



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

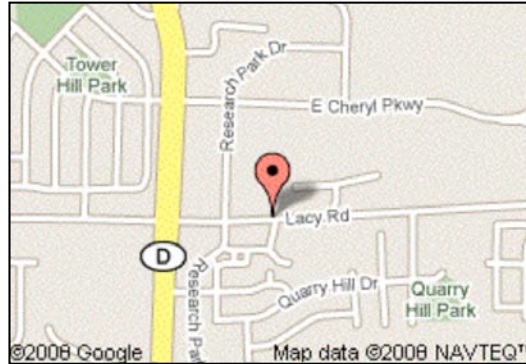
July 9 DCAGS Picnic at Fitchburg Senior Center

It's time again for the indoor picnic at the Fitchburg Senior Center, to be held on Thursday, July 9th starting at 6 p.m. Tom Glassel will be fixing the meat and DCAGS will provide baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw and lemonade. The Senior Center is in the lower level of the Fitchburg Community Center. It is best to park in the lot behind the Community Center since it makes it much easier to get to the Senior Center.

Members are invited to bring a dessert dish to share. Help is needed with arranging tables and chairs in the dining room, starting at about 5:15 (and again after the meeting with restoring the original arrangement). Please contact Walker Crawford at <walker@viridis.ws> or (608)206-3182 if you can help with this.

The picnic will be followed by our evening program, starting at 7 p.m. Catherine Arnott Smith will be speaking on "Family Health Information and the Genealogist." This program will focus on new online tools that make it easier for genealogists – and everybody else – to manage information about their family health histories.

Catherine will talk about the risks and benefits of computer tools like *Geneweaver*. She will discuss medical terminology, its history, and its implications for research by genealogists and family historians. Additionally she will present health information resources to help genealogists put what they find in historical context. Catherine is also interested in how members learned the medical history of ancestors who lived before the advent of modern medicine, in terms they could understand.



Catherine Arnott Smith, PhD, is an assistant professor in the UW-Madison School of Library and Information Studies, where she teaches courses in health information systems and online searching. Her research interests include consumer health vocabulary, medical records (paper and electronic), and personal health records. But years ago she was a local historian for a small town in Western Michigan and learned a lot about family history research from friendly genealogists.

Directions to the Fitchburg Senior Center and Road Construction

As Rollie mentioned at the last DCAGS meeting, Fish Hatchery Road is under construction, but the construction begins *after* Lacy Road. The FCC is located at 5510 Lacy Rd., just east of Fish Hatchery Road; it is 2.7 miles from exit 260 of "the beltline" to Lacy Rd. If coming from the north, do NOT take the indicated detour, but proceed straight down Fish Hatchery Rd. until you come to Lacy Rd.

From Oregon & Stoughton, take old MM out of Oregon heading towards Madison. Turn to the left on Lacy Rd to the Senior Center. Fish Hatchery Rd. is closed SOUTH of Lacy Rd., so if one is coming from the south you must come via Lacy Rd. Lacy Rd. basically runs east/west between County Hwy. MM on the east to Fitchrona Rd. on the west. From Verona you can come across on PD to Fish Hatchery and then take Fish Hatchery Rd and turn left onto Lacy Rd.

See you at the Picnic on July 9th!

June 30, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 10

Mark your
Calendars!

DCAGS
Genealogy Fair

Saturday,
October 10

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, July 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the University of Wisconsin Foundation, 1848 University Ave. (new place) We invite all members to attend. Please join us!

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Emigration Patterns from Germany to Southeastern Wisconsin

Emigration Patterns from Germany to Southeastern Wisconsin was the topic for the DCAGS meeting on June 4. John Von Haden, a native of Hartford, Wisconsin, spoke about his interest in genealogy. Inspired by his grandmother, he started doing genealogy in 1976 at the age of 14.

John immediately began researching all the families in Slinger and St. Lawrence, Wisconsin. He focused on his own family and many other Washington County families.

John attended UW-Madison and worked at the WI Historical Society microforms room (1980-1983) and began researching townships in Washington County – Germantown, Jackson, Richfield, Hartford, Addison.

He worked in Minnesota for 10 years and moved back to Wisconsin in 1994 and began researching all of Washington County and surrounding areas. John has transcribed all the public cemeteries in Washington County as well as some cemeteries within 6 miles of the Washington County border. He has also transcribed all the Catholic church records in Washington County and Lutheran churches and additional Catholic churches in the seven county area.

From 1996 to 2002, John published books of Catholic Church records/cemeteries. He found that an expensive proposition, so switched to sorting all information into family group sheets.

John does professional genealogy, but he is not a certified genealogist. His goal is to help people find and translate if necessary, original source records not found on the Internet.

One of his goals was to identify every person in the 1860 Washington County census and find out where every person was born and where they ultimately ended up if they moved away.

John's presentation used Washington County as an example to show some emigration patterns from Germany to Wisconsin in the 1840s and early 1850s. Families, related or not, often came together and sometimes even went to the land

office on the same day so that they could be neighbors here. From a research perspective, John thought you can sometimes use these patterns to help you find the elusive birthplace city of your Wisconsin ancestor.

Because of John's background in computers, he has written software to draw plat maps to show the order that farms were purchased from the government, color coding them based on the birthplace of owners.

He showed us examples of the maps he created. The immigrant groupings John has found in or near Washington County included – Catholic families from the Euskirchen, Rhineland area settled near Hubertus, WI; Evangelical families from the Oppenheim, Hessen-Darmstadt area settled in Richfield/Polk, WI; Catholic families from the Strohn and Rhineland area in St. Michaels, WI; Catholic families from Kreis Cleve, near the Netherlands, settled in Barton, WI.

John has been able to glean the following impressions and tips from his research:

Land Records: In Wisconsin, land purchases from the government frequently occurred about three weeks after the family arrived in New York. So, if you have the land patent date, you might be able to predict the ship arrival date within a week or so. When this wasn't the case, the family may have stayed in Milwaukee for a while and some of the siblings may have remained there permanently. Farmers who traveled on the same ship sometimes went to land patent offices on the same day or within a few days of each other and bought farms adjacent to each other.

Marriages: The older children in immigrant families, particularly if born in Germany, tended to marry someone from their home village or a nearby village. The younger

children were less likely to do so. In the 1840s and 1850s the two male witnesses were often the father, brother, brother-in-law or uncle of the groom. In later years, it became popular to have four or more witnesses at weddings, which were often first cousins of the bride or groom.

Baptisms: John recommends to research the sponsors, even if they aren't related, they may have come from the same vicinity in Germany. In early baptisms, sometimes the women are listed under their maiden names. Some Lutheran baptisms list the birthplaces in Germany for the parents.

Plat Maps and Census Records: John recommends that you use them together. You can often follow the census taker's route on a map. The 1860 census was the first census to list the region in Germany where the people were born, e.g., Baden, Bavaria, Hessen.

John said that often cousins of immigrants can also be found throughout Wisconsin. What happened is once all the land was purchased in an area, the families who came later had to branch out, but there are similar patterns of settlement further north and west in Wisconsin. Years later, one can see marriages occurring between the children of the two groups, even though they may live hundreds of miles apart.

In addition, John said that if the children of immigrants moved away, they may have moved together to a new area. For instance, 13 different surnames from Addison, Washington County all went to Rose Creek, MN.

John now indexes newspaper microfilms. To date, John has created a newspaper index of 560,000 entries, with maiden names cross-referenced. To view his web page, go to www.wisconsinancestors.com.

There was a lively question and answer period. We thank John for his interesting presentation.

Upcoming events

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/>

Passages Through Time Federation of Genealogical Societies

When: September 2-5, 2009

Where: Little Rock Convention
Center, Little Rock, AR

Happy 4th of July!



President's Message

We need program ideas

As I hope each of you realize, we do not currently have an active program and education committee. Until someone steps forward to chair this important committee, I am serving as the ad hoc clearinghouse for program suggestions. Fortunately we have recently had several offers to present programs and suggestions for outside speakers. Please keep these offers and

Cost: \$175 pre-July 2, \$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 presents

Family History Fair

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

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

Guest Speakers: Craig Pfannkuche
and Clark Kidder

Admission is Free.

suggestions coming! Better yet, offer your services to coordinate the program and education committee! I can be reached at <rklittle@wisc.edu> or (608) 273-0211, as well as at any membership meeting.

See you at the picnic on 9
July!

Rollie Littlewood

Author Lynda Barry

Prods Imaginations

So now Minnesota has a comedian turned politician, but they have nothing on Wisconsin for we have Lynda Barry, an off-the-wall cartoonist and writer. I'd nominate her for anything.

For proof you should have been at the State Historical Society Tuesday night (June 30) when Lynda addressed a full-house crowd. We were there to hear her tips – and there were plenty – on how to awaken our inner creative juices to write our stories. Her hour-long lecture was punctuated by constant laughter from the audience.

"Almost every noun can lead to a story," said Lynda. To illustrate, she told of asking a writing class to tell what the word 'car' evoked. One student wrote of her first car - bright blue with red wheels. "Huh," said Lynda. It turns out it was a pedal powered car; what child wouldn't love such a toy? But, the story went on, this child was urged by her parents to give it to an unfortunate neighbor family with several children and fewer toys.

And so it came about. But wait, there's more. The next day, the student wrote, the neighbor father backed over the toy car. Now *that's* a story.

Ms. Barry, whose zany outlook appears to be related to her close observations of children, urged us to write to have an experience - and not to wait to have an experience to write.

An odor or music can evoke a memory to be turned into a story, or a good story or joke, she continued, awakens our imagination so that we are enthralled, eager to hear or write it all.

Lynda left her audience wanting more. Judging from the long line of folks waiting to purchase her book *What It Is*, they'll get more.

- S. S. Levine

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
July 9!

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
rklittle@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
rklittle@wisc.edu

Newsletter: Ruth Simpson
rsimpson@terracon.net

***State Budget Increases Costs for
Genealogists***

Governor Doyle signed the Wisconsin state budget on June 29. It includes some provisions that directly impact genealogical research. The budget repealed the fee decreases for vital records. The fee for a copy of a birth certificate, death certificate, marriage certificate, or divorce or annulment certificate is \$20, the fee for expedited issuance of a copy of one of these certificates is \$20, and the fee for an additional copy of the same birth certificate at the same time is \$3. There is a \$7 fee for verifying the information on a certificate, without receiving a copy. The budget bill went into effect on July 1, 2009.

To see the full budget bill, with vetoes, go to <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>. It is located on the right side, "2009 Budget Bill as vetoed (Act 28)." The fees increases are located on page 298, section 1503.