

Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



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November - December 2014

Guest Speakers/Programs for 2014

Tuesday, December 2nd: 5:30pm - Christmas Pot Luck, Take-away Bingo, elections of officers

Guest Speakers/Programs for 2015

Tuesday, January 6th: NO MEETING - HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Tuesday, February 3rd: 1:30 pm - Show and Share

Tuesday, March 3rd: 1:30 pm - To be announced

Please consider a donation for either the local food pantry or Lakeland Animal Shelter

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From the President's Desk

Mike Hay - WCGS President

With our Christmas party fast approaching and elections upon us, I'd like to reflect on my two-year stint as your President. It has been my pleasure to have represented our society to other societies, to the Walworth County residents, and potential members for this time, and if elected to the Co-Presidency, to work with Chris Brookes on into the future for the betterment of our group.

In 2015, we host the Family History Fair in conjunction with the Burlington and Kenosha county groups as well as McHenry County in Illinois. Previously we held it at Faith Christian School in Williams Bay, but their pricing has become prohibitive. We are presently searching for a site, preferably on the eastern edge of Walworth County, where we can have the 2015 FHF. If you could help us find a location, we would very much appreciate it. The Family History Fair is one way in which we can help our society to grow and we should not only look for a site, but plan to attend.

In the past couple of years we have lost some members of our families and our group to age and disease, but we continue on in spite of this. Martha and I continue to man the library room on the second and third Tuesdays of each month. It is very rewarding to see the look of delight on the faces of our visitors when we can find some information on their elusive ancestors, and shed light on their past. We would appreciate your assistance at the library helping us with these and other tasks to fulfill our mission. As I have told other helpers: "You may not think you know our library room, but you know more than our visitors do and can be quite helpful to them!"

We will be casting paper ballots for officers with the provision for write-ins at the Christmas Party. If you want to fill a role or know someone who would be a good choice, please feel free to write their name in. Our society needs folks who have good ideas and a willingness to take a part in its growth.

We are planning to offer another Genealogy Workshop at the library in February so we will keep you informed on that. If you would like to assist in this endeavor, please talk to one of our board members. The library now offers a limited version of Ancestry on their computers and that will be helpful to folks in search of their roots.

In the meantime, have a happy Christmas and a good New Year from my family to yours!



Deb Ketchum, Librarian



Ketchum's Korner

2014 has reached the end of year holidays. The WCGS library has been busy throughout the year helping patrons with all levels of research. Our holiday hours will be opened Tuesday December 9, 2014 then closed and will reopen on January 13, 2015. I will be available for appointments if someone would like to visit during that time just call me 262-215-0118.

A new cemetery index was added to the library this past month. The long awaited St. Peter's Cemetery of East Troy is now finished and available for research or purchase for \$25.00. This new index has over 2000 burials recorded.

The library is still in need of volunteers. If interested in helping next year contact me and we can arrange some training if need be or flexible hours to work. There is always something to do if you aren't helping visitors or researching yourself.

The Matheson Memorial library has recently acquired the Ancestry.com subscription. They aren't sure if it's the Library edition or something more. My guess would be it's the Library edition. Patrons can only access it while in the library, no home remote service. This would be a good stepping stone for researchers as you could do some preliminary searching and then come see us to further your quest.



One German Immigrant; One Ancestral Journey

By Sylvia Linton

In 1900, nearly 270,000 German immigrants lived in Wisconsin, though they did not call themselves “German” at the time they arrived. They were Prussians, or Bavarians, or Rhinelanders, but the immigrant experience bound them together in a mutually dependent community, and with the help of each other, they survived. This is the story of one of them, Heinrich August Manecke (1849-1908), my great grandfather. I knew him only from a portrait that hung over my grandfather’s desk, but there was no mistaking that face when he appeared to me in a dream telling me to go to Ladbergen (Germany) because “they are waiting for you there.” You might call it “Ancestor-assisted Genealogy!” I found not only living relatives, but stories, photographs, and letters written by Heinrich to his brother Wilhelm, telling him how wonderful Wisconsin was and how much it looked like “home.” I also found a 92 year old great aunt, Helene Manecke, who had been praying she would not die until the descendants of her father and his brother were reunited. This narrative is taken from those experiences and from a eulogy written by a friend, Friederich Schoppenhorst: *“Heinrich Manecke: 1849-1908: The Life Story of a Ladberger.”*

Schoppenhorst wrote: “He has gone home, my dear friend of my youth with whom I have walked many miles... wonderful hours, in the spring, when the nightingales gave us their songs, or in the fall, when the farmers swung their threshing tools, and the melodic clatter rang out. We made plans for the future... we stood at the beginning of it, after all. Then we did not anticipate that our paths would part and each was to go his way. I will, now, set a small memorial to my friend by sketching the path of his life.”

The Manecke family had lived in Ladbergen since the year 950, when it is recorded that they gave honey to the cloister in Munster. Schoppenhorst writes that Heinrich’s father was a spinning wheel maker, and “Frau Manecke an industrious spinner who spun days and half the nights to earn a low wage.” The family

“lived in an old baking house of only one room, with openings filled out with pieces of sod.” The father worked as a farm hand, and in spring after the crops were planted, he was a “Holland-goer,” as were many men in Ladbergen, cutting peat until the crops were ready to harvest.

Heinrich was just a boy when he was sent out to be a shepherd, and while watching the sheep, he and another boy found an old watch that they took apart and put together again, “over and over until they knew the workings of a watch by heart.” In time Heinrich married and started a repair shop for pocket watches and house-clocks, gaining enough customers so he could also start a bookstore of Christian writings and school books. One day he wrote to a former Ladbergen pastor, H.W. Steinecker, who had immigrated to Wisconsin. Did this new land need a watchmaker, he asked? Soon an answer arrived; Heinrich must come. “Nothing helped after this; the emigration fever had taken hold of him. “His furniture and all he possessed came under the hammer [*was put up for auction*]. He kept only the bedding and his watchmaking tools to use in America.”

On May 1, 1882, Heinrich, with his wife and five children, arrived in New York. While on Ellis Island “his beautiful watchmaking tools that he had brought along from Germany were stolen.” The family set out for Wisconsin with “nothing but faith in God.” (Schoppenhorst). Heinrich described Wausau in a letter to his brother as “a large and beautiful city of 3000 souls.” It was full of immigrants, and there was nowhere to stay, not even for one night. It was rumored that there were people in the north of the city who had come from near Ladbergen, so they walked until they found them, and “when they heard them speaking [the Low German dialect] the hearts connected.” Bedding was placed on the floor, and they

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One German Immigrant; One Ancestral Journey

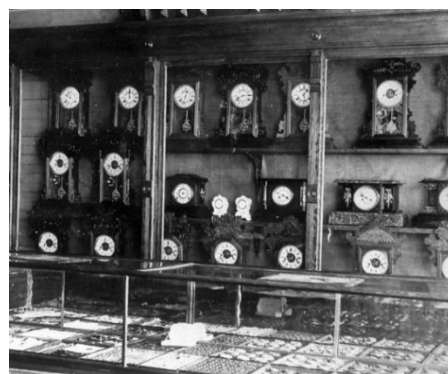
By Sylvia Linton

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slept. When Pastor Steinecker found them, “he saw there was no place to rent, so he bought a small building lot and had a farm house built on it. In 14 days, the house was ready and they could move in.” Their story shows the advantages of “chain migration” – moving to an area where others who share language or religion have already gone. Immigrants were willing to share resources and even their homes to an extent I cannot imagine. Many of our immigrant ancestors survived because of the generosity of strangers, and they in turn “paid it forward.”

With no money and no watchmaking tools, Heinrich was forced to take work on the railroad, but soon he had crafted some tools himself and began fixing the pocket watches of the railroad workers. “One day Manecke explained to the Pastor that he wanted to begin a watch business, so the pastor rented a little room with one window towards the street for a shop. While Manecke put a few watches in the window, Steinecker talked to a rich merchant Kickbusch in Milwaukee, a wholesaler in watches and jewelry, and he described to him this poor, industrious, true-hearted German and his situation, so Kickbusch sent his representative to Wausau. One day, there sits Manecke in his new workshop, repairing some old watches. There enters a gentleman and asks whether he would be ready to take the watches on a commission basis. Manecke declared himself to be ready and willing, adding that he did not, however, have any money for security. The stranger says: *‘This we don’t need in America. My employer looks only into the honest eyes, and you have those; therefore, you may begin,’* and he goes away. Afterwards, he returns with a cabinetmaker and a display window and installs it; also a counter and a glass cupboard are brought into the shop. Then comes a crate which is unpacked, and watches and gold and silverwares spread out in the display window and in the glass cupboard. Everything shines and twinkles, one splendor larger than the other.”

[Photos inserted by Sylvia Linton]



Schoppenhorst goes on: “Our Manecke stands there and knows not how to find words. Outside, on the store is placed a sign with the inscription: “H. Manecke, Watchmaker & Jeweler. Dealer in Watches, Clocks, Jewels.” The next day, many buyers came and bought at the German watchmaker’s. When Manecke closed his store after the first business day and walked home, it continuously sounded in his soul:

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One German Immigrant; One Ancestral Journey

By Sylvia Linton

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“How great is the Almighty’s benevolence! The Lord has never forgotten me; my heart, do also not forget him.”

Henry A. Manecke became a prominent jeweler and watchmaker in Wausau, and two of his sons (there were 14 children in all) followed in that trade. He also opened a retail store with optical instruments and a bookstore with Christian books. He considered spreading reading material among the people as his goal in life. Upstairs in his house, he had furnished a sanctuary for himself alone. “There stood on the walls big bookshelves with many hundreds of books, and on the tables stood the optical, mathematical, and physics instruments, and a large telescope. The one to whom he granted permission to enter this room – who had to be an especially intimate friend, for he always carried the key to it in his pocket – saw himself transported into the room of a scholar.” (*Schoppenhorst*)

In 1903 the Maneckes made a trip back to Ladbergen where they shared stories and photographs and re-read the old letters written to family and friends over the years. Those letters and photos were then tied with a ribbon and put in a trunk in the attic of the house that Heinrich’s brother Wilhelm had built. They were still there 100 years later when this writer arrived in Ladbergen and tracked down the family. Among those letters was a wedding photograph of a young couple with the question written in German on the back, “Who are these people? Are they family?” I was able to tell them, “Yes, they are your family and mine; they are my grandmother and grandfather, William Manecke, a son of Heinrich named after the brother Wilhelm who stayed behind in Ladbergen, whose descendants you are. Helene’s prayers had been answered.

M & M Tips

You’ve searched the web on Ancestry, Family Search, and various other sites. Have you found everything? The answer is a resounding NO. Every day more and more information is being put on the web. You can do a Google search one day and find nothing for a particular person, then do the same search days later and suddenly find an article about the individual. The same is true of Ancestry and Family Search. Family trees are being entered all the time on these web sites, so you can often find information that was hidden just the day before. Check back to these web sites often and don’t assume that you have found all the information that is out there on your ancestors.

When searching for census records on Family Search and Ancestry, remember that the spelling of surnames can vary due to several reasons. If the census taker did not ask for the proper spelling and just guessed, the chances of the name being spelled correctly is not good. If the census taker’s penmanship is atrocious (we’ve all seen those), the individual doing the indexing can only guess at the spelling. Also, if the handwriting is very fancy, almost calligraphy, the indexing can be difficult. The handwriting looks nice but is very hard to read. So if you can’t find your ancestor by surname, try first names only if you know the dates and the location. You may have to scroll through several pages, but it can be done.



AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

Richmond – Burr Claxton Blakeman who has been visiting his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Hare, for several days returned home Saturday.-----Miss Stewart, of Milton, visited her brother, J. L. Kilkenny, a fortnight returning to her home on Wednesday of last week.-----The strawberry social held in Chas. Mack's new barn Wednesday evening was well attended.-----Charles Woodstock closes his school on Friday with a picnic at Turtle Lake. On Thursday evening his pupils will give an entertainment at the M. E. church. (The Delavan Republican, Thursday, June 14, 1900)

Allen Grove – Louis Mosher was in town over Sunday and on Monday moved his family down beyond Freeport, Ill., where he has a good position as section foreman.-----Mrs. J. Conry went to Chicago last Saturday for a visit with her daughter, Mrs. J. Kraus.-----Mrs. Gardner Wells is attending to the household duties at home during her mother's absence.-----Mrs. James McKinney, mother of Mr. A. E. McKinney, of this place, died in Chicago last Friday. The body was brought here on Saturday evening, the funeral being held at the home of A. E. McKinney. Burial took place at Mount Philipp cemetery. (The Delavan Republican, June 14, 1900)

North Walworth – J. P. Hatch has rented his house to Frank and Charles Buckles who took possession Sunday.-----Miss Jessie Flitcroft has been engaged to teach the

school in the Parker district the coming year.-----Andrew Slack's brother-in-law arrived from Germany last week.-----Mrs. Til Sheldon is visiting her sister in Williams Bay.-----We understand that Mr. Crewe has been engaged to teach the school of this place for another year.-----H. G. Wright, wife and daughter, were Sunday visitors at H. E. Powers. (The Delavan Republican, Thursday, August 2, 1900)

East Delavan – Rev. C. C. Willett will take a vacation from his pastoral duties during the remainder of this month.-----Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Gaylord and Mrs. C. Sheldon spent part of last week with relatives at McHenry, Ill.-----Mrs. Hubbel, and daughter, Miss Lulu, of Marinette, Wis., are the guests of her sister, Mrs. G. B. DeGroff.-----We are sorry to note that S. J. Hollister is seriously ill with rheumatism of the heart.-----Mrs. G. B. DeGroff returned from her eastern visit last Monday.-----Silas Kishner is feeling very swell with that pleasant malady, the mumps.-----Geo. W. Diggins and family, who have resided at this place during the past few months, will move to Palmyra on the 15th inst. to be nearer their field of work as district organizers of the Mystic Workers of the World. They have proven exceptionally pleasant neighbors and we are sorry they are so soon to remove from our midst. (The Delavan Republican, August 9, 1900)

PROGRAM RECAP

Deb Ketchum was the speaker at the October meeting. She gave a visual program on how to use the Geographic Information System that can be found online. Deb explained the GIS online program to research land information.



Our November speaker was Jean Hoffman from the Kenosha Civil War Museum who presented “Taking Your Family Research from Chaos to Calm.”



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PROGRAM RECAP

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News from nearby Societies

Burlington Genealogical Society will have no meeting in December.

Kenosha County Genealogical Society will have their Christmas Party for members on December 8 from 6:30 until 9:00 pm

British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL) will have their next meeting on January 17, 10:00 am: A Thomas MacEntee webinar: 7 Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists. The webinar will present a list of key resources as well as ways to save money while researching ancestors.

Membership dues for 2015 are due by December 31st. If you are not a lifetime member or did not take advantage of the 2 year membership in 2013, please remember to send in your payment. The dues are \$15 for individual and \$18 dollars for family and if you want your newsletter sent by snail mail, there is an additional \$5 charge. You can pay your membership online on our web site, or mail a check to WCGS, P.O.Box 159, Delavan, WI.

Are You Related To Me?

The spotlight, this newsletter, is on Martha Hay, newsletter editor.

1. How did you get interested in genealogy?

I knew that my father's parents had come from Poland and that we had relatives that still lived there, but even my father knew very little. My mother was not raised with her family, but my father said that her family had been in this country since the 1600's yet I never knew how or who. That started my interest.

2. Names, places and date of ancestors.

Lent/Van Lent- Westchester County and Peekskill, New York - 1600's; Dyckman,/Ryker -Manhattan and Peekskill, New York - 1600's; York - Stonington, Connecticut - 1600's

3. Names and places of interest:

Tarrytown, Peekskill, Ossining, Montrose, Buchanan, Cherry Valley, and Springfield Center all in New York as well as Harlem, Manhattan, New York
Also, Wielowies, Poland, Wheeling, West Virginia, and Struthers, Ohio

4. Burial areas

Hillside Cemetery, Van Cortlandtville, New York; Cedar Hill Cemetery, Montrose, Westchester, New York; Springfield Center Cemetery, Springfield Center, New York; Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Cook, Illinois

5. Any Vets in your family line?

Yes, my great-grandfather was a Civil War veteran and various ancestors were in the Revolutionary War but not in my direct line

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

We visited my grandmother in the house my father grew up in many times when I was a child, but it was razed several years ago because the relatives that took it over did not keep it up. My Uncle Bill had a farm for many years and my grandmother lived with him, but it is no longer in the family.

7. Anything interesting happen while researching?

When we were checking tombstones in the Burying Ground of the Old Dutch Church in Sleepy Hollow, New York, we saw an elderly man with a full white beard watching us. He asked who we were looking for and when my husband told him the surname, Lent, he said: "Hello Cousin".

8. Any surprises in your research?

Discovering that the characters in Washington Irving's Legend of Sleepy Hollow were all conglomerations of members of my mother's family.

9. Please contact WCGS to network with me.

I'm desperately looking for more members to fill out the "Are You Related to Me?" form. If you need a form, email me at [wgsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wcsnewsletter@gmail.com) and I will be glad to send it to you.

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Michael Hay	455 Fellows Road	Genoa City, WI	wcgspres@gmail.com
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OTHERS:	Newsletter Editor: Martha Hay wcgnewsletter@gmail.com			
	Past-President: Deb Ketchum			
	Historian: Pat Blackmer			
	Librarian: Deb Ketchum			

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

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

****Dues are \$15 (\$50 Lifetime) for an individual, \$18.00 (\$100 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 Barb - jawadusti@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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