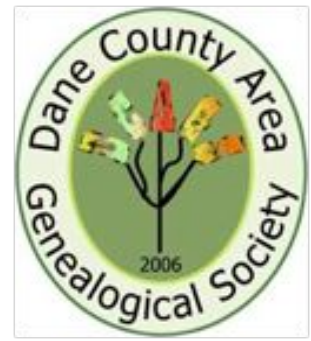


Dane County Area Genealogical Society News



July/2012

Volume 6, Issue 11

Land: It's Not Just Real Estate

The August 2 DCAGS program will feature a discussion of land history and development led by Ruth Simpson.

Looking for family members is a never-ending journey for most genealogists and most people inevitably try to discover where their ancestors lived. For many, this takes people to courthouses, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) website and various places to try to find an elusive ancestor and the land they lived on.

Ruth will discuss the history of real estate development, the terms used to describe and devise real property, and how to search the history of a particular piece of property. Ruth will provide real life examples of her discoveries while reviewing real estate records in her family.



Ruth has been working on the genealogy of her family for 25 years. She grew up in Minnesota on a family farm and land and farming have been in her family since her family came to the U.S. nine generations ago. She has traced her ancestors as they moved from Pennsylvania to Minnesota, homesteading and buying land as their families expanded.

Ruth studied law and is the Research Director for the Wisconsin Association for Justice. She has lived in Madison for over 20 years and has been active in DCAGS and its predecessor organizations since the mid-1990s. Please join us on Thursday, August 2 at 7 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4505 Regent St.

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, August 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the South Madison Library on 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend.
Please join us!*



<http://www.gloreCORDS.blm.gov/> the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation web site. Federal Land Patents offer researchers a source of information on the initial transfer of land titles from the Federal government to individuals.



Survey plats are part of the official record of a cadastral survey. Surveying is the art and science of measuring the land to locate the limits of an owner's interest thereon. A cadastral survey is a survey which creates marks, defines, retraces or re-establishes the boundaries and subdivisions of Federal Lands of the United States. The survey plat is the graphic drawing of the boundaries involved with a particular survey project, and contains the official acreage to be used in the legal description.

Field notes are the narrative record of the cadastral survey. They are written in tabular format and contain the detailed descriptions of entire survey process including the instrumentation and procedures utilized, calling all physical evidence evaluated in the survey process, and listing all of the individuals who participated in the work

Land Status Records are used by BLM Western State Offices to document the ongoing state of a township's Federal and private land regarding title, lease, rights, and usage. These documents include Master Title Plats, which are a composite of all Federal surveys for a township. Other Land Status Records include Use Plats, Historical Indices, and Supplemental Plats.



Individual Highlights: Review of July's Program - 2 Upcoming Events & Trivia Question - 3 1940 Census Update & Answer to Trivia Question - 4 President's Message, FamilySearch Indexing Report, & Historic Tour Information - 5 Board Members & Wanted Committee Members -6



The July 5th pizza party was a great success. Over 44 members and guests enjoyed choosing from slices of Cheese, Pepperoni,

Sausage/Mushroom, Sausage/Onion, Portabella Pesto, Florentine (spinach/tomato/feta), and Chicken Parmesan Pizza. Along with an accompanying drink, everyone one was soon full. The weather was hot, so the short walk across the street to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum made lans a great choice.

Our Behind the Scenes tour began after a rather scary start. The members who were stuck in the elevator were rescued and we all assembled to hear Russ Horton’s talk and viewed some of the artifacts owned by the Veterans Museum.

Russ told us how the Veterans Museum started after the end of the Civil War by members of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic). For a number of years it was located in the State Capitol building and many of the original artifacts were destroyed when the Capitol burned in 1904. After the fire, more artifacts were donated by veterans and their families.

We learned about the state's contributions to the Union victory that cost the lives of over 12,000 of the state's men. We saw letters and diaries, donated by veterans and family members.

The museum also has a collection of photos taken during the Civil War. Some of these photos were of regular soldiers and others were of officers from both sides. We viewed a map of Camp Randall where Union soldiers were stationed. Russ read us excerpts from letters and diaries. Some letters were written both up and down and then turned sideways and the letter continued. This is known as cross writing.



To read letters similar to the ones we saw go to

<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/WI/WI-idx?type=browse&scope=WI.WIWar>. This collection was originally selected for digitization among those of the Wisconsin Historical Society for use by Civil War history courses taught at UW Oshkosh. Party photos submitted by Karen Baker




The Veterans Museum Website offers a number of interesting exhibits

- [The Civil War Diary of Isaac Tucker](#)
- [Diary of a Cutterman: The Story of John Isermann](#)
- [Eyes of the Army](#)
- [In the Belly of the Dragon](#)
- [Missing In Action](#)
- [Old Abe the War Eagle](#)
- [Roses of No Man's Land](#)
- [Experiences of a Soldier and Engineer](#)

To learn more about these and other online exhibits, visit: http://www.wisvetsmuseum.com/exhibitions/ongoing/online_gallery1/?ID=76



If you click on the  in the box above the photo, you will hear a talk about the display. Then click on the next button to continue viewing the exhibit.

Wisconsin Veterans Museum exists largely due to donations from veterans and their families. Check out the Website to learn more about what is available and what to do if you wish to donate items of military interest.

The Illinois State Genealogical Society offers free WEBINARS, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. All ISGS webinars are FREE and open to the public when they are presented live. For **Upcoming Webinars:** click [here](#) to learn more about their upcoming webinars and to register.

August 2012

Major Midwestern Archives & Their Records

- **Presenter:** Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, FMGS, FUGA
- **Date:** Tuesday, August 14, 2012, 8:00 pm Central
- **Description:** Dates, names, ages, relationships, lawsuits, prison records, church records, bibles, probates, and more await us in archives. This presentation highlights some major Midwestern archives and their holdings, finding aids, websites, and special indexes. An overview will be presented for each state's archive and some will be covered in greater detail. Archives are not created equally! For the states we are covering this is very evident. Some have a combination state historical society and/or library and the state archives. The websites, research services, online databases, range of holdings, and even the mission statements show big differences. We will also look at other unique archives in the Midwest. The main aim is to show the wealth of material available, how to access it, and why the on-site experience can be so rewarding.
- **Register:** <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/413029062>

September 2012

Grandma did What!?: Researching your Famous and Infamous Relatives

- **Presenter:** Gena Philibert-Ortega
- **Date:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012, 8:00 pm Central
- **Description:** In order to research infamous ancestors, genealogists have to be knowledgeable about the diverse historical resources available. In this presentation, using various case studies, we will look at manuscript collections, ephemera, newspapers and repositories available to research your famous or infamous ancestor.
- **Register:** <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/646294230>



Genealogy for Kids

- **Date:** August 18, 2012
- **Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- **Location:** Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 30 West Mifflin St., Madison
- **Contact:** Jennifer Kollath
- **Email:** jennifer.kollath@dva.state.wi.us
- **Phone:** 608-264-7663
- **Cost:** Free
- Do you have a veteran in your family? With the help of the Reference Archivist, kids can find out how they can research their own family's military history.

Census Trivia Question

Can you be in the 1940 Census twice? Find the answer on page 4.

FGS 2012 Conference Registration Now Open

Visit the FGS 2012 Conference Website <http://www.fgs.org/2012conference/> to review this year's sessions and special events and then register for the conference! The FGS 2012 Conference will be held in Birmingham, Alabama 29 August - 1 September, 2012 with local co-host the Alabama Genealogical Society.



The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) proudly announces the appearance of legendary bluegrass musician [Bobby Horton](#) during its annual conference. Birmingham-native Horton, who is best known for his Civil War-era music and his collaboration with Ken Burns, producer of the Civil War documentary, will appear at the historic Alabama Theatre on Wednesday evening, August 29, 2012. This event, sponsored by [FamilySearch](#) and presented by the [Alabama Genealogical Society](#), is available only to FGS 2012 Conference attendees. Tickets are \$25 per person and include comfortable motor coach transportation to the theatre, light refreshments, and the Bobby Horton concert. For more information go to <http://www.fgs.org/2012conference/>

The Capitol Square: From its Beginning to the Civil War

Walking tour of the Capitol Square featuring the sesquicentennial plaques and other information. The tour is led by Mark Gajewski, from Historic Madison, Inc. (HMI) of Wisconsin. Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at 6:30 PM
*Meet in front of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, corner of State and Mifflin.

For more information on other tours go to <http://www.historicmadison.org>



1940 Census Update

The race is still on, with Ancestry.com and FamilySearch in close competition. As of July 19th [available at Ancestry.com](#) you could look up your family in 25 searchable states plus Washington DC. The following states can be searched for free: Colorado, Delaware, Maine, New York, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington DC, Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin.

[FamilySearch](#) now has 31 searchable states in its free index (which also is searchable via [Archives.com](#) and [findmypast.com](#)): all but three states west of the Mississippi River (indexes for Arkansas, Missouri and Texas aren't yet completed). Eastern states with indexes at FamilySearch include Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Maine, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and Virginia. Each day more states become fully searchable. Little has been heard about new releases from [MyHeritage](#).

I decided to check out the Wisconsin records on Ancestry on July 19th. I needed to learn just where I happened to be in 1940. This question has plagued me ever since the 1940 census records were released in April. On April 3rd, I started looking for myself. First I looked in the Stevens Point records, since I thought I would find myself listed with my grandparents. There they were on Plover Street, Grandma, Grandpa, and my Uncle Buz, but no me. Then I looked in Menomonie, where my mother worked as a school teacher and my older sister attended school. I found them at the bottom of the page, and my mother had even been chosen to answer the extra questions. So I checked the next page and still no me. Where could I be? What could have become of a two year old? Next I looked up my Aunt Leon and Uncle Chris, who lived in Green Bay. I needed to contact the Green Bay library to find out the name of street that they lived on (they were listed in the city directory for 1939 and 1941). I found them at the 1941 address, along with my two cousins, but I wasn't part of this household either. So then I looked for my Aunt Ag's family in Withee. This was also fruitless, as was checking out my paternal grandparents. This left only my aunt who lived in Saint Louis and without an index or address this would have taken forever.

So I have been waiting for the Wisconsin Census to become available. Today I located myself spending a Saturday in May up in Menomonie with mother and sister. I was listed on a page with other people the census taker had entered out of place. I had always thought that my mother would just come down to Stevens Point on every other weekend to give my grandparents a break from caring for me, but she apparently would also take me up to Menomonie on some weekends.

If you are from Wisconsin and were born before April 1, 1940 check out the records.

Submitted July 19, 2012 by Patricia Skubis



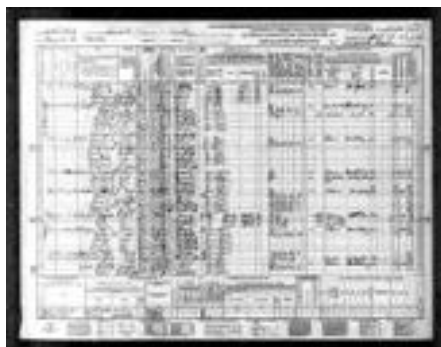
Patricia Bergstrom,
Beverly Bergstrom,
Ethel Bergstrom 1940

Census Trivia Answer

Yes you can. I decided to look up Charlotte Clark's family who I knew lived in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. There I found her mother, and her two older sisters living with her grandparents on April 13, 1940. So when I gave this information to Char, I asked her where her father was. She thought he might still be up in Alaska. They were in the process of moving back to South Dakota. I then thought I would check out the Alaska census records. Here I found the family listed again.

Father, Odin Klatt, wife Charlotte, their two daughters Nadine, age 6 and Marlene age 4. How could that be? Well the

Juneau, Alaska census was done between October 6 and October 11 in 1939. Alaska was still a territory and not yet a state, therefore Char's mother and sisters ended up being listed in two places. Do you have any genealogy trivia that you wish to share? If so send it to Pat Skubis @ Skubie27@live.com





President's message

How's Your Re-Search?

Most of us have heard lectures which mention the difference between research (looking for answers) and re-search (looking again for answers in a place we've looked before). Research is usually thought of as being good, while re-search is often thought of as being bad--a waste of time which should be avoided. But I've been reminded recently that not all re-search is a waste of time. Of course it is folly to look at the same data again just because we didn't keep a record we can find of having looked before. Sometimes it is good to reexamine data to make sure we didn't overlook some important clue the first time. But I think a more important type of re-search is looking again for information about Uncle Joe in the large data collections, such as Ancestry.com or FamilySearch.org. These collections are constantly adding new data sources. Last week I was lamenting that I knew so little about an aunt who had died before I was born. I had looked hard for information about her about fifteen years ago. About all I had discovered then was her name when she married my uncle (her maiden name?) and the date and location of that marriage. I looked for her **AGAIN** this week in Ancestry.com. With data not available to me earlier, I was able to identify her parents. This led me to her dates and places of birth and death. This doesn't yet tell me about the real Aunt Emeline, but it gives me handles with which I can go looking for more information about her life.

Keep track of where you have already looked, but don't be afraid to **look again** for information you didn't see the first time around.

Rollie Littlewood (608)273-0211

FamilySearch Indexing Report



July 1st FamilySearch challenged its indexers and arbitrators to see if they could index and arbitrate 5 million records in a 24 hour time period. In less than 16 hours they reached this goal and just kept going! 46,091 indexers and arbitrators participated in this historic event. Final Record Count:

- 7,258,151 Indexed
- 3,082,728 Arbitrated
- 10,340,879 Total

Back in February, Rollie encouraged members of our society to join in indexing the census. A number of members joined in. Patricia Skubis, Judith Page, William Baebler, Stephanie Barnhardt, and James Benes all joined in and so far have indexed a total of 12,647 names.

All records are indexed by two people. If there is conflicting information an arbitrator decides which one is right.

Shirley Anderson has been busy arbitrating records. 7,164 of them so far. As of July 25th Family Search reported the Census is now 90% complete. So thanks to the members who are taking part.

Keep on indexing as there are other projects to do. The more we do, the more we will be able to find information on our ancestors online.

Madison Trust for Historic Preservation Tours



When doing genealogy we also spend time learning about the history of the times and the places our ancestors lived. If you're from the Madison area or if you are looking for something to do, check out the walking tours offered by Madison Trust for Historic Preservation. Bascom Hill Tour Photo of Science Hall from

<http://www.madisonpreservation.org/tours/>

Tours run on Saturdays from May through September, and include seven walking tours and one bike tour. They also offer "Twilight Tours" on Thursdays throughout the summer. **No reservations required for scheduled tours.** Simply show up at the [starting point](#) at the scheduled time.

Costs: Tours are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors (60+), and FREE for MTHP members. (A basic membership is \$30. Click [HERE](#) to join.)

Check out the calendar for date and times for the August tours. <http://www.madisonpreservation.org/calendar/?month=aug&yr=2012>

The Madison Landmarks Commission has produced a series of neighborhood walking tour booklets. These are great!!

- [Exploring the Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood](#)
- [First Settlement Neighborhood: A Walking Tour](#)
- [Greenbush-Vilas Neighborhood: A Walking Tour](#)
- [Landmarks and Historic Districts in Madison: A Guide for Property Owners](#)
- [Langdon Street Historic District: A Walking Tour](#)
- [Madison's Pioneer Buildings: A Downtown Walking Tour](#)
- [Mansion Hill: Glimpses of Madison's Silk Stocking District](#)
- [The Nakoma Neighborhood: A Walking Tour](#)
- [Native American Mounds in Madison and Dane County](#)
- [Old Market Place: A Walking Tour](#)
- [Schenk's-Atwood Neighborhood: A Walking Tour](#)
- [The Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood: A Walking Tour](#)
- [The Third Lake Ridge Historic District: A Walking Tour](#)
- [The University Heights Historic District: A Walking Tour](#)

Wanted!! Does your family have a Street or Road named after them? Or is your family home on the National Register of Homes? If so email the information to skubie27@live.com with a photo if possible and we will put in the next newsletter.

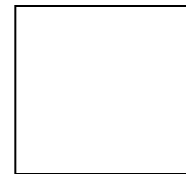
Dane County Area Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 5652
Madison, WI 53705-0652

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 on August 2nd

Become a Committee

Member only two left

DCAGS Governing Board for 2012

President: Rollie Littlewood
rkittle@wisc.edu

Vice President: Jim Benes
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Secretary: DeAnn McAllan
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Past President: Pat Skubis
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rkittle@wisc.edu
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Writers are needed!!!

Do you have a colorful ancestor?

A great family recipe?

A tale about your ancestor's coming to America?

A story about a veteran?

The ancestor you cannot find?

Help by submitting your tale to the Newsletter.

Just email it to skubie27@live.com

