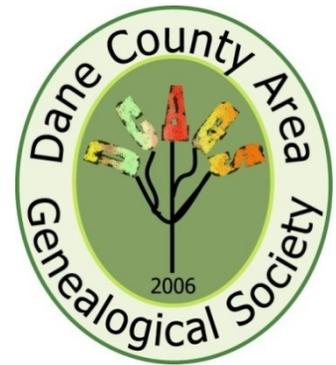


Dane County Area Genealogical Society News



August/2013

Volume 7, Issue 12

The True Story of Miss Belle Boyd, Siren of the South



is the title of the program for our September 5th meeting. Melanie Lichtfeld sent us this preview of her presentation.

"Hello, My name is Maria Isabelle Boyd. I like to be called Belle.

I have been given many nicknames such as Joan of Arc of the south, Cleopatra of the Secession, LaBelle Rebelle, but my favorite is Siren of the South.

As we all know, history was written mostly by men. Because I outsmarted, out rode and outtalked many a high- ranking official those men painted a picture of me in history that is neither flattering nor true. They imprisoned me, banned me from traveling as a free woman and ultimately confiscated my memoirs and made a deal that I would not speak of them again.

I am now free to tell my story in my own words. A story of a young southern girl from Martinsburg, Virginia. A girl that should have spent her youth at social gatherings, courting young men and spending her summers riding her horse.

Instead, at age 16, I was forced to defend my mother's honor and the honor of my beloved country, The Confederate States of America.

I would like to share with you my life's story. The true story of Miss Belle Boyd, Siren of the South."

Melanie Lichtfeld will be dressed in a period costume. If you wish to come dressed in clothing appropriate to the time, feel free to do so.

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, Wisconsin 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, September 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the University of Wisconsin Foundation Office 1848 University Avenue Madison, WI. Please join us!

Our speaker on October 3rd will be Solveig Quinney. Her topic is: "What my grandmother told me and she never lied."

Individual Highlights: Upcoming conferences & Webinars - page 2 President's message, Member Obit, article on Belle Boyd - page 3 Recap of George Spracklin presentation - page 4 Recap continued, article on a secret sperm donor service post world War I - page 5 Request for committee chair and an announcement for Fall State Genealogy Conference - page 6

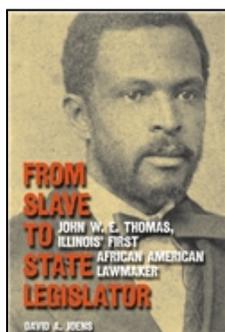


Illinois State Genealogical Society offers FREE WEBINARS on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. All ISGS webinars are FREE and open to the public when they are presented live. For upcoming webinars go to <http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=234> to learn more about the upcoming webinars and to register.

September 2013

“To the Honorable, the General Assembly” - The Treasure Trove in Legislative Petitions

- **Presenter:** Judy G. Russell, CG
- **Date:** Tuesday, September 10, 2013, 8:00 pm Central
- **Description:** As colonists and as citizens of the new United States, Americans were fiercely protective of their right to petition their government. Whether the issue was forming new counties, building bridges and highways, or some matter of public concern, our ancestors made their voices heard in legislative petitions that are a treasure trove for genealogists.
- **Register:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3615763026611679744>
- **Sponsor:** David A. Joens, author of *From Slave to State Legislator: John W. E. Thomas, Illinois' First African American Lawmaker*, available at SIU Press (<http://www.siupress.com>)



FREE WEBINARS REGISTER at
www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com

Getting the Most from Your Records: Putting Them Through the Wringer!

You've found the document, now put it through the wringer. Consider: genealogical standards, provenance, jurisdiction, possible biases, etc.. [Linda Woodward Geiger](#) 1PM Wednesday, September 4, 2013.

More Blogging for Beginners with Dear MYRTLE

Continuing the discussion about free online software at Blogger.com to get your message out to the world. This sessions topics include adding gadgets such as links to other websites, adding book suggestions from Amazon.com, removing the blogger search bar and inserting a Google Search box to make it easier for your readers to find previous postings. [Dear MYRTLE](#) 1PM, Friday, September 6, 2013.

You Use WHAT for Genealogy?

Wonderful Uses for Unusual Tools

Have you ever wondered if you're missing out on how some genealogists are using tools such as Ever note, Microsoft Word or Excel, Google and more? Learn what's hot in the world of apps and websites and how you can start using them! We'll review a group of familiar apps and websites that are being used in creative ways by the genealogy community. You'll also learn how to think "outside the margins" and start repurposing other apps and sites for your genealogy research. [Thomas MacEntee](#) 1PM Wednesday, September 11, 2013.

Don't Be an Audio Hog: Free and Easy Ways to Share Your Audio Files

You've gone to all the trouble to record your family's oral history in audio. Don't banish those files to the dark corners of your computer or external hard drive. Bring them back to life by sharing them with your family, community or on your blog. Turn those audio files into sound bytes or fun multi-media projects. [Marian Pierre-Louis](#) 1PM Wednesday, September 18, 2013.

University of Wisconsin Union Mini Course: Genealogy

When: Three Tuesday evenings: September 17, September 24 and October 1st. The class runs from 6 to 8 p.m.

Where: The location will be at the Union South, 1308 W Dayton St., the room has not yet been assigned. There is a parking ramp in the lower level of this building!

Instructor: Sherry Lloyd is an experienced genealogist with over 25 years of experience.

Description: Interested in discovering your family's history? We will look at how to begin genealogy, what resources are available, how to keep track of your information and genealogy standards. You will learn how to find information on the Internet as well as the large amount of information available at your local libraries. Emphasis will be on using free computer programs and Internet sources.

Cost: Standard charge for Union members or students: \$44.50, for UW staff or others the charge is higher. Anyone can become a Union Member for an annual fee. The annual fee is applied toward the lifetime membership. UW Alumni and UW Retirees may be eligible for lower rates on Union membership. Also a member of the Union may bring a guest at the same rate. Please see Mini Course web site for membership options and registration.

<http://www.union.wisc.edu/minicourses.htm>



35th

Annual Conference

September 13-14, 2013

Hilton Lisle/Naperville • 3003

Corporate West Drive Lisle, IL 60532

• 630.505.0900

Register for conference via:

www.2013pgsaconf.eventbrite.com

For mail-in registration, with

personal check only, visit

www.PGSA.org



President's Message:

Here we are already at the end of the summer, at least for those that count by the start of the new school year. For your board, it means it's time for us to start recruiting new board members. This is something that's a struggle for us each year, which is puzzling because we're a damn nice group of folks!

In an effort to try and bring more board members in and give them a chance to be a part of the board without holding an office or committee chair, we are considering a proposal to change the by-laws. This potential change would allow us to elect a number of board members at large and that group would elect officers from amongst themselves.

If the proposal passes we will be communicating with you in an extra mailing for a membership vote. We welcome your thoughts, as our sole goal is to get more folks participating. We also encourage you to consider being a part of the board. If this is something you are interested in please let Rollie Littlewood, the chair of the nominating committee, or me know.

Walker walker@viridis.ws



Belle Boyd (1843-1900)

One of the most famous of Confederate spies, Belle Boyd served the Confederate forces in the Shenandoah Valley. Born in Martinsburg-now part of West Virginia-she operated her spying

operations from her father's hotel in Front Royal, providing valuable information to Generals Turner Ashby and "Stonewall" Jackson during the spring 1862 campaign in the Valley. The latter general then made her a captain and honorary aide-de-camp on his staff. As such she was able to witness troops reviews.

Betrayed by her lover, she was arrested on July 29, 1862, and held for a month in the Old Capitol Prison in Washington. Exchanged a month later, she was in exile with relatives for a time but was again arrested in June 1863 while on a visit to Martinsburg. On December 1, 1863, she was released, suffering from typhoid, and was then sent to Europe to regain her health. Upon her return [to the States], she was captured on the blockade runner. She fell in love with the prize master, Samuel Hardinge, who later married her in England after being dropped from the navy's rolls for neglect of duty in allowing her to proceed to Canada and then England. Hardinge attempted to reach Richmond, was detained in Union hands, but died soon after his release.

While in England Belle Boyd Hardinge had a stage career and published *Belle Boyd in Camp and Prison*. She died while touring the western United States. (Sigaud, Louis, A., *Belle Boyd, Confederate Spy*, and Scarborough, Ruth, *Belle Boyd.- Siren of the South*)

Source: "Who Was Who in the Civil War" by Stewart Sifakas

Mary Joan Hanafin Schatz, age 78, of Madison, passed away on Monday, Aug. 12, 2013.

According to her obituary Mary became interested in genealogy as a young girl. She asked her paternal grandmother to send her all the information she could remember about her family's history. This began a lifelong fascination with genealogy.

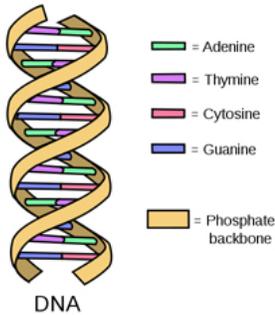


Mary and her husband (Steven) would often make trips east to visit their children, and they'd stop along the way to attend genealogy conferences or look for the records of her ancestors in places like upstate New York, Pennsylvania and Western Connecticut. She loved to tell stories of some of her ancestors, like father and son, Samuel Dunham Sr. and Jr., the elder who sided with the British and the younger who fought with George Washington's army during the Revolution.

Mary also volunteered at the Wisconsin Historical Society so that she could help others research their family histories.

Mary and her husband Steven have been members of DCAGS for many years. Mary should be honored in our memories for her contributions of promoting genealogy research.

Complete obituary can be read at host.madison.com/news/local/obituaries/schatz-mary-h/article_c069b3c2-1b64-5d9c-86d8-94f084c685b3.html



DNA for Genealogy

George Spracklin changed his focus from a UW genetics lab study of inheritance in round worms to the inheritance of human DNA for genealogy. Perhaps this presentation showed him the “error of his ways” in his personal research choice of the lower species. His presentation began by reminding us of important background information needed as a starting point for this topic.

Some DNA basics:

Genetic information (DNA) is contained in the nucleus of every human cell. DNA is a double stranded molecule comprised of phosphate, deoxyribose (a sugar) and four nitrogenous bases: adenine (A), guanine (G), cytosine (C), and thymine (T). The strands run in opposite directions and wind together forming a double helix. The strands are paired together in a very specific way: adenine on one strand **always** pairs with thymine on the other strand just as cytosine **always** pairs with guanine on the other strand. Because these strands replicate predictably, an anomaly in the pairing sequence can easily be noted.

While the DNA of all persons is 99.9% similar, it is the 0.1% variation that makes each of us unique.

Spracklin emphasized there were two things he wanted everyone to remember from his presentation: the difference between **SNPs** (single nucleotide polymorphism) and **STRs** (single tandem repeats). Both are essential for genealogical studies because they are important markers for comparison of DNAs of family and potential relatives. A **SNP**

(pronounced “snip”) is a DNA sequence variation occurring when a single nucleotide — A, T, C or G — in shared sequence differs between members of paired chromosomes. For example, two sequenced DNA fragments, AAGCCTA to AAGCTTA, contain a difference in a single nucleotide. A **STR** is a short segment of adjacent (in tandem) DNA sequence that repeats in the chain. AAGCCT AAGCCT AAGCCT and so forth. The order of the As, Ts, Cs and Gs in DNA determines the information encoded in that part of the DNA molecule just as the order of letters determines the meaning of a word. This sequence is determined by DNA testing.

23 Pairs of Chromosomes:

22 identical pairs, 23rd pair is the sex chromosome--**xx or xy** 22 are packed into **nucleus** of every living cell mtDNA (**x**) is located in the **cytoplasm** of cells. Each child inherits a **x chromosome** from both parents, **BUT**, only *females* can pass **x** to next generation; *males* pass **y** to sons. Recombination of male and female **genes** contained in the chromosomes imparted to offspring predicts that 1/2 of a child's genes come from each parent. Grandchildren inherit 1/4 of their genes from their grandparents and 1/2 from their own parents. There are three main **types of DNA tests** used to trace ancestry in genealogical studies: **mitochondrial** (only for females), **Y-chromosome** (only for males), and **autosomal** (for either sex). The autosomal test groups persons into geographical **haplogroups** that examine your ancestral roots.

SNPs as a Measure of Genetic Similarity

DNA is passed from parent to child, so you inherit your SNP's variations from your parents. You will be a match with your siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins at many of these SNPs. **But**, you will have far fewer matches with people to whom you are only distantly related. **The number of SNPs where you match another person**

can, therefore, be used to tell how closely related you are.

While a perfect genotype doesn't exist, it should be emphasized that **we are all 99.9% the same; our individual uniqueness lies in that 0.1%.**

Spracklin touched upon population genetics. **Haplotypes** classify populations from the basis of origin and geographical location. The haplogroup categories stem from SNPs in x or y DNA. As more data is gathered from testing individuals, additional subcategories are appearing in haplotype designations. There are unique markers in DNA that are characteristic of various peoples such as the Ashkenazi Jews, Asians, or Native Americans. This information is the result of testing isolated populations who remained in place for generations and still holds true today.

While DNA for the public is a relatively new science, it has evolved rapidly in accuracy and appeal. Basically, the more markers that are tested, the more accurate the results. There are at least three major testing companies currently. A very recent move has been to consolidate into one world-wide data base that could be used to identify persons of the same surname or geographic area. Spracklin gave examples of each type of genetic test. The **y-chromosome test** can be used to determine paternity, but it is also a mechanism for finding male relatives--**IF** they also have submitted DNA. A more interesting angle of y-DNA matching is the probability that Thomas Jefferson fathered at least 1 of his slave, Sally Henning's children by following the DNA trail.

The mitochondrial (mtDNA) test similarly is used to trace maternal relatives. Recently a body discovered in Leicester, England while excavating a church parking lot proved to be that of Richard the III by matching his mtDNA with that of a 17th generation descendent of Richard's sister with whom geneticists

could compare DNA. And finally the **autosomal test** can be used to identify geographic locations of an individual on the basis of where others with similar DNA originated. Often these are the tests that use haplogroup assignments.

Disclaimer: This is an attempt to summarize a complex topic--as I heard it. With only my cryptic notes and a limited knowledge of genetics, I offer this summary as a general overview of Spracklin's presentation. submitted by Marguerite Sykes

A secret sperm donor service in post-first world war London

The strange tale of how 500 women were helped to conceive after the first world war by [Paul Spicer](http://www.spectator.co.uk/features/8978621/a-secret-sperm-donor-service-in-post-first-world-war-london/) 3 August 2013
<http://www.spectator.co.uk/features/8978621/a-secret-sperm-donor-service-in-post-first-world-war-london/>



"These days there are sophisticated and scientific solutions to the dismal problem of unwanted childlessness — there are IVF, Viagra and well-established egg and sperm donor services. We think of these as

recent advantages and give thanks for the modern age.

But what only very few people are aware of is that long before sperm donation was practically or ethically possible, in the early 20th century, a secret sperm donation service existed for those women most in need.

Helena Wright was a renowned doctor, bestselling author, campaigner and educator who overcame the establishment to pioneer contraceptive medicine in England and throughout the world. Kind, intelligent, funny and attractive, Helena had a way with words and a devoted set of friends. She adored men and spent her life helping women.

Helena had a great hit in America and Europe with a book called *The Sex Factor in Marriage*, which financed her innovative medical practice. She opened two clinics: one for very privileged women in Knightsbridge, one for the poor in Notting Hill. And it was from these offices that she undertook perhaps her greatest work: to assist hundreds of women whose husbands had returned from the first world war unable to father children.

Between 1914 and 1918 one million Englishmen were killed in France and

Belgium. Thousands more were wounded, gassed or shell-shocked in the trenches. The appalling losses of the war left many women widowed and led to a shortage of potential husbands, a gender imbalance compounded by the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918. They were known as 'the mate less multitude'.

Among the men lucky enough to return home to wives after the war, many were unable to perform sexually, whether because of direct injury or shellshock — what we'd call post-traumatic stress disorder. It was a tremendously delicate subject — witness D.H. Lawrence's decision to make Clifford Chatterley 'only half a man', deprived of his virility by war; this aspect of the novel was considered to be the cruel breaking of a taboo.

No wonder, then, that by 1918 Helena Wright had many hundreds of women on her books who had confided to her that they needed help. These women loved their husbands and would never have left them, but they also craved children. What they needed was a sperm donor, before such a thing existed.

So Helena began to look for a very particular person — someone who could father children for these women without any ties. She needed a man of certain stock: tall, handsome (with decent teeth), intelligent, well bred, healthy — and reliably virile.

The answer turned out to be Derek. Derek was born in 1889 in Colorado and raised between England and what was then Ceylon, where his father had a partnership in a rubber and tea plantation. By the age of 19 Derek had grown to be a handsome and amusing young man. He was sent to Malaya to run another rubber plantation in 1909, when there was an insatiable demand for rubber to make tyres for motorcars.

When the first world war broke out, Derek had been ordered — to his frustration — to remain at his post developing rubber for the war effort and in 1918, at the conclusion of an armistice between Germany, France and England, he had returned to England where he met and courted the young nurse, Suzanne, who would become his wife. In 1919 Suzanne introduced him to Dr Helena Wright.

It was a momentous meeting. As their friendship developed, Helena confided in Derek, explaining she had a list of 1,000 women on her books whose husbands could not father children as a result of the war. Derek was touched and excited to think he could help. So the secret service was born. Each would-be mother signed a pledge to stay schtum, and paid £10 to a trust fund which allowed Helena to administer the service and covered prenatal care in Helena's clinics.

It was determined there would be no prior meetings between Derek and the women — minimizing the risk of nerves or second

thoughts. Each woman would send Helena a telegram with their optimal dates for conceiving. The husbands would have the option of meeting Derek or going away (most went away) — and a date for the visit would be set.

Ahead of the chosen date, Helena would send a telegram to Derek. On the night, he would dress in a dark suit, white shirt and polka-dot bow tie, take his Homburg hat and a black leather Gladstone bag containing a nightshirt and bottle of brandy. His good manners, smile and enthusiasm did the trick.

Derek visited close to 500 women in the years that followed. Many conceived and he never went back a second time. Derek and Helena's secret collaboration was a success for which neither could ever take credit, but they were doing good: providing longed-for children where there would have been none.

In the course of her long career, Helena attracted considerable controversy and legal charges. She made no secret of the fact that in the 1940s she had arranged abortions and in the 1950s 'third-party adoptions' (bringing together women who had unwanted pregnancies with childless couples). At her trial in 1968, she faced criminal prosecution for this and pleaded guilty, but was given an absolute discharge.

She was working and travelling, surrounded by friends and loving family, until the age of 93. Derek fathered 496 children between 1917 and 1950. He had three sons by his only marriage, and two further sons by his father's mistress. Then there were four more sons left behind in Malaya. The rest of his progeny were conceived to patients of Helena Wright's Knightsbridge and Notting Hill clinics.

After falling ill he resisted, with characteristic savvy and wit, all attempts to admit him to hospital. He died, in 1974, on a mattress that had been moved next to his Aga cooker for warmth.

Within a year of his death an ad had appeared in *Private Eye*: '£50 for temporary relationship resulting in pregnancy.' One more taboo had been lifted.

Paul Spicer is the author of The Temptress, The Scandalous Life of Alice, Countess de Janze (Simon & Schuster)"

One wonders how many their descendants will become genealogists who might perform DNA tests that will reveal the "non-paternal event" that occurred?"

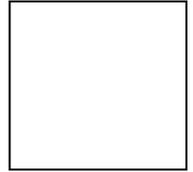
Photo from and read more at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2383895/Desperate-wives-man-fathered-500-children-women-war-hero-husbands-shellshocked-make-love.html>

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**See you on
September 5th**



**Become a Committee Member
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GENEALOGICAL FALL
SEMINAR**

Sept 27 & 28, 2013
Janesville Convention Center,
Holiday Inn, WI
Friday – Lori Bessler
Saturday – Leslie Albrecht
Huber

For more information and a
registration form go to
<http://www.wsgs.org/upload/files/2013%20Fall%20Brochure%281%29.pdf>