



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

“Breaking Through Brick Walls in the 21st Century”

is the title of Jim Hansen’s presentation for our March 1st meeting.

While looking for a brick wall photo I stumbled across a blog titled “Collecting dead relatives...and live cousins!” It is a blog for “sharing family history stories.”



This is **Krescentia Knab**; she is Peg’s great-great grandmother who came to Philadelphia in 1883.

Peg says “What is the best gift for a genealogist?? Book? Subscription to a research site?”

They are great, but the **BEST** thing is **KNOCKING DOWN A BRICK WALL!!** Yup, that’s the Holy Grail of family history.” Hagen Kuhn, in Germany, made Peg’s oldest brick wall go **kapooie**. Go to <http://pegslist.blogspot.com/2011/12/best-christmas-present-ever.html> to read how Peg’s brick wall got knocked down.

According to Jim the ongoing digital revolution in genealogical research probably hasn’t led to breakthroughs on all our brick wall ancestors. This presentation will provide some hopefully new ideas (sources and techniques) for dealing with this defining “old problem” in genealogy. So “Don’t give up yet.”

James L. Hansen, F.A.S.G., is the reference librarian and genealogical specialist at the Library of the Wisconsin Historical Society. If you have a brick wall success story submit it, so we can publish it in our next newsletter.

February 29, 2012

Volume 6, Issue 6



We will have a topic and a speaker at our April 5th Meeting

Check the Web Site for updates on the topic and the selected speaker to be featured.

www.dcags.org

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, March 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the new South Madison Library on 2222 Park St.

We invite all members to attend. Please join us!

Help Wanted

Newsletter Editor, Committee members for the Program and Education committee and for the Public Relations committee.

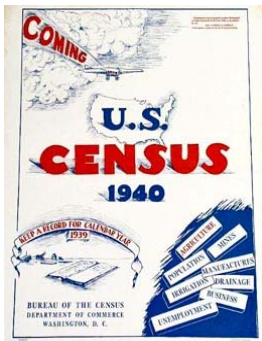
For now if you find any genealogy information that you think should be shared with the membership, email it to the board at widcags@gmail.com

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The 1940 Census

Pat Skubis set the stage for the 1940 census for us by telling us what many commodities were valued at during that time. Ruth Simpson led us in a rendition of “This Land Is Your Land” which was written by Woody Guthrie. Pat then walked us through the information and key for each of the columns that you will find on the census.

When looking for someone in the census you need to determine their enumeration district first. The link to find this tool is: <http://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html>. Come April 2, you will be able to use the Stephen P. Morse, PhD / Joel D. Weintraub, PhD web site to take you to the page in the census that you want. First you have use their “How to Access the 1940 Census in One Step” tools to find the enumeration number that you need. After you have clicked on “Get 1940 ED numbers now” you will find a box marked, **1940 ED numbers corresponding to your location**. Now if you choose view the **1940 Census Pages**, by clicking on the number, you will be taken to the record or close to the record of the census sheet that you want. If you choose **1940 ED Description**, it will tell you how many people were in this district. In this box you can also narrow down the pages you will need to search by finding a cross street. You only need to do this if you could not remember the address of the house.

Pat then walked us through indexing for FamilySearch. It’s very simple and you have flexibility to do as much or as

little as you want. You will need to download an application on your computer (the application is about 25MB). Once you’ve downloaded a batch you have about a week to finish it. Pat found that it takes about 30 minutes to finish a page when you start but once you get used to it you’ll be able to finish a page in about 15 minutes. She found that the hardest letters to distinguish were “u” and “n”. There is a test drive so that you can try it before actually starting. It will tell you how well you’re doing. The documents you will be asked to index are not just census records; they are also marriage certificates, enrollment cards, etc. All records are indexed by 2 individuals. If there are any disagreements it will then go to a third person to review again.

When we start to indexing the 1940 census, you will be able to choose the state, but not a specific area.

Pat then walked us through using the downloaded program. You have to create a login with a id and password. Once in the program you are presented with your dashboard. Your dashboard tells you how many points (accumulated as you process more records) you currently have, any system messages you have and what projects you have downloaded. Once you start processing it walks you through the indexing. You can stop during a batch and resume at a later time. But be sure to click on save. You can also move to a different computer, as long as you have internet access your program will keep your work synced. You can also work offline (without internet access) once you have the batches downloaded. There are many tools to help you adjust the readability of the page you’re indexing. If you enter a name that isn’t in the database it will color the cell to alert you that you may have an error.

If you find that the batch you have is too difficult because of the readability due to scan or handwriting you have

the option to refuse the batch. We then explored the site that shows any disputes that have resulted from your work and you have a chance to review them again and provide the appropriate feedback.

To view Pat’s entire presentation go to our web site. www.dcags.org

Write up by Walker Crawford



The Dane County Area Genealogical Society Board is encouraging members to participate in indexing the 1940 census for Wisconsin. The community 1940 U.S. Census project is sponsored by Archives, FamilySearch, and Find my past. They believe that these records should be available online for free.

“As a thanks for your society’s involvement in the 1940 U.S. Census Project, the Project Team is providing indexing thank you rewards. Thank you rewards are given for the number of names indexed per month by both societies and individuals. Societies will be tiered by size to ensure a level playing field.”

“Rewards for societies will include an all expenses paid onsite mini-conference, subscriptions to genealogical websites, goody bags for society members, laptops and other equipment. Individuals will be eligible for rewards such as iPads, all-in-one printers, t-shirts and entertainment tickets.” For more information go to <http://the1940census.com/start/>

To try out indexing go to <https://indexing.familysearch.org/new/user/testdrive/testdrive.jsf>

1940 Census Project cont.

Or on the FamilySearch home page you can click on "Help make the 1940 Census available to everyone for free." <https://www.familysearch.org/> or sign up on <http://the1940census.com/>

If you want to be an indexer sign up at our March meeting so you can receive more information on indexing.

Download the program and practice indexing so you will be ready when big day arrives.

Help Save the Social Security Death Index

The genealogical Records Preservation and Access Committee has created an online petition to encourage measures that would stop tax-related ID theft while preserving access to the Social Security Death Index.

Signatures are needed by March 08, 2012 to reach goal of 25,000.

For directions on how to sign the government SSDI petition go to http://fgs.org/pdf/rpac_petition.pdf

In Diane Haddad article, she suggests that you read the FAQ about the petition and how to electronically sign it. [Click here to read FAQs about the petition and how to electronically sign it to read her whole article go to \[Read more on the Genealogy Insider blog.\]\(#\)](#)

In order to sign the petition you must have a whitehouse.gov account. [Click here to read and sign the petition.](#)

You can find out how to contact your representatives by clicking on this link [WhoIsMyRepresentative.com lets you enter your ZIP code to find out](#)

Let them know how you feel about this issue.



You can be in two places at the same time!!

There is a growing trend to be cremated and sometimes buried in two or more locations. An example is of part of one's ashes being buried with his/her first spouse and the remainder buried with the second.

Another scenario is to have half the ashes buried and the other half scattered in the ocean or a favorite land location. Still others opt to have their ashes kept in urns, never to be set to rest in the ground.

Burial arrangements like these have become more common as people take an active interest in where they want their remains to rest.

An uncle, buried in two locations and in two different countries, will have a large headstone at both gravesites. A researcher may discover his grave at one cemetery site and record it as his final resting place.

Another researcher may find his grave at the second and inform the first researcher of being incorrect. Eventually, they may sort it out, but unless there is specific information - date and location of birth and death date - that indicate they are the same person it may never be sorted.

The above article is from **Out on A Limb** the quarterly newsletter of the Dodge/Jefferson Counties Genealogical Society, Watertown, WI

TV Specials



"Finding Your Roots"

will debut on 25 March on national PBS affiliate stations. Premiering Sunday, March 25 at 7 pm CST., the 10-part series delves into the genealogy and genetics of famous Americans, combining history and science in a fascinating exploration of race, family, and identity in today's America.

Professor Gates shakes loose captivating stories and surprises in the family trees of Kevin Bacon, Robert Downey, Jr., Branford Marsalis, John Legend, Martha Stewart, Barbara Walters and Rick Warren, among many others.

To watch a preview go to <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/finding-your-roots/>

NBC's "[Who Do You Think You Are?](#)" returned for its third season on Friday, February 3 (8-9 p.m. ET). The celebrities who star in the series are Martin Sheen, Marisa Tomei, Blair Underwood, Reba McEntire, Rob Lowe, Helen Hunt, Rita Wilson, Edie Falco, Rashida Jones, Jerome Bettis, Jason Sudeikis and Paula Deen. Ancestry.com continues in its role as NBC and Shed Media's official partner on the series, helping to provide the exhaustive research used to build each story. Josh Hanna, V. P. for Ancestry.com. said "Who Do You Think You Are?" is such a beautiful showcase for the type of discoveries people can make through family history research," "We are extremely proud to help produce a program that inspires so many to begin their own journey of discovery." Check the schedule <http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/>

Attention!

Do you like numbers? Are you willing to help do an audit of our society's books? We need three people who know how to balance figures and audit our books for the past two years, 2010-2011. Let our Treasurer: (Joyce Peterson) or President (Rollie Littlewood) know that you are willing to help. Share your expertise.

Upcoming events

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 address 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 <http://mki.wisc.edu/> or contact Antje Petty at 608-262-7546 or apetty@wisc.edu

NGS Family History Conference

The Ohio River: Gateway to the Western Frontier

When: May 9-12, 2012

Where: Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio

Registration information can be obtained at:

http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

is sponsoring its 2012 Gene-A-Rama conference on **27-28 April 2012** in

Green Bay. Visit the [WSGS website](#) for full details.

Spring Classes

Genealogy / Family History

4 March classes: Organizing records; Locating ship records; Black sheep in the family; Using search engines to locate records.

Classes held on: Thursdays March 8-29

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

4 April classes: Family History Center and Dane County Genealogy Society Visit on April 5
Ethnic resources: City directories, Creative thinking.

Thursdays, April 5-26

Time: 6:00 - 8:00PM

Where: Oregon Senior Center 219 Park Street, Oregon, WI Oregon / \$35 per session (four classes)

Some Internet skills needed.

Instructor: Pat Skubis

Register with their [online](#) system at

<http://www.oregon.k12.wi.us/ce/>

Wisconsin Union Mini-courses.

Dates for next set of classes:

Three - Tuesday evenings, April 10-24 2012

Location: UW-Madison campus (specific location TBD)

Cost \$44.50

Instructor: Sherry Lloyd

For more information [click here](#) or register at

http://activenet8.active.com/mini-courses/servlet/registrationmain.sdi?source=adet.sdi&activity_id=7578&sdireqauth=1323894410007





Bylaws Changes

The DCAGS Governing Board proposes the following changes to the society's bylaws:

Article III (Membership) / Section 4 (Records)

Current wording: "The [Treasurer](#) shall maintain a permanent membership file, containing the names of all members of record since the organization of this Society showing the type of membership held."

Proposed substitute wording: "The [Membership Committee](#) shall maintain a permanent membership file."

Reason for this change: The current bylaws wording evolved from a time when the treasurer was also effectively the membership chair. DCAGS has a Membership Committee; the Governing Board believes it is appropriate to move nearly all membership-related duties to the care of the Membership Committee.

Article VII (Committees) / Section I (Standing Committees) / subsection a7

Current wording: "The Webmaster committee shall consist of one or more appointed members. It shall have the responsibility of maintaining the Society's [web page and linked sites](#)"

Proposed substitute wording: "The [Website](#) Committee shall consist of one or more appointed members. It shall have the responsibility of maintaining the Society's [website and linked pages](#)."

Reason for this change: It will make the wording more in keeping with current usage, and emphasize that the committee is charged with oversight of the website, not the webmaster per se.

These changes will be voted on by the membership present at the 5 April DCAGS membership meeting. Note: The Governing Board decided at its February meeting that the language proposed for Article III in the previous newsletter was too restrictive and now makes the new proposal shown above.



President's message

Time to Start Planning for Learning in 2012

It's time to look for new learning adventures to try this year. Some can be near, some far. I recently returned from my first-ever week-long genealogy class--the Swedish Research class of the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. It was fairly expensive, but I'm really glad I attended. There are other well-known week-long courses offered every year in Washington, D.C., and in Birmingham, Alabama. There will be some nearby opportunities in the near future, from the beginner's classes offered through the Wisconsin Union and several local school districts through the more advanced classes offered by the Max Kade Institute and the Wisconsin Historical Society. The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society's Gene-A-Rama will be in Green Bay 27-28 April. There's the NGS national conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, 9-12 May and the FGS national conference in

Birmingham, Alabama, 29 August through 1 September. There will be Midwestern Roots 2012 in Indianapolis 21-22 July and the German Interest Group Workshop in Whitewater on 14 July. There will be conferences sponsored by the state genealogical societies in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota. You may want to check out www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wiilbig/upcomreg.htm periodically to see other possibilities. Some have modest costs, others can be quite expensive when travel and hotel accommodations are taken into consideration. There's lots out there--I hope you can find one, or several, to take advantage of this year. But don't neglect what we can offer right here with the DCAGS monthly meetings.
Rollie Littlewood
(608)273-0211

Welcome New Members

We welcome two new members of DCAGS this month, Gay Eastman and Judy McDonald.

Gay is a user of Family Tree Maker and Ancestry. Her areas of research concentration are Countries: England, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany; States: CT, IA, IL, MA, NJ, PA, NY, OH, SD, WI; Wisconsin Counties: Green, Green Lake, Polk, Walworth; Names: Andersdotter, Danielson, Eastman, Harris, Jacobson, Legler, Mainwaring, Speich, Sztinick..

Judy is a user of PAF. Her areas of research concentration are Countries: England, Ireland, Scotland; States: IA, IN, KY, MN, OH, VA, WI, WY; Wisconsin Counties: Columbia and Sauk; Names: Ader, Bergren, Daugherty, Decker, Faught, Flynn, Glasford, Griffith, Graham, Greening, Hellewell, Holdaway, Kendall, Kennedy, Libby, Mallery, Patterson, Pierson, Ragland, Runnells, Stephenson/Stevenson, Thompson, Walker. If you have any areas/names in common you should feel free to contact them.




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 March 1st
Meeting!**



*We Need
Your Help*

DCAGS Governing Board for 2012

President: Rollie Littlewood
rkittle@wisc.edu

Vice President: Jim Benes
Jimbenes@iname.com

Secretary: DeAnn McAllan
d.mcallan@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Joyce Peterson
Jomay99@aol.com

Past President, Pat Skubis
skubie27@live.com

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Walker Crawford
walker@viridis.ws

Programs & Education: Vacant

Public Relations: Vacant

Historian: Sandy Zart
sandy_zart@yahoo.com

Web Master: Rollie Littlewood
rkittle@wisc.edu

Newsletter: vacant



Get ready for the census. Check out the information on the National Archives at <http://www.archives.gov/> or <http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/index.html> New video <http://1940census.archives.gov/>

To find enumeration district go to <http://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html>

To try out indexing go to <https://indexing.familysearch.org/newuser/testdrive/testdrive.jsf>