

Dane County Area Genealogical Society News



"One-Room Country Schools: History and Recollections from Wisconsin" is the title of Jerry Apps' presentation June 6th.



From 1791, when the first school was established in what is now Wisconsin, to the 1960s, when consolidation was finally complete, the one-room school's history has been one of growth and change. In Apps' book *One-Room Country Schools*, this history, along with unique memories and shared recollections from the people who learned and taught in the one-room schools of Wisconsin, tells the story of these institutions of learning.

Jerry Apps was born and raised on a central Wisconsin farm, a mile from the Chain O'Lakes one-room country school, which he attended for eight years. Professor emeritus of education at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, he devotes most of his time to writing about rural America, especially the upper Midwest. Apps has also written several education books including *Teaching from the Heart*, *Mastering the Teaching of Adults*, and *Study Skills for Adults Returning to School*. For more about Jerry Apps and his work, please visit his website at www.jerryapps.com.



Jerry will have copies of his *One-Room Country Schools* book for sale. He will also have three of his most recently published books, *Tamarack River Ghost* (historical fiction), *Limping Through Life* (memoir), and *Letters from Hillside Farm* (historical fiction).

Additionally he will have copies of *Barns of Wisconsin* and *Old Farm* (newly released in paperback).

May/2013

Volume 7, Issue 9

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, June 18th 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.

No Regular Meeting on Thursday July 4th
On July 13th, 2013,
Meet at 1 PM at the Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI
for a tour.

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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.

June 2013

The Research Calendar: A Resource You Cannot Live Without

- Presenter: Luana Darby
- Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2013, 8:00 pm Central
- Description: How many times have you run across documents only to realize that you had previously done the same research years before? Research logs or calendars are at the core of good research and are essential in documenting evidence. Come learn easy shortcuts and tips on how to make that job quicker and easier.
- Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1792803534084357632>



African-American Genealogy Conference: Looking for a Home

Experience a two-day adventure into African-American genealogy, featuring internationally known genealogist, author and lecturer, Tony Burroughs.

African-American Genealogy Conference: Looking for a Home will be held June 21-22 at the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street, Madison. One block from the Wisconsin Historical Society.

- View or download [a brochure that includes](#)

[information about fees](#) (PDF 217 KB).

- View or download [a flier describing the African-American genealogical resources available at the Wisconsin Historical Society](#) (PDF 141 KB).
- Register by sending [an email to Society staff](#) and paying by credit card or check when you arrive.
- Early registration fees are in effect until day of the conference.

The featured speaker, Tony Burroughs, taught at Chicago State University. His book, *Black Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African-American Family Tree*, was number one on *Essence* magazine's bestseller list.

One-Hour Webinar

Free Webinar: African-American Genealogical Resources at the Wisconsin Historical Society

Instructor: Rick Pifer, director of public services.

Start Date: 5/9/2013

End Date: 6/22/2013

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

FREE WEBINARS REGISTER at www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com

The Genealogy of Your House

You love researching your own family history but have you ever thought of researching the history of your house? Using the same skill set as genealogy you can discover the lives of the people who lived in your home before you. Learn to use the tools that will allow your walls to speak from house historian [Marian Pierre-Louis](#) 1 PM on Wed, Jun 5 2013 (Central time is given for all webinars.)

Get What You Came For: New Search Options Let You Target Obituaries, Photos, Passenger Lists, Births, Marriages, and More. [Tom Kemp](#) 1 PM on Wed, Jun 12 2013

Next Exit: Your New Jersey Ancestors Participants will learn the basics of researching their New Jersey ancestors starting with the early history as part of the New Netherlands colony to the present-day. [Thomas MacEntee](#) 1 PM on Fri, Jun 14 2013

How Knowing the Law Makes Us Better Genealogists [Judy G. Russell](#) 1 PM on Wed, Jun 26 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/>



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.



President's Message:

Where do your talents lie? We have made many calls over the last few years asking folks to join our board and fill established committee positions. One thing that I don't think we say often enough is that we welcome your talents wherever they might lie! Just to get your creative juices flowing I have a couple ideas that I would welcome volunteers for or ideas on how to get started.

Research Network. We regularly receive research requests, typically folks from out of state. Right now members of the board attempt to answer questions. We don't have time to do justice for all of them though so if this type of help is something you'd be willing to offer let me know. I know we have many members that have amazing research skills. If we get enough folks interested we could set up a system via email, our webpage or a phone tree.

Welcoming Committee. Barb Abbott has done a wonderful job of assisting me with filling the official duties of the membership committee. We would love to have a couple of folks in the lobby though that would be free to show new members around and introduce them. Many of us get into a bit of a rut and talk to the same folks. If you would like a chance to break out of a rut and show your gregarious side let me know.

Your idea here. Just let me know how you'd like to show your talents and we'll make it happen!

Thank you. Walker walker@viridis.ws

New Members New Members New Members

We have one new member this month, Erica Kauten. Erica is a Mac user and uses Ancestry.com and Family Tree Maker for her research. She is originally from the Los Angeles area. Her research is focused on Germany and German heritage: names Grabenhorst and Hoefer.

If you would like to contact Erica please let Walker know and he will connect you. In the meanwhile please take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome Erica.

Writers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to write up notes on our speakers. No notes were submitted about Katherine Sparks' presentation on newspaper nuggets. Since I did not attend the meeting, I am unable to do a write up. We will be asking for people to sign up at our June meeting. If everyone takes a turn it will take several years before you will need to do this again. Don't worry about spelling, I have great proofreaders who fix the spelling and grammatical errors. All you need to do is write up the article and email it to skubie27@live.com.



Genealogy Fair 2014

We would like to hold our next DCAGS Genealogy Fair in Spring 2014.

If you would be interested in serving as chair, co-chair or as a member of the committee please let Walker Crawford know.

The former co-chairs will be happy to share materials from previous fairs and there are members who are willing to help.

Please join us so that we can again hold this popular event.



Graduates of the Rural District Schools posing in front of Madison High School, site of their commencement exercises, 1919. (portion of the original photograph)

Winnie Lacy of Fitchburg donated this photograph to the Dane County Historical Society in 1998. Her mother, Leita Farrell, is one of the girls pictured. This was her mother's graduation day. Leita had successfully completed the eighth grade in a rural one-room Dane County school. (Winnie's mother is in the cut out and is the girl in the front row, immediately above the letters 'SC'.)

Several years later, Winnie added to her donation. She wrote a short article discussing what rural education and this photo meant to her mother.

These are some of Winnie's words:

The young lady seated just to the right of center with a hat in her lap is my mother, Leita Farrell. She was born September 21, 1905 on a small farm near the little crossroads settlement of Pine Bluff, Wisconsin. Her best friend Eleanor Kalscheur is seated just to her right, also holding a hat in her lap. Leita was the youngest of the ten children of John M. Farrell and Frances Wallraff Farrell. This photo was taken outside of Madison High School, the site of the commencement ceremony for pupils who had finished eighth grade in the rural one-room schools of Dane County. For years Leita kept the photo rolled up in a paper towel tube. She was very proud to have been able to attend school for eight years. Leita desperately wanted to attend high school but that privilege was not available to her. Her father had died when she was twelve and her help was needed on the farm. After her commencement, on days when the farm work was slack, she would go back to the schoolhouse and sit in on grade school classes in hopes of learning more. The teachers were always willing to find something for her to learn. If nothing else she read the dictionary and poured over maps of the world.

When Winnie brought her article to the Otto Schroeder Records Center, she also brought several pages photocopied from her mother's scrapbook. On the pages are test questions, divided into several categories: History; Grammar; Civil Government; Arithmetic; Agriculture; Spelling; Geography; Physiology and Reading.

- A title, apparently added later, identifies them as "Examination Questions School District #2." Winnie writes that her mother didn't tell her which year she took the test, but it might be presumed to have been the test she took for her diploma.
- The questions are interesting and revealing of the education at the time. Question #8 under History asks, Who or what are the following: Joan of Arc, Burbank, Booker Washington, Clara Barton, Alaska, Alsace Lorraine, 32nd Division, The Marines.
- Questions 3 & 4 under Grammar instruct students to: Write a composition of 150 words on "A Day in a Country store," using each of the following paragraphs: 1. Description of the store building 2. What is in the store 3. Description of the store keeper 4. Descriptions of customers and what they talk about 5. What is bought
- Question #4 under Civil Government asks students to: Write 25 words or more on the Peace Conference.
- Students were expected to supply details about the Paris meeting that produced the Versailles Peace Treaty, which would be signed on June 28, 1919.

By piecing together the photo, Winnie's article and the examination questions, researchers can begin to see a portrait of a young girl, coming of age during the war years of the early twentieth century. Winnie's memories and the actions of her mother in what she chose to save convey a young woman's love of and desire for education, coupled with the reality of an era when children often contributed critical, and sometimes irreplaceable, work on the family farm. Excerpts from Pieces of the Past: Rural Education, By Debbie Kmetz. Published in the Dane County Historical Society Newsletter, Spring 2005, Vol. 24, No. 1, pp. 3-5 OFFPRINT 2005-1 To read the article go to [Pieces of the Past: Rural Education - Dane County Historical Society](#)



What it took to get an 8th grade education in 1895...

Remember when grandparents and great-grandparents stated that they

only had an 8th grade education? Could any of us have passed the 8th grade in 1895? This is the eighth-grade final exam from 1895 in Salina, Kansas, USA It was taken from the original document on file at the Smokey Valley Genealogical Society and Library in Salina, and reprinted by the *Salina Journal*.

8th Grade Final Exam: Salina, KS - 1895

Grammar: (Time, one hour)

1. Give nine rules for the use of capital letters.
2. Name the parts of speech and define those that have no modifications.
3. Define verse, stanza and paragraph.
4. What are the principal parts of a verb? Give principal parts of 'lie,' 'lay,' and 'run'.
5. Define case; illustrate each case.
6. What is punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of punctuation.
- 7 - 10. Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.

Arithmetic: (Time, 1 hour 15 minutes)

1. Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.
2. A wagon box is 2 ft. deep, 10 feet long, and 3 ft. wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
3. If a load of wheat weighs 3,942 lbs, what is it worth at 50cts/bushel, deducting 1,050 lbs for tare?
4. District No 33 has a valuation of \$35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at \$50 per month, and have \$104 for incidentals?
5. Find the cost of 6,720 lbs. coal at \$6.00 per ton.
6. Find the interest of \$512.60 for 8 months and 18 days at 7 percent per

annum.

7. What is the cost of 40 boards 12 inches wide and 16 ft long at \$.20 per inch?
8. Find bank discount on \$300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
9. What is the cost of a square farm at \$15 per acre, the distance of which is 640 rods?
10. Write a Bank Check, a Promissory Note, and a Receipt.

U.S. History: (Time, 45 minutes)

1. Give the epochs into which U.S. History is divided
2. Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus.
3. Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
4. Show the territorial growth of the United States.
5. Tell what you can of the history of Kansas.
6. Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion.
7. Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Bell, Lincoln, Penn, and Howe?
8. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, and 1865.

Orthography: (Time, one hour)

1. What is meant by the following: alphabet, phonetic, orthography, etymology, and syllabication?
2. What are elementary sounds? How classified?
3. What are the following, and give examples of each: trigraph, subvocals, diphthong, cognate letters, and linguals?
4. Give four substitutes for caret 'u'.
5. Give two rules for spelling words with final 'e.' Name two exceptions under each rule.
6. Give two uses of silent letters in spelling. Illustrate each.
7. Define the following prefixes and use in connection with a word: bi, dis, pre, semi, post, non, inter, mono, super.
8. Mark diacritically and divide into syllables the following, and name the sign that indicates the sound: card, ball, mercy, sir, odd, cell, rise, blood, fare, last.
9. Use the following correctly in sentences: cite, site, sight, fane, fain, feign, vane, vain, vein, raze, raise, rays.
10. Write 10 words frequently mispronounced and indicate

pronunciation by use of diacritical marks and by syllabication.

Geography: (Time, one hour)

1. What is climate? Upon what does climate depend?
2. How do you account for the extremes of climate in Kansas?
3. Of what use are rivers? Of what use is the ocean?
4. Describe the mountains of North America.
5. Name and describe the following: Monrovia, Odessa, Denver, Manitoba, Hecla, Yukon, St. Helena, Juan Fernandez, Aspinwall and Orinoco.
6. Name and locate the principal trade centers of the U.S.
7. Name all the republics of Europe and give the capital of each.
8. Why is the Atlantic Coast colder than the Pacific in the same latitude?
9. Describe the process by which the water of the ocean returns to the sources of rivers.
10. Describe the movements of the earth. Give the inclination of the earth.

Notice that the exam took FIVE hours to complete. Gives the saying 'he only had an 8th grade education' a whole new meaning, doesn't it?!

<http://www.barefootsworld.net/1895finalexam.html> For answers go to <http://www.salina.com/1895test/>.

School Teacher Salaries in Early 1900s



Joyce Peterson's mother taught at a one-room school.

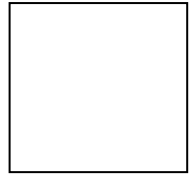
Joyce sent this information on how much she was paid. "This is what my mother was paid when she taught for 4 years at the Broadview School. Her monthly salary for the following years: 1916-17 \$45, 1917-18 \$48, 1918-19 \$55, 1919-20 \$75!!"

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 on June 6th



**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
jimbenes@iname.com

Secretary: DeAnn McAllan
d.mcallan@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Joyce Peterson
Jomay99@aol.com

Past President, Rollie Littlewood
rkittle@wisc.edu

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Walker Crawford
walker@viridis.ws

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.