



# Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

## How to Identify Old Unidentified Photographs at August 2 Meeting

July 31, 2007

Volume 1, Issue 11

Barbara Clark Hovorka from Portland OR will be our guest presenter for the 2 August 2007 program. Barbara has had a fascination with her family history since she was a child. She has researched her family all over the world.

Barbara graduated from Eastern Oregon University and has a Professional Genealogical Certification from Brigham Young

University. She has taught family history at Portland Community College and many conferences, seminars and workshops.

We are pleased to have Barbara Clark Hovorka as the speaker in August. Please join us at the 2 August 2007 meeting held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 4505 Regent, Madison, Wisconsin beginning at 7 p.m.



## DCAGS Meeting Cancellation Policy

We want to repeat the DCAGS Meeting Cancellation Policy that was published in last month's newsletter. The Governing Board adopted this policy in light of the two meeting cancellations earlier this year. The policy is:

The Dane County Area Genealogical Society will consider canceling a scheduled meeting if the Madison Metropolitan School District cancels school or authorizes early release due to

severe weather conditions (e.g., blizzard, tornado, etc.) that are expected to continue into the evening hours. Should school not be in session, other community-wide cancellations may be taken into account. A decision to cancel a meeting due to severe weather conditions shall be made by a majority of the Executive Comm.

The decision should be made by Noon, if possible, the day of the

meeting and notice should be sent out to members ASAP by email as well as put on the DCAGS webpage.

Members can also check by listening to WIBA, 1310 AM and WOLX, 94.9 FM. Notice will also be sent to Channel 3 and Channel 15 TV stations.

We hope we are better prepared if there is future bad weather!

**Regular DCAGS meetings are the first Thursday of each month at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 4505 Regent, Madison, Wisconsin beginning at 7 p.m.**

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### DCAGS Update:

*The DCAGS Governing Board meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. The next meeting is on Monday, August 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the South Madison Branch Library, 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!*

### Individual Highlights:

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# Genealogy Fair on September 8

The Dane County Area Genealogical Society will host a Genealogy Fair on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, located on the corner of Regent St. and Segoe Rd in Madison. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM and continue throughout the day. Presentations, Demonstrations will begin at 9 AM and the Exhibition Hall will open.

Beginning at 9 AM and continuing until 2 PM:

- ☐ PAF Demo and Practice presented by Chuck and Marlene Rogers.
- ☐ Digitally preserving old photos and videos By Todd Kienitz.
- ☐ Ancestry and Heritage Quest Demo by the Madison Public Library.

Tours of the Family History Center will begin at 9:30 AM and continue every half hour. A sign up sheet will be available at the registration table.

The Exhibition Hall feature the following:  
Vendors:

- ☐ Origins Genealogy Book Store - Linda Herrick
- ☐ Life History Services, LLC; - Anita Hecht
- ☐ Heritage Makers, Inc - Rachel Durtschi
- ☐ Greg Peck - Author of

*Death Beyond the Willows*

- ☐ Jacobs Archival - Sally Jacobs, Archivist

Exhibits:

- ☐ Sons of the American Revolution
- ☐ John Bell Chapter, NSDAR
- ☐ Cottage Grove Area Historical Society
- ☐ Dane County Historical Society
- ☐ Wisconsin State Historical Society
- ☐ Madison Public Library
- ☐ Area Research Center UW Whitewater - Karen Weston
- ☐ Norwegian-American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library- Jerry Paulson, Director of Genealogical Research
- ☐ Madison Area Tech. College - ACE Division
- ☐ Research Center Wisconsin Veterans Museum
- ☐ Fitchburg Historical Society
- ☐ Max Kade Institute
- ☐ Area Research Center UWP- James Hibbard.
- ☐ Scrap booking your family keepsakes- Karen Clark
- ☐ Family History display - Tom Glassel
- ☐ University Archives and Records Management Services - David Null, Director

Presentations:

9 AM: Basic Recording Methods for Genealogy by Pat Stone

This presentation will include examples of the paper forms used to record family information.

10 AM: Using Traditional Histories to Find Your Ancestors by George Findlen, CG<sup>SM</sup>  
The story of the elusive Michael Findlen illustrates how traditional histories can augment traditional genealogical documents to explain our ancestor's moves.

11:30 AM: Gravestone Symbols by Pat Skubis  
Enjoy a virtual walk through the cemetery watching a slide show presentation featuring tombstones. The meaning of the symbols will be explained.

1 PM: Records that Can Provide New Avenues for Research by James Hibbard

This presentation will showcase some of the lesser, and better, known sources that can assist you in retracing the steps of your ancestors: property tax rolls, circuit court records, agricultural censuses, vital records, county histories, & population censuses.

Refreshments will be available. Please plan on attending and bring a friend or relative!

**Puzzle of the Month** is a new feature. It is a great way to share what we know. A member may submit (on a 4 x 6 card) a basic puzzle and give it to a program committee member. At each meeting a new puzzle will be announced and any member can offer direction, an answer or you can bring the info to the next meeting. Each puzzle of the month will be printed in this newsletter as well as the answer/solution to last month's puzzle. Everybody learns!

## Puzzle of the Month

We will be taking up June's question at the August meeting. This question is, "If an ancestor was buried in a church cemetery, would

the interment necessarily be noted in the church records?"

If you have a suggestion or idea, bring

it to the August 2nd meeting.

## Visiting the Dane County Historical Society

On a lovely July evening, members of the Dane County Area Genealogical Society visited the Dane County Historical Society (DCHS) at the Lussier Family Heritage Center. Many brought a picnic dinner and enjoyed the beautiful location.

Debbie Kmetz, the cataloging coordinator at DCHS, was our tour guide showing us numerous items among the collection of DCHS. Debbie explained that while the breadth of collection may not be enormous, in some areas there is a great deal of depth.

The DCHS started in 1961 when 150 people met at the Dane County

Fairgrounds. The objective of DCHS is to "preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of Dane County."

About the same DCHS began, Dane County was involved with a project called the "Dane County Blueprint for Growth." Over 250 people were involved in this project. One of the leaders of the project, as well as DCHS, was J.W. Clark, a long-time County Extension Agent. He helped DCHS obtain some important historical information.

One of the early items in DCHS's collection is "The Western Tourist and Immigrant's Guide." DCHS has two editions, one from

1836, the other from 1839. The books provided information about what people could expect if they came to Wisconsin. J.H. Colton published the books.

Another important early contributor was Don Anderson, editor of the Wisconsin State Journal. One of his contributions was a bound copy of all the V-Mail Editions of the State Journal that were sent to soldiers during WWII. The V-Mail editions were short editions of the Wisconsin State Journal and were published from March 22, 1943 to October 27, 1945. Mr. Anderson donated one of six bound copies of the V-Mail editions.

*Continued on page 4*

## Message from your President

What a beautiful evening we had to enjoy our picnic at the Lussier Family Heritage Center. The setting, the weather and the opportunity to socialize were a perfect start to an enjoyable evening.

Debbie Kmetz's talk and exhibit of some of the Dane County Historical Society's holdings held our interest during the evening's program. I personally found the old books from the 1800's that described the West (Wisconsin) to new immigrants to be fascinating. I know that Shirley Levine found more information about

PFC Rodney W. Harris in the Central High School Year Books that the Society has. Soon Shirley will need to give us an update on her visit to the Netherlands and her day with Henk Rath who cares for Rodney's grave.

I want to thank all of you who signed up to help out at the Fair. We still have a few positions to fill, but the list is getting shorter. For those of you who signed up to put up Posters, they will be ready to be given to you at our August meeting. If you are unable to make the August meeting let me know so I can make

arrangements to get the posters to you. Be sure to read the article on the activities and plans for the day of the Fair.

I am looking forward to our August program on "How to Identify Old Unidentified Photographs" since I have a lot of them with no one left to ask who they could be. I should label many of my own, so that someday my children do not say, "Who are all of these people?"

Hope to see you on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*Pat Skubis*

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**Volunteers Needed**  
Genealogy Fair on  
September 8.  
Please sign up at  
the August 2<sup>nd</sup>  
meeting. We  
need people to  
help as greeters,  
to serve  
refreshments and  
work at the  
registration table.

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## Dane County Historical Society Continued...

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### Bylaw Change

In an effort to make the Annual election work more smoothly, the Governing Board is recommending the following bylaw change. According to the bylaws, it must be published 30 days prior to a vote and we hope to have the change in place by the November annual meeting.

Proposed change:  
Article IV – Officers,  
Section 2. Election,  
subpart a.

~~Elections shall be conducted by ballot via the U.S. Postal Service shortly after the Annual meeting. Elections shall be conducted by ballot. Ballots will be distributed via the newsletter following the annual meeting. Ballots are to be returned on or before the next scheduled membership meeting.~~ All members in good standing shall be entitled to cast one vote for each office listed on the ballot.

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Some other donation: to DCHS were items from Madison Central High School. The High School was located in downtown Madison and operated until 1969 when it closed. DCHS has copies of Annuals, Commencement programs and a full collection of the *Madison Mirror*, the student newspaper of Central High. Right now DCHS is undertaking a project to digitize the *Madison Mirror* and is fundraising to begin the project by the end of 2007. Once the papers are digitized they will be readied for the Internet, where people can search the contents online.

DCHS also have a collection of maps. Debbie showed us a 1901 Hydrographic map done by University students, which showed a ridge on Park Street, near where St. Mary's Hospital is currently located. Apparently the ridge was 15 feet high and when it was leveled, numerous Indian graves were discovered.

DCHS also has the original tax records for the county. The records were microfiched at the Wisconsin Historical Society but they did not want to keep the originals, so DCHS has them.

For those interested in rural free delivery routes,

DCHS has G.R. Angell & Co.'s Directory of Dane County, 1904-08. The directory lists the 91 RFD routes at that time as well as an alphabetical listing of the families served on each route. The book also provides other information on the farms: the names of family members, farm acreage, and if the land is rented. DCHS also has the post office records for Cottage Grove from 1887-1968.

DCHS is also the repository for the Dane County Homemakers Records. Debbie announced that the Homemakers Program is ending in Dane County so the final records will soon be available.

Several townships and churches have published histories that are available at DCHS. In addition, DCHS has a few family histories available. In addition, DCHS has a full complement of all the Reminiscence Writings anthologies of Anne Short, who has taught Reminiscence Writing classes for the past 20 years.

One of the major projects of DCHS is its placement of Historical Markers around the County. To date DCHS has erected 50 markers commemorating early

settlers and buildings as well as important historical sites.

Both before and after the program, DCAGS members were able to peruse Otto Schroeder Records Center. Previously housed in the Madison Public Library, the Society moved its records center into the beautiful Lussier Family History Center facility in 2002. The DCHS Records Center was renamed as the Otto Schroeder Records Center at that time, in honor of the grandfather of a major donor. The Otto Schroeder Records Center is accessible to the public by appointment only.

Debbie explained that DCHS is cataloging the collection, and hopes to make the catalog records available online in the future. Meanwhile DCHS is always seeking additional volunteers to help catalog the collection.

DCHS is a membership organization and publishes a quarterly newsletter. If you would like additional information on DCHS, call (608) 224-3605 or visit their website <http://wicip.org/dchs/>.

We thank Debbie and the DCHS for a wonderful tour. For those DCAGS members who missed the event, plan on visiting DCHS soon.

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### New Organization

Joyce Nigbor passed on a new organization to check out: the Williams Research Center of The Historic New Orleans Collection. She asked

for information about ships arriving in the 1850's as two of her ancestors came into New Orleans during that time. She also asked about the diseases found in New Orleans during this period.

Williams Research Center  
The Historic New Orleans  
Collection  
Daniel Hammer,  
[DanielH@hnoc.org](mailto:DanielH@hnoc.org)  
Reference Assistant  
410 Chartes St., New Orleans,  
LA 70130 (504) 598-7112

## Upcoming Events

### 2007 FGS Conference "Meeting at the Crossroads of America"

When: August 15-18, 2007

Where: Fort Wayne, Indiana

For full information, including the complete program schedule and registration materials, go to: <http://www.fgsconference.org/>.

WSGS is running a bus to the FGS conference; it will probably stop in Windsor to pick up passengers from the Madison area. See [www.wsgs.org](http://www.wsgs.org) for more details.

### The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International 11th bi-annual Genealogical/Cultural Conference

When: October 18-20, 2007

Where: Alliant Energy Center  
Exhibition Hall in Madison

Go to:

<http://www.cgsi.org/whatsnew.asp?inEventID=398> to learn more.

### The Illinois State Genealogical Society 2007 Conference

When: October 20, 2007

Where: Elmhurst, IL

### The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Fall 2007 Seminar

#### "Finding Your Roots on the Family Farm"

When: October 27, 2007

Where: Wausau, Wisconsin

Featured speaker: J. Mark Lowe.

Lectures:

- Cheap Land on the Prairie (or That's What the Railroad Man Said)
- Land Barons or Dirt Farmers: Finding Land Transactions
- My Ancestor, the Farmer: Shaping a Profile for Your Rural Ancestor
- Locating Civil War Ancestors.

Go to: [www.wsgs.org](http://www.wsgs.org) for more information.

## Fall Genealogy classes offered by MATC

Registration for classes is now open. Sign up now; if the class does not fill by two weeks before it begins, it is canceled. Don't wait until the last minute.

Fee \$45.42. Individuals who have reached the age of 62 years or older at the time of registration may be exempt from a portion of the program fees. Phone (608) 246-6210 for assistance with fee information.

Registration times are: Mon-Thursdays - Noon to 6 PM, Friday - Noon to 3 PM or online at <http://matcmadison.edu> select "Inside MATC" and follow the directions. Call (608) 246-6240 or toll free 1-800-628-6282 to register by touch tone phone. If you have problems registering, check with the Senior Center Staff.

Waunakee Area Senior Center: 26465 Internet: Genealogy Intermediate on Wednesday, 1 - 4 PM starting 9/12 to 10/17.

Fitchburg Senior Center: 26089 Internet: Genealogy Introduction on Wednesday, 6 - 9 PM starting 9/12 to 10/17.

Madison Senior Center: 25867 Internet: Genealogy Intro on Friday 9 AM - 12 Noon starting 9/21 to 10/26.

Oregon Senior Center: 26395 Internet: Genealogy Intro on Friday 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM starting 10/12 to 11/16.

Sun Prairie High School: 28675 Genealogy (This is not a computer class) Tuesday 6 PM - 8 PM starting 9/18 to 10/9 Fee \$29.43.

### "Death Beyond the Willows" Bus Tour

Author Greg Peck, who will be one of our vendors at the Genealogy Fair, will narrate a third bus tour of sites in his book, "Death Beyond the Willows," for the Marshall Area Historical Society.

This tour, on Sunday, Sept. 16, is designed to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy surrounding the book. It will include a tree-planting ceremony in Portage in memory of Johnny and Hazel Pirkl.

Peck of Janesville grew up in Marshall, where Pirkl of Marshall and Hazel Ferguson of Cottage Grove, were wed Sept. 27, 1927. They died in Portage that same day.

The tour will begin at noon at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Marshall, site of the wedding and funeral. It will take in key farms, homes and the Catholic cemetery in Marshall. The tour will journey to Portage for the tree-planting ceremony and a walk around Pauquette Park and "Bridal Pond." It will take in sites around Cottage Grove on the return trip. The tour should conclude between 6-7 p.m.

Cost for the bus trip is \$20 per person. Make reservations by contacting Romona Walker at (608) 655-3240. Send checks made out to the Marshall Area Historical Society to Walker at 545 Meadowbrook Court, Marshall, WI 53559.

South Madison Community Campus: 25313 Internet: Genealogy Intro on Friday 9 AM - 12 Noon starting 11/2 - 12/14.

If you have an idea for a special class contact Pat Skubis at [PSkubis@matcmadison.edu](mailto:PSkubis@matcmadison.edu). If 8 to 10 people are interested in a specific topic, she can try to arrange a class thru MATC.

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



**Dane County Area  
Genealogical Society**

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

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See you  
August 2

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We have a new web  
address: [www.dcags.org](http://www.dcags.org).  
If you enter the address it  
will take you to the  
group's website on  
Rootsweb.

**DCAGS officers for 2007: Standing Committee Chairs**

**President**  
Pat Skubis  
[p318skubis@hughes.net](mailto:p318skubis@hughes.net)

**Vice President**  
Pat Stone  
[rjstone@chorus.net](mailto:rjstone@chorus.net)

**Secretary**  
Joyce I. Nigbor  
[billyjoycenigbor@aol.com](mailto:billyjoycenigbor@aol.com)

**Treasurer**  
Jim Benes  
[JimBenes@iname.com](mailto:JimBenes@iname.com)

**Past President**  
Shirley Levine  
[shirts26@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shirts26@sbcglobal.net)

**Membership**  
William "Bill" Baures  
[bauresb@juno.com](mailto:bauresb@juno.com)

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