



# Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

November-December 2015

Volume 10, Issue 2

## “Show and Tell” at December 3 Meeting

Come be a part of our Annual Member Show & Tell meeting on Thursday, December 3. We will not have a single presentation but many displays and stories of our members, their families and research.

Fill out the [form found here](http://dcags.camp8.org/resources/Documents/2015%20Dec%20Signup%20Sheet.pdf) <http://dcags.camp8.org/resources/Documents/2015%20Dec%20Signup%20Sheet.pdf> expressing your desire to bring your genealogy and/or

cookies. Please email the form to [Mary Eberle \(eberle@merr.com\)](mailto:eberle@merr.com) or [Joyce Peterson \(joycepeterson@gmail.com\)](mailto:joycepeterson@gmail.com) so the correct number of tables can be set-up.

*The DCAGS annual membership meeting was inadvertently forgotten for the November meeting, so it will held on December 3.*

Nominations for the Board of Directors will be accepted as

well as the following by-law change, “Article VI-Meetings, Section f., is changed to read “The membership and fiscal years shall be set by the governing board.”

Please join us for Show and Tell; food, drinks and fellowship on Thursday, December 3 at 7 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4505 Regent St.

### SLATE OF CANDIDATES

**Jim Booth -- 2016-2018**

**Joyce Nigbor – 2016-2018**

**Bob Rattammel 2016-2018**

## Preserving Our Ancestors’ Gravestones

On November 5, 2015, the DCAGS heard a program about “Preserving Actions in a Cemetery or on a Gravestone in Wisconsin” by Jarrod Roll. It was well organized and presented, interesting, and very informative.

He told us that tombstones are very personal to us because they are a way for us to connect and celebrate our loved ones. We can look at the stones and even talk to them, if we wish, and that is why we take vandalism of stones so personally.

Jarrod told us there are ethics involved when working in a cemetery, and he does half day workshops on the subject. In a nutshell, he gave us these

points:

1. Practice within the limits of personal competence, and education, as well as within the limits of the available facilities.
2. Select materials that, to the best of current knowledge do not adversely affect cultural property (tombstones).
3. Document the treatment by creating permanent records & reports.
4. Practice in a manner that minimizes personal risk.
5. Do No Harm.

He next spoke of materials that we might encounter such as:

marble, limestone, granite, zinc, or bronze.

He mentioned that we may encounter different shapes, and each has a meaning. Some examples were:

- Book on a pedestal represents the Bible.
- Weeping Willow – mortality or mourning.
- Lamb – innocence for a child.
- Clasp Hands – welcome to the afterlife.
- Tree Trunk – life cut short.
- Cross & Crown – Sovereignty of God.
- Urn (Finger pointing up) – a person’s earthly remains.

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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 Monday of each month. There is no December meeting. The Board will meet Monday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m. Fitchburg Public Library located at 5530 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg, Wisconsin. Information on future meetings will be posted online at [www.dcags.org](http://www.dcags.org) or contact a board member for details.

## Preserving your Ancestors' Gravestones Continued...



Next, he discussed, WHY CLEAN? The points given were:

1. It improves readability.
2. It removes lichen. Lichen attacks the stone chemically and traps moisture above and below the surface.

At this point, you need to get permission from the person or governmental organization that owns the land to clean the stone. (You also need to take into account that some professionals say that you should not mess around cleaning a stone.) Then you need to follow Jarrod Roll's GRAVESTONE CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Photograph** the gravestone before cleaning. This way you can compare its "before" condition to the "after" results.
2. **Evaluate** the general condition of the gravestone. Do not attempt to clean the gravestone if it exhibits any cracks, flaking, or eroding surfaces. Do not clean the gravestone if it seems physically unstable (i.e. wobbles).
3. **Soak** the gravestone with water.
4. **Test** the cleaning procedure on a small, inconspicuous spot on the gravestone. If it appears that the surface of the gravestone is too fragile to receive a cleaning, do not continue. Otherwise, go to step 5.
5. **Scrape** off any large clumps of biological growth with a plastic or wood scraper. Rinse.
6. **Scrub** the stone with a scrub brush, working from the bottom to the top to avoid streak stains. Don't worry about being too thorough – this is just a pre-scrub. Rinse.
7. **Spray** D/2 liberally on the stone. Let the D/2 remain on the surface for 5 minutes. If the gravestone is large, clean it in sections. (Note: D/2 is non toxic, but may irritate eyes and/or skin upon direct contact. The use of protective eyewear and/or gloves is suggested.)
8. **Scrub** the stone with a scrub brush, working from the bottom to the top to avoid streak stains. Do NOT rinse off D/2 yet. Spray additional D/2 as needed to keep the stone wet. Do not let the stone get dry.

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## Preserving Your Ancestors' Gravestones Continued...

9. **Remove** any stubborn growth and staining using a denture brush, scraper, and/or wood pick.

10. **Rinse** the stone thoroughly with clean water.

11. **Repeat** the above steps as necessary. (Note: D/2 works with the elements and will continue to whiten your gravestone within one week to one month depending on severity of growth and weather conditions. The surface will become cleaner over time as the subsurface biological growth dies and releases)

12. **Photograph** the clean gravestone when it is dry for the best "after" results. How does it compare? By following the above instructions, most, if not all, of the biological growth and grime should be gone, preserving the gravestone for many more years.

In addition to the above points Jarrod wanted us to make sure that we used Poly brushes (no wire brushes) of various sizes

and shapes; and scrapers of wood or light plastic. We should use lots of water, D/2, and absolutely no bleach or power washing!

Lastly, he encouraged us as individuals and as an organization to take out overgrown shrubs and vegetation around tombstones when it is clear that the growth is not part of the landscaping plan. We could also fund Cemetery Restoration Projects as there is no federal or state dollars for these projects.

### LIST OF GRAVESTONE AND CEMETERY PRESERVATION RESOURCES:

[www.SaveYourStones.com](http://www.SaveYourStones.com):

Home of the Gravestone Cleaning Kit (\$24.95), and provider of professional gravestone cleaning services in Western Wisconsin.

[www.chicora.org](http://www.chicora.org): non-profit heritage preservation organization providing cemetery and gravestone preservation guidance.

[www.bonstone.com/products/d2/](http://www.bonstone.com/products/d2/) where to purchase D/2 biological cleaner.

[www.ncptt.nps.gov](http://www.ncptt.nps.gov): National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. An office of the National Park Service, NCPTT promotes the preservation of prehistoric and historic resources through its research, technology, and training.

"A Graveyard Preservation Primer" (American Association for State and Local History) by Lynette Strangstad. An essential resource for those who are seeking information regarding the protection and preservation of historic graveyards. It was first written to help stewards of early burial grounds responsibly and effectively preserve their graveyards.

Information provided by:  
SAVE YOUR STONES  
GRAVESTONE PRESERVATION  
SERVICES

Jarrod Roll, West Salem, WI  
608/317-7562

[www.SaveYourStones.com](http://www.SaveYourStones.com)

*Submitted by Joyce Nigbor*

## Upcoming Events

### Middleton Senior Citizens

**What:** Annual Meeting of the Middleton Senior Center (7448 Hubbard Ave.)

**When:** Saturday, December 5, 2015 beginning at 10:00 AM.

**Where:** Middleton Senior Center (7448 Hubbard Ave.)

**Guest speaker:** Clark Kidder. He will tell the story of his Grandmother's journey to the Midwest on one of the famous orphan trains. For more information about Mr. Kidder: [www.clarkkidder.com](http://www.clarkkidder.com)

### RootsTech 2016

**What:** RootsTech 2016

**When:** February 3-6, 2016

**Where:** Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah

**Registration:**

<https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>

### FGS Conference

**What:** FGS Conference: *Exploring the Centuries: Footprints in Time*

**When:** May 4-7, 2016

**Where:** Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Information on registration and accommodations can be found at: <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

### Wreaths Across America

**What:** Placing Wreaths on Veteran Graves at Forest Hill Cemetery in Madison, WI

**When:** Saturday, December 12, 2015 beginning at 10:30 a.m. In Section 35. The first ceremony and wreath laying will take place at 11 a.m. A firing squad and bugler will be present.

**Contact:** Bill Raftery, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, [braftery@chorus.net](mailto:braftery@chorus.net)

# DNA and Genealogy



Mary Eberle of DNA Hunters, LLC presented on DNA and Genealogy to a group of 50 at the October meeting. She first walked us through how to order and submit a DNA test. It's a very simple process that involves mailing a spit sample or cheek cell scrapings to a company. She then explained how your DNA is tested.

Mary suggests that you determine what your goal is before testing. Are you on a fishing expedition to see who's out there in general or are you looking to answer a specific question such as "did my mom's family really come from Russia?"

## Types of DNA

From here you determine what type of DNA will answer your question. Autosomal DNA (atDNA) is  $\frac{1}{2}$  from Mom and  $\frac{1}{2}$  from Dad. So atDNA will give you information about both sides of your family. 22 of your 23 chromosome pairs are atDNA. Y-DNA comes through the patrilineal line only. This means you're only looking at your father's father's (etc.) line. Only males can test Y-DNA. Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is passed through your matrilineal line, that is, your mother's mother's mother's (etc.) line. However, regardless of gender, all people have it--but it always comes from your mother.

## DNA Testing Companies

There are 3 main companies that provide testing and they do so at varying levels.

Ancestry - only autosomal DNA (atDNA)

FamilyTreeDNA (FT-DNA) – atDNA and full Y-DNA (male) and mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)

23andMe – atDNA and more basic mtDNA and Y-DNA

All three of these companies charge about \$99 + shipping. (Note: 23andMe just increased their price to \$199, but now includes some health information again.)

There was a question about anonymity. There are things you can do to protect your identity, such as by using an alias. In addition, Ancestry only shows initials of newly tested people.

In general, Mary recommended starting your DNA testing with atDNA through Ancestry. One reason for this is that if you test at Ancestry, you can transfer those results to FT-DNA for \$39. This means that you'll be able to "fish" in both Ancestry's pond and FT-DNA's pond. This helps, as each company has their own database of people who've tested—although there's some overlap.

All of the DNA testing companies listed above provide you with (1) a list of your DNA matches and (2) your ethnicity estimate.

## DNA Matches

Each testing companies predicts how close each match is to you. For example, the company might say that

- Match 1 is a sibling
- Match 2 is your aunt/uncle or niece/nephew or grandparent/grandchild
- Match 3 is your 1st to 2nd cousin

However, you'll need to confirm these predicted relationships.

You can contact your matches. At Ancestry and 23andMe, you must use the company's messaging system. At FT-DNA, you can email your potential matches directly. The person you're contacting has the option of not contacting you back, of course.

23andMe did a lot of testing for individuals that were looking for medical information. This means that fewer matches at this site are interested in genealogy. As such, fewer matches will respond to messages.

Amongst your matches, it's not unheard of to find cousins that are genealogists just like you. This is a great thing, especially if they have resources you don't have.

## Ethnicity Estimates

DNA testing also provides ethnicity estimates. At Ancestry, these are estimates and reflect your ancestors 500-1,000 years ago. 23andMe provides the ethnicity estimate that most closely reflects the paper trail. You might find unexpected results! Test siblings if you can, you'll get different results as different genes have been brought forward.

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### **Interpreting Your atDNA Test Results**

When interpreting your atDNA results keep in mind that on average you share 50% DNA with your parents and your full siblings. In addition, grandparents and grandkids share, on average, 25%, as do aunts/uncles and nieces/nephews. More distant relationships share less and less DNA. For example, first cousins share, on average, 12.5% of their DNA, whereas second cousins share, on average, only 3.125%.

For more information on shared amount of DNA, see The International Society of Genetic Genealogy web site: [http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal\\_DNA\\_statistics](http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_statistics).

### **Conclusion**

DNA testing can provide you with a lot of information, both in terms of matches and in terms of ethnicity. But be prepared, you might get your questions answered OR you might find MORE questions!

## **January Meeting Notice**

**Talk: How to Write/Present a Family History**

**Eleanor Brinsko will be presenting on the various ways to present your family history using electronic tools, media, and tangible methods.**

### ***Thank Your For Your Service and Answer the Call***

I want to thank those who have served on the Board of Directors and helped lead the organization for many years.

First, Jim Benes, now the VP, is stepping down. Jim served as President of the Computer Assisted group before the merger as well as Treasurer of DCAGS. His leadership will be greatly missed.

Thanks go to DeAnn McAllan who has ably served as Secretary of DCAGS for the past four years.

In addition, Pat Skubis has stepped down as the newsletter editor. Pat served as President and has been a key leader in DCAGS. Her talents will be solely missed.

Lastly, Walker Crawford stepped down as president and as membership chair. His leadership of DCAGS has been outstanding and leaves big shoes to fill.

The Nominating Committee has been reaching out to members to help fill the vacancies on the Board of Directors. If you are asked to serve, please answer the call. DCAGS fills an important role for genealogists. DCAGS needs you!

Ruth Simpson, DCAGS Nominating Committee

### ***Gettysburg Monuments Honor Iron Brigade***

Jerry Lange shared pictures he took of monuments at the Gettysburg Battlefield that honor Wisconsin's Iron Brigade. The left monument lists the regiments in the Iron Brigade: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin, 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin, 7<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin, 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan, 19<sup>th</sup> Indiana. The monument on the right was given by Wisconsin and says, "Wisconsin Cherishes the Memory of Her Brave Sons." The Iron Brigade was a fierce fighting force known for its unique uniform that fought in numerous battles. It fought during the first day at Gettysburg, July 1, repulsing the first Confederate offensive through Herbst's Woods, capturing many Confederate soldiers. The regiment suffered one of the highest casualty rates during the battle, 61 percent.



Dane County Area Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 5652  
Madison, WI 53705-0652

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

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**See you at  
the  
December 3  
Show & Tell**

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### DCAGS Governing Board Officers

President: Office Open

Vice President: Jim Benes  
[Jimbenes@iname.com](mailto:Jimbenes@iname.com)

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

Interim Treasurer: Jerry Lange  
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Past President: Rollie Littlewood  
[rkittle@wisc.edu](mailto:rkittle@wisc.edu)

### Directors

Barb Abbott  
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Walker Crawford  
[hedrickboy@icloud.com](mailto:hedrickboy@icloud.com)

Joyce Peterson  
[joycebpeterson@gmail.com](mailto:joycebpeterson@gmail.com)

### Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Jim Booth  
[jaboath03@gmail.com](mailto:jaboath03@gmail.com)

Programs & Education: Mary Eberle  
[eberle@merr.com](mailto:eberle@merr.com)

Outreach: Bob Rattammel  
[brettammel@gmail.com](mailto:brettammel@gmail.com)

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

Newsletter: Vacant

# Annual meeting