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Gen News

The newsletter of the Douglas County Genealogy Club
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Editor: Jane Sigfrids

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Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, at 6:00 p.m. at the Superior Public Library. The program will feature a presentation by Cathy Tonkin on writing and publishing a family history.

Meeting topics for 2017

January 3 – Business Meeting
February 7 – Cathy Tonkin on writing and publishing a family history (*postponed due to weather*)
March 7 – Cathy Tonkin on writing and publishing a family history (*see note in the meeting minutes that follow*)
April 4 – LDS Research Center in Duluth
May 2 – Presentation on Superior Fire Department history at the Old Firehouse & Police Museum
June 6 – Open
July 11 - Cemetery Walk at the Jewish Cemetery
August 1 – Open
September 5 – Meeting at the Douglas County Historical Society
October 3 – DAR
November 7 – Richard I. Bong Center
December 5 -Holiday Potluck

February Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Douglas County Genealogy Club was called to order by President Jim Mattson. Officers present were Jim Mattson, President and Robin Barrett, Treasurer. Officers absent were Jan Resberg, Vice President and Dave Johnson, Secretary.

A motion to approve the January minutes as printed in the newsletter with addendum was made by Jane Sigfrids and seconded by Robin Barrett.

Robin Barrett gave the Treasurer's report and spoke about the transition of the Treasurer's office. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Emily Fredrick and seconded by Judy Aunet. The motion passed.

It was noted that although Jane Sigfrids is no longer on the Executive Board, she remains on the Program Committee.

Planners for the Genealogy Lock- In are: Judy Aunet, Lorrie Madden, Jane Sigfrids, Jackie Plunkett and Leslie Mehle who is representing the Superior Library. Judy Aunet would like to see a representation from the members who will be helping with the lock in and members who would be attendees. Lee Grady from the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society will be keynote speaker. Jane Sigfrids made a motion for DCGC to pay for his lunch; it was seconded by Emily Fredrick. The motion passed.

Judy Aunet stated visits to DCGC's Facebook page were up 118%.

The Financial Review Committee, consisting of Marlene Case, Dave Johnson and Lorrie Madden, met with outgoing Treasurer Jane Sigfrids and incoming Treasurer Robin Barrett. The Financial report was in order. A motion made by Judy Aunet to replace Marlene Case on the Financial Review Committee with Jane Sigfrids was

seconded by Emily Fredrick. The motion passed.

President's Report: Jim Mattson will continue discussion with Mark Liebert, Douglas County Board Chairman regarding the Parkland Cemetery.

Old business: Jane Sigfrids was informed by Briana Fiantt that the Bong Center will soon have a new director.

New business: Judy Aunet reported on the presentation from DCGC to the DAR at the Bong Center. The presentation would require a couple of people; one person to speak about DCGC and one person to speak about resources that are available. Judy Aunet spoke again about the need for volunteers to index vital records at the library.

Cathy Tonkin was unable to attend the February meeting but will give her presentation at the March 7th meeting about writing and publishing a family history.

Jane Sigfrids motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:45. It was seconded by Judy Aunet and passed by voice vote.

Members present: Jane Sigfrids, Jim Mattson, Robin Barrett, Don Erickson, Judy Aunet and Emily Fredrick

Respectfully submitted by Emily Fredrick, acting secretary for February 7th meeting

Dues Reminder

Membership dues are now payable for 2017 and are \$10; failure to renew your membership by the end of March will result in the removal of your name from the newsletter subscription list beginning with the April issue. Dues can be sent to Robin Barrett, the new treasurer, at 313

Homecroft Ct, Superior, WI 54880. Checks should be made out to DCGC.



Upcoming Events

DCGC= Douglas County Genealogy Club
TPGS=Twin Ports Genealogical Society
WSGS= Wisconsin State Genealogical Society
MNGS= Minnesota Genealogical Society
WHS= Wisconsin Historical Society

DCGC

The Club will present the second Annual "Foolin' Around with Your Family Tree," Library Lock-In on Friday, March 31, 2017, from 4:45 to 8:30 p.m. Registration forms are available at the library or email mehlel@superiorlibrary.org to sign up. Deadline for registration is March 24, 2017.

This year's keynote speaker is Wisconsin Historical Society archivist Lee Grady, who will give a presentation about searching for ancestors in the records of county and state institutions, including prisons, schools, hospitals, and sanatoriums. There will also be an optional "breakout" session with David Johnson, who will share his tips and tricks for "Foolin' Around with Ancestry.com."

Participants will have plenty of time for independent genealogy research using the library's many genealogy resources like newspapers, census records, city directories, and more. Library staff and volunteers from the DCGC will be on hand to answer questions and provide one-on-one assistance to participants. Attendees are welcome to bring their own laptop or device, or they may use one of the library computers to access online genealogy resources.

Attendees are welcome to bring a bag lunch, or they may request that a box lunch be provided. They can indicate their sandwich selection on the registration form and bring \$8 to the event (cash only) to cover the cost of the lunch. The box lunch includes a sandwich, chips, potato salad, and pickle. Beverages will be provided by the Friends of the Library.

(Thanks to Leslie Mehle for providing the lock-in information.)

Reminder: Please let me know if you will be coming to the lock-in as either a volunteer or an attendee. You can email me at jnjsig@yahoo.com.

TPGS

The TPGS will be hosting a workshop in the Green Room at the Duluth Public Library on Saturday, March 11, 2017 from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. The title of the event is **Family History, DNA and Me... A Day of Discovery**. It is free and open to the public; no registration is required.

WSGS

Tuesday, March 21

I Found My Family on the Internet! Now What Do I Do? (WSGS Webinar)
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Presenter: Jill Morelli

Webinar Description: When you find that "fluttering leaf" attached to a possible ancestor, what do you do? When you are ready to post genealogical information on a website, how do you decide where to post your family information? Do you accept the answer given to you by the leaf? What is your decision process for where to post? We will review three levels of analysis so that you can make an informed decision on whether that fluttering leaf is one you ought to accept, or

whether that website is where you want to post. We will start by reviewing the clues given us by the web address, and then analyze the platform, the contents and, finally, the evidence. Examples illustrate the risks and the rewards of use of information we find online.

- **Register**
at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4170405102061454851>

After registering, you will receive an email with information and a link to join us the night of the webinar. Please remember that this is a first-come, first-served webinar, and that there are a limited number of spots to view the webinar live. Registering does not hold a spot for you. Those that log in first will be admitted to the webinar.

Information for the 2017 WSGS Gene-o-Rama is now available on the **WSGS website at wsgs.org**. The event will be held **April 6-8, 2017 at the Chula Vista Resort & Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells.**

MNGS

Saturday, March 18

Tracing Immigrant Ancestors (Classes)

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Minnesota Genealogical Society Classroom

Tracing Immigrant Ancestors: Don't Cross the Pond Till You're Ready

Researching overseas without learning all you can from sources on this side of the ocean sets you up for frustration! This session helps you work smarter by identifying the clues in records of your ancestors and their family/friends, associates, and neighbors and using DNA to find your immigrant ancestor's place of origin so you can target your searches overseas.

Instructor: Lois Abromitis Macken, Ph.D., is a professional genealogist focusing on American

and English research. Lois has bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in history, and has studied at major genealogical institutes. She writes for Minnesota Genealogist and The Septs, teaches about genealogical records and methods, and serves as President of the Northland Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Register online: To get the member price use the code that can be found on your "Members Login" page. (Further info can be found at mngs.org.)



Every attempt is made to keep **Upcoming Events** pertinent and timely. We invite all area genealogy organizations to submit their events with contact information for publication here to jnjsig@yahoo.com.

As always, if you have additional dates for the calendar or if you find a date in error, please email me at jnjsig@yahoo.com.



DCGC Newspaper Indexing Project Catch-Up

In 2008, the DCGC decided to take on a project to assist the Superior Public Library in its indexing of the Superior Evening Telegram for its vital statistics database. The Club decided they would start recording vital statistics in the 1908 newspapers and progressive work toward the data gathered already by the Library from the

1950's to present day. 1908 was selected because the State of Wisconsin 1800's vital statistics data ended at 1907. Club members would survey each issue of the Superior Telegram and record births, deaths and marriages found in the issues, and log the event

and its location on a record sheet. The data from the record sheets was then entered into a spreadsheet in a database format. The intent is to make it easier for family researchers to find the information while they used the library, and possibly sell the index to out-of-town researchers as a revenue source for the Club.

The project started its first year with a good start, with several members logging over 1300 birth, death and marriage notations in the 1908 Superior Telegram. Unfortunately, interest in the project lost momentum and no new work has been done on the project in many years.

Process: The member(s) would select a month of the year to review the newspapers on microfilm at the Superior Public Library, looking for mention of births, deaths and marriages, and occasionally a significant anniversary, etc. They would record the name, type of event and the date and location in the newspaper. The club member made notation of each item on a standard form, then a member entered the data into a spreadsheet that can be converted to a database.

If Club members have an interest in resuming the database, the months of January, May and September 1908 have been started but not completed. Going forward, the Club should decide what years should be considered as priority years and train the members in gathering data. The Club should also determine if any changes are needed to the methods, particularly considering that the newspapers are available on home computers. The Superior Telegram does not appear to be available on Ancestry.com, Newspapers.com or GenealogyBank.com databases for historical newspapers, but an early collection of the

Superior papers is available on Newspaper Archive.com (available free via Badgerlink with a library card) for the Superior Chronicle (1855-1863) and Superior Farmers' Telegram (1895).

(Thanks to Carol Lindberg for this update)



News from the Internet

The Big 4: Comparing Ancestry, Findmypast, FamilySearch and MyHeritage

Dick Eastman · February 21, 2017 · Online Sites, Video & Television · 21 Comments

You may have asked, “Which is the best online genealogy service for me to use?” Or perhaps you want to know the best two or three services. Sunny Morton gave a presentation about these four online powerhouses at the recent RootsTech2017 conference that may answer your questions.

The one-hour four-minute presentation was videotaped and is now available as a video on the RootsTech.org web site. I suspect this video will answer most of your questions. Topics covered include cost, record types, geographic coverage, genetic testing, DNA matching, search flexibility, languages supported, mobile-friendly, automated matching, and a lot more. Sunny provides the most information about these four sites that I have ever seen in any other one document or video.

As Sunny states, “No site has it all.”

This is a keeper! I have been using all four of these web sites for years and yet I learned several new facts about them, thanks to Sunny’s online video presentation. I suspect you will learn some things as well if you watch the video.

The Big 4: Comparing Ancestry, Findmypast, FamilySearch and MyHeritage with Sunny Morton is available at <https://www.rootstech.org/videos/sunny-morton>.

Also, look at the size of that audience!

(Editor’s note: This is a very interesting, informative lecture. However, as many people commented on Dick Eastman’s blog, the accompanying handout that was referred to throughout the presentation is not available on the RootsTech website.)

