



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

Writing Your Family History with Michael Edmonds on January 3, 2008

Many of us have been diligently researching our ancestors and have collected lots of information. The challenge then becomes putting it altogether in a family history. Joining us on January 3, 2008 will be Michael Edmonds, Head, Digital Collections and Web

Services of Library-Archives at Wisconsin Historical Society, who will address the writing of your family history.

Starting at WHS in 1982, Michael Edmonds was rare book librarian for four years; head of library public services 1986-98; acting

library director 1999-2000, and since then, his present position.

The meeting starts promptly at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 3 at the West Side Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Regent and Segoe, Madison. The public is welcome.

December 31, 2007

Volume 2, Issue 4

If you have not already paid, a final notice is included with this newsletter. Please fill it in and return it to DCAGS. Membership has two levels, individual, \$15, or family, \$20. Membership is for calendar year 2008.

Show and Tell 2007

While it was a blustery night on December 6, several hardy individuals ventured out to share something about a favorite relative.

Pat Stone told two stories from one genealogy trip in May 2004. Pat and Bob were on their way to Nebraska to find Pat's Great-Great Grandfather Mathias Gilgenbach. Mathias and his four children had emigrated to Fond du Lac County Wisconsin from the Rhineland in August 1862. The oldest daughter, Susanna married Peter Stollenwerk in Fond du Lac County and moved to the Breckenridge, MN and Wahpeton, ND area. Mathias was not found with that family. The 2nd

child, Johann Peter, Pat's Great Grandfather married and stayed in the Fond du Lac area and Mathias was not found with his family. The third child, Margaret married Joseph Schmitz in Fond du Lac and was not found in the 1880 census in any state index. The 4th child, Johann Nicholas married and moved along with his older sister to the Wahpeton, ND and MN area.

While sorting family photos in 2003, Pat came across a photo sent to her by some cousins a few years before that. She had taken a photo of the front and back of this photo. She now read the backside of the photo – Mr. John Gilgenbach from Joseph Schmitz, St. Bernard,

Platte County, Nebraska. Lightbulb!! Here was the missing 3rd child, Margaret with Joseph Schmitz and their family. The photo was perhaps taken at their 25th Wedding anniversary about 1905 and was sent back to the Wisconsin relatives.

After searching on the Gen Web site for Platte Co, there were references to books that were here at the WHS. One book was a compiled list for the cemetery at St. Bernard. The Schmitz family and Mathias Gilgenbach were listed. At the Iowa Genealogical Society in Des Moines, the 1885 NE state census on microfilm listed the Schmitz family along with Mathias.

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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. However due to the Martin Luther King Holiday, we will be meeting the second Monday of the month. The next meeting is on Monday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m. South Park Library, 2222 Park St.. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!

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Show and Tell 2007 continued...

On the way to NE, Pat & Bob stopped at Cherokee County, Iowa to visit a cemetery in Afton, outside of Cherokee. It was a bright sunny day, mid afternoon and they were driving a red mini van, parked in the middle of the cemetery when they started searching for the Phelan family headstone. Pat had gone to the front of the cemetery and Bob went to the back to start a row-by-row search. When Pat was in the 1st row of headstones, she heard bullets whistle by right in front of her. She turned to go back to the car and tell Bob, when a man came walking down the driveway very fast and said he had not seen her. He asked Bob if it was legal to shoot in a cemetery. He said that he was waiting for a friend and was shooting at gophers. After apologizing to them, Pat stayed in the car, still shaking, while Bob continued searching and did find his relative's headstone.

The next day they drove to Platte Co, NE and found the St. Bernard community and cemetery. The community, church and area were almost deserted. The cemetery was very well kept up and there was a stone memorial monument with all the family names on it at the time St. Bernard church was closed. They found the Mathias Gilgenbach headstone and took pictures of Pat touching the headstone "I found you, Mathias, my Great-Great Grandfather". He had died on 30 April 1889. The headstones for the Margaret and Joseph Schmitz family were also found and photographed.

On the return trip home, they stopped in Lincoln at the Nebraska Historical Society to check the 1880 census again. There was no St. Bernard community listed. The librarian suggested reading an old county history. The last sentence in the section said that St. Bernard was formerly known as Pleasant Valley Precinct. The census index gave the Pleasant Valley Precinct pages and this led to the correct place in the Platte Co, NE 1880 census. The family was listed there with an unusual spelling that was not found in an index – Schmitz was spelled Smidth, Joseph and Gilgenbach was spelled Gildianback, Matt. The

librarian made a cross reference in the index book for St. Bernard.

In summary, some conclusions can be made – Don't take for granted that all the people in the cemeteries are dead! Review your old photos after some time, because you will have learned some additional information that will be helpful. Make a timeline of your ancestor to find the years that need to be researched. You may find your Great-Great Grandfather after all!

Ruth Simpson told a story about a picture she saw in her local newspaper about 20 years ago, November 19, 1987. The picture appeared with the caption, "Herman furniture store part of state display." The photograph was taken in 1900 and the person sitting at the desk in the picture is Herman Kreidler, part owner of the furniture store and an uncle to her grandmother.

She wanted to find out more about the store and found out the store was owned by Louis Hafften, George Steinhilber and Herman Kreidler and originally known as HAFFTEN, STEINHILBER & KREIDLER (hereinafter "the Store.") The three men were brothers-in-law. Louis Hafften and George Steinhilber were married to older sisters of Herman.

She pieced together information about the Store. It was located on a main street. She found the current owner of the lot and got a copy of his abstract to see who had owned the property.

Based on her research, it appears the three men built the store in 1900. The Store appears to begin business strictly selling furniture. She found some older ads that appeared in the local newspaper, the *Herman Enterprise*, in 1900 where the store sold iron beds. Another ad in 1901 showed that the Store also began selling groceries. In 1904, the Hafftens sold their interest in the store to the remaining two partners and moved to Minneapolis. The store then became known as "STEINHILBER & KREIDLER."

In 1905, George Steinhilber and Herman Kreidler sold the store and it became known as the "Herman Cash Store." The property later became a movie theater. After 1983, the

current owner tore down what was left of the original structure and replaced it with another building.

So, a picture can start you on a very interesting journey where you can learn a lot about a person and the land they own.

Joan Nagle explained how she was able to locate an ancestor, Robert Muzzy, who lived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony on HeritageQuest. Joan knew about the ancestor but HeritageQuest directed her to a periodical that included his will. Joan found the periodical in the Wisconsin Historical Society Library. The will listed everything he owned – guns, animals and other items. Joan recommended looking on HeritageQuest because you too could find something interesting.

Tom Glassel spoke of his trip to Dundridge Manor in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire England in March of 2007, home to the Baldwin clan since the 16th century.

His ancestor, Joseph Baldwin and wife Hannah Whitlock, came to Massachusetts from England in 1638. Dundridge Manor is in wonderful condition despite the passing of 370 years.

The show and tell part comes in when Tom relates how he discovered the French connection to the English side of his tree. It was through his grandmother, Nettie Viau, who was born in Marinette WI in 1884. Her parents were Angenor Viau and Minnie Boyer, who were in Malone NY in 1870 and came to Wisconsin in 1884 in time for Nettie's birth. Angenor's ancestor was Jacques Viau who came to Canada in 1665 from Clisson, Brittany France.

Tom belongs to the V-Group <<http://www.v-group.org>>, 140 researchers who help each other with the many variations of the Viau name (Veau, Vieau, Veo, Viaux etc.). He showed a copy of the V-Group cookbook – 200 pages, 400+ recipes that he compiled and printed and mailed out to the members, which included over 50 of his recipes.

New Policy at the State Office of Vital Records

The cost of copies of Wisconsin vital records increased dramatically in late October, with the passage of the 2007-2009 state budget. Single copies of records of births, deaths, and marriages which occurred after September of 1907 now cost \$20 each, whether obtained from the state Office of Vital Records or from a county Register of Deeds office; this applies to both certified and uncertified copies. If one needs multiple copies of a vital record, additional copies ordered at the same time cost only \$3, but this situation applies primarily to persons taking care of "family business," not to family historians. The brief summaries of post-September 1907 divorce actions available from the state Office of Vital Records also now cost \$20 each. Copies of vital records for events which occurred before October of 1907 also cost \$20 if obtained from either the state Office of Vital Records or any county Register of Deeds office. However, photocopies of such "pre-1907" records can usually be obtained from select Family History Centers and Wisconsin Historical Society libraries and area research centers for less than \$1 each.

On 1 January 2008 another cost stinger will impact family historians who do on-site research at the state Office of Vital Records. There is a large group of vital records which, by state law, cannot be viewed directly by those without a "direct personal interest." The reason for this is that more recent vital records contain certain information classified as confidential (more on that in the next paragraph). For the past several years, there has been an informal policy at the state Office of Vital Records that the staff would retrieve and print the "public portion" of up to two such records during any two-hour on-site research

appointment. There was no charge for these copies, so long as they were returned to the staff before leaving the office. No more! As of the beginning of 2008, researchers must pay to see any portion of any vital record containing confidential information (and thus requiring staff assistance). Usually the cost will be \$20 per record, as cited above. There is an alternative procedure which may apply when you think you have found the "correct" record but just want to make relatively sure before including the suggested data in your own database. A researcher can submit a form showing what they think a particular record should show. The staff will then return the form with notations of "match," "no match," or a minor spelling variation for each field on the form. This would allow you to verify whether or not the Jane Jones born on 13 October 1953 was the child of Mary (nee Smith) and Tom Jones, or that the 21 June 1970 marriage of James Olsen was to Elizabeth Simpson. This service is intended primarily for use by government organizations and employers needing to verify identity information. It will probably be of very limited usefulness to genealogists, but when it is the cost of such verification is \$7.

Many DCAGS members will remember that a state law was passed in 2002 declaring cause of death information on post-2002 death certificates to be confidential. As the forms and state law evolved, portions of each type of vital record or divorced records were declared to be confidential. The time periods thus restricted are:

Births, 1939 to the present
Death, 2003 to the present
Marriage, 1968 to the present
Divorce, 1968 to the present

There is a further restriction on public access to birth records

in that without a "direct personal interest" one cannot view any portion of the record of a post-September 1907 birth to an unmarried woman.

The state Office of Vital Records has indexes accessible to on-site researchers which include most, but not all, of the time periods during which the records contain confidential information. Some details about what is available for indexes in this office will be placed on the <dcags.org> website – look for the [Wisconsin Vital Records Office](#) heading on the lower half of the home page.

An advance appointment is necessary to do on-site research at the state Office of Vital Records. Appointments are for two-hour blocks; no one can have more than two such appointments per month. Such appointments are NOT easy to come by; they usually must be booked several months in advance, as there are only 24 research slots per week. The best way to request a search appointment is to call (608)267-7820.

Other contact information for the office is <vitalrecords@dhfs.state.wi.us> and PO Box 309, Madison WI 53701. The office is located at 1 W. Wilson St., in Madison, room 159. Unlike with the Dane County Register of Deeds office, fees can be paid for by personal check in the state office. "Picture taking devices" and cell phones are not allowed in the research room, but laptop computers are. Only minimal note-taking material is allowed in the work area; briefcases and the like must be checked at the receptionist's desk. More information about the state Office of Vital Records can be seen on the web at <<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/VitalRecords>>.

More Online Databases Available at the Family History Center

Some great online databases have recently become available to patrons visiting the Family History Center located at the corner of Segoe and Regent in Madison.

DCAGS members may recall that for several years most of the databases normally available with personal paid subscriptions to Ancestry.com were also available free at most Family History Centers. Then in April 2007 Ancestry.com removed FHC access to nearly all of these databases. Several other genealogical database vendors almost immediately announced plans to make their data available for free use at "suitably equipped" Family History Centers. That "suitably equipped" proviso left the Madison FHC out in the cold – until very recently, when an

additional computer was obtained for patron use.

As of mid-November, patrons of the Madison FHC have free access to six new services:

Footnote.com, including the ability to have free personal accounts (this allows one to keep some personal notes regarding data on the footnote.com website)

Godfrey Memorial Library (except for World Vital Records [but see next line] and newspaperarchive.com data)

World Vital Records

FamilyLink (a "social networking" resource provided by World Vital Records; not a resource for "public" data; but designed for sharing personal

data with others)

HeritageQuest Online (Note: this service is also available for home use by anyone with a library card for any of the libraries in the South Central Library System)

Genline (data from Swedish archives; this may not be available right now, but will be as soon as some bureaucratic details are attended to)

Kindred Konnections (plans to make this available have been announced, but not yet implemented)

Some more details about what is available from each of these services will be placed on the <dcags.org> website – look for the Family History Center heading on the lower half of the home page.

Show and Tell 2007 cont...

The English connection was made through Minnie Boyer whose ancestor it turns out goes back to Mary Baldwin, daughter of Joseph and Hannah, who married John Catlin and their daughter Elizabeth, who married James Corse. The French and Indians took James and Elizabeth's daughter, Elizabeth Corse, captive at age 8 along with over 100 Deerfield citizens on Feb. 29, 1704 after their raid on Deerfield. She was taken to Canada. Elizabeth married twice, at age 16 to Jean Baptiste Dumontet and in 1730 to Pierre Monet whose daughter, Marie Angelique is the direct ancestor of Minnie Boyer.

Charlotte Burns told of her paternal great-grandmother, ancestor, Johanna Regan, from Cork, Ireland. Johanna's mother had baked some bread and a gypsy asked for some, however

she was turned down. Johanna went after her and gave her the loaf of bread. The gypsy told her fortune – she would go on a journey across the sea and see a man walking on water and marry him.

She did travel to the U.S. and on the trip, she jumped into the ocean to save a child on board the ship who had fallen overboard and child's family was so grateful, it paid her indentured servant status off and took or guided her to Stevens Point. From there, she saw Tom Burns, from near Belfast, "walking on the water" foretold as the man she would marry. He was a logger, trying to unclog a logjam on the Wisconsin River there. The logging industry used to cut logs and move them on the river to the sawmills. The Rapids was a big paper manufacturing location.

Sherry Lloyd spoke of her great grandfather, Martin Odham. He was self-taught and could read and write. He was a Civil War veteran and a minister. Sherry was able to find some information on him in county history books and she also sent for his pension file as he was disabled.

As minister, he kept a book of notes on members of his congregation – who's doing what in church. It included births, deaths and marriages. Sherry has been able to share this information with people outside her family.

Martin was also a Justice of the Peace and married her grandparents and her mother lived with him.

We thank everyone for sharing something about an ancestor.

Upcoming events

Upcoming Genealogy Classes offered by MATC

It is time to register for the upcoming Spring Genealogy Classes or for any other continuing education classes offered by MATC. All of MATC's computer classes are offered to seniors at a reduced rate. So if you need to learn more about using your computer, check out MATC's class listings. A few classes are also being offered on using 2007 and also on Vista.

Internet: Genealogy Intro, this course covers learning the basic Internet skills needed to research Genealogy sources on the web. Topics covered include: navigating the web by using search engines, web addresses, and links; using web-based E-mail and how to send attachments; downloading genealogy software and using Acrobat Reader; and internet security and computer protection. You will become familiar with genealogy websites and what they have to offer.

<u>Class #</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Begins</u>	<u>Ends</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Location</u>
55983	\$45.42	T	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	1/29	3/4	Lunney	Sun Prairie Colonial Club
56003	\$45.42	W	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	3/26	4/30	Skubis	Waunakee Senior Center
62379	\$45.42	R	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	4/3	5/8	Skubis	Madison Senior Center

Internet: Genealogy Intermediate, this course is designed to increase your Internet skills and confidence. You will learn about major genealogy websites, how to search for ship records, church and military records, and how to find records overseas. Other topics covered are: how to use the internet to plan a research trip or genealogy vacation, using MapQuest and the white pages to assist you in your genealogy research, how to create and send a GEDCOM and download a GEDCOM into your genealogy program, and what to include and exclude when creating a genealogy website, and where you can post it!

<u>Class #</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Begins</u>	<u>Ends</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Location</u>
62202	\$45.42	F	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	4/4	5/9	Skubis	Oregon Area Senior Center
56001	\$45.42	W	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	3/5	4/9	Skubis	Fitchburg Senior Center

Registration:

Call 246-6240 Monday thru Thursday 12 Noon to 6 PM or Friday 12 Noon to 3:30 PM

Or fill in and mail in your registration forms to MATC. The staff at the Senior Centers will be happy to assist you.

Still time to Make Contribution to Wisconsin Historical Foundation in Honor of Jack Brissee

Just a reminder, DCAGS is sending a \$1000 contribution to the Wisconsin Historical Foundation in honor of Jack Brissee. There is still time to send a contribution. Send tax-deductible contributions,

payable to the "Wisconsin Historical Foundation," to DCAGS at P.O. Box 5652 or mailed directly to 816 State St., Madison 53706, by Jan. 15, 2008. *Please include a notation on checks that*

the amount is for the Brissee Memorial.

Every dollar raised by the Foundation, will be matched by \$.25 from National Endowment for the Humanities.

President's Message

2007 is coming to a close and marks the end of Dane County Area Genealogical Society's first year. I feel that it has been a very good year. Our membership has increased, we had a successful Genealogy Fair and our program committee has done a great job finding interesting speakers. I know that the program committee is busy lining up a variety of new

and interesting programs for the upcoming year.

I wish to congratulate Tom Glassel and "Walker" Walker-Crawford on their election to the board. I also want to welcome Sandy Zart and Gerry Schlecht to the board. Sandy will be our new Historian and Gerry will be serving as Secretary for the upcoming year.

I want to thank Jim Benes, Pat Stone and Fay Schoenemann for their work on the board this past year. I have appreciated all that they have done to help make this a successful year and will miss their input.

I wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season and Best Wishes for 2008.

Pat Skubis

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
January 3

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:

President
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Pat Stone
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Secretary
Gerry Schlecht
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Treasurer
Jim Benes
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Past President
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Standing Committee Chairs

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Found!

A black zipper notebook (with the words State Bank of Cross Plains on the cover) size 6 1/2" x 9 1/4" with yellow note paper 5" x 7" inside with several years notes from Genealogy meetings was found after the 1 November 2007 DCAGS meeting at the LDS Church on Segoe & Regent Streets. For further information contact, Bill Baures at bauresb@juno.com.