

# Dane County Area Genealogical Society Newsletter



## Land and Survey Records in the Archives of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands Presented by Randy L. Bixby



The May meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Lussier Family Heritage Center\*, 3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison, WI.

Bixby is the Land Records Archivist of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL), the oldest state agency in Wisconsin.

The BCPL Archives holds the original survey maps and field notes for the entire state of Wisconsin, and records relating to land grants from the federal government to the State of Wisconsin, totaling 10 million acres.

This presentation will provide background information on the original surveys of Wisconsin and an overview of federal and state land patents and their impact on the people of Wisconsin.

*\*This will be the first of hopefully a periodic occurrence of joint meetings with the Dane County Historical Society. The doors open at 6:30 with refreshments served at that time (members are welcome to bring homemade treats) and presentation starts at 7:00 pm sharp.*

March/April 2015  
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### **!ATTENTION ATTENTION!**

Please note: As you read in the article to the left, the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the Lussier Family Heritage Center.

The DCAGS Governing Board meets each month. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Upcoming Programs**

May Randy Bixby: Land Records SPECIAL MEETING AT LUSSIER with DCHS  
Jun Mary Risseuw: Dutch Research and Migration  
Jul Stoughton Norwegian Heritage Center: SPECIAL SATURDAY MEETING to include meal  
Aug Mark Loudon: German Presence in Wisconsin

## March Meeting: Genealogy in BadgerLink

Presented by Kara Ripley,  
BadgerLink Training Librarian

Most of us have used BadgerLink at one time or another, but I was pleasantly surprised how easy it is to navigate this newly designed site. Congratulations!

Your library card from any Wisconsin library gives you online access to [www.BadgerLink.net](http://www.BadgerLink.net), from here you can explore valuable genealogical sources from your home or library. BadgerLink, already a valuable resource for genealogy, recently has been expanded to include new features in HeritageQuest Online (HQO) such as expanded census, military records, and full textbooks.

Ms. Ripley engaged the DCAGS audience by describing some of the new features of HeritageQuest Online.

The Treasure Box, a feature of Access NewspaperArchive (ANA), another service you can access through BadgerLink elicited much interest and questions.

Answers to some follow-up questions are:

- You MUST create an account to use Treasure Box.
- You CANNOT download ALL the items in the Box at once.
- ITEMS in your Box remain there until you DELETE them.
- NO international records in HQO. Only U.S. records, books, city directories.
- SOME Civil War records appear in HQO, but PERSI is a better source.
- Ms. Riley sent a file showing the OVERLAP between ANA and Newspapers.com; if you'd like a copy email Walker.
- Name searching: enter an inclusive name search "john Smith" if you are searching "John Z. Smith" only, include middle initial.

There is much to discover on this website. Explore to enrich your genealogy.

Article by Marguerite Sykes

## Funny Sayings about Cousins & Other Relatives

- Can a first cousin once removed be returned?
- A cousin a **day** keeps the boredom away.
- A great party is when everyone joins in the gene pool.
- An in-law is someone who has married into your family; an outlaw is an in-law who resists letting you do their genealogy!
- If your family members won't talk about a particular relative, a seasoned genealogist knows they are keeping mum about something very interesting.
- Moment of Truth for a genealogist: discovering you are your own cousin.
- If you don't know who the family black sheep is, it's probably you.

By [Mary Harrell-Sesniak](#)

## Hours at Family History Center

The Madison Family History Center has been operating for more than 30 years. They generously align their hours with our monthly meetings the first Thursday of the month so that we can use the LDS chapel.

### Open Hours (standard):

1st Thursday evening 6pm-9pm  
2nd Saturday morning 9am-12pm  
3rd Tuesday morning 9am-12pm  
4th Tuesday morning 9am-12pm

The Director of FHC Judy McDonald has given additional hours at the Research center that are as follows:

Thursday: 5/7/15 6-9 pm  
Saturday: 5/9/15 9am-12 pm

If these hours do not work for you, it is possible to make an appointment with FHC Director, Judy McDonald. To insure staff availability, please make appointments 1-2 weeks prior to date needed. Judy's phone (608) 358-4932.

(Adapted from FHC web site)

## **President's Message**

As I started writing this up we were wrapping up yet another wonderful WSGS Gene-A-Rama. It was a great conference with almost 200 registrations. The number of local experts and resources never ceases to amaze me. And Cyndi Ingle from Cyndi's List was an absolutely dynamite speaker – what she has accomplished without much help at all is remarkable. I know that I say this often but I encourage you to get involved in these educational opportunities, not only do you have the potential to learn something but you have chances to share your knowledge and make some lifelong friends. Thank you to all of the DCAGS members that helped us host the group. And my hat is off to Chris Klauer, Vickie Schnitzler and the rest of the WSGS board for orchestrating an enjoyable and educational experience.

We had a great time helping each other break down each other's walls last month. 19 attended and shared some excellent ideas. Plus there were some delicious treats shared. See you in a week at our shared meeting with Dane County Historical Society at the Lussier Center. If you have any questions on how to get there please contact me.

Lastly, membership forms are coming. Everyone that had a 2014 membership will be extended until you've had the forms in your hands for a month. I do apologize for the delay.

Happy Hunting, Walker Crawford

## **Newsletter Survey**

We are considering changing the frequency and content of the newsletter. Please take a moment and complete the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3YXW3TN>

If you would like to give your opinion but prefer not to use the website please contact Walker and he will walk through the questions on the phone or email you the questions. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Walker's Contact Information  
608.206.3182 or [hedrickboy@icloud.com](mailto:hedrickboy@icloud.com)

## **Researchers Notice**

DCAGS provides a list of members that are available for paid assistance with genealogy research. DCAGS does not endorse any of these individuals; we simply provide a forum of connection. Each of these members can be contacted through the information listed in the membership directory.

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**We're on the Web!**

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

Or

[www.facebook.com/dcags](http://www.facebook.com/dcags)



**See you on May 7th  
at the Lussier Center**

**Sign-up Today to  
Become a Committee  
Member**

**DCAGS Governing Board**

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