



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

Branches and Leaves Filled in at Last at August 4 Meeting

Are you missing branches and leaves in your family tree? Like most genealogists DCAGS member Pat Skubis has been working diligently to find her missing relatives. Recently two of her missing branches have been found. One solved a 27-year-old mystery. The other helped her locate the marriage place of her great-grandmother.

In the late 1800s, two first cousins left Møgeltønder, Denmark. One, Andreas, set sail for Australia along with his wife and their eight children. A few years later the other cousin, Caroline, left with her family for

America. They probably knew this information, but it never was passed on. So that is how the mystery began.

Back in 1984 Pat, via snail mail, contacted Alison Rogers who lived in Australia. Both were working on the Thygesen family who were from Møgeltønder, Denmark. Møgeltønder is a very small town near the Danish-German border. With the information that each of them had at the time they did not discover that Alison's Andreas and Pat's Caroline were first cousins. Pat saved Alison's letter and is glad

she did since the information in the letter help her verify information found on the Internet.

Join us to learn what helped Pat solve these mysteries. The various methods she used to verify the information she found and the advantages of sharing your information with other researchers.

Please join us on Thursday, August 4 at 7 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4505 Regent St.

Pat Skubis wins top prize in Family Reunion Contest

Who says that genealogy does not pay? Pat submitted information on solving her family mystery, which is the subject of her August 4 presentation, to the Family Reunion contest sponsored by the *Family Tree Magazine* and she won.

As part of the contest, a relative from Denmark will be visiting her in the U.S. in early September.

Pat's submission will be featured in this month's *Family Tree Magazine*. She will receive a free subscription to the magazine and

MyHeritage.

To check out the full story go to http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider/2011/07/07/CongratulationsToTheFamilyReunionContestWinners.aspx?et_mid=510467&rid=22480938.

Congratulations Pat!

Genealogy Fair 2011

The Genealogy Fair is fast approaching – on October 8. They are looking for a publicity manager and 1 to 2 kitchen managers for the upcoming genealogy fair.

Contact Walker if you're interested. 608.206.3182 or walker@viridis.ws. They will also be looking for volunteers for set-up, tear-down, and staffing during the fair. Look

for sign-up sheets at the upcoming meeting or contact Walker at the above information if you are interested in volunteering.

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July 31, 2011

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September Meeting Preview

At our September meeting, Terese Allen, author and food writer, will be speaking to the group about "The Flavor of Wisconsin: History and Culture through Recipes." After the meeting members are welcome to bring a recipe and/or favorite family food to share with other members. DCAGS will provide lemonade. So if you have a family recipe book or favorite recipe, bring it to share.

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, August 16 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:

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Reading Genealogy Books on the Web

Rollie Littlewood discussed the world of online books at the 7 July meeting, focusing on books which can be read in their entirety online at no charge. He also discussed the ability to search for words or phrases in the contents of many books, even if the full books cannot be read online. He gave details on six websites which provide such access, and several others which help one locate online books when you know the title or author of the book you want to examine. He emphasized that whether or not a book can be read online depends primarily on whether or not it is deemed to be under copyright protection.

The main websites Rollie mentioned were Google Books books.google.com/, HathiTrust www.hathitrust.org, HeritageQuest Online www.heritagequestonline.com, Family History Archives lib.byu.edu/fhc/, Internet Archive <http://www.archive.org/details/texts>, and GenealogyBank Historical Books <http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/books/>.

These websites vary especially in the number of books they have in their databases and how you can access their data. The technicians who operate these websites have developed very high-speed procedures for optically scanning books and then converting the images into searchable text. They have been careful to avoid processing fragile books; reportedly very few books have been damaged despite the high-speed "flipping" of their pages.

Google Books has about twenty major libraries (including the Wisconsin Historical Society library) as contributing partners; HathiTrust has more than fifty partners; Family History Archives has nine partners. HathiTrust piggybacks on the processing of books by Google Books; that is Google Books usually passes the results of their scans on to HathiTrust. Rollie does not know where the three other websites get loans of the books they scan. The scanning of books is still in its initial phase; the Wisconsin Historical Society reported that it is four years

into a six year contract for providing books to Google for scanning. Google essentially scans every book it can get a loan of, regardless of copyright status; Rollie believes that currently the only way books are totally removed from Google's database is for the author or publisher to explicitly ask for a book to be removed. Except for those few books which are removed by request, the contents of virtually every book in the partner libraries can be expected to be searchable by the time these projects are done.

Currently Google Books, HathiTrust, and Internet Archive each claim to have over two million books which can be viewed online. HathiTrust claims it has nearly nine million books in its database; only 27% of these are considered to be in the public domain (i.e., free of copyright restrictions).

The Google Books website can be accessed by anyone. Although it is run by a for-profit company, there is no charge to use it. Books which it considers to be in the public domain can be viewed online or downloaded as PDF files by anyone. For books which are not in the public domain, Google Books may provide users with a "limited preview," a "snippet view," or just basic cataloging data. Although one can scan a book online for selected words or phrases, it may not be possible to scan the downloaded PDF file. Rollie commented that it appears that Google is being very cautious about making the full contents of books published after 1923 available online.

HathiTrust differs from Google Books in two important ways: 1) it is much more aggressive in making full text available online for books published after 1923 but for which it appears that no one can exert, or is interested in exerting, copyright privileges, and 2) only people affiliated with one of its

partner libraries can download entire books as PDF files. It has a particularly straight-forward search procedure. This website, run by a non-profit consortium, can be accessed by anyone without charge.

Family History Archives has a much smaller collection of books that Google Books and HathiTrust, but many of the books they do have will not be available at those two other sites because of having a very different set of partners (including the Family History Library). One nice feature of Family History Archives is that the downloaded PDF files are themselves searchable. This website can be accessed by anyone without charge (except that a small part of their collection is restricted to people associated with Brigham Young University).

Internet Archive is an older, very well-established, non-profit organization. Rollie encourages people to try this website if they don't find what they want on any of the sites mentioned above. This website can be accessed by anyone without charge.

HeritageQuest Online is a restricted access service with about 28,000 books in its database. It is available in many libraries without charge, and can also be accessed at home by anyone with a library card from any library in the South Central Library System. This is another tool in the genealogist's arsenal, with a different set of books in its (admittedly small) database.

GenealogyBank Historical Books is a subscription service with nearly 12,000 books, emphasizing nineteenth century books. Download capabilities seem to be very limited. "The jury is still out" as to whether or not this is a useful service.

Rollie briefly mentioned three websites which seem to function somewhat like an online catalog: Genealogy Book Links (www.genealogybooklinks.com/),

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Upcoming events

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

Its 2011 Fall seminar is scheduled for 15 October 2011 at the Country Springs Hotel, Water Park & Conference Center, 2810 Golf Rd., Pewaukee, Wisconsin (near Waukesha). The featured speaker will be James L. Hansen, FASG, Genealogical Reference Librarian at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Jim Honer Shares Website

If you are interested in a website that may provide you with information about every county in the United States, try www.genealogytrails.com

I have submitted several obituaries which have been added to the Richland County, WI page. Check it all out and you may be motivated to host a state or county or, at least submit some data that the webmaster will add.

Give the site a "look-see."

Federation of Genealogical Societies 2011 Conference, Pathways to the Heartland

When: September 7-10, 2011

Where: Springfield, Illinois

Registration:
<http://fgs.org/2011conference/registration>

The Federation of Genealogical Societies invites you to the FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference for the Nation's Genealogists. Our local host, the Illinois State Genealogical Society, joins FGS in welcoming you to historic Springfield as we celebrate "Pathways to the Heartland."

Program

More than 150 educational presentations with well-known speakers from all over the U.S. Check out the conference program at <http://fgs.org/2011conference/program/>.

Special Events

- Keynote address by David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States (NARA).
- 35th Anniversary Celebration speaker Harold Holzer, noted Lincoln scholar. Get your tickets for the gala now!
- Ancestry.com Day.

To learn more check the FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference Website at www.fgs.org/2011conference.

View the continually expanded FGS Conference News Blog at www.FGSConferenceBlog.org.

Visit the Illinois State Genealogical Society at www.ilgensoc.org.

Follow the FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fgs2011 and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/fgs2011.

A Family's History

The *New York Times* ran an interesting article on July 22, detailing the family history of the Van Dusen family in the United States. "IN THE FAMILY: The Van Dusens of New Amsterdam" by Alison Leigh Cowan http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/24/nyregion/the-story-of-the-van-dusen-family-one-of-manhattans-oldest.html?_r=1&scp=2&sq=family%20history&st=cse. The story begins:

"As with the Old Testament patriarch who gave birth to a nation, it all began with Abraham, whose forebears were from the town of Duersen in northern Brabant. Known in official documents as "Abraham the miller," or "Abraham Pieterszen," as in son of Peter, he landed on the island of "Manatus" some time before February 1627. Nearly 400 years later, he has more than 200,000 descendants over 15 generations scattered across the Americas, according to several genealogical experts who have built on intensive studies of the family over the centuries. In the 1880 census, there were 3,000 heads of household with the name Van Dusen — or Van Deusen, Van Deursen, Van Duzer and other common variants — all, the experts say, traceable back to Abraham the miller."

The story is told through various family lines and includes an interactive map. It is a fun read for genealogists.

It is an inspiring tale of the history of the U.S., illustrated through the lives of this American family.

Ruth Simpson

Reading Genealogy Books on the Web continued...

Open Library (openlibrary.org/), and The Online Books Page (onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu). In Rollie's view, these are primarily tools to help one find where a book may be available online without having to individually search to possible websites.

The ability to search for desired text in the bodies of recent books can be very helpful, even if the books in which the text is found cannot be read online. After the meeting, Rollie ran a test looking for both of two phrases he knew were in a family history book published in 1998. Google Books reported either 11 or 35 hits, depending on exactly how the search was done. The book in question was in the set of 35, but not the set of 11. HathiTrust reported 46 hits, including the target book. Family History Archives reported just 1 hit. Internet Archive did not report any hits; this was probably because its searches are

designed to look primarily at cataloging data, not full text content. Based on this test and some other trials Rollie ran, he suggests starting with Google Books if you are mostly interested in downloading an older book, with HathiTrust if you are primarily interested in finding what books, whether in or out of copyright, discuss a topic of special interest to you. If these web tools don't get you what you need, then try some of the other tools he mentioned.

Rollie distributed a handout with many more details. It is available as a PDF file download from the DCAGS website — www.dcags.org — a link follows the abstract of the July talk.

Dane County Area Genealogical Society
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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
August 4
Meeting!**

DCAGS Governing Board for 2011:

President: Rollie Littlewood
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Vice President: Don Cole
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Secretary: DeAnn McAllan
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Membership: Pat Konrad
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Programs & Education: Vacant

Public Relations: Vacant

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Genealogy Fair 2011 continued...

The Fair will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints at 4505 Regent Street in Madison, WI. In the last two newsletters a notice was sent out looking for presentations, workshops and papers to be presented at the Fair. Examples would be methods of research, workshops on writing family histories and details of successful genealogy journeys.

There is still time to provide a brief description of your topic, what method of presentation you would require (presentation, workshop or display), how much time you would need to make your presentation and any other information you think pertinent to our consideration.

Please make your submission via email to walker@viridis.ws. Any questions can be sent to the same address or made by phone to Walker Crawford at 608-206-3182..

Walker Crawford, Co-Chair

Patricia Skubis, Co-Chair