



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

Getting Over, Through, or Under Brick Walls At December 3 Meeting

The DCAGS December meeting will feature Jody Glynn Patrick who will discuss, "Getting Over, Through, or Under Brick Walls – How I Went From 32 to 37,000 Names to Build the Largest Webster Database in the U.S."

Jody's talk will focus on the "brick walls" she encountered in her Webster project and how she dealt with them. She will have tips for others about how to get past their brick walls.

There's always one relative using an alias or disappearing – how do we find him or her? Creatively! That's the focus of this talk.

Our speaker is the publisher of *In Business* magazine and co-host of the WDTY radio show "In Business With Jody & Joan." She is also the founder & president of Glynn Patrick & Associates, LLC – a five-year old company that does genealogical research and

writes historical biographies.

Please join us on Thursday, December 3 at 7 p.m. at the Jesus Christ Church of Latter-day Saints, 4505 Regent St.

Remember to turn in your ballot for the election of Vice President and Treasurer. Results of the election will be announced that evening.

November 30, 2009
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Remember to
renew your
DCAGS
membership if
you haven't
already.

Publishing Your Genealogy

Jan Coombs, DCAGS member and author, gave a very interesting presentation on publishing your genealogy at the November 5 DCAGS meeting.

Jan began by saying that most genealogists are a bit odd – we like spending time in libraries with musty old books and papers.

Jan gave some history on her own genealogy project. About 20 years ago she got her father interested in doing some work on his family genealogy. He was French-Canadian and traced the male line of his family back to France. That was all he was interested in, so Jan had to do the rest.

She was able to find many good records and she had her father – who could speak and write French – do a lot of translation.

Jan said the question that many genealogists must answer is what do you want to do with your genealogy? She decided to put something down on paper.

Jan feels that it is important for genealogists to decide how they will save their material so that their descendants will be able to access and enjoy all effort they put into gathering their genealogies. Its fine to save your work on CD's or DVD's while you're working on it but everyone should consider publishing their work on paper when they want to pass their family histories onto their children and grandchildren. She noted that the format of electronic data changes all the time, so that material generated on her Tanday computer 20 years ago is not accessible on any computer today.

Jan was interested in making an untraditional publication – something that would make the family history fun to read and understandable. She wanted to make sure people understood what the ancestors were like.

This doesn't mean you don't do research, Jan said. You need to do careful research, but then work to make it fun.

She wanted to illustrate some different examples of nontraditional family histories. Jan invited poet Ronnie Hess to read from her book, *Whole Cloth*, a book of poems about her family.

Unlike many people who publish a family history, Ronnie was able to find a publisher who would publish her book of poems. The publisher is Little

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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.

DCAGS Update:

The DCAGS Governing Board meets the third Monday of each month. The next meeting is set for Monday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. South Madison Library, 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!

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Publishing your Genealogy continued...

Eagle Press, a small publisher in Door County Wisconsin. The book costs \$12.00.

Jan also showed the book, *Marshalls – Derbyshire to Darby A Quaker Family of Pennsylvania 1661-1907* by Nancy Marshall Bauer. It lists the family members by chapter and includes fictional interludes between chapters of what may have happened to family members. The book cost \$5000 for 200 books.

Jan's book, *Our Tangled Roots*, is the history of people who were part of her Gregoire, Adam, Martel and Beaudry Lines. She had hoped to have the book at the meeting, but she decided to redo the index, which held up the publication. She hopes to have copies by Christmas.

Instead of starting with a founding father and tracing his progeny to the present, Jan started with her four grandparents and traced all of their ancestors to the time when they came to the New World. Jan describes more the 2,000 ancestors in four appendices, one for each grandparent. But the main portion of her family history she tells about the exploration, founding and settlement of the French colony in present-day Canada. And she calls forth about two hundred of her ancestors to illustrate what their lives were like in New France and after the English Conquest of the colony. It becomes a story of adventure, sacrifice and courage that parent can read and enjoy with their children.

One ancestor was the first farmer in the settlement. Another ancestor was a fur trader/voyager. He lived with the Nipocene Indians and fathered a daughter with an Indian woman. He brought his daughter to live with his wife and family. When her ancestor was out on the river, the canoe overturned and he drowned. So even though he had spent 30 years on the water he never learned to swim.

Jan had a story about how New France was settled. King Louis XIV had sent soldiers to the frontier to protect the new settlement. Many of the soldiers were young and unmarried. The King thought that the soldiers would be more stable if

they were married so he sought out young women to go to New France and marry the soldiers. The became known as the "King's Daughters." Over a 10-year period about 800 young girls came to the settlement. The records regarding these women are very good.

Jan said when the girls arrived they stayed at the Catholic Church. The soldiers would come and meet the women and then within a few weeks the men and women would sign marriage contracts. By and large, there were no problems with the women. The women were very fertile and many people descend from these large families.

The French colony was very primitive. There were no roads until the English took over in the 1760s. They were also very self-reliant as they made their own furniture.

Later there was a mass migration from the area to New England so that people could participate in the industrial revolution.

Jan was able to find out some of this information from relatives who still lived in Canada.

Jan said she does not include any family charts in her book, but does include stories of the ancestors in the index.

Jan said she decided to have her book professionally edited. This cost \$800. She is having the book typeset on 8 1/2 x 11 acid free paper and it will be bound in leather. It is 450 pages and cost \$4,000 to \$4,500 for 30 books.

Jan also brought two additional examples. Reuben Buse did one book. He sent letters to living relatives and got stories and pictures back. He put them together with family charts and had it formatted. It is 100 pages in length and loose leaf. It cost \$25 per copy.

Jan has a cousin in Canada that put together a book. She included marriage and land records. The book is 455 pages in a loose leaf three-ring binder. She had 30 copies made for

\$1,100 or \$36 a copy. Her cousin is not happy that the pages with the punch holes start to tear. So Jan said be aware of that as you decide on your binding.

Jan provides a list of guidelines and resources available to people interested in publishing their family history.

Copy Editing: It is very important to have a second pair of eyes. People who may be able to help: family members, if they know what they are doing; teachers or college students; or professional services, who usually charge \$1.50 a page or \$15 per hour. Sometimes this is included in a self-publishing package, but be aware of the quality of their work.

Formatting/Typesetting: You can do your own formatting using a word processing and/or a genealogy program. Professional services vary greatly in cost, but is often included in a publishing package.

Indexing: You can index yourself with a word processing or genealogy program.

Copyright: You can apply for your own copyright. Visit <http://www.copyright.gov/> for information.

Paper and Binding: Acid-free paper and hardcover binding are the most durable. Match paper size to your needs. The usual sizes for hardcovers are 6" x 9" or 8 1/2" x 11".

Sales Assistance and other services: These are usually offered by publishers.

Many firms cater to authors who want to self-publish. Some are unscrupulous. Publishers that seem to be reputable:

XLIBRIS: It is widely regarded, offers many services, including acid-free paper. When Jan was considering the company, their representative was very accommodating. www.xlibris.com

Otter Bay Books: They took over Gateway Press in Baltimore, Maryland. When Jan talked to the new owner, it sounded as though they did not require a 200 book

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Upcoming events

Wisconsin Historical Society Genealogy Classes

December 5 -- Google Books and FamilySearch.org -- These two online resources are often overlooked even though they house millions of digital collections vital to genealogical research. This class will show you how to use the sites to make your family research more complete.

Instructor: Lori Bessler, Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator for the WHS Library Archives (Fees are \$25 for WHS or WSGS members or \$30 for nonmembers.)

December 12 – Ancestry.com and Library Edition (Class will be held in computer lab.) Come to this workshop to find out how to conduct effective searches. See how this site compares to others in content and

find out the differences between the private subscription and Library Edition. By Lori Bessler Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator for the WHS Library Archives (Fees are \$35 for WHS members and \$40 for non-WHS members.)

Descriptions of each event are found at www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes.

Save the Date

2010 Gene-A-Rama

April 16-17, 2010

Holiday Inn in Manitowoc

Guest Speaker: Stephen S. Barthel will be presenting programs on German and Polish genealogy subjects

Publishing Your Genealogy Cont...

minimum purchase on their publishing orders. She found their prices appropriate for their services and provided materials for our meeting.

otter.bay.books@gmail.com

Lulu Publishing: It was recommended by a couple of people but Jan was unable to contact the company directly by email or telephone. They seem to conduct their business through their website without personal attention.

www.lulu.com

We look forward to seeing Jan's book when it arrives from the publishers.

President's Message: Easing your way into "computer genealogy"

Some genealogists who have been doing "paper genealogy" approach "computer genealogy" with fear and trepidation. There is a hesitation to spend hard-earned money on a computer program which may not fit their needs. One approach to this is to start out with one of the free genealogy programs which offer a pathway to more sophisticated software IF you find you're ready to make such a move.

Three such programs come to mind. The Family History Library has made *Personal Ancestral File (PAF)* available at no cost for many years. There is no direct "upgrade" available for this program, but because it has been so popular many commercial genealogy programs have been designed to import *PAF* data quite faithfully.

Legacy has offered a free version of its software for a number of years; they offer an upgrade path for those who like the free version and find they would now like more capabilities.

The latest company to offer

both a free version and a more capable commercial version is RootsMagic.

I have not personally used any of these programs, but all three software providers are highly regarded. If you are still sitting back, waiting to take the plunge into keeping your genealogical data on a computer, check out one of these three free programs. Version 5.2.18.0 of *PAF* can be downloaded from www.familysearch.org/paf; version 7.0 of *Legacy Family Tree Standard Edition* can be downloaded from www.legacyfamilytree.com; version 4 of *RootsMagic Essentials* can be downloaded from www.rootsmagic.com/Essentials/.

You may find one of them to be a good stepping stone to a fancier program, or you may find that one of these free programs suits your needs just fine on its own. (Note: these are all *Windows* programs; I am not aware of any comparable free programs with upward paths written for Macintosh computers.)

A date to mark on your calendar

Attending a large genealogy conference often seems easier (and may be less expensive) when the conference is within driving distance of your home. This is especially true if two or more people share the ride (as well as the lodging). We've had several national conferences within driving distance of Dane County in the recent years--in Milwaukee (2002), suburban Chicago (2006), and Fort Wayne, Indiana (2007).

In 2011 we'll have another such opportunity -- the Federation of Genealogical Societies conference will be held in Springfield, Illinois, 7-10 September. Save this date on your calendar! You cannot only attend a wonderful genealogy conference with lots of exhibitors and top-notch speakers but you can visit the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, which has been getting rave reviews.

Rollie Littlewood

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Address Service Requested

We're on the Web!
See us at: www.dcags.org



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Genealogical Society**

P.O. Box 5652
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See you
December 3

Check us out on the web:
www.dcags.org.

Have a question? Email
us at
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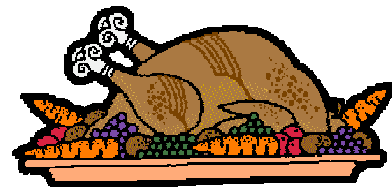
Newsletter: Ruth Simpson
rsimpson@terracon.net

DCAGS Election Ballots

Attached to this newsletter is the DCAGS ballot for the positions of Vice President and Treasurer. The positions are for two-year terms. Ballots will be accepted in three different forms: Return by mail, return by email or bring to DCAGS meeting on December 3.

If returning by mail, ballots must be received in the DCAGS mailbox by Thursday, December 3. The DCAGS address is listed on the ballot. If sending by email, please return by December 3 to widcags@gmail.com. Members are welcome to bring ballots to the December 3 DCAGS meeting where they will be collected at the meeting.

Remember to vote!



Have a Happy
Thanksgiving!