Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

Emigration Patterns from Germany to Southeastern Wisconsin at June 4 meeting

Emigration Patterns from Germany to Southeastern Wisconsin is the topic for the DCAGS meeting on June 4. Our speaker will be John Von Haden, a native of Hartford, Wisconsin, who has become quite well known for his genealogical research in Washington and Ozaukee counties of Wisconsin.

His current specialty is reading/translating church records and civil records from Germany, France, and Luxemburg. When you see a tiny little church out in the country, the original farm owners surrounding it often came from within miles of each other in Germany. This presentation will use Washington County, Wisconsin, as an example to show some emigration patterns from Germany to Wisconsin in the 1840s and early 1850s. Families, related or not, often came together and sometimes even went to the land office on the same day so that they could be neighbors here. From a research perspective, you can sometimes use these patterns to help you find the elusive birthplace city of your Wisconsin ancestor.

We are meeting at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 4505 Regent Street, Madison, WI. Please join us on Thursday, June 4 at 7:00 P.M.

Mark your Calendars!

DCAGS Genealogy Fair

Saturday, October 10

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 4505 Regent, Madison, WI

Social Networking for Genealogists

The May program presentation by Pat Skubis featured the use of the downloadable software from MyHeritage.com.

The software allows one to record all of one's genealogy data and is capable of making it available for publication in 15 different languages. There is a translation wizard and one can translate into any of the 15 languages.

One can import data from any other genealogy software program by using a GEDCOM file or by typing it in. The program is easy to navigate and can manage several generations.

The software allows a person to create a number of different reports and charts, which can include photos and documents that have been scanned and then imported into the program. If pictures are scanned the program has a face recognition tool that can help identify people.

Once you have your data into the program you can decide if you want to post it on the Internet.

Pat said that 500 people can be posted online for free. If your database is larger than that, one can sign up for a one or two-year subscription.

Our treasurer, Walker Crawford, explained to the group how his nephew, as part of a school project, has involved other family members into an online genealogy project. Each is a member of the site his nephew set up. All the family members have the MyHeritage software program on their own computers, but as each member enters their data it becomes part of the whole project. The site manager sets up who is allowed to enter data.

Allowing this integration of information is one of the nice features of the program, since you can take your laptop with you and enter data into the program and when you get home it will be recorded into the database on any other computer you might have. It also serves as a backup, should your computer crash, since it is on the MyHeritage site.

Pat also talked about how the site also compares other family trees that have been submitted for what they call "Smart Matches." It then notifies one so that you can compare the data. If they have indeed found a match you can contact the submitter through their service.

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, Madison, WI beginning at 7 p.m.

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DCAGS Update:

The DCAGS Governing Board meets the third Monday of each month. The next meeting is set for Monday, June 15 at 6:30 p.m. South Madison Library, 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!
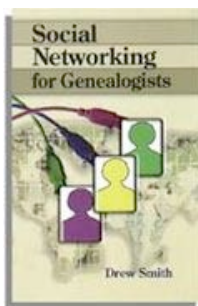
Social Networking for Genealogists Continued....

The "Smart Match" feature helped Pat solve one of her brick walls. She finally found out how her Wisconsin family was related to a family living in North Dakota. It turns out they were descendants of her great grandmother's sister.

Thanks to a new cell phone hook up on Walker's computer, Pat was able to show how the site appears online. She showed the site as if we were a visitor and could view some of the information that Pat had posted. Information about living people is kept private. Pat then showed the site as a member would see the information. In this view all of the information is available.

The program also sends onereminders of birthdays and anniversaries, so that one can send out cards. This feature also alerts one that you might not have entered someone's death or brings up the fact that you may have typed a date in wrong.

MyHeritage is just one of several social networking sites available for posting your genealogy. Below is a list of others. Pat suggests that you look them over and decide for yourself which one meets your needs and those of your family members. This is one way of getting younger members of your family interested in doing family research or in helping develop multi-generational, multi-branch genealogy information. The nice part is that photos and documents can be shared with everyone. Social Networking Genealogy Sites:

Geni http://www.geni.com/

Amiglia
http://www.amiglia.com/intro/

FamilyLink
http://www.familyhistorylink.com/

MyFamily 2.0
http://www.myfamily.com/welcome/

Famiva http://famiva.com/

MyHeritage
http://www.myheritage.com/

Drew Smith has a new book, *Social Networking for Genealogists*, where you can learn about the subject. It can be ordered at http://www.genealogical.com:80/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=5446&ref=1000 for $18.95 plus shipping.

A review about MyHeritage by Gary M. and Diana Crisman Smith is found in the *January/February 2009 edition of Digital Genealogist.* Subscribe to the online magazine at http://www.digitalgenealogist.com/ The annual subscription is $25. Or email Pat at skubie27@live.com and she will email you a copy of the article.

So start a social network to reach out to family members.

According to the book *Social Networking for Genealogists* it "is about the type of social networking made possible by the development of international computer networks; availability of network access to most homes (especially broadband access); creation of websites dedicated to particular types of networking (posting photos, viewing and commenting on videos, seeing what books friends have in their libraries, etc.); and ease of participating in these sites without having to be a computer expert."

To read another review of the book, go to http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/05/book-review-social-networking-for-genealogists.html

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President's Message

The Excitement of Genealogical Conferences

I enjoy going to genealogical conferences — especially national conferences. There are usually two national conferences each year which are aimed at broad audiences (as opposed to those with a particular ethnic focus); these are sponsored by NGS – The National Genealogical Society (held in the late spring) and by FGS – The Federation of Genealogical Societies (held in the very late summer).

The location of these conferences moves all around "the lower 48"; some are held relatively close to Dane County (Milwaukee in 2002; a Chicago suburb in 2006; Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 2007), but most are far enough away that flying must at least be considered.

Attending a conference is admittedly not inexpensive, but there are ways to keep the cost down: register early; share your hotel room and/or stay in a hotel some distance from the conference center; forego most of the luncheons and banquets, etc. But four days of being able to hear really top-notch speakers can be invigorating to a genealogist.

However I have found that having good speakers isn't enough; I have to psyche myself up to listen intently to what they have to tell me. If you ever take the opportunity to attend one of these conferences, in addition to getting your tickets, reservations, etc., remember to prepare your brain to listen!

Upcoming events

Cemetery Art Workshop

When: June 13, 2009; 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Where: Union Presbyterian Church, Monroe, Green County

Featured speaker: Minda Powers Douglas, "Cemetery Art: Museums on the Lawn." She is the Epitaphs Magazine editor and publisher of *Cemetery Walk* and *Tombstones Translated.* The class will visit a cemetery and do gravestone rubbings.

Cost: $30 for Green County Genealogical Society members, $35 non-members.

Registration: Due 6/1/2009. For information, contact green_ancestors@hotmail.com

German Interest Group Annual Workshop

When: July 11, 2009

Where: Hamilton Center, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Featured speaker: Warren Bittner, Collection Manager for the Germanic, French and Oriental collections at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Cost: $30 GIG member, $35 non-GIG member by 6/27/2009 and $35 for GIG member and $40 for non-GIG member after that date.

Registration: For information go to: http://www.rootsweb.com/~wigig/

Passages Through Time Federation of Genealogical Societies

When: September 2-5, 2009

Where: Little Rock Convention Center, Little Rock, AR

Cost: $175 pre-July 2, $225 post-July 2; costs do not include meals

Registration: For information go to: http://www.fgs.org

Save the Date!

Summer DCAGS Picnic on Thursday, July 9!

Once again DCAGS will host an indoor picnic at the Fitchburg Senior Center. DCAGS will provide food, but people are invited to share a dish to pass. The meal begins at 6 p.m. and short after-picnic program will follow at 7 p.m.

To get to the Fitchburg Senior Center, from the Beltline go out Fish Hatchery Road (also known as Hwy D) until you come to Lacy Rd. Turn left on Lacy. On your left just past Research Park Dr. is the Fitchburg City Building. Go to the second driveway. The Senior Center is in the back of the building on the lower floor. There is plenty of parking in the back of the building

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President's Message Continued

I recently returned from the 2009 NGS conference, held in Raleigh, North Carolina. I listened to lots of good lectures (and a few bummers), but two in particular tweaked my interest. The common theme of these two was the real estate mantra: "Location, Location, Location." You want to be able to place events your ancestors participated in on the map, then investigate what else was taking place in the same area and who else was there.

These two lectures were "Google Earth for Genealogists" and "Ancestral Atlas." The first was a two hour show-and-tell demonstrating how to overlay Google Earth images with other kinds of maps (such as Sanborn insurance maps, plat maps, Rumsey historical maps, or maps produced by Family Atlas) and how to add your own place markers on the maps (e.g., this is where Grandpa Littlewood was born in Nottinghamshire; this is a picture of the church cemetery where his parents are buried). There is quite a bit of online help available in Google Earth, and most of the things you can do with it are free. If you have your own computer (or share one with other family members), I encourage you to try this out (go to <earth.google.com> to download the basic program). Google Earth can be used on some public computers (such as those in libraries), but you probably can't keep any of your customization on a public computer.

The second was admittedly a sales pitch for a new commercial internet service which is still in its infancy of development. With Ancestral Atlas you also place event markers on a web-based map. Although this can be just for your own use, the developers of this service intend it to be a social networking tool where strangers can see your markers and can contact you to see if the two of you have interests in common worthy of further collaboration, or where a small group of people known to each other can collaborate. Data entry can be manual or via GEDCOM upload. All initial communication is done without revealing any contact information, so one should not get SPAMmed as a result of reaching out to others with potentially similar surname and/or location interests. Parts of Ancestral Atlas usage are free, but there is an annual fee to be able to collaborate. The developers of Ancestral Atlas are located in the United Kingdom, so some of the region-specific aspects are being developed first for the British Isles. As an incentive to encourage "early adopters" the company has an introductory offer — get a lifetime subscription for the price of one modest annual fee. See <www.ancestralatlas.com> for more information about this service.

The conference syllabus materials for these two presentations are copyrighted, but I will push the concept of "fair use" to its limits and post them on the DCAGS website through 7 June, the Sunday after our next meeting.

Rollie Littlewood

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
                    !

**Dane County Area
Genealogical Society**

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

See you
June 4!

We have a new web
address: www.dcags.org/

If you enter the address it
will take you to the group's
website on Rootsweb.

DCAGS officers for 2009:

President: Rollie Littlewood
rklittle@wisc.edu

Vice President: Don Cole

Secretary: Gerry Schlecht
13gerry@att.net

Treasurer: Walker Crawford
walker@viridis.ws

Past President, Pat Skubis
p3l8skubis@hughes.net

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: William "Bill" Baures
bauresb@juno.com

Programs & Education: Vacant

Public Relations: Vacant

Historian: Sandy Zart
sandy_zart@yahoo.com

Web Master: Rollie Littlewood
rklittle@wisc.edu

Newsletter: Ruth Simpson
rsimpson@terracom.net

Users of Family Tree Maker 2008

For those of you who have not yet upgraded to FTM 2009 please be aware that Ancestry.com is offering a free upgrade because of the issues that came along with FTM 2008.

To qualify for this upgrade you need to have purchased FTM 2008 prior to February 2009. Those of you registered early enough should have received a link for this upgrade. However, if you did not or can not find the link call FTM customer service at (800) 262-3787 and request an upgrade.

Please be aware that there seems to be a range of understanding by their customer service representatives so if the first one tries telling you that they are no longer offering it, ask to speak with a supervisor.

Walker Crawford