



# Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

## *Stump Jim Hansen! At September 3 DCAGS Meeting*

Jim Hansen, reference librarian at the Wisconsin Historical Society library archives, returns to DCAGS to talk about "What's New at the Wisconsin Historical Society."

Jim then wants to open the forum up for questions for a "Stump Jim Hansen!" session. Be thinking of questions you would like to ask the man who has heard nearly every genealogical question there is. Note that "Where's my family's genealogy?" will not be allowed!

James "Jim" 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.

We are at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 4505 Regent Street, Madison, WI. Please join us on Thursday, September 3 at 7:00 P.M.

### *Show and Tell*

The August DCAGS meeting featured a chance for members to "Show and Tell." Members were asked to tell about an ancestor you would have liked to meet.

Pat Skubis started us off with a very interesting presentation about her ancestor Thomas Hansen. He was born in 1640 in Tørsbøl, Kværs Sogn Lundtoft Herred -Åbenrå Amt, Danmark, located near the German-Denmark border.

Church records show that he married Nerreth (last name unknown) probably about 1669 or 1670 since their son Hans Thomsen was born in 1670. Thomas died on November 29, 1711 at age 71 and his wife died August 30, 1722 at the age of 81.

Thomas Hansen was the Royal Copyholder on land owned by Chancellor Frederick Ahlefeldt.

A copyholder was a farmer who had a contract for a copyhold farm. If the conditions of the contract were met the landowner could not cancel the contract during the life of the farmer or his wife.

Pat could not tell the size of the farm, but Thomas is listed as a fæstebonde. A Fæsteboelsmand is farm production of less than 3 units of hartkon. A Hartkon is a Danish unit of land valuation based on estimated productivity.

Pat became interested in Thomas after reading an article

found in a family history, Rossen family from Klipleve sogn.

The article was written in 1929 and published in the SønderyskMaanedsskrift. The article told about a Coscinomancy ritual that was held on the Thomas Hansen farm.

Coscinomancy is a form of divination that is practiced with a sieve, and a pair of tongs or shears, which are supported upon the thumb nails of two persons looking upon one another, or the nails of the middle finger may be used.

Pat discovered that Coscinomancy was generally used to discover thieves, or others suspected of any crime.

*Continued on page 2*

*August 31, 2009  
Volume 3, Issue 12*

**Volunteers  
Needed for the  
DCAGS  
Genealogy Fair**

**Saturday,  
October 10**

**See page 3**

**Church of Jesus  
Christ of Latter-  
day Saints  
4505 Regent,  
Madison, WI**

***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.***

\*\*\*\*\*

***DCAGS Update:***

***The DCAGS Governing  
Board meets the third  
Monday of each month.  
The next meeting is set for  
Monday, September 21 at  
6:30 p.m. South Madison  
Library, 2222 Park St. We  
invite all members to  
attend. Please join us!***

**Individual Highlights:— 3**

**Upcoming Events — 3**

**MATC Class — 3**

**Ray Thurow — 4**

## Show and Tell Continued...

How it worked -- a thread was tied to the sieve by which it was upheld, or else placed a pair of shears, which they held up by two fingers, then prayed to the gods to direct and assist them; after that they repeated the names of the persons under suspicion, and he, at whose name the sieve whirled round or moved, was thought guilty.

Pat discovered that in 1686, someone stole some goats in Tørsbøl, Denmark. The villagers then gathered at Thomas Hansen's farm.

Everyone ate salt and bread and then one after another they said out loud that they wished that as many devils as there were grains of salt on their bread would come and get them if they were guilty of the theft.

Then they carried out the Coscinomancy. When the sieve turned around three times over Hans Jensen's wife "Anna" it was obvious that she was the thief.

After the ritual, the Lord of Søgård Manor, Chancellor Frederick Ahlefeldt, summoned all those in attendance to court in Gråsten on June 26, 1688. Gråsten is located 9 km from Tørsbøl.

The questions Pat wanted to ask her ancestor:

Where exactly was the farm?  
What was your wife's last name?  
How many children did you have?

How did you get to be the Royal Copyholder?

Why did everyone come out to your farm for the Coscinomancy?  
And most of all: What happened in Court? Did you have to pay a fine?

If so how much was the fine?  
Did the church punish any or all of those who took part in the ritual?

Pat was able to get much of this information from Peter Kannegaard Hansen, a relative in Denmark.

Peter sent Pat links to articles and photos that she used in her presentation.

Pat noted that while some of the articles were in Danish, Google helped her translate them.

Gerry Schlecht spoke next about

her great grandmother, Nancy Sallee. Gerry described her as an eccentric who slept with a knife beneath her pillow, and once jumped astride a ram that had knocked her down and gouged out its eyes. She was also described several times as being "of a darker race" and being "different."

Her father's line went back to the early 1600s where her Huguenot ancestor was born on the Île de Ré off the coast of France. Gerry's question was what about Nancy's mother's line? Was there a Melungeon, Lumberton, or Jackson White in her ancestry that accounted for darker skin? Those were isolated groups of white, black, and red people living together in small remote areas in the southeast. Nancy married a man, Luke, who was born deaf and although he lived at a boarding school for the deaf for some years in the mid 1850s he never learned to speak although he farmed and conducted and himself well in general society.

Since like often marries like, what in Nancy's background was enough of a negative to counterbalance Luke's deafness? Was it her bizarre behavior? Or her darker skin? Her nose in profile, like her father's, was almost identical to that of the Indian on the buffalo nickel. Though we think of him as a Plains Indian, many of them came from the east originally.

Nancy is the ancestor Gerry would most like to have met and perhaps found out what made her tick and more about her mother's line. At the end, Gerry said on second thought it might be safer to stay a few generations away.

Next up was Rose Ann Scott. She talked about a recent trip she took to Germany, to do some genealogy research. Rose Ann had always been curious about a name in her family -- Shooterripping. Her question was where did the name come from. It turned out to be the name was Schultze Rieping.

While over in Germany and going through a small town, Steinfeld, they recognized a family name, Trenkamps, in one the name of a shop. They went in and the person in the store was a cousin to another person who had the Trenkamp family genealogy and also the Ollendiek genealogy.

Rose Ann found her ancestral home of Hüwe near Horstmar, Germany on a bike map. The farm has been in the family since 890 AD, which floored her. Before she left she did not even know she would find anything in Germany.

Now after her trip to Germany, Rose has found three legs of her father's family tree!

The final speaker was Ruth Simpson who spoke about her great-great grandmother, Harriot Crain Wyant. Harriot grew up in Cooperstown, Pennsylvania. In 1856 she married John Brown Wyant and the couple headed off for Janesville, Iowa.

Before leaving Harriot had an autograph book and her family and friends wrote poems and included other words of advice. Ruth's question dealt with how Harriot felt leaving her home and family.

She was also interested in one of the writings entitled "Women's Sphere," about the rights of women. Ruth was curious if Harriot was involved in expanding the rights of women.

Ruth read one essay called "The Affections," advice from Harriot's father on her marriage.

*The affections are something [that] should be your study to cultivate as it tends to promote the happiness of yourself and husband. It binds those tender ties which are calculated to make you both happy in this world and to assist you in preparing for the next, be careful and guard against all strife and contention upon any subject never let anything of the kind arise between you. If you differ on any questions that may arise --argue! the points kindly and affectionately with a disposition to reason for when two persons united in the bonds of matrimony true happiness consists in being of one mind.*

Good advice always!

# Upcoming events

## ***Finding Your Elusive Ancestor! Genealogy Workshop***

When: Saturday, August 29, 2009 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where: WHS Library

Cost: \$10.00

Registration: Call Nancy Mullen (608) 825-1917 or [NKMullen@aol.com](mailto:NKMullen@aol.com)

The John Bell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution presents a genealogy workshop. Experienced researchers will assist you individually with your questions and research.

## ***Passages Through Time Federation of Genealogical Societies***

When: September 2-5, 2009

Where: Little Rock Convention Center, Little Rock, AR

Cost: \$225 post-July 2; costs do not include meals

Registration: For information go to: <http://www.fgs.org>

## ***Walworth County Genealogical Society and Burlington Genealogical Society present Family History Fair***

When: Saturday, September 26, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

## ***MATC Class: Internet: Genealogy Intermediate***

This course is designed to increase your Internet skills and confidence. You will learn about major genealogy websites, how to search for ship records, immigration records, church & military records, and how to find records overseas. Other topics covered are: how to use the Internet to plan a research trip or genealogy vacation; using MapQuest and the White pages to assist you in your genealogy research; how to create and send a GEDCOM and downloading a GEDCOM into your genealogy program; and what you should include and exclude when creating a genealogy website, and where you can post it!

Class# 26223

Fees: \$42.82 or if 62 or older \$4

When: Days Thursdays Time 1:00 PM-4:00 PM Begins 10/1 Ends 10/29

Where: Faith Christian School, W5525 Hwy 67, Williams Bay, WI

Guest Speakers: Craig Pfannkuche and Clark Kidder

Admission is Free.

## ***Wisconsin State Genealogical Society 2009 Fall Seminar Research: Do More And Do It Better***

When: Friday & Saturday, October 2 & 3, 2009. Friday session: 1-5 p.m.; Saturday session, 7:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Where: Best Western Bridgwood Resort Hotel and Conference Center, 1000 Cameron Way, Neenah, WI  
[www.bridgewoodresorthotel.com](http://www.bridgewoodresorthotel.com)

Featured Speakers: Michael John Neill, Lori B. Bessler and Dr. David McDonald, CG™

Topics: Friday: It's All Online! Or Is It?, Wisconsin Historical Society: Services & Collections, Jefferson's Genius & the Old Northwest, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Migrations to Wisconsin. Saturday: Research on a Tight Budget, Researching the Entire Family, Organization of Information, Locating Emigrant Origins.

Cost: Friday: \$15; Saturday: Before 9/18 WSGS rate \$35, Regular rate \$60; After 9/18 WSGS rate \$45, Regular rate \$70.

Registration: [www.wsgs.org](http://www.wsgs.org)

Instructor: Pat Skubis

Location: South Madison Community Campus

To enroll by phone call the Enrollment Center at (608) 246-6240 (Monday-Thursday from 8am to 6:00pm or Friday from 8am to 4:30pm). Touch Tone Toll Free Calls: 1-800-628-6282, Ext. 6220 TDD for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (608) 246-6221

Have your student ID number or Social Security number ready.

Have your PIN # (six-digit) available, which you assigned to your records from a prior call. If you have forgotten your PIN number or have difficulty entering it, call the Enrollment Center at (608) 246-6210 for assistance.

If you have not used the Touch Tone System before, you will need to assign yourself a PIN #. MATC does not assign your

## ***The Genealogy Fair Committee Needs Your Help***

The Genealogy Fair Committee requests the help of DCAGS members for the 2009 Genealogy Fair. We need the following volunteers:

1. Four people to help set up the tables for the exhibitors and the vendors on Friday, October 9, the night before the Fair.
2. During the Fair we need 6 people to act as greeters, 12 people to serve refreshments and 7 people to help out at the membership table.
3. We also need 12 people, who love to bake, who would be willing to donate two dozen cookies or bars.
4. We need 4 people to help at the end of the fair to take down the tables and clean up.

At the September meeting a sign up sheet will be sent around seeking volunteers. If you are unable to attend the September meeting and would be able to help out at the Genealogy Fair you can email Pat Skubis and let her know what you would like to do. Send your email to [p318skubis@hughes.net](mailto:p318skubis@hughes.net) or to [skubie27@live.com](mailto:skubie27@live.com)

There is still room if any DCAGS members would like to display family histories or records at the Fair.

The Genealogy Fair will feature some great speakers, new and exciting exhibitors and many more activities.

Posters with more details should be ready by the September meeting so that you can take one home with you and put it out in the community to help us advertise this great event.

The Fair Committee envisions another great Genealogy Fair. We just need lots of volunteers to make it a great success.

*Pat Skubis, Fair Chair*

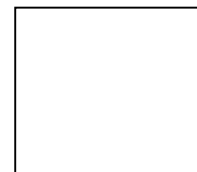
PIN #. You will be asked to enter your PIN # each time you access the Touch Tone System. Use a PIN # that you will remember; it cannot be your birth date.

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)



**Dane County Area  
Genealogical Society**

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

See you  
Sept. 3!

Harold Wells passed on  
the following notice:

Mike Pierce, the "Original  
St. Louis Rebel," is  
collecting oral histories  
about people buried in  
Jefferson Barracks  
National Cemetery, St.  
Louis, Missouri. Contact  
him at [stlreb@att.net](mailto:stlreb@att.net) or  
[www.stlreb.com](http://www.stlreb.com).

DCAGS officers for 2009:

President: Rollie Littlewood  
[rklittle@wisc.edu](mailto:rklittle@wisc.edu)

Vice President: Don Cole  
846-3819

Secretary: Gerry Schlecht  
[13gerry@att.net](mailto:13gerry@att.net)

Treasurer: Walker Crawford  
[walker@viridis.ws](mailto:walker@viridis.ws)

Past President, Pat Skubis  
[p3l8skubis@hughes.net](mailto:p3l8skubis@hughes.net)

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: William "Bill" Baures  
[bauresb@juno.com](mailto:bauresb@juno.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)

Dr. Raymond C. Thurow  
1920-2009

Ray Thurow, whose history with our organization dates to 1992, died last month at Oakwood Village West where he and his wife Jean had taken residence.

Dr. Thurow was a respected author, inventor, teacher and national leader in his field of orthodontics. A native of Illinois, he practiced in Madison 1947-1995. He served his country in WW II and the Korean conflict.

When he joined the fledgling genealogy group in 1992, Ray jumped in with both feet. He was a member of the initial steering group of PAF Users for two years and was the first program presenter in September 1992.

Continuing his string of "firsts," Ray became the first president, for 1994-95, when the group elected its initial slate. For several more years, at least once a year he continued to share his interest and expertise by presenting programs.

Through the evolution of South Central Wisconsin Personal Ancestral File Users Group to Computer Assisted Genealogists of Southern Wisconsin to Dane County Area Genealogical Society, Ray and Jean continued to support our genealogy endeavors.

Ray Thurow was a respected leader among us. He will be missed.