



# Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

## *“Have you tried ...?” With Jim Hansen at November 4 Meeting*

*October 31, 2010  
Volume 5, Issue 2*

Who can keep up with all the “new” genealogical resources becoming available every day? Jim Hansen, from the WHS library, will lead a discussion of a variety of publications – new or “improved” – that you might not have yet encountered at the November 4 DCAGS meeting.

James L. Hansen, FASG, has been the reference librarian and genealogical specialist since 1974 at the Library of the Wisconsin Historical Society, where he assists several thousand researchers a year in their genealogical and historical research. He has taught beginning and advanced genealogical research courses

over Wisconsin’s Educational Telephone Network.

He is one of several WHS librarians who staff their reference desk – certainly one of the most knowledgeable and genuinely helpful you will ever encounter in any genealogical library.

Among his publications are articles on a variety of genealogical topics, a bibliography of territorial Wisconsin newspapers, and a guide to the library in which he works. He is a nationally known speaker, having lectured on genealogical topics around Wisconsin and at numerous conferences (national, state and

local) in the United States and Canada. He was the 1994-1995 president of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and in 1995 was named a fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. In 2002 he was awarded the Filby Prize for Genealogical Librarianship at the NGS conference in Milwaukee. He co-wrote the “Newspapers” chapter in *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*.

Please join us on Thursday, November 4 at 7 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4505 Regent St.

## *Exciting New Developments at FamilySearch*

Maureen Brady led us through a tour of the numerous FamilySearch websites at the October 4 DCAGS meeting.

FamilySearch has contracted with around 19 websites that you can access while at a Family History Center (FHC) but not elsewhere. However, she focused on the five sites associated with FamilySearch.

### **FamilySearch**

Navigate to historical books by going to the “Search Records” tab to get a drop down. Go to “Historical Books.” You will see the

libraries that are participating in the digitization of public domain books on the right hand side of the page. Note that there are several ways to search for books pertaining to a family surname. If you get an unmanageable number of hits when you use the “Surname” field, try placing the surname in the “Search All” field instead. Be sure to click on the “Search” button that corresponds to the search field you are using. You will want to look for the text in red to show you which pages have your keyword. There are currently about 18,000 volumes available.

### **Indexing.FamilySearch.org**

When the National Genealogical Society conference was in Chicago about four years ago FamilySearch made the announcement of their intention to digitize and index all of their microfilm. They developed their own hardware to do this and this hardware can digitize a roll in 30 seconds. Last month (September 2010) they had four million records indexed and 2,000 individuals indexing.

*continued on page 2*

**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, November 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the new South Madison Library on 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!*

## Exciting New Developments on FamilySearch Continued....

If you choose to serve as an indexer you can choose your project or work on the preferred (suggested) projects. You earn points for each project you complete; depending on the level of difficulty of the project the points increase/decrease. Eventually you will be granted access to FamilySearch sites at a level that correlates with your level of points. The software guides you through the process. And if you download a project that is too difficult you can return it. Project batches are one page (15 lines) or six service cards. You can download as many or as few batches as you're comfortable working on at a time.

The question may be asked, why index again when ancestry already has? Through this process two and three sets of eyes will be looking at each project; if there is not 100% agreement, then another person looks at it. The software also analyzes entries based on a dictionary.

### **Pilot.FamilySearch.org**

This site has wonderful cross referencing tools so that searches return variants and related documents that you might not expect but could prove helpful. Returned records will give you the microfilm number as well. There are separate records for each spouse. This helps catch marriages when you don't know children's names. You can also search for databases by geography. Red stars indicate that it's been recently updated. And even if a document hasn't been indexed you can still look at the image.

### **Beta.familysearch.org**

This site will bring together all of the test sites and tell you they are looking for feedback. It has type ahead for locations.

## Annual Meeting November 4

DCAGS will be having its annual meeting on Thursday, November 4. Nominations are being accepted for President and Secretary.

Right now Rollie Littlewood

When searching a little camera means there is an image and you can print, save or zoom these. The site will need to work on obtaining permission for more recent images from holders of repositories. Search parameters include options for spouse/parents but don't specify more information than you need to as you might exclude relevant results (e.g. requesting a spouse name would exclude a birth certificate). When looking at small towns you will probably want to order microfilms to look for family members once you've found one name.

**HINT:** Be sure to look for Family History Centers whenever you are traveling to your family's "hometown." In one case, Maureen found that the FHC was the repository of legal records for the area.

There are a number of educational opportunities on this site under the "Learn" tab. Research Wiki is equivalent to Research Guidance on the current site. There are a number of Research Courses which are 5-40 minutes of recorded instructional materials. The Blog talks about projects and experiences where individuals have had difficult research challenges and were successful.

### **New.familysearch.org**

New.FamilySearch.org provides an interactive family tree that guides research. It's currently only available to members of the church and the FHC staff. It gives you options for traveling along a family tree or you can view individuals. You can "draw" lines to relatives. You also

have the ability to add additional information. As with any other sources, online or otherwise, you need to check for accuracy as it uses information others that are working on the same family tree provide. You can blind contact others working on the same family as you, which is identified for you while working on the site.

After this summary Maureen took questions that resulted in the following additional information being shared:

- The church has not used resources to scan newspapers. Focus is on primary records.
- The Family History Library will digitize and index personal histories if you consent it to their use. The church will screen out living people. You can also have your family history generally listed without details or write an article for the blog.
- When working in New.FamilySearch.org any relative still living in your file will show to others as living but with no personal information. The Church has made a commitment to not have any living people information listed other than the information from the 1920 and 1930 U.S. censuses which has been released to the public domain.

Maureen's outline and PowerPoint presentation as pdf's can be viewed at the DCAGS website, [www.dcags.org](http://www.dcags.org). It certainly is exciting to view the new sites connected to FamilySearch.

as Secretary, please contact a member of the Nominating committee – Pat Skubis, Jim Benes and Ruth Simpson.

Ballots for the election will be mailed with the November newsletter and must be returned prior to the December 2 meeting.

has agreed to serve another term as President. This would be a two-year term. The Secretary position is open – Gerry Schlecht will be stepping down after serving in this position since Dec. 2007.

If you are interested in serving

# Upcoming events

## *The German Interest Group*

**Where:** St. Mark Lutheran Church, 2921 Mt. Zion Ave., Janesville

**When:** Monday, November 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Guest Speaker will be Lori Bessler whose lecture will be "Changes at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives." The Library Archives, located in Madison, holds one of the top five genealogical collections in country, and its scope includes the entire U.S. and Canada. The Library has gone through a restoration project, and Bessler will show how to find resources in the collections, how to access them, and will explain the various services offered. Bessler is the reference librarian and outreach coordinator at the Archives.

**Registration:** There is no charge to attend the meeting, and visitors are always welcome.

**Info:** contact Rick Leyes at (608) 754-5538.

## *Classes at Wisconsin Historical Society*

The Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives is offering another season of classes on special topics in genealogical research. The very knowledgeable Library and Archives staff will present programs that focus on collections and research techniques. The workshops take place from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Unless noted, the fees are generally \$25 for WHS or WSGS members or \$30 for nonmembers and class registration is limited.

### **Oh Darned! Where Did I Put Uncle George? (Organizing Research)**

This class will help you organize the information you have found on your family and get you back on track to find more.

**Date:** December 4, 2010

**Instructor:** Rick Pifer, director of public services

**Venue:** Memorial Library Room 126, 728 State St.

### **How to Locate Archival Collections**

Archives collections are often overlooked by family historians. There are a lot of primary documents that provide information on our relatives. These

documents are held in a variety of archives around the world. This class will help you identify what is found in an archives and how to locate the archives that holds the collections.

**Date:** December 11, 2010

**Instructor:** Dee Grimsrud, reference archivist

**Venue:** Memorial Library Room 126, 728 State St

### **Ancestry.com**

This computer lab provides a hands-on workshop to learn more about the most popular genealogy site on the Web. Ancestry Library Edition will be used but instruction will include information about the private subscription as well.

**Date:** December 18, 2010. Limit of 20 seats.

**Instructor:** Lori Bessler, reference librarian and outreach coordinator

**Registration:** \$35 for Society or Wisconsin State Genealogical Society members, \$40 for non-members

**Venue:** Memorial Library Room 231, 728 State St

To register for the classes or for additional information, go to <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes>.

## *President's Message*

### **Taking Our Turns**

I think I can safely say that everyone reading this short note wants the Dane County Area Genealogical Society (DCAGS) to thrive. Few among us have grandiose ideas about turning DCAGS into a mega-society with activities going on every day, but most of us would like for DCAGS to be the best it can be. We want it to be possible for the membership to join together to help each other be the best genealogical researchers each of us can be. This takes real, live human attention – the society is not some automaton which just keeps rolling on. We need members willing to take a turn at guiding the operation of the society.

As I write this, we are in serious need of a new secretary. We also need a program chair

and a new publicity chair. At the end of 2011, we will need a new newsletter editor and a new treasurer. Other jobs, some one-time only, come up from time to time; perhaps you see a vacuum you'd like to take a crack at filling.

Please consider taking your turn at one of the leadership roles in DCAGS. The demands of these jobs vary, but are generally not onerous. There are the specific tasks for each position, plus – for officers and committee chairs – attendance at monthly meetings of the Governing Board (these meetings are currently held in a library on the south side of Madison, and last about 90 minutes). For several of the positions being comfortable with Internet usage is a definite plus, but other positions do not require computer skills. In my view, the purpose of the Governing Board

meetings is not so much to pass (or reject) specific proposals but to reach a consensus among a group of members with varied interests about the direction in which society activities should go. Accepting a position is NOT a life sentence. The elected offices have two-year terms, with a limit of two consecutive terms. The committee chair positions (some committees actually have just one member) are generally treated as "one year at a time."

If you're willing to take a turn, discuss the possibilities with any current or past board member or make a note on your membership renewal form. Join the adventure!

*Rollie Littlewood*

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)

Or [www.facebook.com/dcags](http://www.facebook.com/dcags)



**Dane County Area  
Genealogical Society**

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

---

**See you at  
the Nov. 4  
Meeting!**

---

**DCAGS Governing Board for 2010:**

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

Vice President: Don Cole  
846-3819

Secretary: Gerry Schlecht  
[13gerry@att.net](mailto:13gerry@att.net)

Treasurer: Walker Crawford  
[walker@viridis.ws](mailto:walker@viridis.ws)

Past President, Pat Skubis  
[p3l8skubis@hughes.net](mailto:p3l8skubis@hughes.net)

**Standing Committee Chairs**

Membership: Pat Konrad  
[Patkonrad1@yahoo.com](mailto:Patkonrad1@yahoo.com)

Programs & Education: Vacant

Public Relations: Beverly Vaughn  
[beverlymvaughn@charter.net](mailto:beverlymvaughn@charter.net)

Historian: Sandy Zart  
[sandy\\_zart@yahoo.com](mailto:sandy_zart@yahoo.com)

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

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

***It's Renewal Time***

Membership forms are included with this newsletter. There are questions on both the front and backside of the membership form. *Please fill in both sides of the membership form and return it to DCAGS.*

Membership dues are increasing in 2011 to reflect additional expenses for the organization. There are two different levels of membership:

Individual: \$23

Family: \$28

In both cases there is an \$8 discount if you only receive the newsletter electronically (\$15 for individuals and \$20 for Families). Membership is for calendar year 2011.