



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

Showing off your Family Tree at January 6 Meeting

December 31, 2010

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Now you have created a large or small family tree and you are thinking about displaying all of your hard work. Learn about your different choices at our January meeting. Pat Skubis has assembled a slide show, with basic family trees to high-end trees that can include photos, names and other facts. Even Martha Stewart has projects that can be painted or displayed on your walls. Patterns for these trees can be downloaded for free and come with step-by-step directions.

Like to embroider? Many patterns are available. Or if you are interested in scrapbooking you can create books with photos, writings or documents using various background papers. Also check your software program, you may be able to create a nice family tree with a lot of the information to be displayed on the tree automatically entered onto the background. You can also put in photos of family members and either print them yourself or have a larger poster made for about \$30.

Not into doing it yourself? Then you can take advantage of having one made for you. Depending on what you want to include the prices can become fairly steep.

For those of you who already have a completed family tree, you are invited to bring it and share it with other members at the January meeting.

Please join us on Thursday, January 6 at 7 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4505 Regent St.



Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center is well positioned to join next year in recognizing the 150th anniversary of the Civil War we learned from Russ Horton at our December meeting. He is Museum's Reference and Outreach Archivist.

An impressive collection of official records and memorabilia, available at the Museum and online, documents the stories of 91,000 Wisconsinites who served in that conflict.

Horton, who also addressed us in August 2008, reviewed the history of the Museum and brought us up to date on documents and research opportunities which have become available since then. A

polling of the audience before he started revealed that to most, it was all new material. For others it was a review of the abundance of records available to us of five conflicts, from the Civil War and through WW I.

A newer acquisition is Civil War Muster Rolls which can be reviewed at the Museum on microfilm. Arranged by unit, the rolls often provide personal information such as age, birthplace, occupation, physical description and remarks about service. Also for Civil War researchers are draft records, veteran census reports, and a roster of Wisconsin volunteers. There are even rosters from several neighbor states as well as Vermont and Massachusetts.

This is in addition to 18,000 book titles and 2,300 periodicals dealing with the Civil War.

To questions about actual service in the Civil War, Russ said initial enlistments were for three months. Desertions were not uncommon but often represented only a temporary absence to handle duties at the home farm. Draftees were permitted to "buy" a substitute to avoid active service.

New among World War I resources are Bonus Cards/Service Records. Compiled following the war, these often provide birthplace, age, residence, dates of enlistment and muster out, decorations, campaigns, dates,

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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 Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is set for Tuesday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the new South Madison Library on 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Continued...

of enlistment and muster out, decorations, campaigns, dates served overseas, wounded status and physical description. They are screened from microfiche. WW I roster books are searchable by name, city or country. The database provides rank, serial number and unit.

Regarding the Mexican Border War, the Museum hopes eventually to have a searchable index but presently, one would have to know a unit description to find a family member who served in that conflict.

Wisconsin was represented in the Philippine–American War, also known as the Philippine War of Independence or the Philippine Insurrection (1899–1902) but any who served were in federal units.

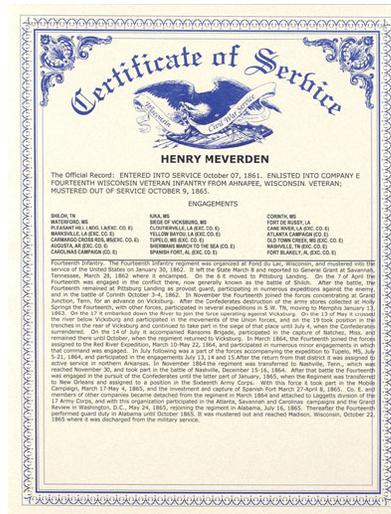
In the Mexican Border War, Wisconsinites served in infantry and artillery units and a field hospital. Muster rolls at WVM are arranged by unit and contain birthplace, physical description, occupation, marital status, residence and emergency contact. A published account of this war, *With the Wisconsin National Guard on the Mexican Border in 1916-17* by Moses N. Thisted includes printed rosters of Wisconsin units and other valuable research tools.

A Wisconsin statute restricts access to information of those in post-WW I conflicts to close relatives. At the national level, the same type of information is considered confidential and available only to the subject or his/her next-of-kin.

A practical suggestion from Horton: If we would like to see Wis. Stat. § 45.04 amended to be less restrictive and thus provide better access to these records, approach state representative(s) who might be persuaded to sponsor a bill incorporating the necessary changes.

Will the vast store of Civil War data at WVM ever be fully digitized and searchable? Horton sees this as an attainable goal, given time, funds and a cadre of volunteers. To the

For both Civil War and WW I soldiers, the Museum can generate a handsome Certificate of Service for \$10 on site. It includes personal data and complete service record.



later, he encourages anyone who would like to have a role in the work of the Veterans Museum to be in touch with him. Another approach could be a contribution through the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation: <http://www.wvmfoundation.com/donate/php>.

Donated correspondence collections get close attention at the Museum, according to Horton. They usually represent letters exchanged with a spouse or with other family members. War-related stories are carefully checked and then catalogued under appropriate headings. Such collections will always be available for descendants to consult, he added.

Present location of WVM at 30 W. Mifflin St. downtown is comparatively recent, but it is proud of its growth which includes the state of the art Research Center, and accreditation by the American Association of Museums, Horton noted.

Questioned about resources relating to many conflicts, Russ displayed a comprehensive

knowledge of Wisconsin military matters up to and including WW II. And he was generous in offering assistance to those presently engaged in genealogy involving Wisconsin's service forces. Russ suggested a phone call or e-mail to him which could bring a direct answer or suggestion of how to proceed.

A full report of Russ' earlier talk to DCAGS members may be accessed in the September 2008 newsletter at http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~widcags/older_newsletters.htm

Upcoming events

NGS 2011 Family History Conference

Theme: Where the Past is Still Present

Where: The NGS 2011 Family History Conference will be held at the [North Charleston Convention Center](#) in Charleston, South Carolina.

When: Mark your calendars for 11–14 May 2011.

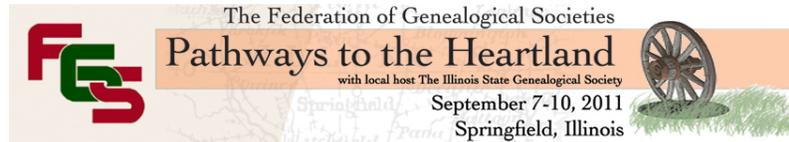
The convention center is conveniently located near the Charleston International Airport (CHS) and is surrounded by a number of hotels with restaurants and outlet stores nearby. Historic Charleston is twenty minutes away via taxi or shuttle service (\$) if you are staying at the Embassy Suites, the convention host hotel.

Registration: Online registration for the NGS 2011 Family History Conference is now open. Register today!

<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleryes/new-gallery/RegistrationForm.pdf>

Conference Blog for details:

<http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>



Gather with the nation's genealogists in beautiful Springfield, Illinois for the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2011 Conference, Pathways to the Heartland...

Getting started on your family history? Have you been researching for a while? With more than 160 educational lectures and other events, FGS 2011 is an ideal destination for every genealogist. Daily lectures and workshops will explore a range of topics, including research strategies, immigration, localities, technology, international records, and migration.

Experience four days of genealogical learning, networking, and discovery, September 7-10, 2011, as we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. With our local

host, The Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS), FGS will continue its annual tradition of providing exceptional educational experiences for genealogists and societies from all across the country offering a multitude of activities for every attendee.

Network with genealogists, visit with societies and explore the latest innovations from a wide variety of vendors in the exhibit hall.

Thank You!

We want to thank Gerry Schlecht for serving as secretary for DCAGS for the past three years. She did a great job keeping track of all the minutes for the Society. We welcome our new Secretary DeAnn McAllan in 2011.

President's Message

Getting the word out

The society is in immediate need of a publicity chair (the official title is chair of the Public Relations Committee). Some society tasks can be handled by a loose committee-type arrangement, but this job needs to be handled consistently by one person. The primary objective is to see that our events get announced in various local print media and on various local web pages. Additionally the publicity chair is responsible for notifying local radio and TV stations of last-

minute cancellations due to bad weather. (A small amount of our publicity is handled by the webmaster and the newsletter editor.)

The two members who have most recently handled this responsibility were very well organized and have assembled good notes detailing how to get the word out to the community about our meetings and other events, so the new chair can really "hit the ground running." The current publicity chair has told me that the January meeting is the last event for which she can

do our publicity. If you are willing to take on this job for a year (or more), please get in touch with me ASAP. I can be reached at (608)273-0211 or [<rkittle@wisc.edu>](mailto:rkittle@wisc.edu). If you have specific questions about what is entailed, please contact Beverly Vaughn, whose e-mail address is listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Rollie Littlewood

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Address Service Requested

We're on the Web!

See us at: www.dcags.org

Or www.facebook.com/dcags



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

**See you at
the January 6
Meeting!**

DCAGS Governing Board for 2011:

President: Rollie Littlewood
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Membership: Pat Konrad
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Programs & Education: Vacant

Public Relations: Vacant

Historian: Sandy Zart
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Web Master: Rollie Littlewood
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Newsletter: Ruth Simpson
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Renewal Time – Final Notice

The final notice of the Membership form is being sent to those who have not renewed at this time. *Please fill in both sides of the membership form and return it to DCAGS.* Thanks.