

Waupaca Area Genealogical Society Est. 1994

Volume 29 Number 1

March/April/May 2021

WAGS

321S. Main Street

Waupaca, WI 54981

WaupacaAreaGenSoc@hotmail.com

*All Upcoming Meetings
start at 9 am.*

13 March 2021

**Finding your Ancestors in
Land Records**

By Karla Leppen

Discussion to follow program.

April 2021

No meeting.

8 May 2021

Round Table discussion.

Contact Nancy (715-256-0284) for
Virtual Zoom link or meeting place.

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Fresh Beginning

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone,

Here it is March 2021, the Easter Season has begun, St. Patrick's Day is near, and Spring is right around the corner. As of this writing, WAGS is looking for a fresh beginning. In 2020 WAGS had to come up with new ideas to keep in touch with members, both near and far, for example holding WAGS meetings via Zoom. Interest in genealogy has grown. A reminder that the Holly Center is closed, but in-person, one-hour research appointment can be made by calling 715-256-9980 or email: director@waupacahistoricalociety.org. Please continue to check the WAGS Website and Facebook page as COVID restrictions may change at any time.

WAGS meetings/ programs will continue to be virtual via ZOOM and in-person with locations to announced until COVID restrictions are lifted.

November 2020 and January 2021'S virtual programs had to be rescheduled into the future due to unforeseen circum-

stances.

WAGS will continue to look for new ways to reach both, members who DO NOT have access to a computer and those that do.

Thanks to Deb Anderson for all her hard work as WAGS Newsletter Editor.

Nadine Guilbault will be taking on the position of the Newsletter Editor!

Also, thanks to Nadine Guilbault for helping to develop the WAGS Web Site: waupacagenealogy.org. Please visit the site. We will continue to add items as they become available.

Thanks to Sue Goodacre, WAGS Facebook Page: "Waupaca Area Genealogical Society Group" is growing. Please like us on Facebook.

The 2021 WSGS Gene-A-Rama is virtual April 9-10. You can go the WSGS Website and sign up.

We will be kicking off the Brat Fry Fundraisers on Friday April 30, 2021 at Fleet Farm located at: N2541 Farm Drive Waupaca, WI. The Brat Fry (if held) will start at 10a.m. and go till 3p.m.



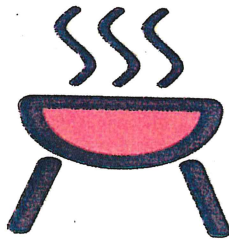
We usually do very well. After this kickoff, the Brat Fries will continue to be held throughout the Summer (weather permitting). You will find a list of tentative Brat Fries in the Newsletter. Brat Fries have proven to be tremendous fundraisers, which proceeds have helped us to do more programs and update and preserve our genealogical collections. At the same time the Brat Fries help to promote WAGS to the public and increase membership.

A big thanks to all the WAGS members for their support!

Please stay safe and healthy till we have in-person meetings,

Nancy Weasner,

President of WAGS



BRAT FRY DATES 2021 (tentatively)

Friday April 30 at Fleet Farm
Thursday May 6 at Holly Center
Friday May 7 at Holly Center
Saturday May 8 at Holly Center
Thursday May 13 at Holly Center
Thursday May 27 at the Holly Center
Friday May 28 at Fleet Farm
Thursday June 3 at Holly Center
Thursday June 10 at Holly Center
Friday June 11 at Holly Center
Thursday June 17 at Holly Center
Friday June 18 at Fleet Farm
Saturday June 19 Holly Center
Thursday July 1 at Holly Center
Friday July 2 at Fleet Farm
Thursday July 8 at Holly Center
Friday July 9 at Holly Center
Thursday July 22 at Holly Center
Friday July 23 at Holly Center
Thursday July 29 at Holly Center
Thursday August 5 at Holly Center
Friday August 6 at Holly Center
Thursday August 12 at Holly Center
Friday August 13 at Holly Center
Thursday August 19 at Holly Center
Friday August 20 at Fleet Farm
Friday September 3 at Fleet Farm

PROGRAMS FOR 2021

March 13, 2021 9 a.m.

Program: Finding Your Ancestors in Land Records--Presenter: WAGS member Karla Leppen. WAGS meeting (program to follow meeting)

April—NO MEETING OR PROGRAM

May 8, 2021 9 a.m. WAGS meeting with Round Table Discussion (NO PROGRAM)

June 12, 2021 9 a.m. WAGS meeting

Program: Using Google maps in Your Genealogical Research---
Presenter Andy Barnett at McMillan Library, Wisconsin Rapids.

July 10, 2021 9.a.m. NO WAGS MEETING OR PROGRAM---WAGS Picnic from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m.

August 14, 2021 9 a.m. WAGS meeting--- Program (TBD)

September 11, 2021 9 a.m. WAGS meeting---Program (TBD)

October 9, 2021 NO WAGS MEETING DUE TO WSGS FALL-A-RAMA

November 13, 2021 9 a.m. WAGS meeting (**BY LAWS and ELECTIONS**)

December 11, 2021 WAGS Christmas Party (tentatively) 10a.m. till 2 p.m.

Welcome New Members

#300 Bonnie Rogers

#301 Steven Rachwal

Researching: Grobe and Rachwal

#302 James & Peg Boettcher

Researching: Boerst, Boettcher, Thomas and Urban

#303 Margie Brown

#304 Bob & Kathi Graham

She Once Called Little Wolf Her Home

By Kathi Graham kgraham304@gmail.com

My mother was not raised by her biological family and the thought of knowing about her ancestors never crossed my mind...until recently. I wanted to find out more for my mom to give her a sense of belonging. Fortunately, I married someone that enjoys genealogy and has taught me to love it just as much. We got reconnected with my mom's family enough to get started. We searched more than 10 years but kept hitting a brick wall. We knew my great, great-grandmother's name was Nancy Reynolds and that she was born in Wisconsin. But, where in Wisconsin? Who were her parents? In 1912, an Atchison, Kansas newspaper interviewed Nancy and we stumbled across that article. It was the Holy Grail of every genealogist's dreams! This story is about my great, great-grandmother, Nancy Reynolds.



According to the article, Nancy's father, John S. Reynolds was half Chippewa and half Irish. He was married to Ruth Ann Washburn born of German immigrants. John and Ruth Ann were born around 1811 in New York. I found them living in the Town of Newton, Manitowoc County, WI, in 1850. In the Spring of 1851, John and Ruth Ann moved with their 4 young children to Little Wolf, Waupaca County, WI. Nancy was then born in October 1852, the youngest of 5 children. They lived with the Chippewa tribe and Nancy learned to shoot a bow and arrow with the other children of the band. Nancy spoke of Chief Hongkoot of the area Chippewa tribe. Hongkoot was the son of Chief Waupaca, a Pottawatomi Chief. This confused me until I learned the Pottawatomi and Chippewa shared the land where Nancy grew up.

Life was not easy for Nancy. Although Nancy had very fond memories of her mother, her father was very abusive. He would get very mean when he drank the "fire water." One day, when Nancy was in her father's garden, he grabbed his gun and began shooting her in the legs to chase her out. She had terrible scars on her legs from the incident. Nancy's only brother, Moses, ran away from home because of the abuse he suffered. The family never heard from him again. By the age of 12, John forced Nancy to leave home and fend for herself. She took jobs wherever she could and kept house for a family on a farm in the area. Nancy, like many people, told of the harsh Wisconsin winters where they tied ropes from the house to the barn so they wouldn't get lost in the deep snow.

When Nancy was only 15, she went to Chicago leaving the abusive life in Wisconsin behind her. She then married a man in Illinois by the last name of Miller and became pregnant but soon discovered he was almost as abusive as her father. She chased him away "with three bullets from her pistol tearing up the dust in close proximity to his coat-tail." With nowhere else to go, Nancy ended up at the Convent of the Good Shephard which is known for helping women and children in abusive relationships. They also had a laundry service for the people in the community. My husband and I visited the current site of the convent and spoke to Sister Dorothy. We showed her this the picture of Nancy (Notice the pierced cheek.) She said this was the type of uniform the women wore and showed us pictures. According to Sister Dorothy, Nancy was likely told to use the name Ruth to hide from her abusive husband. She is listed at the convent as Ruth Reynolds in the 1870 census and worked as a garden-er for the convent.

Nancy "Ruth" met Joseph Daniel "Dan" Hughes around this time. There are family stories that Dan found Nancy in Wisconsin or Chicago living in squaller, as a slave, and starving. So, he may have taken her to the Convent himself. He was living in a boarding house only two blocks from the convent and worked as a brick mason while she was living and working at the convent. They were still in Chicago in 1871 at the

time of the "Big Fire" and both the convent and boarding house burned to the ground. Now homeless, they left with her daughter, Rowena, and headed to Kansas. On November 16, 1872, they were married in Fort Scott, KS. She was still using the name of Ruth on their marriage certificate but later went back to using Nancy.

Nancy & Dan had a daughter, Hullena, the following month. Another daughter, Cordelia Jane, was born in a log cabin along the bluffs of the Missouri River in Lexington, MO, in 1876. During this time, they were traveling as sharecroppers and worked the coal mines. Cordelia only attended 1st grade at a school in Kansas. Hullena only 6 years old, died of cancer in 1878 but it is unknown where she is buried.



In 1880 their family made a trip to Illinois where they saw Ulysses S. Grant while he was there for the Republican National Convention. Their young daughter, Cordelia, recalled sitting on her daddy's shoulders so she could see better and said there was a large crowd of people gathered. Nancy said she heard her father had beaten her mother so badly that the people in the community captured and hung him. I have found no evidence of this, but my search is far from over. She also said her mother is died in Green Bay, WI, but we don't know when, the cause of death, or where she is buried.

Most of Nancy and Dan's married years were lived in Oak Mills, KS where there was a large Native American population. Dan became a legendary trapper and river guide in Kansas. This must have been a perfect match for his "Chippewa" bride. He would trap skunks and provide the skunk oil to doctors. We found many articles written about his success in trapping wolves and coyotes, as well as his fishing and helping in the community. Nancy and Dan were well loved everywhere they went. Their only son, John David, was born in Oak Mills, KS, in 1881. His father taught him everything

about trapping, hunting, and coal mining. They had another daughter, Ethel (Elly) May, born in Oak Mills, KS in 1886. She married Frank Tibbetts in 1900. Frank died 4 years later, and Elly does not appear on any other census records. In 1891, at the age of 14, Cordelia married John Mansell who also became a skilled trapper, hunter, and coal miner.

Nancy was a midwife for her daughters, delivering all her grandbabies. She practiced what she had learned from the medicine men and taught her children as well. She chewed tobacco, wore her hair long and kept it braided and wound up with Indian combs. She wore long dresses to hide the scars on her legs, and ankle-high, lace up, soft leather shoes.

Dan's health began to deteriorate later in life. While lying down he heard a neighbor yelling for help. The neighbor had been chopping down a tree when the tree fell on him, pinning him to the ground. Dan ran outside, barely clothed, to help free the man. He saved the man's life but succumbed to pneumonia and died December 31, 1910 at age 63. He was buried in a small cemetery behind the Davitz General Store in Oak Mills, KS.

After Dan's death, John Davitz, the owner of the general store in Oak Mills, built a small cottage for Nancy and her son, John. Throughout the rest of Nancy's life, she lived with her son, John, or her daughter, Cordelia. She was tall and very slender, but strong. She preferred the solitude of the woods and would walk to collect firewood. She dislocated her arm carrying wood that was much too heavy for her. When she got older, she would often put apples down the front of her dress and head out into the woods for hours. Her family would find the apples days later, shriveled and rotting (she may have been suffering from dementia.)

Nancy died in April 1939 and was buried in Oak Grove, MO in an unmarked grave. My mother made a headstone for Nancy. She inlayed pieces of turquoise and silver to honor her Nancy's Native American roots. I began this project for my mom. But this journey has been amazing! I enjoyed every moment and want to learn even more!

Tidbits from Local Waupaca Newspapers
(unsourced)

OBITUARIES—

Mrs. Lucy Vanduzee — In Waupaca, Jan. 19th, 1875 of Apoplexy, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. J.O. Scott, Mrs. Lucy Vanduzee, wife of the late Abram Vanduzee, aged 63 years and 7 months.

The deceased has been a resident of Waupaca for over twenty – two years. She joined the Congregationalist church at the age of fifteen years, and subsequently united with the Presbyterian Church of this place nine years ago, since which time she has been a consistent attendant. She has passed through many trials, but always trusted in her Savior, and He has helped her to bear up under them. He has been her helper in all tribulations. Though death came very suddenly it found her ready, and her work well done.

The following lines has had written down, and carried with her, and seem to have been the sentiment of her heart.:

The heart is still and silent now, That used to throb with jot and grief; That felt the weight of earthly care, But now has found a sweet relief.

Old John Harpers Will ---In the eighth provision of Uncle John Harper's will he says: In consideration of their fidelity to me, I give the following sums of money to the following-named colored people: To Warren, the sum of fifteen hundred dollars. To Mary, wife of Joe Bomp, Fifteen hundred dollars. To Kittie, five hundred dollars. To Eliza, five hundred dollars. To Helen, daughter of Kitty, five hundred dollars. These people are still living with us.

Mrs. Jas Cochran May — Died: --- Mrs. Jas. Cochran, May 12th, 1886, in her 66th year. She was born in County Antrim, Ireland. In her 18th year she became a subject of divine grace and united with the Presbyterian church, since that time she has adorned the doctrine of God her Savior. Her end was peace. A large circle of relatives mourns her loss. The funeral was attended from the house of Mr. Stansfield, Rev. Chas. T. Roe officiating. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

Letter from the Editor

I want to thank Deb Anderson and those Editors have come before me. Their hard work and dedication to this newsletter is commendable. With that said I have big shoes to fill in providing to you a quality newsletter with a primary focus on Waupaca and it's families.

I hope you enjoy the layout and new look to the newsletter and would like to hear from you on any suggestions to improve or change it, yes even criticisms are welcome, this is your newsletter.

How can you help?

Articles about your Ancestor or about someone who has a connection to Waupaca county.

Articles about a Veteran Ancestor (any war) with a connection to Waupaca county. Waupaca has one of the largest Veterans hospitals in the State of Wisconsin at King,

somebody must have a story they would like to share.

Articles about the history, records, land marks, cemeteries, newspaper clippings, family reunions, events, research tools, including tidbits of tech help that can benefit the family historian and genealogist for the Waupaca county area.

Pictures: I am seeking pictures of Waupaca county, people, landscapes, or historic places to use as needed for the newsletter.

Try out your writing skills. This is your time to tell the stories.

I prefer articles in WORD format with .doc or .docx files, and pictures in .jpg format. Contact me with any questions.

Please e-mail to me directly nadine17543@yahoo.com This will reduce degradation of photos and if I have questions, I can contact you directly.

Nadine Guilbault, Editor



Mission Statement

The mission and vision of the society shall be to generate an interest in genealogy, provide a meeting place for the exchange of genealogical ideas, to inform people of the value of and the need for preserving family and local history for posterity, to educate members and others in genealogical research techniques, to make available historical and genealogical material to the general public, to receive, hold and invest monies, dues, gifts, sales, interest, etc. and to hold and administer property for the benefit of the society and for its educational purpose.

The Waupaca Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) is 501c (3) tax-exempt organization as described in the Internal Revenue code.

Officers January 2021

President: Nancy Weasner
Vice-President: Susan Goodacre
Secretary: Carolyn West
Treasurer: Pam Sannes

Committees

Accessions Chair: Jeff Weasner
Collections Chair: Walter Schmidt
Pioneer Certificate: Nadine Guilbault, Nancy Weasner, Sue Goodacre
Newsletter Editor: Nadine Guilbault
Research: Nancy Weasner, Pam Sannes, Jean Spiegelberg, Jeff Weasner.

Media

Facebook: Sue Goodacre & Nancy Weasner
Webmaster: Nadine Guilbault & Nancy Weasner

Membership

Individual: \$12.00
Family: \$15.00 (two people at the same mailing address).

The membership year runs January 1 through December 31. Newsletters will be sent via e-mail unless otherwise specified.

Please include your name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, and surnames you are currently researching.

Payment should be mailed to:

WAGS
321 S. Main Street
Waupaca, WI 54981

Meetings during-COVID-19



We normally meet in person at the Holly History Center, however during COVID please contact **Nancy Weasner, 715-256-0284** to find out where we will meet or for the link for our virtual meeting.

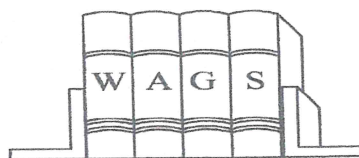
Newsletter:

Articles, queries and info gladly accepted (.doc or Word format appreciated for editing). Pictures or scans should be in .jpeg or similar format.

Please e-mail directly to nadine17543@yahoo.com

Deadline 1 Feb publication for Mar/Apr/May issue
Deadline 1 May publication for June/July/ Aug
Deadline 1 Aug publication for Sept/Oct/Nov
Deadline 1 Nov publication for Dec/Jan/ Feb

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Waupaca, WI 54981



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Est. 1994

Volume 29 Number 2

June/ July/August 2021

WAGS

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Waupaca, WI 54981

WaupacaAreaGenSoc@hotmail.com

Upcoming Meetings

WAGS meetings will be in person at the Holly Center (masks required, limit of 15 people, social distancing).

Saturday, June 12 at 9 a.m.---No Program as it has been cancelled.

Saturday, July 10 9 a.m.----Let me know if you want a picnic at the June meeting for this day after the meeting.

Saturday, August 14 9a.m.---No program. There is a Civil War Reenactment at South Park at the Hutchinson House from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Saturday, September 11 9 a.m.---Announce elections and bylaw revisions, if any are needed.

Contact Nancy (715-256-0284)for Virtual Zoom link or meeting place.

Inside this issue:

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Happy 4th of July

PRESIDENTS'

MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone,

Summer is almost upon us. Brat Fry's have been held for weeks!

We hold Brat Fry's as fundraisers for WAGS. These funds are used to offer free genealogical, educational programs for members and the public who are interested in preserving their family history. We also use these funds to preserve collections of Family Histories/ Genealogies, purchase genealogical resources to aid in the research of families by WAGS members and the public.

Some may ask, "What does our WAGS Organization do?" Our main focus is to aid people research their Family History/Genealogies.

The greatest challenge we have is to help people understand that genealogy is more than just names and dates.

Genealogy research is a mixture of those names and dates, history and

geography. Not only did our ancestors move from place to place, country to country and across the oceans, the borders of the places they lived at changed over time. To be able to do a thorough research of your family's genealogy you need to be aware of what and when historical events took place, conditions that caused people to move (and move, and move), and understanding the spelling of names may have changed over time (sometimes drastically). Our WAGS Organization shares family history helps others discover their family history, and helps to preserve family history.

Nancy Weasner,
President of WAGS



Are you looking for a Wisconsin Veteran who may have served in WW 1 or earlier?

Check out the Wisconsin Veterans Museum online Click on the Research tab.

Try multiple spellings, try searching by location.

This site has 223 Civil War Veterans who said they were from Waupaca.

<https://wisvetsmuseum.com/research/>





BRAT FRY DATES 2021 (tentatively)

Here is a short list of the Brat Fry's WAGS will be holding:

Every Thursdays are at the Holly Center (WHS) from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

SATURDAY JULY 3 FROM 10 A.M. – 4 P.M. AT FLEET FARM, Waupaca

These six Fridays are at Fleet Farm in Waupaca:

Friday June 18 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday June 25 from 10a.m. – 2 p.m. for (WHS)

Friday July 2 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday July 16 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. for (WHS)

Friday August 20 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday August 27 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. for (WHS)

The rest of the Fridays are at the Holly Center from 10a.m. – 2 p.m.

(YES, WE DO TWO BRAT FRY'S A WEEK. THREE OF THESE BRAT FRY'S A MONTH ARE FOR THE WAUPACA HISTORICAL SOCIETY).

If you would like to help with the Brat Fry's please contact me, Nancy Weasner at 715-256-0284 or email me at:

mgnjweasner@hotmail.com. Please do not show up if you have not talked to me as space for volunteers are limited.

Waupaca Cookbook Available Safer at Home in Waupaca

*Safer at Home in
Waupaca*

RECIPES AND STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY
DURING THE PANDEMIC



For much of 2020, the Waupaca area has stayed "safer at home." During the pandemic, many families and individuals have made more foods and meals at home. People have used cooking and baking as ways to remain safe at home and find comfort in these uneasy times. The Waupaca Area Public Library and the Waupaca Historical Society have gathered these stories and recipes to produce a Waupaca community cookbook.

Local families, individuals, businesses, and organizations submitted recipes—some family favorites, others new recipes tried during the pandemic. The cookbook will serve as a time capsule, a glimpse into life during the pandemic. Cookbook 162 pages \$10.00 + Shipping add \$4.00 or can be picked up at the Waupaca Historical Society to save shipping cost. Proceeds benefit Holly History and Genealogy Center or the Waupaca Area Public Library.

Waupaca Historical Society, 321 S. Main St., Waupaca, WI 54981

715-256-9980

<https://www.waupacahistoricalsociety.org/> director@waupacahistoricalsociety.org

Welcome New Members

#305 Naomi Andersen, Wild Rose, WI

#306 Ruby Rajkowski, Almond, WI

infosoup

www.Waupacalibrary.org

www.infosoup.info/newspapers

Wisconsin Newspaper Archive has a collection of over 700 Wisconsin newspapers covering the years 1813-2017. Free to use with your Waupaca/Appleton library card.

Torgus Olsen Sannes

Randy Sannes rdsannes@aol.com and Gary Sannes gssannes@wi.rr.com

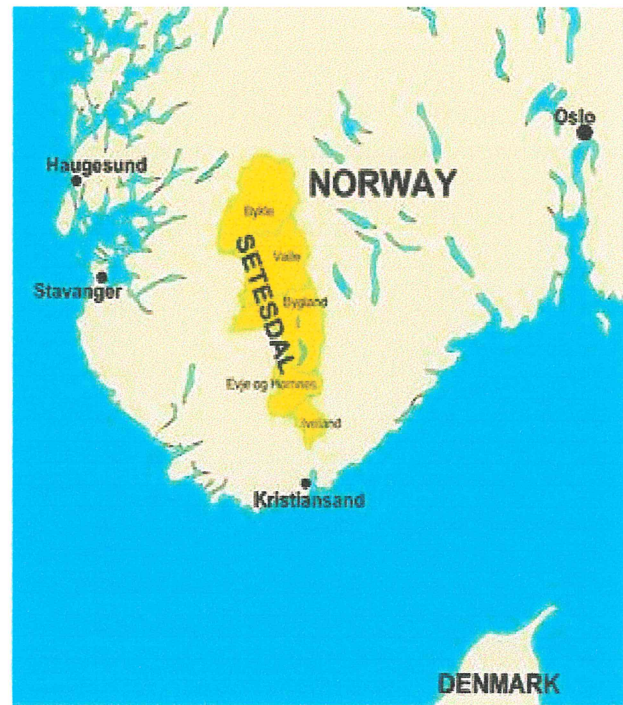


Torgus & Torbjor Sannes

Tracing our direct line relatives coming to America we start with Torgus Olsen Sannes who was born on the Horvervak farm in Aust Ager Norway on Oct 1, 1839. His parents were Olav Torjussøn Horverak (b. 1812) and Margit O Dale Torjusdatter (b. 1818). He was the oldest of eight children of which three died at birth. Margit died in 1852 and Olav remarried Sigrid Bjørndatter Bo (b. 1830) (m 1853) and had six half brothers and sisters of which three died at birth.

Torgus Olsen Sannes (b. Sept 28, 1839) and his brother Torgus Olsen Sannes (b May 3, 1841) emigrated from Christiansand Norway April 15, 1861. They were in the company of the Ole Sigurdson Krostue family who settled in Scandinavia, Waupaca County Wisc, near the Sannes's. The ocean voyage was about nine weeks long entering Canada on June 20, 1861.

They navigated from Quebec, Canada through the St Lawrence seaway, then the Great Lakes eventually entering the United States in Detroit, Michigan. They proceeded by rail and boat to Milwaukee, by rail to Oshkosh, and by boat to Lake Winnebago to Gill's Landing on the Wolf River. They could not rent enough Ox teams for everyone, so the adults changed off walking to the Town of Farmington, Waupaca County, Wisconsin on July 21, 1861. The Torgus brothers most likely emigrated because of lack of opportunities in Norway as their father was a tenant farmer who could barely provide for the family and necessitated moving from farm to farm for work. They came to the area because an uncle Ole Olsen Sannes and wife Margit had immigrated to the Scandinavia area in 1851. Ole and Margit purchased (40) acres for \$1.25 an acre in 1853 and farmed there. They are both buried in the Scandinavia Lutheran Cemetery in Scandinavia Wi.



Yes, that is not a misprint, both had the same name, so they are referred to as Big Torgus (1839) first born and Little Torgus (1841), second born.

This causes much confusion when doing genealogy as the Norwegians typically took the father's first name and made it their last name adding either son if a male or datter if female. So, Olav Torjussøn Horverak's son became Torgus Olson (Olav). To add to the confusion, they also added the farm or region they lived in i.e., Horverak farm or in our case Sandnes which is a farm and parish, which became Sannes in America as Norwegians do not pronounce the d.

The Torgus brothers worked for several years as laborers saving money to buy land. Big Torgus was a carpenter by trade but worked in the pineries cutting wood in the winter.

He married **Torbjor Knutson Benson** on May 6, 1864, she had immigrated to Waupaca from Norway with her parents in 1851 when she was 5 years old, her mother, Hagen Offeson gave birth to a boy, Knute on the voyage over from Norway and died during child birth and was buried at sea. The father was so poor he gave the child

away on the ship, never to hear from him again. Torbjor was placed with her aunt Mrs. Turbin Borgen, living in Amherst. Wi

Torgus (Big) and Torbjor had 12 children: Mary Sannes Ness, Ole T Sannes, Knute Sannes, Tille Sannes Gebhart and her twin brother Theodore Sannes. Annie Sannes Ness, Carl Sannes, Clara Sannes Oelhaffen, Teresa Sannes Piper, Knud M Sannes, Ella Sannes Boyton and Julie Sannes Piper.

In 1867 he bought an 80-acre tract in Range line 23 Sec 30 that is on Hy V in Scandinavia which is the next farm west of the present-day Peterson mill pond farm. The house and barn are still there. He expanded his land to include 260 acres, which at the time was half woods, half tillable land. The next farm west on HY V and the farm across the road from that farm were also Sannes farms originally, but no longer in the family, although the houses and barns remain.

According to Malcolm Rosholt in the book **From the Indian Land** Big Torgus "was en route to Chicago in 1871 by ox team with a load of wheat when he ran into a great smoke smog. The closer he got to the city, the worse it became, and he finally decided to turn back and dispose of the wheat elsewhere. Later he learned where the smoke came from. It was the day Chicago burned."

The Commerative Biographical Record of Waupaca says the following about Torgus Olsen. "Torgus Olson (note spelling) a prominent and influential farmer of Waupaca county, is a self-made man, whose success in life may be attributed solely to his own efforts, and his example is one to be emulated." It goes on to say "Mr. Olson still follows the carpenters trade to some extent and is an expert workman. His prosperity is all the result of his own diligence, unfaltering perseverance and capable management, and success has been the just reward of labor. He passed through the hardships of frontier life in Wisconsin, and in the development and up building of the community has ever borne his part. His right of franchise is exercised in support of the Republican Party and its principals and holds membership in the Lutheran church. Great, great Grandpa Torgus must have had a great PR agent!

Torgus was a Treasurer of the Peterson Mill school founded in 1861, It was located on HY V and Peterson Road. Early records dated Aug. 13, 1867 show \$1.64 on hand. The building still exists and is used as a rental.

Torgus died on Aug 1st, 1903 at age 63. The August 6, 1903 Waupaca Post had this article: "Torgus Olson a farmer living four miles from his place (Town of Scandinavia) while driving home Thursday evening was struck by the 8 o'clock passenger train while crossing the track a mile west of the village receiving fatal injuries, from which he died thirty-six hours later.

The engineer gave the usual warning for the crossing, but Mr. Oleson seems not to have heard the alarm. The horses had barely crossed the track when the engine struck the wagon, demolishing it, throwing Mr. Olson twenty-five feet, landing on his head and neck, injuring his spine. The train stopped, picked up Mr. Olson and backed down to the village, where he was taken to the hotel Thorson was called and found the injured man was completely paralyzed from his shoulders down, and that death would result in a few hours, Mr. Olson was conscious and recognized his family and those about him.

Deceased was born in Norway and emigrated to American in 1862 (1861) and was sixty-four years old. He has lived for over forty years in his present locality. He is survived by a wife and nine children."

His wife Torbjor died May 17th, 1919 at the home of her daughter Julie Piper in Tomahawk Wisc. Her obituary states "To this union twelve children were born, three died in infancy and Ella, Mrs. Perry Boynton in September 1914. Also 25 grandchildren and three great grand



Ole T.Sannes Farm

children. Mrs. Sannes is survived by three sons and five daughters namely: Ole, Carl and Knut, all of whom live on parts of the farm. Mrs. Mary Ness of Northland; Mrs. Otto (Tille) Gebhardt of New Lisbon; Mrs. Ole (Anne) Ness of Amherst; Mrs. Wm (Clara) Oelhafen and Mrs. George (Julie) Piper of Tomahawk."

Torgus and Torbjor are both buried in the Scandinavia Lutheran church cemetery.

The next generation would be our grandfather Ole T Sannes the 2nd child of Torgus & Torbjor. Ole T. was born on September 28th, 1867 on the family farm in Scandinavia Wisc. He attended school and worked on the farm.

On January 3, 1902 he married Sigrid Olsen from Sheridan at the Farmington Lutheran Church and had the wedding reception at Scandinavia Hall. They moved to Tomahawk, Wisc where they had some relatives and had a small farm. Their first child a boy was born and died there. We have no other information on him. They returned to Scandinavia in 1903 and purchased (80) acres of the old homestead. This is located on HY V in Waupaca County bordering the Portage county line. The original house built in 1903 was a log cabin on the lower (40) close to the road. The house was rebuilt to the north above the hill where it stands today. Due to a very successful potato crop they were able to add a silo and barn in 1911. The Sannes's were the first family to have electricity and indoor plumbing in that area.

Torgus and Sigrid had 12 children of which only 6 survived early childhood. Unknown child born in Tomahawk, Stella Sannes Bergen, Timmons & Theodore twins lived six days, Thelma Sannes Peters, Oliv lived several days, Orin lived six weeks, Blanche lived two days, Lillian Sannes Anderson, Eleanor Sannes Tremain, Clarice (Vivian) Sannes Benson and the youngest and only boy to survive Raymond Sannes our father.

Sigrid Olsen Sannes immigrated to Sheridan, Wisconsin in 1884 at the age of two, with her parents Ole Oleson and Reginald and three siblings, Ben, Osborn, and Anna. Her father Ole was killed by a falling tree in 1887. Reginald remarried Emile Straub who interestingly spoke French, German and English sometimes all at once! Reginald died in 1893 in childbirth leaving Sarah at age 10 to help her father raise her younger siblings. Sarah died from cancer at age 40 Oct 22, 1922. The Stevens Point Daily Journal from Nov 2, 1922 stated "Mrs. Sannes death was caused from cancer form which she suffered a long time. About three years ago she submitted to an operation and for some time seemed to be improving. This, however, did not continue long. She made frequent trips to St Agnes hospital at Fond du Lac where she gained a little extra strength, just enough to give her the courage to battle a little longer for her husband and the children. For the past three months she had been under the care of a trained nurse and everything possible to relieve her suffering had been done. She left behind her husband Ole T Sannes, five daughters and one son, Stella, Thelma, Lillian Eleanor, Clarice, and Raymond.

Ole T Sannes died 19 months later May 19th, 1924 at Mayo Clinic at the age of 56. Ole had suffered from headaches due to being hit in the head from a flying ax which occurred at his farm. He had brain surgery and was at Mayo clinic from March 11th operated on April 9th, a second minor surgery May 15th to improve "poor circulation drawing in the skin edges closer together with sutures" per Dr Adson's May 16th letter from Mayo Clinic, in Rochester Minn. He died three days later. His

obituary in The Stevens Point Daily Journal in part, dated May 21, 1924 stated: "The Ole Sannes home- -- was again made a place of sorrow on Sunday when the husband and father was called from earth. His death followed that of his wife Mrs. Sannes passing only about a year ago. His brother K.M. Sannes and his oldest daughter Stella Sannes were called to Rochester when the patient's condition became alarming, shortly thereafter he died, and they returned with the body.

Ole and Sarah Sannes are buried in the Scandinavia Cemetery, Scandinavia Wisc.

We recently discovered that on the 1870 census Torgus Olavsson Heistad (b1791) is living with Ole, his son in-law and his daughter Margit Olsen, Little Torgus's wife's parents. He would be Torgus's great-grandfather and our great-great-grandfather. He emigrated to America in 1862.

He was born in 1791 in Norway and is buried in Salem Cemetery, Waupaca, between 1870 and 1875 That would make him our oldest direct relative, born 230 years ago, that came to America and lived in Waupaca Wisc!

We have now traced our family back 20 generations to NM (no name) Hoftoft born 1300.

During this COVID pandemic we have spent more time and have been motivated again to trace our roots. Gary started with Clarice Sannes Benson from Amherst in the 1970's. This interest came about after the TV series, Roots and the passing of our family matriarch and storyteller Stella Sannes Bergen died. Years passed with no additional research, but I joined forces with Gary around 2000 and we have been researching on and off since that time.



Sannes Family

Family Reunion: You Really Want to Hold One?

By Sue Goodacre

It seems the only time family gets together is holidays, milestone anniversaries, birthdays, weddings, or funerals. At the funerals someone usually says - "We need to get together other than at funerals, maybe we should have a family reunion". Most agree, but that is as far as it goes. Well it was at a 50th Anniversary, how I/we (hubby and I) got started holding reunions on his side of the family. My side started a little different. Starting in 1998, we started having one reunion a year, my side either my dad's family or my mom's family. Then in 2010 the comment about having a family reunion came up...my hubby Mark said, "We have one every year, we can do it" After thinking about it and getting the "YES I will Help" from Mark...I started the planning for a "GOODACRE-HARRIS" Family Reunion for 2011. Thus started the two Summer family reunions for us, every other year. Then in 2016, we started holding a reunion for his mom's side. That is now 2 family reunions every Summer. Covid-19 cancelled the 2 for 2020 and looks like 2021 also, I just do not want to take a chance.

If you decide you want to plan a family reunion, there are some things to think about. The "when and where, time and who to invite" seem easy enough, but as you start working on each, it becomes obvious that there is more to them. It is recommended that you start planning at least one year in advance and NOT to do it by yourself.

The "who to invite"...well how big or small do you want your reunion to be. How far back in your tree do you want to or can you go? Are you looking to invite all your great-grandparent's descendants or just your grandparent's descendants? How are you going to invite people? I send out invitations I make, through the Postal Service, I also invite people through Facebook. Some people move, cannot keep a current address, but we stay "friends" on Facebook.

The "when"...reunions can be held anytime of year, but most are held in Summer or at least the warmer months for those of us that get the cold and snow. It does not mean you cannot have a skiing family reunion...if you are all into skiing. Are you planning for a few hours for one day or for the majority of the weekend?

The "where"...can be just about anywhere like parks (you can rent out a shelter), someone's home (if large enough or use their garage), you can rent a conference/meeting room (s) in a hotel, some could go camping and the others come to visit (if the campgrounds allow it). Something to take into consideration when looking for a place to hold your reunion...are there any people with special needs, are any handicapped or disabled. When a 25th anniversary party was being planned for hubby and I, that had to be taken into consideration. Between hubby's parents and siblings, my siblings we had to accommodate two people in wheelchairs, two people with walkers and two people in scooters out of 50 people (just our immediate families) that did not include friends. So when I plan a reunion I have to remember this.

As for the "time"...you could start as early as 8 am, for my reunions I start at 10 am or 11 am. The starting time could

depend on what kind of activities you may have...6 am tee time if you have a golfing activity planned.

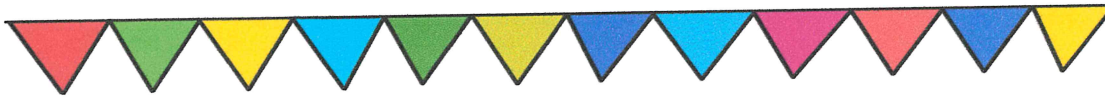
Now throw in...What about the food? How and who is paying for everything? Are people going to be staying overnight? If so, where? Are you going to have activities like BINGO, board games, cards? Some might enjoy golfing, horseback riding, you just never know. Remember there are going to be all ages that will be at your reunion.

It is a lot of work...but I enjoy the time we get to spend together...even it is short.



2019 Door Prize Winner





2021 Trinrud Family Reunion

Date: Saturday, July 17, 2021 **Time:** 11:00

Place: South Park Upper Shelter

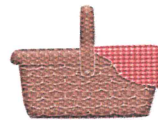
921 S. Main St., Waupaca, WI

Shade, playground and beach available!

Check out the "**Johan Trinrud Family Reunion**" Facebook link.

Questions, call Vickie Thoe at 715-281-6299 or email thoe920@hotmail.com.

Family updates, contact Nancy Helbach at 715-258-2247 or nhelbach@gglbbs.com



Letter from the Editor

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue of the newsletter.

Would you like to see these pioneer profiles in a compilation of some sort as a type of commemorative history to the pioneers of Waupaca?

How can you help? Please contribute.

We are all praying that ALL schools will be back to full time in person classes in September and have COVID in the rear window.

For our next issue I would like stories or pictures or links about "back to school" theme.

Were your ancestors illiterate? College educated?

Do you have a memory to share about school or a teacher or experience? How did you get to

school?

Articles about your Ancestor or about someone who has a connection to Waupaca county.

Articles about a Veteran Ancestor (any war) with a connection to Waupaca county. Do you have a name of a Veteran from Waupaca-WW 1 or earlier? I am happy to do some research.

Articles about the history, records, land marks, cemeteries, newspaper clippings, family reunions, events, research tools, including tidbits of tech help that can benefit the family historian and genealogist for the Waupaca county area.

Pictures: I am seeking pictures of Waupaca county, people, landscapes, or historic places, swimming holes or fishing picture to use as needed for the newsletter.

I prefer articles in WORD format with .doc or .docx files, and pictures in .jpg format. Contact me with any questions.



Mission Statement

The mission and vision of the society shall be to generate an interest in genealogy, provide a meeting place for the exchange of genealogical ideas, to inform people of the value of and the need for preserving family and local history for posterity, to educate members and others in genealogical research techniques, to make available historical and genealogical material to the general public, to receive, hold and invest monies, dues, gifts, sales, interest, etc. and to hold and administer property for the benefit of the society and for its educational purpose.

The Waupaca Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) is 501c (3) tax-exempt organization as described in the Internal Revenue code.

Membership

Individual: \$12.00

Family: \$15.00 (two people at the same mailing address).

The membership year runs January 1 through December 31. Newsletters will be sent via e-mail unless otherwise specified.

Please include your name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, and surnames you are currently researching.

Payment should be mailed to:

WAGS
321 S. Main Street
Waupaca, WI 54981

Officers January 2021

President: Nancy Weasner
Vice-President: Susan Goodacre
Secretary: Carolyn West
Treasurer: Pam Sannes

Committees

Accessions Chair: Jeff Weasner
Collections Chair: Walter Schmidt
Pioneer Certificate: Nadine Guilbault, Nancy Weasner, Sue Goodacre
Newsletter Editor: Nadine Guilbault
Research: Nancy Weasner, Pam Sannes, Jean Spiegelberg, Jeff Weasner.

Media

Facebook: Sue Goodacre & Nancy Weasner
Webmaster: Nadine Guilbault & Nancy Weasner

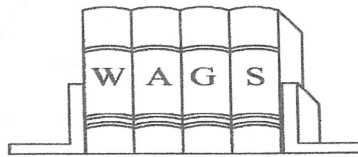
Newsletter:

Articles, queries and info gladly accepted (.doc or Word format appreciated for editing). Pictures or scans should be in .jpeg or similar format.

Please e-mail directly to nadine17543@yahoo.com

Deadline 1 Feb publication for Mar/Apr/May issue
Deadline 1 May publication for June/July/ Aug
Deadline 1 Aug publication for Sept/Oct/Nov
Deadline 1 Nov publication for Dec/Jan/ Feb

Waupaca Area Genealogical Society
321 S. Main Street
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Waupaca Area Genealogical Society

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Volume 29 Number 3

Sep/Oct/ Nov 2021

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

This has certainly been a VERY WARM summer! Has anyone been getting out and trying to do research?

After Nadine Guilbault suggested using Family Search.Org versus Ancestry.com, (because it is FREE),

I discovered, since the last time I was on this sight, that there is now a category for "Genealogies." This takes you to possible family tree matches you may have AND includes the International Genealogical Index.

This is an index that takes you to other countries to try and find family. For me that is Poland, Germany, Ireland, etc. This is quite exciting as you may be able to discover family you never knew you had.

I am excited to announce Lori Bessler from

Lori Bessler from the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society will be doing a program on Family Search / Ancestry.com on Saturday, January 8th, 2022, at 10:00 am. This program may be just virtual or both virtual and in person. What a GREAT way to start 2022!

We have had fewer Brat Frys as of late due to adverse weather conditions, but so far, we have raised more than the \$3000.00 than we budgeted for this year!

WAGS election for Officers will be held Saturday, November 13, 2021. The President, Treasurer's and co-secretary positions will be on the ballot this year. Nancy Weasner has agreed to run for reelection as President. Pam Sannes has agreed to run for reelection as Treasurer. We need to fill the co-secretary position for a one (1) year term. Nominations are open to other WAGS members for these positions. Nadine Guilbault has volunteered to be Chairperson of the nominating committee. It



would be appreciated if any nominations be submitted to the WAGS Nominating Committee by Wednesday September 30, 2021, so they could be added to the ballot. Nadine Guilbault's email address is

Nadine17543@yahoo.com .

WAGS Brochures will be mailed via the Post Office to every WAGS member for renewal. It is greatly appreciated if you would fill out the WAGS membership application completely and return it with your current information by December 31st, 2021, so we may keep our records up to date.

Update on the Holly Center Hours: Open for research; Thursdays from 10a.m. – 2 p.m. and Friday 12 noon – 3 p.m. You may also call and make appointments. Number to call is 715-256-9980.

Nancy Weasner,
WAGS President

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Bringing history to life

Civil War reenactment in New London

BY JOHN FAUCHER
STAFF REPORTER

NEW LONDON – A misty haze sank to eye level as the smell of gun powder lingered over a damp battlefield adjacent to New London's Heritage Historical Village Sunday.

About 85 visitors watched and listened as Civil War reenactment groups performed live demonstrations of history in the scrimmage field and throughout the village encampment.

A thunder of cannons from McAllister's Battery and a three-inch rifled gun from Wyatt's Battery on opposite ends of the field volleyed back and forth as the men of Company E, 2nd Wisconsin Infantry and the 41st Virginia Infantry maneuvered for battle.

Back at the village's historic log cabin in a primitive field hospital surgeon Smokey Brannaman and his assistant Chuck Vavrek prepared to take in the wounded.

Brannaman and Vavrek who are also members of the 1st Alabama Calvary have been reenacting Civil War scenes since the early 1980s.

"I'm getting too old to be falling off horses," said Vavrek. "That's why I'm assigned to help Smokey tend to the wounded."

Brannaman, a professional horse trainer in real life, started his reenacting days in the infantry, before joining up with the 1st Calvary.

In the early 2000s, he became interested in serving at a field hospital in Gettysburg.

Soon after, he began collecting his own original Civil War surgical instruments and studied the history of medical care and procedures from both the Federal and Confederate sides.

"A lot of guys would survive the initial surgery but died later on of disease or infection," said Brannaman, as he wiped his surgical saw off on a bloody white apron.

"There was nothing sanitary about this back then," he said as he demonstrated a field amputation on an very lifelike injured Confederate manikin.

Meanwhile Vavrek comforted a Union soldier waiting next in line also with a leg wound, by giving him opium pills and a shot of whiskey.

"By the time they reached here, most of the men had already been given something for pain by the field nurses or one of the other men," said Brannaman.

He served as a walking, talking history book for onlookers as he explained his utensils and assortment of period medicine bottles.

"The Federal Army only had a handful of doctors and the South didn't have any at the start of the war," he said.

Contracted surgeons found in nearby towns were the norm at many Civil War field hospitals.

Capt. Robert Schwandt of Company E, 2nd Wisconsin Infantry said enactors go to great lengths to remain as historically correct as possible.

"This is our group's first time here," said Schwandt. "We definitely plan on returning next year and look forward to hopefully a little drier weekend."

Several inches of rain fell during the two-day reenactment, the first of its kind for the New London Heritage Historical Society.

All six reenactment groups involved in the event gave the New London Heritage Historical Society high marks for their facilities and accommodations.

"Charmaine Gerndt and her crew did an exceptional job getting this event off the ground. We greatly appreciate their efforts and they should be commended," said Schwandt

Tony Fuller, president of the NLHHS, said they were pleased with the variety of demonstrations and the interaction groups had with the public.

"I think it was a very positive community event, despite the weather. We're glad we did it and we'll do it again," said Fuller.

The New London Heritage Historical Society holds a number of events at the both the historical village and the Thern Farm located on State Highway 54 in New London.

Fuller said their most recent event at the farm drew more than 800 visitors for Rhubarb Fest and it was a "big success."

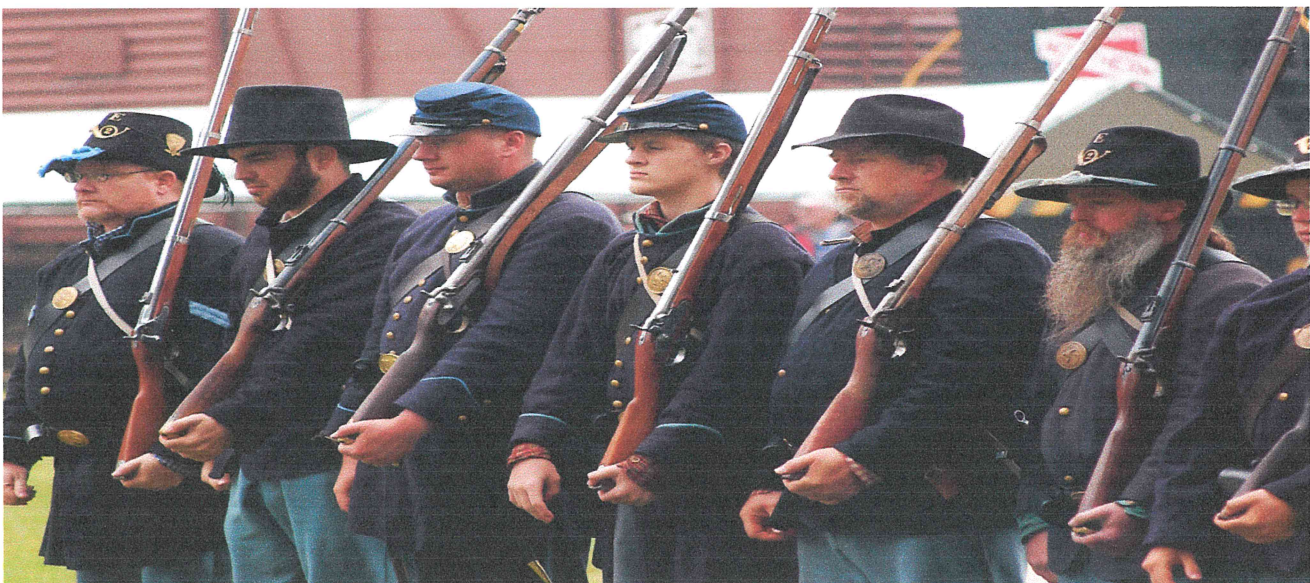
The next big event planned for the village is Heritage Days and Rail Fest held on the first Saturday of August.

"This year we're focusing on World War I as a theme," said Fuller.

The group is still working out the details and they've already lined up a traveling historical WWI exhibit from Oshkosh in addition to a period blood mobile demonstration.

"There will be a focus on women's involvement in the war effort and a special anniversary celebrated as part of the event.

"Stay tuned for more information on upcoming events in the paper," said Fuller.



SWISS CHAPEL AND STAUB FAMILY REUNIONS



The Swiss Chapel, built by Erich von Bentzel in 1893, is located on Chapel Drive near Scandinavia. The Bentzels arrived in Waupaca County in 1854 and were joined by several other Swiss families who settled in the same area. Anna Asper Staub and her children came in 1868; husband and father Jacob had died during the journey from Switzerland. Anna's son Jacob eventually acquired the land where the chapel is located, and descendants of that family still live there.

Our first Staub reunion was held in 2001 at the Staub farm in Scandinavia. We toured the area, visiting the schoolhouse at the Iola Historical site, several area cemeteries and the original Leuthold home in Helvetia Township. We asked descendants of each Staub sibling to wear different colored shirts. Red: descendants of Jacob Staub; white: descendants of Emma Staub Leuthold; purple: descendants of John Staub and blue: descendants of Julia Staub Smith.

A second reunion was held in 2003 in Montana, where many of the Leuthold descendants had settled. In 2005 another successful reunion took place back on the Staub farm in Scandinavia. A smaller group of us met there in 2014.



Our most ambitious reunion took place in 2008, however. A group of 30 descendants of Jacob and Anna Asper Staub were able to meet in Thalwil, Switzerland. We toured Zurich and visited the location of the original Staub farm (now a part of Thalwil proper). We visited churches in Thalwil and Oberrieden and were welcomed by a representative of Thalwil at the village museum.



Annette Smith Rietz 2021

GENEALOGY PODCASTS

Last fall one of my club's speakers gave us an overview of genealogy-related podcasts that can be accessed on a digital device or cell phone.

Use a search engine to find an app that will allow you to listen to a podcast. Some of the suggestions included RadioPublic, Castbox, Stitcher, Spotify or iTunes. Heart Radio advertises that they are the largest holder of podcasts. Our speaker suggested Castbox, and that is the one that I have used.

Once you've chosen an app, do a search for "genealogy" and there will be a long list of choices. Some genealogy podcasts have varied content and some concentrate on one subject or location. You will find very quickly which ones are more interesting for you. Some have more "advertising" than others. Each host has their own personality, and podcast length will vary from a couple of minutes to an hour. You may also find that a podcast has only a few episodes. Here's a short list available on Castbox. (Many podcasts appear on more than one app.)

*Genealogy Gems (presented by Lisa Louise Cooke)

*Research Like a Pro (a mother-daughter team)

*Genealogy Happy Hour (two friends who also discuss a wine variety during each episode)

*Generations Café (presented by Amy Johnson Crow)

*The Photo Detective (presented by Maureen Taylor)

*Your Pennsylvania Ancestors (my favorite at present because of a PA brickwall)

Each podcast has "show notes" so that you can see what has been discussed.

Many of the speakers provide links in the show notes to websites that they mention.

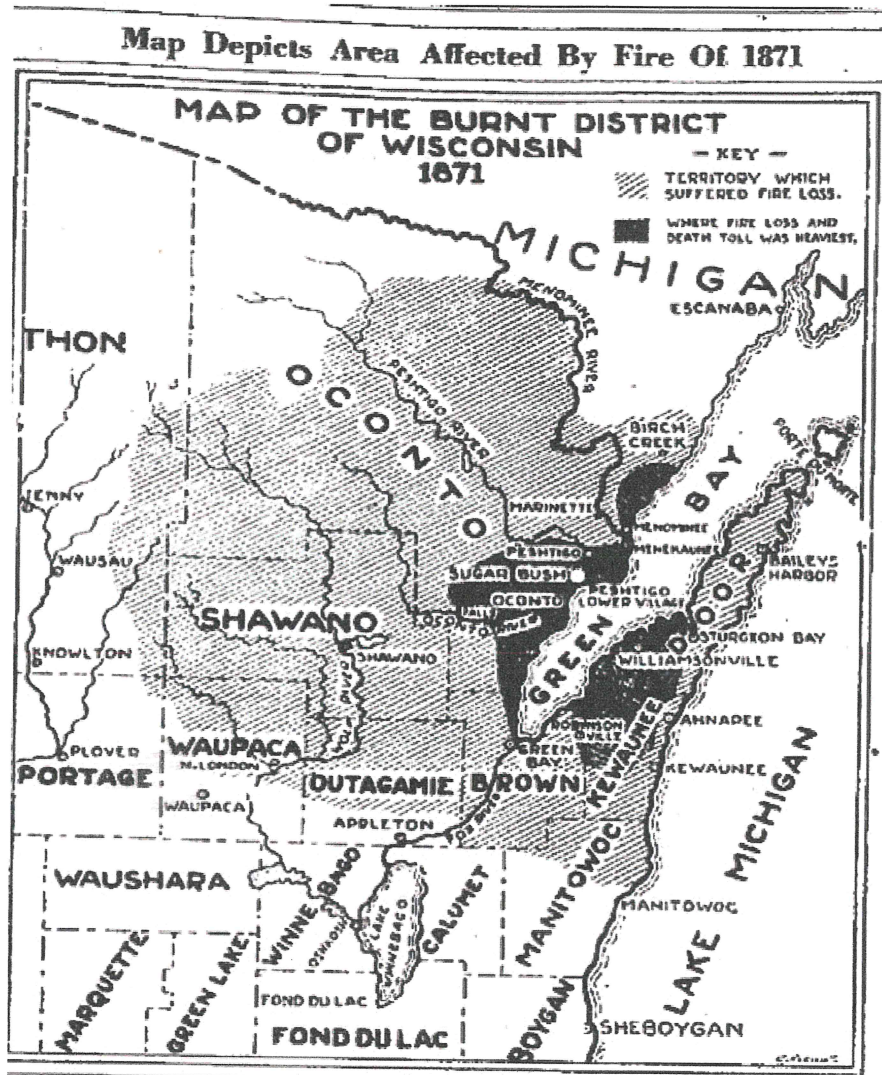
Annette Smith Rietz - 2021



150 years ago-1871

The year of the Great fires!

8 October 1871



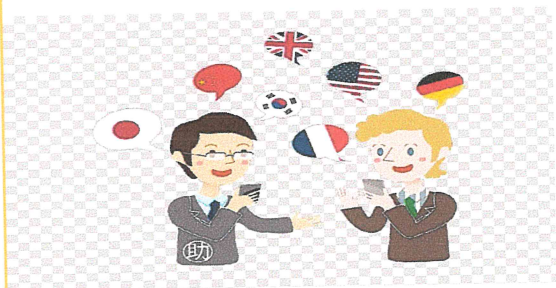
Be aware of Record loss for this time period.

On this date history records fires breaking out in several parts of Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan all on the same day. Of which the Peshtigo fire had the most loss of life (estimated to over 1200 people) of which 350 victims were buried in a mass grave in Peshtigo, approximately 1,280,000 acres of land burned. The cause of the fire has been attributed to extremely dry conditions to asteroids, to the unknown. The Chicago fire

overshadowed the other horrific fires of that day.

Fires of that day: Wisconsin: Peshtigo; Illinois: Chicago; Michigan: Port Huron fire-the Great Michigan fire, White rock, Holland, Manistee.

The Forest history Association of Wisconsin will be having a **Fall Conference Oct 7-9 in Peshtigo**, which will include family history and genealogy of this town and time period. Check out the conference brochure at <https://www.foresthistoryassociationwi.com/>



German Translator needed?

Darlene Ryan shared the following:

Ron Winter of Appleton, is a German Translator, and will translate old German print or handwriting. The fee is 2 cents/a word for 3 pages or less; 3 cents a word for 4 pages or more. DO NOT send originals - copies only! For information, (cell) 715-574-4484 or write Ron Winter, 2505 Southwood Dr., Appleton, Wis. 54915

[Ron does not have internet access]

Waupaca Historical Society

Hutchinson House videos on Facebook.

Nancy Weasner did a series of quick video's on some of the interesting items in the Hutchinson House. Click Videos on the Waupaca Historical Facebook site.

My favorite is the video about the Chest bed.

You can watch a video on how this type of bed opens at murphychestbed.com. A creative space saving bed.

This type of bed today sells for about \$2,000. A gorgeous piece of furniture and a must have for the lake cottage.

Below photo from MurphyChestbed.Com



Letter from the Editor

A Big thank you to Ann Reitz, Darlene Ryan, Nancy Helbach, and Nancy Weasner in contributing to the newsletter. Due to the increased size of the font, the format of then newsletter has changed to accommodate this change. Of course I can increase the size even further, just let me know what you prefer. I have been given the ok to increase the amount of pages. Please submit your genealogies, stories, pictures and documents.

Articles should be in WORD format with .doc or .docx files, and pictures in .jpg format. Contact me with any questions.

Please e-mail to me directly nadine17543@yahoo.com This will reduce degradation of photos and if I have questions, I can contact you directly.

Nadine Guilbault, Editor

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Vice-President: Susan Goodacre
Secretary: Carolyn West
Treasurer: Pam Sannes

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Collections Chair: Walter Schmidt
Pioneer Certificate: Nadine Guilbault, Nancy Weasner, Sue Goodacre
Newsletter Editor: Nadine Guilbault
Research: Nancy Weasner, Pam Sannes, Jean Spiegelberg, Jeff Weasner.

Media

Facebook: Sue Goodacre & Nancy Weasner
Webmaster: Nadine Guilbault & Nancy Weasner

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\$17.00 Individuals receiving via US Mail
\$15.00 Family
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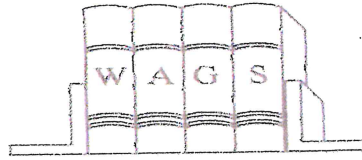
Newsletter

Articles, queries and info gladly accepted (.doc or Word format appreciated for editing). Pictures or scans should be in .jpeg or similar format.

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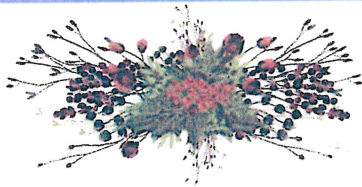
Waupaca Area Genealogical Society Est. 1994

Volume 29 Number 4

Dec/Jan/Feb 2022

WAGS

321S. Main Street
Waupaca, WI 54981
WaupacaAreaGenSoc
@hotmail.com



MERRY CHRISTMAS

In remembrance of member:

Adrienne Ann Sosinske
26 July 1941 to 10 Nov 2021
Obituary is online at

www.postcrescent.com/obituaries/wis339673

Inside this issue:

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PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Seasons' Greetings,

As this year draws to a close, let us review 2021. WAGS held Brat Fries and raised \$4,875.41.

WAGS held meetings in-person and virtually which allowed WAGS members from Arizona, Oregon, Missouri and even Canada to attend.

While the Holly Center was closed for the first part of the year, we helped with research requests.

WAGS members continue to develop the Website and the Face Book Page.

.Looking toward 2022, WAGS hopes to be able to offer virtual and in-person programs.

We will also be working on digitalizing WAGS Family Files and finishing the Family History/Genealogies for preservation purposes.

In January WAGS will again hold open hours. This will be on Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

At this time, the Holly Center is also open on Fridays from Noon – 3 p.m. You may also call the Holly Center at 715-256-9980 to make an appointment.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Nancy Weasner,

President of WAGS



Up Coming Meetings

WAGS Meetings:

To be announced.

Appleton Public Library-
www.apl.org

Click the "Events" tab to register:

- Dec. 11: "Institutional Ancestors" by Lee Grady, 2 P.M. – 3 P.M.

Searching for Records of Institutionalized Ancestors at the Wisconsin Historical Society

- Jan 15: "Genealogy Programs " by Angie Knutson, 2 pm

You want to get a genealogy program to organize your information, but which one? Digital or packaged computer software? Yearly subscription or one time charge? So many choices! In this presentation, we will help you navigate through the options and find the best fit for your needs.

- Feb 12: "Breaking Down Brick Walls in Your Family Research", by Lori Bessler of the Wis State Historical Society.

ancestry.com

library edition

Be aware that the remote access to the library edition to Ancestry is set to end 12/31/2021. It is unknown at this time if it will be extended. Remember to save any documents you find to your computer.



HERITAGE QUEST

Free resource at many libraries, and on their websites, typically under a genealogy tab.

Heritage Quest is powered by Ancestry search, with a wealth of information.

- * Complete set of U.S. Federal Census images from 1790- 1940, including name indexes for many years.
- * Canadian Census Images from 1825-1921.
- * Revolutionary War Era Pension & Bounty-land Warrant Application Files.
- * Search Books, Family Histories, Biographical sketches, local histories, This can include City directories, to military adjunct rosters.
- * U. S. Indian Census Rolls-click on the tab for the tribe you want to search or do a wide search through all of the Rolls.
- * Census map guide-interactive by year showing the boundaries for the counties.
- * U.S. Freedman's Bank Record, 1861-1875
- * Mortality Schedules and Agricultural /Industrial schedules.

An amazing amount of Free information.



Henry Clark Mead

Henry Clark Mead sometimes referred to as Hank or H.C., was born on May 2 or May 22, 1822, in Chester, Warren County N.Y., one of eleven children born to Shadrach and Phoebe (Lake) Mead.

Henry was raised on the farm, attending an ordinary district school each winter until about eighteen; he then spent two or three terms at a private school, and taught four winters in Warren County. In 1846 he moved to Michigan, and taught a school at Branch, in Branch County.

While living in Sheboygan he worked a while at the joiner's trade. He returned to Michigan in 1849 and taught the school which he had taught three years before, and afterward went again to Wisconsin, settling in Sheboygan in the Spring of 1850. He solicited for insurance, and appointed agents for the same business, and engaged in merchandising during 1851 and 1852.

In the Spring of 1853, he went to Buffalo and acted as clerk in the insurance and agency office of his uncle Samuel Lake, doing



also something for himself as a pension and bounty agent. In the autumn of 1854 Henry returned to Wisconsin and settled some old pension claims and during the next two years conducted a notion and jobbing trade, driving a wagon through the country from Sheboygan as his radiating point.

He settled in Waupaca in the autumn of 1857. At first Henry acted as agent for Mr. Lake, who had large investments, principally in Waupaca County lands and gradually worked into a business of his own.

Records in Waupaca County indicate that by 1857 he was operating as a private banker but in 1860 he listed his occupation as a collecting agent at the Alonzo E Smith Hotel in Waupaca. He founded the Exchange Bank in 1862 however in 1870 records show Henry C. Mead, banker listed as being at Frank Vosborough's hotel in Waupaca. An 1874 plat shows Waupaca being represented by two banks, the Exchange and Savings Bank operated by H.C. Mead & Company and the Waupaca Bank operated by Evan Coolidge.

During Mead's years as a collection agent/banker in Waupaca other banks operated for a few years before disappearing into local history.

Mead was reported as having the only bank in Waupaca.

Over the years, the bank was also variously known as H.C. Med & Co. and The Waupaca Exchange & Savings Bank. Like all banks of that era, it was a privately owned bank whose hours and operations were conducted on the whim of its owner.

It was a practice that well suited his eccentric habits that ultimately played a role in the robbery of the bank and his murder on the night of October 7-8, 1882.

Mead, a bachelor, was considered eccentric in that he wore clothes until they were thread bare, used pencils until they no longer could fit in the holder, conducted business on the backs of envelopes and sale slips and would not eat until his food was cold. Mead lived the back of his bank. For a man who didn't attend any of the numerous churches in the community he seemed obsessively moralistic to them. He was bru-

tally murdered on October 7, 1882. At the time of his murder, he had never married; although one newspaper account made reference to a "certain widow woman" he was believed to be calling on.

At the time of his death, Mead was 6'4", large framed, about 160- 170 pounds and considered to be a gruff, powerful and vigorous man.

A situation that helped Mead discount the townsmen's numerous warnings against his isolated location and unsafe practices. Mead didn't believe he had an enemy in the world and even after being bludgeoned three years earlier during what he believed to be an attempted robbery, he did not change his beliefs or habits.

When Mead failed to show up for a meal on Sunday, people went looking for him.

They found the banker's body was on the floor next to his desk. Meads' face had been blown away by a shotgun blast.

The murder was investigated from coast to coast over eleven years, and still remains technically unsolved.

Meads' monument was made in Waupaca from blue granite shipped in from Quincy, Mass. When the cemetery was expanded and its name changed from Oak Hill to Lakeview a local newspaper advocated moving Mead's remains to the new section to better show off the cemetery with his monument.

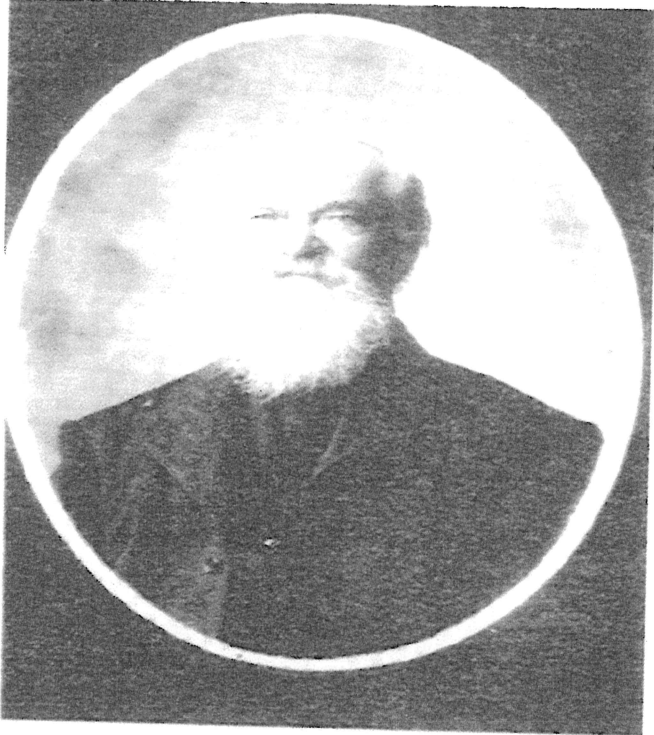
Approximately ten years after his murder, his body was exhumed so the skull could be subjected to improved forensic examination for the 1893 trial. The skull was then held as evidence in the safe at the Waupaca County Courthouse for about 97 years before it was reburied with the body.

Written and submitted by Nancy Weasner.



John Morey

Waupaca Pioneer Potato farmer



The Morey family, consisting of the Reverend/Farmer, William Morey and his wife Ann and three children, John, 17, Ann, 14 James, 13 departed Cheshire, England in 1850 for Prince Edward Island, where John married his wife, Sarah Kett-a farmer's daughter.

The family of John and Sarah, bought 120 acres in July 1865 in the Town of Farmington, off of Frost Valley Road, while he was living in St. Lawrence County, New York (Waupaca County Deed book 20 page 544). They likely traveled by train from New York state to Oshkosh with 10 children ranging in ages 13 to 1 years old.

Tragedy struck the family with the death of their thirteen-month-old baby daughter Elizabeth, who died 27 September 1865 and is buried on the property. John and Sarah would have 14 children in total by 1871.

James, his brother and his wife Jane, bought the locally known, Pipe house, just a few miles away. Both John and James had large families and as any good farmer knows, "Nothing goes to waste".

Their sister, Ann had married Ralph Basford, and came to the area in about 1877, living in the town of Lanark, Portage, Wisconsin.

Typical first crops a farmer in the Farmington area would be growing, would have been wheat, rye, barley, potatoes and hops.

"A Standard History of Waupaca....., by John M. Ware, 1917 on page 249 states; "The first potatoes sent out from Waupaca were shipped by P. J. Nordeen in the fall of 1872. This shipment was suggested to him by an incident that came to his notice at that time. A farmer needing five dollars cash, brought in a load of potatoes and tried all day to sell them for that. The merchants, one and all, would take them and pay in trade, but no cash. As he was about to return home, Mr. John Morey (of potato raising fame, later) bought them, had them shoveled into his wagon to take to his home in Farmington, remarking that they were worth that to feed stock."

The Commemorative Biographical of Upper Wisconsin...1895 referring to John Morey "He was the first farmer that began cultivation of potatoes on an extensive scale, and shipped the first car load of vegetables from Waupaca about the year 1875."

John served as Farmington's town assessor in 1878 (Waupaca Republican newspaper, June 1878) "Mr. Morey our assessor, says that the law shall be fulfilled this season, property must go in at its cash value. The valuation of the town is nearly double what it has always been. But then, our tax need not be more."

In 1880, sixty-six car loads of Potatoes were shipped from Waupaca to Chicago. By 1912 nearly 2,200 cars were loaded and shipped. While he may not have been the financier of the shipment, he would have been one of the growers for that first shipment.

After seventeen years at this location, John and Sarah moved to another farm in Waupaca.

Sarah died in 1901 and John in 1913, both of whom are buried at the Barton cemetery in Farmington, along with two of their chil-

dren-Henry and Edwin.

Follow up:

In 2021 I located the family Monument in Barton Cemetery, and noted the base was severely cracked, likely due to something solid hitting the base. I contacted Marty McCarthy from Gravesavers on Facebook, and provided a donation to him to repair the base. Terrific job!

Next, I cleaned the monument as you could not read the names or see the flower emblems. Even with cleaning it is difficult to read as they are raised marble etchings, which are in great condition.

*This family is my direct relatives on my mothers side.

By Nadine Guilbault,
nadine17543@yahoo.com (2021)



Left-Before cleaning and restoration.

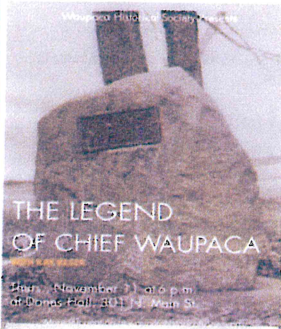


Right-After cleaning and restoration. 2021

Waupaca Historical Society

The Society has presented several interesting presentations about Waupaca's history, both are available on their Facebook site or on YouTube-type in the search bar:

Waupaca Historical Society.



On Nov. 11, 2021 Presented by Ray Reser, professor emeritus of archaeology at UW-Stevens Point

The Legend of Chief Waupaca-myth/fiction?

His presentation covers not only Chief Waupaca, included is information about Chief Oshkosh, Manawa and the burial mounds of Wisconsin and more.



150 Years of the Railroad in Waupaca with Mike Kirk. In 1871, the train made its first trip through Waupaca. Mike talks about the Depot's history and the city's time as the "Potato Capital of the World".



If you are looking for a last minute gift for the holiday, consider looking at their website gift shop. They have a nice selection reasonably priced here is a small sample; Cookbook-- "Safer at Home in Waupaca" Cookbook (2020) \$10.00, Map -- "Birdseye View Map of Waupaca, 1871" (14" x 18.5") \$5.00, Book -- "The Story of Waupaca and Its Railroads" by David Leider \$12.00

<https://www.waupacahistoricalsociety.org/>

New Member

#308 Barbara and Mike Kirk

Researching: Kirk, Polt, Milius, Rasmussen, Pnegesbauer

Editors Notes:

Articles should be in WORD format with .doc or .docx files, and pictures in .jpg format. Contact me with any questions. Please e-mail to me directly nadine17543@yahoo.com This will reduce degradation of photos and if I have questions, I can contact you directly.

Please submit your Ancestor Profile 2 to 4 pages is ideal, Veteran, stories, surprise finds, pictures and documents.

Nadine Guilbault, Editor

Mission Statement

The mission and vision of the society shall be to generate an interest in genealogy, provide a meeting place for the exchange of genealogical ideas, to inform people of the value of and the need for preserving family and local history for posterity, to educate members and others in genealogical research techniques, to make available historical and genealogical material to the general public, to receive, hold and invest monies, dues, gifts, sales, interest, etc. and to hold and administer property for the benefit of the society and for its educational purpose.

Officers 2021

President: Nancy Weasner
Vice-President: Susan Goodacre
Secretary: Carolyn West
Treasurer: Pam Sannes

Committees

Accessions Chair: Jeff Weasner
Collections Chair: Walter Schmidt
Pioneer Certificate: Nadine Guilbault, Nancy Weasner, Sue Goodacre
Newsletter Editor: Nadine Guilbault
Research: Nancy Weasner, Pam Sannes, Jean Spieglberg, Jeff Weasner.

Media

Facebook: Sue Goodacre & Nancy Weasner
Webmaster: Nadine Guilbault & Nancy Weasner

Membership

\$12.00 (Individual, Society or Library)
\$17.00 Individuals receiving via US Mail
\$15.00 Family
\$20.00 Family receiving via US Mail

The membership year runs January 1 through December 31. Newsletters will be sent via e-mail unless otherwise specified.

Please include your name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, and surnames you are currently researching.

Payment should be mailed to:

WAGS
321 S. Main Street
Waupaca, WI 54981

Newsletter

Articles, queries and info gladly accepted (.doc or Word format appreciated for editing). Pictures or scans should be in .jpeg or similar format.

Please e-mail directly to nadine17543@yahoo.com

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Deadline 1 May publication for June/July/ Aug
Deadline 1 Aug publication for Sept/Oct/Nov
Deadline 1 Nov publication for Dec/Jan/ Feb