



Dane County Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

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September 3, 2015 – Members come together to discuss future of Society

Twenty-five members came together earlier this month to discuss the future of the Dane County Area Genealogical Society. There were many good ideas put forth, specific ideas follow:

Moving to bimonthly meeting; increased outreach to the community including libraries; group-wide projects to engage the members further (e.g. cemetery cataloging); merging with another local group with a similar mission as DCAGS; teaching as a group; transitioning from regular meetings to periodic workshops, possibly at libraries.

In summary, members feel that it's important for the Society to continue and to be of service to the local genealogy community and our community at large. We have had three members offer to step into committee roles. It's now going to be important that we find individuals willing to take on director roles to administer the workings of the group.

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, October 19th at the Fitchburg Library located at 5530 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg, Wisconsin. Information on future meetings will be posted online at dcags.camp8.org or contact a board member for details.

Upcoming Member Dates and Topics

October 1 - Mary Eberle of DNA Hunters, LLC



Presentation Preview - DNA and Genealogy: Learn how to use DNA testing for your family research. Find out which DNA test is best for you, how to understand your DNA results, and how to link your DNA results with traditional genealogy methods.

Biography: Mary Eberle is the owner of DNA Hunters, LLC. She specializes in genetic genealogy, that is, using DNA for family research. Mary is trained to use genetic genealogy to help people with unknown parents find their birth families. She also helps others use DNA for their genealogy.

November 5 - Jarrod Roll of Save Your Stones: Gravestone Preservation Services



Presentation Preview - Preserving Our Ancestors' Gravestones: Gravestones are highly valued by genealogists. They mark the graves of loved ones, provide essential genealogical information about the deceased, and often serve as the only visual remnant of

an ancestor. But time and the elements wage an ongoing attack on our ancestors' carved stones, jeopardizing their future survival. While little can be done to undo the damage caused by nature, proper cleaning of a gravestone can slow deterioration and help preserve our ancestors' grave markers for years to come. Cemetery Preservation Specialist Jarrod Roll will teach the importance of gravestone cleaning and provide step-by-step instructions for how to safely and effectively preserve a grave marker through cleaning.

Biography: Jarrod Roll has presented lectures and provided workshops to thousands of adults and children in civic groups, family audiences, and school tours. Jarrod graduated with a BA in history from the University of WI-Madison and received his Master's Degree from the Cooperstown Graduate Program in History Museum Studies in Cooperstown, NY. After working as a curator in Maine for two years, in July 2002 he moved back to his home state of Wisconsin to accept the position of Director and County Historian of the Monroe County Local History Room & Museum in Sparta. It was through his position as director that Jarrod learned of peoples' needs to preserve their ancestors' grave markers. In 2006, Jarrod established Save Your Stones: Gravestone Preservation Services based in western Wisconsin.

Notice of Annual Membership Meeting

The DCAGS annual membership meeting will be held on Thursday, November 5. In addition to the floor being opened up for director nominations the governing board has put forth the following by-law change, "Article VI - Meetings, Section f., is changed to read "The membership and fiscal years shall be set by the governing board."

Vice President's Message by Jim Benes

Thank you to those that attended the September meeting and shared their comments about the future and goals of our Society. The Directors and Governing Board appreciate it. As a result of your continued interest we have filled four vacant Governing Board Chairmanships. Please congratulate James "Jim" Booth - Membership Chair, Mary Eberle - Program & Education Chair, Robert "Bob" Rettammel - Outreach (formerly Publicity) Chair, and Barbara "Barb" Abbott - Historian Chair. Thank you to the out-going chairs: Membership - Walker Crawford, Newsletter - Pat Skubis and Programming & Education - Donna Johnson-Schmidt.

Please offer your assistance and help in fulfilling their roles in your Society.

The Nominating Committee per our By-laws has been established consisting of Past Presidents, Walker-Crawford, Rollie Littlewood, and Ruth Simpson. They are charged with the task of presenting members to be elected to the three (3) expiring Director positions on the Board of Directors.

I encourage you to contact any one of them and express your interest in providing your expertise to the Society for the three-year term. It is a great experience and joy!

Thank you! James W. Benes

Genealogy Seminar on October 17

The Milwaukee Family History Center and the Milwaukee Personal Ancestral Files Users Group (MPAFUG) are offering a free genealogy workshop. The seminar will take place on Saturday, October 17, 2015 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 9600 W. Grange Ave., Hales Corners, Wisconsin. Thirteen different presentations will be offered to choose from. While the workshop is FREE, registration is requested at the following website:

<http://FamilyHistoryWorkshop.Rworld.net>. Workshop presentations and details are available on the website or by calling (414) 425-4182.

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