

Dane County Area Genealogical Society News



“Historical and Genealogical Records at the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands”

is the title of Randy L. Bixby's presentation on June 7th

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) is the oldest state agency in Wisconsin. It was established to manage the lands granted by the Federal Government to the State of Wisconsin, including Education Lands (16th Section, University Lands, Agricultural College Lands); Swamp Lands, and Railroad Lands. These grants, along with several other small grants, total ten million acres of land.

BCPL is the custodian of the original Wisconsin land records for surveys conducted by the federal government in the 1830s-1860s. These include more than 1500 hand-drawn original survey maps and more than 600 hand-written field notebooks compiled by the surveyors. It also has the original copies of the federal land patents to Wisconsin, the earliest ones bring written on parchment.

Most of the land grants were received in the mid-to late-1800s, although some lands were received in the 20th century.

Except for the railroad land grants, which were conveyed by the Governor to early Wisconsin railroad companies, the other lands were conveyed by the Commissioners of the Public Lands to individuals. While primary access to

these records is by legal land description (Section, Town and Range), there is a wealth of information on individuals within the records.

This presentation will describe the different types of records and the kinds of information found in them, along with the difficulty in determining if a particular person applied for or received a land patent from the State of Wisconsin.



<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/SurveyNotes/SurveyNotesHome.html>



MEET OUR SPEAKER

Randy Bixby has been the land records archivist at the State of Wisconsin's Board of Commissioners of Public Lands since 2008. Prior to that, she was manuscripts curator at Southern Illinois

University in Carbondale, Illinois, and reference librarian in the Genealogy Division of the Indiana State Library. She's a native of Wisconsin Dells, has a BS from UW-Stevens

Point, a Masters in Library Science from UW-Madison, and an MA in U.S. History from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. She's worked on her family history for over

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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, June 19th at 6:30 p.m. at the new South Madison Library on 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!

Celebrate the 5th of July with a DCAGS Pizza Supper at Ian's Pizza on State starting at 5:30.



Followed by a tour of seldom seen artifacts at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum at 6:45.

You can do one or both
Contact Walker at 608.206.3182 or walker@viridis.ws
He will confirm all reservations.

Parking suggestions will be in the June newsletter.

thirty years, with varying levels of success on different branches of the family tree.

Upcoming Events



NEW 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.



9 June 2012 - "Pullman Porters"

Regular monthly meeting of the [South Suburban Genealogical and Historical Society](#) or <http://ssghs.org/> Hazel Crest Municipal/Police Building Board Room, 3000 W. 170th Pl. (east end of complex), Hazel Crest, Illinois. Tony Burroughs will be the speaker. Meeting starts at 10:00 am. See the [SSGHS Calendar of Events](#) for further information.

16 June 2012 - "Genealogy Church Records" Regular monthly meeting of the [LaSalle County Genealogy](#)

[Guild](http://lscgg.org/). <http://lscgg.org/>
LaSalle County Genealogy Guild
Headquarters, 115 W. Glover St.,
Ottawa, Illinois. The speaker will be
Rachel Mellon. The meeting starts at 1
pm. Contact the guild at
<lscgg@sbcglobal.net> or call them at
(815)433-5261 between 9am and 4pm
on Monday or Saturday for further
information.

20 June 2012 - "Computer and Online Genealogical Resources"

Regular monthly meeting of the [Burlington Genealogical Society](#).
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wiburlgs/>
Burlington Gateway Technical
College (next to Burlington High
School, at the end of McCanna
Parkway) conference room (off the
main lobby), Burlington, Wisconsin.
A round-table discussion among
members of the most popular
genealogy software and websites
which people are using, and what is
available. Computers and a digital
projector will be available for viewing
sites and software. The meeting starts
at 7:00 p.m. 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](#).

Classes at the Wisconsin Historical Society



To register for June 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/>

[Genealogy: Military Records June 2](#)

[Genealogy: Ancestry.com June 9](#)

[Genealogy: Ancestry.com June 30](#)



ISGS WEBINARS

The Illinois State Genealogical Society is pleased to announce a brand new service for its members as well as the genealogical community: WEBINARS! You can attend these webinars online over the Internet using your computer - that's right! Education delivered to you at your convenience.

On the 2nd Tuesday of each month, ISGS will offer an educational webinar with topics focusing on Illinois research, methodology, and beginning research. We'll not only be featuring topics relevant to Illinois and Midwest genealogy but also other related topics including vital records, research strategies and more. And the ISGS Webinar Series will also feature some of the best-known speakers in the field of genealogy today.

All ISGS webinars are FREE and open to the public when they are presented live. After the live broadcast, an archived on-demand copy of the webinar will be available to ISGS members via the [Members Section](#).

Upcoming Webinars: click [here](#) to learn more about our upcoming webinars and to register.

Previous Webinars: click [here](#) to see the genealogy topics we've covered in past webinars.

June 2012

The War of 1812 - America's "Forgotten" War

Presenter: Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG

- **Date:** Tuesday, June 12, 2012, 8:00 pm Central
- **Description:** The War of 1812 is one of the forgotten wars of the United States, yet records abound for our ancestors who were willing to fight the British once again.
- **Register:**
<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/361887982>

July 2012

Clue to Clue: Tracking a Family Over Time and Miles

Presenter: Jean Wilcox Hibben, PhD, MA, CG

- **Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012, 8:00 pm Central
- **Description:** Using various clues, this presentation shows how to move from one piece of information to the next to piece together the life of an ancestral family. The steps used are illustrated so that they can be followed by the beginner as well as the seasoned genealogist. Use of census, probate, property, and personal records, among others, are explained.
- **Register:**
<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/726337462>



President's message

Hear, Hear!

I've been reflecting on the equipment that DCAGS, through its Governing Board, has decided to purchase. Our monthly programs are a vital part of what our society has to offer. To appreciate these programs, members must be able to see and hear them well. We have purchased a high quality projector (in 2006) and a high quality microphone system (in 2011) – both expensive but both very valuable toward this end. At the May meeting we had an opportunity to try out for the first time one of the "accessories" which we bought with the microphone system--the ability to take sound from a computer and feed it into the chapel's amplifier. I thought it worked well. If only we had had this equipment back when we had the program on the UW-Madison oral history project (for those who didn't get to attend this program, all we could do was position the wired microphone near to the tiny speaker in the computer--not very satisfactory). Another accessory we have considered, but put off purchase of for now, is the ability to record a presentation.

I want to express my appreciation to the membership for their support of these equipment purchases, including several members who specifically donated money toward the purchases. And to those who have correctly observed that I haven't fully learned how to use the sound system: I'll keep working on it! *Rollie Littlewood (608)273-0211*



At our May 3rd meeting, Rollie Littlewood, President of DCAGS presented a program on Webinars. What they are and how to access them, both as a live presentation or in a webcast format. Webinars are becoming an increasingly useful tool for genealogists. Rollie answered a number of questions for us:

What is a webinar?

“Webinar” is short for Web-based Seminar, a presentation, lecture, workshop or seminar that is transmitted over the Web. Webinars may be collaborative and include polling and question & answer sessions to allow full participation between the audience and the presenter.

How does it differ from a webcast?

A webcast may present the same information, but is “one-way” / webcasts may simply be called something like video courses on some sites. Many webinars are recorded and later made available as webcasts (which may still be referred to as “webinars”).

What is needed to participate in a webinar?

To view an archived (recorded) webinar, all that is usually needed is a browser, a relatively high speed internet connection, and a way to

listen / if you go to a library to view a webinar or webcast, check for time limitations and be sure to have earphones of some sort. To watch a live webinar, special software—usually free—is almost always needed. Check with the website providing the webinar for specifics – may be as simple as Windows Media Player or Adobe Flash Player. ehow.com has some good short articles on needed software, etc.

What is needed to view a webcast?

Probably only a browser, a relatively high-speed internet connection, and a way to listen.

What does it cost to view a webinar?

Many are free, at least for a short period of time. One example: The Illinois State Genealogical Society lets anyone watch their webinars live, but only ISGS members can view them in their archive. Live webinars almost always have a limit on the number of attendees, so registration ahead of time is usually required—else you just “get in line” – after 1000 people (or whatever the limit is) have signed on, no one else get attend. Otherwise prices may range between \$10 and \$100 (approximate).

Rollie shared a webinar from Michael John Neill on exploring Union Army pension documents from the Civil War. It covered the documents: Declaration for Pension, verification of roster registration, Dept of Interior Survey (used

to verify survivor's relationship when pensioner passed away), pension affidavit, Pensioner Dropped Certificate (usually initiated by the US Postmaster), Certified Copy of Death Certificate, Declaration of a Widow for Original Pension, copy of Marriage Record, affidavit on behalf of widow to verify her identity.

Rollie walked us through a few websites to find webinars on or relating to genealogy. To find this list refer to Rollie's handout on the DCAGS website.

www.dcags.org

Share a family Photo.

Who, Were & When

This is Arthur Bergstrom, who was stationed in New York City's Central Park during WW I in 1917/1918.



New Member

Terrence Pyle is our newest member. He is a user of Ancestry. The names he is researching are Pyle, Scott and Terhune. The areas he's researching are California, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Canada, England and Ireland. If you would like to connect with Terrence please contact Walker.

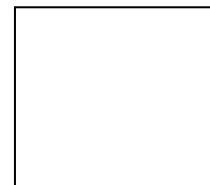
Dane County Area Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 5652
Madison, WI 53705-0652

Address Service Requested

We're on the Web!

See us at: www.dcags.org

Or www.facebook.com/dcags



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P.O. Box 5652

Madison, WI 53705-0652

**See you at
the June 7th
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



Many States are completely indexed.

19%

But
Wisconsin is
lagging behind
with Only
completed.

Please help index
records so we can locate
our ancestors.

