



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

Save Your Family History with Photos in Fabric at January 5 Meeting

December 31, 2011

Volume 6, Issue 4

Each one of us has our own family history and stories that we want to save and pass on to future generations. Combining vintage photos with fabric gives us a unique way to display these photos and to preserve and tell our stories. This is the topic for the January 5 DCAGS meeting. Speakers Mike and Vicki Shetter will be exploring photo restoration using photo-editing techniques and showing the techniques for printing on fabric. They'll also provide

some great ideas for displaying your own family photos in a new way.

Mike Shetter is a professional photographer and a Photoshop Professional. Vicki Shetter is a seamstress with a varied background. She was an instructor in the Fashion Design program at the College of DuPage in Chicago and she had her own custom bridal business. She has taught a variety of clothing construction and quilting classes. They have

combined their interests in photography and sewing along with their love of history and genealogy and shared them with others while sharing their ideas and teaching classes across the country.

Check out the website www.softscrap.com.

Please join us on Thursday, January 5 at 7 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4505 Regent St.

Renewal Time

If you have not paid your dues for 2012, this is your final notice. Please mail them in or bring them to the January 5 meeting and give them to Joyce Peterson, the new Treasurer.

Using Federal Records to Identify Immigrant Ancestors

David McDonald, CGSM presented the following lecture, "Using Federal Records to Find Immigrant Forebears" at the December 1, 2011 DCAGS meeting.

David started exploring genealogy when he was only 13 and states he still carries 3-ringed binders with him when doing research, as he did at that time. He has found that it is easier to remember when there is repetition and, for him, having these hard copies to look at makes it easier to remember what he knows and what he still needs to research. In addition, he documents everything on his computer as well.

When we think of federal

records, we often think of census and pension records. There are many other federal records, however. It's important to remember that records created by the federal government are not created for genealogical purposes, so they don't necessarily make sense to us.

One example of a difficulty with researching population census, for instance, is that prior to the 1850 federal population, the head of household was the only person listed. In 1880, relationships to the head of household began to be outlined; after 1880 the place of birth was listed. After 1900 the immigration year was

listed. Unfortunately much of the 1890 population census was either destroyed or damaged in a fire; after this occurred, the department destroyed all the remaining records.

Veteran's censuses varied in their listings. In 1890, only Union soldiers and where they were living (not point of service) were listed. Also included were veterans and widows along with the regiment's other identifying data. The 1890 veteran censuses schedules for the states of Alabama through Kansas and approximately half of those for Kentucky were lost.

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.

DCAGS Update:

The DCAGS Governing Board meets the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is set for Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the new South Madison Library on 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!

Individual Highlights: Procedures for Ordering FHL Microfilm have changed – 2

Recipes – 3

Upcoming Events – 3

Editor's Comment – 3

FGS Forum – 4

Using Federal Records continued..

Census records may not be consistent from decade to decade (ages will vary, birthplaces may change, names are spelled differently, etc.). It's important to keep in mind the stories one has heard of family members when interpreting these differences.

Immigration records can be found in multiple sources—the WI Historical Society has *Harper's Weekly*; and photos of wood engravings of passenger lists can be found here. In addition they have microfilm from National Archives Research Administration. Various lists can be found online. Germany kept a card file listing immigrants. One must remember that the port of entry to the U.S. varied—New York, New Orleans and up the Mississippi River (those to the Midwest) Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore. One resource is a set of genealogy books

by John P Colletta, Ph.D.

Searching for passports may provide some information, available from the National Archives, as one would have been issued for a return trip back to their native country.

Federal pension records would list those Civil War Union veterans eligible for pensions due to an injury in injury, or to the widow or orphans if a death occurred. Only Union veterans records are kept by the National Archives. Confederate records are kept by the individual states.

For those hard to find men, keep in mind that a wealthy man may have paid a substitute to serve in his place (particularly Irish immigrants). Enlistment rolls, generally kept in state repositories, have a number that

is used on many files of the day. Files can be requested and additional information available from the National Archives.

Researching the National Archives can be challenging. There is a guide available to those researching which can help one navigate the 'stacks' and, in addition, there are programs where one can immerse themselves for several days at a time to learn what a wealth of information can be found.

David concluded with reminding us that may of our 'sleuthing' skills have been lost due to the Internet. He states it's important for us to remember what we need to know and to find it for ourselves, and we **DO** have the ability to find what is important to us.

Summary by DeAnn McAllan

Procedures for Ordering FHL Microfilm Have Changed

The procedure for requesting microfilm or microfiche from the Family History Library changed this past September. Some DCAGS members have already become familiar with the new procedures, but others have not. For those of us comfortable with ordering merchandise online, the new procedures are probably seen as a blessing; everything can be done from home, without having to visit a Family History Center (FHC) or affiliate library. (When I use "FHC" after this, I will be referring to not only FamilySearch Centers such as the one at 4505 Regent St., Madison, but to affiliate libraries such as the Wisconsin Historical Society library at 816 State St., Madison as well.) For those of us not so comfortable yet with doing "things" online, the new procedures will present some challenges. Specifically, not only must ordering be done via a web browser, but a FamilySearch account, an e-mail address, and a means of paying shipping and handling fees online are now required. FHC staff are no longer able to process paper order forms or to accept either cash or checks

as payment. If you don't have an e-mail address and don't want to get one, you will have to rely on the help of a friend who will relay e-mail messages to you. There are many websites which will provide you with free e-mail service; the one I usually recommend is Gmail. There are several ways to pay the fees online; these include standard credit cards, PayPal, pre-paid credit cards, and bank debit cards. I consider all of these means quite safe, but I realize that not all of you share this comfort level. For the cards, only MasterCard and VISA are accepted.

A good starting point is the FHL Online Film Ordering web page, <https://www.familysearch.org/films/>. Start there by clicking on the "Sign In" phrase in the upper right corner. If you already have a FamilySearch Account, provide your username and password; otherwise click on "Create New Account." For most DCAGS members, "FamilySearch Account" should be selected on the next page. Then you will need to provide your name, a preferred username, a password, a working

personal e-mail address, and a few other responses. Once you do this and click on the "Register" button, you will be sent an e-mail message to which you must respond – this is FamilySearch's way of confirming that your e-mail address is valid and that YOU are the person registering for an account. If you click on "Ordering Help" on the <https://www.familysearch.org/films/> web page, you will be able to see a demonstration of how to submit an order.

When you look up a resource in the FamilySearch catalog, be sure to note the availability status: if it is "Family History Library," you can not request that it be sent to a FHC; if it is "Digital Images," there is no need to order it, as you can view it online (at least at a library, if not on your own computer); if it is "Family History Centers," proceed with your order. At some point in the order process, you will be asked to select the FHC to which the microfilm or microfiche should be sent. If the resource you want is already available at your FHC, you will be informed of this before you are asked to pay the fees.

Continued on page 4

Upcoming events

MKI German Genealogy Workshops

Title: Genealogical Resources for German-American Ancestry, Online and Off

When and Where: March 3, Saturday, 9am–noon, Memorial Library, room 231

Instructor: Lori Bessler

Description: This hands-on computer workshop will help the family researcher identify resources that are found on the Web as well as those that are not online. There are many collections that record the lives of our ancestors in Germany as well as their lives after they have arrived here in the United States, but finding them can be daunting. The strategies presented here will help break down brick walls that genealogists may encounter in their research. Lori Bessler has worked at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives since 1988 as a Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator and for over 20 years has lectured throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest on genealogical topics. She has been researching family history for over 35 years.

Title: Tracing Your Jewish Roots from German-Speaking Europe

When and Where: March 18, Sunday, 1–4 pm, Memorial Library, room 231

Instructor: Fran Loeb Luebke

Co-sponsored by the University of Wisconsin–Madison Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies.

Description: This workshop will provide an overview of resources and research techniques that address the unique challenges faced by genealogists looking for their Jewish ancestors from German-speaking Europe. The workshop will cover sources that are available online and those that are not, focusing on specifically Jewish records such as name change documents, Matrikel lists, cemetery records, and “Schutzgeld” tax documents. As more Jewish records become available to the public, a successful family researcher needs to be a good detective and follow many leads.

Fran Loeb Luebke has a Master’s degree in history and has been tracing and tracking her own ancestors for over 35 years.

Title: Reading Old German Script

When and Where: March 24, Saturday, 8am–noon, University Club, room 212

Instructor: Karyl Rommelfanger

Description: Do you have correspondence from a German ancestor written in a script that you cannot read? Do you have trouble finding your ancestor’s name in an official document, because you can’t make out the letters? This workshop will acquaint participants with the basics of the Old German written alphabet so that they can transcribe words into modern script. Bring your own documents! After providing a general introduction, the instructor will assist you

with your specific questions.

Karyl Rommelfanger is a retired German teacher from the Manitowoc Public School System. She has transcribed and translated documents written in the Old German script for 25 years and has previously taught Old German script workshops for the Max Kade Institute.

Registration fee: \$35 for each workshop for members of the Friends of MKI, WHS, or WSGS, and \$40 for non-members.

For more information including registration details see the MKI Web site (mki.wisc.edu) or contact Antje Petty at 608-262-7546 or apetty@wisc.edu.

NGS Family History Conference

The Ohio River: Gateway to the Western Frontier

When: May 9-12, 2012

Where: Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio

Registration Information can be obtained at: http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info

Editor’s Comment

This is my final newsletter as editor of the DCAGS newsletter. I have been editing the newsletter for 10 years, starting back in September 2001 for the Computer Assisted Genealogists of Southern Wisconsin (CAGSW). I took over from Jack Brisse, who had edited CAGSW’s newsletter for 10 years.

Ten years is the right time to turn over the responsibility of editing the newsletter to another DCAGS member. As of today that person has not stepped forward. It is my hope that that situation changes and a new newsletter editor steps forward soon. (Contact Rollie at rkittle@wisc.edu if interested.)

I am happy to share how I have done the newsletter with a volunteer or the person can completely redesign it. There is no right or wrong to do it, DCAGS just needs

someone to commit to do the newsletter.

While I do put together and edit the newsletter, it really is a group effort. I want to thank Rollie Littlewood and Shirley Levine for proofreading the newsletter. They catch my many errors and provide a needed set of eyes before the newsletter is sent to you.

Jim Benes and Walker Crawford help with the distribution. Walker sends out the electronic version while Jim makes the paper copies and then delivers them to volunteers to fold, stamp and mail. Those volunteers are Gerry Schlecht and Joyce Peterson now. Bob and Dottie Luening had done this for many years prior to retiring earlier this year. Without each person involved, the newsletter would not reach DCAGS members. I thank each one for all their efforts.

I am not leaving DCAGS and I will to continue to stay involved, but

my time as newsletter editor does end with this newsletter.

I thank members for their support over the years. I have enjoyed my stint as newsletter editor.

Ruth Simpson

Recipes

Saffron Cake

Mix together in a bowl:
1 cup sugar 1/2 cup shortening
1 egg 1 cup raisins
1 cup milk 2 cups flour
2 tsp. Baking powder
1 tsp. salt
Mix .75 grams of saffron in 1/4 cup boiling water. Steep and add in at the end. Pour mixture into greased 9x12 baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees. Test for doneness after 1/2 hour.

Submitted by Joyce Buckingham Peterson

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

Or www.facebook.com/dcags



**Dane County Area
Genealogical Society**

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

**See you at the
January 5
Meeting!**

DCAGS Governing Board for 2011:

President: Rollie Littlewood
rklittle@wisc.edu

Vice President: Don Cole
846-3819

Secretary: DeAnn McAllan
d.mcallan@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Walker Crawford
walker@viridis.ws

Past President, Pat Skubis
skubie27@live.com

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Walker Crawford
walker@viridis.ws

Programs & Education: Vacant

Public Relations: Vacant

Historian: Sandy Zart
sandy_zart@yahoo.com

Web Master: Rollie Littlewood
rklittle@wisc.edu

Newsletter: Ruth Simpson
rsimpson@terracon.net

FGS Forum

Rollie has put all issues of *Forum* on the DCAGS website; these quarterly issues span twenty-two years, from 1989 through fall of 2011. The latest one can be downloaded from <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~widcags/fgsforum/forum11fall.pdf>. The others can be viewed by substituting the last two digits of the year for "11" and "spring," "summer," or "fall" for "winter" -- as appropriate. ("[dcags.org](http://www.dcags.org)" does NOT work in this situation -- the full "real" URL must be used).

FHL Microfilm continued...

One of the uses which will be made of your e-mail address is to notify you when the resource(s) you ordered are available at the FHC. Something to keep in mind is that help is usually just a click away; there is a "Help" link near the upper-right corner of nearly every FamilySearch.org web page. If you can't understand the online help, you will be given suggestions for other ways to get help -- including making a toll-free telephone call to a human consultant. If you would like to read a detailed description of the ordering process and associated requirements, view http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Local_Support/Consultant/Online_Film_Ordering/English/OnlineFilmOrdering_UsersGuide_Patrons.pdf or goo.gl/0IEh.

Is this progress? I think so. I hope you will think so as well.

Rollie Littlewood