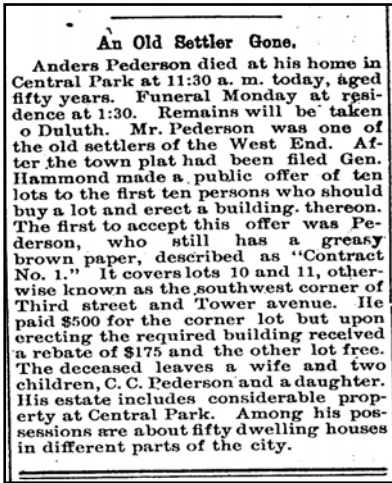




Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

“Getting the Most Out of an Obituary”



is the title of George Findlen’s talk on April 5th. George will demonstrate how to maximize the information you can get from this mostly free resource using genealogy software and an internet connection. Watch carefully. George will show you how to find funeral homes and newspapers serving your family, search for obits mentioning them, cut and paste those obits in your software, create a source note, and extract more information from the obituary than you ever thought was there.



George Findlen, CGSM, is a retired academic administrator who has served as a faculty member or administrator at nine colleges and universities in seven states over thirty years.

In retirement, he has re-invented himself as a genealogist, becoming certified in 2005 and recertified in 2009. He researches Acadian and French-Canadian families in Eastern Québec, the Canadian Maritimes, and New England. In addition to researching his family, he writes articles for publication. His articles have appeared in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* and several New England and Québec genealogical society journals. His most recent effort describes the results of a DNA study which documents that the two Acadian Martin immigrants are not related.

The article he is proudest of is “The 1917 Code of Canon Law: A Resource for Understanding Catholic Church Registers,” published in the June 2005 issue of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. The article is the first ever in any language to explain how Roman Catholic canon law can explain unique parish register entries.

He is currently writing a history of his Acadian lineage, a venture covering eight generations and 300 years of history.

He also likes to give talks to genealogists, and has addressed groups in three Upper Midwest states as well as at the New England Regional Genealogical Conference. He also leads groups through skill development exercises for the Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives. On Tuesdays, he volunteers at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library

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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, April 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: Review of March program + 1940 Census update &

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“Breaking Through Brick Walls in the 21st Century” by Jim Hansen

Jim reminded us that there are still resources that are not available online. He did however tell us that there is no reason not to be able to find our ancestors on the census if they were part of it. They are all online and indexed! When you’re searching probate records look for individuals without descendants – they will often lead to siblings that will help you connect family lines. The most common issue when looking for probate records is that many people look for the will. Many of our ancestors did not have a will. Probate records can be filed multiple locations when assets are located in multiple locations or ancestors have relocated but left ties (assets, etc.) at their former home. In cases where the debts exceeded the assets there won’t be recipients listed other than the creditors paid. Probate records can be filed multiple locations when assets are located in multiple locations or ancestors have relocated but left ties (assets, etc.) at their former home. Probate records may not be filed until the wife dies but the record may still be filed under the husband’s name. Court cases can be used in conjunction with probate records to tie facts together. The website <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/> can be used to search for land records, specifically when land was transferred from the government to individuals. If you find “W” indicator it stands for Warranty land which means there is a bounty land application in the national archives. The bounty land applications are like mini-pension file. They are indexed only by the name of the soldier. They sometimes hold information by individuals related to the soldier. Revolutionary war pension files are now fully searchable and indexed. There are

available on Fold3 which the State Historical Library has a subscription to. Fold3 also has Civil War pension files organized by Unit. There is a new book by Christine Rose called Military Bounty Lands 1776-1855. It explains everything you would want know about bounty lands.

A clue for finding divorce papers is to look for plaintiffs and defendants to have the same name. In suits with multiple participants sometimes only the first name is indexed. These records have survived when other have not. Look for blended families and broken families when researching – surname changes was not that uncommon.

There are a lot of answers out there. But the question you should ask yourself is, do I care enough to spend the energy on a maybe? Many renowned genealogists have lines that they decide they can’t break the wall down, sometimes simply because they amount of energy it would take.

Local tax records can be extremely important in areas where precious other records exist; Kentucky and Virginia are an area that they are often used in. Draft lists on Ancestry.com indicate those who were ELIGIBLE, not necessarily those that served.

Many of these records are still in possession of the issuing government agency. There are times that state archives/buildings may have copies. You can sometimes gain access to these physical records if you know what you are looking for. One member relayed an experience at Dane County looking for circuit records. The physical records are stored at the historical society; however, the index is located at the court house.

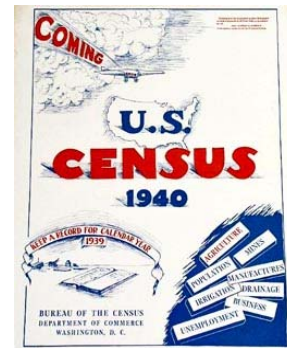
It is not uncommon when minors are involved for guardians to be appointed. Guardianship documents are great resources.

Submitted by Walker Crawford

New Members

Welcome new member Barbara Annan of Madison. Barbara is an Ancestry.com and Reunion user. Her areas of research are Illinois, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Germany and Scotland. The names she’s researching are Annan, Craig/Greig, Donaldson, Halm, Hurer, Ledbetter, Makenzie, Richardson, Richie, Ross, Staley and Tressler/Dressler.

New this month is also Katherine Sparks. Kathy is a user of Family Tree Maker and is also our WSGS Local District Representative. Her areas of interest are Waushara, Portage, Wood, Clark, Lincoln, Oneida, Racine and Polk Counties; Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Canada, Ireland, Scotland, England, Norway, Germany and Switzerland. The names she's researching are Brown, Calkins, Disch, Eager, Graf, Iverson, Mack, Messing, Retherford, Solum and Sparks. Welcome Kathy!



April 2 is coming soon “are” you ready?

Volunteers be sure to [download and launch the indexing tool](#). You may want to review the following: [Training tutorials](#). These tutorials will give you a basic understanding of how FamilySearch indexing works and your new role as an indexer.

1. [Specific instructions for each project](#). You can learn more about current indexing projects by clicking on any of the collection names. These include rules and background information.
2. [Ask a Question](#). Ask questions relating to the computer program or specific indexing projects.
3. [Resource guide](#). A collection of resources are available for indexers, arbitrators, and administrators.
4. [FAQ](#). This section gives answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Upcoming Events



Forest Hill Cemetery Tour

Sunday 20 May 2012

Starts at 1:00 pm from the Catlin Chapel, 1 Speedway Rd., Madison

In honor of Madison's 175th anniversary and the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, Historic Madison, Inc., is sponsoring a cemetery tour which will focus on Madison's earliest pioneers and the soldiers involved in the great battles of the war to date. **Free admission.**

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](http://www.wsgs.org) for full details.



Spring Classes

Genealogy / Family History

Four April classes: The first class will be held at the Family History Center on April 5. The center is located on the corner of Regent Street and Segoe Road. Following a tour of the family history center the class will attend the Dane County Genealogical Society program. The other 3 class topics are Ethnic resources: City directories, & Creative thinking. These classes will be held at the grade school in Oregon.

Thursdays, April 5-26

Time: 6:00 - 8:00PM

Cost: \$35

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

120 Ingraham at 1155 Observatory Drive

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



Classes at the Wisconsin Historical Society



[Genealogy: Organizing Your Research](#)

May 5

[Introduction to PastPerfect 5.0](#)

May 7

[Genealogy: Writing Your Family History](#)

May 12

[Basics of Digital Projects](#)

May 14

[Genealogy: Cemetery Monuments Restoration](#)

May 18

[Genealogy: Military Records](#)

Jun 2

[Genealogy: Ancestry.com](#)

Jun 9

[Genealogy: Ancestry.com](#)

Jun 30

To register for May 2012 Genealogy and Local History Workshops, complete and submit the [Printable Registration Form](#) (PDF, 223 KB).

Visit the web site if you have further questions.

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes/>

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Bylaws Changes

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

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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.

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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.

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[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

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Sharing What We Know

I have been reminded lately of one of the best benefits of participating in a local genealogical society--sharing locality expertise. I wrote in last month's president's letter that I had attended a week long course in Swedish genealogical research in January. The course was held in Salt Lake City, which meant that I got to also spend some time doing research in the Family History Library--not nearly as much time as I would have liked, of course, but I was able to search for more data on the families of two of my great-grandparents. After the next DCAGS meeting, I have had the

opportunity to talk several times with another DCAGS member who is also very interested in Swedish research, and we have been sharing our specialized genealogical knowledge since then (so far she has contributed far more to this exchange that I have--hopefully that will change in the future). Not only has she shared her knowledge, but she has done look-ups for me in several specialized resources with which she is familiar.

One reason I am mentioning this is my belief that such sharing (that is, the linking of members with similar specific interests) should become easier in the near future. "We" haven't talked a lot about it in public so far, but the Board of Directors is working on a new

DCAGS website which should make members interests a lot more accessible to other members than has been the case with our occasional printed membership directories. So I want to encourage each member to include their interests in their member profile. Ideally I would have talked about this back in November, when you were filling out your membership form for 2012. But no matter for most members, as you will be able to update your profile quickly and easily from your own computer or a computer in your public library. I'm really eager to see how well this part of the new website works. Stay tuned!

Rollie Littlewood
(608)273-0211



Facebook, Anyone?

Those of us who are “into” computers (and genealogy) hear a lot of talk about how Facebook can enhance our research work. I’ve had a Facebook account for quite a while, but so far this hasn’t helped my genealogical research one bit. I do publicize DCAGS meetings on Facebook from time to time, but that’s about it. I’d like to hear one of our members demonstrate how Facebook has actually enhanced his or her genealogical research. I’m NOT looking for a nuts and bolts talk, nor anything about how to stay safe on Facebook – I want to hear about how to make it useful! There is good internet access in our meeting room, so a live demonstration should be feasible.

Many of you probably realize that Thomas MacEntee is presenting a talk titled “Facebook for Genealogists” at the WSGS Gene-A-Rama in late April. So I’m hoping that perhaps someone can build on that talk with their own experiences. But having heard Thomas’ talk would not be a requirement for giving a presentation to DCAGS on Facebook. Any takers?

Rollie Littlewood
(608)273-0211

Submit an Article to the Newsletter!

Members are invited and encouraged to submit material to the Newsletter, widcags@gmail.com

You can write up whatever you think would be of interest to the group in 500 words (roughly) for the average-sized composition.

Or send us smaller items, sites, or tips. We would especially welcome:

- Planning and growing a family genealogy website.
- Tools, tips and traps - when publishing family history stories & pictures.
- Additions to the Upcoming Events Section.
- Your favorite family recipe.

Not on Facebook?



Use this PDF article to learn how to sign up and use a Facebook account. <http://www.lulu.com/shop/thomas-macentee/getting-started-with-facebook/ebook/product-11717109.html;jsessionid=95AD6BD2EDABCA074DBC6B9F0F1AD3CB>

You need to sign up for an account with Lulu, but the download is free.

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

We are in need of Audit Committee members.

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.

These are great Jobs for great people. For more information contact any Board Member.



Searching for your Irish Ancestors? Google has 133 + country-specific Google sites, such as [Google.ie](http://www.google.ie) . If you are searching for information in other countries try http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/genealogy_guide_to_google_country_search_engines_page1.html to find the link for the country that you want.

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 April 5th
Meeting!**

Become a Committee
Member.



DCAGS Governing Board for 2012

President: Rollie Littlewood
rkittle@wisc.edu

Vice President: Jim Benes
Jimbenesiname.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



Check out the information at the
National Archives **on April 2**
<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>

It is not too late to sign up to
be an indexer.