



# Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

February 29, 2008

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## A Presentation of the RootsMagic Genealogical Software at March 6 Meeting

In March Sherry Lloyd will provide a tour of the computer software program RootsMagic. RootsMagic software has been in use for many years under different titles. It is one of the easiest software programs to use but one of the most powerful programs available.

The March program will demonstrate some of the features of the software including the basics for

recording genealogy information, printing reports, wall charts, source management and even publishing your book!

Sherry Lloyd has been researching genealogy for over 25 years. Sherry has attended many genealogy classes and attended several lectures at national and local conferences. Sherry has a Bachelor of Business Administration Finance

degree from UW Oshkosh and a Masters of Business Administration degree from Edgewood College. Besides membership in the Dane County Area Genealogy Society, Sherry is a member of several other genealogy-related associations.

Please join us at the March 6, 2008 meeting at 7:00 P.M. on at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 4505 Regent Street, Madison, WI.

## Double Header Night

### Hiring a Professional Genealogist & Family Atlas

DCAGS members were treated to a double header at the February 7 meeting. First up was Nancy Emmert. Her topic, "How to find and hire a professional genealogist."

Nancy is a long-time member of DCAGS and a Certified Genealogist by the Board for Certification of Genealogists and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

She hit on a number of excellent tips. She started with a number of services

a professional genealogist can provide:

- Tracing ancestry
- Researching descendants (from an Estate)
- Researching records, such as going to a local courthouse
- Problem solving consultation
- Help write and edit manuscript
- Deciphering old handwritten records
- Translation

Nancy went on describe the research

activities of professional genealogists:

- Define the research problem
- Develop a research plan
- Conduct the research
- Analyze the findings
- Prepare a research report with documentation. It is very important to know what was searched, what was found, and what wasn't found.

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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.**

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**DCAGS Update:**

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

### Individual Highlights:

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## *Double Header continued...*

Next up, Nancy explained how to hire a professional genealogist.

Identify your research problem  
Determine your budget – know what is charged for copies and the per hour cost  
Obtain a list of genealogists  
Contact and interview candidates, by phone or email  
Decide who to hire  
Have an agreement – what the professional will do and how many hours to work  
Pay fees and provide information to client  
Stay in contact so everyone knows what is being done

Nancy provided advice on how you can get the most value for your research dollars.

Gather as much information as you reasonably can  
Organize the information with pedigree charts, family groups sheets, copies of important documents  
Don't withhold information, send copies of prior reports otherwise you may for things you already know.  
Break large project into smaller tasks, pay as you go  
Agree on a maximum authorized amount or have written contact  
Ask for frequent reports.

Nancy then told where to find a professional genealogist.

Word of mouth, some news groups  
Research lists provided by a library or archive  
Association of Professional Genealogists, members pay dues and sign a code of ethics, [www.apgen.org](http://www.apgen.org)  
Certified Genealogists, tested and renewed every five years, [www.bccertification.org](http://www.bccertification.org)  
Accredited Genealogists, pass tests in their areas of specialty, [www.icapgen.org/](http://www.icapgen.org/)

Nancy concluded by showing us an example of a report she prepared for a client.

Up for the second part of the double header was Joe Waddell. He demonstrated the program Family Atlas.

Joe has been researching genealogy for over 40 years and has been using computer genealogy programs for 26 years.

Family Atlas is genealogy mapping software made by RootsMagic. Joe sees the program as an adjunct to "Writing Your Family History" from the January program.

Family Atlas imports data directly from several genealogy programs:

Family Tree Maker, Legacy, PAF5, RootsMagic and GEDCOM files from other programs.

Joe then took us through a tutorial on the program. What the program does is pinpoint geographical sites world wide from your genealogical data. The tutorial showed how you could identify the birthplaces of your family members. The program allows you to choose shape, size, and color of markers. It allows you to label the points and select an event, like birth, death, marriage etc. It allows you to draw arrows or text bubbles to describe what is being shown. You can also add pictures. You can also import place markers by picking latitude or longitude.

The program then creates and prints these personalized maps. The maps can be saved and imported into genealogical programs which permit graphic images.

The cost of the program is \$29.95, plus \$5 shipping. The system requirements are:

- Windows 95, 98, NT, ME, 2000, XP or Vista
- 256 MB RAM
- 200 MB Hard Drive Space
- CD Rom

The double header produced a big home run for members.

## *Worldwide Genealogical Resources Now Available at the Wisconsin Historical Society*

The largest genealogical collection in the world - the microfilm holdings of the Genealogical Society of Utah – is now available to Wisconsin family history researchers at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

In one place, the Historical Society now offers access not only to its own extensive genealogical holdings, but also the massive Utah collection and digital resources provided by the library edition of Ancestry.com. If the family history you always meant to begin never got off the ground because the prospect of traveling

to research far-flung, worldwide collections proved too daunting, then doing genealogical research just got a lot easier.

During the last 160 years, the Historical Society has built one of North America's premier genealogical collections. The library collection consists of: published and microfilmed family histories; church and cemetery records; birth, death and marriage registrations; federal and state censuses; local histories; and military information covering the United States and Canada. The Society's archives

also house original land, court and military records useful to researchers studying Wisconsin families. Now, researchers who visit the Historical Society library can also order microfilm from the vast collections of the Genealogical Society of Utah, the world's greatest collection of family history source materials. German church records, land records from Ireland, and military records from France as well as various records from Japan, India, Africa and other countries connect us to the experiences of our forefathers.

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## Upcoming events

### Swedish Genealogy Workshop

What: Kathy Meade and Peter Wallenskog, representatives of Genline AB, a company that offers online access to original Swedish church records from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, will conduct a free workshop on steps and tips on how to trace your Swedish roots.

When: Tuesday, March 18 from 1-3 p.m.

Where: Room 126, UW's Memorial Library, 728 State Street

Contact: Contact Kathy Meade at [kathy.meade@genline.com](mailto:kathy.meade@genline.com).

### Wisconsin State Genealogical Society 2008 Gene-A-Rama "Picturing Your Ancestors"

What: Topics include: Telling your family story – Heritage Albums and DVDs, New and old treasures at the Wisconsin Historical Society, They went west – New Englanders in the Midwest, Getting more out of the census, Discovering genealogical clues in 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs, Evaluating internet resources and Walk in your ancestor's footsteps: plan a family history vacation.

When: April 11 and 12, 2008

Where: The Plaza Hotel and Suites, 1202 West Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI.

## President's Message

Thanks to all the brave people who came out to hear Nancy Emmert and Joe Waddell speak at our January meeting. Both Joe and Nancy deserve an extra round of applause for venturing out on the nasty roads. I also want to thank our vice president Tom Glassel for taking over the meeting in January. I don't know about the rest of you but I for one am ready for Spring. It is apparent that someone forgot that we are having global warming or maybe it has just missed Wisconsin.

Having been hampered by bad roads and way too much snow, I have been able to do a bit more web searching. Yesterday I discovered a

Cost: 2-day rate: \$50 for WSGS members and \$75 for non-WSGS members before March 26. \$60 for WSGS members and \$85 for non-WSGS members after March 26. One day rates (for either Friday or Saturday) \$35 for WSGS members or \$60 for non-WSGS members before March 26 or \$45 for WSGS members and \$85 for non-WSGS members after March 26. Meals are extra.

Hotel Accommodations: Contact the hotel at 1-800-482-7829 or 715-834-3181. The room rate is \$89 per night and must be received by March 11. It is block #5405.

Registration: [www.wsgs.org](http://www.wsgs.org).

### Profiles of German Emigrants

What: The German Interest Group-WI is sponsoring a German Workshop titled "Profiles of German Emigrants" Featured speaker will be Baerbel Johnson who is a professional genealogist and works at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

When: July 12, 2008

Where: The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater campus.

Registration: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wigig/index.html>

new web site that works better than Google's virtual earth. If you haven't tried it, it is <http://maps.live.com/>. It allowed me to view my house from the air and at all angles. In some cities you cannot get the street level view, but in others you can.

I have also found a number of books that Google has digitalized and put on the web. Some of them have been family genealogy books and others have been church records. I found some of the records about the photographers N.P. Jones and E.R. Curtiss in these books. The best part about these books is that you can read them for free. You can also copy and paste the information that you want to save.

### Genealogy Classes and Events for Spring at the Wisconsin Historical Society

The Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives is proud to offer another session of classes on special topics in genealogical research. Classes begin March 1. To review the class listings and download a registration form, visit their website at <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes/>

March 8, 2008 Genealogical Digital Books and Documents Online

March 29, 2008 Canada's A Foreign Country! Tracing Your Ancestors To, Through, and From Canada

April 5, 2008 African American Genealogy Workshop

April 19, 2008 Mapping Your Ancestors and Their Neighbors

April 26, 2008  
[WWW.FAMILYSEARCH.ORG](http://WWW.FAMILYSEARCH.ORG):  
The Collections and Website for the Genealogical Society of Utah

On March 18, Kathy Meade and Peter Wallenskog will be presenting Swedish Genealogy - Tracing Your Swedish Heritage Using the Swedish Church Books. This program will be presented at the UW Memorial Library.

More information about the program can be found on the Historical Society's calendar of events or by using this web address <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/calendar/index.asp?id=1402>.

Hopefully we will have great weather for our March meeting and I hope to see all of you there.

Pat Skubis

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Madison, WI 53705-0652



**Address Service Requested**

We're on the Web!

See us at: [www.dcags.org](http://www.dcags.org)



**Dane County Area  
Genealogical Society**

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

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**See you  
March 6**

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We have a new web address:  
[www.dcags.org](http://www.dcags.org).

If you enter the address it  
will take you to the group's  
website on Rootsweb.

**DCAGS officers for 2008:**

President  
Pat Skubis

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Vice President  
Tom Glassel

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***Historical Society continued...***

The Genealogical Society of Utah has been microfilming original records from around the world for almost 70 years. They have filmed in more than 100 countries and amassed a wide variety of primary historical documents such as civil registration, church, probate, census, land, tax, and military records. The collection also contains numerous family and local histories. With the cooperation of the Historical Society, the Genealogical Society of Utah has been filming Wisconsin records since the 1970s.

For information about hours, genealogical workshops and genealogical research services, visit the Historical Society online at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy).

This new borrowing service will dramatically increase the resources available to the genealogical community served by the Society. For more information contact Lori Bessler at (608) 264-6536 or via e-mail at [Lori.Bessler@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:Lori.Bessler@wisconsinhistory.org).