



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

Mastering The Master Genealogist at the February 5 meeting

Joe Waddell, veteran genealogist, will continue our series of talks about the strengths and weaknesses of various genealogical programs, given by DCAGS members familiar with particular programs. Joe will discuss *The Master Genealogist*, a Windows program, now at version 7.03. This program, usually called *TMG* for short, is reported to also run well on Macintosh and Linux computers equipped with suitable Windows emulation software. *The Master Genealogist* is generally regarded as a very capable program, but some genealogists are intimidated by it. Some say it

concentrates on features, at the expense of ease of use.

Joe will give an overview of what one can do with *TMG*, discussing in particular some of the features which distinguish it from competitors. If time allows, he will touch a bit on features new to version 7. Come and learn about another program which can help you keep your genealogical research results well-organized and the presentation of your results well-documented.

Joe Waddell has been researching genealogy for over 40 years and has been using

computer genealogy programs for 27 years, starting in 1982 with Family Roots on an IBM PC-Jr. As a member of the DCAGS, Joe has been a frequent presenter of computer software programs over the years and has guided many members of this organization into the computer world of genealogy.

We are meeting at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 4505 Regent Street, Madison, WI. Please join us on Thursday, February 5 at 7:00 P.M.

January 31, 2009
Volume 3, Issue 5

Mark your
Calendars!
DCAGS
Genealogy Fair
Saturday,
October 10
Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-
day Saints
4505 Regent,
Madison, WI

Researching the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives

Harry Miller, the Senior Reference Archivist at the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), joined us on January 8 to talk about researching government-created records at the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives.

Harry addressed three areas: genealogical holdings, archival search strategies and tools for finding WHS archival sources.

Harry recommended visiting the research portal online to review the various holdings located at the WHS. (www.wisconsinhistory.org/research.asp) The database and collections area does contain actual sources information. One of the most frequently used is the roster of Civil War Veterans.

The Library and Archives Collections web page, www.wisconsinhistory.org/libr aryarchives/collections/, contains summaries of what is available – thumbnail sketches of what is available, but not the actual information. Some of the information may be at the WHS in Madison, but some are at the 14 Area Resource Centers which are located at the four-year UW campuses around the state and in Ashland and Superior.

There are four types of records: visual materials, maps, manuscripts and government records. Visual materials include photos, pictures, moving pictures and posters, etc. Most are Wisconsin-specific generally –

towns, schools, churches, pictures of families.

Maps include plat maps of townships going back to early statehood. There are urban maps – Sanborn maps – that show blocks and buildings, including how buildings were constructed as well as the purpose and use of the buildings – theaters, stores, homes and businesses. The Archives can help locating places that may no longer exist.

Manuscripts include both published and unpublished documents, many privately produced. There are diaries, 1300 church and synagogue records, cemetery records, fraternal and military

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Regular DCAGS meetings are generally 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.

DCAGS Update:

The DCAGS Governing Board meets the third Monday of each month. The next meeting is set for Monday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. South Madison Library, 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!

The Wisconsin Historical Society Archives Continued....

organizations. They have records from the Wisconsin State Old Cemetery Society, Grand Army of the Republic, Daughters of the American Revolution, Century Farm program and Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Century & Pioneer Certificates. There are 826 family genealogies. There are some ethnic records for Norwegians and Belgians in the state.

Harry said one of the best-known collections at the WHS Archives is the Draper Collection. It was written by the first director of the WHS and covers westward movement in America from the 1750s to the 1820s. It features people like Daniel Boone, George Rogers Clark and geographic areas like Kentucky, Illinois and Tennessee.

The final area is government records. This would include local governments and courts, state government and the health, welfare and educational institutions in Wisconsin.

The Archives is the official depository of state records and has a number of county records. There are the muster rolls of Civil War soldiers, naturalization records for Wisconsin citizens, tax records and probate and divorce records from each county.

Up until WWI, the states were often responsible for providing soldiers for service in the military. So service records from the Civil War, Spanish-American War, WWI and the WI National Guard are kept in the Archives. The pension and bonus records for WWI veterans can also be found at the Archives.

There are also numerous records from state institutions found in the Archives. This would include people in the prison system from 1850-1890, or the Home for Dependent Children (WI Child Center) in Sparta from 1886-1970. There are records from the Schools for the deaf and blind, TB sanitariums, poor houses and asylums. Many of the records are indexed. Harry explained that sometimes peoples' names will turn up in county records if the county had to pay for someone to stay in an institution.

Harry showed us different examples of records from the Home for Dependent Children and the Admission Registry for the Mendota Mental Health Institute.

There was a question on confidentiality and Harry explained that the WHS has the statutory authority to open state records more than 75 years of age. The exception is adoption records. If the records are not produced by the state, Harry said they will negotiate with the county for a 75 year release of records as well.

Harry then explained the tools for searching the Archives are the ArCat (Archives catalogs) and the Archival Finding Aids.

Harry said that government records are systematic. When preparing for a search, think logically and move things from past to present tense. How

things are recorded now may be how things were done in the past. Think about the jurisdiction of the government agency. Land is a good example, when the land title changes where would this be recorded? At the county level. So, deed records and property tax records are found there.

The ArCat Catalog has a guided search feature. Harry said to use it. You can enter names, phrases or keywords. Harry showed us how to broaden or specify your searches.

The Archival finding aids can search by name. Not every name is included at this time, but it is moving in that direction.

Probate records are available, but not indexed. The naturalization records are indexed, but not digitized.

Harry explained there is an Acquisition Committee and it has established the Archives collecting policy. One of the major issues for the Archives now is figuring out how to deal with electronic records.

Harry also said that one can license the use of a photo from the Archives, it costs \$22. It may be a bit more if you are going to use it in published material.

We thank Harry for showing us what a valuable resource the Archives are for genealogists. So take a look at what is available there online or visit the Archives when you have a chance.

President's Message

Join Me in the Excitement!

I think that most of you will agree that Dane County is an exciting place to "do" genealogy. There are lots of repositories here, with a myriad of documents and some very helpful staff. But right now I'm thinking about how exciting the Dane County Area Genealogical Society has become. The merging of two societies to form DCAGS has really revitalized

"things." We've moved from a "let George do it" attitude to a "let's all pitch in" attitude--there are many hands which are making DCAGS a fun society. I think it is becoming more and more a place where you can come and share with other members your past successes and current problems (that is, those tasks which are just waiting to become successes). And things have

changed so that if you volunteer to take on a task you no longer need to fear having to do that same task for the rest of your life.

DCAGS is looking for new faces for two important tasks: program planning and publicity--officially we are looking for new chairs for the Program and Education Committee and the Public Relations Committee. The people who have held these

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Upcoming events

Spring Genealogy Classes at MATC/ACE

Below is a list of genealogy classes offered at MATC/ACE. To enroll, call MATC ACE at 246-6440 or 1-800-628-6282, Ext. 6220. For those 62 or over the cost is \$4.

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.

Internet: Genealogy Intro. This course covers basic Internet skills needed to research Genealogy sources on the web. You will become familiar with genealogy websites and what they have to offer.

Class# 59806
Fees: \$42.82
Days & Time: Thursday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Begins Ends: 3/12 to 4/9
Instructor: Pat Skubis
Location: South Madison Community Campus

Class# 59803
Fees: \$42.82
Days & Time: Thursday 1:00 PM-4:00 PM
Begins Ends: 4/9 to 5/7
Instructor: Pat Skubis
Location: Oregon Area 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, immigration records, church & military records, and how to find records overseas.

Class# 59812
Fees: \$42.82
Days & Time: Wednesday 1:00 PM-4:00 PM
Begins Ends: 4/8 to 5/6
Instructor: Pat Skubis
Location: West Madison Education Center

Class# 59813
Fees: \$42.82
Days & Time: Tuesday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Begins Ends: 4/14 to 5/12
Instructor: Pat Skubis
Location: Madison Senior Center

Internet: Genealogy Advanced Students should have taken Internet Genealogy Intro and Internet Genealogy Intermediate. This class will allow time for independent searches with assistance from the instructor and will update you on new internet features.

Class# 59808
Fees: \$42.82

Days & Time: Tuesday 1:30 PM-4:30 PM
Begins Ends: 4/14 to 5/12
Instructor: Pat Skubis
Location: Waunakee Senior Center

Class# 59816
Fees: \$42.82
Days & Time: Wednesday 6:00 PM-9:00 PM
Begins Ends: 4/15 to 5/13
Instructor: Pat Skubis
Location: Fitchburg Senior Center

WHS Library-Archives Classes and Workshops

Common to all classes: Contact Info:
Lori Bessler, 608-264-6519,
Lori.Bessler@wisconsinhistory.org

Ticket Info: Registration began January 15, 2009.

Classes meet from 9:00am until noon.

It's All Online! Or Is It? --
February 21, 2009

Instructor: Lori Bessler, Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator

There are hundreds of genealogy websites that provide access to databases and digital collections as well as various services. This hands-on computer lab will provide instruction on valuable sites, how to know good sites from bad sites, how to make the most of searching the web and how to organize your online research. There is something for beginner and intermediate researchers. Access to Ancestry Library Edition and Footnote.com will be made available at the lab as well as various other sites.

LIMITED TO 20 REGISTRANTS.

<http://wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes/events.asp?id=1697>

Find All Your Ancestors on All the Censuses -- March 7, 2009

Instructor: James L. Hansen, Reference Librarian

The digital revolution has transformed the availability and ease of searching of this most fundamental genealogical resource. This program will identify what is available, how to find and use the records. Emphasis will be on the new tools and search techniques, and especially how to search the records and their indexes most effectively.

<http://wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes/events.asp?id=1698>

From Daguerreotype to Digital File: Organizing and Caring for Family and Personal Photographs -- March 14, 2009

Instructor: David Benjamin, Visual Materials Archivist

Do you have boxes of unsorted photographs or albums that are falling apart? Wondering what to keep and how to store it? Not sure of exactly what you

have? Confused as to where to start? Since 1839, when photography was first introduced, people have been collecting photographs as a means of documenting their family history. The various types and number, however, often leads to uncertainty in how best to care for both your historical photographs as well as those being created today. This hands-on workshop will provide a basic overview of the types of photographic processes that make up family collections, how to identify them, appropriate storage techniques and containers, and strategies for organizing and accessing the images that make up your family history. Workshop participants are encouraged to bring examples from their own photograph collections.

LIMITED TO 15 REGISTRANTS

<http://wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes/events.asp?id=1699>

Abstracting Deeds: a Workshop -- April 11, 2009

Instructor: George Findlen, CG

The workshop begins with a short talk on why abstracting helps genealogists and ends with a list of parts of an abstract and a set of steps to follow in making an abstract. The presenter creates an abstract to show participants how to use those steps. The rest of the workshop is a laboratory session in which participants must create an abstract of three deeds. The first two deeds will be typed transcriptions; the third will be a photocopy of the handwritten original. The deeds will include a standard warrantee deed, a quitclaim deed, a lifetime care mortgage, and a surprise. The workshop leader will act as a resource, and a good time will be had by all.

LIMITED TO 40 REGISTRANTS.

<http://wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes/events.asp?id=1700>

Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org and Footnote.com -- May 2, 2009

Instructor: Lori Bessler, Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator

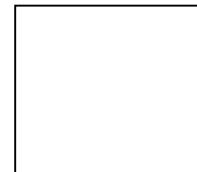
These three genealogy websites hold the most digital collections and databases for genealogical research. They assist the researcher with online tools and are adding more content each day. Each of the sites has unique searching methods and content. This lecture will explain how to use these sites, compare and contrast their content and how these sites fit into the bigger picture of online genealogical resources. This is not a computer lab.

<http://wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes/events.asp?id=1701>

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
February 5

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:

President: Rollie Littlewood
rkittle@wisc.edu

Vice President: Don Cole

Secretary: Gerry Schlecht
13gerry@att.net

Treasurer: Walker Crawford
walker@viridis.ws

Past President, Pat Skubis
p318skubis@hughes.net

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: William "Bill" Baures
bauresb@juno.com

Programs & Education: Vacant

Public Relations: Vacant

Historian: Sandy Zart
sandyzart@charter.net

Web Master: Rollie Littlewood
rkittle@wisc.edu

Newsletter: Ruth Simpson
rsimpson@terracon.net

President's Message
continued...

positions for the past two years
have done a SUPERB job; their
work has had a lot to do with
the ever-increasing attendance
at our meetings (there were 71
at our last meeting). But these
folks would like to "move on,"
and so we need YOU to step up
and take a turn.

If you are interested in
taking on either of these
chairmanships for a year or
two, please get in touch with
me, either at the 5 February
meeting or at (608)273-0211 or
<rkittle@wisc.edu>. You may
want to get in touch with past
committee chairs or other
Governing Board members to
get a good handle on what
would be involved. Be a bigger
part of the excitement that
is DCAGS!

Rollie Littlewood