



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

President's Message

Bob Rettammel

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to You and Your Families!

I hope that 2018 was a good year for you and that 2019 brings a safe and healthy year. Also that your genealogy research remains fun and leads to new discoveries. On December 8, 2018, starting at 10:30 am we have our annual "Show and Tell" Program. At our meeting we will feature our annual Show-and-Tell. It's not too early to begin thinking about what you would like to bring and share.

In the past members have brought various items such as: their family trees, pictures of their ancestors, scrapbooks, historic artifacts from their ancestral heritage, ethnic recipes passed down through the generations, traditional costumes worn in the "old country" and many other interesting tidbits of their research. Anything relating to your family history research is of interest to the rest of us. Even if you have nothing to share from your own research, Show-and-Tell is sure to spark your interest when you peruse the offerings of members. It is a time to share fellowship, ask questions, and enjoy learning about the research of others.

Starting in 2019 we will have exciting speakers for January, February, and March. January 12 at 11:00am, George Findlen, PhD, CG will talk about "Using Standard Histories to Find Elusive Relatives." On February 9th we welcome Lori Bessler, Reference Librarian at the Wisconsin Historic Society Library, she will be doing her "Annual Q&A for DCAGS Members & Guests". In the forthcoming months, we will have DCAGS members present talks on topics related to the Civil War and DNA Analysis.

The DCAGS Board in early 2019 will start exploring opportunities for sponsoring a genealogy workshop. Should any of our members have ideas on how to develop a genealogy workshop topic, speaker or volunteer on a planning committee, please contact me directing at president@dcags.org email.

Be safe and healthy in the New Year.

Bob Rettammel

*December 2018 - January 2019
Volume 12 Issue 6*

Regular DCAGS meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 11:00 am at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 4505 Regent, Madison, WI.

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The DCAGS Governing Board meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00 am at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 4505 Regent, Madison, WI. For more information, see:

www.dcags.org

Podcasts for Genealogists

Patricia Rohn

Some of you may have heard about “podcasts.” A podcast is similar to a talk radio format, but it is pre-recorded, and is available to download and listen to via the Internet. Although podcasts have been around for over a decade, they have been gaining more and more popularity these days. It seems that there is a podcast for just about every topic: politics, self-help, true crime and yes, even for genealogy.

The beauty of podcasts is that you can listen, learn and/or be entertained, without having to sit and stare at your computer screen. If downloaded to your smart phone, you can listen while in your car or taking a walk. You can also listen while doing house work OR... working on your genealogy, either on your computer or smart home device.

There are several ways to listen to a podcast:

1. The easiest way is to listen through the Podcast’s website on your computer through speakers or headphones. If you work on a Mac, you can also find podcasts on iTunes.

2. For Android smart phone, you will have to download a podcast app. There are several out there: Google Play Music, Stitcher and Spotify.



3. For iPhone users: you can listen through Apple Podcasts app.

Below are just a few podcasts that genealogists of any level can listen to:

1. Genealogy Gems (www.genealogygems.com) - Lisa Louise Cooke is a pioneer in the podcast venue and has been producing Genealogy Gems for 11 years. Genealogy Gems offers research tips, updates on new databases and interviews. Regular contributors are Sunny Morton, Diahna Southard, Melissa Barker and Michael Strauss. The podcast is free, but listeners have the option of becoming a premium member which gains access to the premium

version of the podcast, which includes more content, as well as access to Lisa’s educational videos.

2. Family Tree Magazine (www.familytreemagazine.com/podcasts/) - Another free podcast hosted by Lisa Louise Cooke. This podcast focuses on features from the magazine, interviews with genealogy experts, websites, records and resources.
3. Genealogy Guys (www.genealogyguys.com) - Drew Smith and George Morgan take you to genealogy conferences across the world, and interview speakers and experts on a variety of genealogy topics.
4. Generations Cafe (www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/) - Amy Johnson Crow is new to podcasting, but has been a speaker and blogger for several years. She will be the featured speaker at Gene-A-Rama, hosted by the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society in March 2019. Amy’s podcasts are a mix of solo shows and interviews.
5. Research Like a Pro

(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming Programs

December 8

Annual Show-and-Tell

At our meeting on December 8th we will feature our annual Show-and-Tell. It's not too early to begin thinking about what you would like to bring and share.

In the past members have brought various items such as: their family trees, pictures of their ancestors, scrapbooks, historic artifacts from their ancestral heritage, ethnic recipes passed down through the generations, traditional costumes worn in the "old country" and many other interesting tidbits of their research. Anything relating to your family history research is of interest to the rest of us.

Even if you have nothing to share from your own research, Show-and-Tell is sure to spark your interest when you peruse the offerings of others. It is a time to share fellowship, ask questions, and enjoy learning about the research of others. There will also be ethnic delights to munch on, a choice of cold or hot apple cider as well as hot chocolate to drink. It is a wonderful way to escape the holiday frenzy and relax with your fellow DCAGS members and their guests.

Our Show and Tell meeting promises to be an exciting one so come and bring a friend or two!

January 12

George Findlen is our speaker and will discuss "Using Standard Histories to Find Elusive Relatives." Many have studied only political and military history, both at the K-12 level and later undergraduate level of our education. If we studied history at the graduate level, it was of our occupation with courses like educational history, music history, the history and philosophy of science, and so forth. As a result, when we work on our family's history we often overlook industrial, regional, and local histories as sources of information about our families. (And this is not to mention the rich resource of social histories, which describe different aspects of how our ancestors lived daily life.)

In this presentation, I will tell the story of Michael Findlen. Living Findlen elders know only that he just left town. Period. Traditional genealogical documents (vital records and census records) helped to track his movements from Maine to British Columbia to Montana to Washington and finally to Alberta. However, state histories, industrial histories, and local histories all proved useful in helping me explain why he moved and pin down exactly when he moved. In one local history, I even found a photo. Without these histories, I'd only have a set of footprints, not a story. Hopefully, Michael's story will inspire listeners to turn to this rich resource more often than before.

(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming Programs (continued from page 3)

February 9

We welcome Lori Bessler, Reference Librarian at the Wisconsin Historic Society Library, she will be doing her “Annual Q&A for DCAGS Members & Guests”. In the forthcoming months, we will have DCAGS members present talks on topics such as Old Colonial and DNA Analysis.

March 9

Our speaker for March is Kathryn Bush and her topic will be “The Mysterious Civil War Disaster on the Mississippi: A Tale of Avarice and Woe.”



HOLIDAY GIFT SEASON IS HERE

Do you have someone on your list that would enjoy a Membership to DCAGS? We have Gift Memberships that start Jan 1, 2019 and last through March 31, 2020 (15 months) for \$15.00 and includes the emailed newsletter.

Send name, phone number, postal and email addresses, with payment, to the Membership Chairman membership@dcags.org before the end of the year.

Have a Happy Holiday Season!

(Podcasts for Genealogists continued from page 2)

(www.familylocket.com/category/research-tips/podcast/) - Hosted by mother/daughter team, Diana Elder and Nicole Dyer of FamilyLocket.com. Diana and Nicole authored the book, of the same title. The podcast is a great companion to those who have purchased their book, and also to listen to on its own. They deep dive into research strategies and keeping focus while working on research projects.

Are there genealogy podcasts out there that you enjoy listening to? Let us know and comment on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/dcags)

Stories of Christmas Trees

Bob Rettammel

Just like our family history stories, the memories of the Christmas trees we had in homes growing up or even now can lead to interesting stories and history making. Alone with your own personal memories and story-telling here are some Christmas Tree reflections:

Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Queen Victoria erected a Christmas tree for the holidays in Windsor Castle in 1841, Albert was carrying out a tradition of his native land by setting up a decorated tree, with an angel that had arms outstretched placed at top of the tree. Others in the court soon followed Albert's example and the idea spread throughout England.¹ In 1848, drawing of "The Queen's Christmas tree at Windsor Castle" was published in the Illustrated London News. The drawing was republished in Godey's Lady's Book, Philadelphia in December 1850 (but they removed the Queen's crown and Prince Albert's moustache to make it look 'American'!). The publication of the drawing helped Christmas Trees become popular in the UK and USA.²



In the pre-Christian era, the oak was the sacred tree for the Germanic peoples. Legend has it that the missionary to the Germans, St. Boniface, in order to stop sacrifices at their sacred Donar Oak near Geismar, chopped the tree down, in 725 AD. He is said to have replaced the oak by a fir tree, adorned in tribute to the newborn Christ.³

The Christmas tree has been in widespread use only since the 19th century, when upper-middle-class families began to adopt the custom from the princely courts. It was only by the end of the century that the custom extended to working classes.⁴

¹ Krythe, Maymie R., All About Christmas, Harper & Row, New York, 1954.

² The History of Christmas Trees at <https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/trees.shtml>

³ "Weihnachts Fests and Customs", by Eberhard and Ruth Reichmann, Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter, Winter, 1997-1998.

⁴ "Holiday Fancies/Fantasies", by Gerald Weiss, German Life, Dec. 1995/Jan. 1996.

Sponsor a Guest

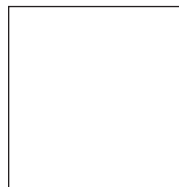
This is an offer for a DCAGS one year free membership. Here's how it would work:

1. Current members could sponsor a free one-time guest membership for a new guest and/or family with emailed newsletters and other electronic correspondence.
2. No directories and no printed materials will be sent.
3. Thereafter, the guest may join as a regular member with full member benefits (newsletters, directory, emails, mailings and events).
4. The year for inclusion runs for the membership period-March 31, 2018 to March 31, 2019. Members who wish to sponsor a free guest member would send an email to the DCAGS email address at membership@dcags.org with the following information:

sponsor's name	guest's address	guest's phone number
guest's name	guest's email address	

This is an excellent opportunity to increase the visibility of DCAGS and promote membership. So, send us the name of a guest.

Dane County Area Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 5652
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Address Service Requested



**Dane County Area
Genealogical Society**

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