



# Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

## What's New at the Family History Center at August 7 Meeting

What's new at the Family History Center? Our speaker will be Pam Anderson at the August 7 meeting of DCAGS. Pam will show some of the online genealogical resources one can use at the local Family History Center plus some at-home resources available through FamilySearch in its various forms.

Online resources which were made available recently at the Family History Center in Madison include Footnote(TM), World Vital Records, Genline, and most Godfrey Memorial Library-provided databases.

Pam will show examples of looking up Swedish records in Genline and of doing searches in Footnote.

Many new resources are being prepared for public access at FamilySearch Labs; these resources are currently being offered to anyone (at home as well as at the FHC) on a "try it at your own risk" basis.

To whet your research appetite, Pam will show numerous examples of what you may find in these newly-available-on-the-Internet-free resources, including the 1930 Mexican census, Norwegian 1700-1900 baptisms, death records from Spain, World War II U.S. draft registration cards, and Philadelphia city 1803-1915 death certificates. If it is released before this meeting, she will also demonstrate the index to all

of the Irish civil registration of births, deaths, and marriages—over twenty-three million records spanning the years 1845 (marriage only) to 1958. She will show examples as well as some of the updated research outlines available on the "regular" FamilySearch.org.

We are back at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 4505 Regent Street, Madison, WI for the August 7 meeting. The church parking lot is under construction, so you will have to park on the street. Please join us on August 7 at 7:00 P.M.

## Reminiscence Writing & Picnic

Reminiscence writing, within the grasp of anyone who has delved into family history, was powerfully demonstrated by six readers at our July picnic supper meeting at the Fitchburg Senior Center.

Guests who shared their stories had studied writing with Anne Short, now retired after a 21-year

teaching career. In her introductions, Anne stressed the importance of recording stories gleaned from personal recollections or from relatives, to furnish real portraits beyond the vital statistics we strive to document.

Some of the accounts dealt fondly with a remembered grandparent

or other relative; One was a moving, respectful biography of a Middleton businessman composed by a "newcomer" who was disappointed that his mundane newspaper obituary captured so little of the man's life and character.

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### **Reduced Hours at Family History Center**

The Family History Center will have reduced hours while the Church parking lot is under construction. Starting July 31<sup>st</sup> the Family History Center hours will be Tuesdays 9-9, Thursdays 6-9, and Saturdays closed. September will resume the normal schedule. Feel free to call the Family History Center at 238-4844, to confirm that they are open.

**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, August 18 at 6:30 p.m. South Madison Library, 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!**

### **Individual Highlights:**

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## Reminiscence Writing continued...

The subject of Rose Link's memoir was her father, whose post-retirement hobby as a beekeeper in Nebraska evolved into a business enterprise which he maintained until his death.

In "Coming to America," Eileen Kalscheur Aeschbach recounted family stories of their immigration from Austria. She was raised in Pine Bluff and has written eight books on the families in her genealogy. The books, which she brought along, contained stories, family trees, and pictures. Viewed afterwards, the books were impressive in their content; one took 12 years to prepare.

"A Belated Tribute to Arnie" was the contribution of Molly McDermott who lives in Middleton. She had wonderful stories about Arnold Schwartz, now deceased, co-owner of a former Middleton dry goods store, Schwab and Schwartz.

"Grandma Hattie - Room for One More" was a loving recollection by Loree Davis of her grandmother, who remained cheerful and welcoming

despite a rugged life and the deaths of three husbands. In Hattie's home, there was always room for one more.

Ken Helgerson and his wife (a Kessenich), operate a B&B near Cross Plains. His delightful story, "A Colorful Couple," captured fond memories of his Aunt Idy and Uncle Gus.

Joan VandenHeuvel told the story about her "Mysterious Aunt Martha," who might be described as a "bag lady." Joan's memories of her late aunt were stirred by a television documentary on homelessness. Indeed, though Aunt Martha lived all her life in Hillsboro, her lack of conformity made a great impression on this writer.

Anne Short no longer teaches the class she started in September 1986 but says that she still gets together with many of her students to socialize and tell stories.

A storm swept through the area just before the picnic but about 60 people braved the bad weather to enjoy a meal of baked beans, franks, chicken, vegetarian pizza, potato

salad, coleslaw and a variety of desserts.

Many people stopped on their way out to say how much they enjoyed both the meal and the wonderful stories.

Thank you, Anne Short and your pupils, and also applause for Joan Nagle, our program chairman.

### Mirror, Mirror on the ...Web?

A searchable database of every issue of Madison Central High School's student newspaper, the *Madison Mirror*, spanning a period of more than 40 years, has been made available online by the Dane County Historical Society.

The project was introduced to the public at a DCHS program last month held at MATC downtown, site of old Central High. It was the culmination of a digitizing project started months ago under the guidance of Debbie Kmetz, Electronic Cataloging Project Coordinator. You can read and research these issues through a link on the Society's home page, <http://www.danecountyhistory.org/>.

A complete collection of *Mirrors*, dated September 1925 through May 1969 when Central closed, was donated to the Society. It was printed in tabloid format, with issues appearing twice monthly.

Other digitizing objectives at the Society are complete records of the Madison Shriners' organization for much of the 20th century, and indexing of the "Know Your Madisonian" feature which appeared in the *Wisconsin State Journal*. Names include prominent Madison men and women whose printed profiles, appearing 1956-1976, were illustrated with hand-sketched portraits by artist Edward S. Schumann.

## Picnic Baked Bean Recipe

For those who asked for the "Picnic Baked Bean" recipe that was served at the July picnic, here it is. The original recipe came from the Betty Crocker 1961 version cook book and can be found on page 275. It was called Baked Bean and Sausage Casserole. It was an adaptation of the French "cassoulet" which included sausage, a second meat, beans, tomato and a variety of seasonings.

1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen Lima beans or 1 drained can of Lima beans

3 cans (1 lb. each) baked beans (I like the molasses type)

2 cans (1 lb. 4 oz. each) kidney beans (drained)

1 lb. Italian link sausage or pork link sausage

1/2 lb. smoked ham, cut in cubes

1 tbsp. salt

1/2 tsp. pepper

1/2 tsp. mustard

1 can (8 oz.) tomato sauce

1/2 cup catsup

1/4 cup brown sugar (packed)

1 medium onion, chopped

If you use the frozen lima beans cook per directions on pkgs. Otherwise mix all of the beans together. Place sausage in skillet: add a small amount of water. Cover and simmer 5 min. Drain: pan fry until brown. Don't prick. Cut each sausage into 2 or 3 pieces. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Mix sausage, ham and beans. Combine seasonings, tomato sauce, catsup, brown sugar and onion; add to beans. Pour into a 3-qt. baking dish. Bake uncovered 1 hr. Servings 10 -12.

By Pat Skubis

# Upcoming events

## ***Footprints of Family History***

What: The Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference for Genealogists  
When: September 3-6, 2008  
Where: Philadelphia, PA  
Registration Information:  
[www.fgsconference.org](http://www.fgsconference.org)

## ***Cornish Genealogy Seminar***

What: The Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society and the Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee are hosting a genealogy conference on Cornish Genealogy.  
When: September 26-27, 2008  
Where: Comfort Inn, Mineral Point, WI  
Registration Information:  
[www.cornishfest.org](http://www.cornishfest.org)

## ***WSGS Fall Seminar***

What: Wisconsin State Genealogical Society will host Craig R. Scott, owner of Heritage Books. He will speak on researching military history.  
When: October 11, 2008  
Where: Janesville, WI, Holiday Inn Express and Conference Center  
Registration Information:  
[www.wsgs.org](http://www.wsgs.org)

## ***ISGS: 40 Years of Discovery – Portals into the Future***

What: Illinois State Genealogical Society Fall Conference. The emphasis will be on use of computers in genealogy. Featuring D. Joshua Taylor, Beau Sharbrough, Eric Basir, Lou Szucs, Susan Anderson, Debra Mieszala, Lori Bessler and Kathy Carey.

When: October 18, 2008  
Where: Elgin, IL, Elgin Community College

Registration Information:  
[www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs)

## ***MATC Genealogy Classes for the Fall***

The Internet Genealogy Intro classes cover basic internet skills and genealogy search methods; no prior experience in genealogy or internet is required.

The Internet Genealogy Intermediate classes cover searching both U.S. sites and international resources. Both classes help you locate free sites to use for your research. How to use the paid genealogy sites for free is also covered. A new feature has been added to both courses, students will now be able to review the class presentations at home on blackboard. An Internet Genealogy Advanced course will be offered in Spring '09.

To enroll, call MATC ACE at 258-2301 or go online at [www.matcmadison.edu/ace/ACE\\_Fall08\\_timetable.pdf](http://www.matcmadison.edu/ace/ACE_Fall08_timetable.pdf). Course fee is \$47.67 if under 62. For those 62 or over the cost is \$4.

Internet: Genealogy Introduction, Fitchburg Senior Center, 5510 Lacy Rd., Fitchburg, WI, 6 PM to 9 PM, Wed., 9/17 to 10/22 2008

Internet Genealogy Introduction, West Side /Upper Iowa, 4601 Hammersley Rd., Madison, WI, 9 AM to 12 Noon, Wed., 9/17 to 10/22 2008

Internet: Genealogy Intermediate, Oregon Senior Center, 219 Park St., Oregon, WI, 1 PM to 4 PM, Thursdays, 9/4 to 10/9 2008

Internet: Genealogy Intermediate, Waunakee Senior Center, 333 S. Madison St., Waunakee, WI, 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM, Tuesdays, 9/30 to 11/4 2008

Internet: Genealogy Intermediate, South Madison Ed Center, 2300 Park St., Madison, WI, 9 AM to 12 Noon, Thursdays, 10/2 to 11/6 2008

Internet: Genealogy Intermediate, Fitchburg Senior Center, 5510 Lacy Rd., Fitchburg, WI, 6 PM to 9 PM, Wed., 10/29 to 12/3 2008

Sign up early; an enrollment of 10 people per class is required for the class to run. If that number is not reached a week before the class starts the class will be canceled. If you know anyone who might be interested, spread the word.

If you have anyone to propose or if you would like to run for the office of President or Secretary please send me your suggestions and I will forward them to the nominating committee. The offices are coming up for election in November.

I am looking forward to Pam Anderson's presentation on the new resources that are being offered at the Family History Center and the new resources that are being put online. I hope to see all of you at our August meeting.

*Pat Skubis*

## ***President's Message***

I hope everyone who attended our July picnic enjoyed the evening as much as I did. Luckily the rainstorm blew over after making driving to our picnic a bit of a challenge.

Thanks to Tom Glassel for cooking all of our meat dishes, to Joan Nagel for picking up the salads and supplies and to the board members and their family members who helped setting up and taking down tables. Thanks to everyone else who brought a dessert or a dish to share.

Our program featuring Anne Short's students, reading their reminiscence stories, provided humor and ideas for our own writing projects.

Ruth Wells has completed the DCAGS themed book bags and emblem orders, so if you placed an order with her for one and have not picked it up, she will have them at our August meeting.

John Hicks and I visited with Ruth Curtiss in late June. She told us that somewhere in her very lovely, large house she has some of the negatives of the photos that E.R. Curtiss took in the 1800s. I gave her a copy of the slide presentation and she plans to share it with her children and grandchildren. Hopefully I will be able to visit with her again sometime and maybe we can learn whose images are in the photos we have.

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](http://www.dcags.org)



**Dane County Area  
Genealogical Society**

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

**See you  
August 7**

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  
[p3l8skubis@hughes.net](mailto:p3l8skubis@hughes.net)

Vice President  
Tom Glassel  
[tglassel@gmail.com](mailto:tglassel@gmail.com)

Secretary  
Gerry Schlecht  
[13gerry@att.net](mailto:13gerry@att.net)

Treasurer  
"Walker" Walker-Crawford  
[walker@viridis.ws](mailto:walker@viridis.ws)

Past President  
Shirley Levine  
[shirts26@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shirts26@sbcglobal.net)

Standing Committee  
Chairs

Membership  
William "Bill" Baures  
[bauresb@juno.com](mailto:bauresb@juno.com)

Programs & Education  
Joan Nagle  
[JWNagle@merr.com](mailto:JWNagle@merr.com)

Public Relations

Historian  
Sandy Zart  
[sandyzart@charter.net](mailto:sandyzart@charter.net)

Web Master  
Rollie Littlewood  
[rklittle@wisc.edu](mailto:rklittle@wisc.edu)

Newsletter  
Ruth Simpson  
[rsimpson@terracom.net](mailto:rsimpson@terracom.net)

***Genealogy Classes for the Fall at  
the Wisconsin Historical Society***

The Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives will offer the following classes this fall:  
"Ancestry.com" (9/13 [repeated on 12/6], Lori Bessler), "From Daquerreotype to Digital File: Organizing and Caring for Family and Personal Photographs" (9/27 [repeated on 11/8], David Benjamin), "Oh Darned! Where Did I Put Uncle George? Organizing and Compiling Your Research" (10/18, Rick Pifer), "Immigration and Naturalization Records" (11/1, Dee Grimsrud), "Digital Retouching Demystified" (11/22, Andy Kraushaar). Click on the title of any class for further details (time, fees, location, class coverage) about that class. A discount on the registration fee is offered to those who are members of either the Wisconsin Historical Society or the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society. Registration will begin 1 August 2008; to register, download, print, and mail or FAX the [required registration form](#).

For further information, go to  
<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraries/archives/classes/>