



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

Wisconsin in the Civil War at May 5 Meeting

This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. Michael Edmonds, head of Digital Collections & Web Services at the Wisconsin Historical Society, will be at the May 5 meeting showing us the Society's brand-new digital collection, Wisconsin in the Civil War.

This new collection contains 16,000 pages of diaries, letters, memoirs, photos, and other original sources. Each page is indexed manually, and a name index of more than 35,000 people leads to documents where they are described or mentioned.

Michael has been with the

Society since 1982 and has spoken to us several times about the free online collections that his staff creates.

Please join us on Thursday, May 5 at 7 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4505 Regent St.

April 30, 2011

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Thank you and Help Wanted

Bob and Dottie Luening have volunteered to mail out the DCAGS newsletter every other month since 2007. They would like to cut back on their commitments, which is very understandable. We thank them for their time and efforts.

We are looking for a new person to help do the mailing, preferable someone on the west side near Office Depot. Please let [Rollie](#) or [Jim Benes](#) know if you are interested.

Lineage Societies

Bob Stone and Ruth Simpson gave a presentation at the April Meeting on Lineage Societies. A lineage society is an organization whose members have proven descent from a specific ancestor.

Ruth provided a few examples that can be found on Cyndi's List, www.cyndislist.com/soc-lineage.htm. The most common examples are descents from the Mayflower or the first settlers in a regional area (Jamestown) or of a specific ethnic or religious background.

Qualifications for membership in a lineage society may be determined by a variety of credentials. Bob provided information on membership in the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and Ruth, the membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Both provided extensive outlines that members received, which are available on the [DCAGS](#) website. (I will try not to repeat

things from the outline.)

Bob began by discussing the beginnings of the SAR. It was started around of the time of the U.S. Centennial in 1876. SAR was incorporated in 1889, the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington, our nation's first president. The U.S. Congress later chartered it in 1906. The current membership is 28,000. Over its life, it has had 178,000 members.

Ruth said the DAR was started soon after the SAR. It was founded in 1890 and chartered by Congress in 1896. It, however, is much larger than the SAR. It has 168,000 members in over 3,000 chapters in all 50 states as well as several international chapters. More than 850,000 women have joined the DAR since it was founded.

Both have similar forms of governance, with national and regional officers. The SAR has a library and museum in

Louisville, Kentucky. The DAR headquarters is located in Washington D.C., only two blocks from the White House. It takes up a full block and ranks as one of the largest buildings of its kind maintained exclusively by women. It has a library, museum (with two galleries) as well as a huge concert hall.

Both the SAR and DAR have similar goals: historical, patriotic and educational.

For the SAR, it was conceived as a fraternal and civic organization and it commemorates and provides memorials as well as preserving records. As a patriotic group it help carry out the promises of the preamble of the Constitution – providing recognition for public service, honor and respect for veterans and have a State SAR color guard. It meets its educational commemoratives and memorials goals by sponsoring essay contests

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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 Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is set for Tuesday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the new South Madison Library on 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!

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Lineage Societies Continued....

and the SAR Magazine.

The DAR has commissioned and contributed to numerous memorials like the Women in Military Service Memorial in Arlington, VA and Madonna of the Trail monuments at 12 sites across the country. For patriotism, it sponsors Project Patriot that supports America's service personnel in current conflicts abroad. It also sponsors Constitution Week, September 17-23 (same dates every year) to help educate and inform the public of this important document. It also provides several patriotic awards. For education, the DAR sponsors six schools for underserved children as well as sponsoring scholarships and awards.

Bob said membership in the SAR is available to any male 18 years of age or older who can trace their lineage to an ancestor who supported the cause of American independence during the years of 1774 to 1783.

It is similar for the DAR. Ruth said membership is open to any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution.

Bob said there are always questions of what constitutes "support." Sometimes it was simply providing supplies for the soldiers or signing an Oath of Allegiance. Ruth's outline provides a list of acceptable service that would apply to both the SAR and DAR generally.

While the membership requirement is pretty straightforward both organizations now require an extensive application process with "proof" of your lineage. This is known as "documenting your line."

Bob provided a SAR application form for DCAGS members. Ruth provided copies of "Step by Step Instructions for Completing DAR Application Papers" and a "Genealogy Worksheet." Both are available on the SAR and DAR websites, www.sar.org or www.dar.org.

The application process requires one to "document" the lineage. The best proofs are birth, marriage, and death certificates. Those are often not available for earlier generations,

so one can use U.S. census records, family Bibles, cemetery records, tombstone inscriptions, obituaries, probate records, wills, records, local histories, and well-documented genealogies.

In every instance the relationships between generations MUST be proven.

For the SAR, Bob said all applications must be submitted to the State Genealogist for approval. Bob now serves as the State Genealogist. He said that current Genealogical Standards of Proof are the criteria used by the SAR reviewers to judge the adequacy of proof of lineage.

For the DAR, membership is through local chapters and each chapter has a Registrar. They are available to assist potential members and will help to complete the application. Once it is done it is sent to the National Registrar for approval. The data submitted is subject to DAR standards and interpretation.

Ruth brought a copy of her DAR membership form with her proofs. Her great-grandmother was a member of the DAR, but at the time she joined, 1918, the proof requirements were minimal.

Bob's outline contains sources of information for finding the documentation you may be searching for. Please check them out.

Ruth attempted to show a very important feature on the DAR website, but it was down the night of the presentation. Below is a short explanation, but please check it out on the DAR website.

The DAR has developed a Genealogical Research System. Click on "Genealogy Research" under the Features heading on the home page to find several databases created in recent years to organize the large quantity of information that the DAR has collected since its inception.

Access to the various databases is through the "tabs" along the top of the search screen. The main two to focus on is the Descendants database or the Ancestors database.

The Descendants database is an index of the names found on the lineage page of DAR applications and supplementals. The database is currently under construction and names are being added daily.

The purpose of this database is to help those looking for a DAR Patriot line to identify the best possible [Record Copy](#) to order. Once a link has been found using the information in this database, use the [Record Copy Order Form \(PDF Format\)](#) to receive a copy of the full application.

The Ancestor Database provides the names of known "patriots" taken from verified membership applications and supplemental applications. One can look up the name of a patriot to see if he is listed and look for the record copy.

You do not have to be a member of the DAR to have access to these databases. Some information for current generations is not available, but Sherry Lloyd, Regent for the Gov. Nelson Dewey DAR chapter, said that as an officer she has access to all the information in an application and can provide assistance for potential members.

Bob said that SAR members often use information from DAR members to fill out applications and this information can be very helpful for potential SAR members.

He also said the SAR has five chapters in Wisconsin. Ruth provided a list of DAR chapters in Wisconsin, which number 37.

As one can see, the SAR and DAR help promote history, patriotism and education about our great country – how it was formed, who formed it and the people who continue to serve it. There is a lot of pride in knowing your ancestors had a small part to play in how our country was formed. Both groups provide valuable resources for genealogists. Please check them out and consider joining if you have the "proof."

Upcoming events

Oregon Community Education Genealogy Classes

Session 3: Starts on Tuesday, May 24

Week 1: Using Google and other search engines.

Week 2: Resources found at the Library of Congress.

Week 3: Black Sheep in the family.

Week 4: Think outside the box.

Week 5: Social Networking and Family Trees.

For more information contact: Scott Lein, CE Assistant Director, Community Education, 123 E. Grove Street, Oregon, WI 53575, 835-4097, email:

srl@oregonsd.net or go to their website: www.oregonsd.org/files/101/ws%202011%20booklet%20web%20final.pdf. The classes are described on page 5 and a registration form is on page 26.

Classes at Wisconsin Historical Society

June 18: FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com (Cost is \$35/\$40)

Instructor: Lori Bessler, Wisconsin Historical Society Reference Librarian

To register for the classes or for additional information, go to <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/librarians/archives/classes/>

NGS 2011 Family History Conference

Theme: Where the Past is Still Present

Where: The NGS 2011 Family History Conference will be held at the [North Charleston Convention Center](#) in Charleston, South Carolina.

When: May 11–14, 2011.

Registration: Online registration for the NGS 2011 Family History Conference is now open. Register today!

<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/RegistrationForm.pdf>

Conference Blog for details: <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

The German Interest Group - Wisconsin Tracing Your German Family

When: 9 July 2011

Where: Hamilton Center (attached to the James R. Connor University Center) on the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater campus.

Featured speaker: Lois Hemmeter Edwards, author of *Beginner's Guide to*

Germanic Genealogy and former editor of *Germanic Genealogy Journal*.

Registration:

www.rootsweb.com/~wigig/index.html.

For more information or questions call (608) 752-0358. You can send a SASE to German Interest Group - Wisconsin, PO BOX 2185, Janesville WI 53547 to request a registration brochure. Early (discounted) registration deadline is 30 June.

Federation of Genealogical Societies 2011 Conference, Pathways to the Heartland

When: September 7-10, 2011

Where: Springfield, Illinois

Registration:

<http://www.fgs.org/2011conference/>

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

Its 2011 fall seminar is scheduled for 15 October 2011 at the Country Springs Hotel, Water Park & Conference Center, 2810 Golf Rd., Pewaukee, Wisconsin (near Waukesha). The featured speaker will be James L. Hansen, FASG, genealogical reference librarian at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

President's Message

Take a Lesson from FamilySearch

A recent article in Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter (<www.eogn.com/>) caught my attention. Its title is "FamilySearch News: 140 Free Online Genealogy Research Courses." It started out 'Growing Course Catalog Makes It Easier to Expand Family History Skills -- Ever found yourself researching your family tree and discovering a new branch that extended to another country — and you are not familiar with that country's records or language? Or perhaps you are a fan of the popular reality show *Who Do You Think You Are?* and wonder, "How do the producers know what public records to search to find all of those cool stories about that celebrity's ancestors?" Maybe you'd like to learn more about how to do your family history research but don't think you can afford to take a class.

Thousands of individuals are now satisfying many of those needs through FamilySearch's growing collection of free online genealogy courses.' The full article can be viewed at <http://goo.gl/4k7YE>.

It goes on to explain a bit more about how the courses work and what kinds of topics they cover. The full list of currently offered courses can be viewed at www.familysearch.org/learn/researchcourses. An example of a course offering is "Homestead Records."

The courses are not for everyone. I admit I am not usually a fan of instructional videos — I'm an old-timer who "thinks paper," but the methodology seems appropriate here. They are quite short; they typically last from a half hour to an hour. They obviously require that you have the use of a computer. A computer in a public space, such as a public library, would be

problematic because the instruction uses audio as well as video, so they would work best if you can be in a room by yourself.

Why not give one of these courses a try, getting an introduction to a topic you've never learned much about before? You might like it, and the price is right (FREE).

Rollie Littlewood

P.S.: I sent most of you an e-mail note recently about a short period of free access to Civil War-related records on <ancestry.com>. I mentioned that Ancestry (Library Edition) and Footnote are always available at no cost to you in the Reading Room of the Wisconsin Historical Society Library. I should have also mentioned that Ancestry (Library Edition) is available in any of the 52 public libraries in the South Central Library System and that both Ancestry (Library Edition) and Footnote are available in the Family History Center located in the church where DCAGS usually meets.

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

Or www.facebook.com/dcags



**Dane County Area
Genealogical Society**

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

**See you at the
May 5
Meeting!**

DCAGS Governing Board for 2011:

President: Rollie Littlewood
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Vice President: Don Cole
846-3819

Secretary: DeAnn McAllan
d.mcallan@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Walker Crawford
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Past President, Pat Skubis
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Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Pat Konrad
Patkonrad1@yahoo.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

Special Tour

Forest Hill Cemetery Tour, sponsored by
Historic Madison, Inc.

When: Sunday, May 15, 2011 at 1:00 pm - meet
at the Catlin Chapel (near the entrance at 1
Speedway Road). Admission is free.

In honor of Madison's 175th anniversary and
the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, this year's
cemetery tour will focus on Madison's earliest
pioneers and the first citizens to answer President
Lincoln's call to war. (Note from Rollie: this is
distinct from the one put on every October in
conjunction with the Wisconsin Veterans
Museum.)

***Tighter Limits on Onsite Searches at the
Wisconsin Vital Records Office***

When the Wisconsin Vital Records Office
reopened for onsite searches in March, it
instituted a much more stringent limit on the
amount of searching a researcher can do there.
The limit was reduced from two search
appointments per month to two appointments per
calendar quarter.