



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

Family Tree Maker Demonstration at April 3 Meeting

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At the April 3 DCAGS meeting, Walker Crawford will provide an overview of Ancestry.com's Family Tree Maker (FTM).

In 2008 FTM went through a dramatic makeover from its prior versions. The new interface makes it easier to enter and locate the varied information we find ourselves with. It's also just a matter of a few clicks now to incorporate pictures and videos with standard text data. And like

most genealogy programs the typical display options such as tree charts and book chapters are still available.

Walker began his exploration of the genealogist's world in 1997 when his Great-Aunt Alma asked him to become a partner in computerizing her almost 40 years worth of research. Since then he has entered but a fraction of the vast amounts of information that she has collected. Alma passed away in February of

this year, but her work will continue to live on through the volumes yet to be published (but will be!).

In 2000 Walker obtained his Bachelors of Business Administration from UW Oshkosh and is currently employed by the UW Foundation in Madison.

Please join us at the April 3, 2008 meeting at 7:00 P.M. on at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 4505 Regent Street, Madison, WI.

RootsMagic

Sherry Lloyd gave a presentation on RootsMagic at the March 6 DCAGS meeting. RootsMagic is a genealogy software program that will assist you in organizing your information, helping you with your research and publish your research.

Sherry provided the following information on the software.

- a. RootsMagic can be purchased from RootsMagic.com
- b. The computer

requirements are Windows 95 through and including Vista. Mac users will need a Windows program to use RootsMagic.

- c. The system requirements are 32 MB RAM, 40 MB hard drive space and a CD-ROM drive.
- d. The program can be purchased for \$29.95 either as a CD or directly downloaded to your computer.
- e. A demo of the

software is available at RootsMagic.com. If you enter information in the demo program this data can be transferred to the full program if you choose to purchase it.

- f. RootsMagic works with GenSmarts software
 - g. A newsletter is available online, which offers tips and new information. Sherry recommends signing up for the newsletter.
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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 third Monday of each month. The next meeting is on Monday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. South Park Library, 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!

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RootsMagic continued...

h. There is a book available, "Getting the Most Out of RootsMagic." The can be ordered at a reduced price when you order the software. Sherry said the software is very easy to use and you will not need the book to start with; however the book offers good tips and useful information if you want to go beyond the basics.

Sherry then provided a background on the general features of RootsMagic.

- a. RootsMagic is very easy to use when beginning to use the software.
- b. The program works like other Windows software with a toolbar at the top of the page. It is easy to move around the program and has a help tab if you need help.
- c. It uses GEDCOM for merging data from software programs.
- d. It easily moves from pedigree view, family view and descendant view.
- e. There are a large number of fact types to enter data. You can create your own fact types.
- f. It easily adds or links individuals in your database. You can add individuals that are not linked to other people, for example a name in a census report but you do not know how that person is related, if at all. Thus, you will save the information until you have more information to work with.
- g. You can have multiple databases and can have more than one database open at one time. You can drag and drop persons from one database to another.
- h. You can save pictures, sound media or multimedia in RootsMagic. This allows your pictures to print with your data.

RootsMagic allows you to organize your information in the following ways.

- a. People list to help you keep track of your information.
- b. The search features allow you to find individuals easily.
- c. A source index that allows you to manage your sources.
- d. The source function has a place to indicate where you store your information, such as paper files or computer files.

- e. Many fact types are available to help you keep track of information, including alternate names.
- f. The notes section provides a place to enter information that may not fit in a fact, such as letters that you want to share with others or names listed in an obituary, but you are not sure how to link them to your other research.

RootsMagic has the following research help.

- a. A Source Wizard provides help in entering your source, by providing citation help.
- b. It allows you to enter a source once and use it for multiple people.
- c. Problem lists help you manage your information. Merge features allow you to merge duplicate names or sources.
- d. Spell check is available.
- e. Reports are easy to generate allowing you to view your information in various forms.
- f. Windows features allow you to copy and paste data from text files and saves time in entering data.
- g. "To do" lists provide a place to keep track of what information you need.
- h. There is a correspondence log to help you keep track of whom you wrote to.
- i. Reports are available on any fact type to allow you to prepare for

a research trip. For example, all persons located in a location or all persons with a birth record in Dane County, Wisconsin.

- j. If you are connected to the Internet, you can click on a person and then go to the Internet and do research. Sites listed include FamilySearch and RootsWeb among others.

RootsMagic has the following reports and publishing options.

- a. Many reports available to allow you to print information or share information with others.
- b. Reports can be created on any fact type.
- c. You may customize your own reports.
- d. There are many charts available and you can change colors, size of print, etc. The different charts are: Pedigree Charts, Family Group Sheets, Time Line, Narrative Reports, Calendars with birthdays and anniversaries and Address Labels.
- e. RootsMagic allows you to keep an address book of current addresses.
- f. You can create a draft of a book with sources and name index by a few clicks of a mouse.
- g. Private events and the living feature allow you to keep private information out of your reports or other published materials.
- h. You can create your own website which will include photos, notes, sources, index, surname list, etc. For examples of websites created by others using RootsMagic, please go to RootsMagic.com, then go to [Overview](#), [Website Generator](#).

So, check out RootsMagic!

Upcoming events

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 19th 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.

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.

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>

Digital Books Online

The Brigham Young University's Harold B. Lee Library, Family History Library and Allen County Public Library have worked together on a project to publish over 100,000 published family histories and thousands of local histories. The collections will have every word search capability. The search results are then linked to digital images of the original publication.

The project was announced last fall and the digital histories can be found at www.familyhistoryarchive.byu.edu. Sherry Lloyd has searched the digital books and "found many publications that I never would have thought to look for before."

So, check out the new resource.

President's Message

Sherry Lloyd's well-done demonstration of the features of RootsMagic software program brought up the question of how this program compares to other software programs. A good comparison of the features of the top ten genealogy software programs can be found at this link <http://genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com/>. The top three programs are Legacy, Family Tree Maker, and RootsMagic.

The standard edition of Legacy Family Tree software can be downloaded for free from their home page at <http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/> The deluxe edition can be downloaded for \$29.95 or you can order the CD, plus the book for \$39.95 plus shipping and handling.

Family Tree Maker no longer offers a trial edition. The full

edition can be purchased for \$39.95 plus shipping and tax at <http://www.familytreemaker.com/> or for \$29.95 if you use the link in the software review article.

RootsMagic offers a free trial version. The information that you enter into the trial version can be imported into the full version if you decide to purchase the full version. More information can be found at <http://www.rootsmagic.com/>.

The price for the download or CD is the same at \$29.95, but if you order the book and the CD the price is \$39.95 plus shipping and handling.

There are several very good free software programs. A new program is Family Tree Builder. You can review and download this program from their web site at <http://www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder>. It has a number of very nice features.

You can also download PAF from <http://www.familysearch.org/> or order the CD plus the PAF companion for \$8.25. Brother's Keeper is a shareware program that can be downloaded. To review the program features go to <http://www.bkwin.org/>.

For the MAC user there is Reunion 9 that can be purchased at the online Apple Store for \$99.95. MAC Family Tree is a German developed program that has an English version that can be downloaded for \$49.00. You can also try out the demo, but your entries will not be saved. <http://www.onlymac.de/html/stammbaum4en.html>.

Be sure to join us in April for Walker Crawford's presentation on the features of Family Tree Maker.

Pat Skubis

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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
April 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 2008:

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***Reminiscence Writing
Performances***

Reminiscence writing, which could be a start or an addition to a family history, will be showcased at two performances in April and May. Oral readings will be presented by students of a class taught for more than 20 years by Anne Short at the West Side Senior Center.

Programs are scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, at Oakwood Village West, 6165 Mineral Pt. Rd in Madison, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., and on Monday, May 5 at the Stoughton Area Senior Center, 248 W. Main St., Stoughton, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

These presentations are sponsored by Dane County Historical Society which began the series with similar programs in Cross Plains and Waunakee in March. Another was recently featured on WORT- FM radio.

The series are free and open to the public.