



# Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

## *Finding Those Who Served: Genealogy Resources at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum at December 2 Meeting*

November 30, 2010

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Please join us on Thursday, December 2 to hear Russ Horton, Reference & Outreach Archivist at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, speak about "Finding Those Who Served: Genealogy Resources at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum."

Horton will talk about the 100+ year history of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and will describe the resources available to genealogists researching veterans from the Civil War through the present. Because the WVM focuses on military and veterans history, it not only has incredibly unique resources for researching

soldiers, sailors, and veterans, but the staff has a level of familiarity and expertise that allows them to point genealogists in the right direction if their answer can't be found at WVM. With the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War beginning next year, the interest in Civil War genealogy will increase exponentially, so Horton will be sure to highlight services and products relating to the veterans of that conflict. If you have a Wisconsin Civil War soldier in your family tree, bring in the name to learn more about their service.

Russ earned a BA (history)

at UW-Madison and an MA (history) and MLIS (library science) at UW-Milwaukee. He's worked at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum for nine years and has been actively developing resources for genealogists for the past two years. As much as he learns about genealogy and as hard as he tries, he still can't find a Civil War soldier in his family tree!

Please join us on Thursday, December 2 at 7 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4505 Regent St.

### **Share Your Family Trees With Us**

In January the monthly presentation will be on ways to display your family tree. For those of you who already have a completed family tree, you are invited to bring it and share it with other members at the January meeting.

### *"Have You Seen...?"*

James L. Hansen, FASG, the reference librarian and genealogical specialist at the Library of the Wisconsin Historical Society, provided his expertise in a "have you seen..." presentation at the November 4 DCAGS meeting. He said it was a "completely arbitrary selection of 'new' or 'improved' publications, online resources and other odds and ends that you might not have encountered – lately."

The first item was in the *Great Migration* series by Robert Charles Anderson. Previously a three volume series covered ancestors in New England from 1620-1633. There is now a

second series with six volumes: *Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635*. It covers ancestors' names from A-S with another volume on the way. Jim called this "the bible" on ancestry in New England. Your ancestor will be listed if they came there in this time period.

Another new book series is *Colonial Records of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania* edited by Peter Stebbins Craig. A five-volume set covers early Swedish Churches on the Delaware River. Three volumes cover 1646-1759. Each one is translated and indexed. Jim said only three of the five volumes are at the WHS library.

The other two are on order. Jim also noted that Mr. Craig just died so he is not sure if this project will continue.

The third book is by Frank J. Doherty, *Settlers of the Beekman Patent, Dutchess County, New York*. It has 10 volumes to date from Abbott to Rogers. It includes carefully crafted sketches of families who settled there prior to Independence. Jim said it is very good to look at and allows you to dig into other records to find other connections.

The final book is *New Englanders in the 1600s; a Guide to Genealogical Research*  
*continued on page 2*

**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 Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is set for Tuesday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the new South Madison Library on 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!*

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## *“Have You Seen...?” Continued...*

*published between 1980 and 2005* by Martin E. Hollick. Jim categorized this as a bibliography. It includes published accounts of New England families who came in the 1600s – genealogies as well as publications and articles. Jim recommended checking it out if you had a New England family since everything cited in the book is at the WHS library.

Jim moved on to some Internet resources beginning with HeritageQuest. It has indexes to the federal censuses, except from 1850 and 1930. Jim said it is different than the indexes on Ancestry. He thinks it is of better quality and gives you one more shot at finding that lost ancestor.

HeritageQuest also has books including thousands of published histories. Jim recommended using the WorldCat catalog to find the book by using a keyword or author. If you are searching for a person, it may not be wise to search by both the first name and last name. You may want to only try the surname and then if you find a book, use the first name. Many books have their own indexes and you can check from there.

Jim moved onto Ancestry, the Library edition. The Canadian 1851/52 to 1911 censuses were added, including indexes. The Prairie Provinces also have their indexes available from 1906 and 1916.

Also new to Ancestry is the Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934. It is indexed from 1877-1914. Those earlier than 1877 and later than 1914 are available in handwritten indexes only. These are the records of people leaving Europe. It does include a listing for birthplace or previous residence. Jim indicated that previously this was only available at the Library of Congress, so having the information online is wonderful

### ***Footnote.com is Acquired by Ancestry.com***

Ancestry.com acquired Footnote.com on October 22, 2010. In a press statement Footnote.com said, “As we join forces with Ancestry.com there is a huge opportunity to leverage each other’s strengths and move even faster toward our goals. You may be curious about how this deal affects members of Footnote.com? The plan is

resource.

There are also several state censuses now available on Ancestry, including those for Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Florida, Wisconsin (1895 and 1905 only) and the recently added California 1852 state census. Some states had very good state censuses, but it does vary. For Iowa, the 1925 census is available and when it lists the individual it lists his or her parents. Florida also has state censuses from 1935 and 1945. As noted the California 1852 census can be very useful since the federal 1850 census probably missed many people as they were traveling to California during the Gold Rush.

Jim said Ancestry also had WWII Draft Registration Lists. In Wisconsin the lists are not indexed, but are arranged alphabetically. Jim said it was similar to the WWI Draft Registration Records.

Other new or practically new online resources Jim identified include the Minnesota Marriage System; it is an index to Minnesota marriages from statehood to current records in most counties. Website: <http://www.mncounty.org/display/common.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=108>

Another new online resource is the DAR Genealogical Research System. It has indexes to the names of patriots and descendants appearing on thousands of DAR applications. Jim thought this is a tremendous resource for “black holes.” It covers the revolutionary period to present day. You don’t have to be a member to see the material. Jim noted this is a body of

material not previously available to all. Website: [http://www.dar.org/library/online\\_research.cfm](http://www.dar.org/library/online_research.cfm)

Jim noted that the Atlas of Historical County Boundaries is now available online. It provides information on the formation of counties across the U.S. Website: <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/>

Jim said that an “improved” online resource is the Bureau of Land Management site. It now includes not only homestead records, but bounty land warrant applications. These lands were awarded to soldiers and their families for military service prior to the Civil War. Many soldiers never lived on the land, but often early settlers applied to buy the land at a land office. One may discover where and when the person served in the military. Website: <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>

Jim closed by noting that WHS is preparing for the sesquicentennial of the Civil War by posting 10,000 letters sent home from soldiers to their families and often published in local newspapers. The full text and indexes will be available this winter.

Jim said things are changing daily and new items are becoming available on a regular basis. He recommended not to forget to check out the latest issue of major genealogical periodicals on the browsing racks in the gloriously restored Reading Room at the WHS Library.

Jim’s handout is available at [www.rootsweb.com/~widcags/Have\\_you\\_seen\(Hansen\\_handout\).pdf](http://www.rootsweb.com/~widcags/Have_you_seen(Hansen_handout).pdf) Enjoy the new resources!

Footnote.com grow over the past 4 years. Footnote.com started with only 5 million historical documents and today we have nearly 70 million searchable documents, over 1 million members, nearly 100,000 Footnote Pages, and over a half million annotations added. We couldn’t have done it without our members and the great team at Footnote.com and we are excited for Ancestry.com’s support in the next chapter.”

# Upcoming events

## Classes at Wisconsin Historical Society

### Oh Darned! Where Did I Put Uncle George? (Organizing Research)

This class will help you organize the information you have found on your family and get you back on track to find more.

**Date:** December 4, 2010. 9 a.m. to Noon

**Instructor:** Rick Pifer, director of public services

**Venue:** Memorial Library Room 126, 728 State St.

**Cost:** \$25 WHS or WSGS member, \$30 for nonmembers

### How to Locate Archival Collections

Archives collections are often overlooked by family historians. There are a lot of primary documents that provide information on our relatives. These documents are held in a variety of archives around the world. This class will help you identify what is found in an archives and how to locate the archives that holds the collections.

**Date:** December 11, 2010. 9: am. To Noon

**Instructor:** Dee Grimsrud, reference archivist

**Venue:** Memorial Library Room 126, 728 State St.

**Cost:** \$25 WHS or WSGS member, \$30 for nonmembers

### Ancestry.com

This computer lab provides a hands-on workshop to learn more about the most popular genealogy site on the Web. Ancestry Library Edition will be used but instruction will include information about the private subscription as well.

**Date:** December 18, 2010. 9 a.m. to Noon. Limit of 20 seats.

**Instructor:** Lori Bessler, reference librarian and outreach coordinator

**Cost:** \$35 for WHS or WSGS members, \$40 for non-members

**Venue:** Memorial Library Room 231, 728 State St

To register for the classes or for additional information, go to <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes>.

## Thank you

DCAGS would like to thank Marian Hunt and Jim and Lois Benes for their gifts to support the purchase of the sound equipment. Your special contribution is greatly appreciated.

Members are welcome to make a special contribution to the purchase of the sound system. DCAGS is a 501(c)(3) organization which makes any gift tax-deductible.

Again thanks to Marian, Jim and Lois for their gifts.

## Renewal Time II

The second notice of the Membership form is being sent to those who have not renewed at this time. *Please fill in both sides of the membership form and return it to DCAGS.* Thanks.

# President's Message

## Giving Thanks

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, being mindful of many of the new genealogical resources Jim Hansen told us about at the November DCAGS meeting, I want to express my thanks to many different organizations which are making genealogically-relevant data easily accessible to us. My thoughts go first to some societies, to FamilySearch, and to some subscription services--among others--which have been so active recently in indexing and in digitizing images for access on the web. Then my thoughts go to some libraries and other organizations which have arranged for us to get free access to some very useful subscription services.

The Wisconsin Historical Society library archives provide free access on six computers in their reading room to four especially popular subscription services--Ancestry Library Edition, HeritageQuestOnline, Footnote, and NewEnglandAncestors. Two

of the online indexes which they have helped developed are especially helpful: the [Wisconsin Genealogy Index](#) and the [Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers, War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865](#).

The [South Central Library System](#) makes numerous databases available for home use, most notably HeritageQuestOnline. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, through its [badgerlink.net](#) service, provides access to many older newspapers scanned by NewspaperARCHIVE.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, through its FamilySearch services, makes a number of subscription databases available at their Family History Centers through the Family History Center Portal: Footnote, Godfrey Memorial Library, HeritageQuestOnline, WorldVitalRecords, Alexander Street Press/American Civil War, 19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archives, Find My Past, The Genealogist, Genline, and Historic Mapworks Library Edition. They are also

overseeing a tremendous indexing project which we learned about (and were invited to participate in) at the October DCAGS meeting.

Just yesterday I learned of some new immigration resources made available by Library and Archives Canada; their index of Quebec City Passenger Lists, 1865-1900 gave me my first plausible clue as to when and where my paternal grandfather entered the North American continent (more detailed than "sometime in the 1880s, probably through Canada").

I could go on and on with examples of resources being made available by the dedicated work of volunteer organizations, governmental organizations, and for-profit companies. And yes, I realize that many of these resources only provide clues--not hard evidence. But without these valuable clues I wouldn't know where to go looking for the hard evidence. I am truly thankful for these developments, and I hope you feel the same way.

*Rollie Littlewood*

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**Address Service Requested**

We're on the Web!

See us at: [www.dcags.org](http://www.dcags.org)

Or [www.facebook.com/dcags](http://www.facebook.com/dcags)



**Dane County Area  
Genealogical Society**

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

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**See you at  
the Dec. 2  
Meeting!**

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**DCAGS Governing Board for 2010:**

President: Rollie Littlewood  
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Secretary: Gerry Schlecht  
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Treasurer: Walker Crawford  
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Programs & Education: Vacant

Public Relations: Beverly Vaughn  
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***DCAGS Election Ballot***

Attached to this newsletter is the DCAGS ballot for the positions of President and Secretary. Rollie Littlewood has been nominated as President and DeAnn McAllan for Secretary. The positions are for two-year terms. Ballots will be accepted in three different forms: Return by mail, fill in the ballot on SurveyMonkey or bring to DCAGS meeting on December 2.

If returning by mail, ballots must be received in the DCAGS mailbox by Thursday, December 2. A pre-addressed envelope is sent to those receiving it by mail otherwise the DCAGS address is printed on the bottom of the ballot. The ballot will also be posted on SurveyMonkey.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/59H2WP3>  
***Simply complete the ballot online by 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 1*** and your vote will be counted. Members are welcome to bring ballots to the December 2 DCAGS meeting. Please turn them in before the meeting begins.

Note: Family memberships are entitled to two votes -- one for each person listed as a member.

Remember to vote!