

## Dane County Area Genealogical Society

### Features and tips for Genealogists to get the most from using Google at December 7 meeting

The term "googled" has become a part of pop culture. Pat Skubis will be presenting a slide show on why Genealogists like using Google.

She will cover topics: 1] Searching with a focus or how to spend less time when searching and get faster results. 2] How to locate and save photo's to your hard drive, so you can incorporate them in your Genealogy reports. 3] How to bring sites back from the

dead or otherwise known as what to do when you receive the "File not Found" message. 4] Narrowing your search by adding file type. 5] Google News, Groups and Maps, what you can locate by using them? 6] What other features are hiding in "even more." 7] Google World and how it lets you travel around the world without leaving home. 8] Picasa. What it is and why you might like to download it. 9] The new

Google tool bar, its features and functions.

Pat hopes that you will learn some new tricks that will save you time when searching for Genealogy information on the Internet with Google's help.

The December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints located at 4505 Regent, Madison, Wisconsin beginning at 7 p.m. See you then.

### Newsletter Name and Logo Contest Vote

The December DCAGS meeting will also include a vote on the name of the DCAGS newsletter and new

logo. There is an insert in the newsletter with the names and logos

submitted. We would like to thank all those who were creative and took the time and effort to enter.

### Gifts for Genealogists

At the November DCAGS meeting, Sherry Lloyd, Pat Skubis and Judy Bates presented great ideas for gifts for genealogists.

Sherry started off with gifts to give genealogists. Family photos are often good choices. Sherry spoke about finding a friend's

family photo in a church directory, which she took to a print shop and had enlarged to a 5" by 7" picture.

The second gift idea was a calendar. A distant relative received a homemade calendar with family member birthdates and other important dates from her

grandson. She liked it so much she asked for the same gift the next Christmas! Office Works includes a calendar program and several genealogy programs also have calendar programs. The cost would be minimal, printing and making copies. This is a

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**Regular DCAGS meetings are the first Thursday of each month at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints located at 4505 Regent, Madison, Wisconsin beginning at 7 p.m.**

#### **DCAGS Update:**

*Under the Merger Plan the board of directors of the two former groups, the Dane County Genealogical Society (DCGS) and the Computer Assisted Genealogists of Southern Wisconsin (CAGSW) will be governing the Dane County Area Genealogical Society, until January when the new officers for DCAGS will take office. The boards and new officers will meet on Monday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the South Madison Library, 2222 S. Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!*

**Remember to fill in your membership application and mail it in today!**

#### **Individual Highlights:**

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## *Gift for Genealogists continued....*

great gift for a genealogist to help a child make for their relatives.

The third idea was a cookbook to share family recipes. Sherry made one that was about 25 pages. The cookbook was given to cousins and included the family's favorite recipes.

The fourth idea is a membership in the Dane County Area Genealogical Society. Pay the Treasurer and he will give a certificate for you to forward to your friend or relative.

The next set of gifts was ones genealogists should like to receive. First was a magnifying glass. It can be used to read those hard to read documents. Any office supply store has them at a cost of \$4-\$10.

The second gift was a USB 2 Memory drive (or a zip drive). This is a new and easy way for people to transmit information from different computers. This is great to take to libraries and save copies of microfilm. Sherry saw a demonstration last winter at the WHS library using their new copy machines. Prices start at \$20 and up, depending on how much memory you want.

Third is a navigation system. They have portable ones and could be a great tool for finding cemeteries. Prices for the system range from \$200 to \$1000.

Fourth is a quick guide for citing online sources. One can be purchased from the Board for Certified Genealogists. The cost is

\$5.95. The guide can be ordered online at [bccertification.org/catalog/index.html](http://bccertification.org/catalog/index.html). You might check at a bookstore because shipping and handling costs can be more than the cost of the guide.

Finally, take a trip to Salt Lake City. Sherry got a flyer for the Salt Lake Christmas Tour. The tour is a weeklong trip to the Family History Library. Several instructors are available to help and classes are offered to attendees. The tour cost is \$899 for double occupancy and \$1149 for single occupancy plus transportation. The address for the research tour is [www.genealogy-tours.com](http://www.genealogy-tours.com) or call (815) 642-0103.

Pat Skubis provided a list of gifts for the genealogists. The gifts can be found at [www.genealogytoday.com/store/index.html](http://www.genealogytoday.com/store/index.html).

The first gifts craft projects: walling hangings, acid-free sticker sheet and a photo album. There is also a 4-generation cross-stitch pattern. There are places for photos and records. Prices range from \$1.95 to \$14.95.

There are different books, "The Great Ancestry Hunt," or "A DK First Activity Pack Family History." Both books are for young readers and encourage youngsters to explore their own family history. The "Hunt" is \$2.95 and the "Family History" is \$6.95.

Finally, Pat found a

create your own jigsaw puzzle. Use your own picture and create a 100-piece puzzle. The price is \$19.95. Go to [www.iconpuzzles.com/](http://www.iconpuzzles.com/). (The list of gifts will be available online.)

Judy Bates then showed ways she has made inexpensive, but meaningful gifts for family members. Judy has used old pictures to make cards for birthday and anniversaries. She has written stories and made family charts for family members and given them as gifts. Judy has also given tape recorders to family members and then had them tell stories about their lives. The cost is about \$20 plus the cost of tapes. It is a great way to get information from relatives who live close to you. Judy also recommended an in-loan library membership. It is a great way to get information from different libraries.

Jack Brissee shared a list of books that genealogists would like. (The list will be available online.) Jack also provided information on a new internet magazine, *Digital Genealogist*. It is a bi-monthly publication and is available by subscription. The Nov/Dec issue is online and you can review it at [www.digitalgenealogist.com/sample/dgnovdec06.pdf](http://www.digitalgenealogist.com/sample/dgnovdec06.pdf).

All the gifts sound wonderful, so make sure you're making your list now and sharing it with family members.

Have a happy holiday season!

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### Interested in Queries?

Harold Wells brought an interesting item another newsletter uses: putting in queries about people looking for family members.

I'll use myself as an example: Ruth Simpson ([rsimpson@terracom.net](mailto:rsimpson@terracom.net)) is looking for any information on the family of Michael Brunkow. He emigrated from Prussia about 1867 and lived in Buffalo County, Wisconsin. He was married to Dorthea.

If you have a query, let me know for the next newsletter.

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**PFC. RODNEY W. HARRIS**  
**SERIAL NO. 36292082, USA**  
*By Shirley Levine*

Sixty-one years after his death, details of the life, family, and final end of Army Pfc. Rodney Wayne Harris, a World War II casualty and native Madisonian, have surfaced.

Interest here in the 22-year-old sprang from a letter received from the Netherlands. Henk Rath is one of many who has adopted graves of some 10,000 GIs in Margraten Cemetery, the only American military cemetery in that country. Henk, a military hobbyist, sought details of Pfc. Harris' death: his birthday so that Rodney could be especially honored on that date, as well as names of surviving family members so that he could correspond with them.

A combination of public records here and through the Internet drew a profile of an average GI. Where Rodney's story differed is that he survived 2-years of his enlistment, through the European theater battles, only to die on May 18, 1945 - 10 days after V-E Day. His death at age 22 came in an ammunition dump explosion at Babenhausen near Darmstadt, Germany. He was a member of the 372<sup>nd</sup>. Engineer General Service Regiment and had never married.

Rodney was born 1 Aug 1922, the only child of Esther E.

Buschow of Minnesota, then 27, and of Elden (sometimes Eldon) W. Harris, also 27, of Welsh heritage and born in Barneveld, where both parents now lie in the White Church Cemetery. Known grandparents were John A. and Mary Ann Evans Harris, also buried there. Elden Harris, a WW I veteran, married Esther in 1921.

Rodney grew up on the south side of Madison, 336 W. Lakeside St. His father owned the building and they lived on the second floor over Abendroth's Grocery. Elden worked many years with Simon Bros., wholesale grocers then located at 901 E. Washington, advancing to sales manager. Five years after his son's death, on 5 Aug. 1950 at age 55, he was stricken at work and died at home that day, of coronary thrombosis. By then, the parents had moved to an East Side location at 2101 Sommers Ave. Within a year the widowed Esther apparently left Madison and was lost to follow-up until her final resting place was identified. Cemetery records place her death in September 1956; no details are known.

Rodney attended West High School, where he was a member of Camera Club. In a 1938 yearbook picture, he appeared to be a slight, fair-haired youngster. His enlistment record confirmed this impression with a physical description: 5' 4" and 107 pounds. He was not listed among graduates at West, although he

claimed one year of college when he enlisted in Milwaukee Tuesday, 29 Dec. 1942.

Elden Harris' obit named as survivors his wife and three brothers, Leslie J., Spencer D. and William V. in Madison, Pelican Lake and Minneapolis. Leslie J and his widow Gertrude, who were childless, are buried in the White Church Cemetery. If there were cousins, now living, they would most likely be in their 80s.

Another question was Rodney's pre-enlistment employment. He listed his 'occupation' as motorcyclist. Solving this and identifying possible family survivors will be the goal of the investigators.

Judy Bates, Shirley Levine, Rollie Littlewood and Jack Murphy contributed to this picture of Rodney Harris, with additional suggestions from Jack Brissee. It is noteworthy that after reading Henk Rath's request, each approached the problem from a different direction, with very little overlap in efforts. Sources consulted include census, vital statistics, cemetery and National Archives enlistment records, Internet. Ancestry database, Madison City directories, SHS Library, *Wisconsin State Journal* microfilms, West H.S. yearbooks, Madison Newspapers library, funeral directors, and MATC historian.

May Rodney rest in peace.

## *President's Message*

We would like to thank the nominating Committee for their work in complying a slate of officers. Be sure to send in your vote. Note: write in votes are welcome.

We also wish to thank Judy Bates, Jack Murphy and Shirley Levine for their interesting report on their search for PFC

Rodney W. Harris. By taking different approaches to locate information, they had amassed a lot of facts.

Be sure to check out the list of genealogy gift suggestions located in this months newsletter, there is something for everyone's budget.

When you pay your dues for next year, don't forget to lend your talents and sign up for one of the Committees. Remember at the December meeting we will be voting for the Newsletter Name and for the Society Logo.

**Pat Skubis and Sherry Lloyd, Interim Presidents.**

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*Membership dues are \$15. Applications are included in this mailing. Please join now and return your application form!*

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**Address Service Requested**



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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:  
[www.rootsweb.com/~widcags](http://www.rootsweb.com/~widcags)

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**Remember to  
return your  
ballot for  
DCAGS 2007  
officers by  
December 6,  
2006.**

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**Happy  
Thanksgiving!**

**See you on  
December 7!**