

Dane County Area Genealogical Society News



Join the Tour of the Wisconsin Historical Society on Saturday July 13th, 2013, at 1 PM



photo from citydata.com

There will be no regular meeting on Thursday the 4th of July. Arrangements have been made for a tour of the newly remodeled reading room and other areas of the Wisconsin Historical Society building. The tour will begin at 1 PM. Meet at the circulation desk on the second floor. If you wish to do research before the tour, the building is open at 8 AM and the

Murphy Board Room located on the third floor is available for our use starting at 9 AM. Be sure to bring along a jump drive and your genealogy research problems. Pack a lunch, or visit a State Street restaurant, or just enjoy the tour.

The building is located at 816 State Street, Madison, WI. The closest available parking for visitors currently is located at the [State Street Campus Garage](#) (also known as the Lake Street Ramp), located on Lake Street between State Street and University Avenue. If you display a valid state-issued DIS hangtag or DIS license plate parking is free. If you are handicapped and require parking that is closer to the building contact Lori Bessler at AskLibrary@wisconsinhistory.org

Library Reading Room Renovation

Work began on June 21, 2009, and was completed in January of 2010. The goal was to restore the reading room to its original 1900 grandeur. A replica of the original stained-glass ceiling and banks of ornately trimmed ceiling coffers, new and restored furnishings, fresh coats of paint, and re-creations of the original bronze wall sconces give the room a warm and elegant tone. New equipment was also added to utilize modern technology.



June/2013

Volume 7, Issue 10

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 Street, Madison, Wisconsin beginning at 7 p.m.

*DCAGS Update:
The next DCAGS Governing Board meeting is set for Tuesday, July 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the University of Wisconsin Foundation 1848 University Avenue Madison, WI.
We invite all members to attend. Please join us!
Submit articles to the newspaper editor by the 3rd Tuesday of the month.*

On August 1st
our program topic
will be
DNA for Genealogy.
Our speaker will be
George Spracklin

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Article on The Black Telephone, New Members, and Thank You - page 4

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Illinois State Genealogical Society offers FREE WEBINARS on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. All ISGS webinars are FREE and open to the public when they are presented live. For upcoming webinars go to

<http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=234> to learn more about the upcoming webinars and to register.

July

Common Surnames:

Ways to Identify Your Ancestors in a Crowd

- **Presenter:** Juliana Smith
- **Date:** Tuesday, July 9, 2013, 8:00 PM Central
- **Description:** Techniques for finding your Smiths (or Kellys or Browns). Methodology and some helpful reports and charts that can make your search easier.
- **Register:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5387125736981834496>



FREE WEBINARS REGISTER at www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com

Canadian Ports of Entry: Ship Passenger Lists, Immigration Records, and Border Crossing Records

You know your ancestors came to North America from the Old Country but you can't find any records. Learn strategies for searching the available immigration, border crossing and ship passenger list websites on the Internet. [Kathryn Lake Hogan](#) 1 PM on Wednesday, July 10, 2013 (Central time is given for all webinars.)

Research in the Old Line State: An Overview of Maryland Genealogy

Established in 1634, Maryland has a long and storied history. In this presentation, you will learn about the major repositories in Maryland, the common record groups, and techniques for researching in Baltimore city as well as the rest of the state. [Michael Hait](#) 1 PM on Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Top Ten Techniques for Finding More in Library Catalogs

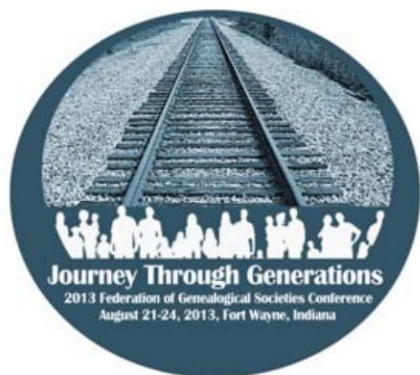
Most genealogists go to library web sites, find the online catalog, make a search using that catalog's basic search features, and assume they have found everything. Not only are there many ways to use online library catalogs for genealogical research, but such sites often provide access to a wide variety of additional resources and databases. [Barbara Renick](#) 1 PM Friday, July 19, 2013

Top 21st Century Genealogy Resources - A Baker's Dozen

Save time and focus your research on the websites you will actually use and rely on: Find-A-Grave, Internet Archive, GenealogyBank, FamilySearch Wiki, Pinterest, Ancestry and more. Learn why you should rely on these essential tools for documenting your family online and leaving a lasting legacy for the rising generation. There are millions of websites – these are the ones you'll repeatedly use. [Tom Kemp](#) 1 PM on Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Direct Your Research with City Directories

Browse the pages of various types of directories to discover where your ancestor worked, lived and played. City Directories are for more than family research. The details can help you date a photograph or plot your relative on a map. [Maureen Taylor](#) 1 PM on Wednesday, July 31, 2013



**Journey through Generations
2013 FGS Annual Conference
August 21-24, 2013 - Fort Wayne, IN**

Federation of Genealogical Societies

<http://www.fgs.org/cpage.php?pt=43>

Read more about the program at

<https://www.fgsconference.org/program/>

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2013 Bus Trip to FGS

The Minnesota Genealogical Society (MDS) is going to the **Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana**, and you, too, can ride the bus!

The bus will leave Minnesota on August 20, 2013, returning August 25, and will have a stop near Madison, Wisconsin. If interested, please fill out the [registration form](#). Someone from MGS will contact you to make pick-up arrangements.



The annual GIG-Wisconsin Workshop will be held on July 13, 2013, at UW-Whitewater. Roger Minert, who has more than 35,000 hours in research experience, will be the featured speaker. He is accredited by the Family History Library for research in Germany and Austria and in August 2003, Minert became a professor of family history at Brigham Young University. He is the author of more than 80 books and articles. For more information go to <http://www.gig-wi.com/events.htm>

Start Gathering Your Genealogy Information and Get Ready for Our Second Show and Tell Event to Be Held in December. Reserve a Space with the Program Committee



President's Message:

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We are less than a year away from our highly anticipated genealogy fair in the Spring of 2014 and I know there are one or two of you out there that can't wait to dig into the details of planning. If you would be interested in learning the ropes with a co-pilot or perhaps a full committee I'm sure that can be arranged too. I assisted Pat Skubis in 2011 as her co-chair and it was great fun. If you're not quite ready for that level of commitment would you be willing to help with kitchen, programming, advertising or other? Let me know and we'll make it happen. We really need to have a few folks to step forward in some sort of capacity soon so that we can get a date set. Otherwise we'll need to push it out another year. To add a level of new and excitement I am suggesting that we adopt a theme focusing on writing and publishing family histories but that final determination will be made by the organizing committee. Thank you in advance for your help!

Walker walker@viridis.ws



Jerry Apps and the One-Room Country School Houses

So you've always wondered about one room school houses? Well, this program was for you. Not only did our speaker Jerry Apps go to a one room school, but he has done and collected research and memories from numerous people about their school houses.

One teacher, no electricity, no indoor plumbing, heat from a wood stove, 8 grades in one room, no lockers, out of tune piano, room chores. So what's so great about one room school, you say?

Everything! This is how many of us, our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents were educated. If it weren't for one room schools, many of them wouldn't have had the opportunity for a formal education without leaving home to attend a boarding school far away from home, if your family had the money. "Quite a bunch of you" in attendance that night said they had attended a one room school, several more

raised their hands when he asked if any wished they had attended a one room school. And one man in attendance taught in a one room school.

Many in the generation of going to one room school were felt to be social misfits, because of their far inferior education. Jerry set out to prove, "I hope", that just because they went to a one-roomed school, didn't mean that they wouldn't accomplish anything in their lives.

Jerry was a product of a one-roomed country school. He spent 8 years going through school starting in 1939 in Chain O' Lakes, Town of Rose, in Waushara County WI. This was right in the midst of the Depression. He toured us around his one room school house. Words can go so far in helping us imagine what it was like as if you were right there with him. Chores for each age group made the people in the school a family. Particularly of great interest to me was the mention of Wisconsin School of the Air, I was in 5th grade when we moved to Wisconsin and experienced this marvelous program in school. Afield with Ranger Mack, Nature with Les Strong, music with Jim Schwabach and Art with Professor Gordon were among the teachers that 50,000 kids listened to every week.

One thing I forgot to ask him about was had he seen all of the one room school houses at the Boy Scouts Woodman Center outside of Richland Center,

Wisconsin. The Glacier Edge Council has been buying them up and using them for the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and leaders to sleep in and the camp nurse have a place to nurse her prospective patients (yours truly).

Thank you Jerry for an entertaining and positive reminiscing evening. We were glad to hear your story and hope to hear from you again soon. Want to hear Jerry again? Want more information? Jerry has a blog on his web site <http://www.jerryapps.com/> where you can get a list all of his books, of future speaking engagements, and where/when to go to take his one-day class on writing your life story .

Wisconsin Public Television will present, "Old Farm" documentary this fall and just finished scheduling a second hour long documentary for December 2013. He has numerous books out including his 2 new books: "Limping Through Life "a story "I never wanted to tell." His personal story of having polio and living with its stigma of "physically disabled=mentally deficient" mentality and polio's after-effects. "Farm Life in WI" is a little book about the day to day life on the farm during the Depression.

Submitted by Judy McDonald

The Black Telephone



When I was a young boy, my father had one of the first telephones in our neighborhood. I remember the polished, old case fastened

to the Wall. The shiny receiver hung on the side of the box. I was too little to reach the telephone, but used to listen with fascination when my mother talked to it.

Then I discovered that somewhere inside the wonderful device lived an amazing person. Her name was "Information Please" and there was nothing she did not know. Information Please could supply anyone's number and the correct time.

My personal experience with the genie-in-a-bottle came one day while my mother was visiting a neighbor. Amusing myself at the tool bench in the basement, I whacked my finger with a hammer, the pain was terrible, but there seemed no point in crying because there was no one home to give sympathy.

I walked around the house sucking my throbbing finger, finally arriving at the stairway. The telephone! Quickly, I ran for the footstool in the parlor and dragged it to the landing. Climbing up, I unhooked the receiver in the parlor and held it to my ear.

"Information, please," I said into the mouthpiece just above my head.

A click or two and a small clear voice spoke into my ear.

"Information."

"I hurt my finger..." I wailed into the phone, the tears came readily enough now that I had an audience.

"Isn't your mother home?" came the question.

"Nobody's home but me," I blubbered.

"Are you bleeding?" the voice asked.

"No, I replied. I hit my finger with the hammer and it hurts."

"Can you open the icebox?" she asked.

I said I could.

"Then chip off a little bit of ice and hold it to your finger," said the voice.

After that, I called "Information Please" for everything. I asked her for help with my geography, and she told me where Philadelphia was. She helped me with my math's.

She told me my pet chipmunk that I had caught in the park just the day before, would eat fruit and nuts.

Then, there was the time Petey, our pet canary, died. I called, "Information Please," and told her the sad story. She listened, and then said things grown-ups say to soothe a child. But I was not consoled. I asked her, "Why is it that birds should sing so beautifully and bring joy to all families, only to end up as a heap of feathers on the bottom of a cage?"

She must have sensed my deep concern, for she said quietly, "Wayne, always remember that there are other worlds to sing in." Somehow I felt better.

Another day I was on the telephone, "Information Please." "Information," said in the now familiar voice. "How do I spell fix?" I asked.

All this took place in a small town in the Pacific Northwest. When I was nine years old, we moved across the country to Boston. I missed my friend very much.

"Information Please" belonged in that old wooden box back home and I somehow never thought of trying the shiny new phone that sat on the table in the hall. As I grew into my teens, the memories of those childhood conversations never really left me.

Often, in moments of doubt and perplexity I would recall the serene sense of security I had then. I appreciated now how patient, understanding, and kind she was to have spent her time on a little boy.

A few years later, on my way west to college, my plane put down in Seattle. I had about a half-hour or so between planes. I spent 15 minutes or so on the phone with my sister, who lived there now. Then without thinking what I was doing, I dialed my hometown operator and said, "Information Please."

Miraculously, I heard the small, clear voice I knew so well. "Information." I hadn't planned this, but I heard myself saying, "Could you please tell me how to spell fix?"

There was a long pause. Then came the soft spoken answer, "I guess your finger must have healed by now."

I laughed, "So it's really you," I said. "I wonder if you have any idea how much you meant to me during that time?"

"I wonder," she said, "if you know how much your call meant to me. I never had any children and I used to look forward to your calls."

I told her how often I had thought of her over the years and I asked if I could call her again when I came back to visit my sister.

"Please do," she said. "Just ask for Sally."

Three months later I was back in Seattle.

A different voice answered, "Information." I asked for Sally. "Are you a friend?" she said. "Yes, a very old friend," I answered.

"I'm sorry to have to tell you this," she said. "Sally had been working part time the last few years because she was sick. She died five week. Before I could hang up, she said, "Wait a minute, did you say your name was Wayne ?" "Yes." I answered. Well, Sally left a message for you. She wrote it down in case you called. "Let me read it to you."

The note said, "Tell him there are other worlds to sing in. He'll know what I mean." I thanked her and hung up. I knew what Sally meant.

Never underestimate the impression you may make on others. Whose life have you touched today? Lifting you on eagle's wings. May you find the joy and peace you long for.

Life is a journey... NOT a guided tour.

I received this story in a email from Sandra Donner. I do not know the original source, but the story reminded me of how when I attended school in Minneapolis, when I called home our long distance operator would know just where my mother was playing bridge and she would connect me. Her name was Josie Hansen and she was better than call forwarding, just like "Sally" was better than Google. Like the day of the one room school, the days of being able to call information are long gone. Sometimes progress is not better, it becomes less personable. Photo Source: http://www.telephonearchive.com/phones/ae/ae21_wall.html Photos courtesy Frank Franowsky

New Member

Welcome to new member Matthew Rains of Madison. Matthew is researching the names Berrier, Rouchek, McCall and Raines. If you would like to contact Matthew please let Walker know and he will connect you.



Thanks to all of you who signed up to do a write up of our monthly programs!. There still are a few blank spots so join your fellow members and sign up at our next meeting.

Help Repair the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island

Several years ago my daughter and I visited New York on our way back from Poland. One of the highlights of our visit was to take the



boat trip out to see the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. On November 08, 2012, Hurricane Sandy caused “significant damage” to the infrastructure of Liberty Island and Ellis Island.

Both Liberty Island and Ellis Island have been closed to tourists since last November due to the hurricane. About 3.5 million tourists a year visit Liberty Island and the Statue of Liberty.



The Statue of Liberty is scheduled to be reopened on July 4th, 2013. The National Park Service expects between 10,000 and 15,000 people to visit the 12-acre (5-hectare) Liberty Island on July 4th. Once again 240 visitors each day will be allowed to climb the

354 steps to the crown and gaze out its 25 windows.¹

The National Park Service announced that there is no projected reopening date for New York's iconic Ellis Island due to extensive damage it sustained during superstorm Sandy. Although there was little damage to the museum collection in the Immigration Building, there was significant damage to the infrastructure as a result of the storm. It is estimated that repairs to both Ellis Island and Liberty Island could cost as much as \$59 million.²

HELP RE-OPEN THE STATUE OF LIBERTY AND ELLIS ISLAND!
Help The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation as we join the National Park Service in restoring Liberty and Ellis Islands from the damage sustained by Hurricane Sandy so they can again welcome the public.

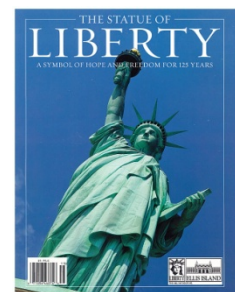
DONATE

3

If you wish to hurry the process along visit <http://www.ellisland.org/> and click on the Donate button. On the next page you will be able to make a tax deductible donation using your credit card in any

amount that you wish to contribute. If you make a contribution of \$75 or more you will receive a special limited edition of the publication honoring Lady Liberty's 125th anniversary. According to Answers.com more than 25 million passengers and members of ships' crews entered the United States through Ellis Island and the Port of New York between 1892 and 1924. If the descendants of these 25 million people sent in just \$1 per ancestor, it would not take long to raise the \$59 million needed to complete the repairs.

Submitted by Patricia Skubis



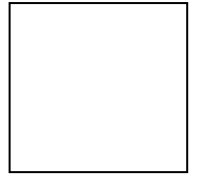
- 1 <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/07/090702-statue-of-liberty-facts.html>
- 2 <http://www.cnn.com/2013/03/24/us/new-york-ellis-island-no-reopening-date>
- 3 <http://www.learnwebskills.com/family/islandpractice01.html>
- 4 <http://newyorkhistoryblog.org/tags/statue-of-liberty/>
- 5 <http://www.homemade-preschool.com/Fireworks-Clipart.html>

Dane County Area Genealogical Society
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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 on
July 13th**



**Become a Committee Member
One Position Open
Sign Up Today**

DCAGS Governing Board for 2013

President: Walker Crawford
walker@viridis.ws

Vice President: Jim Benes
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Secretary: DeAnn McAllan
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Treasurer: Joyce Peterson
Jomay99@aol.com

Past President, Rollie Littlewood
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Membership: Walker Crawford
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Programs & Education: Donna Johnson
Donna53705@aol.com

Public Relations: Vacant

Historian: Sandy Zart
sandy_zart@yahoo.com

Web Master: Rollie Littlewood
rkittle@wisc.edu

Newsletter: Pat Skubis
skubie27@live.com

One Committee Chair position remains open. It is the public relations position.

Being a Committee Chair requires you to attend the board meetings that are held once a month.

Each of the committees could use more members. All of the committee chairs would welcome help.

Attend a board meeting and learn more about how you can participate.