



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

"Finding More Ancestors in More Censuses" otherwise called "How to Get the Most Out of the Revolution in Census Availability and Search-ability" at March 1 Meeting

James L. Hansen will be the presenter for the March 1st meeting where he will guide us on the use of census information to further our genealogy.

James L. Hansen, F.A.S.G, has been the reference librarian and genealogical specialist at the Library of the Wisconsin Historical Society since 1974, where he assists thousands of researchers a year in their genealogical and historical research. He has taught beginning and advanced

genealogical research courses over Wisconsin's Educational Telephone Network. Among his publications are articles on a variety of genealogical topics, a bibliography of territorial Wisconsin newspapers, and a guide to the library in which he works. He is a nationally-known speaker, having lectured on genealogical topics around Wisconsin and at numerous conferences (national, state and local) in the U.S. and Canada. He was the 1994-

1995 president of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and in 1995 was named a fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. In 2002 he was awarded the Filby Prize for Genealogical Librarianship at the NGS conference in Milwaukee.

Please join us in welcoming James L. Hansen at the March 1 2007, meeting at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints located at 4505 Regent, Madison, beginning at 7 p.m.

Back to Basics & More

At the February 1 meeting Nancy Emmert reviewed the basics of genealogy research and provided us with new information and new methods for pursuing your genealogy research.

When beginning your genealogy research, start with yourself and work backwards one generation at a time. Search for family information from a variety of sources then evaluate the information. Make sure it is reliable.

Remember to document your source of data. This is helpful not only for you if you need to go back and find it, but is essential for anyone who comes after you.

The best way to organize your information is by using family group sheets, pedigree charts, research logs, and computer databases.

Libraries are great places to find information essential to your research.

Nancy recommends

that people continue to learn by going to classes and workshops and by joining genealogical organizations.

Next Nancy went over records and resources important to genealogists.

Family genealogies can provide valuable information.

Vital records are crucial to your research: birth certificates, death certificates and marriage certificates.

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Genealogy Fair Set for September 8

DCAGS will be hosting a Genealogy Fair on September 8. The Board is looking for volunteers, including a chair for the Special Education Fair Committee. The Special Committee will work with the Program and Publicity Committees in planning the Fair. Volunteer Now!

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:

The DCAGS Governing Board meets the 3rd Monday of each month. The next meeting is on Monday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Pat Stone, 2113 Manor Green Dr. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!

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Back to Basics & More continued...

Census records can also provide valuable information for your research. Census records from 1790-1930 are available in various forms. (Except for the 1890 Census, which was destroyed. There are also some state censuses available.)

Newspapers can be excellent resources for births and deaths and in small towns, who was visiting one another.

Some cemeteries keep excellent records for genealogists, while others do not. Visiting cemeteries and viewing headstones can further your research.

Church records can provide information on marriages, baptisms and other family events.

If you have someone who served in the military, those records can be very enlightening. The National Archives has records for service members prior to World War I.

Records at the County can include land records, wills, probate and court records.

Nancy provided the good, the bad, and the ugly with using the

Internet. The following information and websites geared toward genealogists can be valuable tools.

- Digitized records and publications.
- cyndislist.com -- index to genealogical sites.
- familysearch.org -- library catalog, records, information, forms, computer program.
- wisconsinhistory.org -- Wisconsin Historical Society.
- wsgs.org -- Wisconsin State Genealogical Society
- usgenweb.net/ - US Gen Web Project, information.
- nancyemmert.com -- Beginning Family History Notes.

Nancy then provided the following research suggestions. Nancy suggested tracing real people who are influenced by their historical period, ethnic background, economic conditions, and possible opportunities; learn about their life and circumstances.

She suggested to use family information as clues and not as absolute truth.

Nancy suggested to work from known information to unknown. Look for primary documents and use undocumented information carefully.

Nancy then suggested the following selected bibliography for further information:

1. Eichholtz, Alice, ed. Ancestry's Redbook, 3rd Edition. Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing Co., 2004.
2. Mills, Elizabeth Shown. Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1997.
3. Rose, Christine and Kay Germain Ingalls, The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy, 2nd Edition. New York: Alpha Books, 2005.
4. Szucs, Lorretto Dennis & Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, eds. The Source A Guidebook of American Genealogy, 3rd Edition. Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing Co., 2006.

With these valuable tools, begin your research!

Puzzle of the Month is a new feature. It is a great way to share what we know. A member may submit (on a 4 x 6 card) a basic puzzle and give it to a program committee member. At each meeting a new puzzle will be announced and any member can offer direction, an answer or you can bring the info to the next meeting. Each puzzle of the month will be printed in this newsletter as well as the answer/solution to last month's puzzle. Everybody learns!

Puzzle of the Month

On the question from last month, relating to origin of the name of SHOOTERRIPPING, the answer offered was that it definitely sounded Dutch.

The Puzzle for March: Does anyone know how to find out about the German settlers in Mason County, Illinois in the

mid-19th century?

If you have a suggestion or idea, bring it to the March 1 meeting.

Upcoming Events

GERMAN GENEALOGY SEMINAR

When: Saturday, March 17, 2007
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Where: Barron County Courthouse SE Auditorium, 330 E. LaSalle Street, Barron

Featuring: Accredited Genealogist Stephen Barthel

Sponsored by: The Blue Hills Genealogical Society-Barron County, Inc.

To register go to:
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wibhgsbc/announcements.htm>.

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society's Gene-A-Rama 2007

When: April 13-14, 2007

Where: Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

Information about the conference including the schedule of lectures, can be found at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wsgs/gar2007.htm>.

The Milwaukee County Genealogical Society's Biennial Workshop

When: April 21, 2007

The featured speaker will be Cyndi Howells. For more information check their website, <http://www.milwaukeegenealogy.org/>

2007 NGS Conference
"Rediscover Virginia:
400 Years of Family History"

When: May 16-19, 2007

Where: Richmond, VA

The program will feature the 400th Anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown. Information, including the schedule of lectures, can be found at <http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/2007>. Early registration deadline is March 30.

Expand Your German Research

When: Saturday, July 14, 2007

Where: Greenhill Center of the Arts, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Whitewater, WI

Featured Speaker: Larry O. Jensen of Salt Lake City, Utah

Sponsored by the German Interest Group-Wisconsin

Registrations postmarked by July 1st are guaranteed lunch and a syllabus. For more information and a registration form: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wigig/index.html>.

2007 FGS Conference
"Meeting at the Crossroads
of America"

When: August 15-18, 2007

Where: Fort Wayne, Indiana

For more information go to: <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/FGS07AnnouncementFlyer%20FinalWeb.pdf>. Early registration deadline is June 1. The program details (lecture titles, etc.) have not yet been published.

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International 11th bi-annual Genealogical/Cultural Conference

When: October 18-20, 2007

Where: Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall in Madison

The Illinois State Genealogical Society 2007 Conference

When: October 20, 2007

Where: the location has not been announced

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Fall 2007 Seminar

When: October 27, 2007

Where: Wausau, Wisconsin

President's Message

Greetings! Today I am sitting inside thankful for my heating system and the warmth it provides during this bitter cold spell.

It was nice that a number of hearty souls ventured out to hear Nancy Emmert's "Back to Basics" presentation on February 1. It was great to see that so many members were able to attend. I want to thank Nancy for her interesting talk. I also wish to thank Sherry Lloyd for filling

in for me and hosting the meeting.

The get-well cards and emails that I received following my recent surgery did much to bolster my spirits and I was happy to be able to attend the February program.

This recent cold spell gives all of us an excuse to stay inside and spend hours working on our genealogy and not feel a bit guilty about doing so. But remember

Spring is just around the corner. Be sure to check out the upcoming notices about conferences and classes that are starting in April. (MATC classes on page 4.)

See you all in March for what should be a great program.

Pat Skubis

Volunteers Needed

Three volunteers are needed to serve on the Audit Committee. The Committee will review the financial records of the prior year. Contact Pat Skubis if you can serve on this committee.

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



**Dane County Area
Genealogical Society**

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

**See you
March 1**

We have a new web
address: www.dcags.org.
If you enter the address it
will take you to the
group's website on
Rootsweb.

DCAGS officers for 2007: Standing Committee Chairs

President
Pat Skubis
p318skubis@hughes.net

Vice President
Pat Stone
rjstone@chorus.net

Secretary
Joyce I. Nigbor
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Treasurer
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Historian
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Web Master
Rollie Littlewood
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Newsletter
Ruth Simpson
rsimpson@terra.com.net

Upcoming MATC Classes
offered by ACE

Internet: Genealogy
Intermediate Fitchburg
Senior Center beginning
Wed. April 4, 2007 to May 9,
2007 from 6 to 9 PM. Cost
\$43.15 Senior rate \$4.00
Course number 60652.
Registration 246-6240

Internet: Genealogy
Intermediate @ Waunakee
Village Community Center.
Beginning Wed. April 4, 2007
to May 9, 2007 from 1 to 4
PM. Cost \$43.15 Senior rate
\$4.00 Course number 60653.
Registration 246-6240

Internet: Genealogy Intro
@ Oregon Senior Center.
Beginning Tuesday April 3,
2007 to May 8, 2007 from 6 to
9 PM. Course number 60655
Cost \$43.15 Senior rate \$4.00
Registration 246-6240