



Walworth County Genealogical Society



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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 wcs-sec@gmail.com.



Winter 2020 Meetings

No meeting in January 2020

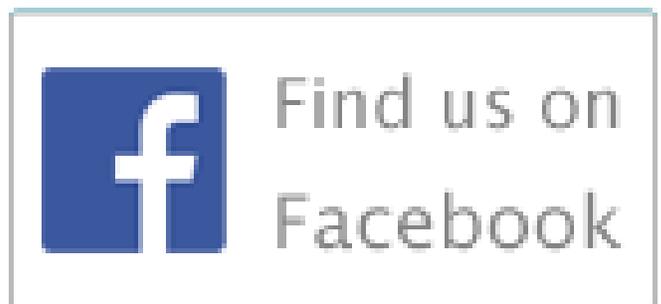
Feb 4th—at 1 pm at the Delavan Community Center, Delavan WI. You are invited to bring an item of interest for our Annual Show N' Share program.

March 5th- 1pm Delavan Community Center, Delavan, WI. Program is yet to be determined.

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www.facebook.com/wcwgcs

WCGS Library Page



Library Donations

Thank you to everyone who has donated family histories, reference books, and research materials to Walworth County Genealogical Society in 2019. We keep expanding our family history section, so be sure to look at the Dooley Family History and the books with multiple families that are being updated

Walworth Genealogical Society gladly accepts donations of family histories, reference books, and genealogy research. In the past few years we have received several donations of family genealogy materials and research after the death of a family member when the family did not want the materials. We were happy to get them, but sometimes it was boxes of all kinds of records, notes, duplicates, personal information and pictures that required several hours of sorting and organizing and deciding what to keep.

Here are some things to keep in mind when you are deciding to donate, or if you are deciding what to do with your genealogy research in the event no one in your family is willing to carry it on.

Check with the library before donating items, or putting the library in your will, to be sure we have room. We do not accept items on loan.

Materials organized by surname, location, etc. are greatly appreciated.

Be sure your family knows your wishes.

To the right is an example of a Genealogical Will that you might use to be sure your genealogical records, books, papers, correspondence, etc. are handled as you wish.

Submitted by Judy Rockwell

Library Committee Members:

Diana Bird

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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,

My Genealogical Will For Preserving My Family History

Genealogical Codicil to My Last Will and Testament:

To my spouse, children and/or heirs, guardian, administrator or executor:

Upon my death, it is requested that you DO NOT dispose of any or all of my genealogical records, both those prepared personally by me and those prepared by others, which may be in my possession. This includes but is not limited to books, paper and/or computer files, notebooks, correspondence, audio/visual items, photographs, and documents, for a period of two years.

During this two-year period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of said materials and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family histories.

Parties to contact regarding the assumption of the custody of these items include but are not limited to:

Name	Address	Telephone
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

In the event that you find no one to accept these materials, please contact the institutions listed below, in order, and determine if they will accept part or all of my genealogical materials.

Institution Name	Address (Contact Person)	Telephone
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please remember that my family history studies consumed a great deal of time, travel, and money. Therefore it is my strong desire that the product of these efforts be preserved and allowed to continue in a manner that will make them available to others in the future.

Signature _____	Witness _____
Date _____	Date _____



AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

Lyons – Peter Burns, a former telegraph operator at Springfield, but now of Kansasville, and Miss Wylie, daughter of J. P. Wylie, were married Tuesday, Jan. 10th, 1882, by the Rev. Father Rimmer.-----P. Gough, a resident of this town some twenty-five years ago, but now of Green Lake, Wis., is visiting with his brother-in-law, J. T. Creighton. He wishes to buy a span of young horses.-----B. C. Simons, of New York, a brother-in-law of Rüssel and J. E. Waite, is visiting with them here.-----Elon Waite starts Thursday for San Barnedo, California, where he has formerly lived. He seems to have tired of Wisconsin and pines for the land of the orange and grape. Success to you Elon.-----It is reported that McCanna & Co., of Springfield, sold a large amount of butter last week for 41 cents per pound. “Whew, a’int that a big one,”--we mean the butter factory—no, not that, it’s the butter. No, we know now, it’s the 41 cents. It’s enough to make all the patrons weep—for joy. (Jan. 13, 1882, Delavan Republican)

Fontana – The hotel which was to be built at Turbeck’s place—formerly Fontana Park—has been postponed until fall.-----C.S. Douglass and his father, C. L., can talk together without leaving their respective houses. They have put up a telephone.-----Jonas Henninger is building a large addition

to his house.-----Work on the telescope was to begin the first of the week.-----The lake people are putting in their appearance-----E. M. Morrissey who taught this year at Big Foot, is to be principal at Alden, Ill., the coming season. (Thursday, May 28, 1896, The Sharon Reporter)

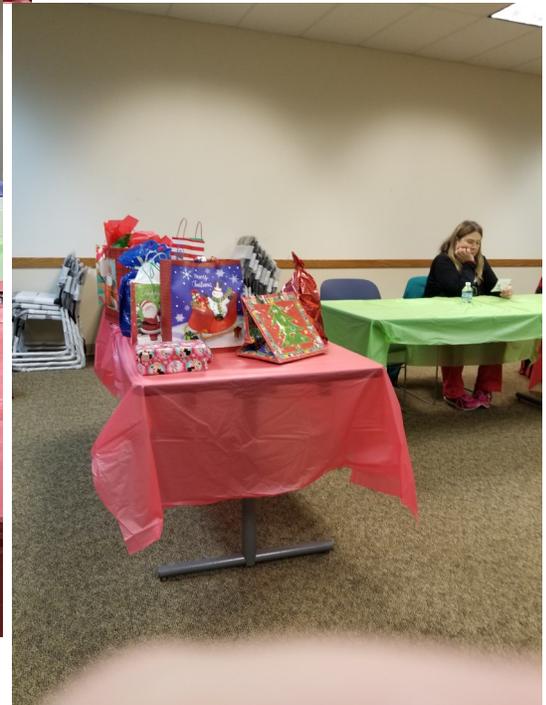
North Walworth – Charles McCabe is now located on his farm purchased of A. Henry.-----Mr. and Mrs. Claude Huntley visited at Isaac Peasley’s, near Delavan, recently.-----Miss Lucy Hopkins is assisting Mrs. Gardner, of Williams Bay, with her sewing.-----Edwin Brown and family have moved to Williams Bay. Frank Henry will work the farm.-----Byron Huntley, of Millard, spent Sunday at G. W. Flitcroft’s.-----Miss Myrtle Douglass, of Walworth, spent Friday night and Saturday at the Flitcroft home. (Thursday, October 5, 1905, The Delavan Enterprise)

South Grove – The first of a series of debates was held in the Salt Box school house last Thursday evening. A short program preceded the debate: Resolved, “That Lincoln was a greater man than Washington.” The judges decided in favor of the affirmative. The next debate will be held Friday evening, March 18th.-----Several from this vicinity attended the farmers’ institute at Delavan. Frank Clapper won first

Meeting Recaps for November and December 2019

I am sorry to report that the scheduled November meeting video presentation of “The Stavig Letters” by Corlene Bartels from the The Sons of Norway hit a technological snag that was not resolvable, but hopefully is able to be rescheduled.

The December meeting began with the usual elections and ended with our Annual Christmas Potluck and Take Away Bingo night. As usual it was lively and thank you again to Dan Richardson for being our very patient Bingo Caller. We all look forward to the food and Marilyn’s punch and the gift exchanges!



Notes from other Societies:

Helping to Answer Your Genealogy Research Questions

Saturday, January 18 - 10 AM until Noon

A panel of experienced genealogists will be on hand at The British Interest Group of Wisconsin & Illinois meeting on Saturday, January 18, 2020 from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon at the Community Church, 5714 Broadway, Richmond, IL 60071.

Professional genealogists Maureen Brady, Ann Wells and other knowledgeable genealogists will share their British research expertise, answering your research questions, covering sources, along with sharing information on genealogy technology and genealogy publication. So much can be found regarding the several nations that make up Great Britain and Ireland. Bring your brick walls and knotty problems for some one-on-one time with our experts.

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



From Burlington Genealogical Society:

NAMES & NAMING PATTERNS WORKSHOP

Names! clues and tips for successful research with names in genealogy:

problems, peculiarities, recording methods, confusing names, nicknames, given names, family patterns, cultural patterns, Jr. & Sr.'s, same name/different person, your name and more. Funny & serious stories!
(Members: bring examples from your family tree to share, bring photos of people of the name stories if you have them... adds wonderful interest!)

Monday Jan 20, 2020 6-8:30 pm

meets this month at the **BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY***
166 E Jefferson St, Burlington, WI 53105

Public invited, free. Memberships available, donations welcome.



Contributions from Members

Diana Bird's daughter Danielle wrote the following article about Mennonite Genealogy in the hopes it may be a helpful link to a fellow researcher, thank you Danielle!

Mennonite Genealogy

Many people know about Ancestry and FamilySearch, but there is a more useful website for those with Mennonite heritage. It's a database called GRandDMA, the **G**enealogical **R**egistry **a**nd **D**atabase of **M**ennonite **A**ncestry. Here, California Mennonite Historical Society (CMHS) volunteers have entered data from Mennonite church books and public records to create individual profiles and entire family trees. Each ancestor is given a unique number and all information for them is added to his or her specific profile.

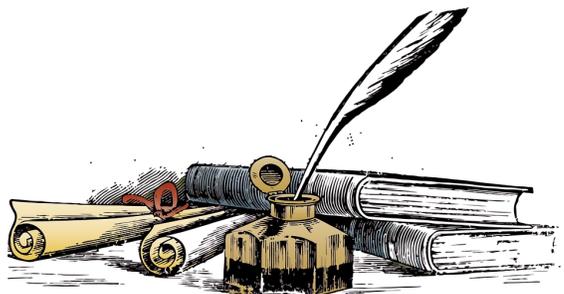
Most individuals are helpfully linked to spouse(s), parents, siblings, and more distant relatives, sometimes going back generations. This is especially useful given the large size of Mennonite families and the repeated use of the same names. Profiles often cite the documents from which the information was extracted, though unfortunately these are not linked with images. GRandDMA also occasionally includes tidbits from unofficial records such as family-produced histories or letters that mentions things like a profession or cause of death.

It should be noted that the records focus on Mennonite settlements in Prussia and Russia (today's Poland, Ukraine, and Russia). Many of these families originated further west, in the Netherlands or German-speaking areas, and were forced east by religious persecution. After the World Wars, many were made to flee again due to their German heritage and language. Families and churches split apart, moving to new homes in western Europe, the US, Canada, and South America.

After finding this database, I entered the name and birth date of a single ancestor who immigrated to Wisconsin in the late 1800s. Based on that, an entire family tree popped up. Hundreds of relatives, some going back into the 1600s, all found in a moment! Whereas before I had a basic idea of where the family was from, now I had the names of several tiny settlements where they emigrated from.

I wanted to locate these villages. GRandDMA lists older Germanic names which have since been changed. The most convenient source for correlating old place names with new Polish or Russian names are lists located at <http://www.mennonitegenealogy.com>. This site features a mix of church and census extracts, cemetery records, and a scattering of other documents sorted by region and often translated into English. Some original documents have been scanned. Occasionally it is possible to match up records from GRandDMA to these images.

If there is evidence or even suspicion that ancestors belonged to the Mennonite church, a two-year subscription for GRandDMA costs just \$20. To purchase, go to the website of the CMHS (calmenno.org) and follow the GRandDMA link. The database itself is located at www.grandmaonline.org. The site is less flashy than larger genealogy search engines, but the depth of the information and the ease of tracing entire families is unparalleled.



Member contribution continued....

From your editor Peggy:

During a recent cleanout of my parents farmhouse attic, I came across an old autograph book of my mothers and laughed at some of the little “ditties” people wrote in those books. They are very similar in nature to the sayings inserted in school yearbooks of my era. I was born in 1953 and I know there must have still been autograph books around in the 60’s but I don’t remember having one or signing one. I am sure that many of our fellow members remember them well, and maybe they still have theirs to cherish and look at occasionally.

The first ditty below amused me, it took me a while to figure it out and I laughed at myself when I finally did figure it out. I showed it to my grandchildren and they just didn’t get it until I explained it to them. I told them I listen to all of their knock-knock jokes, and this is just the way people enjoyed humor in those days.

As a bonus, I discovered some signatures with Uncle and Aunt and Cousin names attached that I had not encountered before, more info to research! These were written in the years from 1941 to 1943.

YY U R
YY U B
I C U R
YY 4 ME.

Roses are red, sweet peas are pink, did you see Uncle
Bob clean the sink?

This queer old world we’re living in
Is mighty hard to beat
There is a thorn for every rose
But aren’t the roses sweet?

For morning has painted the perfect day
With colors that cannot fade
And we find at the end of the perfect day
The soul of the friend we have made

Always paddle your own canoe
And luck and happiness will come to you

When the golden sun is sinking
And your mind from care is free
When of others you are thinking
Won’t you sometimes think of me

In your chain of friendship consider me a link



Bob-



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, 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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P.O. BOX 159

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY