nebraska has background information of their history at www.nebraskastudies.org. The Nebraska County Atlases and Plat Books can be found at www.nebraskahistory.org/databases/atlas.shtml Locating your ancestors from 1885-1947 could be possible. They continue to add more material to this site. www.nlc.state.ne.us/westertrails has digitized resources and photo galleries.

North Dakota <http://digitalhorizonsonline.org> has source documents from 1800's through more modern times. You can find how your ancestors lived and get background info on them.

Nevada University of Nevada Digital Collections: <http://digital.library.unlv.edu/> Check out the Collections department for historical information.

New Mexico www.kindredtrails.com has an overview of collections and great outbound sources to cemeteries, census and more. The Genealogical Society's website is www.nmgs.org. You can get background of New Mexico here.

Oklahoma Ghost Towns Database: www.blogoklahoma.us/ghosttowns.asp. Information on homesteads and abandoned homes can be found on this site. Click on the county for a quick search. Integrated with Google Maps. www.okhistory.org is a great website to search through. For the obits, go to research then click down on the left side, click on search catalog. Much more to look at. For a mixture of history and genealogy check out www.crossroads.odl.state.ok.us They have documents and images.

South Dakota State Historical Society is found at: <http://history.sd.gov/archives/genealogists.aspx>. There is a lot to look at under Archives on this website. Biographical index, American Indian, newspapers, cemeteries, and so much more. A definite plus to take time and go through this website for South Dakota.

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Do You Know?

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Utah Genealogical Association: www.infouga.org is more a general guide in researching your family ancestors. www.familysearch.org is a free genealogical database with images and outbound links for better and more information in your search.

Wyoming Newspaper project :

www.wyonewspapers.org can be searched by city, county, year, and newspaper title. The state historical society is <http://wyshs.org> is great for overview information and has digital collections as well as more outbound links.

Some other information

History of the American West: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/codhtml/hawphome.html>

Cyndi's list (Cowboys, Ranchers and The Wild West): www.cyndislist.com/cowboys.htm

Wikipedia: Western United States: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/western_united_states

American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writer's Project, 1936-1940: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/wpaintro/wpahome.html>

Heritage West: <http://heritagewest.coalliance.org/categories>

Walworth County Settlers

(continued from previous issue)

Troy

Major Jesse Meacham came from Washtenaw county, Michigan on May 1st, 1836. He was born in New York. He had previously visited the area in 1835 with Adolphus Spoor and liking what he saw had chosen section 25. However, when he arrived in 1836, Alexander and Othni Beardsley and Mr. Roberts had already marked the claim for themselves. The Beardsley brothers and Mr. Roberts were persuaded to sell their claim to Mr. Meacham and Mr Spoor and chose land in another section. Major Meacham carried mail unofficially to and from Milwaukee until 1838 when he was named Postmaster. He was postmaster of Troy for many years. Major Meacham built a grist mill in 1844. The 1850 United States Federal Census shows him living in Troy with his wife, Patience, and two others, probably farm help. The census also shows that the value of his owned real estate was \$400.

Adolphus Spoor was born in New York about 1796. He traveled with Major Jesse Meacham from Washtenaw county, Michigan in 1836. The 1850 United States Federal Census shows him living in Troy with three of his children, Mary Louise, Charles, and Aaron. The value of his real estate in 1850 was \$11,000. He died in 1864.

Othni Beardsley was a representative in the second Territorial assembly, which was held in Madison, beginning November 26, 1838. He and his brother Alexander had claimed for themselves the section that Jesse Meacham and Adolphus Spoor purchased from them. He evidently died before 1850 as there is no census record for him.

Lucinda Allen, daughter of Dr. Daniel Allen and Olive English taught in a neighboring district of the town in 1840. She married John Mayhew and then married John Young. She had six children. Two of her children became teachers. The 1850 United States Federal Census shows Lucinda with John Young who had a ten year old daughter of his own and her six children.

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Walworth County Settlers

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George W. Blanchard was born in New York about 1814. The 1850 United States Federal Census shows him living in Troy with his wife and three young children.

Samuel Fowler was born in Massachusetts about 1807. The 1850 United States Federal Census shows him living in Troy with his wife and seven children.

George Hibbard was born in Massachusetts about 1808. The 1850 United States Federal Census shows him living in Troy with his wife and four children.

Soldan Powers was born in Vermont about 1805. The 1850 United States Federal census shows him living in Troy with his wife and four children.

Geneva

Christopher Payne was born in 1786 in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. He built a mill which was completed in 1837. He moved out of the area in 1841.

Robert W. Warren was born about 1800 in Vermont. He was one of the early settlers in 1836 in the area. In 1845 he became president of the village. The 1860 United States Federal Census shows him living in Geneva with his wife and two children. The value of his real estate was \$15,000 and his personal property value was \$1500.

Greenleaf Stevens Warren, son of Thomas Warren and Anna Page, was born in 1802. He came to Geneva in 1837 with his brother, Robert Wells Warren, and built a house which by enlargement became a hotel which they called the Lake House. The 1850 United States Federal Census shows him living in Geneva with his wife and five children. The value of his real estate owned at that time was \$1000.

Philander Knapp Van Velzer was born in the state of New York. In 1837 he established a brickyard in the village of Lake Geneva. He took up 160 acres of land from the government at \$1.25 per acre and built a frame house on the land. He improved the land and later sold 58 acres of it. He built another house half a

mile east and reared his family there. The area Indians were more or less troublesome. The day before they were to be moved to their allotted reservation west of the Mississippi river, they got drunk and invaded the VanVelzer home compelling Mrs. VanVelzer to give them a supply of newly baked bread. The 1850 United States Federal Census shows the family with eight children, of which the last five were born in Wisconsin.

Anna W. Moody Flack was born in South Hadley, Massachusetts. She was the third wife of David L. Flack who was a dairyman and farmer. She was known for a long time as one of the most prominent educators of the state. She established the Lake Geneva Seminary and taught for one and a half years in the State University at Madison.

Geneva Van Slyke was the first child born in Walworth County. She grew up in a log house in Geneva. She was born unattended by either her father or a physician. She lived to the age of 30 and died unmarried.

(Continued in further issues)

Other area Society News

Burlington Genealogy Society

Wednesday, June 20: "Computer and on-line genealogical resources" A round table discussion among members of the most popular genealogy software and web sites which people are using, and what is able to be used or found. Computers and digital projector will be available for viewing sites and software.

Wednesday, July 18: Annual members picnic in a park.

Wednesday, August 15: "Religious Records and Resources" Judith Schulz will present an overview of the kinds of resources a genealogist might find in a local congregation. She has been involved in the cornerstone revitalization in her family's church, the First Methodist Church in Racine, and has been discovering a wealth of resources which have been helpful to her in her genealogical searches.

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
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)	\$ 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
EAST TROY - Oak Ridge Cemetery	\$18.00
ELKHORN – Hazel Ridge Cemetery	\$20.00
Mount Pleasant Cemetery	\$15.00
Images of America-Elkhorn	\$20.00
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	\$12.00
LAGRANGE -LaGrange Pioneers (reprint of 3600 names, full index)	\$27.00
LaGrange Township Cemeteries	\$10.00
RICHMOND - Richmond & East Richmond Cemeteries	\$10.00
SHARON - Oakwood	\$15.00
SPRING PRAIRIE - Hickory Grove	\$25.00
SUGAR CREEK - Millard Cemetery	\$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)	\$18.00
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: \$2.00 for the 1st 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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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. 1st thru Dec. 31st. 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

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

E-Mail us at societynews@walworthcgs.com

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