



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

November 30, 2011

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Using Federal Records to Identify Immigrant Ancestors at December 1 Meeting

"Using Federal Records to Identify Immigrant Ancestors" is the topic of the DCAGS December 1 meeting. David McDonald, CGSM, is the speaker. He will take members through a look at federal records for clues on connecting individuals to homelands overseas.

David is the president of the Board for Certification of Genealogists and a trustee of the National Genealogical

Society. His most recent lectures were at the FGS conference in Springfield, Illinois. He is senior pastor at Windsor United Church of Christ near De Forest.

The meeting will also include the election results for Vice President and Treasurer. Members will receive a ballot with this newsletter with the names of Jim Benes for Vice President and Joyce Peterson

for Treasurer. Both were nominated at the November meeting. Ballots need to be received by December 1 to be counted. Members can turn ballots in at the registration desk before the meeting.

Please join us on Thursday, December 1 at 7 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4505 Regent St.

Renewal Time

If you have not paid your dues for 2012, please send them in or bring them to the December 1 meeting and give them to Walker Crawford.

Finding a Page in History

DCAGS member Judi Page gave an interesting presentation on the search for her French-Canadian ancestors at the November 3 meeting.

Judi said she began her research as many people do, reviewing a short biographical sketch in a local history. Her great-great-grandfather David Page, Sr. was listed in the Pittsfield and Suamico history that was published in 1928. David was said to hail from Coto-du-Lac (actually spelled Coteau-du-Lac) and came to the area in 1853. His children were listed as Samuel, George, Levi, John, David Jr., Eliza and Martha. It said he lived to be 94 years old and he was a "hardy little man of good habits."

Judi was traveling to that

part of Canada, so she decided to see if she could find anything at the local Catholic Church. Amazingly she found a marriage record for David Sr. and his wife Marguerite Proulx from Sept. 24, 1821. It listed David's parents as Amable Page and Marie Toulouse. Marguerite's parents were listed as Augustin Proulx and Veronique Watier dit Lanoix. From this research Judi was able to deduce that the families had been residing in Canada since at least the 1700s.

Judi said she got a bit sidetracked by the Proulx ancestry. She learned that Marguerite's great-grandmother was Sarah Allen. Sarah was born in Massachusetts and abducted in an Indian Raid at age 11

from Deerfield, Mass. The Indians abducted others and led them on a two-month march to Canada. Sarah was sold to a French-Canadian family. She stayed in Canada, married Guillaume Lalonde and had 11 children. Judi said there are books on the raid.

She learned that the Allen family arrived in New England in 1630. It happens that Sarah's great-grandfather was a ship captain – Capt. George Lamberton from New Haven, Connecticut. He was commissioned to take a ship back to England to trade goods. His ship was lost at sea. It became the subject of a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow – the Phantom Ship.

Continued on page 2

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 Board is not meeting in December. The next meeting is set for Tuesday, January 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!

Individual Highlights:

President's Message – 2

Upcoming Events – 3

Recipes – 3

A Page in History continued...

Judi said she was having problems finding more information on the Page family line. She did three things: First, she took a French-Canadian Ancestry Class with George Findlen. Second, she took a French for Reading Knowledge class at the UW to help her with basic understanding of the French language. Third, she sought assistance from Jim Hansen at the WHS Library.

Jim was able to help by focusing in on the name of the brother-in-law of David – Dominique Laperle. It turns out that he had married a Catherine LePage. This meant that Judi should be searching for the family name LePage, not Page.

She found that the WHS Library had two family histories on the LePage family: *Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles LePage* by Louis LePage and *Genealogy des LePage Pagesy* by Yvon LePage.

To her surprise she found her ancestry in Yvon LePage's book. The book includes information on Catherine LePage and her marriage as well as her ancestry going back four generations to France.

Judi said a month of translation later; she found out that Yvon LePage is her fourth cousin once removed. She has been in contact

with Yvon. He had no idea of the David branch in America.

Judi learned that David's father's name was Joseph Amable LePage dit Saint Amand. David's mother was Marie Laviolette. It turns out Marie's mother's name was Marie Toulouse. David's ancestor, Jean Pagesy, came from Gemozac, France to Canada in 1670.

After this breakthrough, Judi was able to find all the births of David's children in St. Polycarpe, Canada. However the names did not all match the names she had for them:

Augustin (Samuel): 23 Jun 1823

George: 22 Apr. 1826

Marie Mathilde (Margret): 29 Apr. 1828

Hylaire (Levi): 22 July 1829

Adele (Eliza): 2 May 1831

David: 12 March 1833

Martine (Martha): 1 May 1835

Jean Baptiste (John): 23 Oct 1840

When she started her research, Judi assumed that the family came directly from Canada to Wisconsin, but she discovered that a number of family members were listed in the 1850 Census in New York State. By 1860 the

entire family was in Wisconsin.

She followed the family through the censuses and matched them up as best she could.

The Civil War played a major role in the family's life. Despite just arriving in the country in the 1850s, both David and George served. David was sent from Wisconsin to Tennessee in 1862 and acquired an illness, he returned to Wisconsin, but ended up dying. George enlisted late in the war and served in camps with prisoners. Martha's husband, William Willis, also served in the Civil War. Judi was trying to confirm that John was also a soldier.

At the conclusion, Judi provided these words of advice to all genealogists:

- Be very thorough. Look at every name on a document. Each one may provide a new clue.
- Be persistent.
- Don't assume anything.
- Question everything.

With those words of wisdom, Judi ended her very interesting and enlightening discussion of her genealogical journey.

President's Message

DCAGS and the 1940 Federal Census

As you may know, images of the 1940 United States Federal Census enumeration will be made available to the public for the very first time on 2 April 2012 – just four months from now. Initial publication will be in the form of FREE digital images on the Internet, rather than on microfilm as has been done for earlier federal censuses. A significant portion of us are included in this census! All images will be viewable on that date, but there will be no indexing created by the National Archives and Records

Administration (NARA) itself. The initial release will be on the website of the contractor chosen by NARA (see www.archives.com/1940census), but the images are expected to be available very soon thereafter on the websites of companies and organizations such as ancestry.com and familysearch.org.

FamilySearch, the organization which oversees the Family History Library, has invited the Dane County Area Genealogical Society to participate in the indexing of this census. No doubt ancestry.com and other companies and organizations will

also work to create indexes to the 1940 census. Although I have some concern about the apparent duplication of effort here, I fully expect that the FamilySearch index--created by genealogists for genealogists--will be of particularly high quality and usefulness; access to this index is guaranteed to always be free for anyone.

The DCAGS Governing Board will be discussing the merits and practicality of involving our society in this indexing effort. The role of the society would be primarily in the vein of "rallying the troops."

continued on page 4

Upcoming events

WHS Library-Archives Classes and Workshops

FAMILYSEARCH.ORG (COMPUTER LAB)

Instructor: Lori Bessler, WHS Reference Librarian

Registration: \$35 for Society and WSGS members, \$40 for non-members.

When: 12/3/2011, 9 a.m. to Noon

Where: Memorial Library, Room 231, 728 State St., Madison

ONLINE GENEALOGY (COMPUTER LAB)

Instructor: Lori Bessler, WHS Reference Librarian

Registration: \$35 for Society and WSGS members, \$40 for non-members.

When: 12/10/2011, 9 a.m. to Noon

Where: Memorial Library, Room 231, 728 State St., Madison

MKI German Genealogy Workshops

Title: Genealogical Resources for German-American Ancestry, Online and Off

When and Where: March 3, Saturday, 9am–noon, Memorial Library, room 231

Instructor: Lori Bessler

Description: This hands-on computer workshop will help the family researcher identify resources that are found on the Web as well as those that are not online. There are many collections that record the lives of our ancestors in

Germany as well as their lives after they have arrived here in the United States, but finding them can be daunting. The strategies presented here will help break down brick walls that genealogists may encounter in their research. Lori Bessler has worked at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives since 1988 as a Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator and for over 20 years has lectured throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest on genealogical topics. She has been researching family history for over 35 years.

Title: Tracing Your Jewish Roots from German-Speaking Europe

When and Where: March 18, Sunday, 1–4 pm, Memorial Library, room 231

Instructor: Fran Loeb Luebke

Co-sponsored by the University of Wisconsin–Madison Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies.

Description: This workshop will provide an overview of resources and research techniques that addresses the unique challenges faced by genealogists looking for their Jewish ancestors from German-speaking Europe. The workshop will cover sources that are available online and those that are not, focusing on specifically Jewish records such as name change documents, Matrikel lists, cemetery records, and “Schutzgeld” tax documents. As more Jewish records become available to the public, a successful family researcher needs to be a good detective and follow many leads.

Fran Loeb Luebke has a Master's degree in history and has been tracing

and tracking her own ancestors for over 35 years.

Title: Reading Old German Script

When and Where: March 24, Saturday, 8am–noon, University Club, room 212

Instructor: Karyl Rommelfanger

Description: Do you have correspondence from a German ancestor written in a script that you cannot read? Do you have trouble finding your ancestor's name in an official document, because you can't make out the letters? This workshop will acquaint participants with the basics of the Old German written alphabet so that they can transcribe words into modern script. Bring your own documents! After providing a general introduction, the instructor will assist you with your specific questions.

Karyl Rommelfanger is a retired German teacher from the Manitowoc Public School System. She has transcribed and translated documents written in the Old German script for 25 years and has previously taught Old German script workshops for the Max Kade Institute.

Registration fee: \$35 for each workshop for members of the Friends of MKI, WHS, or WSGS, and \$40 for non-members.

For more information including registration details see the MKI Web site (mki.wisc.edu) or contact Antje Petty at 608-262-7546 or apetty@wisc.edu.

Recipes

Larson Family Danish Kringle

2 cups flour 1 1/2 Tbsp sugar
1/2 tsp. salt 1/2 cup soft butter
1/2 cup milk, scalded
1 egg separated
1/4 cup warm water (110-115 degrees)
1 package active dry yeast

Measure flour, sugar, salt and butter in a bowl; blend well. Cool milk slightly, then stir in egg yolk. Pour into bowl with first ingredients. Add yeast to warm water and let stand a few minutes. Add to other ingredients mixing thoroughly. Scrape down dough from sides of bowl (it will be very soft). Cover tightly and chill at least 2 hours, but no more than 48 hours in the refrigerator.

Prepare fillings before shaping Kringles.

Pecan filling: Cream 1/4 cup butter and 1/2 cup brown sugar (packed) until fluffy. Spread on center of Kringle. Sprinkle with 1 cup of chopped nuts.

Apple Pecan Filling: Sprinkle 1/2 cup brown sugar (packed), then 1 cup finely

chopped apples and 1/2 cup finely chopped pecans.

Date Pecan Filling: Sprinkle 1/2 cup brown sugar (packed), then 1 cup finely chopped dates and 1/2 cup finely chopped pecans.

Raisin Filling: Cream 2 Tbsp. butter and 1/2 cup brown sugar (packed). Add 1 cup raisins and 2 tsp. almond extract. (Soak raisin beforehand to plump them.)

Prune or Apricot filling: Mix 1 1/2 cup chopped stewed prunes or apricots with 3 Tbsp. lemon juice, 1/2 tsp. grated lemon peel and 1/4 cup sugar. Blend well before spreading mixture.

Almond Paste Filling: Cream 1/4 cup soft butter and 1/2 cup brown sugar (packed) until smooth and fluffy. Add 1/2 cup almond paste and mix until smooth.

To make Kringles:

Divide dough in half and return half to refrigerator. Beat egg white. Grease two baking sheets. Cover board with

cloth and rub flour well into cloth to prevent dough from sticking. Roll dough into a 6 x 18 rectangle. Spread 3" center strip with half of the beaten egg, then with filling. Fold over one side of dough and the other with 1 1/2" lap to cover filling. Pinch dough to close fold. Pick up Kringle carefully and arrange on baking sheet in oval or horseshoe shape, closing ends for oval. Shape second Kringle as first. Cover and let rise in warm place 30 to 45 minutes or until dent remains when finger is pressed gently on the side of dough and dough is no longer cold. Bake in moderately hot oven at 400 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes or until golden brown. Spread sugar icing while hot.

Icing: 1 cup sifted powdered sugar
1/2 Tbsp. milk 1 tsp. vanilla extract

Submitted by Debbie Henke

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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
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**See you at the
December 1
Meeting!**

DCAGS Governing Board for 2011:

President: Rollie Littlewood
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Vice President: Don Cole
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Secretary: DeAnn McAllan
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Treasurer: Walker Crawford
walker@viridis.ws

Past President, Pat Skubis
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Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Walker Crawford
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Programs & Education: Vacant

Public Relations: Vacant

Historian: Sandy Zart
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Web Master: Rollie Littlewood
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Newsletter: Ruth Simpson
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President's Message Continued...

The actual indexing work would be done by individuals at their convenience and (usually) on their own computers. Obviously there is an interest in getting the indexing completed as soon as feasible, so volunteers will be encouraged to work as quickly as their other endeavors allow. I will be putting details on the DCAGS website as quickly as I understand them, so that each of you can judge whether or not you would like to participate. I do know that training will be provided. The details on the DCAGS website will include how you can indicate that you would like to participate. DCAGS will need the commitment of a fairly sizable core group of indexers before it will "sign on" to "sponsor" a portion of this project.

I think this could be a rather exciting project for DCAGS to participate in; I hope a number of our members feel likewise. Knowing only what I know now, I expect that a decision should be made sometime in January, so that suitable preparations can get done on time.

Rollie Littlewood