

# Dane County Area Genealogical Society News



## Culture, Heritage, and Swiss Roots

Is the title of the Dane County Genealogical Society  
Presentation by Beth Zurbuchen on February 6<sup>th</sup> 2014.



*"I am trying to obtain information about my great-great-grandparents who came to the United States in 1852. Is there any way you can guide me on how to find out more?"*

*"How do I find records about my great-great-grandmother? She was born and raised in Salmendingen, Hohenzollern Lande, Prussia, in 1822. Sometime after 1844 she and her sister went to Switzerland to get married. She was not a native Swiss citizen. Not sure who or where she married (maybe she married a Swiss native?). Any guidance or advice you can*

*provide to me in my efforts is deeply appreciated."*

These are portions of two requests for assistance as a growing number of people turn to the Swiss Center for help finding their Swiss Roots. In 2013, Swiss Center of North America president, Beth Zurbuchen received more than 200 inquiries for help finding an individual's Swiss roots.

Beth says it's a good thing she has experience as a news reporter, because learning about genealogy research here and in Switzerland, which has four official languages, uses similar problem solving skills as investigative journalism.

Beth will provide an overview of the Swiss Center and the tools she uses including the Swiss Center's Tritt Library as well as her connections with the Swiss Society of Genealogical Studies (SSGS) in Switzerland.



Beth Zurbuchen joined the Swiss Center of North America as its President/CEO in September 2008. She grew up in Verona, WI, just outside Wisconsin's capital city of Madison. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse. In 2007, Zurbuchen successfully completed the Executive Training Program Graduate Center for Nonprofit Management at the Kellogg School of Management—Northwestern University in Illinois. She is also a graduate of Leadership Greater Madison

which improved the understanding of, and engagement with, specific challenges and opportunities confronting area communities.

Zurbuchen spent 23 years as a television news journalist in three Wisconsin markets, La-Crosse, Wausau and Madison. From the days of film to the early days of video and then satellite live shows, she traveled the state and country covering news and special events interviewing people including presidential candidates, actors and government officials. Zurbuchen has experience in corporate/media relations as well as nonprofit management. Her work at the Swiss Center of North America is extremely gratifying as she is learning of her Swiss heritage each and every day. Beth is the granddaughter of Rudy Wuthrich who emigrated from Canton Bern in 1923 and great granddaughter of Christian Zurbuchen of Habkern, Canton Bern, who emigrated in 1888, and Barbara Andrea Zurbuchen of Andeer in Canton Graubunden, who arrived in Wisconsin in 1893. Her roots are positively Swiss!

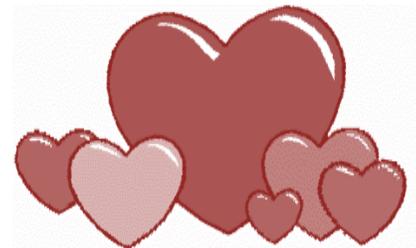
**January/2014**  
**Volume 8, Issue 5**

**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.**

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**DCAGS Update:**  
**The DCAGS Governing Board meets each month.**  
**The next meeting time, date and place to be announced.**

**Our March** meeting will be held on March 6th.  
**Our speaker** will be Jaime Stoltenberg. Map and Geospatial Data Librarian at the Arthur H. Robinson Map Library, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison



**Individual Highlights: Upcoming Webinars and Gene-A-Rama, page-2 Conferences, Meetings and Websites, page-3 Article on New Glarus, page-4 President's Message, Rösti Recipe, & New Member page-5 Request for Committee Chair, 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. Go to <http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=234> to learn more about the upcoming webinars and to register.

**February 2014**

**Printed Legends and Missing Footnotes: Dissecting 19th and 20th Century Compiled Genealogies**

- **Presenter:** D. Joshua Taylor
- **Date:** February 11, 2014, 8:00 PM Central
- **Description:** Discover the methods used in the 19th and early 20th century to create a compiled genealogy, and how to ensure its information does not lead you down the wrong trail.
- **Registration:** <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/9213931983607980546>
- This webinar is sponsored by FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org>)



**FREE WEBINARS**

REGISTER at <http://www.familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

**Family Stories: Using Newspapers to Reconnect with the Stories of Your Family's Past**

As genealogists we want to learn who our ancestors and relatives are, to document them, learn the stories of their lives and pass them down to the rising generation. The old newspapers are the new tool for uncovering these stories. Newspapers were published every day of their lives. Take this tour of the remarkable examples that can be found in GenealogyBank's three centuries of newspaper archives. Find your family's stories that have been lost over time – document them and preserve them. Don't let your heritage be lost. **Presented** by Tom Kemp at 1 PM on Wednesday, February 12, 2014.

**The Ties That Bond**

From marriage bonds to officials' bonds, sureties given in a wide variety of circumstances can offer clues to our family members and their friends, associates and neighbors. Learn what they are, how to find them, and how to use them in building your family's FAN club. **Presented** by Judy G. Russell at 1 PM on Wednesday, February 19, 2014

**Searching for Surnames: Challenges, Pitfalls and the Downright Ridiculous**

With increased indexing and transcription of records, often linked to digitized images on free and commercial websites, searching for an individual or collecting references to everyone holding a particular surname is much easier now, isn't it? Using a variety of sites to try to discover details about those elusive ancestors, creative searching is a must and this webinar will uncover some of the investigative methods needed as well as the more challenging transcriptions the genealogist has to work with, whilst still being enormously grateful that they are available to us online. **Presented** by Kirsty Gray at 1 PM on Wednesday, February 26, 2014

**Genealogy and Technology - State of the Union**

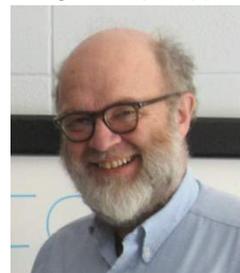
There are definable trends today in the application of technology to genealogy. The buzzword for 2014 is SYNERGY: [Google's definition] the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents [technology] to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects. This lecture looks at the trends in technology, their applications in genealogy, and the synergy between organizations that impact the ways we'll do genealogy in the near future. This is being broadcast live from the Orange County California Genealogical Society's 2nd Annual Genealogy Bash. **Presented** by Barbara Renick at 4:30 PM Central on Saturday, March 1, 2014.



**February Webinar : Probate Will Not Be the Death of You**

- **Presenter:** Harold Henderson
- **Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014

- **Time:** 7:00 PM CST



- **Webinar Description:** Everybody dies. Many have probates. Few write wills. Fortunately, probate records are not as scary as they sound, and they offer all kinds of wonderful opportunities for the well-prepared genealogist.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/kwnzw8f>  
Webinar ID: 122-884-299

After registering, you will receive an email with information and a link to join us the night of the webinar and handout information. Please remember that this is a first come first serve webinar. Registering does not hold a spot for you. Those that log in first will be admitted to the webinar.

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**Gene-A-Rama 2014 will be taking place in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, at the [Holiday Inn on April 4th-5th, 2014](#). The Holiday Inn is located at 4601 Calumet Ave, Manitowoc.**



Our main speaker will be Lisa Alzo.

Other presenters are: **Grace Dumelle, George**

**Findlen, CG, Vickie Schnitzler, Kay Scholz, and Edith Wagner.**

For lower fees registration must be post-marked by March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Gene-A-Rama 2014 is hosted by the [Manitowoc Genealogical Society](#).

Click on the link to view the Gene-A-Rama 2014 [brochure](#).

The Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois announces their first all day conference to be held May 17, 2014. Starting at 8 AM.



with Thomas MacEntee  
and CAGNI presenters

Register now for CAGNI's first ever day-long conference, GeneaQuest! GeneaQuest 2014 features nationally-acclaimed genealogy blogger and genealogy-tech professional Thomas MacEntee. Thomas's keynote address, *Genealogy: The Future Is Now* will present the programs, apps, and websites that are hot now and how you can prepare for the genealogy technology of the future.

Breakout sessions and computer labs featuring CAGNI's own presenters Caron Primas Brennan, Nancy R. Thomas, John Stryker, Sandra Trapp and Michelle Bray Wilson will deep-dive into Genealogy Apps, Google Tools, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Family Tree Maker, Genetic Genealogy, Picasa and Flip-Pal.

Visit our [GeneaQuest page](#) for complete program and speaker information.

Join us also at GeneaQuest's exclusive GeneaUs Bar for informal discussion in your favorite genealogy or technology specialty area.

This event will be held at Elgin Community College building E. [Map](#) [Program Brochure](#)

## Madison History Round Table

**Date:** February 13 at 7:15 PM.

**Presenter:** Jessica Michna, Civil War nurses, "To Heal a Nation - Mother Dickerdyke"

The MHRT meets the second Thursday of the month at the Radisson Hotel, 517 Grand Canyon Drive, Madison.

Reservations are not required. Social hour begins at 6:00 PM, with a catered dinner if reservations are made two days in advance to John Driscoll, 608-274-0996. The presentation begins about 7:15 PM. Contact Jennifer Eager Ehle, 608-302-1722, or Bill Sayles, 608-274-9342, for additional information.



FamilySearch announces the New FamilySearch Indexing Website.



FamilySearch recently released a newly redesigned indexing website at [FamilySearch.org/indexing](http://FamilySearch.org/indexing), and we invite you to come and take a look. This new website integrates indexing with the rest of FamilySearch.org, making it easier for indexers to know how to get started and find the help they need.

If you have never indexed before, the new [Overview](#) and [Get Started](#) pages will introduce you to the program. Want to help make more records available in the areas you are researching? Check out the new interactive [projects map](#). And if you have questions, or get stuck trying to decipher the old handwriting, the [Help Resources](#) will have answers for you.

The change in the indexing website is just the first step in a total redesign and improvement of the indexing experience. In the coming year, you will see an all-new indexing program integrated with FamilySearch.org, which will bring indexing to your Internet browser, enable indexing on tablet devices, [and much more](#). Join us at [RootsTech](#) in February to get some hands-on experience with the new program.

### Current and Completed Projects

To view a list of currently available indexing projects, along with their record language and completion percentage, visit the FamilySearch [indexing updates page](#). To learn more about individual projects, view the FamilySearch [projects page](#).

## New Glarus - home of the Swiss Center of North America



Located just 30 miles south of Madison, New Glarus offers museums, shopping, ethnic restaurants, festivals, and much more.



Each year my friends and I make at least one trip to New Glarus.

In spring we enjoy visiting the flower shop

[Brenda's Blumenladen](#) located on 6th Avenue. Brenda's offers a fresh mix of giftware, floral design and garden accents. Open Monday through Friday 8:00 AM–8:00 PM, Saturday 8:00 AM–7:00 PM, Sunday 9:00 AM–5:00 PM.

We also enjoy the ethnic foods served at several of the local restaurants. My favorite is the Röstli/Roesti. Never heard of a Roesti? It is basically a huge, glorified hash brown, consisting of grated potatoes fried with caramelized onions and a bit of Raclette cheese as a filling. (See recipe on page 5.)



As you walk around town you will encounter a number of painted cows. These cows are made in Switzerland shipped to the USA and then painted by local

artists. You can visit Hoesly's Meats, the New Glarus Bakery, the New Glarus Brewing Co. Gift Shop or some of the other specialty shops.



The Swiss Historical Village Museum is open May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 4 PM. The museum has 14 different buildings that

tell the story of New Glarus. Beginning in the Hall of History, visitors learn about how nearly 100 Swiss immigrants left their homeland in Switzerland to begin a new life here in Wisconsin in 1845. There's an authentic 1850s log cabin, an 1890s cheese factory, a one-room schoolhouse, a firehouse, a print shop, a blacksmith shop, a general store, and a replica of the town's first log church.



June 27 - June 29, 2014 Heidi Festival. Heidi drama performances. Chicken BBQ Friday. Craft fair and mini expo in Village Park Saturday and Sunday. Taste of New Glarus (downtown) Saturday.



August 29, 30, and 31 will be the 76th production of the Wilhelm Tell Festival. Since 1938, the people of New Glarus have presented Schiller's 'Wilhelm Tell,' paying honor to the famous Swiss Archer. In addition to the play, enjoy yodeling, alphorns, dancing, an art fair and all the wonderful cuisine and beverages that New Glarus has to offer. Learn more by checking out the 2014 visitor's guide, available February 15, 2014 at <http://swisstown.com/> be sure to watch the YouTube video. Submitted by Pat Skubis



## President's Message:

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As we look forward to 2014 I feel I would be remiss if I don't take a moment to look back at 2013. We brought in many new speakers thanks to some hard work by our program committee. We made some important administrative changes to expand our board and encourage more participation by members and maintained a membership of over 160 individuals. We also kept our membership at a very low cost so that everyone who would like the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of membership can. Many members came forward to help with the many little tasks that are required to run our organization. As someone who feels I receive much more than I give, thank you to each of you.

Lastly, I extend my thanks to our out-going treasurer, Joyce Peterson. Joyce stepped in two years ago when I left the position to become President. Joyce did an excellent job of making sure all of our financial transactions were handled accurately and timely. She also brought a fiscally conservative voice to the board ensuring that every dollar of your membership dues were well spent. If you have a chance please thank Joyce for her service.

Walker Crawford, President [walker@viridis.ws](mailto:walker@viridis.ws)

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## Roesti/ Rösti



### Ingredients for four people:

- \* 2 lb. potatoes, boiled in their skins, drained and allowed to cool
- \* 2 ½ tbs. lard or butter
- \* ¼ tsp. salt
- \* 1 tbs. butter

1. Peel potatoes, grate coarsely.
2. Melt 1 tbs. lard or butter in a nonstick skillet, add the potatoes and salt.
3. Brown the potatoes gently over a low heat, turning occasionally.
4. Press the potatoes together to form a flat cake, cover and allow them to continue cooking for about 15 minutes until a golden crust has formed.
5. Cut the margarine or butter into small pieces, and add them all round the edge of the skillet.
6. Continue cooking for another five minutes.
7. Turn the roesti onto a plate with the crust on top. You can do this either by putting the serving plate over the skillet and turning it upside down, or by tossing it like a pancake.

### Variations:

- \* Before adding the grated potatoes, lightly fry four chopped onions or 4 oz of chopped bacon in the lard or butter.
- \* Mix steamed vegetables or cooked sauerkraut in with the potatoes
- \* Lay grated cheese or cheese slices on the finished roesti, put it on a cookie sheet and bake in the middle of a pre-heated oven at 400 degrees for 10 minutes

Rösti is often served with a fried egg.

<http://www.theswisscenter.org/swissroots/culture/recipes/?Id=190>

## New Member

We have one new member to share with you, Janet Robertson of Madison, originally from the Stoughton area. She is a PC user who uses Ancestry.com, Family Tree Maker and FamilySearch.org to organize her genealogy research.

Her names of interest are Bergee, Krueger, Roberts, Robertson, Sette, Vesaas and Visaas. Her geographic areas of research are Dane, Dodge and Vernon Counties; Iowa, Wisconsin, Germany and Norway.

If you would like to communicate with Jan her contact information is available on the online membership database or you can let Walker know. Welcome Jan!



Genealogical Society Free Webinar Programming

Sponsored by Saving Memories Forever

*Preserving Your Family's Oral Tradition and Stories*

presented by **Thomas MacEntee & Harvey Baker**

February 25, 2014 at 7:30-8:30pm CST

Based on an e-book prepared by Thomas MacEntee, this 1-hour webinar will give your members a good understanding of what tools are out there to gather family stories.

Register: <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/545445327>

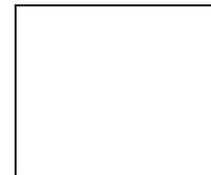
Dane County Area Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 5652  
Madison, WI 53705-0652

Address Service Requested

We're on the Web!

See us at: [www.dcags.org](http://www.dcags.org)

or



**Dane County Area  
Genealogical Society**

P.O. Box 5652  
Madison, WI 53705-0652

**See you on  
February 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Become a Committee Member  
One Position Open  
Sign Up Today**



#### DCAGS Governing Board for 2014

President: Walker Crawford  
[walker@viridis.ws](mailto:walker@viridis.ws)

Vice President: Jim Benes  
[Jimbenes@iname.com](mailto:Jimbenes@iname.com)

Secretary: DeAnn McAllan  
[d.mcallan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.mcallan@sbcglobal.net)

Treasurer: Katherine Sparks  
[kasparks55@yahoo.com](mailto:kasparks55@yahoo.com)

Member at large: John Madigan  
[j.madigan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j.madigan@sbcglobal.net)

Past President, Rolie Littlewood  
[rkittle@wisc.edu](mailto:rkittle@wisc.edu)

#### Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Walker Crawford  
[walker@viridis.ws](mailto:walker@viridis.ws)

Programs & Education: Donna Johnson  
[Donna53705@aol.com](mailto:Donna53705@aol.com)

#### Public Relations: Vacant

Historian: Sandy Zart  
[sandy\\_zart@yahoo.com](mailto:sandy_zart@yahoo.com)

Web Master: Rolie Littlewood  
[rkittle@wisc.edu](mailto:rkittle@wisc.edu)

Newsletter: Pat Skubis  
[skubie27@live.com](mailto:skubie27@live.com)

Celebrate Groundhog Day  
and Valentine's Day.  
Remember Spring arrives in  
six more weeks.  
Soon it will be too hot.  
Did our ancestors complain  
about the weather?  
Voice your opinion, send  
your replies to Pat Skubis @  
[skubie27](mailto:skubie27)

