



# Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

## *The Immigrant Experience: A View from Language at December 4 meeting*

Joseph Salmons, UW professor of German Language and co-director of the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures, will present "The Immigrant Experience: A View from Language" at the DCAGS meeting on December 4.

Wisconsin reflects its immigrant influence in many ways, and one of them is the language settlers brought with them. Prof. Salmons will discuss how language affected their society, schools, churches and newspapers.

Prof. Salmons holds a Ph.D. in Germanic Linguistics from the

University of Texas. His core research and teaching focus is on theories of phonology and language change, drawing data particularly from historical and contemporary Germanic languages.

With Rob Howell and Paul Roberge, he is at work on a two-volume *Cambridge History of the Germanic Languages*. He also serves as Executive Editor of *Diachronica: International Journal for Historical Linguistics*, Associate Editor of the *Journal of Germanic Linguistics*, and Co-director of the Center for the

Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures. He has just received a Kellett Mid-Career Award from the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation.

During the meeting the results of the officer election will be announced.

We are at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 4505 Regent Street, Madison, WI for the Thursday, December 4 meeting. Please join us at 7:00 P.M.

November 30, 2008

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### *Remember to Vote!*

At the November meeting, the following recommendations were made for officers in 2009: President: Roland K. Littlewood (2-year term), Vice President: Donald L. Cole (1-year term) and Secretary: Geraldine A. Schlecht (2-year term).

Ballots are included in this newsletter for return on or before the December 4 meeting.

## *UW Digital Collections Center*

Digital Services Librarian Vicki Tobias presented highlights from the UW Digital Collections Center and provided some basic instruction on how to search for materials within the collection at the November 6 DCAGS meeting.

The UW Digital Collections Center (UWDCC) was established in 2001 to create digital resources to support teaching and research at the UW. It is working to build quality digital resources from a variety of sources.

Its mission is "promoting the Wisconsin Idea by providing professional leadership in the creation of quality digital resources, from UW libraries and archives, for faculty, staff and students, citizens of the state and scholars at large."

The UWDCC digitizes images for the entire network of UW 2-year and 4-year campuses and it collaborates with the UW-Madison campuses and its libraries, the WI Historical Society, the WI Humanities Council, the Department of Public Instruction and the universities in Iceland and Lisbon.

There are 12-13 full time staff and numerous students who are hired to do the scanning work. Vicki has worked at the UWDCC since 2004. Prior to that she worked on digitizing projects at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

The UWDCC is located at the UW Memorial Library and is funded by the UW System and UW-Madison General Library System.

The UWDCC has 8,965 books, 1.6 million pages, 60,000 photos, 17,767 audio minutes, numerous video minutes and 3,000 archives finding aids in their collection.

The UWDCC has completed 425 digital projects and is currently working on over 60 projects. One of the main criteria for involving the UWDCC in digitizing materials is that it would be available to the public free of charge.

Vicki focused on genealogical resources available at the UWDCC. She provided information on general resources in the UWDCC collection that facilitate a broad research of Wisconsin History.

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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, WI beginning at 7 p.m.***

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### ***DCAGS Update:***

***The DCAGS Governing Board meets the third Monday of each month. The next meeting is on Monday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. South Madison Library, 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!***

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## UW Digital Collections...

American Languages – Our Nation's Many Voices.

Milwaukee Neighborhoods: Photos & Maps 1885-1992. Images of Milwaukee neighborhoods and documentation of the city's development.

The State of Wisconsin Collection. This collection contains unique or valuable materials that document Wisconsin's history and ongoing development. The collection includes city directories, county and local histories, community annuals or yearbooks, pioneer and immigrant remembrances, oral histories, photographs, atlases and plat maps.

Wisconsin Electronic Reader. Stories, essays, letters, poems, biographies, journals and tidbits from Wisconsin history. Many are firsthand accounts and profusely illustrated.

Wisconsin Public Land Survey Records: Original Field Notes and Plat Maps. This contains the field notes and plat maps of the public land survey of Wisconsin conducted between 1832 and 1866 by the Federal Land Office.

The University of Wisconsin Collection. This collection contains images, manuscripts, papers and books relating to the University's history or mission including the Badger Yearbooks from 1885-1977, University of Wisconsin Alumni Directory, 1849-1919 and images from the

University of Wisconsin Archives. Archival Resources in Wisconsin: Descriptive Finding Aids. Archival finding aids that provide information about materials held in archival collections within the UW Archives, UW Memorial Library Department of Special Collections, WI Historical Society and the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures.

Wisconsin Heritage Online. This is an expanding collection and features documentary sources and material culture from Wisconsin libraries, archives and museums.

The UWDC has partnered with the Department of Public Instruction and local libraries to digitize local history sources, including city directories, plat maps, books, photos, audio and video. 28 projects are completed and 9 are being worked on in 2009.

Vicki went on to explain how to search the collections. Before beginning she recommends getting organized. Know what you are looking for. The website searches are best conducted by source: text or multimedia sources: images, audio or video. Know where you want to look in Wisconsin. Identify key search terms – names, locations or subjects. If a name, try different spellings. The search function does allow for wild cards and you can do a Boolean search.

Vicki recommends starting at the main UWDC page, <http://uwdcc.library.wisc.edu>. Click

on collections. The page has links to the various collections. Each collection has its own home page. You can also search alphabetically. The State of Wisconsin Collection is under the letter "S." The collections will then allow you to search by the categories: text, images or audio and video.

You can look at text-based resources – books, albums, journals, diaries – and search by keyword.

You can also look in subcollections. They also each have their own home page.

Vicki also talked about the Google Project. Google is scanning books at the UW and Historical Society that our pre-1923 and in the public domain. Vicki said this is a great resource for genealogists who might be looking for an older book. Generally there is bibliographic information and the location of where your search term appears in the book.

For more information on the UWDC, go to its web site at <http://uwdcc.library.wisc.edu>. If you have questions contact [digitalcontent@library.wisc.edu](mailto:digitalcontent@library.wisc.edu).

Vicki was kind enough to provide her four handouts and powerpoint presentation to our group. We have posted the materials on the DCAGS website, [www.dcags.org](http://www.dcags.org). So take a look at the materials.

So visit the UW digital collections online and you will find a wealth of information that may be helpful in your genealogical research. We thank Vicki for giving us a great overview of the UWDC's resources.

## Are You My Cousin?

is the title of a recent article in *AARP The Magazine*, written by Richard Rubin. In this article he discusses how a relative that he never knew he had contacted him. Nor do they know how they are related. How is this possible? Well they share the same mitochondrial DNA. You can read Richard's article in your November/December 2008 issue of *AARP The Magazine* or online at [http://www.aarpmagazine.org/family/genetic\\_genealogy.html](http://www.aarpmagazine.org/family/genetic_genealogy.html).

I found this article to be very timely, since about two years ago I submitted a DNA sample to the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation's DNA project. This project had been featured on *The View* and at the time received a large response. It took a while before the results were posted. Unlike some of the other DNA projects, you do not receive an individual report. The cost of participating in the project is FREE. How is this possible? Well

they ask you to submit a four generation (or larger if you have it) pedigree chart along with your DNA sample. Once the results are posted you can find them online by looking for your surname if you're a man. If you are a female, look for your pedigree chart online. (SMGF; [www.smgf.org](http://www.smgf.org))

Up until March of 2008 this was the only way you could locate the results. At that time GeneTree Family History-Sharing web site

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## Upcoming events

### Reminiscence Writing

What: Reminiscence Writing Workshop

When: The workshop includes six two-hour sessions beginning on January 14 and ending on February 18, 2009.

Where: Oregon Senior Center

Class: Instructor Sarah White will lead the class that each week will explore different aspects of the writing craft, and then discuss priming questions to help draw out memories and insights about a topic. Students will write a few pages on a significant theme of their life history. Each meeting includes time to share what's written. In the final session she will explore ways to organize and publish a life story for others to enjoy.

Cost: \$38.00.

Register: You can sign up by contacting Erika Hoke by phone at 835-5801 or email her at [ehoke@vil.oregon.wi.us](mailto:ehoke@vil.oregon.wi.us).

### UW German Immigration Experience Class

Once again this coming spring semester, Prof. Cora Lee Kluge is teaching her course entitled "The German Immigration Experience." It appears in the online Timetable as German 278, lecture #1, and will meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:50 to 9:40 a.m. in room 114 Van Hise Hall. According to the UW Web site the class is a 15-week class that begins January 21 and runs through May 8, 2009.

Information on auditing this course, even though you are not a current student at the UW-Madison, can be found by following this link: <http://www.dcs.wisc.edu/info/guests.htm>.

And if you are a citizen of the State of Wisconsin age 60 or older, you may audit the course for free. See information at this Web site: <http://www.dcs.wisc.edu/info/audit60.htm>.

## Are you my Cousin Continued...

and Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation collaborated to offer Sorenson database participants deeply discounted DNA profiles for use on GeneTree Site. The press release about this can be found at [http://www.smgf.org/press\\_releases.aspx?pr=25](http://www.smgf.org/press_releases.aspx?pr=25).

So for \$19.95 I received my DNA profile from GeneTree. Like Richard, I now have new mysteries! Who are these people whose mitochondrial DNA match mine? The results show that there are two other submitters who have results identical to mine. Our pedigrees do not match. Our common ancestor is buried back in time. Will we find the link? I don't know. I also learned that there are 203 individuals who have only one marker that is different. I have scanned their pedigrees and as of yet have not located a link, but hopefully will in time.

On GeneTree you can build your own family tree and start your very own family network. You can share photos, video and more, all for free. GeneTree offers cost-effective mitochondrial DNA tests. A \$99 GeneTree test provides genetic sequence information collected from one of three major mitochondrial regions; a \$149 test provides information from all three regions. For more information about GeneTree go to: <http://www.genetree.com/>.

Watch for more information about GeneTree and how you may participate in the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation's DNA project. You too can join Richard Rubin and me on the quest to find our genetic cousins.

*Submitted by Pat Skubis*



## President's Message

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving I, as the President of our society, have the following things to be thankful for:

Our society is now two years old and I am happy to report that we are a growing society.

Our program committee has provided us with varied and interesting programs.

Our past President, Shirley Levine, has graciously served as the public relations person and has kept the public informed about our meetings.

I am also thankful for the work Rollie does to keep the web site current and to Ruth who compiles the monthly newsletter.

I also appreciate the work of the other board members who man the membership table, keep the records, cook the meat for our picnic, and to those who work behind the scenes, mailing out the newsletter, making copies, and to those who set up and

clean up after our functions. Without their support I would not be able to function.

I am also thankful for all the wonderful outside speakers we have had these past two years and to the LDS church for the use of their facilities for our monthly meeting and for hosting our Genealogy Fair in 2007.

I also want to thank all the members who come out for our meetings and other functions and for your suggestions and input about programs that you would like us to have. This is valuable information for our program committee and helps them with their planning.

I wish to thank everyone for having had the opportunity to serve as your President for the past two years.

In closing be sure to vote for the new Board members and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

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



**Dane County Area  
Genealogical Society**

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

**See you  
December 4**

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  
[p318skubis@hughes.net](mailto:p318skubis@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  
[jnagle9059@charter.net](mailto:jnagle9059@charter.net)

Public Relations

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

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

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

*Second Notice*

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society (WSGS) is reducing the inventory of books stored in its office in Madison. WSGS is holding an **"Inventory Clearance Sale"**. The books will all be priced at 50% of their original prices. The majority of the books are indexes for the Wisconsin county histories that were published in the late 1800s or the early 1900s. Many people doing genealogy research find these indexes for the counties they are researching to be very helpful. They are all available now at the low prices of \$2.50 to \$4.00 per book. There are also past issues of the WSGS Newsletter on sale.

To purchase the books or past newsletters, contact the WSGS office at P. O. Box 5106, Madison, WI 53705-5106 or [wsgs@tds.net](mailto:wsgs@tds.net) before the end of November 2008.

Libraries or historical societies may also wish to take advantage of this opportunity to get copies of these books & newsletters or to replace copies they already have on their shelves. So please pass the word along about the big sale to those societies in your area.

*The second notice for membership is included with this newsletter for those who have not renewed their membership. Please fill it in and return it to DCAGS. Membership has two levels, individual, \$15, or household, \$20. Members receiving the newsletter only electronically can save \$5.00 a year on the membership fee. Membership is for calendar year 2009.*