



# Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

## Lineage Societies at April 7 Meeting

Lineage societies is the subject of the April 7 DCAGS meeting. DCAGS members Bob Stone and Ruth Simpson will be the presenters.

Do you descend from a Revolutionary War ancestor, someone who came over on the Mayflower or are of a specific ethnic or religious background? Proving descent from a distinguished ancestor is one reason many people get involved in genealogy. It may also qualify you to join a lineage society, an organization whose members have proven descent from a specific ancestor.

Qualifications for membership in a lineage society may be determined by a variety of credentials. Bob and Ruth will be looking at some of the different lineage societies in the U.S. – how they started, their purpose and membership information. Particular attention will be paid to the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

If DCAGS members belong to a lineage society, please bring information on them to the meeting to share with others.

Bob is a longtime member of DCAGS. Bob and his wife, Pat, have done on-site research in 26 states following their elusive ancestors over the last 35 years. He is a member of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society, the Iowa Genealogical Society, the Wisconsin Historical Society, the SAR and the National Model Railroad Association. Bob has just completed a three-year term as the Capital District Representative on the WSGS Board and is currently nearing the end of his third term as the State Genealogist for the Wisconsin Society of SAR.

Bob is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Wisconsin and worked 37 years with the Department of Transportation in the Madison office, beginning as an Engineer Trainee and finishing his career as the District Chief Design Engineer (Manager of the

Design Section).

Ruth is currently the Newsletter Editor for DCAGS and previously served as President of the Computer Assisted Genealogists of Southern Wisconsin and Newsletter Editor for that group prior to the merger with the Dane County Genealogical Society. Ruth is a member of the Governor Nelson Dewey Chapter of the DAR.

Besides working on genealogy, Ruth also works on food and farm issues, serving on the boards of the REAP Food Group, Family Farm Defenders and the Dane County Food Council.

As an attorney, Ruth works for the Wisconsin Association for Justice as it's the Research Director.

Please join us on Thursday, April 7 at 7 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4505 Regent St. We will be enjoying a social time after the meeting with drinks and cookies and bars.

## Organizing Your Research

Organizing your genealogical research was the topic of Ann Wells' presentation at the March 3 DCAGS meeting.

Ann began by saying there is no right way or wrong way to organize your information. The main point is to organize it so

you know where things are and can find them. This will save you time and energy in the long run. It keeps time allotted for research at a maximum.

It also keeps you focused on what you are researching and allows you to pick up and

go forward without creating duplication. Ann said we all hate it when you think you have done something, but can't remember or failed to write down the information correctly for your files.

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### Looking for Volunteers

After the April 7 meeting, we will be having a social time. Members are welcome to bring a dozen of cookies or bars to share. Please let Walker know if you are bringing food.

Walker and Pat Skubis are heading up the Genealogy Fair Committee and looking for volunteers to help plan it.

Contact Walker at [walker@viridis.ws](mailto:walker@viridis.ws) or Pat at [skubie27@live.com](mailto:skubie27@live.com).

**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, April 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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## Organizing Your Research Continued...

Ann provided a list of some basic supplies to begin:

- Colored folders or labels
- Labeler
- File cabinet or box
- Hanging Files
- Fine point marker
- 3-ring binders
- Sheet protectors
- Dividers

Some people like to use 3-ring binders, using sheet protectors to prevent punching holes in paper. The different color files can be used to designate certain branches of the family.

Ann divides her files by either being permanent or work files. The permanent files will include:

- copies of original documents;
- photos;
- family group sheets or ancestor charts;
- records you've used, but no longer need in your active research; and
- explanations you've written about in your research.

Ann explained that the explanations are very important. She uses them to explain discrepancies in your research – names and dates on records are not always accurate. She discovered this when looking for burial information for a relative and the information on the death certificate was inaccurate.

Ann said it is very important to include an index with each file or binder. She numbers each page as she enters it into the binder. The index can be created in a word-type program or by hand. If you do it on the computer, it may allow you to sort the information by entry number or description.

Work files are files she keeps available and can be easily accessed. The system is similar, using either a three-ring binder or colored file folders. She keeps a Family Group Sheet and Ancestor Chart in each file as well as a research log and a list of things to do.

Research logs are very important. They tell you where you've been so you know where to go. You can develop a form or use a notebook, but be consistent in how you enter the information. Ann said that nothing is worse than researching something you've already looked at for the same information. Ann recommends keeping a research log for each family you are working on.

Ann said one good use for a research log is keeping track of where you've researched online. Sometimes you find something online, but if you don't write down how you got there, you may never find the information again. So, she writes down web addresses – how she got there and what she found. Ann said, if you don't do it right away, you won't remember how and why you got there. Ann said to keep track of every website you go to.

Work files should be set up in a way to make sense to you. Keep the files small so working with them isn't overwhelming. If you start collecting original information, move it to your permanent files as soon as you can.

Keep a list of things to do. Does your research raise questions that need to be answered? Are there books or websites you want to review? All these things can be on your list.

Review your work often. That way you can keep track of the information you need in your research. Determine how to obtain that information:

Do you need to contact a courthouse?

Is it available online?

Is it published in a book?

Ann used an example of looking for information on Pleasant and Mary Beckett. She has information on where they lived and census information and well as birth information. The census listed only one son, Clark,

and they are both 66 years old and had been married 24 years. When she died it said she had 11 children. If she was 42 years old when she married Pleasant, having 11 children was improbable. But based on the information obtained, Ann was able to find a marriage certificate that indicated she was previously married. Clark was the only child Mary had with Pleasant.

Once you have done all the research, write a paragraph or two on what you've found. Note your sources in the paragraph. Add the paragraph to your file or notebook and maybe copy it to your work folder. Ann said to do this as you go along.

Ann provided a bibliography of various books and websites on how to organize your genealogy research. The bibliography is available on the DCAGS website: [www.dcags.org](http://www.dcags.org). It was noted that a couple of the resources: The Source and the Redbook are online free at Ancestry. In addition, it was mentioned that Everton's Handybook (which is not on the list, but was mentioned during the question and answer period), is no longer in print, but is available at the Library and is a good resource for locating land records.

Ann concluded by repeating her main points:

Staying organized allows you to use time for research, not looking for things;

Organized files or notebooks allow you to access information you need in your research;

Research logs show you where you have been;

"To do" lists keep you focused and tell you where to go next.

Ann ended by wishing everyone good luck with your research and stay organized!

# Upcoming events

## Wisconsin State Genealogical Society 2011 Gene-A-Rama

### Honoring Ancestors on the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War

**When:** April 15 & 16, 2011

**Where:** Radisson Hotel & La Crosse Center, La Crosse, WI

**Speakers:** Brett Barker, Lance J. Herdegen, Russell Horton, Donald Litzer, Kris Beisser Matthies, CG<sup>SM</sup>, Brian McManus, Richard Pifer, Vickie Schnitzler and Vicki Tobias.

**Registration:** There are different rates for attending one or two days of the event and whether you register by March 25. Go to <http://wsqs.wetpaint.com> for registration information.

## The German Interest Group

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

**When:** Monday April 4 at 7 pm.

**Guest speaker:** Doug Cameron, whose lecture will be, "My Love Affair with Germany: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly." He will give an autobiographical account of his impressions and experiences living and traveling in Germany. Mr. Cameron is a retired teacher.

There is no charge to attend this meeting, and visitors are always welcome. For questions, please contact Rick Leyes at (608) 754-5538.

## Oregon Community Education Genealogy Classes

**Session 2:** Starts on Tuesday, April 12

Week 1: Information and tools needed to locate records overseas.

Week 2: "Scotty did not teleport them over here, they came in ships."

Week 3: "What does this say?" or "How do I read this fancy script?"

Week 4: The Wisconsin Historical Society on and off-line.

Week 5: International and other resources.

**Session 3:** Starts on Tuesday, May 24

Week 1: Using Google and other search engines.

Week 2: Resources found at the Library of Congress.

Week 3: Black Sheep in the family.

Week 4: Think outside the box.

Week 5: Social Networking and Family Trees.

For more information contact: Scott Lein, CE Assistant Director, Community Education, 123 E. Grove Street, Oregon, WI 53575, 835-4097, email: [srl@oregonsd.net](mailto:srl@oregonsd.net).

More details can be learned by downloading the current Oregon School District Community Education booklet from [www.oregonsd.org/files/101/ws%202011%20booklet%20web%20final.pdf](http://www.oregonsd.org/files/101/ws%202011%20booklet%20web%20final.pdf); these classes are described on page 5 and a registration form is on page 26 of the booklet.

## University of Wisconsin Union Mini Course: Genealogy

**When:** Three Tuesday evenings: April 5, April 12 and April 19. The class runs from 6 to 8 p.m.

**Where:** 2108 Mechanical Engineering, 1513 University Ave.

maybe we can set up a "wiki" where members can discuss research methods, etc., they know about.

Much of the initial setup will be done by Walker Crawford and myself, with the idea that major portions of the new website can be maintained by various members of the society. Let us know what you'd like to see on a society website--especially what you'd be willing to help create. Our e-mail addresses are on the last page.

Rollie Littlewood

**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. Please see Mini Course web site for membership options and registration, <https://www.union.wisc.edu/minicourses>

## MATC Internet Genealogy Class

Catalog/Class 60803622, Class #70188

Spring Semester 2010-2011

Class Dates Wednesdays for 5 weeks, April 6 2011-May 4 2011

Meeting Times: 6-9 p.m.

Location: Deerfield High School

Instructor: Pat Skubis

Approximate Tuition: \$56.38

Seats Available: 10

<http://programs.matcmadison.edu/programs/enrichment/internet-genealogy-intro>

## 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:** May 11-14, 2011.

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

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

Conference Blog for details:

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

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

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

**Where:** Springfield, Illinois

**Registration:**

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

## President's Message

### Changes Coming to the DCAGS Website

Over the next nine-twelve months we will be setting up a new website for DCAGS. What ALL will be incorporated into the new website will be partly up to our members. I expect that everything which is currently on our website will be there, in some form or another. But we will be able to add some members-only material, such as an up-to-date directory of members and their interests. We expect to incorporate means for members to communicate with each other about research findings and questions;

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)



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Genealogical Society**

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

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**See you at the  
April 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)

***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.

**March 26:** Immigration and Emigration

**Instructor:** Jerry Paulson, Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library

**April 2:** Organizing and Caring For Personal and Family Photographs (Cost is \$35/\$40)

**Instructor:** David Benjamin, Wisconsin Historical Society Visual Materials Archivist

**April 9:** Military Records for the Genealogist

**Instructor:** Jim Hansen, Wisconsin Historical Society Reference Librarian

**June 18:** FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com (Cost is \$35/\$40)

**Instructor:** Lori Bessler, Wisconsin Historical Society Reference Librarian

To register for the classes or for additional information, go to

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes/>