



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

2009 Genealogy Fair

The Dane County Area Genealogical Society and the Family History Center are proud to host the 2009 Genealogy Fair. It promises to be a Blue Ribbon Event. The Fair will be held on Saturday, October 10 at the Church of Christ of the Latter-day Saints on the corner of Regent Street and Segoe Road in Madison, Wisconsin. Registration begins at 8:30 and continues throughout the day.

The Genealogy and Historical Exhibits will be open all day long, as will the Vendors. It will be a great place to find gifts for your genealogy friends. There will be books available from: John Palmer, owner of Michiana History Publications, Jan Bosman, maker of Books to Hold Your Families Recipes, and Greg Peck, author of "Death Beyond the Willows." Bev Petersen is bringing her "Fun Stuff for Genealogists," which includes jewelry, embroidery patterns, tea and sweatshirts, cups, and many other great items. All this will be located in the Gym. The Gym is also the place to find light refreshments during the breaks.

The first two presentations will begin at 9 AM. *Pat Stone* will be talking about "Basic Recording Methods for Genealogy" in the Relief Society Room. This presentation will include examples of the paper forms used to record family information. Family group sheets, pedigree charts, census, census histories and vital records will be included along with supplemental forms for cemetery searches, land

records, probate, and military records. Research logs, correspondence records and timelines will be explained. Various ways will be shown to document sources for every item.

In the Chapel *Greg Peck* presents how genealogy blends with rural history in the book, "Death Beyond the Willows." The book is the true, full story of the 1927 wedding day tragedy involving a Dane County couple and Portage's "Bridal Pond." The story of romantic tragedy blends genealogy and rural history to paint a portrait of personalities and lives from long ago.

At 10:30 AM *Dr. Rick Pifer* presents "Wishful Thinking Will Not Make It So." Genealogy requires serious research and logical conclusions. With a playful look at leaps of faith and royal genealogies, this session will focus on common genealogical problems resulting from faulty analysis and conclusions, and how best to avoid pitfalls that will lead genealogists down false paths. He will be located in the Chapel.

Martha Farley Berninger presents "Using BadgerLink to Locate Genealogy Information." Her presentation will start at noon in the Chapel. BadgerLink can be reached on your computer from home by using your library card. Using this service to locate genealogy information will be the focus of this presentation. One of the topics covered will be how to use Access Newspaper ARCHIVE to locate articles on your family.

At 1:30 *Cora Lee Kluge*, anchors our program with her presentation of "Genealogy for America's History." This presentation illustrates how the work of genealogists, who concentrate on the stories of individuals, can sharpen the broader picture provided by historians. The examples cited are from the lives of Wisconsin immigrants in the years between 1850 and 1920.

Other events during the day:

- Half hour tours of the Family History Center starting at 9:30. Sign up at the registration desk.
- Todd Kienitz will be demonstrating digital preservation of old photos and videos.
- Genealogy software demonstrations of Family Tree Maker by Walker Walker-Crawford and RootsMagic by Sherry Lloyd.

The time between 2:30 and 3PM will be your last chance to visit our exhibitors and to make last minute gift selections from vendors. Hope to see you there, and be sure to bring your friends.

Submitted by *Pat Skubis*,
Genealogy Fair
Committee Chair

(Please note there will be no regular DCAGS meeting in October.)

September 30, 2009

Volume 4, Issue 1

Volunteers
needed for the
DCAGS
Genealogy Fair

Saturday,
October 10

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Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-
day Saints
4505 Regent,
Madison, WI

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, October 19 at 6:30 p.m. South Madison Library, 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!

Stump Jim Hansen

Jim Hansen, reference librarian at the Wisconsin Historical Society library archives, returned to DCAGS for an open forum entitled, "Stump Jim Hansen!" And DCAGS members put him to the test, but Jim could not be stumped.

The first question Jim fielded had to do with the new construction at the Historical Center Library. Jim said he would be getting a new office with a glass window. Other changes: the copiers and microfiche machines will move out of the reading room; there will be a new circulation desk and new small offices and meeting rooms for 10-12 people; more room for computers and computer and electrical outlets on tables; new carpeting and the skylights will be replicated with lamps on tables. The completion date is January 2010.

Jim discussed online newspaper sources, particularly NewspaperArchive.com (available through BadgerLink), which has numerous Wisconsin papers available. Most cover the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Jim was then asked if the 1940 census will be online in 2012. He did not know how soon it would be online, but expected it shortly after it is scheduled for release on 4/1/2012. He did believe that WHS would no longer buy the census on microfilm, since it would be available online. Jim said the search and indexing functions are much improved today over even a few years ago. One can now search by surname, first name, age or birthplace. This means searches can be very creative. Jim used the example of looking up a Polish family. In three different censuses the surname was spelled differently. With the new search functions one can do a lot more searching in a shorter period of time.

The next question was whether Google was continuing to microfilm books at the Library. Jim said yes. The first items Google copied were family histories, religious histories and African American histories. Now Google is scanning books by call letter. Some of the books are available online, but there are copyright issues. Jim said

Googlebooks is a great resource but people should also check out Family Search, which has 44,000 items from the Family History Library available online. HeritageQuest has 25,000 books online. Ancestry is also adding books all the time.

The Historical Library has put 80 of the Wisconsin county histories online, which include a number of biographical sketches.

A question was asked about why the pre-1907 record index does not include parents' names. Jim said this was a practical issue since the records generate revenue for the Historical Library. The index is being improved and all the counties are now included.

Someone asked if corrections could be made to census index records. Jim said if the record is in Ancestry, a subscriber can send in a correction. It is added to the original index, but does not replace the incorrect one.

Next question was whether there are records of immigrant arrivals through the Great Lakes. Jim said there are no records before 1890s. The Quebec arrivals (1865+) are available. Passenger lists are on microfilm and indexed and available on Ancestry.

Jim said sometimes there are embarkation lists from the European ports – Hamburg and Antwerp. Sometimes there are old handwritten lists still available.

Someone asked if there were records of immigrants leaving Wisconsin and returning back to their home country. Jim joked that other than Brett Favre, no. If the person came here after 1920, the passport applications may have some information. They are available on Ancestry.

A question was asked about vital records online. Jim said this varies greatly state to state. Identify theft concerns have caused some records to be unavailable.

The next question was whether someone could find out if a relative worked for Time magazine from 1930s to 1950s. Jim said to contact Time's Library.

They may have the information.

Someone asked about the availability of military and pension records online. Ancestry and Footnote have many available. Footnote has the Revolutionary War pensions full-text searchable.

Jim said that MADCAT was being upgraded. There have been a few issues in the upgrade, like the holdings lists were deleted, but they are being worked through.

A question was asked about what to do about reportedly missing records. Jim said not to always buy "the records burned" story. Old records move. Even if the original was destroyed, perhaps a copy was sent to the state or federal government. Jim gave the example of Dodge County marriage records. There was a fire in Dodge County, but they had sent copies of the marriage records to the state.

Jim also noted that sometimes the Family History Library records are more easily available than what can be found in some countries and states. Most of the records were microfilmed in the 1970s and 1980s. The microfilm is easy to obtain from the Family History Library and can be gotten through the WHS library. The Family History Library keeps adding more records online like pre-1925 marriage records from Michigan and Illinois death records.

Someone asked if WHS's microfilm records will ever be online. Jim did not think so, since there were too many records.

What about city directories being online, someone asked. Jim said the catalog is, but not the directories. Local libraries may have scanned them, but the WHS had not.

While no one could stump Jim Hansen, everyone sure learned a lot about the resources at the WHS Library that can be found online. And we are all very excited that Jim will finally be getting his own office with a glass window after 35 years at WHS! Be sure to visit Jim in 2010 and check out the changes at the WHS library.

Upcoming events

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society 2009 Fall Seminar Research: Do More And Do It Better

When: Friday & Saturday, October 2 & 3, 2009. Friday session: 1-5 p.m.; Saturday session, 7:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Where: Best Western Bridgewood Resort Hotel and Conference Center, 1000 Cameron Way, Neenah, WI
www.bridgewoodresorthotel.com

Featured Speakers: Michael John Neill, Lori B. Bessler and Dr. David McDonald, CG™

Topics: Friday: It's All Online! Or Is It?, Wisconsin Historical Society: Services & Collections, Jefferson's Genius & the Old Northwest, 19th Century Migrations to Wisconsin. Saturday: Research on a Tight Budget, Researching the Entire Family, Organization of Information, Emigrant Origins.

Cost: Friday: \$15; Saturday: Before 9/18 WSGS rate \$35, Regular rate \$60; After 9/18 WSGS rate \$45, Regular rate \$70.

Registration: www.wsgs.org

Fitchburg Historical Society

When: Sunday Oct. 4, 1:30 p.m.

Where: Fitchburg Community Center, 5510 Lacy Road. Upper level, parking in the front of the building.

Featured Speaker: Janice Rice

Topic: Ho-Chunk Nation in Dane County.

The meeting is open to all interested persons.

University of Wisconsin Union Mini Course: Genealogy

When: Three Tuesday evenings starting October 6, October 13 and October 20. The class runs from 6-8 p.m.

Where: The room at the University has not yet been assigned.

Instructor: Sherry Lloyd is an experienced genealogist with over 25 years of experience.

Description: Interested in discovering your family's history? We will look at how to begin genealogy, what resources are available, how to keep track of your information and genealogy standards. You will learn how to find information on the Internet as well as the large amount of information available at your local libraries. Emphasis will be on using free computer programs and Internet sources.

Cost: Standard charge for Union members or students: \$44.50, for UW staff or others the charge is higher. Anyone can become a Union Member for \$55 a year or \$250 lifetime membership. The annual \$55 goes toward the lifetime membership. UW Alumni and UW Retirees may be eligible for lower rates on Union membership. Also a member of the Union may bring a guest at the same rate. Please see Mini Course web site for membership options and registration, <https://www.union.wisc.edu/minicourses/>

The Genealogy Fair Committee Still Needs Volunteers

The Genealogy Fair Committee still needs the following volunteers during the genealogy fair:

1. During the Fair we need two (2) additional people to act as greeters, one at 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. and the other from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
2. Four (4) people to help out at the membership table. Shifts are for an hour 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
3. Seven (7) people to serve refreshments, one at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. and two people at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.
4. One (1) additional person to help at the end of the fair to take down the tables and clean up.

Please email Pat Skubis ASAP and let her know what you would like to do. Send your email to p3l8skubis@hughes.net or to skubie27@live.com

Pat Skubis, Fair Chair

Join us at the 2009 Genealogy Fair October 10

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
October 10
at the
Genealogy
Fair!

DCAGS officers for 2009:

President: Rollie Littlewood
rkittle@wisc.edu

Vice President: Don Cole
846-3819

Secretary: Gerry Schlecht
13gerry@att.net

Treasurer: Walker Crawford
walker@viridis.ws

Past President, Pat Skubis
p3l8skubis@hughes.net

Standing Committee Chairs

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

Programs & Education: Vacant

Public Relations: Vacant

Historian: Sandy Zart
sandy_zart@yahoo.com

Web Master: Rollie Littlewood
rkittle@wisc.edu

Newsletter: Ruth Simpson
rsimpson@terracon.net

Nominations Committee Formed

DCAGS President Rollie Littlewood appointed former presidents Pat Skubis, Sherry Lloyd and Ruth Simpson to the DCAGS Nominations Committee. DCAGS needs to fill two positions: Vice President and Treasurer. The Nominations Committee is currently accepting nominations for the positions. If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone, please let Pat, Sherry or Ruth know by Monday, October 5. They can be reached by email, Pat Skubis: p3l8skubis@hughes.net, Ruth Simpson: rsimpson@terracon.net and Sherry Lloyd: sherrylloyd@wisc.edu.