

Dane County Area Genealogical Society Newsletter



*The "Third Annual Show and Tell Social"
will be held on Thursday, December 4th.*

**November/2014
Volume 9, Issue 3**



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 PM.

DCAGS Update:

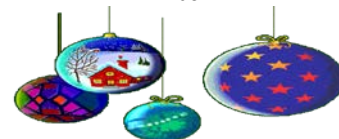
The DCAGS Governing Board meets each month.

No meeting will be held in December. Place and time for January meeting will be posted in the next newsletter.

The January meeting will be held on January 8th

The speaker will be Joanna Pasowicz, president of the Polish Heritage Club of Wisconsin -Madison

Her topics will be conducting and publishing Polish genealogy.
Plus



information on the Polish Heritage Club of Wisconsin

The December 4th meeting will be held in the gym, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, at 4505 Regent Street, Madison, Wisconsin. A brief meeting to announce the voting results will start at 7 PM and will be followed by the "Show and Tell Social". The above photos are from the 2013 event. Join us for a fun evening of socializing and sharing great food and genealogy stories.

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

December 2014

HeritageQuest Online - The Ins and Outs

- **Presenter:** C. Ann Staley, CG, CGL
- **Date:** December 9, 2014, 8 PM Central
- **Description:** HeritageQuest Online contains much more than just the Federal population census. If you are searching for immigration, naturalization, land grants, monetary claims, pensions, public works projects, military matters, vital records, parents, etc. you should take a look at this collection. This lecture will show what is available in this collection of databases.
- **Registration:** <https://attendee.gotoweinar.com/register/7159116276516038146>

FREE WEBINARS

Register at

<http://www.familytree.com/upcoming-webinars.php>



Family History for Kids

Presented by: Devin Ashby
Time: 1 PM Central
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Can You Hear Me Now? Voice Recognition Software for Genealogists

Presented by: Luana Darby
Time: 1 PM Central
Date: Friday, December 5, 2014

Researching Your North Carolina Ancestors

Presented by: J. Mark Lowe
Time: 1 PM Central
Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Bagging a Live One - Connecting with Cousins You Never Knew You Had

Presented by: Mary Kircher Roddy
Time: 1 PM Central
Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2014



December Webinar, 2014

Lost in Your Cemetery Research? FindAGrave Can Help Unearth Your Answers



- **Presenter:** Vickie Schnitzler
- **Date:** Tuesday, December 16, 2014
- **Time:** 7 PM CST
- **Webinar Description:** "Find-a-Grave" may be an overlooked and underappreciated resource for basic on-line genealogical research. Find-a-grave volunteer, and WSGS president, Vickie Schnitzler, will share information about the organization, website and how to search the more than 111 million graves already posted. She will also share how Find-a-Grave can possibly help you with your genealogical research.
- **Register at:** <http://tinyurl.com/kam4tbk>

Webinar ID: 114-532-475 After registering, you will receive an email with information and a link to join us the night of the webinar and handout information. Please remember that this is a first come, first serve webinar.

Registering does not hold a spot for you. Those that log in first will be admitted to the webinar.

The Madison History Roundtable

meets the second Thursday of the month, September through May, at the Radisson Hotel, 517 Grand Canyon Drive, Madison, Wisconsin.

December 11, 2014

Presenter: John Hall, Assistant Professor of U.S. Military History - University of Wisconsin Madison

Topic: Uncommon Defense: Indian Allies in the Black Hawk War

People can attend just the program at about 7:15 PM, or make reservations for a meal at 6 PM which precedes the program. Reservations are required by Monday before the Thursday PM meal. Reservations can be made by email madison.history.roundtable@gmail.com There is no advance registration for the programs. Annual membership is \$30.00/year. More information is available about the Madison History Roundtable on the web www.mhrt.info and Facebook page. You can also contact Bill Sayles (608-274-9342) or Jennifer Ehle for additional information (608-302-1722). All are welcome.



Happy Holidays

Recap of "Religious Records: More than Hatchings, Matchings & Dispatchings"

At the November 6th meeting of the DCAGS, Rev. David McDonald of DeForest gave a presentation on church records and their use by genealogists.

Church records can be a significant help to genealogists, but McDonald pointed out many caveats on their usage. Problems arise when genealogists use church records to draw erroneous conclusions on family search issues or fail to see implications in family history that the records reveal. Compared to civil records that show legal relationships among people and/or property to a point in law—usually witnessed in "real time" by the parties involved, church records demonstrate adherence to canonical law or a particular church's rules of governance. Baptism records are not to be considered a substitute for birth records (people can be baptized as adults). Church marriage records vary markedly from civil records when it comes to stating who can marry whom and when marriage is not permitted between two people. Death records may record a memorial service and not the actual death or burial events. Having said all this, church records, when used circumspectly, can help tie people, family, and life events together in a manner that helps the genealogist along in his or her family history quest.

Concerning the various records, McDonald did offer illuminating facts and tips for the genealogist.

For Anglican baptisms:

- Newborn baptisms usually took place on the Sunday following the birth.
- Standardized baptism registers were adopted in 1812 showing name of child, name/names of parents, trade of father, and minister performing service.
- Registers prior to 1812 were non-standard and freehand and without mother's name entry.
- United Kingdom was on Julian calendar later than the continent, so beware of numerical month and year entries—could be significant variance from other records.
- Stylistic affectation was commonplace (e.g., "ff" used in lieu of "f" in names)

For German-speaking Swiss baptism registers--Sponsors are recorded with family names

For Scots Presbyterian baptism registers:

- Mother's maiden name is given
- Witnesses and not godparents are listed
- Women listed by family name

Protestant Church in America—may simply be clerk's entry of baptism and not baptism record

Generally speaking, Catholic, Anglican, Episcopal, and Lutheran main line churches have more formal and codified record keeping than less main line Protestant churches.

The Society of Friends (Quakers) and Christian Scientists believe that baptism is a spiritual exercise and requires no ceremony or public rite.

Jewish registers, seen as records of the mohel (circumciser) rather than the congregation, where available, record male circumcision on the eighth day after birth, and they contain the boy's name, both parents' names, and the date recorded in Hebrew and English.

Catholic marriage records reflect canonical regulations;

- Rigid marriage prohibitions governed in cases of "blood, adoption, or affinity"—protestants, generally, had a more tolerant acceptance of who could marry whom.
- Marrying an "in-law" of any relationship was considered as incestuous in canon law.
- Divorced people could not marry without an annulment granted and prior marriage declared invalid.
- "Irregular" households—parties living together outside marriage—had to separate six months before they could be married in the church.
- Catholic marriage records were historically written in the language of the Church—Latin (some Protestant records were written in Latin into the 18th Century).

Marriage banns were used to declare intentions to marry and were published or announced from the pulpit in the home parishes of the prospective bride and groom, but intentions were not, generally, officially recorded in a "register" of any type.

Jewish records for marriage, like those for circumcision, were considered the personal records of the officiant and not congregational records.

Members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) simply stood and affirmed their marriage without minister or pastor.

Death records in churches usually reflect documentation of a liturgical function. In pre-embalming days, burial was usually in the church graveyard. Since the advent of the practice of embalming, distance and time of death and burial vary substantially from any memorial service. Since burials were not considered sacramental in nature, the emphasis was on consolation of the surviving.

If you are German, you may want to look into the possibility of a "familienbuch" in the family church. Sometimes, church records indicate existence of these records by name index. If you are so lucky to find a "familienbuch," you may discover a treasure trove of data:

- Children of the deceased couple with birthdates.
- Full names of the husband and wife.
- Parents' names with wives using maiden names.
- Possibly dates and places of vital events.
- Some go back many generations with data mined from church records.

Be aware, also, that miscegenation laws were on the books as late as 1954 in Virginia—you will find no "mixed marriages" where these laws were enforced.

Thanks to Rev. David McDonald for an interesting and enlightening talk.

Submitted by John Madigan





We have three individuals running for our four open board positions. Their names and board statements are listed below. You are welcome to write in someone else, including yourself. You can vote via the included paper ballot or by going to.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VWVWXFR>

Votes are due by the beginning of the membership meeting in December. New members of the board will be announced that evening.

Barb Abbott

I was born and raised in St. Louis, Mo. My husband Dan and I lived and raised two children in New Orleans, Louisiana. for ten years and then moved in 1981 to the Madison area where we have resided ever since. I became interested in genealogy when my father-in-law died and I met some distant cousins who had traced the Abbott line. They got me started and I became hooked. Also my sister, a librarian for the St. Louis County Library System, has heavily delved into genealogy on my side of the family. I have been working on the Abbott line since 1985 and the past two years have been examining the data on my own line.

I joined DCAGS to learn as much as I can as I am often technologically challenged. When asked to be on the Board, I could not say "no" as I respect all the hard and comprehensive work that our board leaders do for the Society. It will be an honor to serve in any way I can.

Dick Ammann

I'm newly resettled into Dane County, having moved from residence in Racine County since 1975. I'm a retired archivist and university professor and have been doing family history personally and professionally for more than 30 years, spending 20 of them in the archives

of the Racine History Museum. I was the vice president and program coordinator for the Burlington Genealogical Society for several years and am a member of the Irish Genealogical Society in Milwaukee, plus life member of the National Genealogical Society, the New York GBS, and the Dutchess County (NY) Genealogical Society. After some more moving of cartons and removal of sawdust from our new Sun Prairie home, I look forward to camping out in the Wisconsin Historical Society's library.

Genealogical /family history interests geographically include southeastern Wisconsin, Hudson River valley and colonial Long Island (NY), and Plymouth Colony/ Cape Cod Massachusetts. I have ancestry from Germany into WI, colonial NY Palatines and northeastern PA, from England into NY and MA, from the Ulster plantations into PA, from French Huguenots into NY, and a Mayflower ancestor who was fortunately saved after falling overboard. My wife and I are working on her Irish roots, which extend back to Plymouth Colony in the 1650s.

Joyce Peterson

My main employment field has been in the office management field having worked at the former First National Bank and then on to Coca-Cola as Office Manager. Then I worked in the travel agency field serving as Office Manager.

My husband and I had fourdaughters which is the greatest achievement of my life!!

I have served on the Board of the Grand Canyon Condominiums for approximately 11 years. I have also worked several part time jobs after retirement including two years as treasurer for DCAGS!



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 December 4th

Become a Committee Member

Sign Up Today



DCAGS Governing Board for 2014

President: Walker Crawford
walker@viridis.ws

Vice President: Jim Benes
Jimbenes@iname.com

Secretary: DeAnn McAllan
d.mcallan@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Katherine Sparks
kasparks55@yahoo.com

Member at large: John Madigan
j.madigan@sbcglobal.net

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

December is the twelfth and last month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars. It is one of seven months with the length of 31 days.

December is the first month of winter in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere, December is the equivalent to June in the Northern hemisphere, which is the first month of summer. December has the shortest daylight hours of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and the longest daylight hours of the year in the Southern Hemisphere.



December shares the astrological signs of Sagittarius the archer and Capricorn the goat.

December has many religious and secular holidays and ends on the 31st with the celebration on New Year's Eve.

2015 DCAGS Board Election Ballot

Online survey can be found at (complete only one): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VWVWXFR>
Please vote yes or no for each candidate. Three-year terms each 2015-17. You may cast up to 4 votes.

<i>Nominated:</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
Barb Abbott (Biography Below)	_____	_____
Dick Ammann (Biography Below)	_____	_____
Joyce Peterson (Biography Below)	_____	_____

By writing in a candidate we will assume that you are voting yes.

Write-In Candidate: _____

Write-In Candidate: _____

Write-In Candidate: _____

Write-In Candidate: _____

Mailed ballots must arrive at the DCAGS P.O. Box by Thursday, December 4 or you can bring them to the DCAGS meeting that evening to turn in at the registration desk before the meeting begins.

Dane County Area Genealogical Society, PO Box 5652, Madison WI 53705-0652

New Candidate Biographies

Barb Abbott

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