



# Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

## Reading Genealogy Books on the Web at July 7 Meeting

Many of us have heard of "Google Books." This is a massive project which is digitally scanning thousands upon thousands of books from a number of research libraries and making the text of many books fully searchable on the Web. The Wisconsin Historical Society library is one very active participant in this project.

A very important consideration for this project is whether a particular book is fully searchable or whether the book is deemed to be under copyright protection.

Several recent speakers at DCAGS meetings have touched on this subject. Rollie Littlewood will take the audience on a more thorough examination of some of the possibilities of searching for and reading books online, with tools for genealogists (and others) which have developed very rapidly over the past decade.

Rollie worked as an Information Processing Consultant for the University of Wisconsin-Madison for a number of years. He has held a variety of positions in a number

of genealogical societies since his retirement from the UW, including being the current president and webmaster of the Dane County Area Genealogical Society. He is also a volunteer staff member of the Wisconsin Historical Society library archives.

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

June 30, 2011  
Volume 5, Issue 10

## The Power of Yes: A Case Study of Norwegian Immigration to Minnesota

Joyce Nigbor provided an inspiring story of a genealogy project she undertook in 2010 for a friend, Torbjorn Gladso who lives in Oslo, Norway. He wanted to now what happened to four sisters of his great, great grandfather, Ingebright Jorginus Peterson Sandhaug after they emigrated to Stearns Co. MN between 1881 and 1886. One came alone, two came with children, and one came with a husband.

Joyce had worked primarily with German genealogy before this project, but with the help of the women's names – Greta (Grethe), Anna, Kristine and Pauline – birth dates, and

dates and destinations of their emigration, she was able to begin. A last name of Sandhaug was incorrectly provided, but she was able to proceed past it, and past Johnson (their father's last name) to correctly arrive at Peterson (they were daughter's of Peter Johnson) as the maiden name these women were using. The system that Joyce learned to determine last names in Scandinavia was the patronymic system.

Joyce decided it would be best to concentrate on one woman first, and Torbjorn suggested Anna. Anna had come to the U.S. in 1886 with a two-year-old child, Ingvald

(later called Ingvold). Working in Ancestry.com, she searched by Anna's first name and a middle initial, J. The first census she could use was the 1900 census, since the 1890 census was destroyed.

She discovered that an Anna J. (for Jorgine) was living in Wadena Co, MN, and she was married to a Christen Hindberg with two children, Ingvard (misspelled), age 16 and Carl, age 11. The husband's name "rang a bell" for Anna's husband's name in Norway was Kristian Kristofferson Hindbergsvean. He had just Americanized his name when he came to America in 1883.

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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.**

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### **DCAGS Update:**

*The DCAGS Governing Board meets the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is set for Tuesday, July 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the new South Madison Library on 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!*

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## A Case Study of Norwegian Immigration continued...

Joyce was able to follow the family also in the 1910 and 1920 Federal census, but Christian and Anna disappeared in 1930. However, Ingvold was found listed as an inmate. This could have meant in an asylum or prison, but some months later a living relative told Joyce that Ingvold had made moonshine during the depression, and had been in jail several times.

Ingvold provided quite a lot of information that led to other members of the family as he was not only found on the census records, but WWI and WWII draft registration records, and a MN death record which provided the all important maiden name for his mother.

A call to the Wadena Co. Court House provided a death certificate for Ingvold's brother Carl, and the names of Carl's children. Larry, one of Carl's children was tracked down in Danvers, MN where he was working as a Deputy Sheriff. He gave Joyce his sister, Violet's, phone number, and this cracked the whole family wide open.

After the detailed breakdown of Anna and her family, Joyce provided interesting documents and facts about the rest of the family though not in the same detail.

Joyce's outline also provides useful places, websites and telephone numbers for Minnesota births, deaths, marriages, obituaries, military records, court cases and census records. The outline can be found online at the DCAGS website, [www.dcags.org](http://www.dcags.org).

Joyce provided a list of things she learned by doing this genealogy project:

1. Do say yes to new projects; new ethnic groups; new states; new families.
2. Do ask questions of everyone to gather all available information about the person or family before you start your research, however, be ready to throw out some misinformation as you go along. (Ex: Sandhaug)
3. Do be aware that there may be more information that the relative or client may share at a later date. (Ex: Grethe letter from the bank.)
4. Do enlist the aid of living relatives in a family as you find them. They can add meat to the bones of the narrative. (Ex: pictures)
5. Do expect name variations as it is the norm. (Ex: Ingvard/Ingvold)
6. Do use material from many areas to solve your genealogical problems. This would include: web sites, articles from magazines, obituaries from newspapers, and books. (Ex: State census article)
7. Do call County Courthouses for Probate Records and naturalization papers; libraries for obituaries or phone book information; the National Archives for military records. (Ex: Grethe's will)
8. Do investigate collateral lines (Ex: Information from Grethe's will).
9. Do believe in your intuition. (Ex: Grethe was married twice.)
10. Do remember when entering data into the computer for Ancestry.com or other programs that sometimes less is better. (Ex: Anna 1900 census)
11. Do develop a friendly relationship with relatives or employees in courthouses, historical societies & libraries. If they like you and/or get to know you, they will bend over backwards for you. (Ex: Wadena Co. Courthouse.)
12. Do network, network, and network. (Ex: Help from Elgin members and DCAGS member, John Reindl).
13. Do ask for professional help if you hit a brick wall. (Ex: Norwegian Genealogical Society – Jerry Paulson.)
14. Do compare information from various documents to arrive at the closest "truth" that you can. ( Ex: Emigration dates for Christen Hindberg.)
15. Do be prepared to learn a lot yourself even if you are a "seasoned" genealogist. (Ex: Death Cards)

It was an inspiring journey for all DCAGS members to hear about. We thank Joyce for sharing it with us. And remember to say "yes" to that next new project!

### New "Genealogy" Books

Rollie recently learned of a list of "genealogy books" which some DCAGS members might find entertaining. These are not genealogy how-to books, but mysteries, historical novels, etc. with a genealogy theme. The list was compiled by Pam Cooper, a genealogy librarian from Vero Beach, Florida, who was awarded the P. William Filby Prize for Genealogical Librarianship in 2000. The list can be viewed at [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~widcags/Genealogy\\_books.pdf](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~widcags/Genealogy_books.pdf).

## Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!



# Upcoming events

## **The German Interest Group - Wisconsin** **Tracing Your German Family**

**When:** July 9, 2011

**Where:** Hamilton Center (attached to the James R. Connor University Center) on the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater campus.

**Featured speaker:** Lois Hemmeter Edwards, author of *Beginner's Guide to Germanic Genealogy* and former editor of *Germanic Genealogy Journal*.

**Registration:**

[www.rootsweb.com/~wigig/index.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~wigig/index.html).

For more information or questions call (608) 752-0358. You can send a SASE to German Interest Group - Wisconsin, PO BOX 2185, Janesville WI 53547 to request a registration brochure.

## **The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society**

Its 2011 Fall seminar is scheduled for 15 October 2011 at the Country Springs Hotel, Water Park & Conference Center, 2810 Golf Rd., Pewaukee, Wisconsin (near Waukesha). The featured speaker will be James L. Hansen, FASG, Genealogical Reference Librarian at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

## **Federation of Genealogical Societies 2011 Conference, Pathways to the Heartland**

**When:** September 7-10, 2011

**Where:** Springfield, Illinois

**Registration:**

<http://fgs.org/2011conference/registration>

The Federation of Genealogical Societies invites you to the FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference for the Nation's Genealogists. Our local host, the Illinois State Genealogical Society, joins FGS in welcoming you to historic Springfield as we celebrate "Pathways to the Heartland."

[Program](#)

More than 150 educational presentations with well-known speakers from all over the U.S. Check out the conference program at

<http://fgs.org/2011conference/program/>.

[Special Events](#)

- Keynote address by David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States (NARA).
- 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration speaker Harold Holzer, noted Lincoln scholar. Get your tickets for the gala now!
- Ancestry.com Day.

[Exhibit Hall](#)

Vendors loaded with genealogy and history books, magazines, databases, software, maps, CDs, magazines, journals, and more.

[Focus on Societies](#)

Focus on Societies Day on Wednesday, September 7, 2011. Attend sessions to help your genealogical society grow, prosper, develop, and educate.

[Librarians Day](#)

Librarians Day on Tuesday, September 6, 2011, sponsored by ProQuest.

**To learn more** check the FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference Website at [www.fgs.org/2011conference](http://www.fgs.org/2011conference).

View the continually expanded FGS Conference News Blog at [www.FGSConferenceBlog.org](http://www.FGSConferenceBlog.org).

Visit the Illinois State Genealogical Society at [www.ilgensoc.org](http://www.ilgensoc.org).

Follow the FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fgs2011](http://www.facebook.com/fgs2011) and on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/fgs2011](http://www.twitter.com/fgs2011).

Prepare for Illinois tourism at [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com).

Plan for visiting Springfield at [www.visit-springfieldillinois.com](http://www.visit-springfieldillinois.com).

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## **President's Message**

I have written a lot in this column about our need for members to volunteer to take care of various society functions. Some of those needs have been taken care of by new volunteers, some are still being "sort of" taken care of by current board members, and some are not being taken care of at all. This month I am concentrating on a need which will be here "before we know it." Our very capable newsletter editor has announced that after ten years of editing the newsletter of first the Computer Assisted Genealogists of Southern Wisconsin and then the Dane County Area Genealogical Society she will retire at the end of 2011. The society really appreciates this decade of service, but understands that she feels it is time to move on to other things. We must find someone willing to assume this vital position

for DCAGS in 2012 (and hopefully beyond).

Just as with most volunteer jobs, exactly how the job gets done depends somewhat on the capabilities and interests of the person taking the lead. Currently Ruth does all the layout, creates recaps for most of our meeting presentations, and "badgers" board members and others for articles about society matters. Others deal with limited proofreading, conversion into PDF format, e-mailing of the electronic format version, printing of the printed version, and mailing of the printed version. Since the newsletter is our primary vehicle for announcing our meetings, getting the newsletter assembled "on time" is vital. Exactly what tools are used to layout the newsletter is not particularly

important (Microsoft Word is the current tool), so long as it can be converted into PDF format.

If you think you might be willing to take on part or all of these responsibilities, please get in touch with either myself or Ruth Simpson (Ruth would be a better choice, because she has firsthand knowledge of exactly what the demands of the job are).

*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

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**See you at the  
July 7  
Meeting!**

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**DCAGS Governing Board for 2011:**

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

Vice President: Don Cole  
846-3819

Secretary: DeAnn McAllan  
[d.mcallan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.mcallan@sbcglobal.net)

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

Past President, Pat Skubis  
[skubie27@live.com](mailto:skubie27@live.com)

**Standing Committee Chairs**

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

Programs & Education: Vacant

Public Relations: Vacant

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

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

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

***Genealogy Fair 2011***

The Dane County Area Genealogical Society is sponsoring a Genealogy Fair on Saturday, October 8, 2011. The Fair will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints at 4505 Regent Street in Madison, WI. In the last newsletter a notice was sent out looking for presentations, workshops and papers to be presented at the Fair. Examples would be methods of research, workshops on writing family histories and details of successful genealogy journeys.

There is still time to provide a brief description of your topic, what method of presentation you would require (presentation, workshop or display), how much time you would need to make your presentation and any other information you think pertinent to our consideration.

Please make your submission via email to [walker@viridis.ws](mailto:walker@viridis.ws). Any questions can be sent to the same address or made by phone to Walker Crawford at 608-206-3182. We will notify you by August 8 if your presentation has been accepted.

Walker Crawford, Co-Chair

Patricia Skubis, Co-Chair