

Volunteer Openings

We need members to participate as officers.

At the November 2016 Membership Meeting the board will be presenting ballots for members to consider themselves or another person as a director or head of a committee for DCAGS. Voting will take place at the December meeting.

At this time the board is providing notice to the membership about volunteer openings. We need to have you as members to recommend someone to the DCAGS president or membership chairperson for filling in a needed role.

VOLUNTEER OPENINGS

3 Director positions are open and need to be filled.

1 Director position is up for re-election.

A director is an important part of the DCAGS leadership and will help decide the direction of the society. As a director you would work on topics and offer information to the Governing Board for discussion. This work could be accomplished separately or with others to complete tasks that would help decide the future of DCAGS.

September Meeting Highlights

At the September Speaker Program members listened to an excellent presentation by Judy McDonald of the Family History Center of Madison. We had good attendance with about 33 members. Judy talked about what the FHC has to offer members and non-members who are doing genealogy. There are 4 computers available for people to use at the center, a microfiche reader and other resources for researchers.

A tutorial on the Familysearch.org's website Activities Menu included material on Family Tree, Memories, Search function, Indexing, Volunteer. We were given the opportunity to ask questions and use examples from

our own research while Judy helped us to search and use Familysearch functions.

At the Family History Center the following websites are available for people to use in their research:

- 19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archive
- Access Newspaper Archive
- Alexander Street Press - The American Civil War
 - ✓ Research Database
 - ✓ Letters and Diaries
 - ✓ Images, Photographs, posters, and Ephemera
- Ancestry.com

- ArkivDigital Online
- Find My Past
- Fold3.com
- The Genealogist
- Godfrey Memorial Library
- Heritage Quest Online
- Historic Map Works Library Edition
- Legacy Stories
- Origins.net
- Paper Trail
- World Vital Records



Special Interest Groups

DCAGS is starting special interest groups that will focus on general genealogical topics and research. We think these special topics will help all members and be a way to reach various other genealogists in the surrounding area and outside groups with similar interest(s) in history or family history.

For this to be a success we need our existing members to help establish these Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

If you are able to embrace this challenge, it would require one of our members to lead an informal workshop devoted to a single topic. From this, a group would form to meet regularly with inclusion of both DCAGS

members and non-members who are willing to do focused work on the genealogy topic that interests the group.

As President of DCAGS, I am calling for our membership to help create possible SIGs and to develop some guidelines on how SIGs should be created and maintained. These SIGs can also be of benefit to our community by sharing our knowledge and passion of family history. Eventually we should have a SIG coordinator chairperson. This is another excellent opportunity for an established member or new member to become involved and help with this important outreach effort.

Here are some ideas for SIGs:

- **New to Genealogy**
- **Brick Wall Solutions**
- **British Genealogy**
- **German Genealogy**
- **Eastern European**
- **Irish Genealogy**
- **Genetic Genealogy**

DCAGS Member Passes

Louise Johnson, a former member of DCAGS, passed away earlier this month. She was the mother of Nancy Emmert, who has, over the years, been a prominent leader of both local and state genealogical societies (and is a current member of DCAGS). Nancy dropped out of her leadership roles to travel extensively.

DCAGS is offering an opportunity for members to sponsor a guest with a one year free membership. Here's how it would work:

1. Current members could sponsor a free one-time guest membership for a new guest and/or family with emailed newsletters and other electronic correspondence, no directories and no printed materials will be sent.
2. Thereafter, the guest may join as a regular member with full member benefits (newsletters, directory, emails, mailings and events).
3. The year for inclusion runs for the membership period—April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017. Members who wish to sponsor a free guest member would send an email to the DCAGS email address, widcags@gmail.com with the following information:

- sponsor's name
- guest's name
- guest's address
- guest's phone number and guest's email address

This is an excellent opportunity to increase the visibility of DCAGS and promote membership. So, send us the name of a guest.

My “Spark”

Every researcher can recollect his or her first moment when they became hooked on genealogy. I, like many others, would consider this my “genealogical spark”. That moment when you become so infatuated and interested in this subject that you can’t seem to put your family history away on a dusty shelf and forget. My story is an interesting and unforgettable one, and I hope you can enjoy it as much as I did, my first moment.

I would have to say it was the summer of 2009 as I watched my father, Vincent Hayden, struggle to get his own birth certificate. That’s right, how can an American born citizen not obtain his birth certificate, you ask?

Well, post 9/11 New York State really cracked down on a lot of their requirements on obtaining a photo identification. This included needing to have a valid photo I.D. to obtain any type of vital record, and in order to obtain a photo I.D. you needed a birth certificate. You see, the hospital my father was born in, Lee Memorial in Fulton N.Y.,

had a fire in their record room the year my father was born. Unfortunately they never got his birth certificate to Albany in time for it to be processed. So, my father was in the catch 22 for 12 years since 2001, and when we moved back to Syracuse from Orlando, FL his Florida driver’s license expired. It was so crazy because all those years he never needed a birth certificate, but without this little piece of paper he could not drive, get a job, or even see his grandchildren born in the hospital because you needed photo I.D. just to access the hospital.

My father thus begun this hell called a delayed birth record process, which he was able to provide most of the documents they ask for e.g. a social security card, proof of 8 years and younger (school records), a high school diploma, and his Navy records. However, the last couple of things were really tricky to get.

One of the sources was so impossible to get it only left us with one option, a Federal Census record closest to which he was born, which was the 1960 census considering my dad was born in 1955. It seemed easy

enough, but getting a private census record required knowing the exact address of where you were living at the time the census was taken. How was a five year old kid going to remember that?

My father thought he was living either in Flagstaff, AZ or Blythe, CA at the time, so at least it narrowed it down to two places. At this point my dad was ready to give up, but I wouldn’t let him quit. I remember the day I came up to him and told him that I wanted to help him with this. He said, “Josh you can’t help me”, so I smiled just like I always do and said “watch me”. Luckily enough my Aunt Rose had her birth certificate and photo I.D., so I used her information to apply for school records in Blythe, CA because that seemed to be the place that they both agreed on to where they were living at the time. There were only three elementary schools in Blythe, so it was pretty simple. Three months goes by and I never got a response from the school district. I thought it was a dead end, and I apologized to my father because it was honestly our last shot.

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“My Spark” (Continued from page 3)

However, I spoke too soon, weeks later I got the school records in the mail listing two addresses on the records. One of the addresses was more like a business address because at the time my father thought they were living behind a gas station in a trailer, and the other was a residential one. We tried the business one, but it returned a “no records found” result. Of course my dad was upset and said, “That’s it I’m done with this process”. He was positive that it was that address, but I told him, “dad, we still have one other address let’s try it.”

It was the summer of 2010 or ‘11 when I was at work, and I got a phone call from my stepmother Kathleen Sullivan, and she was screaming on the phone “YOU DID IT!”, and I was like “did what?” She said, “You got the census record, and now your father can get a birth certificate.” I was stunned, I couldn’t believe that I actually solved this 12 year old mystery case. It was in this moment when I realized that I am pretty good at the research stuff, and I wanted to know more about my grandfather,

Parker Hayden, who was this huge mystery man! I later found out that my grandfather was a bit of a hopeless romantic like myself. He deserted the Navy to be with his first wife, Helen Hausch, while she gave birth to his first child which he was denied a request for leave from the navy. He was on the run for 5 years and later caught in 1925 in his hometown of Phoenix, NY. Naval officers came down from Albany and took him to a naval prison in Portsmouth, ME to serve out the rest of his term, and was to be fed bread and water for 6 months.

At the end of this sentence he was to be dishonorably discharged from the Navy, but sometime during his sentence he saved two men from drowning, and for his bravery he was given an honorable discharge. This was all found in his Military records.

Naturally, after finding out this story I wanted to know more about his father Lawrence, his father Frank, his father Parker, and his father Miles. It just went on and on, but where my “spark” took place was not at Parker’s story, but from a book

I found written by Jabez Haskell Hayden, who did a genealogy on the Haydens from Connecticut in 1888. I knew that if Miles was from Connecticut that he must be part of this Connecticut branch of Haydens who go back to the Haydens of Norfolk England, who were knights, or as the doomsday book would like to say “an ancient family belonging to the order of knights.” I knew at this point that my surname came from nobility. I felt important and distinguished because of my Hayden ancestors.

For a long time growing up I was quite embarrassed of my last name to be honest and genealogy really got me in touch with who I am and where I am from. I have yet to link Miles to this branch of the family, but I won’t give up until I found out who his father is. In conclusion, it is important not only to find your “spark”, but to never let that “spark” die out!

*Yours Sincerely,
Joshua Hayden
DCAGS member*

Scarce New World: Will Privacy Kill Genealogy?

What The Concept of Privacy

Here are some questions to ponder as you consider the concept of privacy and how it has evolved since the time of our ancestors:

- Do we in 2015 have more privacy than our ancestors?
- Has the Internet eroded our privacy in the 21st century?
- Does the concept of privacy vary by culture?
- Does it vary by historical time period?
- Does it vary by political and geographical boundaries?
- Does it vary by small town versus big city?
- Did our ancestors have the same expectation of privacy as we do today?
- Did they worry about others knowing their activities?
- Or was it assumed that certain activities were just public knowledge?

The truth is our ancestors knew that when someone new arrived in town, the townsfolk would want to know the following:

- Where were they coming from?
- Who were they bringing with them?
- What would they be doing in terms of business and commerce?
- Were they running away from something?
- Did someone in town already know them? Did they have family in town?

Public Knowledge: Then vs. Now

There were a variety of ways that you could read about your neighbors during our ancestors' time. Including:

- Newspaper Columns
- Directory Listings
- Hotel Visitors
- Hospital Visits
- Letters Waiting at the Post Office
- Marital Problems
- Mailbox Contents
- Ship Passengers

Most, if not all, of this information was freely available (usually in the local newspaper) and it's availability was part of everyday life.

Modern Views on Privacy

As you research the not-so-private lives of your ancestors, don't be amazed at the type of information available. One challenge as researchers is our need to avoid "presentism" which is viewing a specific time period, its culture and its practices in modern eyes.

Take time to push aside your own bias towards privacy and this will actually help you find more public information about your ancestors.

The Right to Be Forgotten

There is a "right to be forgotten" movement which has picked up steam in the past five years, especially in Europe. The "right to be forgotten" involves the right of a person to determine what the Internet, and other informational platforms, contain in terms of personal information, especially related to

specific past actions performed in the past. Some organizations are even pursuing this as a "human right" in terms of access to information.

Could an increase in the use of such a right, lead to censorship on the Internet? How would it impact the freedom of expression of others? What about "rewriting history" in terms of past personal events?

In America we tend to value freedom of speech and freedom of expression and transparency. In Europe privacy and personal information is seen differently. In the US, if there is a right to be forgotten policy or practice put into place, it could potentially only pertain to information uploaded by a person, not what others upload about you.

On May 30, 2010, the European Court of Justice legally solidified that the "right to be forgotten" is a human right when they ruled against Google in the Costeja case. "Index on Censorship claimed that the Costeja ruling 'allows individuals to complain to search engines about information they do not like with no legal oversight. This is akin to marching into a library and forcing it to pulp books. Although the ruling is intended for private individuals it opens the door to anyone who wants to whitewash their personal history....The Court's decision is a retrograde move that misunderstands the role and responsibility of search engines and the wider internet. It should send chills down the spine of everyone in the Euro-

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Scarce New World (Continued from page 6)

pean Union who believes in the crucial importance of free expression and freedom of information.” There is a distinction however between the right to be forgotten (dealing with acts that are public) and the right to privacy (information that is private).

Would the European Union classify companies like Ancestry as “data controllers - people or organizations that collect and manage personal data” Could this also lead to search engines such as Google producing “biased results” due to removal of information?

Privacy vs Publicity

From Festival Dispatch: Jill Lepore on the History of Privacy:

“Today, Lepore said, we tend to think of privacy as tremendously valuable—we regard it as ‘essentially a human right.’ And yet we also live in the age of Facebook and Twitter, in which ‘the only thing more cherished than privacy is publicity.’ Even as we share personal data in unprecedented ways—with friends, coworkers, and automated systems—we believe we have a right to absolute privacy whenever we choose to keep things private. It seems we’ve become a society that ‘wishes to be displayed but not to be seen.’”

How You Can Save Access to Records

There are several organizations that advocate for the preservation and access of record sets important to genealogical research.

Records Preservation and Access Committee

Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) is a joint committee of several genealogical organizations (the National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) are sponsoring members) advocating for access to genealogy records.

The RPAC site contains information on current projects as well as a list of State Liaisons to assist with state-level issues related to records access.

Reclaim the Records

Led by genealogist Brooke Schreier Ganz, Reclaim the Records is a non-profit organization of genealogists, historians, researchers, and open government advocates using FOIA requests as well as Federal and State FOI laws to obtain copies of data previously released as “public domain” and available to the public.

Reclaim the Records maintains a “to do” list with projects that require leadership and assistance in order to “restore” these records so they can be accessed by genealogists and other researchers.

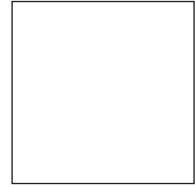
Privacy and Genealogy Best Practices

- Read and understand the terms of service (TOS) agreements at all sites. It is your duty before signing up and using a service to know how your information will or will not be used by that site.

- Be responsible - know the privacy settings available for each site you use. It is your responsibility to understand how privacy settings work and then decide which settings are best for you. Do not automatically accept the defaults provided by the site. When in doubt, check the Help section of the site.
- Stay up-to-date on changes to a site’s policies. This means reading the e-mails about updates to a site’s TOS or privacy policy. Some sites have forums or RSS feeds where you can subscribe and get alerts. Again, you need to stay in the loop on what a social media site is doing with your information.
- Limit the amount of personal information you display. This means information you display publicly and to friends or followers. Don’t include your birth date, hometown and other items of information used to verify personal identity. Remember: once posted, often it’s always posted.
- Use strong passwords. Take time to construct a password that is easy for you to remember but not for a hacker to guess at. Avoid names of family members, locations etc. Use combinations of letters, numbers and special characters.

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Dane County Area Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 5652
Madison, WI 53706-0652



Address Service Requested



**Dane County Area
Genealogical Society**

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

www.dcags.camp8.org
www.facebook.com/dcags
widcags@gmail.com

DCAGS Governing Board Officers

President: Bob Rettammel
brettammel@gmail.com

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Joyce Nigbor
Billyjoycenigbor@aol.com

Treasurer: Jerry Lange
gelange@wisc.edu

Past President: Rollie Littlewood
rklittle@wisc.edu

Directors

Barb Abbott
bdabbott12@tds.net

Walker Crawford
hedrickboy@icloud.com

Jim Booth
jaboath03@gmail.com

Director: Vacant

FGS Delegate: Jim Benes
jimbenes@iname.com

Jerry Lange
gelange@wisc.edu

Director: Vacant

Joyce Nigbor
Billyjoycenigbor@aol.com

Bob Rettammel
brettammel@gmail.com

Director: Vacant

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Jim Booth
jaboath03@gmail.com

Programs & Education: Vacant

Outreach: Bob Rettammel
brettammel@gmail.com

Historian: Barb Abbott
bdabbott12@tds.net

Web Master: Rollie Littlewood
rklittle@wisc.edu

Newsletter: Liz Freitick
efreitick@gmail.com