

Dane County Area Genealogical Society Newsletter



Dutch Immigration to Wisconsin in the 19th Century by Mary Risseeuw

Mary Risseeuw of Sheboygan Falls, a specialist in Dutch emigration to Wisconsin, will be the speaker at our Thursday, June 4th meeting. The meeting is held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4505 Regent St., Madison, Wisconsin. Registration 6:30 - 7:00 PM. Meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

She will examine the reasons for emigration and the Dutch immigration trail in the United States. She will also talk about the impact of the Phoenix ship disaster in 1847, location of Dutch settlements in Wisconsin, comparisons to the colonies in Michigan and Iowa and an examination of Dutch record keeping in Wisconsin and the Netherlands.

Biography of Mary Risseeuw:

Risseeuw has researched 19th and 20th century Dutch immigration to Wisconsin for over 25 years. She has lectured throughout the Midwest and the Netherlands on the subject. Some of her publications include: *A Phoenix Sesquicentennial Tribute: 1847-1997* (1997), *I end with my pen, but not with my heart: Dutch immigrant letters, memoirs and travel journals*, Editor/compiler (2008), and *Diverse Destinies: Dutch Colonies in Wisconsin and the East*, Editor/author (2012).

She serves on the Board of Directors of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies and hosted their 2011 conference in Wisconsin. She also organized and hosted the Dutch in Wisconsin Conference in 2008, the first Dutch studies conference to focus solely on Dutch immigration to Wisconsin. She was the Development Director at the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center. She has a B.S. from UW-Madison, and a M.A., and M.F.A. from Northern Illinois University.

DCAGS Opinion sought for July Norwegian Outing

We're excited to announce that our annual July outing will be to the new Norwegian Heritage Center, [Livsreise](#), located in Stoughton Wisconsin .



The event will take place on Saturday, July 11 (**Note there will be no meeting on July 2**). More information and sign up sheets will be at the June Meeting and online at <http://dcags.camp8.org/> for two weeks. Volunteer to take photos of the event.

Many Thanks, Walker Crawford President and Membership Chair

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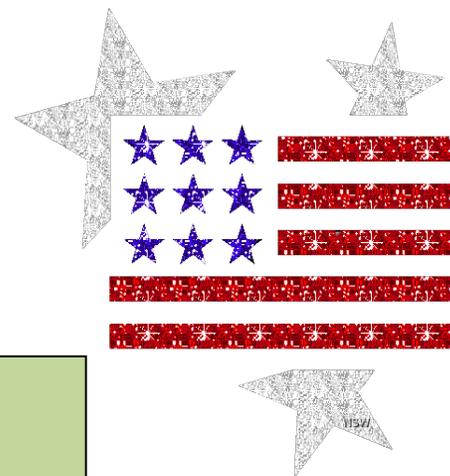
May/June 2015

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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, Wisconsin beginning at 7 PM.

The DCAGS Governing Board meets each month. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 15th – at the Fitchburg Library located at 5530 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg, Wisconsin. The information regarding the July Board meeting will be posted online at <http://dcags.camp8.org/>

Flag Day - Sunday - June 14th





Upcoming ISGS Webinars – June 2015



Join us on **Tuesday, June 9**, at 8:00 PM Central, when Ron Arons will present *Understanding Our Families, Understanding Ourselves*. To attend this webinar, register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4967076026363157761>.

July 14 – Dissect Obituaries for New Clues

Presenter: George G. Morgan
Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/723818762217470209>

The 2015 ISGS Webinar Series is sponsored by FamilySearch (<http://familysearch.org>)





Lost Children: Orphans, Vagrants, Delinquents, Half-Orphans, Dependents, Surrendered, Adopted

- **Presenter:** Jeanne L. Bloom
- **Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2015
- **Time:** 7:00 PM CST
- **Webinar Description:** As the views of society toward children evolved, the types of records and where these

records might be located changed.

- **Register** at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5756403330495544066>

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 served webinar. Registering does not hold a spot for you. Those that log in first will be admitted to the webinar.

Dates to keep open

WSGS Fall Seminar 2015

"Connecting the Dots" will be held on **October 17th** in Marshfield, Wisconsin at **Hotel Marshfield**.

The guest speaker will be **Thomas MacEntee**.



Thomas will be presenting four lectures during the day. Lecture titles include:

- *"Scarce New World: Will Privacy Kill Genealogy"*
 - *"Internet Archive: A Gold Mine for Genealogists"*
 - *"Can I Use That In My Genealogy? What You Should Know About Copyright"*
 - *"After You're Gone - Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research"*
- [Click here for the full conference brochure!](http://www.wsgs.org/upload/files/2015_Fall_Conference_Brochure.pdf) or go to http://www.wsgs.org/upload/files/2015_Fall_Conference_Brochure.pdf.

Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS), 2015 Fall Conference October 23rd & 24th 2015



Hilton Chicago/Oak Lawn

- 9333 S. Cicero Ave
- Oak Lawn, IL 60453
- (708) 425-7800

Reservation Room Block (2015 ISGS Conferences) \$119.00 per night.

Check their web site for further updates.

<http://ilgensoc.blogspot.com/2014/11/save-date-2015-fall-conference.html>

June 8th at Eager Free Public Library

The Library is offering a free Adult Beginning Genealogy class on June 8, 10:30 AM – noon. There is no fee, but reservations are required.

The Library is located at 39 West Main Street,



Evansville, Wisconsin. Phone: 608-882-2260.

Please contact Jennifer Ehle, the speaker, 608-302-1722, to discuss the format and register. Please bring a genealogical question that you would like to discuss.

The monthly Evansville Genealogy Group will be taking the summer off. Meetings will resume in September 2015. **David Bradford** will return on September 3, 2015 to give a program on *"Genetic Genealogy. How to use DNA Testing to connect to Ancestors."* The Group meets at 6:00 PM at Creekside Place, 102 Maple Street, Evansville, Wisconsin 53536.

June Facts and Trivia

June is National Dairy Month. National Dairy Month started out as National Milk Month in 1937 as a way to promote drinking milk. It was initially created to stabilize the dairy demand when production was at a surplus, but has now developed into an annual tradition that celebrates the contributions the dairy industry has made to the world. After the National Dairy Council stepped in to promote the cause, the name soon changed to "Dairy Month."

Did you know?

- Wisconsin leads the nation in number of cheese plants.
- Wisconsin leads in cheese varieties. Wisconsin cheese makers produce over 600 varieties, types and styles of cheese. Runner-up comes in second with 250 varieties.
- 90% of Wisconsin's milk is made into cheese and 90% of that famous Wisconsin Cheese is sold outside of the state's borders.
- Americans eat about 350 slices of pizza per second. That's enough to cover more than 90 football fields a day.
- In 1841, Mrs. Anne Pickett started the first home cheese factory in Wisconsin near Lake Mills. Mrs. Pickett used milk from her neighbors' cows to produce butter and cheese in her log cabin. This procedure continued until 1845, when the demand grew too large for her kitchen.
- Wisconsin is the No. 1 cheese-producing state in the country, with 25% of the total annual U.S. cheese production.
- Wisconsin is the only producer of Limburger cheese in the country.
- On May 9th, Teyanna Loether of Sauk City became the our state's next official Agricultural Ambassador. She will start her duties as the 68th **Alice in Dairyland** on June 1st.



For more facts, trivia, dairy events, and cheese and gear shopping: visit <http://www.dairydoingmore.org/economicimpact/dairyfacts>
For more information on "**Alice in Dairyland Travel Journal**" by Zoey Brooks visit: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/alice/>

Cranberry Blossom Festival runs from June 18-21st in Wisconsin Rapids. Wisconsin Rapids is in the heart of cranberry country. The festival is filled with "berry" fun events including live music, a parade, arts and crafts, a carnival and of course culinary treats featuring **Wisconsin's #1 fruit crop, the cranberry!** Check out the [event schedule](#).



Flag Day is celebrated on June 14th in the United States. It is a day designated for flying a flag or a day set aside to celebrate a historical event such as a nation's adoption of its flag. [Argentina](#) celebrates flag day on June 20th, which is the anniversary of the death of [Manuel Belgrano](#), who created the current flag. [Denmark](#) celebrates flag day on June 15th. It is the anniversary of the Battle of Valdemar in 1219 in [Lyndanisse](#), [Estonia](#), where according to legend, the ("Dannebrog") fell from the sky. It is also the anniversary of the return of [North Slesvig](#) in 1920 to Denmark following the post-[World War I](#) plebiscite. June 4th, is the date when the [Flag of Estonia](#) was consecrated in 1884. June 7th, commemorates the anniversary of the [Battle of Arica](#) in [Peru](#) and the sacrifice of [Alfonso Ugarte](#). June 26th, 1998 [Romania](#) introduced a holiday. It celebrates Decree No. 1 of the [Wallachian Provisional Government](#), which made the [blue-yellow-red tricolour](#) the national flag. [Sweden](#) June 6th, *Svenska flaggans dag* ("Day of the Swedish Flag"), observed since late 19th century. Also the [National Day of Sweden](#) since 1983.

July Facts and Trivia

July is National Ice Cream Month. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan designated July as National Ice Cream Month and the third Sunday of the month as National Ice Cream Day. He recognized ice cream as a fun and nutritious food that is enjoyed by a full 90 percent of the nation's population. In the proclamation, President



Reagan called for all people of the United States to observe these events with "appropriate ceremonies and activities."

The International Ice Cream Association (IICA) encourages retailers and consumers to celebrate July as National Ice Cream Month. In 2015, National Ice Cream Day will be Sunday, July 19th. Source of

dairy information: <https://www.idfa.org/resource-center/industry-facts/ice-cream>

Did you know?

- In the month of July, five more National Month celebrations occur. For more facts, visit the following sites.
 - [National Baked Bean Month](#),
 - [National July Belongs to Blueberries Month](#),
 - [National Horseradish Month](#),
 - [National Hot Dog Month](#),
 - [National Picnic Month](#)
- That the hottest day in Wisconsin history occurred on July 13th, 1936, in Wisconsin Dells. It was 114 F.
- The Wisconsin State Fair runs from August 6, to August 16.
- The world's largest music festival is held in Milwaukee. "Summerfest" begins in June and continues into July. [Summerfest](#)
- That the state domestic animal is the dairy cow and the state beverage is milk. Source: dnr.wi.gov. On June 1st, the Wisconsin Secretary of Agriculture is mandated to select a specific breed of dairy cow to be the official state dairy cow of the year. The Guernsey was the official dairy cow breed for 2014. Will it be the Ayreshire for 2015?
- "**Bastille Day**" Join in a celebration of the French heritage of Belleville, Wisconsin. [Bastille Day](#).



Unusual Events in Madison in July. "*Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies*" starts on July 15th, 2015 - August 9th, 2015, at the [Olbrich Gardens](#). The Madison Museum of Contemporary Art is pleased to announce that the 57th annual Art Fair on the Square, to be held July 11th (9am - 6pm) and July 12th (10am - 5pm), 2015. View 2014 entries at [Art Fair on the Square](#).

The Fourth of July Independence Day is a day of family celebrations with picnics and barbecue. Activities associated with the day include watermelon or hotdog eating competitions and sporting events, such as baseball games, three-legged races, swimming activities and tug-of-war games.

Many people display the American flag outside their homes or buildings. Many communities arrange fireworks that are often accompanied by patriotic music. Some employees use one or more of their vacation days to create a long weekend so that they can escape the heat at their favorite beach or vacation spot.



Independence Day is a patriotic holiday for celebrating the positive aspects of the United States. Many politicians appear at public events to show their support for the history, heritage and people of their country. Above all, people in the United States express and give thanks for the freedom and liberties fought by the first generation of many of today's Americans. The Statue of Liberty is a national monument that is associated with Independence Day.

Recap of "Land Records in the Archives of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands," by Randy Bixby



May 7, 2015, at the Lussier Heritage Center. Summary prepared by Walker Crawford

Randy grew up in the Wisconsin Dells. She was educated in Stevens Point and at the UW-Madison. Through a varied career path she came to work for the BCPL almost 7 years ago.

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands is the oldest agency in the state. It was established to sell land on behalf of the state for the benefit of education. In Wisconsin that was originally almost 1 million acres. It also received the administration for the 500,000 Acre Grant that was intended for Internal Improvements. Wisconsin founding fathers asked for an exception so that this money could also go to the common school fund and it was approved.

There was the Normal School (Drainage) Grant, originally the Swamp Land Grant of 1850, which dictated that any land that was more than 50% swamp was under the control of the state with the intention that it would be drained for farming. Much of it couldn't be made arable, so the state chose to use half of those lands, 1.75 million acres, to support Normal Schools.

In 1871 BCPL began loaning funds to the school districts and municipalities for any public purpose projects. Most borrowers are townships and villages. BCPL has never had a single default on one of these loans. Interest from these loans is distributed annually to school districts as library aid. In fiscal year 2015 that aid came to \$35.5 million or \$29 per student; of that \$35.5 million Dane County received \$2.5 million.

The BCPL Archives holds records relating to all of the lands granted to Wisconsin. Surveys could only be conducted on land to which the United States had title. This started in 1829 upon the signing of the first treaty. Wisconsin's baseline is the boundary between Wisconsin and Illinois. Townships are measured north of the baseline and ranges are measured east and west of the 4th Principle Meridian. Lucious Lyon placed the initial point for the 4th Principle Meridian.

Dane County was surveyed in 1835. Each township was 6 miles by 6 miles with 36 sections. Each section was 1 mile by 1 mile or 640 acres. The "golden boy" of Wisconsin surveying was Orson Lyon. From 1832 and 1866, surveyors literally walked across Wisconsin, measuring it into one-mile squares. They used compasses to stay true. In the beginning they used a magnetic compass but they gave distorted readings so they started using William Burke's solar compass around 1850.

They drew sketch maps as they went. They noted natural and man-made features. They marked trees and set posts, so anyone coming after them could follow in their footsteps. Then cartographers in the Surveyor General's Office drew the original survey maps based on the sketch maps and field notes. These maps were about 16x22 inches. The basis of all land descriptions in Wisconsin is derived from these maps and the land descriptions.

BCPL holds records for about 10 million acres in Wisconsin (roughly 1/3 of the acres). They have more than 90,000 state patents. Buyers of state lands would receive a certificate; another copy would be filed by the BCPL. Buyers could take up to 30 years to pay for it. They attempted to limit individuals from buying more than 160 acres but sometimes individual members of a family would buy land next to each other and create a large family plot. When the full payment had been made the buyer surrendered his copy of the certificate and

would receive the patent in return.

The original applicant wasn't always the person who made the final payment. He could have assigned the certificate to someone else. These assignments were usually written on the back of the certificate. There are times that you can find women's signatures on these certificates. At the time of payoff, he had to provide documentation from the Dane County Treasurer saying there was no lien on the property, and no property taxes were due. After it was paid off and transferred BCPL no longer kept record of the lands.

Other records that exist in the Archives:

Loans to school districts (circa 1870 – present)

Loans to individuals (circa 1850-1870)

Patent and Certificate Delivery Records

Timber Sales

Timber Trespass

Appraisal Records

Biennial/Annual Reports

Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Much of the land that the DNR now has came from the BCPL.

Title companies, surveyors and other state agencies/offices use their records. They are also used for historical and scientific research. There is great potential for other land-related research, immigration or genealogical research. Use of BCPL records in conjunction with other records can help build your family's story.

Records currently online are original survey maps and field notes and resurvey maps. Future additions are resurvey field notes, federal patents and state patents.

Randy concluded with answering questions from the audience. She shared a couple of "beyond success" stories where she found much more information than she had expected (it involved a mill where a great deal of family information was recorded as well).



LAND RECORDS

The goal of the Land Records Archive is to preserve and provide access to records of the agency's past and present land holdings.

The BCPL maintains an archive of records relating to lands granted to the State of Wisconsin. This archive documents the surveys of State lands, the State's receipt of the granted lands, the appraisal and management of such lands and finally the subsequent land sales. The records cover land transaction activity since statehood and provide legal documentation of the original land transfers. The archive is a rich source of historical information concerning the settlement of Wisconsin. The majority of these records date from 1848 to 1900. The original survey field notes and plat maps, and resurvey maps have been digitized and are available [here](#).



President's Message

Greetings. I hope the spring has found you well. It certainly has been good for my grass! I have two changes to communicate to you this month. The first is that we'll be moving to a bi-monthly newsletter. While monthly doesn't seem too frequent there are a lot of steps that go into gathering the information, writing the articles, putting it all together, proofing/editing and then distributing.

On any given month there are typically at least 8 people that play some role in one or more of those steps. If we get delayed by even a few days we're bumping into the start of the next one. We still plan to bring you the core content that you've expressed as important – the write-ups of the monthly meetings as well as the announcements of what's ahead. If you have any concerns about this change please contact Pat Skubis or myself.

The second change is that June will be my last month as President. I had not intended to renew my term past December but we've had a difficult time finding someone to step into the role. I will also cease to serve as Membership Chair. I've struggled with this move away from each of you that have given me so much over the last 10 years but I've had some dramatic changes in my personal life and unless something major happens I will be leaving Madison sometime in the next few months.

I will be available to train my successors, even if from afar but it's time for other individuals to take these roles and build on what I leave. We are also still in need of a permanent Treasurer and public relations chair. All of these roles take time but the rewards are many. I am astonished by how many of you I now consider friends – but it's absolutely true.

Thank you, the trust and confidence you have given me has been a gift that I will cherish throughout my life. A special thank you to Sandy for pulling me so many years ago and those that mentored me along in the DCAGS way. Especially Rollie, Pat, Jim, Shirley, Ruth, Don, amongst others.

My email and phone number will remain the same and I will continue to attend meetings as long as I'm in town. Be well and happy ancestor hunting! *Walker Crawford*



Dick Eastman

has been involved in genealogy for more than 30 years. He has worked in the computer industry for more

than 40 years in hardware, software, and managerial positions. By the early 1970s, Dick was already using a mainframe computer to enter his family data on punch cards. He built his first home computer in 1980.

If you have problems figuring out how you are related to people in your family tree, check out Eastman's online newsletter of November 22, 2014. Here he writes about **"Second Cousins, Once Removed, and More, Explained in Chart Form."** In this article he has a link to a flow chart that has a cousin relationship chart:

<http://flowingdata.com/2014/11/05/chart-of-cousins>

If you have never heard of Dick Eastman and his daily free genealogy news blog. Check him out at <http://blog.eogn.com/> He has the latest information on what is new in the genealogy world.

Recipe for June and July 3 Ingredient Homemade Ice Cream Recipe Without an [Ice Cream Maker](#)

This super easy homemade ice cream recipe can be made into pretty much any flavor with a few extra ingredients. Best of all, you don't even need an ice cream maker!

Makes approximately 1.5 - 2 quarts of ice cream.

Author: Michelle Pegram

Ingredients:

- 2 cups cold heavy/whipping cream
- 1 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- Your choice of mix-ins (berries, chocolate, caramel, mint, cookies, etc)

Instructions:

- Whip cream with mixer or whisk until stiff peaks form. Make sure you use cream straight from the fridge as it will whip faster.
- Pour sweetened condensed milk into large bowl and stir in your desired flavorings and mix-ins.
- For this recipe I added a splash of vanilla to my cream as it whipped and a tablespoon to the milk.
- Gently fold the whipped cream into the milk mixture until all combined. You want to keep that creamy
- Pour into 2 quart freezer-safe container and freeze for at least 6 hours.
- Serve and enjoy while trying to not eat the whole container in one sitting. Note that this ice cream is so creamy, you likely won't need to let it sit on the counter to soften when, though the more mix-ins you add, the harder it may become.

Recipe adapted from [Kevin and Amanda](#).

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We're on the Web!

See us at: www.dcags.org
or
www.facebook.com/dcags



See you on June 4th

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

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