
Upcoming Speaker Programs on 2nd Saturdays at 11am

June 9

Heather Fleener from H+H Heritage Conservation will offer a presentation and demonstration of historic masonry conservation. Often our historic gravestones are exposed to environmental and human impacts. These conditions can force us to take steps in conserving our heritage so that our descendants can have a lasting record when others are no longer left to remember them.

July 21

We will be having an outing to Portage, WI. We plan to leave on the 21st from LDS Church parking lot and carpool to the site. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Fort Winnebago Surgeon's Quarters in Portage, WI. The log building, constructed in 1819, is the oldest building in Wisconsin on its original foundation. The Surgeons quarters is the only surviving building of Fort Winnebago.

The Bicentennial celebration will be held from 10am-4pm. It is hosted by the Wisconsin Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. There will be demonstrations on the Fur Trade, Medicine in the Wisconsin Territory, historic reenactors, blacksmith, bead and trade displays, quilt-turning, flint lock gun demonstrations and 1830 soldiers encampment. **Note: Lunch options and maps to the Portage site will be available before we leave.**

August 11

Leslie Bellais, Curator of Social History, Wisconsin Historical Society – “Clues in the Dress: Dating Photographs from Clothing”.

September 8

Bob Rettammel, Professional Genealogist – “Genealogy Proof Arguments: Research Skill Development”.

Announcements

DCAGS Membership Directories

The DCAGS 2018/19 Membership Directory will be distributed at the June 9th monthly membership meeting. Pick-up your copy at the front table in the lobby before the meeting. If you are not able to make it to the meeting the directory will be mailed.

Westside Farmer's Market

DCAGS Outreach Committee will start attending the Westside Farmer's Market in June on Saturday mornings to do community outreach.
Note: We will not be at the Farmer's Market the 2nd Saturdays, since we have programs on this day.

Serendipity

by *Alice Bredeson Zweifel*

In the early 1970's, I spent hours in the home basement of my friend Professor Gerhard Naeseth searching through his personal notes and his library of resources to trace my roots in Norway. Gerhard had been an elementary school classmate of one of my older brothers. His father was the pastor who had baptized and confirmed me. Gerhard was Director of the Memorial Library on the UW-Madison campus prior to his founding the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library at 415 W. Main Street in Madison, WI.

I had already interviewed elderly relatives, scouted cemeteries, spent days at the Wisconsin Bureau of Vital Statistics, viewed microfilms at the Wisconsin State Historical Society Library, and used reference books at the UW Memorial Library. Gerhard's collection of immigration records and personal notes from cemeteries in nearby states helped me to find more of my Norwegian cousins in USA.

When Professor Gerhard Naeseth along with representatives from Nordmanns Forbundet led the first busload of American genealogists to tour Norway in 1984, the group visited churches, museums, regional archives, state archives, and historic sites. Each participant had submitted a list of what he hoped to find. The communities I wanted to see and the rural churches I wanted to visit were duly noted. Maps from the 1940's I copied from those found at the American Geographical Society Collection at UW-Milwaukee were so detailed that individual farmsites were named.

Traveling with my five-generation pedigree chart, the names of two of my great-grandfather's sisters who had married and stayed in Norway, the location of their homes, and the names of the rural churches where they had worshipped, I hoped to find descendants of each. The last contact with their families had been in 1900.

It was midsummer - meaning the sun would not set until about midnight. An afternoon in Oslo was intended for shopping before a formal dinner late that evening. I skipped both. A friend who worked in Oslo took me to historic and cultural sites in Oslo then drove me to his home to meet his wife. Their home was in Bærum. During conversation, I revealed that on the previous day at the Riksarkivet in Oslo, I had found a few records from Haslum Church in Bærum and would love to see the place. One of my great-grandfather's sisters, Karen Bredesen Stræte, had married Martin Haug and owned a fox farm in Bærum during the era when fox fur coats were in vogue. Their home was called Østre Haslum. They had been members of Haslum Church.

The church building was locked, but the huge cemetery was beautifully groomed. Rather than hire a caretaker for the whole cemetery, a designated

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family member of the deceased was responsible for upkeep of that person's gravesite. I started looking at names on the gravestones. My friend said, "Don't bother. You won't find your relative, because in Norway the graves are recycled every 25 years to save land."

One area of the cemetery behind the building was lower and landscaped with a small pond surrounded by flowering bushes. I thought that section so pretty that I snapped a photo of the pond area. Just as the shutter clicked, my friend said something to me. I turned back to look at him about 20 feet behind me. Directly in my line of vision between him and me was a stone with four generations of names and dates. The first and oldest name was Martin Haug and wife Karen, my great-grandfather's sister. Their child, grandchild, and great-grandchild had died 20-25 years apart. A small wooden stake inserted by the flowers had a sur-

name and phone number of the relative responsible for maintenance of that plot. Nearby were stones with names I recognized as descendants of Karen and Martin Haug from Norwegian Census records found at the Riksarkivet the previous day. The dates on the stones and numbers on the stakes led to correspondence with

other descendants of Martin and Karen.

Across the road from the church and less than a quarter mile away, stood Østre Haslum farm. The exterior of the house looked the same as in the photo my great-uncle had taken in 1900. I'm so glad that I skipped a fancy dinner in Oslo.

Sponsor a Guest

DCAGS is offering an opportunity for members to sponsor a guest with a one year free membership. Here's how it would work:

1. Current members could sponsor a free one-time guest membership for a new guest and/or family with emailed newsletters and other electronic correspondence. No directories and no printed materials will be sent.
2. Thereafter, the guest may join as a regular member with full member benefits (newsletters, directory, emails, mailings and events).
3. The year for inclusion runs for the membership period-March 31, 2018 to March 31, 2019. Members who wish to sponsor a free guest member would send an email to the DCAGS email address at wid-cags@gmail.com with the following information:
 - sponsor's name
 - guest's name
 - guest's address
 - guest's phone number
 - guest's email address

This is an excellent opportunity to increase the visibility of DCAGS and promote membership. So, send us the name of a guest.

I would wager a guess that most of us when we first embark on our genealogical journey are mainly thinking about collecting data for ourselves. But if we start early enough (as I did 59 years ago) then there is plenty of time to help others. Here are some ways that I did just that and contributed to genealogy. I look forward to discovering others.

1. I began collecting data on my Hasselman family in 1961, and by 1972, I had published my first small booklet. My dad's family was thrilled, and a reunion was started. I was off & running.
2. When I was researching my maternal grandfather, Carwin Arthur Miller, I visited his grave in Walworth Co., S.D. (Selby Memorial Gardens). I discovered a book listing Walworth Co. Cemeteries and found that data was missing from 1911 on

Carwin's complete birthdate, death date, and wife's name. I was able to furnish this information.

3. When researching my maternal great-great uncle, John William (Johann Wilhelm) Asbach who was killed in the American Civil War, I discovered that the location of his death was listed incorrectly as the Battle of Osage – Missouri when he actually died in the Battle of Osage – Kansas. The National Archives wouldn't correct this mistake, so I wrote a book detailing my research to correct the record.
4. When looking at the last census record available (1940) on Ancestry, I was able to look at my own family. There I found four mistakes!! My dad and mother's first names were misspelled; My sister was listed as

James I. instead of Janice E; and I was listed as Joyce G. instead of Joyce I. I contacted Ancestry about these translation mistakes.

5. I recently discovered that a Clark Kidder had written a series of books about the one room schools in



Rock Co. I purchased the book containing information he had collected about Inman School, the one room school that I attended for eight years. I discovered that there was a lot of information and pictures missing so I have supplied some of what was needed.

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(Making a Difference continued from page 5)

6. When I was doing some research for a friend in Norway, he told me that the family there believed this relative in America had died during WWI. In the course of my research in Minnesota, I found that the relative had actually died during an influenza epidemic. This shows that false information can often be cleared up.
7. When doing the re-search for my former husband, William Paul Nigbor, I discovered a treasure trove of World War I pictures taken by Bill's father, Paul Peter Nigbor during his service. I shared these pictures with the WWI Museum in St. Louis, MO, and with the Monroe Co. WI Historical Society in Sparta, WI. Both were pleased to have these additions to their collections.
8. I was able to help the Wisconsin Veterans

Museum enhance its collection in several



ways. Their goal is to collect information about every man or woman from Wisconsin who has served in any way I was able to arrange for them to receive information from my former husband, Wm. Nigbor; former brother-in-law, Milton Petersen; and uncle, Vernon Miller.

9. I have been able to spread the word about our interesting hobby of genealogy by giving talks to various organizations such as our DCAGS, area churches, and the University League's Genealogy arm. There are many places looking for speakers.

10. I have compiled three genealogical books. I make sure that this information which has taken me years to accumulate is not just resting in my files, but rather put into libraries where others can find it. My books are in the Wisconsin Historical Society Library, Allen County Indiana Library, LaSalle County Illinois Historical Society Library, and Winona County Minnesota Historical County Library to name a few.



Happy Summer, Members!

Update on Special Interest Groups

We are well on our way for establishing our Special Interest Groups (SIGs)! By now, everybody should have received the survey or fill out the sign-up sheets to sign up for the SIGs of their choice. Based on those results, we have determined the following dates, times, and places:

- **Computer Software** – Wednesday June 20th from 1-2:30 pm at Monona Public Library
- **Photography** – Wednesday June 20th from 2:30-4 pm at Sequoya Library
- **Old Colonials** – Wednesday June 20th from 5:30-7 at Verona Public Library
- **Brick Walls** – Thursday June 21st from 10:30-Noon at Fitchburg Public Library
- **DNA** – Thursday June 21st from 5:30-7 pm at Alicia Ashman Library
- **British Isles** – Thursday June 21st from 7-8:30 pm at the Panera Bread by East Towne Mall
- **Prussian/German** – Friday June 22nd from 10:30-Noon at Sequoya Library
- **Irish** – Friday June 22nd from 1-2:30 pm at the Monona Public Library
- **Eastern European** – Friday June 22nd from 2:30-4 pm at Sequoya Library

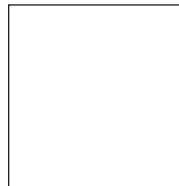
At these meetings, we are going to begin figuring out: where everybody is on their genealogical research; what you would like the group to do (i.e. give presentations, bring in speakers, do everything online); and who would be willing to serve as the board liaison (a person who we can contact to find out what is happening in the group).

IF you have not signed up for the SIGs and you would like to be notified, please fill out the following survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/Q1WddQFRHFQsNJBw2>

We are looking forward to working with you as we start this new venture for DCAGS. Remember: we are our best resource and it is time for us to start using our knowledge and experience!

Thanks,
Eleanor Brinsko
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