Malworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



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November-December 2012

Guest Speakers/Programs for 2012

December 4th, 6:00 PM: Potluck Dinner, elections for officers, Bingo

Guest Speakers/Programs for 2013

January 1st, No Meeting - HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

February 5th, 1:30 PM: Show and Share

March 5th 1:30 PM: To be announced

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

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President Power

Finding That Lost Relative

As genealogist's we spend endless hours looking for the elusive lost relative, the ones that died hundreds of years ago. What about the ones still alive? That can prove to be little more challenging. Not a whole lot of released records to be had at this point in time.

Being raised in a military family and 5000 miles away from any relative beyond immediate family creates a whole different scenario unlike living in Wisconsin. Where just about everyone was born here, lived here and stayed here, so they know and see each other on a regular basis. For me keeping in touch was occasional telephone calls or the birthday and holiday cards received in the mail that would get you caught up on what was happening "back home". Now there's the internet and cell phones, so in a moment's notice you can check up on "the family" *if they travel in that circle*. So a couple months ago when I tried to reach my Aunt Mickey and got no response I became concerned. She's my father's sister and the last relative except for distant cousins. For years I've sent her a birthday card and Christmas card and she calls once or twice a year when her hearing aid works. After several attempts to locate her with the telephone number and address I had and no luck, the genealogist kicked in and the hunt was on. Of course I jumped on the computer starting with the social security death index and for the first time I was grateful NOT to find who I was looking for which meant odds are she's still alive. Next I tried several of the on-line public "find people" sites. I came up with the same information I had but also ran across a new address. So I was convinced I needed to make a road trip. I called my daughter and said "want to go to West Virginia with me and find Aunt Mickey?" She said "only if we don't have to go to any cemeteries" I said "I hope not".

After a 10 hour drive we crossed into WV, hillbilly mountain folk coal mining country. First stop was the old address which was in the small town of Dunbar just outside of Charleston. As soon as we turned onto the road I knew that nobody had lived in that house in ages. It was empty, run down and the weeds were waist high in the yard. Hmmm this can't be good. We decided to go ahead and drive into Charleston to the hotel, get settled and start again. Charleston is a town of 33 sq. miles with the Kanawha River running down the middle and a population of about 52,000 unlike Milwaukee which is 97 sq. miles and a population of 595,000. Forgoing the map and giving Tiffany's GPS a run for its money we set out. Mission accomplished after several colorful conversations with the local folks. The address led us to a peculiar assisted living place. It has a security system linked to your telephone number. Although there's an apartment directory, seems you have to telephone whoever you are visiting to be let in. Initially my Aunt was not in the directory listed in the lobby. Now I'm calling the manager's office and running into "privacy" issues in trying to locate Aunt Mickey. Thankfully I knew enough personal information to get in the door to the manager's office, but she still can't "officially" let me in. It's pretty obvious they take privacy very seriously here. I said "here I'll write a note - you take it to her- if she knows who I am you let me in".

(Continued on page 63)

Nomination/Election

At our December meeting, we are electing or re-electing the offices of the president, treasurer, and two director positions. Any member of the society can run for these positions. If you have ideas of how to make our society work better, by all means sign up.

The following ballot is included for your assistance in selecting persons you believe would do a good job. All terms are for two years. Deb Ketchum and Ila McErlean have reached term limits for their positions.

Ballot
Danot
<u>President</u> (vote for 1)
Mike Hay (interim vice-president)
(write in)
<u>Treasurer</u> (vote for 1)
Deb Ketchum (current president)
(write in)
Directors (vote for 2)
Carol Bakko
Mary Jordan
(write in)
(write in)



AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

Delavan - Village Board Proceedings. May 12, 1885. First meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Delavan, Wisconsin. Present, President-elect Hoag, and Trustees-elect Irish, Cochrane, Mereness, Allen, Rodman and Jackson, to whom the oath of office was administered by E. F. Williams, Village Clerk, - said Clerk having previously qualified before C. B. Tallman, Notary Public for Walworth County. Meeting called to order. Motion made that the Rules and By Laws which were adopted by the Board of Trustees on May 16, 1882, be and the same are hereby adopted by this Board. Carried. Moved that an informal ballot be taken for Street Commissioner. Carried. Ballot:--Whole number of votes cast 6. For E. Andrus, 3., F.A. Winn 1, Milton Hollister, 1. (the other cut off) (From The Delavan Enterprise, May 13, 1885)

Darien - Miss Minnie Burhans closed her school in the Lawson district last Friday and on Saturday took her pupils to the observatory at Williams Bay.------Miss Cora Garbutt will close her school work at Millard on Friday------Max Bassler visited his aunt, Mrs. Geo. Brown, of Walworth, last week.--------Lee Rumsey, of Milwaukee, visited his mother last week.------Lathers are at work on J. R. Eagan's new residence.-----Mrs. Quackenbush, who has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Knaub, of Sharon, returned home Saturday.-----There will be an old people's service held at the M. E. Church on Sunday afternoon at 2:15. A special invitation is given to the old people to attend. (from the Delavan Republican, June 20, 1901)

South Richmond - George Randall, of Waukesha, visited at his uncle's, Austin Randall, last week.--------Miss Agnes More is home from school duties to spend the holidays with her parents.-----Daniel Nelson shipped hogs to Chicago recently. Also John Delany, Charles Robinson and Geo. Christie each shipped hogs to Chicago last Monday. (from the Delavan Republican, Thursday, Dec. 22, 1898) Lake Geneva - The first ordination every held in Lake Geneva took place last Friday morning at the Church of the Holy Communion, when the Reverends John Welling Areson, of Elkhorn , and Rudolph Stahley, of Prairie du Chien, were ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Nicholson. Also those who were present and took part in the service were Rev. Mallory, of Delavan, and Rev. Bloor, of Burlington. The Ven.Archdeacon Webber presented the candidates and preached the sermon. (from the Delavan Republican, Dec. 22, 1898)

North Sharon - Miss Mabel Harris, of Delavan, is visiting her uncle, David Jacobie, and other relatives.-----H. C. Beardsley spent a couple of days the past week at Hebron, III., on business and visiting his father.-----Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Palmer visited relatives at Delavan Sunday.-----Mrs. L. Jacobie has been on the sick list the past week.-----Rufus Cooley has a horse sick with blood poison.-----Miss Helen Tompkins, of Delavan, and friend, Mrs. Brininger, of Troy, visited the former's sister, Mrs. H. C. Beardsley, the past week.-----Mrs. E. P. Shager planned a surprise last Thursday evening, the occasion being her daughter's 14th birthday anniversary. Twenty-eight of her young friends were present. All enjoyed a pleasant evening and partook of a bountiful repast, after which they presented her with a toilet set and then took their departure, wishing her many happy returns of the day. (from Delavan Republican, Dec. 22, 1898)

East Delavan - The Royal Neighbor Ladies met Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. Anna Kirkpatrick at Delavan Lake.-----The Delavan Lake grange meet at the Wm. Longmore home Friday evening.------Miss Irene Kelhofer of Waukesha, spent the first of the week with her cousin, Mrs. Ed Sutton and family.------The Annual School meeting was held at the school house Monday evening. Harry Rockwell was re-elected clerk for three years. (from The Delavan Republican, Thursday, July 11, 1929)



Do You Know?

By Marilyn Traver

TEACHERS OF YESTERYEAR

Notice while researching the schools of the 1800's that the women teachers were single? Wonder why? Here is a list of **Instructions to the teachers in 1872**.

- 1. Teachers will fill lamps, clean chimneys, and trim wicks each day.
- 2. Each teacher will bring a scuttle of coal and a bucket of water for the day's use.
- 3. Make your pens carefully, You may whittle nibs for the individual tastes of the children.
- 4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
- 5. After ten hours in the school, the teacher should spend the remaining time reading the Bible and other good books.
- 6. Women teachers who marry or engage in other unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
- 7. Every teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or get shaved in a barber shop will give good reasons to suspect his worth, intentions, integrity and honesty.
- 8. The teacher who performs his labors faithfully without fault for five years will be given an increase of 2 cents a week in pay, providing the Board of Education approve.

Now let's look at the punishment allowed in the schools back then. I'm glad I didn't go to school in the 'good ol' days'. By a child's view, what could be so 'good' about this?

	PUNISHMENTS Lashes	<u>Lashes</u>
1-	Boys and girls playing together	4
2-	Fighting at school	5
3-	Quareling at school	5
4-	Gambleing or Betting at school	4
5-	Playing at cards at school	10
6-	Climbing for every foot over three feet up a tree	1
7-	Telling Lyes	7
8-	Telling tales out of school	8
9-	Giving each other ill names	3
10-	Swaring at school	8
11-	For misbehaving to girls	10
12-	For drinking spirituous liquors at school	8
13-	Making swings and swinging on them	7
14-	For waring long finger nails	2
15-	Misbehaving to persons on the road	4
16-	For going to girls play places	3
	Girls going to boys play places	3
17-	Coming to school with dirty faces and hands	2
18-	For calling each other liars	4
19-	For wrestling at school	4
20-	For weting each other washing at playtime	2
21-	Scuffling at school	4
22-	For going and playing about the mill or creek	
23-	For going about the barn or doing any mischief about the place	7

Notice the difference in spelling of some words compared to now.

Hre You Related To Me? The spotlight this newsletter is on Karen Weston, a director of the WCGS board and archivist at Whitewater University. 1. How did you get interested in genealogy? Family stories about being descended from a pirate on one side and Ethan Allen on the other side. 2. Names, places and date of ancestors. Andrew Langworthy, R.I. 1650's-1680's; Thomas Minor, Stonington, CT 1640's-1680's; Joshua Randall, MA/NY/IL 1800-1860; Charles Falvey, Ireland/IL 1800-1883; Charles Sharratt, Staffordshire England/WI 1800-1880; William Elam, VA 1700's 3. Names and places: My husband's family is from Virginia & Ohio - includes Randolphs/Blands/Bollings back to the 17th century 4. Burial areas: Fond du Lac, WI; Lyon Cty, MN; Oneida Cty, NY; Morrison Cty, MN; Lyon Cty, IA; Muscatine Cty, IA; Bureau Cty, IL 5. Any Vets in your family line? William Elam - American Revolution (I'm a member of DAR); Joseph Roth - 96th Illinois Civil War; my dad was in the USAAF in WWII 6. Have you visited the old homestead? Does it still exist today? I tried to find the farm in Muscatine, IA; I've driven past several others. 7. Anything interesting happen while researching? I met my father-in-law's cousin in Virginia last summer; she had several pictures we didn't know existed. 8. Any surprises in your research? The pirate was actually a privateer. My Civil War veteran spoke seven languages and stowed away to get out of Germany in 1848. 9. Please contact WCGS to network with me. I have received "Are you related to me" from three more members; Barb Wheelock, Sherry Thurner, and Sandy Stratmeyer. Thank-you very much! Look for your pages in future newsletters.

Since this is an election year, we thought it might be interesting to look at the first politicians in Walworth County. The previous newsletter showcased the first mayor of Elkhorn and we have learned that Doris Reinke, historian and president at the Walworth County Historical Society, actually lives in the house that Mayor Harley Norris had lived in.

Submitted by Marilyn Traver

Delavan's First Mayor

When Delavan was incorporated into a village in 1855 the president and his trustees were elected on April 29, 1856. Leonard E. Downie was the first president and his trustees were William C. Allen, James Aram, Willard Isham, Edmund F. Mabie, Joseph Monell, Jr., and Trumbull D. Thomas.

Forty two years later Delavan became a city by a general statute in 1897 and the electors picked their first Mayor along with one member in each of the 3 wards of the city. Mr. Edward F. Willams became the first mayor along with ward members: Edward F. Welch, 1897, 1st ward; Arthur Bowers 1897-1904, 2nd ward; and Alexander Hamilton Allyn 1897-1912, 3rd ward. The mayor's term ran for 1 year until 1902 when it was extended to a 2 year term.

Edward Williams was born April 1859 in Delavan, the son of Henry II and Amanda (Keeler) Williams. A little history about Edward's father shows that he (Henry) was born in Dublin, Ireland, son of Welsh parents. Henry married Jane Curran in Dublin, emigrated to America in 1847, stayed one winter in New York State, then moved on to Delavan, Wisconsin. Jane then died two or three years later leaving behind her husband and 6 children: Susan-wife of Mr. James, Henry, Ella, Howard, Jennie and Robert. Later Henry II remarried to Amanda Keeler, daughter of Peter and Sarah (Wilson) Keeler. They were among the first settlers in Walworth County. They lost their first child in infancy and Edward was born the second child of the second reunion; the youngest of Henry's family.

Edward grew up in Delavan and attended the public schools; then went on to a career as a clothing store clerk with M. Gavett in Delavan, for 5 years. In 1881 he worked at the Citizen Bank as an assistant cashier. In 1886 he was elected cashier and then became the president of the bank in 1910.

This bank has the reputation through many years of being ably, safely and honestly managed largely due to the fact that, after an explosion of dynamite in the store next door, the books balanced to the penny. The front of the bank building was demolished and partly blown across the street. The vault shielded the rest of the building near where the explosion occurred. With quick thinking, the people in charge of the bank put all the gold and currency into the vault and promptly carried the books and notes to the other bank. Since then the people have had thorough confidence in the bank.

In 1892 Edward married Carrie Phoenix, daughter of Franklin K. and Mary (Topping) Phoenix, granddaughter of Samuel Phoenix founder of Delavan. They had three children; Phoenix, Lawrence, and Edwina.

Edward was a prominent citizen of Delavan having held many different positions throughout his lifetime. He was president of the board of education for eight years, a director in the Bradley Knitting Company, and a member of the Episcopal Church. In 1912 the officers and directors of the Citizens Bank of Delavan, were: Edward Williams, president, K. H. James, vice-president; A. S. Parish, cashier; W. F. Fernholz, Howard Williams, S. L. Jackson, D. E. LaBar, H. A. Briggs and J. H. Goodrich.

Mr. Williams was an obliging, public-spirited, and genial gentleman who enjoyed the confidence and respect of a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

Source: History of Walworth County 1912

Annual Survey

Please help us plan for the coming year by letting us know the kinds of programs/workshops you would like to see. If these items are important to you, please indicate by putting an "X" next to the number.

1)	Various software programs for genealogy records 1a) Any specific program?
2)	Computer genealogy search programs 2a) Any specific search program?
3)	Searching particular geographical areas or ethnic groups 3a) Which specifically?
4)	Searching particular time periods (e.g. colonial America, Revolutionary War, Civil War, etc.) 4a) Which ones?
5)	Search topics (e.g. newspapers, cemeteries, libraries) 5a) Specify
6)	_ Do you have any speakers to recommend? 6a) Name 6b) Topic 6c) Contact information
-	

7) Any suggestions for cemeteries for future Cemetery Walks?

Now for some personal questions to help us determine the volunteer workforce we have to work with..

- 8) Would you be willing to participate in the presentation of a workshop for potential members interested in starting their family trees? Sharing your expertise with less experienced researchers.
- 9) Would you be willing to be part of a committee for future activities?
- 10) How much time would you be willing to donate to the society each month?
- 11) Would you be willing to help out in the library? The more people willing to help out, the better chance that no one will have to be alone on Tuesday.
- 12)_____ If you have a computer at home, would you be willing to work on indexing with the librarian providing detailed instructions and a layout to work from?

Finding That Lost Relative

(Continued from page 56)

So I wrote a note that said "Hi Aunt Mickey - its Deb and Tiffany from WI - come to visit". The manager went to deliver it and I thought, "hope her health is ok, she might have a heart attack when she finds out who it is since I hadn't physically seen her in 20 years". After about 25 minutes sure enough the manager was back and Aunt Mickey was definitely there and knew exactly who I was and wanted me sent up - pronto. It seems after her second husband died last year she had to move into an assisted living place and had lost my phone number and address (it has happened before). She still owns the old house, just hasn't been able to get back to it. What a relief. We visited with her the next couple days while taking in the "sites" and discovering the "heritage". She cleared up some family history dilemmas and gave me another live source to fill in my blanks. My daughter was extremely grateful for the first time ever I didn't drag her to a cemetery. I was redeemed for all my cemetery excursions I've dragged her to. She got even with having fun with the hillbilly language for which I have a tendency to pick up when I get back in the "homeland". We left with the promise to come back next spring.

Thought I would share some of the hillbilly language with you:

Aig: egg Arn: iron Axe: ask Cain chair: can't hear Cheer: chair, a piece of furniture Clabber up: cloud up; as in weather Clap up: be quiet Dope: soft drink; such as Coke Ella Noise: the state of Illinois and the biggest city is Shhh-coggo Far: fire Far place: fireplace Fur piece: long distance Heel: hill Heze: he is Hit: it Jinly: generally or usually Juice: electricity Kitt an ka boodle: all of; he ate the whole kitt an ka boodle. Law: an exclamation; Law, what's he done now. Liver bile: let it boil; Pot's on the stove, liver bile a spell. Mater: tomato Nigh: near Oh High: state of Ohio Pea Raid: parade Poke: a paper bag, generally brown Press: closet Rat cheer: on this very spot; I'm rat cheer. Red: clean Sair: not sweet; sour

Sews: So as Summers: somewhere Tar: tire Vittles: food Warsh: wash Woolie: will he Wrench: rinse Yaller: yellow Year: ear Yestiddy: yesterday

<u>M & M Tips</u>



Office Products

Many of us are on fixed incomes and the cost of daily living is getting higher and higher. Because of this, many of our members cannot afford the cost of Microsoft Office (Excel spreadsheet, Word, and other products). There is a free product called OpenOffice that you can download which contains a word processing program, a spreadsheet program, and others. With this product, you can open a document created with Microsoft Word (or create a new one) and save it as a "Word" document so someone with Microsoft Word can open it and use it. The same is true for an Excel spreadsheet. Martha has had some experience with this product and is happy to assist any member who wishes to try it. This would allow you to assist with indexing for the library without having to purchase the expensive Microsoft spreadsheet product.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE BY WCGS

Walworth Co. Probate Record Index - 1848-1930		\$35.00		
CD in pdf and searchable		625.00 plus \$1.00 s/h		
1857 Walworth Co. Atlas - township maps and index				
1873 Walworth Co. Atlas - maps & Index (soft cover reprint)				
Walworth Co Directory of Prairie Farmers & Breeders (soft cover reprint)				
1882 Walworth County Index to History Book				
1912 Walworth County Index to History Book		\$29.00		
Area Research Center UW-Whitewater Resource G	uide	\$12.00		
Declaration & Naturalization Papers Vol I \$18.0	0 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, G	Old Settlers, St. Andrews, Arboretum and some			
East Delavan Union Cemetery	,,,,,,	\$25.00		
History of Delavan School 1982 - index only		\$18.00		
EAST TROY - Oak Ridge Cemetery		\$18.00		
ELKHORN – Hazel Ridge Cemetery		\$20.00		
Mount Pleasant Cemetery		\$15.00		
GENEVA - Lake Geneva Area Obituaries (updated t	brough lune 30, 2010)	\$25.00		
Pioneer Cemetery	(illough Julie 30, 2010)	\$15.00		
,	inc	\$15.00		
Union Cemetery– plus some Geneva/Lyons Townsh	iips	\$20.00 \$ 7.50		
LAFAYETTE - White Oak Cemetery				
Hartwell-Westville-Sugar Creek Lutheran Cemeteries				
LAGRANGE -LaGrange Pioneers (reprint of 3600 names, full index)				
LaGrange Township Cemeteries				
LYONS - Hudson/Lyons (Old Quaker) / Wija Farm C				
St. Joseph & St. Killian Catholic Cemeteries (DVD t		\$12.00		
RICHMOND - Richmond & East Richmond Cemeter	ies	\$10.00		
SHARON - Oakwood		\$15.00		
SPRING PRAIRIE - Hickory Grove		\$25.00 \$12.00		
German Settlement / Mount Hope / Diener Cemeteries (DVD tombstone pics included)				
SUGAR CREEK - Millard Cemetery				
Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery (DVD tombstone pics included)				
TROY - Little Prairie		\$15.00		
WALWORTH - Walworth Center (Walworth Village I	istings)	\$20.00		
Brick Church Revised 2007		\$20.00		
Cobblestone, WI/Bigfoot, IL (two different cemeteries in one book)				
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: \$4.00 for the 1 st	book and \$2.00 for each additional			
To order these publications, circle the selection(s), n		nail to [.]		
WCGS, PO Box 159, Delavan, WI 53115.	nake encompagable to the eee and h			
Membership (Jan 1st- Dec 31st) is \$12 individual, \$	15.00 family \$7.00 student			
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I do or do not give my permission to ha	ive my information printed in any	WCGS media.		
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DSTK 1/09

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