



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

February 28, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 6

Gathering Today's Family History in Your Family's Own Words at the March 5 Meeting

Troy Reeves, head of the Oral History Program at the University Archives and Record Management Services, will speak at the DCAGS March 5 meeting. Mr. Reeves will offer a brief overview of the UW-Madison Archives and its oral history program before spending the bulk of his presentation talking about the art and science of oral history, specifically as it pertains to gathering and preserving family history.

Mr. Reeves began working as the head of the oral history program at the UW-Archives in June 2007. Mr. Reeves' duties

include managing and coordinating the oral history program, pursuing outreach opportunities both on and off campus, conducting oral history interviews and pursuing professional staff development.

Mr. Reeves graduated from the Idaho State University in 1993 and from Utah State University in 1996 with a Master's degree in history.

Before coming to the UW in Madison, Mr. Reeves served as the oral historian for the Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) and later became a state historian

there. He also co-edited the ISHS newsletter, *The Mountain Light*, for almost five years. He has been a member of the Northwest Oral History Association and the Oral History Association, holding leadership positions in both and has written articles and book reviews for both groups.

We are meeting at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 4505 Regent Street, Madison, WI. Please join us on Thursday, March 5 at 7:00 P.M.

Mark your
Calendars!
DCAGS
Genealogy Fair
Saturday,
October 10
Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-
day Saints
4505 Regent,
Madison, WI

The Master Genealogist

Joe Waddell, DCAGS member, gave a demonstration of The Master Genealogist (TMG) at the February 5 DCAGS meeting.

Joe said that TMG is widely seen as the most capable genealogical program on the market. Like most other genealogical programs, it organizes your data and prepares various kinds of reports. The program will run under Windows and on a Macintosh with Windows compatibility.

Joe said the program has so many options that some people get confused with it. He recommends staying with the default settings, which makes the transition into TMG quite

easy. After familiarization with the program, then explore some of the options. A downloadable file TMG TOUR is a helpful introductory aid.

Joe explained that TMG uses a different concept of data management than MOST other genealogical programs. It does not link a source citation to a person as other programs do. Rather citations are linked to the Event Tags. The rationale is that the citation does not tell us about a person in general. The citation is about a specific event in the person's life.

Joe explained how TMG is organized: think of adding the name of a person on a blank sheet of paper in a notebook. Start each page with an ID

number. When you add items like names, births, marriages and deaths, etc., you are adding Tags to the ID Number. As you enter items you are encouraged to document the item. Each Tag has space for citing the documentation and an evaluation of the credibility of the source. Further, each Tag has a pre-formatted sentence that can be used in narrative reports or book output.

Users have options for what and how the data is presented on the screen – preferences – and other options for printing various reports – print size, type font, spell checker - internal or Microsoft Word's, which events to show on the person page, etc.

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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.

DCAGS Update:

The DCAGS Governing Board meets the third Monday of each month. The next meeting is set for Monday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. South Madison Library, 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!

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The Master Genealogist Continued....

People may be known by or have different names. Each name may be entered as a tag, with the name you select to use as the primary shown with an asterisk. Alternate tags are shown for other names by which the person is known — married names, nicknames or an alternate spelling. Conflicting name spellings may be useful clues for further research. Conflicting dates for events may be listed and the one you select as primary is shown with an asterisk and on reports.

A person may have one primary father and mother. The person may also have secondary parents, as by adoptions. A person may have a primary spouse in each of multiple marriages and primary occupations for each work period. Married women are listed and can be found in the Project Explorer List — list of names — by birth and married names.

Joe said TMG can generate thirty-two kinds of reports. Genealogy reports include Family Group Sheets, Pedigree Charts, Ahnentafel, Ahnentafel Direct Line, Journal, Narrative, Descendant Box, Descendant Indented or Indented Narrative Charts, Ancestor Direct Line or Box Charts, Fan, Hourglass, etc.

Lists of names, places, repositories, sources, tasks, locations, and more can also be generated. The list of places when sorted will show how names of locations may have been entered differently. After changing location names to be consistent re-indexing or optimizing

the file can reduce the size of your file considerably.

Joe thinks one advantage to TMG is that once a source is entered it may be used for many tags. If birth, marriage, and death dates for members of a family and are found in a reliable source it may be cited for each of several tags for each person in the family(s) listed in the source. A repeat key — F3 — saves a lot of typing when entering a family. This saves considerable space on your hard drive or floppy disk.

TMG allows users to pick certain people within a family — focus groups — for a specific search. In addition, pictures, videos and sound bites can be added to the program.

One very useful tool in the program for those who switch to TMG or want to try out the free introductory version is GenBridge. GenBridge does a much more thorough conversion of data created by other programs than you usually get by importing data to TMG via GEDCOM. Some of the programs supported by GenBridge are: Family Gathering, Family Origins, Family Tree Maker, Generations, Legacy, Personal Ancestral File (Vers. 3 to 5.2), Roots (IV & V), Ultimate Family Tree, Visual Roots and GEDCOM versions 4 & 5.

Because GEDCOM format was designed to exchange only basic data, use of GEDCOM to export

and import may cause the loss of information. Whether there will be data loss, and the extent of it, depends on the program in which the data was previously recorded, whether that program offered advanced features, and the extent to which the person who recorded the data used those features.

TMG is available from Wholly Genes Software in two versions, Gold or Silver. The Gold Edition is the-top-of-the-line product. The Silver Edition has all of the data-entry functions but without some of the more advanced research and publication tools. Each may be downloaded from www.whollygenes.com. Gold sells for \$59.00 and Silver for \$34.00. If ordered by U.S. mail the price is \$69.95 or \$39.95 respectfully. Their mailing address is: Wholly Genes Software, 9110 Red Branch Rd Suite O, Columbia, MD 21045.

If interested in the program, one can download 30-day free trial program from the website. If you find that you like and want to keep TMG before the 30 days expire, you notify Wholly Genes that you want to keep it and pay for it later. Wholly Genes then will send you a permanent serial number, rather than a whole new program.

TMG is certainly a great program for keeping track of your genealogy records and we thank Joe for telling us how the program works.

President's Message

Gene-A-Rama is Coming to Dane County — We've Been Asked to Help

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society's annual Gene-A-Rama conference is coming to Dane County in early April. WSGS has asked us to be the local hosts for this two-day conference; the DCAGS Governing Board has agreed that the society will take on this task. Some of the details include: the date is 3-4

April; the location is the Madison Marriott West in Middleton, just west of the Beltline; the featured speaker is Christine Rose, a very experienced and well-respected researcher/author/ lecturer from San Jose, California. Her talks will be augmented with talks by five regional speakers -- James Hansen, David McDonald, Nancy Emmert, George Findlen, and Virginia Nichols. More details and a registration form appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

What's in it for us? There is no payment or registration fee rebate to the individuals who pitch in. But we get to showcase our society to lots of genealogists from Wisconsin and neighboring states. DCAGS gets to direct a donation by WSGS to a local repository of our choosing. And each of us gets to take pride in helping put on a really good conference right in our neck of the woods.

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Upcoming events

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

2009 Gene-A-Rama Conference

When: 3-4 April 2009

Where: Middleton, WI

Featured speaker: Christine Rose, CGSM, CGLSM, FASG.

Other speakers will include James L. Hansen, FASG; David McDonald, CGSM, Nancy Emmert, CGSM; and George Findlen, CGSM.

Registration Information: WSGS website, www.wsgs.org (Form attached to this newsletter)

German Interest Group Annual Workshop

When: July 11, 2009

Where: Hamilton Center, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Featured speaker: Warren Bittner, Collection Manager for the Germanic, French and Oriental collections at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Cost: \$30 GIG member, \$35 non-GIG member by 6/27/2009 and \$35 for GIG member and \$40 for non-GIG member after that date.

Registration: For information go to: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wigig/>

Spring Genealogy Classes at MATC/ACE

Below is a list of genealogy classes offered at MATC/ACE. To enroll, call MATC ACE at 246-6440 or 1-800-628-6282, Ext. 6220. The cost is \$42.82 unless you are over age 62 and the cost is \$4. All classes are taught by Pat Skubis.

Sign up early; an enrollment of 10 people per class is required for the class to run. If that number is not reached a week before the class starts the class will be canceled. If you know anyone who might be interested, spread the word.

Internet: Genealogy Intro
<http://programs.matcmadison.edu/programs/enrichment/internet-genealogy-intro>

Class# 59806 begins Thursday 3/12 to 4/9 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM at the South Madison Community Campus.

Class# 59803 begins Thursday 4/9 to 5/7 from 1:00 PM-4:00 PM at the Oregon Area Senior Center.

Internet: Genealogy Intermediate
<http://programs.matcmadison.edu/programs/enrichment/internet-genealogy-intrm>

Class# 59812 begins Wednesday 4/8 to 5/6 from 1:00 PM-4:00 PM at the West Madison Education Center.

Class# 59813 begins Tuesday 4/14 to 5/12 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM at the Madison Senior Center.

Internet: Genealogy Advanced
<http://programs.matcmadison.edu/programs/enrichment/internet-genealogy-advanced>

Class# 59808 begins Tuesday 4/14 to 5/13 from 1:30 PM-4:30 PM at the Waunakee Senior Center

Class# 59816 begins Wednesday 4/15 to 5/13 from 6:00 PM-9:00 PM at the Fitchburg Senior Center

WHS Library-Archives Classes and Workshops

Common to all classes: Contact Info: Lori Bessler, 608-264-6519, Lori.Bessler@wisconsinhistory.org

Classes meet from 9:00AM until noon.

Find All Your Ancestors on All the Censuses – March 7, 2009

Instructor: James L. Hansen, Reference Librarian

Cost: \$25 WHS member, \$30 non-WHS member

<http://wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes/events.asp?id=1698>

From Daguerreotype to Digital File: Organizing and Caring for Family and Personal Photographs – March 14, 2009

Instructor: David Benjamin, Visual Materials Archivist

Limited enrollment: Only 2 spaces remain

Cost: \$35 WHS member, \$40 non-WHS member

<http://wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes/events.asp?id=1699>

Abstracting Deeds: a Workshop – April 11, 2009

Instructor: George Findlen, CG

LIMITED TO 40 REGISTRANTS.

Cost: \$25 WHS member, \$30 non-WHS member

<http://wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes/events.asp?id=1700>

Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org and Footnote.com – May 2, 2009

Instructor: Lori Bessler, Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator

Cost: \$25 WHS member, \$30 non-WHS member

<http://wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes/events.asp?id=1701>

Essentially Free Computer Recycling? There's a Catch!

It's common knowledge that computers contain toxic materials which should be properly recycled, rather than ending up in a landfill. So how do we dispose of computers which are no longer useful? For those who live in Madison, one alternative is the Madison recycling program. Some details include: 1) cost is \$10 per CPU, monitor, or laptop, 2) payment is made by buying a sticker at any public library (or a few other places), 3) equipment must be delivered to one of two city full-service drop-off locations (4602 Sycamore Ave. or 1501 Badger Rd.; Dec.-Mar. hours are 7am-3pm M-F). More details can be seen at www.cityofmadison.com/streets/computerRoundup.cfm.

Another intriguing possibility came on the scene in mid-February; this one is available to anyone, regardless of where they live. Best Buy stores will accept computers and TVs up to 32" for recycling. There is a charge of \$10, but you get a \$10 Best Buy gift card in return – making the transaction essentially free for most people. But there is a catch which did not appear in the original announcement of this program! All hard drives must be removed before the store will accept a computer for recycling. Not only removed, but disposed of somewhere else. More details, including hard drive removal instructions, can be seen at www.bestbuy.com/.

So what do you do with the hard drive(s)? For Madison residents, you can take them to one of the drop-off locations mentioned earlier. The city recycling coordinator says there is no fee for this. But there is another consideration. Be sure to wipe all licensed programs and personal data from the drive before giving it to anyone else; preferably you should wipe EVERYTHING from the drive. Simply reformatting the drive may seem good enough, but there are more rigorous procedures available to make sure that credit card numbers, etc., don't fall into the wrong hands. This article cannot recommend particular programs for "wiping" hard drives, but quite a few such programs exist. Another alternative practiced by many is to physically destroy the hard drive, or at least the internal platters. Typical tools used are drills or sledge hammers. Eye protection is essential if you use this approach!

Rollie Littlewood

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 5

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 2009:

President: Rollie Littlewood
rkittle@wisc.edu

Vice President: Don Cole

Secretary: Gerry Schlecht
13gerry@att.net

Treasurer: Walker Crawford
walker@viridis.ws

Past President, Pat Skubis
p318skubis@hughes.net

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: William "Bill" Baures
bauresb@juno.com

Programs & Education: Vacant

Public Relations: Vacant

Historian: Sandy Zart
sandy_zart@yahoo.com

Web Master: Rollie Littlewood
rkittle@wisc.edu

Newsletter: Ruth Simpson
rsimpson@terracon.net

President's Message continued...

What specific kinds of help are we being asked to provide? A tentative list includes: a few people to help with the registration desk each morning (maybe 3-4) and 2-3 people to watch the lecture room doors each day to make sure that people going in have name tags on. There may be a need to guide people to the right area as they come to the conference.

We also may be asked to stuff bags or folders the night before the conference (perhaps right after our meeting) so they're ready to hand out at registration on Friday morning.

There will be an information sheet and a signup sheet at the March meeting. For those who can't attend this meeting, or who decide later that they'd like to help, there will be information on our website (or just call me at 608-273-0211).

And by the way, we (that's all of you) still need someone to step forward and take charge of arranging programs for the coming year!

Rollie Littlewood

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society 2009 Gene-A-Rama
Celebrating our 70th Anniversary

Fine-Tuning Your Genealogical Research Skills

Friday & Saturday, 3-4 April 2009
Madison Marriott West
1313 John Q Hammons Drive, Middleton, WI

Christine Rose, FASG, CGSM, CGLSM
James L. Hansen, FASG George Findlen, CGSM David McDonald, CGSM
Nancy Emmert, CGSM Virginia Nichols

Friday Lectures

Federal Land Records to Locate Ancestors - Rose
Back to Basics and More – Emmert
Using Standard Histories to Find Elusive Relatives- Findlen
Using Little Known and Neglected Resources - Rose
Wisconsin Settlement and Resources – McDonald
Pioneer/Century Certificate Workshop – Nichols
Banquet – Illustrating Your Family's History - Rose

Saturday Lectures

Frontier Genealogy – Special Sources & Techniques for
Tracing Your Pioneer Ancestors - Hansen
Addicted to Courthouses – Rose
Tribunes and Gazettes – Getting the Most from Newspaper
Research - Hansen
Genealogical Proof Standard: Building a Solid Case – Rose

Location: Madison Marriott West, Middleton, WI.
From Chicago, Minneapolis, Milwaukee: I90/94 to Highway
12/18 (Bellline Highway), west on 12/18 (Exit 142A), 15 miles
to Greenway Boulevard (Exit 252). Turn left on Greenway.
Turn left on John Q. Hammons Drive.

Meals: All meals are pre-paid ticketed events and cannot
be purchased on site.

All Meals include coffee, iced tea or tea.

Friday Lunch: Turkey/Swiss Croissant Sandwich served
with chips, fruit, and cookie for \$20

Banquet: Herb grilled chicken served with a starch, vegetable,
salad and dessert for \$30. A cash bar will be available.

Saturday Lunch: Lasagna, salad, bread sticks and desert
for \$21

Vegetarian Meals: Option available for all meals at same price.

Hotel Accommodations: Call hotel at **608-831-2000** to
make reservations by **Monday, March 2nd**. Identify yourself as
with the **Wisconsin State Genealogical Society**. Room rates
are \$119.00 plus taxes for a single or multiple occupancy room,
\$149 plus taxes for a plaza suite. All reservations must be
guaranteed by a first night room deposit or with a major credit
card. Check-in time is 4 PM. Check-out time is 12 Noon.

Registration: Registration fees are lower if postmarked by
18 March. Registrations received after that date or paid on-site
will be \$10 higher. WSGS members may register at reduced
rates if their dues are current on the date of the event. Please
note that membership in an Affiliate Society does not qualify as
WSGS membership. Send the completed form with your check
made out to **WSGS to WSGS Gene-a-Rama, PO Box
5106, Madison, WI 53705-0106**

2009 Gene-A-Rama Registration Form

Please submit one form for EACH registrant
(Photocopies acceptable)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email for confirmation _____

Dietary or ADA requirements _____

WSGS Membership

Individual \$20
Family \$22

POSTMARKED	By March 18	After March 18	
Full 2-day Registration			
Regular Rate	\$75.00	\$85.00	\$ _____
WSGS Rate	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$ _____
Friday Only			
Regular Rate	\$60.00	\$70.00	\$ _____
WSGS Rate	\$35.00	\$45.00	\$ _____
Saturday Only			
Regular Rate	\$60.00	\$70.00	\$ _____
WSGS Rate	\$35.00	\$45.00	\$ _____
Friday Lunch – Croissant Sandwich			
Turkey/ Swiss	\$20.00	N/A	\$ _____
Vegetarian	\$20.00	N/A	\$ _____
Friday Banquet			
Chicken	\$30.00	N/A	\$ _____
Vegetarian	\$30.00	N/A	\$ _____
Saturday Lunch – Lasagna			
Meat	\$21.00	N/A	\$ _____
Vegetarian	\$21.00	N/A	\$ _____
WSGS Membership			
			\$ _____
TOTAL			\$ _____