



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

President's Message

Bob Rettammel

Hello Members

Learning together is why DCAGS and many other societies exist - sharing a passion and learn from each other. I would like to thank all of you who participated in the June Special Interest Group (SIG) kick-off meetings. It is so exciting to see the level of interest at the first meetings. Now I can announce that members have shown a commitment to their SIG membership and have already scheduled monthly meetings. In this issue Eleanor Brinsko, DCAGS Vice-President, will provide an update on the SIGs.

It is nice that we have several DCAGS SIG groups to complement our monthly speaker presentations, the annual Show & Tell in December and the July Outings. I also hope to see our society offer a one-day conference in the future. The SIGs will be an important component in this development. More on this later. The future looks bright for DCAGS!

August 2018 - September 2018
Volume 12 Issue 4

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.

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

July Outing

Several DCAGS members attended the Fort Winnebago Surgeon's Quarters Bicentennial Celebration on Saturday, July 21st.

The tamarack log cabin, located in Portage, WI, was built by Francois Le Roi as his home and a place where he could operate his fur trading business. In 1828, he sold the property to the United States Army when they had purchased 4500

acres to build a fort on the Fox Wisconsin River system. The cabin was then used as quarters for the the army surgeon. Many distinguished officers were stationed at Fort Winnebago over the years, including Jefferson Davis. Fort Winnebago was abandoned around 1843, then sold to private ownership in 1853. The fort, and most of the buildings within it, were burned or dismantled. The surgeon's quarters



is the last remaining building to stand, and is the oldest building in Wisconsin, on its original foundation.

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August and September Speaker Programs

On **August 11**, we will have Leslie Bellais, Curator of Social History at the Wisconsin Historical Society speak to our group at 11:00 am. The topic is “Clues in the Dress: Dating Photographs from Clothing”.

Bring a guest to this exciting presentation on looking at your old photographs and identifying when the picture might have been taken.



On **September 8**, DCAGS, President, will speak on doing genealogy Proof Arguments. A Proof Argument is an important skill to develop for any genealogy project. It allows you to see how the results of your research either correlate or resolve a conflict between two or more pieces of evidence (direct or indirect evidence). It is a written presentation of the logic supporting any conflict or holes in your research.

At this program you will learn what elements make a proof argument and the presenter will provide a case study of his own family proof argument.

Announcements

Summer Hop Through History

Consider joining the Stoughton Historical Society and Dane County Historical Society for the Summer Hop Through History event on Sunday, August 26th from 1:30-4:00 pm. There will be two locations for this event. Check out the page 3 for details!

Westside Farmer's Market

DCAGS Outreach Committee will start attending the Westside Farmer's Market in June on Saturday mornings to do community outreach.

Note: We will not be at the Farmer's Market the 2nd Saturdays, since we have programs on this day.



Come “Hop Through History” this Summer in Stoughton!



Join us on Sunday, August 26th, from 1:30-4 p.m.



Calling all Historical Society Members to join the Stoughton Historical Society to visit two of the three museums in town.

First stop- 1:30-2:20 : Our main museum is located at 324 S. Page St. Guided tours will be offered. Parking will be available at Livsreise lot on SW corner of Page St. and Main St.



Luke Stoughton Pioneer Home

Second stop- 2:30-4:00 : Luke Stoughton Pioneer home located at 315 N. Division St. Rarely opened, this 1847 restored founding father’s home will feature tours, Norwegian Sweet treats, live Norwegian music, and beverages. Located on the beautiful Yahara river.

All Welcome! Donations Appreciated!

This event is co-sponsored by the Stoughton Historical Society and the Dane County Historical Society.

Contact the Dane County Historical Society for more details:
danecountyhistory@gmail.com ; 608-224-3605



Special Interest Group Update

Happy End of the Summer! Boy, it feels weird writing that. Sorry if that offended anybody.

The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have their first meetings under their belt with slight adjustments, figuring out which will best suit the different groups.

Here is some information for the following groups:

- **German/Prussian and Eastern European Genealogy**— The two groups have combined their forces. They will tentatively meet the 4th Friday morning of each month at the Sequoya Library.
- **DNA**— The group will meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 2:00 PM at the DreamBank Library in the Spark Building. Our next meeting is on August 28th.
- **Computer-Based Genealogy**— The group will be meeting at Fitchburg Public Library on Thursday September 20th at 10AM. The topic: Organizing your files on your computer.
- **Irish Genealogy**—Watch for emails, Facebook announcements, and information on the website!
- **Breaking Down Brick Walls**— This group will work together to help break down brick wall questions brought in by its members. Our next meeting is Monday, August 20th at the Dream Bank Library in the Spark Building.
- **British Isles Genealogy**— Watch for emails, Facebook announcements, and information on the website!
- **Old Colonials**— At the meeting of the first group, it was decided that this group will focus on the time period up to 1850 and will cover the thirteen colonies, Canada, and Native American genealogy.

Our next meeting is 5:00 pm-6:25 pm Wednesday, September 5th, 2018 in conference room B, Sequoya Public Library, 4340 Tokay Boulevard, Madison. Our topic is “Researching in Massachusetts.” Attendees are invited to share resources with others by bringing sufficient photocopies to the meeting, or by sending electronic copies to me klbush@tds.net a few days before the meeting, so I can share by email.

Over the next couple of months, we will be working with the webmistress, Melodee, to put up pages on the website for each of these groups. Each page will be updated with the meeting times, places, and additional information.

Eleanor Brisko

How to look at or download DCAGS Newsletters

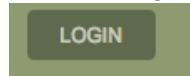
by Melodee Patterson

Want to see the current or previous Newsletters?

Login to the DCAGS website:

Go to the DCAGS website: dcags.org

Click the “Login” button in the upper left-hand corner of the window.



Enter your Email and Password and click “LOGIN” button.

How to see Member-Only information:

Click on the 3 lines at the right side of the menu.



Slide your mouse down until “Member-only” is highlighted. You’ll see the pages that are for members only listed on the left. (The pages you see will depend on whether you’re a Board member, Admin, or member.)

Slide your mouse over to highlight the “Newsletters” page and click. You’ll be taken to a page with links to each DCAGS newsletter that can be looked at online or downloaded. How you see the newsletter or download it will depend on your browser.



If you have any trouble finding your member-only information, or have questions about the DCAGS website, email website@dcags.org.

(July Outing continued from page 1)

The celebration began around 10:30am, with a flag raising ceremony by the color guards from both the Sons and the Daughters of the American Revolution. There were plenty of activities and presentations to explore throughout the day, such as frontier medicine practices, blacksmith demonstrations using authentic tools, and spinning wheel demonstration. Tours of the cabin interior and displays of the artifacts were led by a re-enactor of Margaret Foulks Low, who was the wife of Fort Winnebago Commander, Gideon Low. There was a presentation of quilts, that have been donated over the years, and about

the people and families that either created or donated the quilts. Among them was an “autograph” quilt. It is surmised that before a family left the



East Coast, to move out west, that the women of the community got together and brought patches to create a quilt. Some of the patches were actually signed,

and dated, by friends and family of the recipient. It was noted that there are current efforts to trace and trace the genealogies of quilt creators, and notify descendants that they are holding a family heirloom.

The cabin was purchased by the Wisconsin Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1937, after discovering that the building was being planned on being dismantled to use as firewood. Since then, the WSDAR have put much work and money into restoring the structure, and the artifacts within.

Patricia Rohn

Sponsor a Guest

DCAGS is offering an opportunity for members to sponsor a guest with a 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. No directories and no printed materials will be sent.
2. Thereafter, the guest may join as a regular member with full member benefits (newsletters, directory, emails, mailings and events).
3. 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 name
 - guest's address
 - guest's phone number
 - 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.

Recent Interest Group Meetings

Brick Wall Interest Group

We met on July 23, 2018 for the 1st time. Here is a brief summary:



Case Study 1

Kathryn presented her Brick Wall with her relative Martha Beedle born in 1791 in Bath, New Hampshire, but who later moved and died in Syracuse, New York. Her brick wall was specifically proving parentage of Martha Beedle. Kathryn strongly suspects her parents were John Beedle and Abigail Cleveland, but she would like to have primary information and direct evidence to validate this assertion. Some recommendations were offered, but generally, we concluded this is a tough brick wall.

Case Study 2

Pat presented her Brick Wall with her relative Mary Francis “Polly” Davis born in 1764 in Virginia, and who died in 1860 also in Virginia. Her brick wall was specifically proving parentage of Mary Francis “Polly” Davis. Pat strongly suspects her parents were Paschal Davis and Martha Hull, but would like to know whether she has sufficient evidence to claim this. It was unclear if there was sufficient evidence for Martha Hull, but there were several pieces of indirect evidence for Paschal Davis.

We recommended that all the indirect pieces of evidence be explained in writing to make a case. All the pieces tied together could legitimize a claim, but putting that in writing would help the researcher and others better make that assessment (as well as be a resource for later generations).

There will be monthly meetings every 3rd Monday at 10:30 AM-noon, next meeting is Monday, August 20th at the Dream Bank Library in the Spark Building (821 East Washington, Madison)

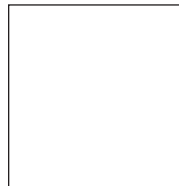
Topics: Case Studies of Members

DNA Interest Group

We met on July 31, 2018. Kelly Haslam facilitated a discussion of future meeting topics and Mary Eberle of DNA Hunters introduced the group to some DNA Basics as well as a provided a brief introduction to DNA Painter (namely the Shared cM Project Tool and a peek at What Are the Odds). The group has agreed to meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 2:00 PM at the DreamBank Library in the Spark Building (next meeting is on August 28th). In the near future, a survey will be sent out to DNA SIG members to narrow down the topics for the next meeting.

If you would like to be added to the group list, please email Kelly.Haslam@haslamgenealogy.com.

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Address Service Requested



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