



# Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

## President's Message

Bob Rettammel

### Hello Members

Welcome to Fall. I look forward to this season for the beautiful fall weather, the colors, pumpkin pie and various family get-togethers or time with friends. Another reason is that it allows for more concentrated time to do genealogy instead of so many outside activities that are part of summer. I hope you all doing great and also have a wonderful Fall season.

On **October 13**, our Saturday Program will be called "Brick Wall" session. The session will be held in the gymnasium at the LDS, 4505 Regent Street, starting at 10:30am to 12 (noon). We will have tables setup for participants to bring their research documents. We will plan to divide people into small groups, so discussion can occur on similar brick wall topics. This program was scheduled since our original October program was re-scheduled for January 12, 2019 when George Findelin will discuss "Using Standard Histories to Find Elusive Relatives."

In this newsletter, you we see an article by Barb Abbott (page 3), who talks about her recent participation at the Federal Genealogical Societies (FGS) meeting in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Phyllis Nelson also did an excellent job recapping the talk (see page 4) given by Leslie Bellias to our group this past August meeting.

**November 10th** we meet at 11am for a Webinar given by Melissa Barker, from Tennessee, who talks about "Family Gatherings" and genealogy.

**December 8th** is our Annual "Show and Tell" program (see page 2) where Barb Abbott offers the details of this program. It is an excellent time to meet your fellow DCAGS members and share your family history and research efforts to the larger membership. We will have refreshments and food available.

October 2018 - November 2018  
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Regular DCAGS meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 11:00 am at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 4505 Regent, Madison, WI.

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The DCAGS Governing Board meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00 am at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 4505 Regent, Madison, WI. For more information, see:

[www.dcags.org](http://www.dcags.org)

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## *November/December Programs*

### **November 10**

We meet at 11am for a Webinar from Melissa Barker, from Tennessee, talk about “Family Gatherings” and genealogy.

### **December 8**

At our meeting on December 8th we will feature our annual Show- and- Tell. It is not too early to begin thinking about what you would like to bring and share. In the past members have brought various items such as: their family trees, pictures of their ancestors, scrapbooks, historic artifacts from their ancestral heritage, ethnic recipes passed down through the generations, traditional costumes worn in the “old country” and many other interesting tidbits of their research. Anything relating to your family history research is of interest to the rest of us. Even if you have nothing to share from your own research, Show- and- Tell is sure to spark your interest when you peruse the offerings of others. It is a time to share fellowship, ask questions, and enjoy learning about the research of others. There will also be ethnic delights to munch on, a choice of cold or hot apple cider as well as hot chocolate to drink. It is a wonderful way to escape the holiday frenzy and relax with your fellow DCAGS members and their guests.

#### **“Ethnic Delights”**

Members who can attend are invited to bring a treat to share from the country of their origin or of their choice. Cookies, bars, a cold plate of munchies are all welcome. Examples might be: biscotti (Italy), kolaches (Czech Republic), Rugelach (Israel) Pfeffernusse (Germany) etc.



There will be sign-up sheets at the October and November meetings. One sign-up sheet will be for bringing a Show-and-Tell, as we need to know how many tables to set up for the displays. The second sign-up sheet will be for volunteering to bring an “ethnic delight”.

Our Show-and-Tell meeting promises to be an exciting one so come and bring a friend or two.

## *My Trip to Fort Wayne, Indiana*

*by Barb Abbott*

In August, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, had its annual conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It was called “On the Three Rivers: Past, Present and Future”. I was fortunate to be able to attend with my sister. We



arranged to have one day in the wonderful Allen County Library which graciously extended its hours so the conference attendees could explore and use the genealogical resource center up to 11 p.m. for the 5 days of the conference. The genealogical center is quite extensive and is a treasury for Midwestern resources. I was able to piece some of my husband’s extended family together through findings in cemetery books for Aurora and Naperville, Illinois as well as DeKalb County Illinois.

There were three days of conference which included sessions on a variety of ge-

nealogical research strands such as DNA, African American, German, Technology, Immigration, Colonial, British Isles, Organizing Your Genealogical research and various other topics. The vendors were plentiful and many state historical and state genealogical societies were represented with tables offering information and free items. Ancestry, Heritage Quest, Find My Past and Family Search were all present and each gave mini classes on various topics during the free times between the scheduled sessions. All the sessions I attended had excellent speakers. The most memorable sessions for me were those in the German strand, and I feel braver now to delve into doing my German research across the ocean.

One of the most interesting sessions for me was called “The Search for Anna Hansen: Using Geography to Find German Records” by Daniel R. Jones. Anna Hansen, his ancestor, lived and died in Nebraska and was married to Peter Hansen. Mr. Jones first consulted all the American records he could find. Using the

1900 US census records for Nebraska he discovered that she was born in 1856 in Germany, that she immigrated in 1881 and that she was married in 1883 to Peter Hansen. He also found her US marriage record which gave him her maiden name of Simonsen. He then spent much time reviewing the historical geography of Germany and the types of jurisdictions for the German states, duchies, kingdoms, provinces etc. He stressed to us how important it was to know the boundary changes and the jurisdictions of the historical period needed in order to find the correct records. After a review of the different areas of Germany, he returned to the case history of Anna Hansen. He found Anna on a ship passenger list which listed her as Aa Hansen, age 25, wife, from Prussia. The ship came from Hamburg so he then looked on the German Hamburg departure lists and found Hansen, Anna, age 25, of Bordlum, Schleswig, one of the 12 Prussian provinces. He now had the town and area. He then  
*(Continued on page 5)*

## Recent Interest Group Meeting

### Clues in the Dress: Dating Photographs from Clothing

Presented by Leslie Bellais on August 11, 2018

Leslie Bellias is a Curator at the Wisconsin Historical Society which was founded in 1846. The subject of her talk was "Clues in the Dress: Dating Photographs from Clothing."

Her talk was very entertaining and informative, as she provided slides of a variety of clothing and introduced the audience to ways of identifying the period of time it was most likely worn. She advised the audience on how to look for particular textiles and costumes, which clothing was most indicative of specific periods of time.

Leslie began with a photo of Victorian clothing from the 19th century, noting that women's clothing in the 1830-1840 period could be identified by a large "puff or bubble" in the dress sleeves.

In the 1840's women's clothing was identified as having a V-shaped bodice (pre-Civil War era), tight narrow sleeves, collars with ribbons and white cuffs. Hair was worn close to the head, often in a bun style in the back of the head. Pleating of the dress known as "Cartridge Pleating", and off the shoulder "armcyes". Clothing for men in the

1840's had a tall but soft white collar, wide dark stock, deep, wide lapels, suit pieces that did not match and suits that were relatively tight.

In the 1850's, women wore hoop skirts which were introduced in 1856. They wore a wide sleeve with undersleeves. The collar would be flat and rounded. There were sometimes wide ruffles on the skirt and hair would be fuller around the head. Also wore off the shoulder armcyes. Clothing for men revealed neckware changes with large bow ties.



In the 1860's, women wore elliptical hoops with a shorter waist and narrow white collars. The coat revealed Bishop sleeves and off-the-shoulder armcyes. Also, there was re-introduction of hats. The hair may be brushed back to reveal the

ears. Men now wore shorter lapels as well as baggy clothes (pants).

In the 1870's women wore high top hats and round high-waisted bustles and two-piece skirts, made of the same fabric. They wore coat sleeves with wide cuffs. They also wore V- or square necklines filled with lace., Their hair tended to be "big" and armcyes were at the shoulders. In late 1870's and early 1880's women's clothing showed a return of the bustle with a flap top, long-waisted and elegant look. They wore a very tight bodice and sleeves, a draped skirt, sometimes made of multiple fabrics. There was a vertical look from the front with lots of tiny buttons on the bodice. Women wore small hair styles, usually with curls. They also wore stand-up collars, with white lace and ruffles at the collar. This style was worn through 1884.

In 1883-1884 the bustle went away. Men's wear in the 1880's consisted of three-piece suits in the same fabric with short shallow lapels. In the 1890's women's

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(Fort Wayne cont'd from page 4)

checked Meyersgaz.org and found (by using a Wild Card search) Bordlum was really Bordelum and Meyers Gazette gave lots of information about the town. He then did a Google and a Wikipedia search. He discovered that in 1864-1866 the town was in the province of Schleswig-Holstein. When he googled this, he learned that Russia had conquered Denmark and this province was split into the 2 sections, Schleswig being in Denmark's jurisdiction while Holstein remained in Prussia's. He found Anna's records in Denmark. In the 1860 German census he found Anna Dorothea Simonsen, age 4, living in Bordelum. He even found a marriage record of Anna marrying Peter Hansen in Bordelum. If he had not known the historical information or the particular jurisdictions of each German province etc. he would never have found the records about Anna Hansen.

I urge everyone who is interested in Genealogy to attend the FGS conference next year will be in Washington D.C. and will include tours of the National Archives.

## **Recent Interest Group Meeting**

### **Research and Methodology Section: Genealogy Proof**

*Presented by Bob Rettammel on September 8, 2018*

#### **A. Genealogy Standards**

Help us

- Differentiate Correct from Incorrect Information
- Determine unspecified relationships
- Demonstrate that Research results are credible

#### **B. How do we demonstrate that our results are credible?**

Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) meets this need.

- It also reflects Genealogy skill set
- GPS helps us produce trustworthy family histories, enabling future generations to build upon our work.

#### **C. Why Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS)?**

- Research establishes conclusions that advance knowledge.
- Standards differentiating acceptable from unacceptable conclusions.
- Accommodating the possibility that an acceptable conclusion may later be overturned, standards stop short of absolute certainty.

Genealogists require a standard to separate acceptable information and conclusions from those that are unacceptable

#### **D. Five Components of GPS**

1. Reasonably Exhaustive Research
2. Complete and Accurate
3. Correlation
4. Resolution of any conflicts between evidence and the proposed answer to a research question
5. Narrative supporting the answer

#### **E. Research and reasoning cycles**

1. Question
2. Gather Evidence
3. Test hypotheses
4. Establish conclusions
5. Prove

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*(Clues in the Dress continued from page 4)*

clothing began a decade of puffy sleeves, small waist, full, flared and gored skirt in an hour-glass shape. Women wore their hair in a small bun or a top knot as well as a stand-up collar at 2 to 3 inches high.

In the 1890's men's clothing revealed neckties for the first time with a soft or very hard collar. Lapels were widened and deep. Men wore neatly groomed hair and mustaches. In the 1900's women wore clothing of the Edwardian era. Dresses were "s-curved" over the body, with gored, lily-shaped skirts, sometimes with a mermaid

tail. Sleeves were narrow and then became puffy. Hair became bigger. In the 1900's men wore tall stiff stand-up collars and neatly groomed hair.

In the 1910 era pre-World War I, women wore skirts that were narrow with tall collars. Dresses were replaced with V-neck or square neck bodices. Skirts were shorter, revealing the ankle. The bodice was blousy/droopy. Hair was smaller and closer to the head. From 1922 to 1924, women's clothing had a dropped waist and a "potato sock shape" which de-emphasized the bust and hips. The skirt was

lengthened to the ankle. During the late 1920's clothing was "Flapper Style" with a dropped waist and sleeveless dresses popular. In the 1930's women's clothing returned to normal length dropping to mid-calf, with a long, narrow shape and small bosom. Women wore short, bobbed hair and "Marcelled" hair.

From 1937 to 1939 women wore shorter skirts below the knee with emphasis on wide shoulders. They wore wavy or tightly curled hair and dark lipstick.

*Submitted by  
Phyllis J. Nelson*

### 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 [membership@dcags.org](mailto:membership@dcags.org) 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.

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(Research and Methodology continued from page 5)

## F. Concepts to Keep in Mind with GPS

Genealogical proof is easier to achieve and demonstrate when we plan our research to answer focused question.

- Concern a documented person
- Seek specific information about the documented person
- Questions fit:
  - Relationship
  - Identity
  - Activity

## Glossary of Selected Key Genealogy Terms

**Analysis**: Two Processes - 1) Information & Evidence items that source contains answer to research question via directly, indirectly or negatively. 2) Consider source characteristics/history and its relevant information collected to determine likely accuracy.

**Correlation**: The process of comparing and contrasting genealogical information and the evidence to resolve conflicts and also see patterns or parallels with other source information.

**Hypothesis**: A research question that is tested for accuracy with collection of evidence and a potential conclusion.

**Exhaustive Search**: Research that examines all sources - which is an impossible task.

## Reasonably Exhaustive Search: This is the GPS Element - Requires 5 Criteria

- Two independent sources agreeing directly or indirectly on a research question.
- Covers sources competent genealogists would examine to answer same question.
- Some primary information and direct, indirect or negative evidence from one original record.
- Replace where possible derivative records, secondary or indeterminable information.
- Find data from sources that can identify as potentially relevant to case.

## Bibliography

1. National Genealogical Society - Special Topics Series  
Mastering Genealogical Proof by Thomas W. Jones, [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org)  
\$25.00
2. Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace -  
3rd Edition revised by Elizabeth Shown Mills  
Genealogical Publishing Co., 3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Suite 260, Baltimore, MD  
\$60.00



# Dane County Area Genealogical Society

4505 Regent Street  
Madison, WI 53705

[www.dcags.org](http://www.dcags.org)

## Board of Directors Candidate Application

We are looking for people with:

- An understanding or interest in genealogy
- A passion for genealogy, history, place and culture
- A willingness to commit time, energy and leadership to the Society

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any other boards or committees on which you have served:

\_\_\_\_\_

Why are you interested in joining our Board of Directors?

\_\_\_\_\_

If elected to the Board, what skills, strengths or interests can you contribute?

(Please check all that apply)

\_\_\_ Program & Education development

\_\_\_ Event planning

\_\_\_ Finance, budgets, accounting

\_\_\_ Genealogical programs / exhibits

\_\_\_ Library or archive management

\_\_\_ Membership recruitment

\_\_\_ Non-profit organization experience

\_\_\_ Public relations, publicity

\_\_\_ Social media

\_\_\_ Teaching experience

\_\_\_ Volunteer recruitment / management

\_\_\_ Web or graphic design

\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us anything else you would like to share. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Opportunity to Fill Openings on the Board of Directors

A nine-member Board of Directors guides the Dane County Area Genealogical Society (DCAGS). Prospective new board members are nominated by the full board and are elected by the membership, in attendance at the next annual meeting in November. Board members serve for three-year terms; there is no term limit for the Board of Directors. One third of the nine seats are elected each year.

The Board meets, prior to the Membership meeting, once a month at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, located at 4505 Regent Street in Madison, Wisconsin.

### Board Member Responsibilities

Be a member in good standing of the Dane County Area Genealogical Society

- Advocate for and promote the Society
- Guide the Society by mission, vision, policies and objectives
- Safeguard and manage the Society's resources responsibly and effectively
- Become familiar with the Society's: Bylaws & Policy and Procedure Manual
- Make a commitment to attend monthly Board Meetings
- Make an effort to attend the Monthly & Annual Membership Meetings and other events
- Contribute ideas, articles or content for the newsletter or the DCAGS website

Consider joining an organization interested in the past but moving to the future.

## Director Openings

### We need members to participate as Directors

At the November 2018 Membership Meeting, the board will be accepting nominations for members to consider themselves or another person as a director for DCAGS. Voting will take place before the December meeting, through ballots by electronic/email or mail.

### OPENINGS

**2 Director positions are open and need to be filled.**

**3 Director positions are up for re-election.**


A director is an important part of the DCAGS leadership and will help decide the direction of the society. As a director, you help decide the growth and future of DCAGS by working directly with the Governing Board. Which meets monthly before the general meeting. Various topics and projects allow you to share your support and leadership with the whole society.

At this time the board is providing notice to the membership about these needed open roles. We would appreciate having you as a member recommend yourself or someone else. Send nominations to DCAGS President at [president@dcags.org](mailto:president@dcags.org) or the DCAGS Membership Chairperson at [membership@dcags.org](mailto:membership@dcags.org). What would you like to share with others? See the description and application for the Directors position on page 8.

Dane County Area Genealogical Society  
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Madison, WI 53705-0652



**Address Service Requested**



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**DCAGS Governing Board Officers**

President: Bob Rettammel  
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Vice President: Eleanor Brisko  
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Secretary: Phyllis Nelson  
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Treasurer: Jerry Lange  
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**Standing Committee Chairs**

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