



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

Come to the Fair, the DCAGS Genealogy Fair Saturday, September 8

August 31, 2007
Volume 1, Issue 12

The Dane County Area Genealogical Society will host a Genealogy Fair on Saturday, September 8th at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, located on the corner of Regent St. and Segoe Rd. in Madison. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM and continue throughout the day. There will be presentations and demonstrations beginning at 9 AM. Over 20 exhibitors will be featured in the Exhibition Hall. Refreshments will be available.

Beginning at 9 AM and continuing until 2 PM:

- ☐ PAF Demo and Practice presented by Chuck and Marlene Rogers.
- ☐ Digitally preserving old photos and videos by Todd Kienitz.
- ☐ Ancestry and Heritage Quest Demo by the Madison Public Library.

Tours of the Family History Center will begin at 9:30 AM and continue every half hour. A sign up sheet will be available at the registration table.

The Exhibition Hall feature the following:

Vendors:

- ☐ Origins Genealogy Book Store – Linda Herrick
- ☐ Life History Services – Anita Hecht
- ☐ Heritage Makers – Rachel Durtschi
- ☐ Greg Peck – Author of *Death Beyond the Willows*
- ☐ Jacobs Archival – Sally Jacobs, Archivist

Exhibits:

- ☐ Sons of the American Revolution – Nathan Ames Chapter
- ☐ Daughters of the American Revolution – John Bell and Gov. Nelson Dewey Chapters
- ☐ Colonial Dames XVII Century
- ☐ Cottage Grove Area Historical Society
- ☐ Fitchburg Historical Society
- ☐ Dane County Historical Society
- ☐ Wisconsin Historical Society
- ☐ Madison Public Library
- ☐ Max Kade Institute

- ☐ Area Research Center UW Whitewater – Karen Weston
- ☐ Area Research Center UW Platteville – James Hibbard.
- ☐ Norwegian–American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library – Jerry Paulson, Director of Genealogical Research
- ☐ Madison Area Tech. College – ACE Division
- ☐ Research Center Wisconsin Veterans Museum
- ☐ University Archives and Records Management Services – David Null, Director
- ☐ Scrapbooking your family keepsakes – Karen Clark
- ☐ Family history display – Tom Glassel

Presentations:

9 AM: Basic Recording Methods for Genealogy by Pat Stone
This presentation will include examples of the paper forms used to record family information.

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Because of the Genealogy Fair on September 8, there will be no DCAGS meeting on Thursday, September 6, 2007

Regular DCAGS meetings are the first Thursday of each month at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 4505 Regent, Madison, Wisconsin beginning at 7 p.m.

DCAGS Update:

The DCAGS Governing Board meets the 3rd Monday of each month. The next meeting is on Monday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the South Madison Branch Library, 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!

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Genealogy Fair on September 8 continued...

Puzzle of the Month is a new feature. It is a great way to share what we know. A member may submit (on a 4 x 6 card) a basic puzzle and give it to a program committee member. At each meeting a new puzzle will be announced and any member can offer direction, an answer or you can bring the info to the next meeting. Each puzzle of the month will be printed in this newsletter as well as the answer/solution to last month's puzzle. Everybody learns!

10 AM: Using Traditional Histories to Find Your Ancestors by George Findlen, CGSM
The story of the elusive Michael Findlen illustrates how traditional histories can augment traditional genealogical documents to explain our ancestor's moves.

11:30 AM: Gravestone Symbols by Pat Skubis
Enjoy a virtual walk through the cemetery watching a slide show presentation featuring tombstones. The meaning of the symbols will be explained.

1 PM: Records that Can Provide New Avenues for Research by James Hibbard

This presentation will showcase some of the lesser, and better, known sources that can assist you in retracing the steps of your ancestors: property tax rolls, circuit court records, agricultural censuses, vital records, county histories, & population censuses.

Information on the speakers:

Pat (Hadaller) Stone and her husband, Bob, have been actively researching their families since 1975 and have

traveled extensively to do on-site research. They have visited and worked in 22 states including work in 29 counties in Wisconsin, 36 counties in Iowa and 28 counties in Minnesota. Pat received her B.A. in applied piano from Cardinal Stritch College and has strong interests in music, needlework, embroidery and quilting so her fingers are busy all the time. She has worked at the Fond du Lac Public Library, Cudahy Public Library and the Tacoma Public Library in Washington. She is a member of the Wisconsin State Genealogy Society, Iowa State Genealogy Society and Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International and is the current Vice-President of DCAGS.

George L. Findlen is a certified genealogist. After spending 30 years of his life as a college teacher and administrator, he has re-invented himself as a genealogist. His main interest is in the blended Acadian and French-Canadian families of Eastern Quebec, the Canadian Maritimes, and New England. Recently, he has done research for others trying to track their French-Canadian ancestors back into Quebec from the

Upper Midwest and the Pacific Northwest. Since he does not know how to stop being a teacher, he speaks to groups whenever he can on genealogical topics and writes articles for publication. To stay out of trouble, he volunteers at the Microforms Room of the Wisconsin Historical Society Library where he has fun helping visitors.

Pat Skubis worked as a Registered Nurse in both geriatrics and psychiatry. Pat has been doing genealogy research for 39 years. After retiring from her career in nursing, she started teaching both traditional and Internet genealogy classes for Madison Area Technical College. She has presented lectures on various genealogy topics. She is the Past-President of the CAGSW and the current President of DCAGS. Her main interests are tracing family ancestors in Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Traveling and photographing ancestors' homes, villages, graves, and documenting the buildings constructed or designed by her grandfather Christian Madsen.

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Puzzle of the Month

At the August meeting we discussed the question "If an ancestor was buried in a church cemetery, would the interment necessarily

be noted in the church records?"

The answer was no. It appears it may depend on whether the person

had the funeral in the church. Because of the genealogy fair, we will take up a new question at the October 4 meeting.

Preservation and Photo Identification

Barbara Clark Hovorka provided a lively presentation on "Preservation and Photo Identification" at the August 2 DCAGS meeting. Filling her presentation with many examples of different photo types as well as tips on identifying old photos.

Barbara began by explaining the various different photo types and during what time period the photos were taken. Paul Goddard invented the Daguerreotype in 1839. It was the first widely used means of photography. The Daguerreotype uses a polished, silver coated copper plated sheet of metal, and once seen are easily recognized by its mirror-like surface. The plate has to be held at the

correct angle to the light for the image to be visible. That image is extremely sharp and detailed. The Daguerreotype usually includes three pieces: the plate with the image that rests on a decorative brass mat and covered by a piece of glass. A copper band, known as preserver, holds the pieces together. This assembly was often placed into a wooden case covered with embossed paper, tooled leather or papier-mâché. Because of the difficulty in producing large plates, most Daguerreotypes are 2¾ x 3¼ inches in size. Daguerreotypes fell out of favor after 1860 as less expensive techniques supplanted it.

The second type was the Ambrotype, which was

invented in 1854. The Ambrotype is essentially a glass negative with a black background that makes the image appear positive. The majority of Ambrotypes are studio portraits and are often found in the same type of ornate cases used by Daguerreotypes. The form lost popularity in the early 1860's when tintypes replaced them.

The Tintype was introduced in 1856, and enjoyed widespread popularity until about 1900. The tintype gets its name from the fact that the image is produced on a thin metal plate. Like the Daguerreotype and Ambrotype, the emulsion was directly exposed in the camera, without any need for a negative, so the images are often unique.

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Message from your President

I confess that I haven't had a lot of time to check out the excellent ideas that Barb Hovorka presented in her talk on how to identify those unidentifiable photos. I did enjoy her excellent presentation and plan to try out some of the pointers she gave this winter. I know that many of you want to join with me in thanking Barb for this enjoyable and educational program.

The Genealogy Fair is fast approaching. Final preparations are being

made. The vendors, speakers, exhibitors and demonstrators are all set to go. Volunteers have put out posters and others will soon be baking cookies or getting ready to help out on the day of the Fair.

Now I look forward to seeing all of you at the Fair and we encourage you to bring your family and your friends. See you on Saturday, September 8th.

Pat Skubis

Volunteers Still Needed

Genealogy Fair on September 8.

We still need one person to serve as a greeter from 1-2 p.m. and two people to serve refreshments from 12-1 p.m and one person from 1-2 p.m. Contact Pat Skubis if you can volunteer!

Share Information

Nancy Seblom is looking for anyone working on the Braun family from the Sauk Co. area. She has information on William and Dorothy (Welk) Braun from the Sauk County area. She states this information is not only on the ancestors of William and Dorothy, but also contains information regarding their descendants. If you are researching this family you can contact Nancy by calling 608-877-0005. She will be happy to share this information with you.

Photo Identification Continued...

Bylaw Change

In an effort to make the Annual election work more smoothly, the Governing Board is recommending the following bylaw change. According to the bylaws, it must be published 30 days prior to a vote. We plan on voting for the bylaw change at the October 4 meeting.

Proposed change:
Article IV – Officers,
Section 2. Election,
subpart a.

~~Elections shall be conducted by ballot via the U.S. Postal Service shortly after the Annual meeting. Elections shall be conducted by ballot. Ballots will be distributed via the newsletter following the annual meeting. Ballots are to be returned on or before the next scheduled membership meeting.~~ All members in good standing shall be entitled to cast one vote for each office listed on the ballot.

Because they are made of iron, Tintypes can be identified with a magnet.

While, the three above types did not use negatives, William H. F. Talbot invented the Calotype, in the 1840s. (Sometimes called the Talbotype.) It is a paper print made from a paper negative. The paper is waxed or oiled to make it transparent. It was never widely popular in the U.S.; this format was more common in England in the 1840s. The image produced lacks sharp detail, the soft focus being due to use of a paper negative.

Other than the Calotype, most 19th century photographs were made on glass plate negatives. Early glass plate negatives used a process that required them to be coated just before use, and hence were known as “wet-plate” negatives or Collodion. The glass was thick coated with emulsion and was often thicker around the edge than center. Although dry plate

negatives, known as Gelatin, were introduced as early as 1864, they were not very sensitive, and it was not until after improvements were made that dry plates began to be widely used in the early 1880s. The glass is thin with sharp edges and the coating is smooth, even and black.

In the late 1800s, gelatin, and later plastic films gradually began to replace glass plate negatives. Gelatin sheet film was introduced in 1884, roll film in 1889. Gelatin was found to be too fragile, and was supplanted by Nitrate based films, which are highly flammable. In 1939 “Safety” film was introduced, a non-flammable plastic based material.

While these are the early types of photo processes, there are many other examples of types of photos, which were outlined in Barbara’s handout.

So, while the photo types may be used to date some photos, the pictures

themselves also hold several clues. Sometimes the studio backdrops are helpful. In the 1860s you might find a balustrade, column or curtain. The 1880s may have captured a moment in life with a hammock, swing or on horseback. Trees, bicycles or cockatoos may be seen in the 1890s.

Also very important for women were hair and dress styles. There are seven items to pay attention to:

- hair styles – particularly hair partings and whether the hair fringes or sweeps up and also to hats their width height and snugness of fit,
- collars – small or high,
- shoulder-line – wide, low or high,
- sleeves – tight, wide, full, large cuff,
- waist-line – low, round, high,
- skirt – hoops, bustle, A-shape, flared.
- Other information – hats, fabrics, etc.

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Genealogy Fair Continued

James B. Hibbard lives in Lancaster, Wisconsin, with his wife Dori and their toddling daughter Violet Rose. He works as the University Archivist at the University of Wisconsin – Platteville (UWP) campus, overseeing the operations of UWP’s Southwest Wisconsin Room

<www.uwplatt.edu/library/swwis>, which houses the university’s archives, a genealogical/local history room and the Wisconsin Historical Society’s Area Research Center for Southwest Wisconsin. An avid student of the Civil War and of genealogy/local history, James has published

historical articles in Everton’s Genealogical Helper, and in 2004 published Platteville, a pictorial history of Platteville, Wisconsin.

Please plan on attending and bring a friend or relative!

Photo Identification continued...

Barbara's handout provided an excellent listing of the various styles from the 1840s to the early 1900s. Also here is a picture illustrating various examples of women's fashion during that time period. (please let us know if you need a copy of the handout.)

Some important tips to remember are that women's clothing is easier to "date" than men or children's dress. From 1850-1914, particular attention should be placed on the shape of women's sleeves. Sometimes sleeve shape alone can nail down the exact year the dress was made. Men's wear changes since 1800 are all about tiny details – necktie history in the 20th century, and coat collars and vests in the 19th century are often big clues. Remember that

fashions are usually worn for a few years after they are bought, but it is really unusual for a normal person to have a fashion that is even a year "ahead of its time." Note the age of the sitter in relation to the clothes – older people's clothes and hairstyles tend to be a bit more outdated than younger people are. (An 18-25 year old will not be caught dead wearing a fashion that is five years out of date, but the parent might.) Many women wear the same hairstyle they adopted at 18 till they die. Fashions tend to be less extreme, and move more slowly in more rural areas.

Barbara provides some good tips for trying to identify family members. First, look at the family profile in your database and familiarize yourself with the



date of birth of people. For example, if your grandfather had four brothers and there is a picture of five boys, look at your database to see if the ages and dates are right for this to be a picture of them. Second, ears can be a good identifier. The shape and size of the ear remains fairly constant throughout the life of a person.

So good luck in identifying your old photos!

Books to Help in Photographic Identification

Pat Stone sent the following list of books she and her husband, Bob, own that helped them in their identification of family photos. I can attest that she and Bob have done a fantastic job. In a room in their home, each wall includes photos dedicated to a branch of the family. Very impressive!

Frisch-Ripley, Karen. Unlocking the Secrets in Old Photographs, Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry, 1991. 190 pages.

Gagel, Diane VanSkiver. Windows on the Past, Identifying, Dating, & Preserving Photographs, Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2000. 95 pages.

Gaylord Bros. Archival Storage of Photographic

Materials, Gaylord Preservation Pathfinder No. 3, Syracuse, NY, 1996. 20 pages.

Hartley, E. F. Clues to American Dress, Washington, D.C.: Starrhill Press, 1994. 72 pages.

Reilly, James M. Care, Identification of 19th-Century Photographic Prints, Eastman Kodak Company, 1986. 116 pages.

Severa, Joan. Dressed for the Photographer, Ordinary Americans & Fashion, 1840-1900, Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1995. 592 pages. Joan Severa is Curator Emeritus and costume history consultant for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin Museum.

Shull, Wilma Sadler. Photographing Your Heritage, Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry, 1988. 128 pages.

Taylor, Maureen A. Preserving Your Family Photographs, How to organize, present, and restore your precious family images, Cincinnati, OH: Betterway Books, 2001. 246 pages.

Taylor, Maureen A. Uncovering Your Ancestry through Family Photographs, How to identify, interpret and preserve your family's visual heritage, Cincinnati, OH: Betterway Books, 2000. 145 pages.

Tuttle, Craig A. An Ounce of Preservation, A Guide to the Care of Papers and Photographs, Highland City, FL: Rainbow Books, Inc. 1955. 111 pages.

Upcoming Events

Walworth County Genealogy
Society Family History Fair

When: October 13, 2007
9:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Where: Faith Christian School
W5525 Hwy 67, Williams Bay, WI

The Czechoslovak
Genealogical Society
International 11th bi-annual
Genealogical/Cultural
Conference

When: October 18-20, 2007
Where: Alliant Energy Center
Exhibition Hall in Madison

Go to:
<http://www.cgsi.org/whatsnew.asp?inEventID=398> to learn more.

The Illinois State
Genealogical Society 2007
Conference

When: October 20, 2007
Where: Elmhurst, IL

The Wisconsin State
Genealogical Society Fall
2007 Seminar

"Finding Your Roots on the
Family Farm"

When: October 27, 2007
Where: Wausau, Wisconsin
Featured speaker: J. Mark Lowe.

Lectures:

- Cheap Land on the Prairie (or That's What the Railroad Man Said)
- Land Barons or Dirt Farmers: Finding Land Transactions
- My Ancestor, the Farmer: Shaping a Profile for Your Rural Ancestor
- Locating Civil War Ancestors.

Go to: www.wsgs.org for more information.

"Death Beyond the Willows"
Bus Tour

Author Greg Peck, who will be one of our vendors at the Genealogy Fair, will narrate a third bus tour of sites in his book, "Death Beyond the Willows," for the Marshall Area Historical Society.

This tour, on Sunday, Sept. 16, is designed to mark the 80th anniversary of the tragedy surrounding the book. It will include a tree-planting ceremony in Portage in memory of Johnny and Hazel Pirkl.

Peck of Janesville grew up in Marshall, where Pirkl of Marshall and Hazel Ferguson of Cottage Grove, were wed Sept. 27, 1927. They died in Portage that same day.

The tour will begin at noon at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Marshall, site of the wedding and funeral. It will take in key farms, homes and the Catholic cemetery in Marshall. The tour will journey to Portage for the tree-planting ceremony and a walk around Pauquette Park and "Bridal Pond." It will take in sites around Cottage Grove on the return trip. The tour should conclude between 6-7 p.m.

Cost for the bus trip is \$20 per person. Make reservations by contacting Romona Walker at (608) 655-3240. Send checks made out to the Marshall Area Historical Society to Walker at 545 Meadowbrook Court, Marshall, WI 53559.

South Madison Community
Campus: 25313 Internet:
Genealogy Intro on Friday 9 AM –
12 Noon starting 11/2 – 12/14.

If you have an idea for a special class contact Pat Skubis at PSkubis@matcmadison.edu. If 8 to 10 people are interested in a specific topic, she can try to arrange a class thru MATC.

Fall Genealogy classes offered by MATC

Registration for classes is now open. Sign up now; if the class does not fill by two weeks before it begins, it is canceled. Don't wait until the last minute.

Fee \$45.42. Individuals who have reached the age of 62 years or older at the time of registration may be exempt from a portion of the program fees. Phone (608) 246-6210 for assistance with fee information.

Registration times are: Mon-Thursdays - Noon to 6 PM, Friday - Noon to 3 PM or online at <http://matcmadison.edu> select "Inside MATC" and follow the directions. Call (608) 246-6240 or toll free 1-800-628-6282 to register by touch tone phone. If you have problems registering, check with the Senior Center Staff.

Waunakee Area Senior
Center: 26465 Internet:
Genealogy Intermediate on
Wednesday, 1 – 4 PM starting
9/12 to 10/17.

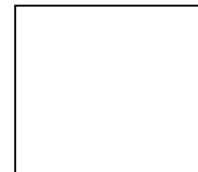
Fitchburg Senior Center:
26089 Internet: Genealogy
Introduction on Wednesday, 6 –
9 PM starting 9/12 to 10/17.

Madison Senior Center:
25867 Internet: Genealogy
Intro on Friday 9 AM – 12 Noon
starting 9/21 to 10/26.

Oregon Senior Center:
26395 Internet: Genealogy
Intro on Friday 1:30 PM – 4:30
PM starting 10/12 to 11/16.

Sun Prairie High School:
28675 Genealogy (This is not a
computer class) Tuesday 6 PM –
8 PM starting 9/18 to 10/9 Fee
\$29.43.

Dane County Area Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 5652
Madison, WI 53705-0652



Address Service Requested

We're on the Web!

See us at: www.dcags.org



**Dane County Area
Genealogical Society**

P.O. Box 5652
Madison, WI 53705-0652

See you
September 8

We have a new web
address: www.dcags.org.
If you enter the address it
will take you to the
group's website on
Rootsweb.

DCAGS officers for 2007: Standing Committee Chairs

President
Pat Skubis
p318skubis@hughes.net

Vice President
Pat Stone
rjstone@chorus.net

Secretary
Joyce I. Nighbor
billyjoycenighbor@aol.com

Treasurer
Jim Benes
JimBenes@iname.com

Past President
Shirley Levine
shirts26@sbcglobal.net

Membership
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