

Dane County Area Genealogical Society News



The World of Genealogy Webinars

A fairly new phenomenon in the world of genealogy, as well as many other areas of interest, is the webinar. A webinar is a web-based seminar--a presentation, lecture, workshop or seminar that is transmitted over the [Web](#).

A "real" webinar is a live event which allows for some interaction between audience members and the presenter, even though they may be thousands of miles apart. Many webinars are recorded and can be played at a later time, although without the interactive elements. The presenters are often nationally-recognized experts in the topic. Some webinars are free to "attend," some have a nominal cost, a few may have a "serious" cost.

Live webinars have a limit on the number of participants and require advance registration, due to equipment limitations.

We'll explore what one needs to view a webinar, how to find them, and look at the range of topics covered.

If at all possible, we will view a recorded webinar. A likely webinar for viewing at this meeting is Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak's "Reverse Genealogy: Finding the Living" presentation.

HELP WANTED

Newsletter Editor, Committee members for the Program and Education committee and for the Public Relations committee.

These are great Jobs for great people. No prior experience needed. On the job training provided. Great people to work with. No fear of lay off or being fired. For more information contact any Board Member.

For now if you find any genealogy information that you think should be shared with the membership, email it to the board at widcags@gmail.com



April/2012

Volume 6, Issue 8

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 Street, 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, May 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the new South Madison Library on 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!

June Meeting Preview

*Our June speaker will be **Randy L. Bixby**, Land Records Archivist of the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.*

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands holds the original records for ten million acres of land in Wisconsin.

This presentation will describe these records and their potential value to genealogists.

Check the Web Site for update on the topic to be featured.

www.dcaqs.org

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“Getting the Most Out of an Obituary”



George shared that his talk is aimed at folks that are looking for recent obituaries. In most cases funeral homes keep them for 2 years and newspapers for 5 years. Type in the name of the newspaper and then the word obituary. If you don't know the name of the newspaper, type in the town and then newspaper to find options for you to search.

Obituaries cost money to have printed so some families don't post them. It also happens that sometimes family members don't exist or they don't want to write one for some reason. In genealogical research you must know your geography, at least for the area you're searching. Both funeral homes and newspapers generally give you the option of searching all of the obituaries they currently have available online.

First, once you find an obituary, capture it! Highlight the text and copy. Go into your genealogy software, locate the area where you can enter text specific to the individual and paste it in.

Second, capture your source and insert it into the correct field for sources in your genealogy software. Most genealogy software has auto fill so once you have

saved it you won't have to retype the entire entry again.

Continue to work your way through the obituary and create notes in your software for all of the relative information. The example George used was a statement that the deceased was divorced.

George had a situation that the SSDI gave one date and the cemetery had a day seven days later. The reason was that the cemetery (Catholic Church) records the date of burial. You can sometimes use text in obituaries to calculate/confirm dates based on information you have or that is presented.

For family members listed you should capture the information about them as well and place it in their records. Examples of this would be if you did not have a date as to when this person died but the person was at a family member's funeral you could insert "After" the date noted in the relative's obituary. Another example would be where the family is currently living. This information will help you locate them when it's their turn to be researched/communicated with. To help you determine where information came from it's helpful to indicate "when her father died" or other such descriptors.

When the obituary lists a different spouse than what you have listed you should note this as well. George shared a helpful hint that all Maine Marriages are available on the internet from 1892 until 2009.

Submitted by Walker Crawford

If you missed George's talk and would like his handout, go to the Dane County Area Genealogical Society's home page

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~widcags/> and download a copy.

New Members

Join me in welcoming 3 new members this month.

Member Donna J. Johnson is researching the names Bulgrin, Epstein and Van den Houten. Her areas of concentration are Columbia County, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, England, France, Germany, and The Netherlands. She uses Ancestry.com for her research.

Members John and Mary Madigan are researching the names Bell, Bradley, Broderick, Cashen, Covenhoven, Fitzgerald, Greenawalt, Kimball, Langworthy, Madigan, Maher, Morrison, Myers, O'Brien, Pierce, Ryan, Shackelford, and Van Meter. In addition to Dane County and the great state of Wisconsin they spend time researching records in Illinois, Kentucky, New York, Pennsylvania, Denmark, Ireland and Sweden. They use RootsMagic in combination with Word and Excel to track their findings.

If you would like to contact Donna or the Madigans please contact Walker Crawford and he will put you in touch.

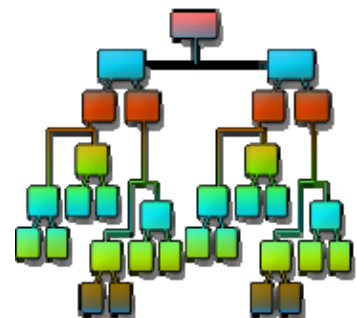


On page 5 read about using



to

Connect with your family and unite everyone in a worldwide reunion.



Upcoming Events



Forest Hill Cemetery Tour

Sunday 20 May 2012

Starts at 1:00 pm from the Catlin Chapel, 1 Speedway Rd., Madison

In honor of Madison's 175th anniversary and the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, Historic Madison, Inc., is sponsoring a cemetery tour which will focus on Madison's earliest pioneers and the soldiers involved in the great battles of the war to date. **Free admission.**

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

16 May 2012 - "Courthouse Records"

Regular monthly meeting of the [Burlington Genealogical Society](#). Held at Burlington Gateway Technical College (next to Burlington High School, at the end of McCanna Parkway) conference room (off the main lobby), Burlington, Wisconsin.

Kim Baugrud will be the speaker. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM

For further information, view the [BGS event calendar](#) or contact [Merilyn Romani](#), (262)215-2225, [Judy Rockwell](#), (262)742-4306, [Dave Nelson](#), (262)770-4986, or [Dick Ammann](#)

24 May 2012 - "Researching at Newberry Library"

Monthly meeting of the [Indian Prairie Genealogy Group](#).

[Indian Prairie Public Library](#), 401 Plainfield Rd., Darien, Illinois. Sandi Trapp will give the presentation. Meeting starts at 1 pm. Handouts for this meeting may be viewable & printable at ipgg.wordpress.com. For further information visit the [Indian Prairie Genealogy Group](#) web page.



2 June 2012 - "Miracles, Mysteries & Mayhem: Online Family Trees"

Regular monthly meeting of the [Chicago Genealogical Society](#). [Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St.](#), Chicago. The speaker will be Jeanne Larzalere Bloom. We want to build on the research of others but those online family trees often contain miracles, mysteries and mayhem. Does the tree need to be pruned? Learn effective techniques to determine if branches on a tree are diseased or if they are healthy. The meeting starts at 1:30 pm. For further information, including details

concerning limited parking and public transportation. See the [calendar web page](#) of the CGS.



Classes at the Wisconsin Historical Society

- [Genealogy: Organizing Your Research](#) May 5
- [Genealogy: Writing Your Family History](#) May 12
- [Basics of Digital Projects](#) May 14
- [Genealogy: Cemetery Monuments Restoration](#) May 18
- [Genealogy: Military Records](#) Jun 2
- [Genealogy: Ancestry.com](#) Jun 9
- [Genealogy: Ancestry.com](#) Jun 30

To register for May 2012 Genealogy and Local History Workshops, complete and submit the [Printable Registration Form](#) (PDF, 223 KB).

Visit the web site if you have further questions.
<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes/>



New Infographic - Life in the 1940s

April 24, 2012 by [Brittany Warnock](#)

Catch life in the 1940s at a glance by checking out our new [1940 Census Infographic!](#)

<https://the1940census.com/infographic/>



From Pegslist's blog "Collecting dead relatives...and live cousins!"

<http://pegslist.blogspot.com/>

I found that she had a very interesting idea for including distant cousins living in Europe in a family reunion. For those of you who have relative overseas, her idea is a great way to include them in a family get-together. Read about her plans.

"I'll say it again - the coolest thing about researching your family history is collecting live cousins!"

With the help of those wonderful letters, Google, GenealogyBank.com and even the 1940 Census/stevemorse.org and a lot of luck, my cousin collection is HUGE!

I started planning a get together for this June for the descendants of this branch of my family that the boomerang letters have given so much insight into. It has grown so large that I split it off from my website to it's own! I still have a ton of docs to add, and a few new letters, but these things are truly never finished! Check out www.EnzFamily.net

I have located at least one descendant from each of my great-great grandfather's 5 siblings that came to the US and the same for his own 8 daughters, (two children of theirs are still living!) except one that has proven difficult (I'm not giving up!) Everyone I've contacted is very gracious, helpful and happy to share and receive info. I have learned so much!

We plan to have a day-long meeting, slideshow of photos and even Skype with the cousins in Germany that day. It is going to be amazing."

So many great and important things happened in the 1940s – we've talked about a lot of them here on the blog in our [1940s Culture](#), [1940s News and Events](#) and [Famous People in the 1940s](#) categories. This infographic is a fun and visual way to check out the decade that was kicked off by the 1940 Census! Click on link above to view the full-size version of the 1940 Census Infographic.

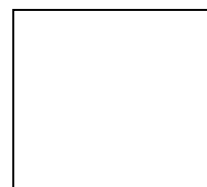
Dane County Area Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 5652
Madison, WI 53705-0652

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 May 3rd
Meeting!**

Become a Committee Member



DCAGS Governing Board for 2012

President: Rollie Littlewood
rkittle@wisc.edu

Vice President: Jim Benes
Jimbenes@iname.com

Secretary: DeAnn McAllan
d.mcallan@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Joyce Peterson
Jomay99@aol.com

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
rkittle@wisc.edu

Newsletter: vacant

Submit an Article to the Newsletter!

Members are invited and encouraged to submit material to the Newsletter, widcags@gmail.com

You can write up whatever you think would be of interest to the group in 500 words (roughly) for the average-sized composition.

Or send us smaller items, sites, or tips. We would especially welcome:

- Planning and growing a family genealogy website.
- Tools, tips and traps - when publishing family history stories & pictures.
- Additions to the Upcoming Events Section.
- Your favorite family recipe.