



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 414-378-9879.

2018 Membership dues are payable in January



Winter 2017-18 Meetings

Dec 5th- 5:30PM Annual Christmas Pot Luck, Elections, Bingo—WCGS provides entrees of Ham, Chicken, Italian Beef. Please bring dish to pass, and gift of \$10 or less if you want to play Take A Way Bingo.

December 25th-Merry Christmas to all of you!

January—No Meeting—Happy New Year!

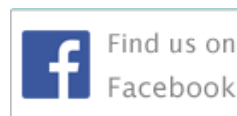
February 6th- 11:00AM-Show & Share Meeting at Geneva Lake Museum, 255 Mill St, Lake Geneva WI 53147. Bring a bag lunch, take a tour, optional Tues@2 program.

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Welcome to new members Raven DeLange, David Alexander!



www.facebook.com/wcwgcs





From the President's Desk



Chris Brookes & Martha Hay- WCGS Co-Presidents

Chris's Message:

It's the Holiday Season! Already? Where did this year go? In November I enjoyed three different Veteran's Day ceremonies to offer thanks to all who have served and those who continue to serve our country in the military and remember those who have given their lives, like my cousin Doug, in service. In the spirit of patriotism, I've included a brief biography of John Philip Sousa in my column.

Thanksgiving's on the horizon as I write this – so many things to be thankful for this year - among which is Mike Hay's successful surgery and great start to his recovery. He's home and healing. Hope to see you soon, Mike.

December reminders ... the WCGS holiday dinner is Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 5:30 at the Community Room in Delavan. In case you forgot what you signed up to bring, here's the list. If you weren't at the last meeting to sign up, you can still come – no reservations required! Take a look at the list and bring something to share. The Society will be providing chicken, ham, and Italian beef.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Beverage | Marilyn Traver |
| Bread/buns – butter | Dolores Schutt |
| Main Dish | Loretta Nussbaum, Judy Rockwell |
| Salad | Raven Delange, Diana Bird, Shirley Sisk, Peggy Schutt |
| Vegetables | Bernice Hoyt, Nancy Osmolak, Joan von Sternberg |
| Dessert | Karen Helwig, Karen Weston |

Also remember to bring a wrapped gift valued at about \$10 for the traditional Take Away Bingo game. Elections will be held, and, if you want to get a jump start on the 2018 dues that are payable on January 1, we'll be happy to accept payments. All in all, a busy evening.

All the best to all the WCGS – Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!



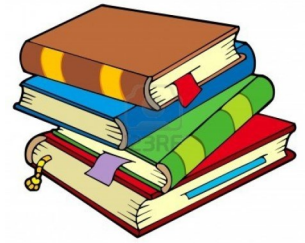
Martha's Message:

Mike had his hip replacement surgery on Monday. The first surgery ran into a problem after they had sewed him up. They turned him a little to take an x-ray and make sure everything was in the right place, and the ball came out of the socket. They tried to maneuver it back in place, but to no avail. So, back into surgery and figure out what the problem is. Turns out that the surgeon had to file down some bone spurs Mike had on the pelvic bone and the material fell into the socket preventing the ball from fitting properly. The ball was scratched so they had to replace it with a brand new one. Mike looked at the clock when they had him in recovery and couldn't figure out how a surgery that should take one and a half hours ran from 10:10 am to 3:15 pm.

He came home on Tuesday and is wandering the house using a walker. I was able to drive up the hill and have him come in the back door so he didn't have to try to take the stairs, something we can't do when it rains or snows. (We live in a hill.) Today he had a home visit for physical therapy and he walked up and down the stairs. He's doing well, but we still don't know if he will be able to attend the December Christmas meeting.

He's hoping to be able to get back to just using a cane. He does NOT like the walker. And, for right now they say he has to sleep on his back and cannot sit in his recliner. He always slept on his side and loves his recliner, so needless to say he wants to hurry up and get completely healed!

WCGS Library Page



Library Report

WCGS Library Materials

Our WCGS library has a wide variety of info on foreign countries. The collection covers a wide range of books and articles which might be helpful to your ancestry searches. Histories, maps, censuses, etc. vary through out the material. Countries include: Austria, Belgium, British Isles, Canada, Eastern Europe, England, Europe, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Scandinavia, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and Wales. The bigger collections are from Britain, England, Germany, Italy, Ireland, and Poland, but one never knows what can be gleaned from the smallest pamphlet!!

Also the older World atlases we have are terrific for finding the old towns and villages from the early 1800's which may have name changes by now. Please take some time during the winter, to cozy up with some of these resources. We sure would appreciate some volunteers coming in, not only could you help us out with guests, but if you're not confident enough to take on that task, we have projects that can be done. It really is a fun way to spend time, get to know what we have in the library and do your own research as well. After all, networking is a great way to learn new ways to go about research, and see how others have added to their family history.

Respectfully, Diana Bird

To contact any of the members:

Diana Bird - 815-943-3690 - leave a message if no answer.

birddiana1@gmail.com

Judy Rockwell - jjrockwell@gmail.com

Marilyn Traver - msearchin@gmail.com

They will be delighted to hear from you!



The March King—John Philip Sousa

Remember the silly lyrics “Be kind to your web-footed friends, for a duck may be somebody’s mother” ? (I can hear you humming it now!) Well, do you know the real lyrics to the chorus of the *Stars and Stripes Forever*? They were written by the composer himself, John Philip Sousa.

Hooray for the flag of the free! May it wave as our standard forever.

The gem of the land and the sea, ever hoist it proud and high.

All nations remember the day when our fathers with mighty endeavor

Proclaimed as they marched to the fray that by their might and by their right, it waves forever!

Recently I researched the life and music of John Philip Sousa for a Veteran’s Day program. I’d like to share some of his biography with you in honor of the veterans and families of WCGS.

John Philip Sousa was born on November 6, 1854, in Washington DC to John Antonio Sousa and Marie Elisabeth (Trinkaus) Sousa. John Philip was the 3rd of 10 children, the first son. (5 sisters, 4 brothers).

His father, John Antonio, enlisted in the US Marines, played trombone and fife in the Marine Band, and served a total of 25 years. At about age 7, (1861) his musical education began. It was discovered that he had perfect pitch and could read music on sight.

In his four years at a neighborhood conservatory he studied voice, violin, piano, flute, cornet, baritone, trombone, and alto horn as well as music theory and harmony. During the Civil War, Sousa was impressed with the military bands coming through Washington DC. His father was still in the Marine Band, and he allowed John Philip to accompany him to rehearsals. By the time he was a teenager, he was enlisted by his father into the Marine Band as a boy apprentice. A few years later Sousa was compiling and composing music for a variety show called *Our Flirtations* when he received a telegram informing him he was being considered as leader (or principal musician) of the Marine Band. In 1881, he became the youngest ever (age 25) leader of the US Marine Band, and the first to be born in America. He served as conductor of The President’s Own Marine Band under five Presidents. After his discharge in 1892, he

formed his own band, performing more than 15,000 concerts – to over 2 million people – with a total of less than 500 musicians (until 1931). Sousa’s career took him across the country, around the world, to concert halls and Worlds’ Fairs, and Windsor Castle where he played for King Edward VII. By 1900, Sousa had produced fifty-seven marches - and he was only forty-six years old. Altogether he wrote 136 marches, 15 operettas, 5 overtures, 11 suites, 24 dances, 28 fantasies, and 322 symphonic arrangements. During World War I, Sousa tried to enlist in the Marine Corps again. When that did not happen, he turned to the Navy. Composer John Alden Carpenter (brother of Hubbard Carpenter who married Mary Sturges’s daughter) helped arrange a special commission as a lieutenant and administrator of the new Band Battalion to train young bandmen at Great Lakes Naval Training Center near Chicago. Sousa was 62 years old, the oldest man to enlist in the Navy up to that time. Sousa formed the 300-piece “Jackie” Band that played 26 cities in 20 days in 1918 to promote Liberty Loan bond sales. They raised over \$21 million dollars. To relax, Sousa enjoyed trapshooting, horseback riding, and baseball. He tried golf at age 70, but reported, “I’m too young for this sport.” “A horse, a dog, a gun, a girl, and music on the side. That is my idea of heaven.” He was rehearsing with the Ringgold Band in Reading, PA, on March 5, 1932; the final piece rehearsed was *The Stars and Stripes Forever* march. As it turned out, this was the last composition ever played “under his baton.” He died of a heart attack in the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in the early hours of March 6. He once said, “When you hear of Sousa retiring you will hear of Sousa dead.”

His body was escorted to Washington, D.C. The funeral was aired by Columbia Broadcasting System. At the burial in Congressional Cemetery, Washington, D.C., *Semper Fidelis* was played in dirge time. Masonic rites, a prayer, firing squad salute, and *Taps* concluded the ceremony. Ninety years after it was written, the *Stars & Stripes Forever* was designated as the national march of the United States by President Reagan. “May it wave as our standard forever.”

.....[Christine Brookes](#)



AROUND THE COUNTY TIDBITS

by Shirley Sisk

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Walworth – M. Coon called last week on his wife, who is at Milton under medical care.-----Dr. Stillman, of Kilkourne City, visited here last week with his sisters Mesdames Longworthy and Davis.-----Miss Mame Crumb and her mother, who have been spending the winter at Hammond, La, returned last week, and report a very cold winter in the south.-----Our caucus was a hummer, candidates developing for everything. Election will disappoint a few.-----Jesse Maxson left Tuesday to attend school at Milton. (The Enterprise, Delavan, Wisconsin, Thursday, April 6, 1899)

Millard – Mr. and Mrs. Edward Loomer will have their already nice residence remodeled and fixed in first class shape this season by the skillful architect, Charley Stoller, of Johnstown Center.-----Mrs. Florence Quinney, of Alexandria, South Dakota, a resident of Millard fourteen years ago, has been greeting old friends here for several days past. After spending a few days with her sister, Mrs. Frank Kinne, of Fontana, she will return to Alexandria.-----Mrs. David Harris is on the sick list.-----Born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kinne, formerly of Millard, but now of Fontana, a son.----- (Delavan Republican, Delavan, Wisconsin, Thursday, April 13, 1899)

East Delavan – Bert Conklin is improving his residence by re-shingling and making other improvements.-----H. N. Stubbs, of Elkhorn, has sold his place here to Charley Lowe. They expect to make East Delavan their home in the future.----- Last Wednesday night as Joe Buckels was

going to the dance, the buggy broke and the horse ran away, breaking things up generally. The horse was finally caught in Mr. Cratons yard. Fortunately no one was hurt in the mixup.-----Mr. and Mrs. Frank Traver, of Delavan, Sundayed with Mrs. Emily Kishner.-----Mrs. Ben Rockwell is reported much better.----- Harry Nichols supports a new bicycle.----- Fred Cowles supports a new piano.----- Baby Winkleman is on the sick list. (The Enterprise, April 13, 1899)

Darien – J. J. Heyer is very low with lung trouble at this writing.-----Mrs. Frank Dickens has been seriously ill for the past week.-----Mrs. Ed Wells has been quite sick but is improving slowly.-----Miss Ethel Leason is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Green, of Lake Geneva.-----Miss Lucy Seaver returned to her school work at Burlington Monday.-----Born, Monday, April 3, 1899, to Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Wright, a baby girl.-----Mr. and Mrs. M. Conley, of Clinton, visited her sister, Miss Duggan, over Sunday. (Delavan Republican, Delavan, Wisconsin, Thursday, April 6, 1899)

Big Foot Prairie - Mrs. F. C. Peck, of Baraboo, Wis., who was called here by the sickness and death of Mrs. W. H. Van Schaick, returned to her home last Saturday.-----Mrs. Harriett Shelton, of Northern Wisconsin, came here last week and will take charge of the household affairs of W. H. Van Schaick for an indefinite length of time. (Delavan Republican, Delavan, Wisconsin, Thursday, April 6 1899)

The WCGS October 3rd Meeting Presentation was given by our Vice-President Karen Weston. The presentation concentrated on Native Americans in our area, their cultures, concerns and issues as the land became possessed by new settlers.

She gave us knowledge on how to resource genealogical information that is available. We were glad to see one of our newest members has Native American heritage, Raven Delange.



Our November 7th Meeting Presentation was focused on German Interest and Genealogy. The program was given by John Wasserstrass, President of the German Interest Group in Janesville, WI. Since our regional area in Southern Central and Southeastern Wisconsin was settled by many German Immigrants, his presentation was pertinent to many of our searches. He informed us there is a lot of information on German Immigration and Ancestry at the Hedberg Public Library, Janesville Room, in Janesville WI, and there is also a video for viewing called Germans In America. He gave us an overall European history lesson on the Franco-Prussian war, gave us information on reading the Passenger Lists from Germany, Prussian War Casualty Lists, and the Meyers-Orts Gazetter of German locations that was published in 1912. He gave us a handout with valuable info, if you did not attend the meeting but would like a copy, please email me and I will email a copy to you.



Notes from Members - Please feel free to send an email to WCGS Newsletter with tips or info you would like to share.

Diana Bird - A couple years back the Diggins Library in Harvard IL added the Harvard Herald newspaper to their web-site. Starting in 1878 thru 2000, given a few missed issues, The Harvard Herald was a weekly newspaper covering not only Harvard, but also ran local columns for other nearby towns as well. Harvard is in McHenry County Illinois and sits just south of the Wisconsin border along the Walworth County Wisconsin /Illinois State Line. The newspaper is a great resource for researchers in Walworth Co. as many issues had a column for news from WI from the towns of Big Foot, Sharon, Walworth, Linn, and Fontana, plus any major news story might be covered as well. The beauty of this site is two-fold: First, there is no need to have a library card nor any need to sign in, Second, since these papers are digitized, they are fully searchable with a name, event, date etc. Simply go to the web-site, look at the menu on the left side and click on newspapers. A search box comes up and you start. It might take a little while to understand what you see as the newspaper list with all the search words will come up, and one needs to learn how to simplify a search. The word/name etc you search will be highlighted on the page as well. You actually see the old newspapers and can even turn the pages and print. Hope this is a help to many people. One thing that I found for my family was a photo of my uncle who used to race cars on the Harvard track back in the 60's. I didn't even know he came all the way up to Harvard from where he lived. He was 90 years old before I found out, and with a quick search by name I was able to print info from the old papers with stories of him and many others that he knew. He and my aunt were very grateful for the articles as they had never seen them.

Karen Memory— Please open the URL below to learn about the new PA Adoption law. <http://www.mcall.com/news/nationworld/pennsylvania/mc-nws-new-pennsylvania-adoption-law-20171101-story.html> -

23andMe has placed their autosomal DNA kits on sale now through Thanksgiving, Nov 23rd. If you order 2 or more kits, they are \$49 each! This is the DNA test only and doesn't include the health testing. It's a great deal!

Editor— I asked our member Pat Blackmer for a list of additional societies for new members that they could learn more about, thank you Pat.

Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865. We have a Tent in Delavan, WI named the Mary Chesebro Lee, Detached Tent #23. I am the contact person for that Tent. DUVCW is a national lineal organization requiring its members to be a direct lineal descendant of a Union Civil War soldier.

US Daughters of 1812 is another organization that requires its member to be a direct lineal descendant of a soldier who fought in the War of 1812. We have a Wisconsin chapter of this organization. It meets twice a year.

Daughters of the American Revolution is an organization that also requires its members to be direct lineal descendants of a soldier who fought in the Revolutionary War. We have a chapter in Delavan entitled, the Samuel Phoenix Chapter. Nancy Lehman is the current registrar for that organization.

Women's Relief Corps is an organization that stems from the Civil War. You do not have to be a descendant. You simply have to have an interest in joining. It is a small national organization. People can join as members at large or one of the Corps (Waukesha, Boscobel or Richland Center). Contact info: Wisconsin President is Jill Vestuto(608) 647-9005 or jlvestuto@mwt.net. I belong to the W.H. Bennett Corps #71 in Richland Center.

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society provides Pioneer Family Certificates to anyone who can prove lineage to ancestors settling prior to 1850.

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

CO-PRESIDENTS	Martha Hay Chris Brookes	455 Fellows Road 721 S. Curtis St. #139	Genoa City, WI Lake Geneva, WI	wcgspres@gmail.com cbrookes@wi.rr.com
VICE-PRESIDENT	Karen Weston	9601 N. Kyle Dr..	Whitewater, WI	wcgsvpres@gmail.com
SECRETARY	Marilyn Traver	473 E. Geneva St Lot 10	Elkhorn, WI	msearchin@gmail.com
TREASURER	Michael Hay	455 Fellows Road	Genoa City, WI	wcgstreasurerwi@gmail.com
DIRECTOR(S)	Diana Bird Karen Helwig Judy Rockwell Dolores Schutt		Harvard, IL Whitewater, WI Elkhorn, WI Clinton, WI	
OTHERS: Newsletter Editor: Peggy Schutt wcgsnewsletter@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

**DELAVAN, WI 53115-0159
P.O. BOX 159**

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY