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Gen News

The newsletter of the Douglas County Genealogy Club

Volume 9:10
Editor Vicki Garro

October 2014
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Meeting Date

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 7 at 5 pm at the Superior Public Library

On the agenda:

Minutes

Treasurer's report

Committee Reports

New Business

Change of Meeting time

Any other Business



Minutes

September minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm by President Vicki Garro. No Secretary minutes. Treasurer's report shows a balance of 1856.01 in savings and 15.60 in checking. Approved as presented. There were no committee reports.

Vicki will use gmail in the future and hopes that solves the newsletter delivery problems.

September 9th there will be a board meeting at 5:45 at Perkins.

Election of officers in January. We will need to elect a new vice president and a new treasurer as neither can be reelected.

Leadership conference at Marshfield Clinic sponsored by WSGS. Cost is \$10 per person.

October 18, genealogy Jamboree at the Duluth Public Library green room, will focus on Scandinavian genealogy and is co sponsored by TPGS and the library.

Duluth Public Library has new genealogy DVD's

MN North Star Conference with be October 3-4. Judy Russell will be speaker. Oct 18 in South St Paul will be SWEDGen on tour.

WSGS fall conference in WI Rapids on Oct 18 Jay Fonkert is speaker.

Thank you from Superior Public Library for Family Tree Magazine

We will be doing an ancestor swap in November East End Fn Day is Sept 20 for 10-3 pm Douglas County Historical society Heritage Day Sept 20 3-6 pm

Bobbi spoke about Tower Ave opening- encouraging people to tell their stories.

Jackie encouraged people to visit Nordic Center on Lake Ave in Duluth.

Carlton County has a workshop Sept 25 at the library. Cost is \$99 + \$20 for supplies.

The program was exhibits from the county Fair displayed and encouraging all to display next year. Motion to adjourn by Jan, seconded by Karen Smoley.

Attended by Judy Aunet, Buzz Buczynski, Marlene Case, Nancy Crider, Emily Fredrick, Vicki Garro, Bobbi Hoyt, Phoebe Martens, Sandy Novak, Jackie

Plunkett, Bernie Reger, Jan Resberg, Jane Sigfrids,
Karen Smoley.

Refreshment list: October- Karen; November- Jan;
December Potluck Party.



Upcoming Meetings and Events

Looking for items for the 2014 calendar. If you know
of any events, please email them to the address below.

This is a work in progress. We invite all area genealogy
organizations to submit their events with contact
information for publication here to
vicgarro@centurytel.net

DCGC= Douglas County Genealogy Club
TPGS=TwinPorts Genealogical Society
WSGS= Wisconsin State Genealogical Society
MGS= Minnesota Genealogical Society

Be sure to check out the Minnesota Genealogical
Society Calendar at
<http://www.mngs.org/calendar.shtml> For a listing of
other club events in the Twin Cities Area. Pay special
attention to who is staffing the MNGS Library. Each of
the affiliate clubs take turns which means you can have
country focused genealogical research help.
The WSGS website is <http://www.wsgs.org/>

Oct 6 TPGS
Oct 7 DCGC
October 18- TPGS Workshop at Duluth Library
October 18 SWEDGEN at MNGS in South St Paul
November 3 TPGS
November 4 DCGC
December 2 annual Christmas Party with TPGS

As always, if you have additional dates for the calendar
or if you find a date in error, please email them to me
at vicgarro@centurytel.net.



News From the Internet

FamilySearch adds more than 183 million indexed
records and images to Belgium, China, Czech
Republic, England and Wales, Finland, France,
India, Indonesia, Italy, Korea, Ukraine, and the
United States. Notable collection updates include
the 66,586,112 indexed records from the [England
and Wales, Birth Registration Index, 1837-2008](#),
collection; the 6,142,790 images from the [US,
Missouri, Probate Records, 1750-1998](#), collection;
and the 1,019,409 images from the [US, Washington,
County Records, 1803-2010](#), collection. See the table
below for the full list of updates. Search these diverse
collections and more than 3.5 billion other records
for free at FamilySearch.org.

In celebration of Family History Month,
FamilySearch International (FamilySearch.org) and
GenealogyBank (GenealogyBank.com) today
announced an agreement to make over a billion
records from historical obituaries searchable online.
It will be the largest—and perhaps most significant—
online US historic records access initiative yet. It will
take tens of thousands of online volunteers to make
GenealogyBank's vast U.S. obituary collection more
discoverable online. Find out more at
FamilySearch.org/Campaign/Obituaries.

Thos of you waiting for Windows 9 to come out may
have a long wait as Microsoft has chosen to skip 9
and name the next Windows 10.

It is the first day of the month. It's time to back up
your genealogy files. Then test your backups!
Actually, you can make backups at any time.
However, it is easier and safer if you have a specific
schedule. The first day of the month is easy to
remember, so I would suggest you back up your

genealogy files at least on the first day of every month, if not more often.

Of course, you might want to back up more than your genealogy files. Family photographs, your checkbook register, all sorts of word processing documents, email messages, and much more need to be backed up regularly. Why not do that on the first day of each month?

Lawrence University students mapped out a graveyard over the weekend. Students marked out a grid to help locate the 133 burial sites in the former Outagamie County Insane Asylum Cemetery in Grand Chute. The headstones were removed in the 1970s.

What interested me is the method used to identify graves. The students walked down the rows with a device to collect information about the earth's magnetic field.

"The earth's magnetic field will change very subtly if there's something below the ground that's different from all the other stuff around it, so if there's a casket, the earth's magnetic field will be different," said Peter Peregrine, professor of anthropology. You can read more and watch a video of the mapping effort at <http://goo.gl/DQkA7P>.

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was the largest fraternal organization for Union veterans. It was a very active organization in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Only Union veterans were permitted to join the GAR. As the members aged and then died, the organization eventually disappeared. However, it was replaced by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, with membership restricted to descendants of Union Civil War veterans. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War inherited most of the records of the national GAR organization, as well as many of the records of local chapters (called "encampments").

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) now has created its Grave Registration Project to document the final resting places of BOTH Union and Confederate Civil War veterans. The fully-searchable database is available online and is free for everyone.

The SUVCW web site can be found at <http://www.suvcw.org>. You can save yourself some time if you go directly to <http://www.suvcwdb.org/home/search.php?action=search>. The site is free and no registration is required. The main search form has a lot of fields to fill in: first name, last name, birth date, death date, Union or Confederate, unit, state, branch, company or ship, rank, cemetery name and location, and more. You simply fill in whatever information you have and leave the remaining fields blank. Click on SEARCH, and the database will return a list of all entries that match your search criteria.

A little-known program of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provides genealogy information that may be difficult or impossible to obtain elsewhere. The records include naturalization files, visa applications, and citizenship tests, and may reveal family secrets and mysteries. In addition to relatives, historians or researchers can also request files.

Under the **USCIS Genealogy Program**, which started in 2008, requests are usually completed within 90 days. The government will run a search of the name, as long as the person is deceased. If there are records available, the government charges additional fees for the files. The fee for a record copy from microfilm identified as (M) is \$20 per request. The fee for a copy of a hard copy file identified as (HC) is \$35 per request. More information about the fees associated with each file series may be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/genealogy/historical-records-series-available-genealogy-program>.

The documents typically include immigration information, often (but not always) including exact hometowns in their ancestors' native countries. The files often have information on brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. Many times it is useful to obtain the records of your uncles, aunts, and cousins who also immigrated from "the old country."

If the immigrant applied for American citizenship, the details are also included in these files. For anyone of Japanese, German, or Italian origin who lived in the United States during World War II, the documents often include FBI reports about the

person's activities, including friends, family, and political activities.

For more information about the program, check out <http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont) says the removal of the thousands of cases from online review is essentially erasing history. The documents were deleted last month from online viewing because of an upgrade to a computer database known as PACER.

“Wholesale removal of thousands of cases from PACER, particularly from four of our federal courts of appeals, will severely limit access to information not only for legal practitioners, but also for legal scholars, historians, journalists, and private litigants for whom PACER has become the go-to source for most court filings,” Leahy wrote Friday to US District Judge John D. Bates, the director of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AO).

A spokesperson for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts said the removals were due to technical differences between the archives maintained by local courts and a new electronic case file system being adopted by the judiciary. The documents are still available on paper but were deleted from online access “without any warning to the public, and without prior notification or consultation with Congress,” according to Senator Leahy.

You can read more in an article by David Kravets in the ArsTechnica web site at <http://goo.gl/Y32kOk>.

The Library of Congress has a great collection of photographs from the Great Depression that has recently been updated. The collection now contains more than 175,000 portraits of America between the years 1935 and 1945, taken by photographers of the government's Farm Security Administration. The photographs also include all known data about the subject(s) in each photo, including the date and location of the photograph and also the name of the photographer.

Click on the images to view larger versions.

Thanks to a new project known as **Photogrammar** from Yale University, viewers will have a much easier time exploring the photographs. There's a map that displays the images by county and another that shows where each picture was taken and by which photographer. There's also an interactive that allows viewers to sort the photos by theme (e.g. “war” or “religion”) and then browse from there. Other tools are still in the works.

It is possible that you might find an ancestor or other relative in a photograph although the odds of that are slim. However, you undoubtedly will learn about the conditions in which your relatives lived during the Depression Years.

You can access this great collection of Depression Era photographs by starting at <http://photogrammar.yale.edu>.

As always, thanks to Dick Eastman <http://blog.eogn.com> for information in this article.



If your friends did not get this issue of Gen News in their email, please ask them to send a message to the editor at vicgarro@centurytel.net.

If you would like to be a published author, send your genealogical article to vicgarro@centurytel.net.



WSGS Leader's Workshop Vicki Garro

I recently attended the WSGS Leader's workshop in Marshfield. I had attended several before and always came away with ideas to present to the club on what other clubs are doing, learning how to tackle the common problems a genealogy club has whether it is large or small, do we need a blog, website, facebook, twitter, or other types of accounts? How do we attract new members?

My expectations for this event were high. The morning was spent with speakers on technology, Facebook and blogs, and how to organize a genealogy event. Though I am on Facebook a lot and manage the club's page, I learned a few tricks from Speaker Don Schnitzler.

The afternoon was spent networking and critiquing the various documents that govern our club. Newsletters, and bylaws, were the main focus. We were given a standard and asked to compare our documents to the standards. Especially interesting to me as I publish this newsletter. We also had some sharing time on various topics. Shared email addresses with new friends, and got reacquainted with friends we had met before.

This workshop only happens every other year but it is well worth the time invested to go.



Our Ancestor Swap Jackie Plunkett

This is a fun exercise to help each other of us knock down a brickwall. We will exchange an ancestor and see what we can find for someone else.

This is a great way to hone our skills. It also is fun to look at someone else's research and take a break from our own families.

Sometimes looking at someone else's brickwalls helps us break down some of our own. We all do research differently and have different sites we use so this should be an interesting time for all of us. Enjoy the challenge and have fun!!

GUIDELINES:

- 1.) Each person should pick one ancestor to have researched.
- 2.) Give as much information as you know about that person --birth, death, residence, spouse, etc
- 3.) What would you like found? What is your brickwall? parents, siblings, residence, etc.
- 4.) Explain briefly what you have found and where you have looked.

WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR SWAP:

- 1.) Read through the information on the person you received.
- 2.) Write down your plan for research. (This you can then give back with the ancestor after you have done some research)
- 3.) Keep track of where you researched and what you found. Keep notes, observations and suggestions of where else you might look for information. Not that you have to look at all of these, but they might help stir the owner (of the ancestor), and give them some ideas where to continue to look.
- 4.) Please source all information so that the owner of the ancestor can go back and look at the spots that you looked and see if other relatives of that ancestor might be mentioned.

Have FUN! Don't just look at the normal sites and places--think outside the box--we are trying to help a fellow genealogist further their research and family lines.

We will swap at the Nov. meeting so people need to bring they info to that meeting and then we will exchange back the information in Jan.

September 9 Board Meeting

The Executive board met at Perkins for the quarterly meeting. The first topic of discussion was our meeting time. We have had it the same (5pm) since our inception but have not seen any growth in membership. Are we excluding folks who are still working from joining as most have to work until 5. It was voted to suggest at the October meeting that we start at 6 pm.

Budget

We set a projected budget for the club's approval.

Projected income from memberships at \$10 each
\$240.00

Expenses

Advertising and mailings	100
Programs	225
Special Events	200
Donations and memberships	150
Administrative costs	50
Web Page	100
Christmas	<u>25</u>
Total	900

We also analyzed the survey results and will be using those results to plan the programs for next year.



WSGS Webinar opportunity

WSGS has been sponsoring monthly free webinars for the last couple of years. After the live presentation on the third Tuesday of the month, the recorded webinar goes on the website in the members only section as a benefit for individual members only.

At their last meeting, WSGS decided to offer webinar sponsorships of \$100 each to clubs and other organizations. After the live event, the club would get to choose that webinar or any that have

been recorded for a one time showing at their club meeting. A great way for WSGS to help clubs offer quality programming for a reasonable cost.

Individual members are still able to view any of the webinars at their leisure as well as reap many other member benefits. The membership dues will be going up in January, so now is a good time to renew or join WSGS. You can pay for 2 years in advance at the current rate. It was pointed out also at the last WSGS meeting that dues to qualified organizations such as WSGS under the IRS tax code are also fully tax deductible. Ask your tax accountant for more information.



Pandigital Wand Scanner with Docking station Reviewed by Vicki Garro

Thank you to Shirley Boe of TPGS for letting me review her Pandigital Wand Scanner. I took it out of the box, instructions were sparse at first glance but I soon realized everything I needed was included in them. The first order of business was to charge the device for at least 2 hours. I was ready to roll. It stores to a micro SD card or it has internal storage of 128 mb. The scan settings have 3 different resolutions. Using the device with the dock, you simply feed the item through the scanner. This limits items to flat paper and it worked on photographs also quite well as long as they were not cardboard backed. I didn't have any problems with the feeder but for more frail items I would want to use the wand and run the device over the item to be scanned rather than have it go through the device. The device works independently of a computer but has wifi to make transferring your images easy. I didn't try any of the included software but I noticed in the instructions, that it included software for stitching larger items as well as OCR software. The device will easily scan documents 8.5 inches wide in one pass and can also scan those legal documents. In general, I feel, this device may be very useful for genealogists. The cost is reasonable too.