

Waupaca Area Genealogical Society

Est. 1994

321 S. Main St., Waupaca, WI 54981 info@wagswi.org

Vol. 32 Issue 1

Upcoming WAGS Meetings

PROGRAMS START 9am

Mar 9 - "What Your Ancestor's Neighbors Can Tell You" by Melissa Barker.

Apr 13 - "That's in the Archives! Digging Deeper in the Archived Records" by Melissa Barker.

May 11 - "City Directories: So You Think You Know ALL About City Directories?" by Paula Stuart Warren.

Jun 8 - Round Table Discussion

Jul 13 - Round Table Discussion

WAGS Executive Board would like to have suggestions, to be considered, for 2025 programs.

Please submit your suggestions to: Nancy Weasner, President at njweasner@gmail.com

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Grand Army of the Republic—An Important Part of a Veteran's Life and Genealogy Research

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was an organization comprised of honorably discharged Union Civil War veterans who had fought in the U.S. Army, Navy and Marines. The group was founded in 1866 initially to support veterans and their families as well as being a means for veterans to keep in touch with their comrades after the war. Yet as their numbers grew so did their power and political clout. By the 1890s membership was close to half a million men and the GAR's influence helped elect notable Republican Union Civil War veterans like U.S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes and James Garfield to the U. S. presidency.

More important than its political power the GAR worked to secure federal pensions for veterans, they established soldiers' homes and did other relief work for the benefit of their membership. They promoted patriotism participating in parades and wreath laying ceremonies to honor fallen veterans. In fact it was the GAR's National Commander-In-Chief General John Logan who established the first Decoration Day, or Memorial Day as we now know it. A day was set aside to honor the Civil War's fallen Union soldiers by placing wreaths and flowers on their graves.

GAR members met locally and that group was referred to as a post. Most small towns and villages had a post with larger metropolitan areas having more than one. Ohio alone had 745 organizations. Posts were named after Civil War soldiers who had passed on, many times honoring a soldier who had died in battle. The local posts belonged to their state "Department", such as the Ohio Department or Iowa Department, and both the posts and departments fell under the umbrella of the national organization.

The national and departments held yearly conventions or "encampments". The encampments generally spanned several days and included business meetings, memorial services, dinners, fellowship as well as "camping out."

GAR membership was an important part of a veteran's life. Through this very powerful group a former soldier was cared for both physically and emotionally as he socialized with other soldiers who had similar war experiences.

(continued on page 4)

GENEALOGY JEOPARDY will be played at the WAGS 30th Anniversary Celebration in November.

WATCH for Genealogy Jeopardy questions throughout this and the next two Newsletters!

WAGS Programs for 2024

The programs will start at 9 a.m. with the business meeting to follow.

Programs will be both in-person, at the Holly History and Genealogy Center and virtual via Zoom, unless otherwise stated.

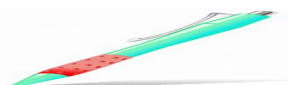
March 9, 2024 – “*What Your Ancestor’s Neighbors Can Tell You*” presented by Melissa Barker

April 13, 2024 – “*That’s in the Archives! Digging Deeper in the Archived Records*” presented by Melissa Barker

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June 8, 2024 - Round table till 10 a.m. if time allows. Open hours from 10 a.m. till 2 p. m.

President’s Message



Greetings everyone,

WAGS welcomes several new members: Susan and Evan Abrahamson, Judy and Leo Hopfensperger, Nancy and Mike Byers, Richard Ziegert and Tina King.

Pam Sannes has resigned from the Treasurer position. Thank you Pam for the ten years you served as the WAGS Treasurer.

I have appointed Susan Abrahamson to serve as Treasurer to fill out Pams’ term. Susan has recently retired from the City of Waupaca where she served for 28 years as a Children’s Librarian. In her role, she managed a \$20,000.00 material and program budget annually. Sue has lived in Waupaca for 46 years, moving here after marrying Evan whose family has dairy farmed in Waupaca County for almost a century. The Abrahamsons immigrated from Denmark and homesteaded in Waupaca, north on County E. Sue has been a casual genealogist researching her own family and her husbands with plans of spending more time in genealogical research in retirement. Sue and Evan have two adult daughters and three grandchildren.

Here is a list of the many opportunities anyone may volunteer to help the society: Brat Fry Fundraisers, volunteer for open hours at the Holly Center, help prepare obituaries to be accessioned and help with the preservation of the WAGS Collection. Please let me know how you would like to help by emailing me at president@wagswi.org or sign up on the Volunteer sheets at the WAGS Membership Meeting. WAGS Members are invited to submit articles to the WAGS Newsletter Editor, Sue Goodacre at: sgoodacre@new.rr.com.

I want to thank all the WAGS members who have volunteered.

We have added 180 new items to the WAGS website under the Research section under the Library/ Archive Link. Please feel free to view this section of the Website. We are working on digitizing and indexing the Family History/Genealogy Files in the Filing Cabinet. We have also recopied the fragile Scrapbooks of the Wayne and Alta Guyant Collection Volume 1 -3 and 5 -7 included in these scrapbooks are the indexes that are on the WAGS website.

May all you have a Blessed Easter,

Nancy Weasner,
President of WAGS

Run-off Election Results

WAGS held their Run-off election for Co-Secretary on January 13, 2024.

Jeff Weasner was the winner.

Thank you to ALL that participated & voted!

2024 WAGS BRAT FRY FUNDRAISERS

1. Saturday April 27, 2024, at Fleet Farm, Waupaca from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
2. Thursday May 09, 2024, at the Holly Center from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
3. Thursday May 16, 2024, at the Holly Center from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
4. Thursday May 23, 2024, at the Holly Center from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
5. Friday May 24, 2024, at the Holly Center from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
6. Thursday May 30, 2024, at the Holly Center from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
7. Thursday June 06, 2024, at the Holly Center from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
8. Thursday June 13, 2024, at the Holly Center from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
9. Thursday June 20, 2024, at the Holly Center from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
10. Thursday June 27, 2024, at the Holly Center from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
11. Friday June 28, 2024, at Fleet Farm, Waupaca from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
12. Friday July 05, 2024, at Fleet Farm, Waupaca from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
13. Thursday July 25, 2024, at the Holly Center, Waupaca from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
14. Friday August 30, 2024, at Fleet Farm, Waupaca from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Anyone interested in helping with the Brat Fry fundraisers please contact Nancy Weasner, President of WAGS at: president@wagswi.org or place your name on the sign up sheet at the WAGS Membership Meeting.



Welcome New Members And Rejoining Members

New Members -
Sue & Evan Abrahamson
Nancy & Mike Byers
Theresa Coonen
Judy & Leo Hopfensperger
Tina King
Nancy Manion
Richard Ziegert

Rejoining Members -
Larry & Linda Walbrun
Margie Brown
Cheryl Davis
Mary Frazer

Please welcome them to our group!

(continued from page 1)

A veteran who wanted to join his local post was required to fill out an application for membership. This would include his current vital information as well as his military experience.

Once accepted the new member's information was logged in a Post Descriptive Book. Some posts even had a Memorial Book. Each member had a page in the Memorial Book where personal background information was recorded and even his memories of his military service. The info might include mentions of the veteran's friends in his regiment and his obituary after his death. Of course there would be Minute Books in each post which would include lots of names and information regarding the activities of the post.

I found the Memorial Book for one of the local GAR posts in the museum of my home town. Called Personal War Sketches this huge, oversized book was engraved for Mart Armstrong Post No. 202. Inside were beautifully illustrated pages where members, in their own hand, wrote where and when they were born, where and when they enlisted. What battles they fought in, how and where they were injured, even what hospital they recovered at. Some sketches included names of friends they fought alongside or a particular event they chose to remember. This book is a goldmine of information and written in the member's own hand!

Of course as Union veterans died so did the strength and numbers of the GAR. The last member passed away in 1956 and the GAR no longer existed. The records and minutes of individual posts were many times donated to local museums, libraries and historical societies.

By now you can see the records of a GAR Post would be very helpful as you research your Civil War ancestor.

RESEARCH NOTES

A few places to research the GAR is at this Library of Congress page. It lists posts by locale and state. <http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/gar/>

Then there is the Grand Army of the Republic Library and Museum. It's located in Philadelphia and its holdings contain the records of many posts nationwide. <http://garmuslib.org/>

FamilySearch.org has a few GAR links on their site https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Union_Veterans%27_and_Lineage_Society_Records#The_Grand_Army_of_the_Republic_.28GAR.29

Ancestry.com has a couple links for Kansas GAR posts.

If you live in the area the New England Civil War Museum might be an excellent place to research. Their library originated with GAR Burpee Post 71. This GAR post started it's own reading room and library for the members and has now grown in to the New England Civil War Museum. <https://www.newenglandcivilwarmuseum.com/civil-war-research>

McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington, IL has a GAR collection of the McCullough and Hovey, and Sherman Posts. <https://mchistory.org/research/finding-aids/collection/grand-army-of-the-republic-gar>

Wisconsin Veterans Museum has a substantial GAR collection. <https://wisvetsmuseum.com/learning-research/>

There's also the GAR and Civil War Museum in Marblehead, MA. <https://marbleheadmuseum.org/civil-war-museum/>

New York State Archives http://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/res_tips_010_gar.shtml

At Google Books you'll find the – Records of Members of the Grand Army of the Republic: With a Complete Account of the Twentieth National Encampment ... A History of the Growth, Usefulness, and Important Events of The Grand Army of the Republic, from Its Origin to the Present Time. http://books.google.com/books/about/Records_of_Members_of_the_Grand_Army_of.html?id=0W0A AAAAIAAJ

Most importantly try your local museums, libraries, universities and historical societies to see if they have a GAR collection. My own museum's library has a GAR collection for another area town as well as the War Sketches Book for the post in my city but none of this was readily accessible. I would never have known it existed if I hadn't asked.

(continued on page 5)

An imaginary line running directly north and south, from pole to pole.

(continued from page 4)



Grand Army of the Republic Parade, Lima Ohio 1908.

As you continue your research of your Civil War ancestor I hope this GAR information provides you with some new ideas and additional resources.

Good Luck in your research!

Reprinted with permission from Cindy Freed, Author, Family Researcher and Civil War Buff

Find more from Cindy Freed on her website: <http://cindyfreed.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CivilWarwithCindy>

Instagram: http://www.instagram.com/civil_war_with_cindy/

General Help for Newbies?

It was asked on the website forum the following:

“As a new member and budding hobby genealogist, I was wondering if anyone else thought it helpful to offer some in person help sessions for using genealogy websites like Ancestry and Family Search. At the last meeting it was clear that I am not the only new member trying to figure out how things work. Maybe once a month with our laptops in the basement where we bring our questions and show each other what we've figured out so far and share what our questions are.”

Who would be interested?

Would you be interested in helping the others?

Let the WAGS Board know and we will see what we can do.

In 1855 the Wisconsin State Census was lost except for the counties of Dunn, Green, Jackson, Kewanee, Ozaukee and what other County?

Do not forget to check out the **WAGS Website** at wagswi.org for “new” content.

Under Members Log In -

You can make sure your Profile information (contact info, password and surnames) is up-to-date.

You can checkout past newsletters

In Past Print...

THE WAUPACA POST THURSDAY JANUARY 25, 1894

TO LATE FOR LAST WEEK

Died---On Monday, Jan. 9, '94 from a stroke of paralysis, Mr. I.C. Hardy. The deceased was one of the early settlers of this place, the last few years being of the firm Hardy & Corbett. Funeral services were held on Wednesday.

THE WAUPACA POST VOLUME XVII THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1, 1894

Dale - Freeman - A notable wedding of lola

Perhaps no marriage which ever took place in lola was an occasion for more well wishers to the contracting parties than was the nuptials on last Tuesday evening between Thomas W. Freeman and Miss Bessie Dale, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Geo Dale of this village.

Early in the evening the Methodist church was filled with people to witness the ceremony, which was performed by Rev. E. Kaneen of Manawa. As the happy bridal party marched in, Miss Stella Bristoll, who was seated at the organ, performed a beautiful wedding march. Miss Lilian Dale acted as bridesmaid, and Mr. Charles Guldager acted as best man.

After the beautiful and impressive ceremony was over, an elegant reception was held at the spacious residence of the brides parents, and the chosen guests sat down to an elegant repast, and ate and drank to the health of the happy married pair.

Tuesday morning Mr. and Mrs. Freeman left for a short bridal tour, going to Milwaukee. After February 10th they will be at home to their friends in lola.

It is needless for the Herald to compliment the bride, as she is well known here. She is a refined and accomplished young lady, with a character above reproach, and has a wide circle of friends. Mr. Freeman is a young man of ability, and is regarded as an honest, upright gentleman who is worthy of his choice. Dr. Freeman, as he is better known, is a graduate of the Ohio College of Dental Surgery, and is now enjoying a lucrative practice here.

The best wishes of the Herald si with the happy married couple. May their lives be one eternal ray of sunshine and prosperity, and though the years to come may they look back and find them well spent together as man and wife. We extend congratulations---lola Harald.

The many friends of the contracting parties in Waupaca will hasten to extend sincere congratulations.

OBITUARY

Harriet Morse was born in West Fairlu Vt., May 6, 1828. June 29, 1826, in the same town was born Horace S. Baldwin, to whom she married April 8, 1848, and the following year to Wisconsin, Waupaca County, settling upon the farm now owned by Hosia Harrington in Lind. Six years later this farm was sold, and they moved to the town of Royalton upon the farm where they live together until Oct. 21, 1888. The husband was called away, the wife remaining until the summons came to her Jan. 14, 1894. The hardship incident to pioneers in that early day were endured by them with Christian fortitude and the duties and responsibilities borne with zeal and courage, that the world might be the better for their having lived was their aim. It is not too much to say that their influence was ever exerted upon the side of Christianity and virtue. Well, was it for them that the warning "be ye also ready" had been heeded, as the sudden call of each afforded no time for preparation. Of the five children born to the C.P. Baldwin alone survives them.

Volume XVII The Waupaca Post, Waupaca, Wisconsin, Thursday, February 8, 1894, No. 3

OGDENSBURG

Married - Feb. 3, by Rev. Enoch Perry, of Waupaca, Mr. Albert Axtell and Miss Helga Feragen, both of this place. The ceremony was performed at Mrs. R.F. Clements. Miss Vesta Clements supported the bride and Dr. Irvine, of Royalton, served in like capacity for the groom. Both the bride and the groom are very popular and have a host of friends that wish them a long and happy married life. The young couple were the recipients of many handsome and valuable presents.

Transcribed by Nancy Weasner

This person developed the Rectangular Survey System: Towns-Ranges and Sections.

THANK YOU to Pam Sannes for the number of years as Treasurer for WAGS.

WELCOME to Sue Abrahamson for accepting the Treasurer position.

Member Spotlight – Sue Abrahamson

I recently retired from the City of Waupaca where I served for 28 years as a Children's Librarian. In this role, I managed a \$20,000 material and program budget annually. I have lived in Waupaca for 46 years, moving here after marrying Evan whose family has dairy farmed in Waupaca County for almost a century. The Abrahamsons immigrated from Denmark and homesteaded in Waupaca, north on County E. I have been a casual genealogist researching my own family and my husbands with plans of spending more time in genealogical research in retirement. Evan and I have two adult daughters, and three grandchildren.



I have a very small family. My mom was an only child. I had only one brother who didn't have children. My husband's one brother has no children either. But we know that only 2 generations back there were big families. My mother passed away when I was 11. We've only got questions about our family history very few answers. Yet, upon the passing of each family member, I have inherited a box of family photos. It's great detective work to find out how the puzzle pieces fit together.

I have done the Ancestry DNA test that has helped me find new branches of the family tree. Since hearing Thomas MacEntee's presentation in February, I've started using Family Search tools, too. I consider myself a "newbie" and rookie hobby genealogist. I look forward to learning from all of you!

Many groups and organizations provide newspapers; trade associations, unions, railroads, group sports, agriculture organizations and many more. What are these papers referred to as?

Gene-A-Rama 2024

April 12th & 13th, at 1 N. Main St. Oshkosh, WI.

Early Bird Pricing Ends March 12th. Register NOW!

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society wsgs.org

From the Editor

Thank you to all that submitted items for this newsletter. ALWAYS looking for submissions! With the next newsletter covering the summer months... do you hold or attend family reunions... tell us about them.

Something you would like to share...send it to me at sgoodacre@new.r.r.com. Please make sure articles are in WORD format with .doc or .docx files, and pictures are in .jpeg format.



This is a question for the WAGS members that do research for other people... Could you or would you be willing to write an article walking through where and how you find the information that is being requested? Explain the Waupaca resources that you use and how to use them, such as, Bureau of Land Management, Wills and Probate records, other court records, etc..

There may be members that do not know or could have forgot how to use some of these resources.

Sue Goodacre, Newsletter Editor



The Worth of Money: Then and Now

In our researching I am sure we have found documents that state how much an ancestor was paid, (15 cents an hour or \$15 a month as a Civil War army private, or inherited 30 shillings from a 1810 will) and wondered how much that would be today. There are several inflation calculators online, that can be helpful to genealogist, even though they are intended for economists and historians. Most of the inflation calculators, for the U.S., I found online only go back to 1913 or 1914, except for the one listed below.

Such comparisons are not perfect, because it is hard to compare the cost of a horse with the cost of a car or a bale of hay to a gallon of gas. But they still can help put archaic amounts of money into perspective.

To compare monetary value in the U.S. between 1635 and 2023 you can use the Inflation Calculator at www.in2013dollars.com. For the comparison of monetary values in Great Britain between 1751 and the present you can use www.in2013dollars.com/UK-inflation. If you would like to go back further than 1751 in the UK you can use the Inflation Calculator at www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy/inflation/inflation-calculator.

If you would like to know the historical interest rates, dollar-pound relative values, or the price of gold, besides monetary value, you can use Measuring Worth at www.measuringworth.com/.

There is a downside to using a historical value converter that is based on national averages and that is value and purchasing power can vary widely from location to location; with different places having different costs of living.

How could you then put your ancestor's wealth in context for their location? Use newspapers, census records and tax records.

Look at the want ads (showing the pay), classified ads and sales. These should give you a good idea of the relative cost of items for the time period you are looking for in that location.

Read your ancestor's tax records, do not stop there, also read their neighbor's tax records too. How do their assessments compare to their neighbors'? If it is higher than their neighbors', your ancestor had more valuable property than their neighbors.

When looking at the census records (1850–1880) collect the information (value of real estate or personal property) for the heads of households for a couple of pages on either side of your ancestor. This can help you see where your ancestor stood in relation to his neighbors.

Resources:

Internet Genealogy, Genealogy Research Tips & More Vol 10 #5 (3/9/2023), Article "What Money Used to Be Worth" by David A. Norris, *Internet Genealogy* author.

"How Much Was Your Ancestor Worth?" by Amy Johnson Crow (1/24/2019)

Submitted by Sue Goodacre

This can be found sometimes in list form, sometimes in court proceedings, and sometimes a gossip item

"In all of us there is a hunger, marrow deep, to know our heritage – to know who we are and where we came from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still a vacuum, an emptiness, and the most disquieting loneliness"
– Alex Haley, *American writer*

"We inherit from our ancestors gifts so often taken for granted. Each of us contains within this inheritance of soul. We are links between the ages, containing past and present expectations, sacred memories and future promise" – *Edward Sellner, American professor of theology.*

Other Conferences, Meetings & Webinars... **SAVE THE DATE!**

Appleton Public Library – Finding Your Ancestors Series (Virtual Program)

To access the library's event calendar go to www.apl.org/calendar. You **MUST register** in advance. Go to Appleton Public Library's website... then Events, Adult Program, Calendar Month, click on the program, follow the registration information listed.

Mar 9 (Saturday) – **2pm VIRTUAL**, “*Finding What You Need and Making the Most of It*” by Pam Vestal.

Apr 13 (Saturday) – **2pm VIRTUAL**, “*Finding Females in US Naturalizations Records*” by Nancy Loe.

May 11 (Saturday) - **2pm VIRTUAL**, “*Mysterious Codes: Passenger Manifests*” by Christine Cohen.

****** If you missed any of the Find Your Ancestors programs? Check out Appleton Public Library's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/aplref for recordings of past programs. NOT all programs are recorded.

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society –

For more information contact WSGS website at <https://wsgs.org> **Need to Register for Webinars**

Webinars (2023) – (LIVE Webinars = FREE / Recorded Webinars = MEMBERS ONLY)

Mar 19 (Tuesday) - **7pm VIRTUAL**, “*10 Free Tools for Researching Your Polish Ancestors*” by Alina Khuda.

Apr 16 (Tuesday) - **7pm VIRTUAL**, “*Wisconsin in 1950 - Analysis & Findings from the 1950 Census*” by Scott Norrick.

May 21 (Tuesday) - **7pm VIRTUAL**, “*Ten Reasons Why History Resources Solve Our Genealogical Puzzles*” by Paula Stuart-Warren.

Gene-A-Rama 2024 - April 12 & 13, Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center, 1 N. Main St., Oshkosh, WI 54901. For registration and more information go to <https://wsgs.org>.

Waupaca Area Genealogical Society (WAGS)

2024 Membership Form (January 1 to December 31)

_____ **NEW Member** _____ **RETURNING Member**

INFORMATION _____ **Published** _____ **Unpublished**

Digital Newsletters (via email)

_____ Individual (Society or Library) \$12

_____ Family (same address) \$15

Paper Newsletters (via Postal Mail)

_____ Individual (Society or Library) \$17

_____ Family (same address) \$20

Name _____

Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Email Address (PRINT CLEARLY) _____

Surnames Researching _____

Mail to: **WAGS, 321 S. Main St., Waupaca, WI 54981**

2024 Officers

President: Nancy Weasner
Vice President: Sue Goodacre
Co-Secretary: Carolyn West
Co-Secretary: Jeff Weasner
Treasurer: Sue Abrahamson

Committees

Accessions Chair: Jeff Weasner
Collections Chair: Jeff Weasner
Pioneer Certificate: Nancy Weasner and Sue Goodacre
Newsletter Editor: Sue Goodacre
Research Chair: Jeff Weasner, Pam Sannes and Nancy Weasner
Webmaster: Nicole Coonen

Membership

\$12 - Individual, Society or Library
\$17 - Individuals receiving newsletter via US Mail
\$15 - Family
\$20 - Family receiving newsletter via US Mail

The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. One (1) Quarterly Newsletter will be sent via email unless otherwise specified.

Please include your name, address, email address, phone number, and surnames you are currently researching.

Send payment to:

WAGS
321 S. Main St.
Waupaca, WI 54981

Newsletter

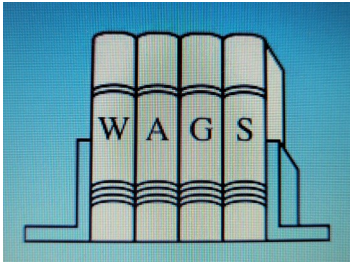
Articles, queries, etc., submitted for publishing in **WAGS Quarterly Newsletter** must reach the editor by the following **deadlines:**
March Issue - February 1, June Issue - May 1, September Issue - August 1 December Issue - November 1

Queries are FREE for members and \$1.50 for each non-member. Please be sure to include WHO, WHAT, WHERE and WHEN with each query send to sgoodacre@new.rr.com.

Please email submissions to sgoodacre@new.rr.com. Please put "**WAGS Newsletter**" in subject . Please make sure any submissions are in WORD format (doc or .docx) or a PDF and pictures are in jpeg format..

Neither WAGS, the editor/co-editor or contributors accept responsibility for errors of fact or judgment in materials submitted to WAGS's Newsletter. If errors are brought to the attention of the editor/co-editors, every attempt will be made to correct them

 Find us on Facebook [Waupaca Area Genealogical Society Group | Facebook](#)



Waupaca Area Genealogical Society

Est. 1994

321 S. Main St., Waupaca, WI 54981 info@wagswi.org

Vol. 32 Issue 2

Julia Danielson Family - Dated August 21, 1927

Can You Identify Anyone?

Can any member identify any person in this photo? If you can identify someone please contact Karen Ziergert at rkziegert@yahoo.com



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GENEALOGY JEOPARDY will be played at the WAGS 30th Anniversary Celebration in October.

WATCH for Genealogy Jeopardy questions throughout this and the next Newsletters!



WAUPACA AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

will be CELEBRATING 30 years!

Watch for your invitation!

Join us in our celebration!

Name of photographs that were introduced in 1839 and are considered by certain photo historians as the beginning of photography. They were made in to the 1860s.

Here's The Date...

WAGS Programs for 2024

The programs will start at 9 a.m. with the business meeting to follow. Programs will be both in-person, at the Holly History and Genealogy Center and virtual via Zoom, unless otherwise stated.

Jun 8 (Saturday) - Round table till 10am if time allows. (Open hours from 10am till 2pm).

Jul 13 (Saturday) - Round table till 10am if time allows. (Open hours from 10am till 2pm).

Aug 10 (Saturday) - Round table till 10am if time allows. (Open hours from 10am till 2pm).

Sep 14 (Saturday) - *"Tools For Translating and Transcribing Genealogy"* by Thomas MacEntee.

Day-Long Workshop with Judy Russell (the Legal Genealogist)

Sep 7 (Saturday) - **9am-1:30pm**, Waupaca Public Library.

"Landing the Ancestors: Federal and State Land Records"

"Copyright Mythconceptions"

"That First Trip to the Courthouse"

"Polls, Personalty and Property - Making Sense of Tax Lists"

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society -

For more information contact WSGS website at <https://wsgs.org> **Need to Register for Webinars**

Webinars (2023) - (LIVE Webinars = FREE / Recorded Webinars = MEMBERS ONLY)

Jun 18 (Tuesday) - **7pm**, *"Breathing New Life Into Your Boring Ancestors"* by Melissa Barker.

Jul 16 (Tuesday) - **7pm**, *"Using U.S. Land Record in Genealogy"* by Karen A. Fortin.

Aug 20 (Tuesday) - **7pm**, *"Mysterious Codes: Passenger Manifests Letters and Numbers"* by Christine Cohen.

Sep 17 (Tuesday) - **7pm**, *"The Art of Slow Genealogy"* by Tara Shymanski.

WSGS Fall Conference

Oct 4 & 5 - Jefferson Street Inn & Event Center, 201 Jefferson St., Wausau, WI 54403.

Check <https://wsgs.org> for more information.

Appleton Public Library – Finding Your Ancestors Series (Virtual Program) To access the library's event calendar go to www.apl.org/calendar. You **MUST register** in advance. Go to Appleton Public Library's website... then Events, Adult Program, Calendar Month, click on the program, follow the registration information listed.

Jun 13 (Thursday) - **2pm**, *"Polls, Personalty and Property: Making Sense of Tax Lists"* by Judy G. Russell.

Jul 11 (Thursday) - **2pm**, *"Social and Civic Clubs: Discovering Your Ancestors' Community Involvement"* by Melissa Barker.

Aug 8 (Thursday) - **2pm**, *"Shaky Leaf Syndrome: Using Website Generated Hints More Effectively"* by Sara Cochran.

Sep 14 (Saturday) - **2pm**, *"Unlocking Your Swedish Family"* by Deanna Korte.

****** If you missed any of the Find Your Ancestors programs? Check out Appleton Public Library's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/aplref for recordings of past programs. NOT all programs are recorded.

Genealogy Series for Seniors (50+) at Thompson Center on Lourdes – 2331 E. Lourdes Dr., Appleton, WI 54915 (St. Bernadette Parish). The series occurs on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except December) at **1:00 PM** and features a different genealogy topic. **Pre-registration is required** through the Thompson Center by calling 920-939-3088.

Jun 25 (Tuesday) - **1pm**, *"City Directories"* by Katie Stilp.

Jul 23 (Tuesday) - **1pm**, *"Military Records"* by Katie Stilp.

Aug 27 (Tuesday) - **1pm**, *"Church Records"* by Katie Stilp.

Sep 24 (Tuesday) - **1pm**, *"Court Records"* by Katie Stilp.

Stevens Point Area Genealogical Society (SPAGS) -

Jun 5 (Wednesday) - **6pm**, Cemetery Walk - South New Hope (back cemetery - Methodist)
1410 Cty Rd T, Amherst Junction, WI 54407. 0.1 mile south of Trout Creek Road.
Find-A-Grave lists it as Nelsonville, WI.

This meridian is used in Wisconsin



Welcome New Members And Rejoining Members

New Members -

Linda Rollins
Terry Laib

Rejoining Members -

David Polzin
Kathy & Bob Graham
Annette Rietz

Please welcome them to our group!



Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of
WAGS members
Lane Streck and Glenda Rhodes.

2024 WAGS BRAT FRY FUNDRAISERS

Thursday June 06, 2024, at the **Holly Center** from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Thursday June 13, 2024, at the **Holly Center** from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Thursday June 20, 2024, at the **Holly Center** from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Thursday June 27, 2024, at the **Holly Center** from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday June 28, 2024, at **Fleet Farm, Waupaca** from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday July 05, 2024, at **Fleet Farm, Waupaca** from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Thursday July 25, 2024, at the **Holly Center** from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday August 30, 2024, at **Fleet Farm, Waupaca** from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Please add that anyone interested in helping with the Brat Fry fundraisers please contact Nancy Weasner, President of WAGS at: president@wagswi.org or place your name on the sign up sheet at the WAGS Membership Meeting.

From the Editor

Thank you to all that submitted items for this newsletter. ALWAYS looking for submissions!

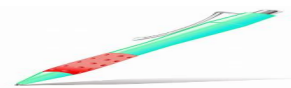
Something you would like to share...send it to me at sgoodacre@new.rr.com. Please make sure articles are in WORD format with .doc or .docx files, and pictures are in .jpeg format.



There may be members that do not know or could have forgot how to use some of these resources.
Sue Goodacre, Newsletter

The name of this type of township contains 36 sections of land one mile square.

President's Message



Greetings everyone,

WAGS is now into the Brat Fry Fundraiser season. Please refer to the list of Brat Fry dates in this newsletter. Remember that these Brat Fry Fundraisers are contingent on weather. Brat fry Fundraisers help our society to preserve our collection, offer educational, genealogical programs to both members and the public for free. In turn WAGS may obtain new members by making the public aware of what WAGS has to offer.

We have many researchers visit the Holly History Center. They not only look at the WAGS collections but, are using the hard copies of the Waupaca County Post and the Picture Posts to find information on their families. These hard copies of the Waupaca County Post and the Picture Posts have been donated to the Waupaca Historical Society.

Reminder that WAGS is holding a day long seminar on September 07, 2024, held at the Waupaca Public Library from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. featuring Judy Russell, the Legal Genealogist. Judy may be able to answer questions on what can be published in our genealogies or on websites, considering copyright laws. Please continue to check on the Waupaca Public Library, and WAGS Facebook pages and websites for more information on this day long seminar. You will need to register by August 31, 2024, by contacting WAGS or the Waupaca Public Library. This is free to all who attend in person and virtually. Lunch (which is optional) will be provided at a cost of \$12.00 per person, paid at the time of registration.

October 12, 2024, WAGS is celebrating 30 years as an organization. All past and present members are invited. Please remember to RSVP by September 14, 2024, if you will be attending this event as we will be having a catered meal and need to know how many will be attending. If you bring a guest or guests, please send \$16.00 for each guest to pay for their meal when you RSVP. Information about this event will be sent out later.

Sue Abrahamson has agreed to run for reelection as Treasurer. Sue Goodacre has stated that she will not be running for reelection as Vice President. Any WAGS member who is in good standing may nominate or be nominated. At any WAGS Membership Meeting before the election the nominee may be asked questions, by WAGS Members, regarding their intentions for the position they are nominated to. Any nominee will be asked to give a vision statement for WAGS.

WAGS continues to work on Indexing items to be put on the WAGS Website. Reminder that this is a long process so please be patient with us.

Have a Great Summer,
Nancy Weasner,
President of WAGS

Using this is one of the most important components for laying a solid foundation for your family history is recording your research.

What Does the Vice President DO?

As Vice President you

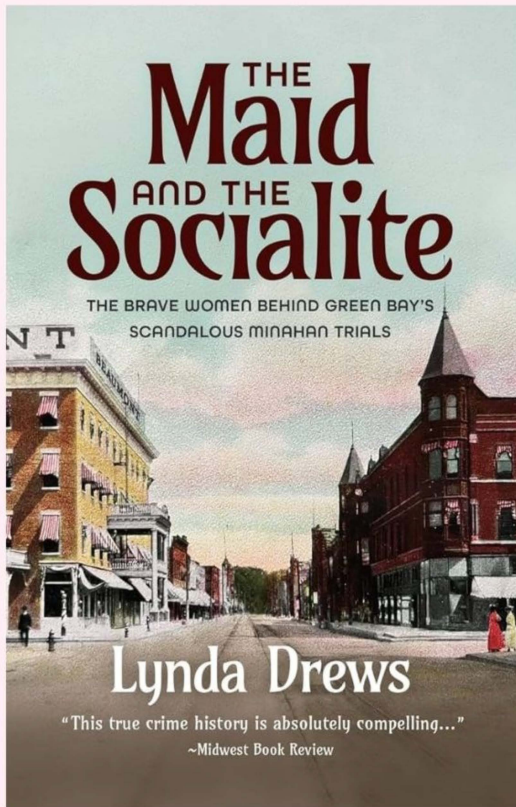
- perform the duties of the WAGS President when the WAGS President is not able to - example: run the membership meeting.
- attend WAGS membership meetings.
- attend WAGS Board/Executive Board meetings.
- share in the developing of WAGS programs.
- anything the WAGS President delegates to you.

This may seem like a lot, it is not.

This is known as proving the information you have from at least two of three sources.



BOOK REVIEW



The Maid and the Socialite:
The Brave Women Behind
Green Bay's Scandalous
Minahan Trials

by Lynda Drews

287 pp

c. 2023; Little Creek Press

ISBN 9781955656474

Available at local public libraries and Amazon

RATE



REVIEWER: SUE ABRAHAMSON

A Green Bay Historical True Crime Story

At the turn of the 20th century, cities around the world were rife with syphilis, yet no blood test could prove it. Two women in Green Bay, WI found their lives destroyed by that simple fact. Mary, an illiterate maid, and Mollie a college-educated socialite, fell victim to the physical violence and mental abuse of celebrated surgeon Dr. John R. Minahan. To silence them, he claimed they had that shameful and dreaded disease. But as medical science advanced and suffragettes marched for their rights, Mary and Mollie found the courage to stand up for theirs.

Whether or not you have any connection to Green Bay, you'll enjoy this compelling story as a glimpse into Wisconsin in the 1890-1920 era. Author Lynda Drews bought a home in Green Bay's historic Astor Park neighborhood and began research on the history of her new home only to unveil some dark secrets as what she discovered took a dramatic turn.

Within the pages of this story, you will discover connections to the Titanic and surprisingly Waupaca! There is a reader's guide in the back for book club use, too.

Aug. 1, 2, 3, 2024
MANAWA'S 150th Celebration

Schedule of Events

Scavenger Hunt During Summer School in June
Pre-order Historical Book during City Wide Rummage
- June 1st @ City Hall
Historical Photo Display at Manawa City Hall - **date TBD**

Thursday, August 1, 2024

Local Business Promotions - Chamber of Commerce
Kickoff Event 3:00 p.m. Triangle Park
Guest speakers: Rep. Kevin D. Petersen,
Sen. Joan Ballweg & Sen. Rachael A. Cabral-Guevara
Manawa Night Out - 4:30-7 p.m. - Lindsay Park with demonstrations
by Police, Fire, DNR, ThedaStar, & Manawa Cowboys practice
- kids games, food, drink, music & bouncy houses

Friday, August 2, 2024

LWHS Chorus & Band Concerts - with free will offering
@ Triangle Park - 6 p.m. - bring a lawn chair
followed by- FREE - Bluegrass Band - Ryan Thompson & Townline

Saturday, August 3, 2024

Time Capsule Ceremony - 2 p.m. at Triangle Park
Hometown Proud Parade - 4:00 p.m. - starts at LWHS
same route as Homecoming - ending at Triangle Park
~~+~~ ~~+~~ Food Trucks - serving starts at 4 p.m.
Copper Box Band - FREE - 6-9 p.m. on 2nd Street
Followed by Fireworks sponsored by Solarus

Genealogy Researching Tips & Tidbits

I belong to several different genealogy Facebook groups, subscribe to both free and some pay genealogy groups or speakers on YouTube, and get newsletters from others, which all give tips for genealogy research from time to time. In reading through these tips, I thought I would pass them along to you.

Search Those Old Boxes –

Old Records turn up in the oddest places. How many of us have gone to auctions and have seen a box with old books and no one is bidding on it, try taking a chance and bid. Example: You win the bid – inside the box you find an 1870s record of a country school. The final pages contained a census of the district's students and a program held in March. With these dates, research of local newspapers of the day found the program with student names. Consulting a contemporary atlas, the school's location and families were found. Comparing the landowners' names with the enrolled students and directors confirmed its authenticity. Search old boxes at auctions and ask auctioneers if they've found genealogy treasures.

Odd Pensions –

If you have ancestors that were in the military the Pension files are one of the most useful categories for researching military angles to your family history. Files from the Revolutionary War; War of 1812; and the Civil War are the most useful to large numbers of family genealogists and historians in the U.S. But did you know there are many other pensions tucked into local, state, and federal government records. Before 1775, some of the "Thirteen Colonies" granted pensions to disable veterans or surviving families of soldiers killed in Indian wars. Congress granted special pensions regarding service in the Revolution, Indian Wars, or other conflicts for people "falling through the cracks" in the strict pension laws of the time. Towns and cities might create pensions for injured firefighters or law officers, or survivor benefits for their families if the men were killed in the line of duty. Useful sources include online or published records of colonial or state legislatures, or town governments. [GenealogyBank's](#) Government Documents collection has numerous Congressional documents dealing with "special pensions".

Ships and Sailors of the World's Navies: 3decks.org –

I have heard of Fold3.com but not 3decks.org, have you? [Three Decks](#) is your "go to place" for naval history. Their indexes include warships from about 75 nation-states from Algeria to Venice, cross-indexed with ship type or class; captains; officers; sea battles; dockyards; and other categories of information. The site page notes that their databases include 29,350 ships, 50,409 seamen, and 1,073 actions/battles (numbers as of May 23, 2024). Besides the muster rolls of larger national navies, you can also search for pirate ships as well.

"Hits" of ships or mariners with the same name are arranged chronologically. Typically, one will find when and where a ship was launched; its dimensions and number of guns; known captains and other officers; a service history with the ship's stations and sea battles; ultimate fate; and a list of sources.

Dower Release in Land Records

When searching for your female ancestors, do not overlook U.S. land and property records. It was not uncommon for a bride's father to make a gift of land or property to the groom. Laws from the early 1900s and before required that no married man could sell property without his wife's consent. Laws in many locations required that a wife sign a dower release in the private presence of an official before a piece of property could be sold or transferred. This protected her in the event that she was widowed and took legal action to claim her dower right to remain on a portion of the property for her lifetime or until she might remarry. Dower law protected her, and the laws varied from state to state. As you look through land records, keep an eye open for the wife's name on deeds, bills of sales, and other documents related to real estate.

Sources

Internet Genealogy "Genealogy Research Tips & More, Vol 9, #18) (2022.02.09 email)
Internet Genealogy "Genealogy Research Tips & More, Vol 10, #16) (2023.09.22 email)

Submitted by Sue Goodacre

Additional censuses were taken in Wisconsin in different years than Federal Censuses and contain different information than in the Federal Censuses. The Wisconsin State Census in 1855 all Counties were enumerated except for what county?

Gene-A-Rama 2024 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin

by Sue Goodacre

As part of WinnebagoLand Genealogical Society, the hosting society for this year's Wisconsin State Genealogical Society's Gene-A-Rama, held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, I would like to thank everyone that attended either in person or virtually. There were about 100 people in total in attendance. I got to meet many new people and even saw some people from a couple of the other genealogy groups I am a member of, that was nice.

This conference was about writing, be it a book, legacy letter, personal history, or even your obituary. The speakers were very interesting and I learned a lot... now to find the time to do my writing.

The main speaker throughout the two-day conference, giving five presentations, was Renee Garrick, The Grammar Queen, and she told us how or why we may want to write a legacy letter, our memoir or personal history, start small instead of writing a book, also writing our own obituary. Renee also shared what you need to do to prepare to publish and to share your book with the future generations, if you choose to do so.



Also speaking at the conference on Friday April 12th, was Andrew Natvig, founder of Lasting Legacies, a video production company that specializes in working with families and people that want to document their history for generations to come. With technology constantly changing and evolving, creating a legacy film is a way to share and preserve you family history through storytelling, hopefully, engaging and keeping the attention of younger generations.

Chuck Pankratz talk was called "Ancestral Diggings: from pebbles to a gold mine". It was about starting out knowing nearly nothing about his ancestors, the pebbles, and what he found as he stumbled his way through seven generations, in the United States and Europe, the gold mine. His trip to Europe took him very close to the border between East Germany and Czechoslovakia, so close he could see the fence between countries and when he once whistled the German guards yelled back.

Russ Horton from Wisconsin Veterans Museum spoke a little bit on what the museum has to offer researchers. Then he showed examples of and talked about how soldiers wrote letters back home, in journals or diaries and later even memoirs and the soldier's family or even themselves have donated these items and they can be researched.

Tina LaFreniere of Related Faces Technologies gave her presentation virtually. Tina touched on how to safely digitize old photos, because some old photos can be irreparably damaged when exposed to too much light. She also talked about the basics of Related Faces, a facial recognition platform that can assist in your photo identification and how it works.



For more information -

Renee Garrick, The Grammar Queen – <https://thegrammarqueen.net/index.php/about/> or renee@thegrammarqueen.net. She does proofreading, copy editing, content writing for websites and much more.

Andrew Natvig, Lasting Legacies – <https://lastinglegaciesllc.com/about/>

Russ Horton – Russell.Horton@dva.wisconsin.gov

Tina LaFreniere, Related Faces – <https://relatedfaces.com>

Mortality, Agricultural, Manufacturing and what other Schedule is included for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 Censuses for Wisconsin?

In Past Print -

VOLUME XVII THE WAUPACA POST WAUPACA, WISCONSIN THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8, 1894, NO. 3
RURAL

Foster Dake makes almost daily trips to the Veteran's Home. We do not know what he is up to, and he won't tell, only that it is business connected with the Fur Co.

Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Quint and Miss Jessie returned home on Tuesday, from a month's visit at Wausau and Merrill. Mr. Q. says the trip has done him good, as he has gained twenty pounds in weight.

"Jim" Van Epps, of Waupaca, was here on Tuesday selling jewelry. But he swore that all was good that it was not part of Widgerson's stock. Jim is a good talker.

MANAWA

Ed Russell, of Ogdensburg, was in town last Saturday.

Sherman Wells came home from Texas on Monday evening.

Saturday and Sunday Mrs. Anna Evans entertained her cousin, Miss Gnerin who is teaching school four miles north.

C.B. Stanley came home from Marion on Saturday, returning to his school Monday morning.

Last Friday Mrs. Hanna gave a surprise party in honor of Mr. Hanna, it being his fifty-eighth birthday. All reported a pleasant evening.

HATTON

We are very reliably informed that Carrie Manny was recently married to a young man of Stevens Point. The wedding was all on the quiet but "murder will out." We wish them a very happy journey through life. We feel very sorry for H. and G.

Margaret and Robt. Blair of Sheridan visited their sister, Mrs. F.G.E. Poll, the first of the week. Mrs. Poll returned to Sheridan with them leaving Frank to "batch it" the balance of the week.

Submitted by Nancy Weasner

Miner who organizes the cleaning of coal after it is brought to the surface

Waupaca Area Genealogical Society (WAGS)

2024 Membership Form (January 1 to December 31)

_____ **NEW Member** _____ **RETURNING Member**
INFORMATION _____ **Published** _____ **Unpublished**

Digital Newsletters (via email)

_____ Individual (Society or Library) \$12
_____ Family (same address) \$15

Paper Newsletters (via Postal Mail)

_____ Individual (Society or Library) \$17
_____ Family (same address) \$20

Name _____ **Date** _____

Address _____ **Phone** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Email Address (PRINT CLEARLY) _____

Surnames Researching _____

Mail to: WAGS, 321 S. Main St., Waupaca, WI 54981

2024 Officers

President: Nancy Weasner
Vice President: Sue Goodacre
Co-Secretary: Carolyn West
Co-Secretary: Jeff Weasner
Treasurer: Sue Abrahamson

Committees

Accessions Chair: Jeff Weasner
Collections Chair: Jeff Weasner
Pioneer Certificate: Nancy Weasner and Sue Goodacre
Newsletter Editor: Sue Goodacre
Research Chair: Jeff Weasner, Pam Sannes and Nancy Weasner
Webmaster: Nicole Coonen

Membership

\$12 - Individual, Society or Library
\$17 - Individuals receiving newsletter via US Mail
\$15 - Family
\$20 - Family receiving newsletter via US Mail

The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. One (1) Quarterly Newsletter will be sent via email unless otherwise specified.

Please include your name, address, email address, phone number, and surnames you are currently researching.

Send payment to:

WAGS
321 S. Main St.
Waupaca, WI 54981

Newsletter

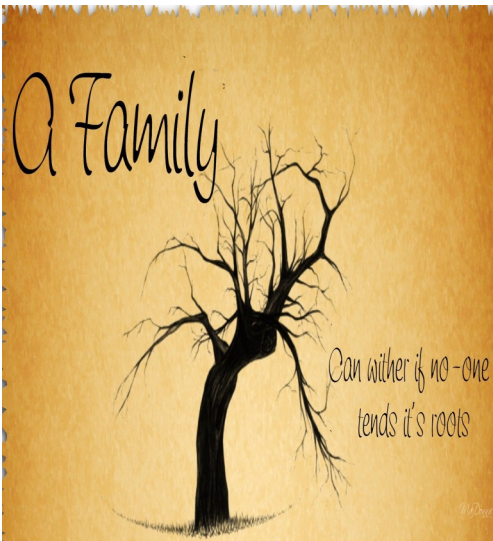
Articles, queries, etc., submitted for publishing in **WAGS Quarterly Newsletter** must reach the editor by the following **deadlines:**
March Issue - February 1, June Issue - May 1, September Issue - August 1 December Issue - November 1

Queries are FREE for members and \$1.50 for each non-member. Please be sure to include WHO, WHAT, WHERE and WHEN with each query send to sgoodacre@new.rr.com.

Please email submissions to sgoodacre@new.rr.com. Please put "**WAGS Newsletter**" in subject. Please make sure any submissions are in WORD format (doc or .docx) or a PDF and pictures are in jpeg format..

Neither WAGS, the editor/co-editor or contributors accept responsibility for errors of fact or judgment in materials submitted to WAGS's Newsletter. If errors are brought to the attention of the editor/co-editors, every attempt will be made to correct them

 Find us on Facebook [Waupaca Area Genealogical Society Group | Facebook](#)



In NEED of HELP!

I need help with a brick wall...

I want to find parents for my great-great-grandfather, Peter Smith. He lived in Waupaca county from 1852 to 1882, longer than anywhere else. **I hope you can help me to find anything at all about him, but especially, clues to his origins and his life before Wisconsin. A dream would be to find a photo of him, maybe in a larger group?**

FACTS: Peter Smith was born 24 Nov 1821 in Cavan, Ireland. [Unknown period of his life for the next 20+ years] He married Almira Dewey in Gouverneur, St. Lawrence, NY in 1846/7, stating that he was from Canada West (Ontario). The 1850 Census for Gouverneur shows him working as a clothier, their firstborn son named "Joel Parish Smith." (Almira had a son born earlier, named Ira Eleazer Spafford.) I have not found Peter Smith in trade or city directories, but he had assets of \$200 and his next-door neighbor, who ran the carding mill, had assets of \$3000. I'm guessing that Peter worked for him.



Check us out

on **FaceBook** 

[Waupaca Area Genealogical Society Group | Facebook](#)

OR on our **Website**

[Waupaca Area Genealogical Society \(wagswi.org\)](http://wagswi.org)

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The Smiths left New York for Racine, Wisconsin (1852) and then Waupaca, Wisconsin (by 1854 when he bought 40 acres of land). Some townships in Waupaca County are named for places in St. Lawrence County, New York; I am looking through other early landowners to see if there is a Cavan connection, but the move to Wisconsin seems motivated by Almira's family. Almira's father gave them land that he acquired via an assigned Military Bounty Land Warrant. The Smiths remained in Waupaca through the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses. Their second son was named "Francis William." An adultery suit that Peter Smith brought against his son-in-law in Waupaca documents the Smiths' departure from Wisconsin to British Columbia in 1882. Otherwise, they do not seem to have made the newspapers. I am still looking. Nearly all of this family were Baptists.

Peter Smith and Almira Dewey's children

Ira Eleazer (Spafford) - married Mary Ann Hinkle (Alpha Joel, Cora Josephine); descendants in Weyauwega
Joel Parish - married Ellen M. Sypher. She and their two children died. Joel moved to Mississippi where he married again and had a second family (Joel P. jr; Francis William, Emma Gertrude, Alva Dewey)

Adelpha Margaret married first James H. Kinney (Henry R., James Philip); second Joseph Toomire; lived in the State of Washington

(continued of page 4)

Here's The Date...

WAGS Programs for 2024

The programs will start at 9 a.m. with the business meeting to follow. Programs will be both in-person, at the Holly History and Genealogy Center and virtual via Zoom, unless otherwise stated.

Sep 14 (Saturday) - "Tools For Translating and Transcribing Genealogy" by Thomas MacEntee.

Oct 12 (Saturday) - **WAGS Celebrates 30 Years!** Business meeting at 9am, **Celebration after.**

Nov 9 (Saturday) - **WAGS Elections!** "Can I Use This In My Genealogy? What You Should Know About Copyright" by Thomas MacEntee.

Dec 13 - **NO Meeting.** Merry Christmas, Happy New Year - Stay safe and healthy this holiday season. See you in January!!

Day-Long Workshop with Judy Russell (the Legal Genealogist)

Sep 7 (Saturday) - **9am-1:30pm, Waupaca Public Library.**

"Landing the Ancestors: Federal and State Land Records"

"Copyright Mythconceptions"

"That First Trip to the Courthouse"

"Polls, Personalty and Property - Making Sense of Tax Lists"

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society -

For more information contact WSGS website at <https://wsgs.org> **Need to Register for Webinars**

Webinars (2023) - (LIVE Webinars = FREE / Recorded Webinars = MEMBERS ONLY)

Sep 17 (Tuesday) - **7pm**, "The Art of Slow Genealogy" by Tara Shymanski.

Oct 15 (Tuesday) - **7pm**, "Navigating Maritime Internet Research Resources: Uncovering Wisconsin's Seafaring Ancestors" by Peter McCracken.

Nov 19 (Tuesday) - **7pm**, "400,000 German POWs in the U.S.: How did they affect your community and family?" by Mary Risseuw.

Dec 17 (Tuesday) - **7pm**, "The American Revolution Beyond the US: French Canadian Patriots" by Bryna O'Sullivan.

Appleton Public Library – Finding Your Ancestors Series (Virtual Program) To access the library's event calendar go to www.apl.org/calendar. You **MUST register** in advance. Go to Appleton Public Library's website... then Events, Adult Program, Calendar Month, click on the program, follow the registration information listed.

Sep 14 (Saturday) - **2pm**, "Unlocking Your Swedish Family" by Deanna Korte.

Oct 12 (Saturday) - **2pm**, "Spirit of St. Louis: Military & Civilian Records at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)" by Tina Beard.

Nov 9 (Saturday) - **2pm**, "How Social Security Records Can Help With Brick Walls" by Roslyn Torella.

Dec 14 (Saturday) - **2pm**, "Not in Fine Fettle: Researching Your Ancestor's Medical History" by Jane Neff Rollins.

** If you missed any of the Find Your Ancestors programs? Check out Appleton Public Library's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/aplref for recordings of past programs. NOT all programs are recorded.

Genealogy Series for Seniors (50+) at Thompson Center on Lourdes – 2331 E. Lourdes Dr., Appleton, WI 54915 (St. Bernadette Parish). The series occurs on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except December) at 1:00 PM and features a different genealogy topic. Pre-registration is required through the Thompson Center by calling 920-939-3088.

Sep 24 (Tuesday) - **1pm**, "Court Records" by Katie Stilp.

Oct 22 (Tuesday) - **1pm**, "Probate Records" by Katie Stilp.

Nov 26 (Tuesday) - **1pm**, "Land Records" by Katie Stilp.

DECEMBER - NO MEETING





Welcome New Members And Rejoining Members

New Member - Christopher J. Stapel

Please welcome them to our group!

Vice President Nominee

My name is Linda Cross. I would like to be considered for the Vice President position of WAGS. I am a retired high school English teacher for 40 years. I was Department Chairman for the English Department at Hortonville High School for 20 years. I was assistant Curator at the Hutchinson House under Charlotte Nolan and then I became the Curator. I was on the Planning Commission for the Waupaca 's Bicentennial. Mary Davis and I worked with archives at the Hutchinson House. I handled publicity and gave tours of the Hutchinson House. I knew Wayne and Alta Guyant who were members of the Waupaca Historical Society and who did genealogical research. I attended seminars on protecting and preserving archives and I was Historian for the Wisconsin Council of English Teachers for 8 years.

Reminder of Two Money-Saving Tips for Genealogy

Who would not like to save some money nowadays? You know genealogy is not free, or it is not even really a cheap hobby. If you are on a tight budget, that does not mean you need to give up genealogy, you just need to accept this and address it more directly than someone with more financial resources.

#1 Create a Budget for Genealogy

A budget is always personalized. That means identifying your options, and their costs, for any research you want to do. You may have to pick and choose what to work on based on what you can afford. Every genealogist must make decisions like this. It's just part of genealogy.

Don't forget to investigate options like FamilySearch Centers/Affiliate libraries where your "cost" might be visiting in person. Don't overlook options like your local public library, local libraries in your ancestral locations with inexpensive records by mail (public libraries or societies with libraries), or your fellow local genealogy society members (who might provide a ride or have sources you could use in their personal collection).

#2 Find Every Clue

The tighter your budget, don't just hope to find someone, or their parents, by popping a few details in a search engine (randomly searching to see what "sticks"). Instead, you must learn more about the person or people you are searching for (find every clue) so you can target your search.

"Jumping the pond" for Americans, can make research much more expensive. You want to use U.S. resources to gather as much information as you can before incurring additional costs for overseas research (basically if you have inexpensive access to records relating to your more recent ancestors but want to move on to "more distant" research, first suck every clue from what you can easily and inexpensively use).

Submitted by Sue Goodacre

From the Editor

Thank you to all that submitted items for this newsletter. ALWAYS looking for submissions!



Something you would like to share...send it to me at sgoodacre@new.rr.com. Please make sure articles are in WORD format with .doc or .docx files, and pictures are in .jpeg format.

Sue Goodacre, Newsletter

(continued from page 1)

Azilpha Marion - married Carmi Beadleston and moved to British Columbia (Katie, Bertie, Daisy Bell).

Agnes Edith - married Leroy Harrington of Lind and remained at Lind. died 1900.

Axa Caroline - married George Jules Johnson (Clifford Lyle, Glen L., Bessie Alice, Norman John, Phyllis Agnes, Edrys Margaret, Betty Jane)

Philip, Joe, Guy, and Clarence died young

Edith Agnes - married Edward Samuel Bender (Nellie Agnes, stillborn baby, Fern Margaret, Eva Mae)

Perry Ray - married Winnie Harris (Eunice Olive, Hope Divine, Leroy Hosea, Wilfred Perry, Gale Adrian)

Eva Mae - married George Edger Anderson (George Harrington, Leroy Andrew)

Leila Grace - married Robert Louis Bender (Gordon Lawrence)

Letitia Susan - At age 14, had a son by her sister's husband, Leroy Harrington. Moved without the child to British Columbia and at age 16 married Thomas Kidd.

The child left behind

Peter and Almira Smith left Wisconsin in the spring of 1882, after the birth of young Letitia's son by her sister's husband, Leroy Harrington, and before the final court testimony against Leroy for adultery. They did not take the boy. Document and photo evidence suggest that he may have grown up as James Howard Smith with the Samuel D. Smith family of Fremont. Or, he may have been left anywhere between Waupaca and British Columbia.

Peter Smith died in British Columbia, 18 March 1885. I have access to many newspaper and genealogical databases, including Ancestry All Access, American Ancestors, GenealogyBank, Heritage Quest, etc... A group of my DNA matches in Ontario is active on Facebook genealogy sites, and we correspond. A cousin compiled a list of Peter Smith descendants, and I am gradually asking each if they know more, have photos, etc.

CLUES: British Columbia and Wisconsin descendants tell same story: that Peter was orphaned by shipwreck on the emigration from Ireland at the age of 2 (BC) or 8 (WI). If this is true, his surname may not really be Smith? If it is false, when did he come to Canada? An 1852 Declaration of Intent filed at Racine, Wisconsin says a Peter Smith entered the United States at Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence, NY in 1842. An 1859 naturalization index record says a Peter Smith came to the US under 18 years of age. I'm not sure if either or both of these is my Peter Smith.

DNA: With a good set of cousins tested, I've been able to piece out matches along my Peter Smith/Almira Dewey line. One set of approx. 30 cM matches (connection at about GGGgrandparents, which is the level I'm seeking) leads to a "Joel Parish" in Yonge, Leeds, Ontario, but his family were Loyalists from Connecticut with deep, New England history. (Foster parents?) A different cluster at 107 cM and 30-45 cM have Leeds, Ontario trees that include Smiths from Cavan (John b 1800, Michael b 1803), but have in common a couple named Halliday... all still from Leeds, Ontario.

Mystery clue: William Charles Rothwell (1877-1954) was buried with Peter and his wife in British Columbia and had his name added to their tombstone. We have no idea who he was; he was born in Ontario. I have a DNA match with a living Rothwell in Cavan, Ireland who is a helper on IrelandXO, where I posted queries. I have DNA at Ancestry, FTDNA, MyHeritage, 23andMe, LivingDNA, and GEDmatch, and I use DNA Painter and Visual Phasing.

IRELAND: I need a parish to find a Smith in Cavan Ireland. The 1821 Census for Cavan is partial. There were 1000+ Smith families in Cavan at that time. I use IrelandXO, FindMyPast, Irish Newspapers...

FAMILIES

Smith, Dewey, Sweet, Harrington, Vaughn/Vaughan, Beadleston; My family tree, "Bender Pine" is public on Ancestry, user name P517B76.

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS:

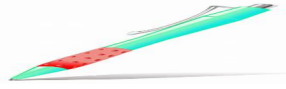
@ 1860 Census, Town of Waupaca: Seth Thompson, James Cameron, Timothy M. Baker, George Faulkner, PETER SMITH, John Faulks, Robert Baker, Thomas Durant, Chester Gurley, Henry Smith

@ 1870 Census, Town of Lind: John Zastrow, Fred Vierke, Jacob Sipher, John Reynolds, PETER SMITH, Otis Sanders, Henry Schroeder, Rudolph Schwolow, George Stearns

@ 1880 Census, Town of Lind: C. L. Thomas, Martin Huggett, P.H. Hammond, A. H. Chandler, PETER SMITH, Hosea Harrington, H.A. Austin, Marcus Burnham, Alonzo Vaughan, Charles Beadleston

Thanks, everyone, for taking time to read this and for offering what help you can.
Patti Bender

President's Message



Hope your summer has been going well.

Has anyone attended a Family Reunion? Family Reunions can be a wealth of family information. You might share stories of family members that others may have not heard before. Family may bring their family genealogies to compare with others and share lists of all the Family Reunions and those who attended. Then there are the photos. As we go through these photos, we reminisce about the event that is represented in these photos, learning about the people in the photos whether they be family members, neighbors, classmates, or friends. Then you pass around those photos of unidentified people in the photos asking if anyone recognizes these people. Sometimes the people stated in the photo are incorrect and need to be changed. Then you just sit around laughing about some of the stories families have shared with each other. When sitting down to eat some of the food could be recipes handed down through the generations with the recipes shared.

Family reunions are a time for family to gather and share the good times and the bad. We also reminisce with those of our family that are present and think about the ones who aren't there and the ones who have passed on.

Congratulations to those who hold Family Reunions. If you haven't held Family Reunions now might be a good time to start. They can be as simple as a small get-together at someone's house, or as elaborate as holding them at a large venue whether it be a building or at a park. You can invite immediate family members or as large as both sides of your parents' relations. Some families even hold (Cousins Reunions.) However, if you choose to hold a reunion, don't forget to have the family sign in and take lots of pictures for the future generations to look back on.

Respectfully,
Nancy Weasner,
President of WAGS

Waupaca Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) 2025 Membership Form (January 1 to December 31)

_____ NEW Member _____ RETURNING Member
INFORMATION _____ Published _____ Unpublished

Digital Newsletters (via email)

_____ Individual (Society or Library) \$12
_____ Family (same address) \$15

Paper Newsletters (via Postal Mail)

_____ Individual (Society or Library) \$17
_____ Family (same address) \$20

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address (PRINT CLEARLY) _____

Surnames Researching _____

Mail to: WAGS, 321 S. Main St., Waupaca, WI 54981

2024 Officers

President: Nancy Weasner
Vice President: Sue Goodacre
Co-Secretary: Carolyn West
Co-Secretary: Jeff Weasner
Treasurer: Sue Abrahamson

Committees

Accessions Chair: Jeff Weasner
Collections Chair: Jeff Weasner
Pioneer Certificate: Nancy Weasner and Sue Goodacre
Newsletter Editor: Sue Goodacre
Research Chair: Jeff Weasner, Pam Sannes and Nancy Weasner
Webmaster: Nicole Coonen

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\$12 - Individual, Society or Library
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\$15 - Family
\$20 - Family receiving newsletter via US Mail

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Please include your name, address, email address, phone number, and surnames you are currently researching.

Send payment to:

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Waupaca, WI 54981

Newsletter

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March Issue - February 1, June Issue - May 1, September Issue - August 1 December Issue - November 1

Queries are FREE for members and \$1.50 for each non-member. Please be sure to include WHO, WHAT, WHERE and WHEN with each query send to sgoodacre@new.rr.com.

Please email submissions to sgoodacre@new.rr.com. Please put "**WAGS Newsletter**" in subject . Please make sure any submissions are in WORD format (doc or .docx) or a PDF and pictures are in jpeg format..

Neither WAGS, the editor/co-editor or contributors accept responsibility for errors of fact or judgment in materials submitted to WAGS's Newsletter. If errors are brought to the attention of the editor/co-editors, every attempt will be made to correct them

 Find us on Facebook [Waupaca Area Genealogical Society Group | Facebook](#)



Genealogy Researching During the Holidays

By Sue Goodacre



During the holidays there is not a lot of time for genealogy, we are busy shopping, baking, wrapping presents, traveling and more, but do not let all that stop you. When you think about it, Christmas and the holidays in general are a great time of year to research your genealogy and family history as the family gathers.

Have you considered what traditions your family has? Religious holidays such as Christmas create their own records and their own traditions. These traditions can be handed down through the generations. What can the traditions and associated records tell you about your ancestors?

As genealogists and family historians we need to be careful, so we do not miss their meanings entirely or lose out on the valuable records and resources to find our ancestors.

Understanding your ancestor's religious or secular celebrations is important in knowing where to find holiday themed records.

While most of these records revolve around the Christmas holidays, your ancestors of a different faith would have generated similar records based on their specific religious holidays and customs. By taking the time to learn what holiday and customs your ancestors celebrated, you will then be prepared to search for the records.

Oral Histories

Family is gathering, telling stories and re-living earlier days. So, the holidays are a good time to gather oral histories or create oral history recordings. At the dinner table ask family members to share a favorite holiday memory, their earliest recollection, their favorite gift, or their most disastrous cooking experience. A smartphone can make it easy to record oral histories or stories.

Christmas Card or Letters

Whether you love them or hate them, Christmas cards and letters have been around for a long time. Be sure to check any envelopes for return addresses and postmarks. Postmarks can help you track your ancestor's location. Photograph Christmas cards are even better because these may be the only photograph you have of an ancestor. The letters can provide family details and stories that can let you get to know your ancestors.



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Check us out

on **FaceBook** 

[Waupaca Area Genealogical Society Group | Facebook](#)

OR on our **Website**

[Waupaca Area Genealogical Society \(wagswi.org\)](http://wagswi.org)



Here's The Date...

WAGS Programs for 2024

The programs will start at 9 a.m. with the business meeting to follow. Programs will be both in-person, at the Holly History and Genealogy Center and virtual via Zoom, unless otherwise stated.

Dec 13 - NO Meeting. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year - Stay safe and healthy this holiday season. See you in January!!

For 2025

Jan 11 - Beginning Genealogy and Vital Records.

Feb 8 - "Medical History", by Jane Neff Rollins.

Mar 8 - "Railroad Records and Railroad History: Methods for Tracking", by Paula Stuart-Warren.

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society -

For more information contact WSGS website at <https://wsgs.org> **Need to Register for Webinars**

Webinars (2024) - (LIVE Webinars = FREE / Recorded Webinars = MEMBERS ONLY)

Dec 17 (Tuesday) - 7pm, "The American Revolution Beyond the US: French Canadian Patriots" by Bryna O'Sullivan.

In 2025 -

Jan 21 - "Aspects of Adoption" by Dr. Penny Walters.

Feb 18 - "Pinning Down Your Ancestors' Locations" by Pam Vestal

Appleton Public Library – Finding Your Ancestors Series (Virtual Program) To access the library's event calendar go to www.apl.org/calendar. You **MUST register** in advance. Go to Appleton Public Library's website... then Events, Adult Program, Calendar Month, click on the program, follow the registration information listed.

Dec 14 (Saturday) - 2pm, "Not in Fine Fettle: Researching Your Ancestor's Medical History" by Jane Neff Rollins.

** If you missed any of the Find Your Ancestors programs? Check out Appleton Public Library's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/aplref for recordings of past programs. NOT all programs are recorded.

Genealogy Series for Seniors (50+) at Thompson Center on Lourdes – 2331 E. Lourdes Dr., Appleton, WI 54915 (St. Bernadette Parish). **The series occurs on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except December) at 1:00 PM** and features a different genealogy topic. **Pre-registration is required** through the Thompson Center by calling 920-939-3088.

DECEMBER - NO MEETING



*With Heartfelt
Sympathy*



Our sympathies go out to
the family and friends of

Darlene (Robbert) Ryan

Darlene was passionate about genealogy and was inducted into the Virginia V. Irvin Hall of Fame for her work with genealogy. Darlene was a Charter Member of the Waupaca Area Genealogical Society since 1994. Darlene was a past President, Vice President and Treasurer for Waupaca Area Genealogical Society.

She will be deeply missed.



Welcome New Members And Rejoining Members

New Members - Terry Laib, Susan Voeks,
Kathy Woods, Lee Trainor

Rejoining Member - Shirley Soto

Please welcome them to our group!

(continued from page 1)



Address Books

Those of us that remember the time before smartphones, remember that we stored all our important phone numbers and addresses in the family address book. Do you – or someone in the family – have an old address book? Carefully, go through the old family address book. Make note of family member address and any extra notes by any name.

Christmas Ornaments

Look at the Christmas tree where you and your family are gathering, are there any interesting or old ornaments. Ask about them. Does your family have special heirloom ornaments? What is the story behind those ornaments? Are they unique to a specific culture? Do you understand the family culture and how it impacts your research?

Special Recipes

What does your family eat for Christmas dinner? Are there culturally specific dishes that you have each year? Do you know the history of these dishes and why they are important to your family? Research any special foods and dishes to see what you can learn about how and why your ancestors celebrated with these foods.

Church Christmas/Holiday Programs

Do you remember being part of a Christmas/Holiday program at your church when you were younger? It is likely your ancestors did too. Find out if any of those Christmas/Holiday program handouts were saved either by your family or in the church archives. Find not only your ancestors, but also collateral ancestors and families. Use these to place ancestors in place and time.

School Christmas/Holiday Programs

I do not think there is a parent that does not save some of their child's school artwork or school programs. Just like church programs, school Christmas and holiday programs provide information on the community as well as placing families and children in time and place. If you find a school program tucked in the family memorabilia, seek out other school records to use in your genealogy research.

From the Editor

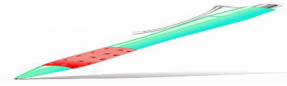
Thank you to all that submitted items for this newsletter. ALWAYS looking for submissions!



Something you would like to share...send it to me at sgoodacre@new.rr.com. Please make sure articles are in WORD format with .doc or .docx files, and pictures are in .jpeg format.

Sue Goodacre, Newsletter

President's Message



In 2024, WAGS celebrated 30 Years as an organization.

WAGS held a Day-Long Workshop to help celebrate our 30 years. It was held at the Waupaca Public Library. Ten WAGS Members and one visitor attend in person and 16 visitors attend virtually. In addition to the Day-Long Workshop WAGS held additional Programs during the year.

We have digitized and accessioned all Family History/Genealogies in the filing cabinet at the Holly Center and relocated many to the shelves so we can add and additional 8 boxes of donated Family Genealogies. WAGS has also digitized and indexed the Wayne and Alta Guyant Obituaries Volumes 1 – 7, and Scrapbooks Volumes 1 – 11. We will be adding these to the WordPress Website.

WAGS joined the Wisconsin State Historical Society in which WAGS applied for and received a \$700.00 matching grant to help purchase items for preserving WAGS Family Histories/Genealogies and many other materials in our WAGS Collection.

Membership approved updating the WAGS Logo to better represent the Waupaca Area Genealogical Society. WAGS also updated the Brochure.

WAGS created a 30 Year Anniversary Quilt which is hung in the meeting room at the Holly History and Genealogy Center. Also, a framed list of WAGS Officers since 1994 was created and is hung there also.

WAGS held Brat Fry Fundraisers which raised \$2,904.98 plus \$626.15 in donations. These funds help WAGS provide more programs and help with preservation of WAGS materials. During the Brat Fry Fundraisers, WAGS Brochures were handed out and family history/genealogical conversations were held with customers.

WAGS 2025 Programs are:

1. JANUARY 11, 2025---Beginning Genealogy and Vital Records
2. FEBRUARY 08, 2025---Medical History with Jane Neff Rollins---Why should a genealogist try to research the health of their ancestors? After all, medical conditions don't help with identifying the parents of your 3rd great-grandfather. But spending research time exploring medical conditions can help you 1) distinguish two people of same name as you analyze and correlate evidence to meet the Genealogical Proof Standard: 2) Build a profile of an ancestor beyond when they were "hatched, matched or dispatched"; 3) Expand what you know about your family health history. Learn to find clues to a medical condition, and when preserved and accessible (which many aren't), and the documents that confirm it.
3. MARCH 08, 2025---Railroad Records and Railroad History: Methods for Tracking with Paula Stuart Warren---Did Great Grandpa or another family member traverse the nation as he worked for the railroad? For which railroad did they work? Where did it run? Are there railroad records which may provide personal data? Visuals and references demonstrate the wealth of historic materials available all across the U.S. The railroads helped develop places and businesses. When the lecture is over you will know where to turn to find out more about the railroad, its records, and where to find them.
4. APRIL 12, 2025---Family Search---vs---Ancestry.com
5. MAY 10, 2025---Tin Eye Program more information at a later date.
6. JUNE 14, 2025---Using Social Security Records to Break Brick Walls with Roslyn Torella---Social Security Records can provide clues to your ancestor's name, origin and social history. Learn what records are available and how to find and interpret them.---Open hours.
7. JULY 12, 2025---Open Hours
8. AUGUST 09, 2024---Pioneer Certificate with Karla Leppen. Open Hours
9. SEPTEMBER 13, 2025---Family Tree Maker and Roots Magic
10. OCTOBER 11, 2025---Family History Month

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

11. NOVEMBER 08, 2025---ELECTIONS---Program---Military and Civilian Records with Tina Beard---
 The National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis has many records pertinent to your soldier's services. OMPF's Official Military Personnel Files, monthly regimental rolls, hospital records, military court materials and graves registration service files all offer clues into your veteran's military experience. NPRC also houses civilian and government employment files as well. Was your grandfather in the Civilian Conservation Corps? Was your mother a Postmaster? These records are available as well! Tina will describe the types of information to be found in these records and how you can access them in person.

Here are some Volunteer opportunities

Anyone who wishes to submit articles to the WAGS Newsletter, please send them to the Newsletter Editor--- Susan Goodacre at: sgoodacre@new.rr.com.

For the following, please contact Nancy Weasner at: njweasner@gmail.com if interested.

- Volunteer for open hours at the Holly Center on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Helping prepare obituaries to be accessioned.
- Help with preservation of WAGS Collections.
- Brat Fry Fundraisers
- Help with Cemetery Walk, 2025
- Help with the Yuletide Trail
- Help create posters for the WAGS Programs and Events
- Volunteer to hand out a poster for WAGS upcoming Programs to places other than businesses, such as Churches, Town Halls, etc.

Promoting WAGS by visiting the WAGS Facebook page by liking it and sharing it with others.
I wish a heartfelt thank you to all volunteers who have supported WAGS.

May God Bless you in 2025,
Nancy Weasner,
President of WAGS

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Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address (PRINT CLEARLY) _____

Surnames Researching _____

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