

Walworth County Genealogical Society Newsletter



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March - April 2013

Guest Speakers/Programs for 2013

April 2nd, 6:30 PM: Photo Reconstruction - speaker Pat Boyd

May 7th, 6:30 PM: Open night at the ARC - Whitewater University speaker Karen Weston

June 4th, 6:30 PM: Irish Research and Genealogy - speaker Daniel Kane

July 2nd - NO MEETING - Cemetery Walk at Oakwood Cemetery in Sharon is tentatively set for Saturday, July 6th

August 6th, 6:30 PM: Ice Cream Social - Chris Brookes will be giving a historical reenactment.

If you haven't paid your dues for 2013, this will be your last newsletter!

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

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From the President's Desk

Mike Hay - WCGS President

As we welcome Spring 2013 (this morning's wind chill at -6 degrees), after having to cancel the March 5th workshop because of a snowstorm, I'm hoping that the weather gods will look a little more favorably on us for the rest of the year!

We have been busy making plans for this year's activities, which now include our Cemetery Walk, which is slated to take place on July 6th at the Oakwood Cemetery at Sharon. We will be looking at tombstones (as soon as we can find them under the snow) to determine which folks our presenters can talk about. If anyone knows of persons who are buried in Oakwood, let us know so we can make preparations.

Deb Ketchum, our librarian, has been busy making our library more "user friendly" and is doing a great job of it. Stop in and see the changes. Our library staff of volunteers is also undergoing some changes with Marilyn Traver and Karen Weston taking half days to help researchers who visit. Any members who would like to assist would be greatly appreciated. Having more than one society member is helpful when three or more visitors come into the library at once.

Our Family History Fair will be taking place in late September or early October on a Saturday, and we are making plans. If you have any suggestion, please contact me. We need our members to help take part in the fair, both to represent our Society and to help encourage family researching.

We have been contacted by the activities director at Arbor Village/Village Glen of Geneva Crossings in Lake Geneva to present a program for the residents on May 1st at 2:00 pm. We plan on describing our Society, and showing some methods of research as to what information is available, and encouraging them to relate their stories to their families. If you would like to participate in this activity, we will be very happy to have you join us. Although these residents are not able to get to our library or meetings, they are interested in what we do and they may encourage their families to get involved with our group.

I'm always open to any suggestions and/or comments from our Society members. You can contact me at the email address shown on the back page of this newsletter or you can phone me at 262-279-6541.



Deb Ketchum, Librarian



Ketchum's Korner

2013 represents the 25th anniversary of WCGS. At the February Show -N- Share program I gave the group trivia questions on what they know about the Society. Quite a few knew some answers but nobody had them all. Let's see how much you know of the Society. Answers are below.

1. In the fall of 1986 eight women came together to form WCGS besides Bette Cameron name two others.
2. Over the years we have had quite a few speakers but none so entertaining as Craig Pfannkuche. Can you name two of the programs he has done for us?
3. One of our annual events is the Cemetery Walk where we represent and tell the history of ancestors. Can you name the cemeteries we have done programs at? Hint - there has been six of them.
4. WCGS's library has been in two locations can you name them?
5. There's been 9 Presidents over the years. Three of them have been men. Not counting the current president, can you name them?
6. How many members were there at the end of our first year?

WCGS will be celebrating our 25th anniversary throughout the year. A good start has been the new look at the library. Since the first of the year I've rearranged the furniture. I'm now working on the bookshelves. Currently, I've moved and relabeled the "Surname" binders, the WI Counties binders and the entire section for Walworth County. Next are the books for the rest of the US. Stop in and give us a once over.

In February, Matheson Memorial Library lost a great asset in Angela Meyers, Adult Services Librarian. She has set off for a new adventure in the Waukesha County Federated Library System in New Berlin. WCGS was on hand to bid her a fond farewell. Her expertise in the worldwide web, resource materials and computer knowledge will be missed.



- Answers:
1. Barbara Achtel, Jan Bores, Evelyn DeLong, Jean Lees, Debbie Soplanda, Kay West and Barbara Wheelock.
 2. Outlaws and In-laws: How To Deal with Family Legends & Lore; Excavating Grandpa's Privy for Family History Data; Using Non-Federal Civil War Records in Family History Research; Using Cook County Records in Family History Research; Railroads 1870-1925; Analyzing 19th Century Photographs for Family History and Using Maps To Find Your Family.
 3. Pioneer/Lake Geneva; Old Settlers/Delavan; Brick Church/Walworth; Calvary/Whitewater; German Settlement/Spring Prairie and Union-Springfield.
 4. Aram Public Library/Delavan (1996) and Matheson Memorial Library/Elkhorn (2006).
 5. John Stevenson and Francis "Bud" Tweed.
 6. 32



AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

Richmond - Will Bellman is building an addition onto his barn. Charlie Stoller and Henry Dunbar are doing the carpenter work.-----Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ransom, of Bradford Center, visited Mrs. Ransom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Taylor, last Saturday.-----Earnest Knilans was up from Hebron, Ill., for an over Sunday visit with the home folk. (June 30, 1898, Delavan Enterprise)

Walworth - John Du Val returned last week from Canada, where he was entertained by over one hundred relatives and friends of his boyhood days. Mr. Du Val had not been back to his old home in 42 years-----Mr. and Mrs. J. Robar, left here last week for York state to be with his brother, who is very sick. They will probably be absent all winter.-----Mr. and Mrs. John Gates have a son very sick with typhoid fever.-----Jake Goodluck is planning to return to his old home in Holland, across the ocean, some time in November. May good luck attend him. (Sept. 23, 1897, The Enterprise, Delavan)

Fontana - Mrs. L. C. Porter and children visited at L. C. Church's, Walworth, last Thursday. Master Davie carried a very badly swollen eye for several days, caused by being in too close contact with a hive of bees while swarming.-----Geo. Crandall and family, of Linn, were visiting his sister, Mrs. Chas. Babcock last Sunday.-----Mrs. O'Connor and children, of Chicago, also Frank Lewis, was out last week and calling on her sister, Mrs. Foss. The children went to her mother's, Mrs. Millard's, to stay till after the 4th of July. Mrs. O'Connor and Frank returned home the same day. (June 30, 1898, The Delavan Republican)

Brick Church - Walworth - Lightning struck Grant Welch's barn last Friday night and killed his two horses-----Newton Mereness, Of Michigan, is visiting his cousin, Willie Mereness, this week.-----
--The Ladies Mission Society will meet with Mrs. C. Church, Thursday afternoon, to sew for the little girl

they are supporting in Chicago. (June 30, 1898, Delavan Enterprise)

Tibbets - Miss Lora Hicks is visiting her sister, Mrs. Pike West.-----Miss Harriet Weaver will teach the coming year at Merinette.-----Mr. and Mrs. George Weaver enjoyed a visit from Palmyra relatives, Sunday.-----Wm Ells made a business trip to Cincinnati last week. (June 30, 1898, Delavan Enterprise)

Delavan - A little daughter of Isaac Loomer is sick with tonsillitis.-----Mr. and Mrs. K. L. Hollister are the proud parents of a bouncing boy, born Saturday.-----Mrs. Adna Sawyer is seriously ill this morning with pneumonia and her daughter is here to care for her.-----George Clark and Geo. W. Hatch, of this city, and Prof. Medberry, of Elkhorn, played at the Woodmen's dance at Fairfield, last Wednesday evening.-----While enroute to a dance at Elkhorn Friday evening Miss Matie Winston, who with a party of young people was in a freight caboose, was thrown by a sudden jolt against the stove, burning her face and hair.-----
While practicing his ring work one day last week, George Holland, Jr., strained a cord in his neck, which is proving a very painful and inconveniencing disablement.-----A nice pen of Barred Plymouth Rocks direct from Hawkins, of Lancaster, Mass. arrived here by express last week for the L. P. Sutter place, at the lake. (Feb. 12, 1903, The Delavan Republican)

North Sharon - Mrs. Henry Joyner is dangerously ill at this writing.-----While feeding some horses in the field the other day, a colt kicked John Kalb, knocking him out in the first round.-----Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Markell, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Boyce and daughter Bernice, of Sharon, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Huber and son Leo, of Allen's Grove, ver visitors at William Markell's and Delbert Markell's last Sunday. (Sept. 23, 1897, The Enterprise, Delavan)

- **Another website full of information: ANCESTRY.COM** (membership)

Once you get on its home page look for military records and find the **American Civil War Soldiers** site. Enter the name you are looking for and click on the name in the list of others with the same name. This is where knowing his residence at the time of entering the service helps.

The results will show: **“Ranked Search Results - American Civil War Soldiers**
You searched for (**name you entered**) Refine your search”

The information it gives will be name, residence, enlistment date, side served, state served, and service record. You can click on ‘view record’ to see it for yourself.

When clicking on the company and infantry the information given is: name, residence, enlistment date, side served, state served, service record-promotion, enlistments and mustered out from/date.

- It is interesting to check out the 1850 Federal census records for the family. This will give you names of the children in the family and maybe could be a clue to the other men who might have served in the Civil War also.
- Full of information is the National Park Service - The Civil War
Website: <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>

Click on Soldiers, under the Soldiers and Sailors Database

- Soldiers and Sailors Database
 - Soldiers
 - Sailors
 - Regiments
 - Cemeteries
 - Battles
 - Prisoners
 - Medals of Honor
 - Monuments

Soldiers.....This shows all enlistments the soldier was in (even if he re-enlisted.)

It gives you the name, regiment name, side, company, soldiers rank in & out, film number, notes all under the Union Wisconsin Volunteers.

When the regiment is clicked on you get all information on it; overview (organized, mustered, where the places and dates where they were located at. Where they served listing all the skirmishes they were in. You can click on the skirmishes to get more information on that. A real history lesson in this. It shows other names it went by, the Campaign, dates, principal commanders, forces engaged, estimated casualties, and description of the action.

- **The National Archives of Military records**
Website: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-rec..>

Click at the top on “Veterans Service Records”

Search Using Military Records

- What's available online?
- Locate older (pre-WW I) military service records
- Using military records for genealogical research
- Other military and veterans records

Requesting Copies of Older (pre-WWI) Military Service Records

The National Archives and Records Administration stores the following military records:

- Older military personnel records (generally **prior to 1917**) are on file at:
Textual Archives Services Division
Washington, DC 20408
View the Types of Military Service Records Stored in Washington, DC

(continued on page 19)

- Military records from **1917 - present** are held in the:
National Military Personnel Records Center
St. Louis, Missouri

This is the place to order your ancestors military records for a fee. Click on the appropriate line.

Request Military Service Records

- Request records online with eVetRecs
- Other ways to obtain service records
- Learn about military service records (e.g. DD Form 214)
- Special notice regarding requests for copies of military records
- Are you a recently separated veteran?

First President of WHITEWATER, Wisconsin

Submitted by Marilyn Traver

Newton M. Littlejohn, was born July 28, 1823, the son of Tilly and Nancy Littlejohn. He is a native of Litchfield, Herkimer Co. N.Y. He moved to Hamilton, N. Y. When he was quite young, and married on Sept. 8, 1848 to Miss Jane S. Newton, daughter of A. Newton. Jane was born in Bridgewater, Oneida Co., N. Y. They had two children—Jessie and Ernest.

Newton was educated in DeLancy Institute, Hampton Springs, and lived in Illinois from 1852 to 1854. He traveled to Chesterfield Court House, VA and then back to Hamilton N.Y. He made Whitewater, Walworth County, WI his home in 1856 and had a successful lumber business there.

On March 6, 1858 forty-two villagers was considering incorporating the village and after a charter was made the Legislature passed an act to incorporate the village. In the election of May 27 1858 Mr. Newton M. Littlejohn became the first president of the village. He also was mayor in 1901 for a term of 2 years. In 1861 he was elected Chairman of Whitewater and re-elected each term during the late war, and many terms since, having served 18 years in all. *During the war years, he had the job of getting the quota of troops for his town and he performed his office duties in a satisfactory and credible manner however unpleasant they were.*

In the fall of 1863 Newton was elected to the state Senate on the Republican ticket and served for a total of 6 successive years representing Walworth County. He proved himself to be an able, patriotic legislator in State and National matters.

He was President of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Madison for 4 years in addition to other public trusts he handled.

Newton M. Littlejohn House, c. 1859; 428 W. Main St. Whitewater, Wisconsin.

"This Italianate style home, built of cream city brick, was built for a Littlejohn, a businessman who owned the only lumberyard in the city for decades. Like many prominent businessmen of the time, he chose a Main Street address because it was "where you wanted to be," Cartwright said."



Bio Source: 1884 History of Walworth County, Wisconsin by Butterfield.

Picture of house: <http://walworthcountytoday.com/photos/gallerie>

Are You Related To Me?

In this newsletter, the spotlight is on Dale & Barb Wheelock who have been with the Society since the beginning.

1. How did you get interested in genealogy?

Years ago the Delavan Enterprise listed all the burials in Spring Grove & St. Andrews. Of course, the first thing I did was to look for Wheelock. I found wife and child of Adelbert. Since my father's middle name was Adelbert I was interested. Going to the Court House I found that she was my Great Grandmother. About that time, Gateway offered a genealogy class taught by Bette Cameron. I told my wife I would babysit the kids if she would take the class. As the class went on it was decided to start the Walworth County Genealogical Society. For some years the query box was on our kitchen table.

After a few years, Barb was elected Darien Town Clerk and could not make the Society meetings. After she retired I was elected to the Town Board so I can't make the meetings.

2. Names, places and date of ancestors.

Wheelock, Baker, Chapman, and all associated lines 1848 to present.

3. Names and places:

.Walworth, Rock, and Jefferson counties..

4. Burial areas:

Walworth, Rock, and Jefferson counties.

5. Any Vets in your family line?

Many

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

No, most are gone.

7. Anything interesting happen while researching?

8. Any surprises in your research?

Other than finding the feared horse thief. I moved here 36 years ago knowing that some of my people were from Janesville, but am shocked at the number of people I'm related to that are still living in the area. Some I have known for years when my research showed we are related.

9. Please contact WCGS to network with me.

Editor's note: Until I started looking into my family's genealogy, I did not think that I was related to anyone in the town I grew up in. After researching my mother's family, I was astonished to learn that she was related through the years to quite a few people in the area. Unfortunately, she had already passed so she never learned this fact. So, I understand Dale's shock quite well.

Martha is still hoping to get more members to participate in "Are You Related to Me". If anyone needs the blank layout, or would like a word document form, send an email to wcsnewsletter@gmail.com.

Program Recap February Show and Share

Thirteen members braved the weather for the Show and Share event. Luckily, everyone made it home with no major problems.



Al Gruling - shows his family heirloom and told how carefully it was packed when he received it.



A close-up of the plate.



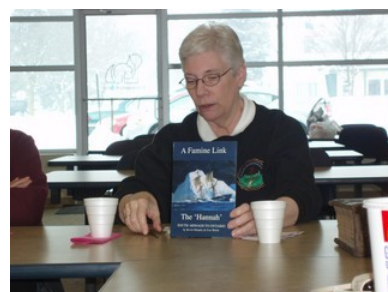
Here's the group



Marilyn Traver - family Bible w/848 pages in addition to pages for Concordance, Psalms of David including tintypes of family mbrs



Carol Krupski - Centennial Book of Ruby Township



Chris Brookes - book about the ship Hannah that touched on the settlement of the Irish in Pierce county



Shirley Sisk - read from her grand-mother's diaries she obtained virtually by accident.



Mike Hay - showed a published book about his 5th great granduncle, Frederick Grider "Old Fed" and his 22 Children



Martha Hay - showed a published book about her 7th great grandfather, Jan Dyckman of Harlem and His Descendants



Mary Ann Schmidt - read from a family letter from 1846

We called off the March workshop due to Old Man Winter. Let us all hope that old man winter stays away for the April meeting. Does anyone know where we can find that groundhog? We'd like to have a little talk with him.

M & M Tips

Driver's License Renewal Requirements

Effective January 14, 2013, Wisconsin DMV is issuing driver licenses and identification cards that meet new federal REAL-ID requirements.

When you renew your license, you will receive an 8 x 11 receipt with your photo on it. This can be used as your license until you receive your real license, which will be mailed to you. Therefore, be absolutely certain that your address listed on the receipt is correct.

If your renewal is not for six, seven, or eight years, like mine, be aware that within the next five years it is expected that your current license will not be good enough identification for airports and federal buildings. However, if you have a valid U.S. passport or another acceptable form of federal identification, you can use that for identification instead of a REAL-ID driver's license.

According to the Wisconsin DOT, if you want to get a REAL-ID driver's license you need to provide proof of your name, date of birth, U.S. legal presence, identity, Social Security Number, address (where you live not a P.O. box), and name change (if applicable).

If you are a current Wisconsin resident who has never changed your name, you can get a REAL-ID license by bringing a certified U.S. birth certificate, a Wisconsin driver's license with current address and a Social Security Card.

Check out the Wisconsin Department of Transportation web site at <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/realid/> for further information.

Lifewriting

We attended a lifewriting workshop presented by Burlington Genealogical Society at Gateway in Burlington. Mike drew a floor plan of the home he grew up in. He started remembering little details he hadn't thought of in years. We're planning to have a workshop about this some time in the future.

Cemetery Walk Oakwood Cemetery in Sharon

Our cemetery walk this year is at Oakwood Cemetery in Sharon. We are searching for individuals who have family buried in this cemetery who would be interested in representing their ancestor for the cemetery walk. It is always more interesting for the visitors if the representative is related to the buried individual.

If you know of anyone, please contact Deb Ketchum at debgenvol@gmail.com or call her at (262) 215-0118.

Jerry Apps to Speak on Farming with Horses

Jerry Apps will be the speaker at the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Historical Society of Walworth & Big Foot Prairie.

Jerry Apps is an author, historian, PBS personality, and professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He will speak on Horse Drawn Days: A Century of Farming.

The dinner will be in the Great Room of the Lake Lawn Resort, 2400 E. Geneva Street/Hwy 50, Delavan, Wisconsin on Thursday, April 25, 2013. The social hour will begin at 6:00 PM with dinner following at 6:30 PM. The cost of the dinner and program is \$30.00 including tax and tip. The entrée selections are Chicken Chardonnay and Char-grilled Sirloin of Beef. Reservations, entrée choice and a check must be received by April 18 at Historical Society of Walworth & Big Foot Prairie, Inc., P.O. Box 336, Walworth, WI 53184-0336. For information call 262-275-2426.

Remember to let us know if your address, phone number, or email address changes. Please keep in touch!

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
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
History of Delavan School 1982 - index only	\$18.00
EAST TROY - Oak Ridge Cemetery	\$18.00
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
St. Joseph & St. Killian Catholic Cemeteries (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$12.00
RICHMOND - Richmond & East Richmond Cemeteries	\$10.00
SHARON - Oakwood	\$15.00
SPRING PRAIRIE - Hickory Grove	\$25.00
German Settlement / Mount Hope / Diener Cemeteries (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$12.00
SUGAR CREEK - Millard Cemetery	\$15.00
Hazel Ridge Cemetery	\$20.00
Mount Pleasant Cemetery (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$15.00
Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery (DVD tombstone pics included)	\$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

AA

Shipping and handling as follows: \$4.00 for the 1st book and \$2.00 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

PRESIDENT	Michael Hay	455 Fellows Road	Genoa City, WI	wcgspres@gmail.com
VICE-PRESIDENT	Pat Blackmer	2148 Horseshoe Lane	Delavan, WI	wcgsvpres@gmail.com
SECRETARY	Kay Sargent	W7489 Pleasant St.	Delavan, WI	sargent@idcnet.com
TREASURER	Deb Ketchum	605 W. Walworth #201	Elkhorn, WI	debgenvol@gmail.com
DIRECTOR(S)	Mary Jordan Karen Weston Ila McErlean Martha Hay		Walworth, WI Whitewater, WI East Troy, WI Genoa City, WI	
OTHERS:	Newsletter Editor: Martha Hay wcgnewsletter@gmail.com Past-President: Deb Ketchum 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
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 - sargent@idcnet.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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WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY