
Upcoming Membership Meetings/Speaker Programs

October 14

Richard Pifer, PhD. Will speak on this Title: “Oh no! Grandad’s World War I service record burned in a fire. What do I do now?”

Rick Pifer is the retired Director of Public Services for the Library-Archives Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society. As an archivist and librarian, he spent 35 years helping genealogists identify and use the records they needed to trace their ancestry. He has taught a wide array of classes and workshops on topics ranging from courthouse research to mapping metes and bounds. As a historian, Dr. Pifer’s research interest has always been the Wisconsin home front during the world wars. He is the author of *A City at War: Milwaukee Labor During World War II* (published 2003) and *The Great War Comes to Wisconsin: Sacrifice, Patriotism and Free Speech in a Time of Crisis* (due out in October 2017).

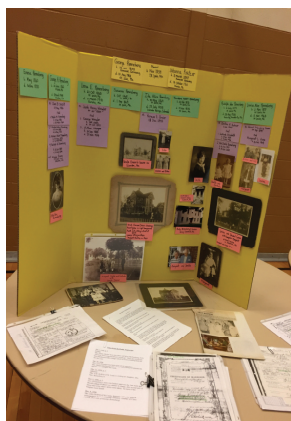
November 11

Professional Genealogist Thomas MacEntee will be giving a Webinar on how to develop a proven strategy to benefit from the work of other genealogists.

December 9

It is not too early to begin thinking about our December SHOW and TELL.

Members are invited to bring some aspect of their genealogical research. In the past we have had displays of traditional dress, uniforms, utensils, photographs, maps, family trees, albums, recipes, computer programs, and anything else that people wished to share. You are invited to sign up at our November meeting to bring a show and tell so that we know how many tables will be needed for the displays.



Our December meeting is always a joyous sharing of our personal pasts, with conversation over treats and cider. It is a great time to meet other members and get new ideas. Please be thinking about what you can contribute to our December 9th meeting.

(President's Message continued from page 1)

Attention

We have an opportunity to fill vacant Board of Director seats. An important item I want to bring to your attention in this issue is our Board of Directors Candidate Application in the issue of Newsletter. We are at a time again when we are seeking candidates for becoming a member of our Board. In this issue, Jim Booth, Membership Chairman, has put together information for interested members to read and consider themselves for joining the DCAGS Board.

In this Issue of Newsletter

In this issue we have a new section by our Webmaster Melodee Patterson talking about how to maneuver on our website www.dcags.com and register for our programs or events. You don't have to register to be at our Saturday programs. We kindly ask our members or Guests to register for the simple reason to learn the number of members "planning" to come hear our speakers. It also assists in

the number of handouts, etc. that we can inform the speaker prior to their presentation.

One of our longstanding members and Board Member Barb Abbott has a new article about her own family research.

Eleanor Brinsko has an article about her maternal side of the family and how she used Facebook as a tool for family sharing and for what she learned about her grandma's Dad.

Genealogy news

My Heritage company (www.myheritage.com) acquired Legacy Family Tree (www.legacyfamilytree.com) in August 2017. Those who use MyHeritage will now have access to Legacy's genealogical webinars and other resources. Legacy Family Tree software will continue to be offered and an option to sync family trees on the MyHeritage website.

The company AncestryDNA (www.ancestry.com/dna) has now moved to what they call "one test, one account", which means that those providing their

own test will have control of their own results instead of having an "admin" who managed your DNA results or maintained it for you (a family member or another relative). Now each adult who provides DNA must activate his/her own AncestryDNA test account using a unique email address for that belongs to the tester. A tester can grant the family genealogist full access to manage results, once the results come to the tester. Lastly, if you already manage (admin) for AncestryDNA kits before July 18, 2017, you won't see any changes in your access to those tests.

Family Tree Maker 2017 is now available for Windows and Mac users. Owners of older versions must install the upgrade for \$39.95 to use Ancestry and FamilySearch hints, syncing, searching and merging functions.

Register for Society Programs on Our Website

Click the “Register” button on the website or the “Register Now!” button in the event email.

Enter your Email address and type in the characters you see in the picture.
Click the “NEXT” button.

Instructions for Members:

If you’re a member, you will see this message:

“You can log in to auto-fill your contact information - or proceed with the registration without logging in.”

Either:

Click “Member” then click the “NEXT” button
Enter your First and Last name then click “NEXT”.
Click “CONFIRM”.

Or:

Click the “Login” button and enter your Email and Password and click “LOGIN” button.

You’ll see “Incomplete event registration” link in the bottom right corner of your browser window. Click that to continue your registration.

Click “Member” then “NEXT” button.

You can now add a guest, if you’d like.

Click “NEXT” button.

Click “CONFIRM”.

Instructions for Guests:

Click the “Register” button.

Enter your Email address and type in the characters you see in the picture.

Click the “NEXT” button

You’ll see a message: “Note: some registration types are only available for members.”

You may apply for membership, if you’d like.

Otherwise, click “NEXT”.

Enter your First and Last name then click “NEXT”.

Click “CONFIRM”.

If you have any trouble registering for an event, or have questions about the DCAGS website, contact Melodee Patterson at deekae99@gmail.com.

Who was Frank Walsh?

by Barb Abbott

The Walshes have always presented mysteries to my research. Some seem to have disappeared, changed their names or died without being known to the rest of the family. Here is one example of a brick wall finally shattered.

Grandpa Abbott always talked about the Walshes, his mother's side of the family. Peter Walsh, his grandfather, came from Kilkenny, Ireland to Monroe Co., Illinois in 1855. He was found in the 1860 Census working on a farm with the Murray family. At that time he was 22 years of age. Bridget Murray was 18 in 1860 and eventually married Peter in 1864. Peter and Bridget had 6 children before Bridget died in 1877. The children were: Thomas Joseph, James Patrick, Mary Margaret, Agnes, Catherine Ann and Anna Maria. James and Mary Margaret were twins, and Grandpa knew a lot about them. In 1878 Peter married Mary Jane Shields. Peter and Mary Jane had 11 chil-

dren: Emma, John, Anastasia (who was Grandpa Abbott's mother), Theresa, William, Thomas, Frank, Arthur, Thomas B, Virginia and Marcella. In 1890 Peter and Mary Jane moved to the city of St. Louis.

Grandpa seemed to know the birth years of all the Walsh children. The story he told was that Frank was 16 when he was killed by a St. Louis streetcar in 1904. Grandpa had a burial receipt from the Arthur J. Donnelly Funeral Home to prove his point.

In researching the Walsh family in Monroe Co, Ill and then in St. Louis, Mo. I discovered Grandpa was very accurate with his stories of the Walsh family members, except for Frank. I searched the 1900 Census and found Peter, Mary Jane and their family, but no "Frank" (or any variation of that name) was listed as one of the children. I combed the Calvary Cemetery Records Where many of the Walsh children, Peter, and Mary Jane were buried. There

was no Frank (or any variation of the name). I searched the obituary index of the St. Louis Post Dispatch for 1904 and found no Frank Walsh listed as having died. There was no article about a streetcar accident in Oct or Nov 1904 which corresponded to the funeral bill record Grandpa showed me. There was no name on the funeral bill record to prove that the burial belonged to Frank, just proof that Peter Walsh paid the necessary price to bury someone. None of the other children died at that time so that record still remains a mystery.



When St. Louis published its birth and death records electronically, I went searching again. And then I had success. J. Francis Walsh was born in 1888, which corresponded to

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(Frank Walsh... continued from page 5)

Grandpa Abbott's birth year. Frank turned out to be John Francis Walsh, living on Palm Street (I knew this was Peter and Mary Jane's address) and was 6 years old (not 16) when he died, not in 1904, but in 1894. An article in the Post Dispatch appeared October 4, 1894 on page 5 titled: A Day of Fatalities. Within the content of the article, 4 children were killed, two met their fate under the wheels of railroad trains and as the article stated, "were ground to pieces". This graphic article mentions the children's names, one being John F. Walsh, run over by a train at Palm street.

Appearing in the article was a special paragraph devoted just to John F. Walsh. "John F. Walsh, 6



years old, who formerly resided with his parents at 224 Palm Street was struck by a Wabash train

yesterday while playing on the corner of Second and Palm streets. The boy was stooping over in the street when the engine pulling a number of freight cars came along the Wabash tracks. When warned, the boy was too frightened to move, and was crushed under the wheels of the train. The body was cut to pieces. ..."

There was no special obituary other than this article listed for John F. Walsh. Peter, Bridget, and Mary Jane lost many of their children in infancy, and lost some in early adulthood to tuberculosis. Although I was thankful to have the Frank Walsh mystery solved, I have much compassion for Peter and Mary Jane who had to endure such a difficult experience of losing their little Frank on the railroad tracks in such a violent way.

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-April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018. 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 and email address

This is an excellent opportunity to increase the visibility of DCAGS and promote membership.

So, send us the name of a guest.

Pfinding My Pfindsten Pfamily by Eleanor Brinsko

Growing up, I learned that there was a branch of the family that you do not speak about: the Pfindstens, my maternal-paternal's side of the family. These people were crass, rude, and were the quintessential black sheeps of our family.

This all stemmed back to my great-grandparents, Lester and Jessie Pfindsten. They had six children (3 girls and 3 boys) and my grandma was the youngest daughter. Lester made his living as a con man, as my grandpa would describe, and therefore, he made his living doing odd jobs and tricking people out of money. He was rarely home, except for when he was ready to have another child.

My grandma said that the last time the "family" was together was when she was 2 years old and he stepped out to get some bread. "He must have gone to get the butter, too," my grandma always quips at the end of the story.

Jessie and Lester divorced and they both remarried. Jessie remarried a Swed-

ish man named Cedarberg and had three more children. But it was this man my grandma called "Dad" while Lester was her "Biological Father."

My grandma had a lot of shame and embarrassment for her father. He was not there for her wedding when she married my grandpa at the young age of 16. He was not there for the births of his grandchildren. Lester came around a handful of times as she aged, but only when he felt like it. He died in the 1970s.

That relationship trickled down the generations to my mother and uncle and then onto my brother and me. But now that I am growing in my genealogical experience and passion, I wonder who he was. I wonder what his family was like. I wonder... what happened?

I began looking on Ancestry, FamilySearch, Google, all the different databases and I have found little on Lester himself. One of the neat things I did discover was that his parents moved around the state of Wisconsin opening up

and managing creameries (maybe that is why my great-grandfather was the tumbleweed of the family?) Otherwise I was striking out.

My next step was to create a Facebook group of the people I knew were Pfindsten cousins of mine that were descended from Lester. It has been joked that I am related to half of the town of Red Wing, Minnesota because of my grandmother's siblings and their children. I created the group and added those who I am already Facebook friends/connected to online. I invited them to add the people that they knew....and that's when the group exploded.



Not only were Lester's descendants added, but then the descendants from Lester's siblings were added! Holy cow! To date, we have over 70 members of the group and it is still growing!

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(Pfungsten Family... continued from page 7)

I created the group back in April 2017 and by the summer, a couple of my cousins decided that it was time to have a family reunion because they, too, also did not realize how many people we were all related to.

I asked my grandma if she would want to go. At first, she was somewhat hesitant and doubted that it would be pulled together, but as time went on, she grew in excitement. She was excited to meet her family for the first time in 79 years.

Our family reunion was in September in Red Wing and it was a beautiful day along the Mississippi River. There was a welcome table set up to have nametags with color-coordinated butterflies that listed our ancestor and to create an address book so we do not lose track of each other. We felt comfortable with each other through the interactions that we had on Facebook, so it was like seeing old friends!

While sampling all the different hot dishes that people brought, we also had a scavenger hunt amongst us, needing to ask each other who was

descended from this person and that person, hobbies, and such. It got us walking around and talking to our cousins. We were also able to help identify people on the historic photo table and to see the PowerPoint presentation of the different siblings we are descended from.

I discovered that I already knew one of my cousins since we played in the same community band ten years ago. I also met a cousin who loves history and pop culture to the point that she has a Wednesday Adams tattoo on her bicep! I think my greatest thrill

is that my grandma got to meet an aunt she never knew she had. Once that connection was made, my grandma never left her side.

I love the fact that something so beautiful as this family reunion came out of this long tradition of thinking that anybody from this branch of the family is horrible. It just brings the Donny Osmond lyric to mind “one bad apple don’t spoil the whole bunch, girl.” I believe that is something we all learned from this and we cannot wait until next year’s reunion!

Ask DCAGS

We are hoping to help members who are experiencing a problem or “dead end” in their research. At the next membership meeting, stop at the Name Tags table where you can provide us with a description of your problem, with your name and phone number/email address. Bob Rettammel and helpers will respond with suggestions about how your situation might be approached. They will not do the genealogical work, but will offer ideas.

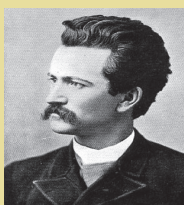


Save the Date

Sunday, October 15, 2017

The Dane County Historical Society is pleased to announce that it will be dedicating a new historical marker in the Primrose Township.

“Robert M. La Follette: The Early Years”



Please join us for the dedication ceremony (time and location TBD) followed by a light reception in the Town Hall.

For more information, email us at danecountyhistory@gmail.com or call 608-224-3605.

Visit our website at danecountyhistory.org

Like to Write? Then We Have an Opportunity for You!

We have many talented writers who have written for the DCAGS newsletter who provide us with great insights and ideas. But we would like to extend the invitation to everybody in our society to write an article!

We are curious about what you have learned, about your experiences, and your discoveries that can help us all grow.

If you have never written an article before, this can be used as a beginning to start writing your family history through this small step. This would also be a great way to get involved with our society, especially if you have not been able to attend our meetings.

These articles do not have many rules: it has to do with genealogy, it cannot have profanity, it can be as short as a paragraph or as long as a page or two, it has to be typed instead of handwritten, and it has to be emailed to Liz Freitick, DCAGS newsletter editor at efreitick@gmail.com.



Dane County Area Genealogical Society

4505 Regent Street
Madison, WI 53705

dcags.wildapricot.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: _____

7 October 2017



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Madison, WI 53705

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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

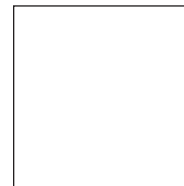
- Be a member in good standing of the Dane County Area Genealogical Society
- Advocate for and promote the Society
- Guide the Society by mission, vision, policies and objectives
- Safeguard and manage the Society's resources responsibly and effectively
- Become familiar with the Society's: Bylaws & 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.

Revised 7 October 2017

Dane County Area Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 5652
Madison, WI 53705-0652

Address Service Requested



P.O. Box 5652
Madison, WI 53705-0652

www.dcags.wildapricot.org
www.facebook.com/dcags
www.widcags@gmail.com

DCAGS Governing Board Officers

President: Bob Rettammel Vice President: Vacant
brettammel@gmail.com

Secretary: Phyllis Nelson Treasurer: Jerry Lange Past President: Rollie Littlewood
pjnelson10@att.net gelange@wisc.edu rkittle@wisc.edu

Directors

Barb Abbott Jim Booth
bdabbott12@tds.net jaboath03@gmail.com

Eleanor Brinsko FGS Delegate: Jim Benes Jerry Lange
eleanor@carlongenealogy.com jimbenes@iname.com gelange@wisc.edu

Marilyn Merrill Phyllis Nelson Bob Rettammel
lynmerrillwi@gmail.com pjnelson10@att.net brettammel@gmail.com

Director: Vacant Director: Vacant

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Jim Booth Programs & Education: Vacant
jaboath03@gmail.com

Outreach: Bob Rettammel Historian: Barb Abbott
brettammel@gmail.com bdabbott12@tds.net

Web Master: Newsletter: Liz Freitick
Nick Brinsko-nbrinsko@hotmail.com efreitick@gmail.com
Melodee Patterson-deekae99@gmail.com