



Dane County Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

July/August 2015 Volume 9, Issue 8

Meeting this Thursday - September 3, 2015 – Member Participation Critical

We will be meeting to discuss the state of the group as described in the following letter from Jim Benes. There are many options available to us and we'd like as many members' opinions as possible. Here is the text of the letter for your reference in case you've not yet had a chance to review it.

August 2015

To: The Members of Dane County Area Genealogical Society

From: The Governing Board of the Society

We need your help. The Society is in crisis.

We desperately need more people to assist with the Society's functioning. Discussion of this need, plus the future of the Society, will be the focus of our September 3rd meeting. Eight of the board positions will be empty by January, including the President. Currently four Governing Board positions are vacant, and four more will be empty by the end of the year. Two Director positions are also available. President - vacant Vice President - Jim Benes - soon to be vacant Treasurer - Jerry Lange - temporary Secretary - DeAnn McAllan - soon to be vacant Program and Education Chair - vacant (programming is complete through end of 2015) Historian Chair - vacant Membership Chair - Walker Crawford - soon to be vacant Public Relations Chair - vacant Newsletter Chair - vacant Past President - Walker-Crawford Web Site Chair - Rollie Littlewood, Directors - Dick Ammann, Barb Abbott, Walker Crawford and Joyce Peterson - two more available Without active membership participation, and individuals stepping forward to be on the board and fill the empty roles, your Society can not continue to function. The Society cannot exist without leaders and officers. Officer positions are filled from the Board of Directors, who are elected each December for a three-year term, or appointed by the Board of Directors to fill a vacant position. We urge you to attend the September 3rd meeting. How can you help? We need your participation. We need your input. What are your ideas for the future goals and functions of your Society? If you are willing to participate NOW or very soon, please contact any of the board members.

The decision is YOURS! Step up TODAY if you value the existence of YOUR Society!

Meeting Schedule

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 PM.

The DCAGS Governing Board meets most months on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 21st – at the Fitchburg Library located at 5530 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg, Wisconsin. Information on future meetings will be posted online at dcags.camp8.org and contact a board member for details.

Upcoming Member Dates and Topics

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| October 1 | Mary Eberle of DNA Hunters will present on the use of DNA in genealogy |
| November 5 | Jarrold Roll of Save Your Stones Gravestone Preservation Services will present on this topic |
| December 3 | Our annual holiday show and tell meeting, bring anything (including a favorite treat) you'd like to share with others! |

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Why does the newsletter look different?

Our newsletter editor, Pat Skubis, is on a temporary break due to some health issues so I (Walker Crawford) put together a little something to make sure we keep up. I hope you forgive it not looking near as pretty as what Pat does!

This is also a chance for me to officially introduce you our trail run of a bi-monthly format. As we explained when we sent out the survey a few months ago, a lot of volunteer hours goes into each issue. We'll see how it works out from an administrative viewpoint and please feel free to share your feedback as our dedicated readers.

July 15 Norwegian Heritage Center Trip

We had approximately 21 members and their guests visit Livsreise and the Sons of Norway Mandt Lodge. During the time there they enjoyed a delicious Norwegian lunch; a tour of the Norwegian Heritage Center, including their genealogy room that provides access to many resources; and short demonstrations on Norwegian Heritage topics. There were great reviews from those attending and they encouraged others to make the trip!

The German Presence in Wisconsin

presented by Mark Loudon
summary by Walker Crawford

Mark Loudon of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin shared a great deal of very interesting information relating to Germans in Wisconsin with 39 members from the Dane County Area Genealogical Society and the Dane County Historical Society at the Lussier Family Heritage Center.

German American studies used to be located in the Keystone House, a historic building in the Madison area. They've now moved to the University Club 4th Floor.

Wisconsin is statistically the center of German descendants for the United States. 40%+ are of German descent, North Dakota exceeds this percentage very slightly but the gross number in Wisconsin is much larger. Germany was a very fractured area politically and most Germans moved to the United States for economic reasons. 1871 was the founding of the German empire. Germanfest in Milwaukee is the largest celebration of German heritage in the United State. 30 different groups are represented. 1890 was the largest year of 1st generation of individuals from Germanic nations in the census. 1839 was the first year of a German settlement in Wisconsin. 30 families left Milwaukee and settled in Freistadt, Ozaukee County. King of Prussian commanded the combination of the Reformed and Lutheran churches. This group did not agree with this and it was one of the reasons they moved.

Many of the German revolutionists (Forty-Eighters) came to the Wisconsin area. A German teacher that was a one of the Forty-Eighters started kindergarten.

There are still several thousand individuals in Wisconsin that speak German. This generation is the last though as even in rural Wisconsin popular culture has permeated.

The Pabst Theatre was the Crown Jewel of the German theatrical scene. The big, soft pretzels were actually from Bavaria. Bavaria has been very economically stable so few immigrated however. Lederhosen also came from Bavaria. Like the pretzels it's come to represent German heritage because it was less boring than other traditions.

Germany is smaller than the size of Montana. Despite this they are still very linguistically distinct. High, Central and Low dialects are based on the elevation of where they originated.

Wisconsin has the 4th highest population of Amish in the United States. Amish speak Pennsylvania Dutch. Their population is doubling every 20 years. They are the fastest growing cultural group in the United States.

In the 1880s Bennett Law was trying to get parents to send their kids to school. Built in were specific requirements of using English for instruction and it threatened the parochial schools. It was repealed after a few years.

Yankees tried to limit consumption of alcohol. Germans didn't feel beer and wine was spirits. Germans won, prohibition didn't last long.

In Milwaukee the Germania building was constructed in 1891. It was the largest publishing house in the United States. German Americans were not largely sympathetic to Germany in the World Wars because those coming here were not supportive of German politics. E.g., in 1919 Lady Liberty replaced Mother Germania on the cover of the Germania Calendar they published and it became known as the Milwaukee American Calendar.

Ancestral Pilgrimage to Co. Tipperary, Ireland

by Barb Abbott

In June I went to Ireland for two weeks. The first part of my trip was to participate in a Celtic Spirituality pilgrimage with a group of 11 people. We spent 8 days on field trips out of Galway to the ruins of once great monasteries, and the ruins of hermitages of some of the great Saints of Ireland. I traveled with a friend from Madison and both of us intended to also include a pilgrimage to the lands of our mothers' ancestors. We took one day to explore the "Madden lands" of East Galway for my friend. And then it was my turn.

My mother's ancestors were the Kickhams who came from the little town of Mullinahone in the shadow of Slievenamon, the highest mountain in Co. Tipperary.

From Galway we took a bus to Limerick where we had a 3-hour layover before catching the bus to Clonmel, a town in the southern part of Tipperary. We arrived there in the late afternoon, checked into our B&B and then took off to explore the town. I was amazed to see a "Kickham Street" in Clonmel, but realized the street was named for our famous Charles Kickham who was a poet, and a writer of various books that told of life in Tipperary back in the 1800s. Charles was also a Fenian and very nationalistic which did not sit well with the British landowners. His

writings eventually landed him in jail for several years. However he is much loved today and nearly every town in Tipperary has either a street named after him or a statue of him somewhere in the city center. This Charles Kickham and I are descendants of my great-great-great-great-grandfather.

My friend and I hired a driver to take us to Mullinahone the next day. From previous research, I knew that my particular Kickham line lived and was buried in rural Kilvemnon, about 3 miles or so from Mullinahone. Our driver took us there first and we explored the cemetery. However due to the blight and vines that covered the tombstones from the late 1700s and the 1800s there was no way I could read any of the stones. I knew I would have to find someone in town who had records of the burials there.

We drove into the sleepy little town of Mullinahone and went to the church of St. Michael. A lady reading a prayer book inside the church explained that the priest would be coming in 15 minutes. Gravestones and Celtic crosses surrounded the church so my friend and I explored the cemetery. We found graves of the names of people who married into the Kickham family and we found the monument to the famous Charles Kickham and his family. Eventually the priest arrived and was praying in one of the pews. I hated to disturb him but he was my only hope. I tapped him on the shoulder and asked if I could speak to him. He led me into a back room and I am sure he thought I wanted to confess my sins. However I explained I was only in town for a few hours and that my mother's ancestors were the Kickhams from Kilvemnon and would he know anyone in town who had the records of the Kilvemnon Cemetery. He said, "Come with me" and took my friend and me to his parish house where he took out a paperback book of all the cemeteries in the Mullinahone Parish and copied the pages pertaining to the Kilvemnon cemetery as well as the St. Michael's Churchyard. Then he looked up Baptismal and Marriage records for me in the big red book that recorded information beginning in 1809. I found my Kickham ancestors up to the time they immigrated to the US. This priest could not do enough for me but I became conscious of the time and with my driver waiting outside, knew I had to wrap it up. The priest then said he wanted to take me to see the actual land that my Kickham family owned back in Kilvemnon. So he took us back to Kilvemnon and we parked in a spot that overlooked the fields and road where my ancestors lived. He picked a small branch of leaves off a nearby tree and gave it to me and said, "Welcome home".

After setting my feet on my ancestral lands, we rode back toward Mullinahone but stopped at the old Kilvemnon School where he said my relatives would have attended. The school is now a private residence. A little further down the road was the new Kilvemnon School, in session with children in the yard. He pulled into the parking lot, got out of the car and we followed. The view from the

sloping yard revealed the majestic Slievenamon in the background. He called the children over and explained that we were there tracing our Irish background to which the children bade us good luck. He never knew that I had taught school for 32 years before my retirement.

Once back in Mullinahone he took us to the famous Charles Kickham's house, now preserved as a historic site, and we walked down Kickham Street. With gratitude for all he did for us, I treated everyone to lunch. The priest suggested we go to Fethard about 9 miles down the road as he knew of a bar/ restaurant/ undertaker establishment there, known for its devotion to horseracing. We did have an excellent lunch there, some of the best food in all of Ireland. Afterwards I asked him to write his name down on a piece of paper that I pulled out of my purse. He wrote "Father John McGrath". I was again amazed. My ggrandfather (another Charles Kickham) who came to the US from Ireland married my ggrandmother Mary Catherine McGrath. I knew then that my mother (from above) was instrumental in my successful ancestral day!

Member Obituaries

A Life Well Lived and An Obituary Well Written

by Shirley Levine

A life story which lives after us will be cherished by future generations. Such is the obituary for Anne Short. Although created by her children, it came together because Anne herself had discussed with them key parts of her story and provided the tools to guide them in the following paragraphs. Too often obituaries are hurriedly assembled, even in the case of expected deaths, and may be rife with errors and omissions. This full account is offered here so that others might take note and prepare for their own or family members' demises.

Anne Short – Obituary Brief (full obituary follows)

1920-2015

by Shirley Levine

Anne Short of Madison, known to genealogy and history enthusiasts for her writing classes, died at home in Madison on June 27, 2015. She was 95. She and her late husband John E. (2008) were parents of five, four of whom survive. Anne's life-long interest in learning and teaching found expression as a teacher of writing classes starting in 1986 when she had reached retirement age. She encouraged her students to turn reminiscences into prose. Results were shared with DCAGS members in 2008, when several of Anne's pupils read from their papers at a picnic supper meeting of our membership held in Fitchburg. Her obituary contains a wealth of biographical facts and statistics that could be a model for all us interested in genealogy. Full obituary follows.

Full obituary taken from <http://ryanfuneralservice.com/>



Anne Short of Madison died peacefully Saturday morning, June 27. She was 95.

Anne was born in Sheboygan, WI, to Hubert and Ida Burkart, the third of nine children. Her five brothers preceded her in death, as well as one sister. As the oldest daughter in a big family, she learned to cook and care for the younger children from the time she was five years old. Two sisters, Evelyn Devereaux (New Glarus) and Elizabeth (Betty) Kramer (Madison) survive her. She has been a resident of Madison since 1947. Anne gained a solid Catholic education at Holy Name Elementary School. She continued her education at Sheboygan High School (Class of 1937). She was the first member of her family to attend college. She earned her bachelor's in History and Journalism at the University of Wisconsin in 1941 and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She returned to earn a Master's Degree in History and Education in 1974. She married John E. Short in 1943, while he was in the service stateside in the army medical corps. She lived on or near a number of military bases during the war and served as a civilian employee of the army. Anne was very proud of her five children, John H. (deceased), Anne (René) Berblinger, Elizabeth (Stephen) Sanders, Michael (Monica) and Patrick (Ruth). She is survived by ten grandchildren (Julie, John W., Tobias, Laurel, Patrick, Nick, David, Daniel, Cowan and Fiona), seven great-grandchildren (Annika, Jenka, Risa, Zakary, Sam, John Jackson, and Leo), and many nieces and nephews. Anne was a life-long teacher and learner. She began her career during World War II teaching Social Studies in Two Rivers, WI. After moving to Madison, she taught in the UW Extension Dept. of History and Liberal Studies (1952-1983), MATC adult education classes, and Reminiscence Writing for the West Side Senior Center Coalition (1986-2007). For 26 years, she planned and conducted historical tours for UW Extension, Madison Community Center, Badgerland Tours among other organizations. Her love of history led to her career as a freelancer for Wisconsin Trails, Madison Magazine, Prime Time, Lifetimes, NEW Month, and Wisconsin Weekend. She was a columnist for Mature Lifestyles and Dane County Kids, and was on the editorial team for Forward, a History of Dane, the Capital County; A History of Midvale Heights Neighborhood; Wisconsin Women: A Gifted Heritage (published by the American Association of University Women). A charter member of Our Lady Queen of Peace parish, Anne volunteered as a member of the funeral choir, the school board (including a term as president), adult education board, and editor of the 50th anniversary parish history. She was a long-time member of the Dane County Historical Society Board of Directors; Capital region representative and secretary of the Wisconsin Local History

Council, and a proud recipient of the Wisconsin Historical Society Local History Award of Merit. Anne loved her family above all. She and John made a happy home and memorable childhoods for their five children. They played board games together, sang the good old songs around the piano to Anne's enthusiastic playing, explored the back roads of southern Wisconsin on Sunday drives, and camped often at Terry Andrae State Park near Sheboygan. Her children and other friends treasure the memory of her superb German home cooking and baking. Her eclectic tastes were imparted to her children, who count among them a lawyer, two civil servants, an organic farmer, an artist, several patrons of the arts, a computer guru, two songwriters, three musicians, an improvisational comedian/corporate improv facilitator. All of her children are lifelong learners and teachers like their mother. She made friends throughout her life, including her college roommates, neighbors from everywhere she lived, and participants in her writing classes, who still meet regularly ten years later. She loved doing crossword puzzles, reading, and cheering on her Wisconsin Badgers, especially the basketball team. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, July 3, 2015 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, 401 S. Owen Drive, Madison with Msgr. Kenneth Fiedler officiating. Friends and family are invited to join us to celebrate Anne's life from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, July 2, 2015 at Joyce-Ryan Funeral Home, 5701 Odana Road, Madison and also from 10 a.m. until the time of Mass on Friday at the church. Memorials in Anne's name may be made to the Valley of Our Lady Monastery, E11096 Yanke Rd, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578, or a charity of your choice.

May Jones Obituary taken from

<http://ryanfuneralservice.com/>

MADISON - May M. Jones (Guse), age 89, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2014, at Agrace HospiceCare in Fitchburg. She was born on Aug. 29, 1925, in the Township of Plymouth, Rock County, Wis., the daughter of Clara (Maresch) and Herman J. Guse. May graduated from Janesville High School in 1943 and moved to Rockford, Ill., where she worked for J.I. Case for three years. She then moved to Denver, Colo., in 1946, where she met her husband, Robert F. Jones, and was married on Nov. 4, 1950, in Denver, Colo. They returned to Madison in 1951 and she worked in the offices of Oscar Mayer until her second daughter was born in 1956. Later she also helped her husband in his business, Kitchens of Distinction, until it was sold in 1978 because of his health. He passed away in February 1981, shortly after their 30th anniversary. May had many hobbies. She enjoyed golfing, Bingo, antiques, photography, genealogy and sewing. She took advantage of classes at MATC and took classes in sewing, upholstery, matting and framing, drapery, photography, computer and genealogy. May travelled extensively, visiting all seven continents where she had a wide variety of adventurous experiences. May was a volunteer at Agrace HospiceCare for nine years and an active volunteer at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. May is survived by her three daughters, Robin (Stuart Greif) Jones, Sandra Jones, and Elizabeth (Kevin) Hartford; three

grandchildren, Christopher, Rachel and Lauren White; her brother, Roger D. Guse of Belmont, Calif.; her companion of many years, Ray Cunneen; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband of 30 years, Robert F. Jones; her parents, Herman and Clara Guse; sisters, Evelyn (Bernard) Thompson and Dorothy (Joseph) Phillips; and sister-in-law, Joyce Guse. A Funeral Service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014, at MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 110 Whitney Way, Madison, with the Rev. Jason Zobel officiating. A visitation will be held at the church from 9 a.m. until the time of the service. Burial will follow the service at Forest Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Agrace HospiceCare and the Dane County Animal Shelter. To view and sign this guestbook, please visit: <http://www.ryanfuneralservice.com>.

A Tribute to Joe Waddell (full obituary follows) By Shirley Levine

Joseph K. Waddell Jr., 93, died on Aug 24 in Madison. Twenty-three years earlier, almost to the day, Joe presided at the first meeting of what would become the Personal Ancestral File Users Group. He had enlisted help from the LDS Church in Salt Lake City to organize the gathering. It was reported that 125 attended. Subsequent name changes and a merger with another like-minded group resulted in the Dane County Area Genealogical Society we are today. An original Steering Committee, under Joe's tutelage, functioned as a governing body before writing by-laws and settling into our first genealogy organization. When it was time to choose officers, Joe was named president, later secretary, and then a Director at Large. For years, Joe presented an average of three programs a year and joined or moderated discussion panels. There was a time when many of us were confused by our new computers, much less genealogy software. Joe organized and taught 10-week courses, "DOS for Beginners." He was also a volunteer at the Family History Center. Joe and Roslyn (2008) were regulars at our meetings. Roslyn's background was Norwegian and they travelled to Norway and other countries several times to meet kin and search records. For Joe, "home" was Tennessee. The pair met at the USO in Memphis. Roslyn was a Navy WAVE and Joe, by then, in the US Air Force. He served in WW II and the Korean War as a bomber pilot and retired as a lieutenant colonel. Joe and Roslyn chose Madison as their "retirement" home, having once been billeted here. Tennessee's loss was our gain. His legacy in Madison will not be forgotten.

Full obituary taken from <http://gundersonfh.com/>



MADISON-Joseph K. Waddell Jr., age 93, of Madison, passed away on Monday, Aug. 24, 2015, at Agrace HospiceCare. He was born on June 23, 1922, in Memphis, Tenn., the son of Joseph K. and Annie (Dinwiddie) Waddell. While serving in the U.S Air Force, Joe met Roslyn L. Hogenson, at the USO in Memphis. Roslyn was serving in the U.S. Navy. It was love at first sight. They married on Aug. 10, 1944 in Atlanta, Ga. After the war, Joe made the U.S. Air Force his career for the next 24 years. Following his military career, Joe worked for the State of Wisconsin for 20 years. He was a devoted member of Hope Lutheran Church and a member of the Masonic Lodges Doric 356 and Collins-Spring Valley 192, Scottish Rite Bodies, and the Zor Shrine since 1958. As the family genealogist, he and Roslyn travelled extensively searching for ancestors here in the United States and in Norway, England, and Scotland. An eternal optimist, he made friends wherever he went. Always looking forward, even after breaking his hip in 2014 and having several subsequent hospital stays, he was determined to regain his strength and move home to his condo. He was planning a winter trip to Florida the weekend before having an unplanned stroke. He loved to drive, but loved flying more. He earned his pilot's license while still in high school. He now has a new set of wings and can fly again. Joe is survived by his daughter, Joy (Glenn) Shong of Oconomowoc; granddaughter, Leah (Fahad) Raja of Delray Beach, Fla. and their children, Anya, Nadia, Azaan, Nyla and Zayn; grandsons, Joseph K. (Emily) Waddell IV of Gulf Port, Miss., and their daughter, Roselyn; and James Waddell of Kansas City; and special friend, Evelyn Uphoff. Joseph was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Roslyn; son, Joseph K. Waddell III; and sisters, June West, Margaret Jane Mahan, and Jean Ann Harwood. Funeral services will be held at HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 3702 County Road AB, McFarland, at 10 a.m., on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2015, with the Rev. Chris Lee-Thompson presiding. Entombment will follow at Roselawn Memorial Park with military honors being conducted. Visitation will be held at GUNDERSON EAST FUNERAL HOME, 5203 Monona Drive, Madison from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m., on Friday, Sept. 4, 2015. Memorials may be made to Hope Lutheran Church, Agrace HospiceCare or Meriter Foundation. Online condolences may be made to <http://www.gundersonfh.com>.

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