



Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume 29 Issue 5

ISSN - 1008-5765

Sep-Oct 2020

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 wcgsec@gmail.com.



2020 Meetings

All WCGS gatherings for 2020 have been cancelled till further notice.

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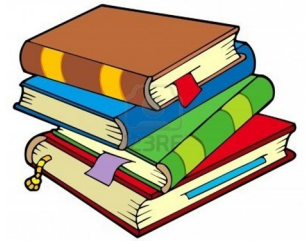
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Facebook

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WCGS Library Page



The WCGS library remains closed due to the Corona virus and all activities have stopped until further notice.

B L M

The real B L M = Bureau of Land Management

This government agency was founded by Harry S. Truman , Dec. 10 1946 and the headquarters is in Washington D. C. There are branch offices throughout the USA and their job is to track and keep records of the uses of government lands, National Parks , etc.

What does this have to do with genealogy?

I have spent much time during this lockdown on the internet. The Bureau of Land Management has a very good web-site that is very interesting and easy to navigate. One can find out anything about the national park system, up to date newsletters , information on federal lands and historic photos from various parks.

The genealogy link is in the GLO (General Land Office). Families that bought land from the Federal Government in the 1800's were issued land patents. These were issued in the territories and States to attract settlers. The actual patents can be viewed on the website. The patents contain the name and signature of a buyer, a legal description , date of purchase or a military warrant in lieu (a benefit of serving during a war) . I actually found on my maternal side of the family a patent in Illinois for 160 acres bought with a military warrant for James Wheeler who was deceased and had served in the War of 1812. It states his only heirs were 7 brothers and sisters. They used the warrant to get land in Illinois and started farming after leaving New York. Each person was named, and the date lets me know when the families came, and each person had to sign so an actual autograph is a plus. Also once a surname is searched other land purchases might show up. I also looked up my husbands family name in Wisconsin and found the patent. Interestingly, that patent signature showed that James was a " junior" another genealogical piece.

Through the Bureau one can order a copy of the document as well.

Submitted

by

Diana Bird

Library Committee Member

If you would be interested in volunteering for projects or to help at the library contact one of the library committee members:

Diana Bird 815-943-3690-leave message if no answer birddiana1@gmail.com

Marilyn Traver- msearchin@gmail.com

Judy Rockwell- jrockwell@gmail.com



AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

By Shirley Sisk

Darien – Miss Mary Bonner of Douglass, Wyoming, came Wednesday to visit her sister, Mrs. Ed Wells. Mrs. Wells and two children met her in Elkhorn.-----Cyrus Ferow, of Walworth, visited Darien on Thursday of last week for the first time since his return from Everett, Wash., last May.-----Miss Ella Ormsby returned to her home in Trumbull, Neb., Saturday.-----Rev. Kafer, of Allens Grove, and Rev. Nixon, of Darien, exchanged pulpits last Sunday.-----Ernest Willard and wife and two children, of Sycamore, Ill., visited his brother, U. C. Willard, and wife of this place, last week. They returned home on Monday. (The Delavan Republican, Thursday, July 27, 1905)

Walworth – Mrs. Spaulding, of Milton Junction, is visiting her cousin, H. M. Coon.-----Mrs. Chas. Cooper, of Linn, spent last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Fisk.-----Mrs. Nellie Coon, with her son Shirley, came home Saturday after visiting in Chicago and Detroit.-----Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Crandall are the proud parents of a nine pound boy. Lyle Rodman has been selected as his name.-----M. Colburn, with family, has returned home after his engagement as hotel proprietor at Glenwood Springs during the lake season.-----Mr. Jay Humphrey, of Albion, was here one day last week returning the next day accompanied by his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Will Crandall.-----Our school is patronized by eight tuitioned pupils; namely, Angelo Bently, Jay Hildreth, Verne Maxon, Frank Wheeler, Harriet Pierce and Minnie Huntly in the High School, and Arba Colburn and Mabel Wolf in the Intermediate. (The Enterprise, Delavan, Wis., Sept. 26, 1895)

North Walworth – John Siperly will build a new house next season on his premises, for his son Wayland to occupy.-----Everett Davis is getting material in readiness to build himself a new house in the spring, on his farm.-----Dr. Campbell came up last week and vaccinat-

ed the children in our school, and now the little fellows are carrying their arms in a sling.-----Mrs. R. S. Trumble had the misfortune to run a needle through her finger last week, and she was obliged to go to a surgeon to have it extracted.-----A number of young people from here gave Mr. and Mrs. S. U. Phelps, of East Delavan, a surprise last Saturday evening, and all report having a splendid visit. (The Enterprise, Delavan, Wisconsin, Thursday, February 22, 1894)

Sharon – The county fair at Elkhorn, last week, was a grand success. Nearly 3500 entries were made—about 500 more than the year previous. It is estimated 12,000 people were on the grounds, Thursday—the largest turnout in the history of the society.-----J. B. Wise desires all who are owing him on Book Account to settle the same by Note or Cash within the next 10 days, as he must close his business here at once.-----Those wishing photographs, copying and enlarging or anything in the photographic line will please call soon as I intend to close my business in Sharon in sixty days. Do not wait for the sun to shine, as light cloudy weather is the best. Special attention paid to children. Call and see specimens. All work warranted first-class. Respectfully, E. N. Shaw.-----Ike Spencer has quit work at Corliss', and will start a first-class barber shop at Clinton. (The Sharon Reporter, Thursday, October 2, 1879)

Fairfield – The village school opens this week with Miss Capen again at the helm.-----Miss Kate Clowes, of Chicago, who has been seriously ill and was obliged to go to the hospital for a surgical operation is gaining in health as rapidly as could be expected.-----A large box containing a quantity of clothing, dried fruits, meats, etc., besides four barrels of flour, was sent from this place last week Wednesday to the suffering people of Nebraska. (The Delavan Republican, Thursday, January 3, 1895)

Immigration Information

Before 1906 immigration was regulated by the state governments, after 1906 immigration was regulated by the Federal Government. Standardized forms were used and more details were requested. Some of the information you can find on these later immigration papers are birthplace, port and date of arrival, physical description, and names of wife and children, if applicable.

Keep in mind that, **until 1922, women could not be naturalized on their own**; they became a citizen when their immigrant husband did. So your female immigrant ancestor may not have any citizenship papers of her own.

Declaration of Intent

The first step is when the immigrant filed his "first papers." On this form, he declares his intention to become a citizen and renounces all allegiance to foreign government.

There was usually a residency requirement of several years, so the declaration of intent was followed by a waiting period.

Petition for Naturalization

After the residency requirement had been met, the immigrant could file the "second papers." This signified that the immigrant was ready to become a United States citizen.

Certificate of Citizenship

There's only one copy of the certificate and it was given to the new citizen. You will have to find this in home sources.

From a research standpoint the citizenship certificate does not give any helpful information, but holding the paper that proclaimed your ancestor "citizen" is nevertheless a thrill. The certificate included a photo after 1929.



WSGS 2020 Virtual Fall Seminar and Workshop

By Judy Rockwell

On Friday, October 16, **Lori Bessler**, Wisconsin State Library Archives, conducted a 4 hour virtual workshop titled **Don't Leave Any Stones Unturned! Finding Collections Anywhere and Everywhere.**

This is just a small sample from Lori's presentation.

"Don't make assumptions about the family!"

"Know the area and era!" Search maps and local history sources from the time and place they lived.

Make a plan, use timelines and research logs--Remember many records are not online

Check these sites often for new content-- Ancestry, Fold 3, FindAGrave, FamilySearch, Deathindexes.com, The-AnccestorHunt.com, FindMyPast, MyHeritage, Deadfred.com

Lori and everyone at the Historical Society Library and Archives welcome your questions and are always ready to help.

Library reference: 608-264-6535--- email: asklibrary@wisconsinhistory.org

Archives reference: 608-264-6460 ----email: askarchives@wisconsinhistory.org

On Saturday, October 17, **Elizabeth Williams Gomoll, CG**, professional genealogist from Minnesota, was speaker for the daylong virtual seminar. She operates Red Bird Genealogy Services www.redbirdgen.com. We had 4 hour long sessions with breaks between.

Session 1: Genealogy Smart Start, Things I Wish I'd Known. Elizabeth stressed organization. Start with what you know is correct and work from there. Research extended family, friends and neighbors. Be sure to always cite your sources. Use Cyndislist.com. Go in person to find records not online. Periodically review what you have.

Session 2: Where They Once Stood: Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Place of Origin. Start with the full name with spelling variations, at least the year of birth, names of family members, and any other information you already have. Work back from what you know. Look for family memorabilia and family stories, use online sources and repositories.

Session 3: Unlocking Notation Codes on Alien Passenger Lists. We learned the history of passenger lists and when information was required. Elizabeth provided a list of abbreviations for common codes as well as a list of special inquiry annotations-reasons for exclusion 1903-1924. Examples: QE—Quarantine, LD—loathsome disease CL—contract laborer

Session 4: I Got My DNA Results. Now What? Elizabeth discussed the 3 basic DNA tests and the 4 DNA testing companies. She talked about the concerns some people have about being tested and the accuracy of ethnicity. She suggests downloading your raw DNA and uploading it to other databases. Recheck the results often. Be specific when contacting matches and tell which company shows your match and who you match. Be sure to thank responders.

This is my 4th or 5th time attending the fall seminar and workshop, but the first time virtually. I thoroughly enjoyed it and learned a lot. I missed the interaction with other genealogists, but it was easy to do virtually and WSGS managed it well.

2021 Gene-A-Rama Conference is scheduled for April 9 and 10 in Manitowoc. I hope we can meet in person, but if not, attending virtually is a good substitute. I encourage everyone to attend either way!!

Name: _____

Date: _____

Immigration

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T N F X W L K W R E S P O N S I B I L I T I E S
F R W D P C I T I Z E N S H I P E X A M Z D N A

political refugee	oath of allegiance	responsibilities	naturalization
expatriation	political asylum	punishment	tolerance
legal immigrants	birth	visa	deportation
ellis island	passport	legal documents	citizenship
border control	citizenship exam	green card	duties

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE BY WCGS

Walworth Co. Probate Record Index - 1848-1939	\$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	
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 reprint)	\$14.00	
East Delavan Union Cemetery	\$25.00	
History of Delavan School 1982 - index only	\$18.00	
EAST TROY - Oak Ridge Cemetery	\$18.00	
St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery	\$25.00	
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 (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$12.00	
LAGRANGE -LaGrange Pioneers (reprint of 3600 names, full index)	\$27.00	
LaGrange Township Cemeteries	\$10.00	
LYONS - Hudson/Lyons (Old Quaker) / Wija Farm Cemeteries (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$12.00	\$12.00
St. Joseph & St. Killian Catholic Cemeteries (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$10.00	
RICHMOND - Richmond & East Richmond Cemeteries	\$15.00	
SHARON - Oakwood	\$25.00	
SPRING PRAIRIE - Hickory Grove	\$12.00	
German Settlement / Mount Hope / Diener Cemeteries (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$15.00	
SUGAR CREEK - Millard Cemetery	\$20.00	
Hazel Ridge Cemetery	\$15.00	
Mount Pleasant Cemetery (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$15.00	
Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$15.00	
TROY - Little Prairie	\$20.00	
WALWORTH - Walworth Center (Walworth Village listings)	\$20.00	
Brick Church Revised 2007	\$20.00	
Cobblestone, WI/Bigfoot, IL (two different cemeteries in one book)	\$15.00	
WHITEWATER - St. Patrick's Calvary	\$25.00	
Hillside Cemetery	\$18.00	
Unknown Burials	\$12.00	
Index to the Annals of Whitewater		

Shipping and handling as follows: \$6.50 per book

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 \$15 individual (\$100 lifetime), \$18.00 family (\$200 lifetime), \$7.50 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.

DSTK 1/14

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

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OTHERS: Newsletter Editor: Peggy Schutt wcgnewsletter@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

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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