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Gen News

The newsletter of the Douglas County Genealogy Club

Volume 10:5
Editor Vicki Garro

May 2015
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[Facebook](#)

Meeting Date

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 5 at 6 pm at the Superior Public Library. On the agenda

Approval of Feb Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Committee Reports
New Business
Old Business
Any other business

Our Program will be Karen Smoley Teaching us How to use Find A Grave and Bobbi Hoyt showing us the proper technique for cleaning Grave Stones.



Minutes February 3, 2015

Meeting called to order @ 6:05 by President Vicki Garro. Roger Saari motioned to accept minutes as published. Bobbi Hoyt seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Savings- 1799.08

Checking 108.56

Audit Report was done by Dave Johnson and Marlene Case.

Don Hauser Motioned to accept treasurer's report, Judy Aunet Seconded. Motion Carried.

Committees could use additional members. The Program committee will be meeting soon, Jim Mattson is the chairman.

Education, Programs and Presentations (EPP)- EPP-

Jim Mattson, Lorie Madden, Vicki Garro, Judy Aunet

Membership, Public Relations, and Publications
MPP- Jane Sigfrids, Jan Resberg, Vicki Garro

Judy and Vicki met with Kelly, the program coordinator at the Library. She has a lot of good ideas for working on genealogy in the library. Will probably be having events in the fall as she is getting married this spring.

Intros were done for new members.

Jan Resberg mentioned an article from Britian about allowing a 3 way split of DNA in Embryos.

Judy Aunet mentioned the Indiana state library is closing due to lack of funding. Other states are also closing. Vicki and Marlene talked about recent fires which have destroyed records.

The book we are donating in memory of Vicki Peterson has been ordered by Jane Sigfrids.

Nancy Crider was not able to attend tonight as she broke 2 toes on her right foot.

WSGS Gene a rama is in Madison this year. Fairly close to the Historical Society. March 27-28 Main speaker is Cyndi Ingle from Cyndis list which is a collection of over 300,000 genealogy links. WSGS also sponsors webinars the 3rd Tuesday of the month. MNGS sponsors them on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Schedules are on their respective websites.

Roger Saari motioned to adjourn, and Emily Frederick Seconded. Motion carried at 6:30 pm

Program- We watched 2 sessions of the Colletta DVD which we donated to the library.

Those in attendance were Judy Aunet, John Buczynski, Marlene Case, Emily Fredrick, vicki

Garro, Donald Hauser, Bobbi Hoyt, David Johnson, Lorrie Madden, Irene Peterson, Jan Resberg, Roger Saari, Jane Sigfrids, Karen Smoley, Guests: Melissa Jorgensen and her mother.

Snack Signups for the year: April: Marlene Case, May: Jackie Plunkett, June: ?, July: Jane Sigfrids, August: ?, Sept: Karen Smoley, October: Emily Fredrick, Sandy Novak, November: Bobbi Hoyt, December: Pot Luck, January: ?

Please let me know if you can take one of the ? months. Thank you.



Upcoming Meetings and Events

Looking for items for the 2015 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
May 4 TPGS at the Duluth Library 6 pm
May 5 DCGC at Superior Library 6pm
June 1 TPGS Joint Pot Luck location to be announced.
Jun 2 DCGC at Superior Library 6pm
Jul 7 DCGC at Superior Library 6pm
Aug 4 DCGC at Superior Library 6pm
Sept 1 DCGC at Superior Library 6pm
Oct 2-3 MNGS Northstar Conference in the Twin Cities.
Oct 6 DCGC at Superior Library 6pm
Oct 17 WSGS Fall Seminar Marshfield
Nov 3 DCGC at Superior Library 6pm
Dec 1 DCGC at Superior Library 6pm

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/>

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.



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.



Program Committee

The program committee met and decided the following schedule for the rest of the year. They will meet again on April 4 and 10:30 am at Superior Perkins if anyone wishes to join this committee. Unless specified, all meetings are at 6 pm.

May 5 Bobbi Hoyt and Karen Smoley will give a presentation on Find a Grave and Cleaning Gravestones
June 2 Jim Mattson will share his recent trip to Salt Lake City to do research and how to prepare.
July 7 Cemetery Walk- If bad weather will meet at Shamrock Pizza.
Aug 4
Sept 1 Electronic Resources
Oct 6 Roundtable Discussion

Nov 3 Bong Heritage Center
 Dec 1 Pot Luck Christmas Party with TPGS.
 Jan 5 What is new in Genealogy
 Feb2 Webinar



News From the Internet

On May 30, an anthropology professor and students from Lawrence University in Appleton, will search an abandoned and mostly invisible cemetery in Fulton, Wisconsin, looking for graves using ground-penetrating radar technology. There are no records of anyone being buried on the property, which a previous landowner gave to the town as a cemetery in the 1840s.

Sometime in the early 1930s, after the land was designated a cemetery, whoever owned the nearby farmland started tilling the graveyard and planting crops. The remaining tombstones, if any, apparently were removed and destroyed.

You can read more in an article by Jake Magee in the *GazetteXtra* at <http://www.walworthcountytoday.com/20150428/experts-to-use-radar-to-search-forgotten-town-of-fulton-cemetery>.

This is an excellent example of what an active genealogy society can accomplish. This week, the society proudly announced that it now has more than 1,500 databases on its website at <http://www.IndGenSoc.org>! These databases are from all 92 counties, plus numerous statewide collections. Some are available to the public and others are accessible to IGS members only.

If you have Indiana ancestry, you want to check out the announcement at <http://indgensoc.blogspot.com/2015/04/igs-now-has-more-than-1500-databases.html>.

A major update for **Reunion** is now available. Leister Productions has released Reunion version 11 for

Macintosh and also ReunionTouch for iPad/iPhone. Reunion 11 includes the following changes:

- Syncing with mobile devices has been completely revamped in Reunion 11. No more need to manually sync changes. Working via Dropbox, everything syncs immediately.
- New Islands Sidebar lets you locate “islands” in your family file. Islands are groups of people linked to each other, but not linked to people in other islands.
- Visual clue for family notes, pictures and events appears in the marriage fields in the family view.
- Relationships are now identified “on-the-fly.” As you add, delete, link, or unlink people in your family file, their relationship to the current source person appears instantly. No need to re-calculate relationships for the same source person.
- Thumbnails window for browsing images linked to people, families, and sources. Makes it easy to see all pictures in one place.
- Book creator automatically generate a PDF book, complete with page-number indexes of people and places. Includes source documentation, a multimedia browser, surnames, table of contents, multiple column content with text wrapping around images, custom headers and footers, cover pages, graphics, and more.

And much more. The full list of changes may be found at

<http://www.leisterpro.com/doc/version11/newfeatures/newfeatures.php>.

Reunion 11 requires Mac OS X version 10.6 or newer. The program costs \$99 although anyone using an earlier registered version of Reunion may upgrade for \$49.95. Shipping and handling are not included in those prices.

Imagine a free virtual online library of rare historic books from all over the world to help you discover rich, unknown details about the lives of your ancestors. What if the historic book collections held by significant public libraries and venerable societies were the sources of these contributed books? You’d have a dynamic,

priceless online repository of some of the greatest hidden historic treasures predominantly unknown to man. International, and a growing host of partnering libraries and organizations and volunteers, have announced today that they've reached the milestone of publishing 200,000 historic volumes online for free at books.FamilySearch.org. The growing online collection, which began in 2007, is invaluable to genealogists and family historians in finding their ancestors.

FamilySearch has mobile digitization pods at partnering libraries and organizations across the United States including Fort Wayne (Indiana), Syracuse (New York), Philadelphia (Pennsylvania), Independence (Missouri), Houston (Texas), at the University of Florida, and in Salt Lake City (Utah). Digitization is also being done at strategic FamilySearch Centers in Pocatello (Idaho), Mesa (Arizona), Oakland, Orange and Sacramento (California), and in Utah at the West Valley and Ogden Centers. . Most of the digitized publications consists of compiled family histories and local and county histories. The collection also includes telephone and postal directories and other resources.

A major player in this vast project is the [Allen County \(Indiana\) Public Library](http://books.familysearch.org). Allen County's genealogical library is the second largest genealogical library in the world containing one million physical items and 2.5 million searchable items in their free online databases. FamilySearch has three sets of volunteers filming at the Library's Genealogy Center. Over the five year project some 14,000 volumes have been filmed and digitized (translating to an estimated two million pages). Allen County has an estimated 12,000 more volumes that are immediately available for digitization—perhaps another five years of work. To search the digitized records go to books.familysearch.org, enter your ancestor's name into the search box and click "search." Libraries or organizations interested in participating in the book digitization initiative can contact Dennis Meldrum, project manager, at meldrumdl@familysearch.org.

Move over Flip Pal

PocketScan performs character recognition for 130 languages. The device measures 95 x 50 x 27 mm (3.75 x 2 x 1 inches), weighs 85g (3 ounces) and can scan 400

times between charges. The cheapest PocketScan will cost \$99 for Kickstarter users who pay in advance, a \$50 discount from the anticipated retail price. The producing company hopes to ship it in December. Competitors include NeatReceipts and ScanSnap. You can read more in an article in KickStarter.com at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1776222658/pocketscan> or in a video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qe7GKTVYVEk>

Scanner apps have been available for some time for Apple Inc.'s iPhone and Google Inc.'s Android. These apps allow users to take photos of a document and turn it into a editable file, including OCR conversion to text, such as a .DOC file that works in most any word processor. These apps are great for genealogists who often need copies of old documents or pages from a book.

Microsoft released **Office Lens for the Windows Phone** a while ago, an app that takes images with a cell phone camera and converts them into editable .DOC files. However, few people could use Office Lens because Windows Phone commands only about 3% of the smartphone market. All that is changing now. This week, Microsoft released **Office Lens for iPhone, iPad, and Android** devices. The app is available today free of charge.

Office Lens essentially turns a phone into a scanner, using the camera to take a photo of a menu, receipt, whiteboard, business card, or any other printed item, and instantly cropping the image and storing it in Microsoft's OneNote note-taking app, or OneDrive cloud storage app. The app can save an image as a Word file, PowerPoint presentation or PDF file, and uses optical character recognition to make the text searchable and ready for editing.

Office Lens is available now for free in the iTunes store at <https://itunes.apple.com/app/office-lens/id975925059> and in preview mode for Android users at <https://plus.google.com/communities/113806116798450432268>.

More than 1.3 US million military pension records of Civil War veterans have recently been added to Findmypast.

The United States Civil War Pension Files Index, 1861-1934, is an index of pension application cards for veterans and their beneficiaries. The records actually cover veterans of all conflicts during this period including the Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection and World War I. The bulk of these files pertain to service in the U.S. Civil War, which saw millions of Americans enlisted into the Union Army.

You can read more on the Findmypast Blog at <http://goo.gl/iV5jDp>. The United States Civil War Pension Files Index 1861-1934 may be found at <http://goo.gl/UXu5rL>.

An article in *The Message* states that Google is reducing its efforts at digitizing old books. That certainly is a loss for genealogists, historians, and many others. In what appears to be an unrelated move, the Internet Archive is **INCREASING** its efforts at digitizing old books, adding 1,000 books to the online collection **EACH DAY**. Perhaps there is hope for genealogists after all.

In 2004, [Google Books](#) signaled the company's intention to scan every known book, partnering with libraries and developing its own book scanner capable of digitizing 1,000 pages per hour. Since then, the company has digitized millions of old books, creating a valuable archive. Google Books is still online, but has curtailed its scanning efforts in recent years, likely discouraged by a decade of legal wrangling still in appeal. The Google Books Blog stopped updating in 2012 and the Twitter account has been dormant since February 2013.

In contrast, the [Internet Archive](#), a non-profit organization, has created one of the world's largest open collections of digitized books, over 6 million public domain books, and an open library catalog. The digitized books available from the Internet Archive also are available in many more formats than those from any other online service, including PDF, Kindle, EPUB, and more. Of course, you can also read any

book simply by displaying it on your screen in a web browser.

The Internet Archive has also digitized 1.9 million videos, home movies, and 4,000 public-domain feature films. It has also added 2.3 million audio recordings, including over 74,000 radio broadcasts, 13,000 78rpm records, and 1.7 million Creative Commons-licensed audio recordings, more than 137,000 concert recordings, nearly 10,000 from the Grateful Dead alone. Other items added to the **FREE** online archives include more than 10,000 audiobooks from LibriVox, 668,000 news broadcasts with full-text search, and the largest collection of historical software in the world.

The Internet Archive also offers scanning services. The non-profit offers **FREE** and open access to scan complete print collections in 33 scanning centers, with 1,500 books scanned daily. Best of all, the scanning of books is performed in a non-destructive manner. That means there is no need to cut the bindings off the books before scanning. The Internet Archive either operates or partners with 33 scanning centers on 5 continents.

You can read more about the demise of Google Books and the rise of the Internet Archive at <http://goo.gl/DFYq7W>. The Internet Archive may be found at <http://archive.org>. Information about the Internet Archive book digitization efforts may be found at <http://archive.org/scanning>.

Family Search continues to add records including a browsable image collection of passenger lists from [US, Minnesota, Baudette, Warroad, and International Falls Passenger Lists, 1910-1923](#)

An employee of ancestry.com who was working at the Federal Records Center in St. Louis was fired for allegedly throwing out draft-card information, a federal administrator said.

Bryan McGraw, director of the National Personnel Records Center, said Friday that his staff recovered all the papers, some of them from a trash can. The incident on March 12 prompted the federal agency to halt contract work by Ancestry Inc., which operates as ancestry.com, at St. Louis and four other sites.

Details may be found in an article by Tim O'Neil in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* at <http://goo.gl/FrQcze>.

The fifth annual RootsTech 2015 conference, hosted by FamilySearch, is officially in the record books as registering 23,918 attendees over three days, an 83% increase over 2014. And it's not done yet as the world's largest family history conference. There are already plans to deliver over 1,000 local [family discovery day](#) events throughout the remainder of 2015. It's another indicator that family history continues to be a strong and growing interest not only in the United States, but internationally as well. Attendees to RootsTech 2015 came from far and wide, hailing from 49 states (West Virginia was the holdout) and 37 countries.

Today (March 17, 2015) is Seeking Michigan's sixth birthday, and the Archives of Michigan is thrilled to announce that images of Michigan death certificates from 1921-1939 are now available for free here at Seeking Michigan. The index for records from 1940-1952 will be made available in the next few weeks, with additional certificate images to be released each year as privacy restrictions are lifted; for example, 1940 images will be released in January 2016. Together with the records from 1897-1920 that have been available here for years, this collection makes Seeking Michigan the one-stop destination for more than 2.6 million free, publicly-available 20th century death records for your Michigan ancestors. You can read more, including instructions of how to access the records at no charge, at <http://seekingmichigan.org/look/2015/03/17/theyre-here>.

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



The Douglas County Fair will be held on August 25-29 this year which is one day less than the fair has been traditionally. Last year the club worked with fair management and succeeded in getting a new category

(genealogy) added to the fair. Start thinking now what your entries will be. There is no cost to enter and you get to display your hard genealogical work in the following ways.

The Genealogy Department is sponsored by the Douglas County Genealogy Club

Premiums

1st 2nd 3rd

\$3.00 \$2.00 \$1.00

1. DAR, SAR, Mayflower documentation research
2. Genealogical certificates of any type
3. Display of end of life memorabilia (no larger than 24"x36")
4. Photo of building of ancestral significance (8"x 10" or smaller)
5. Ancestral photo including a direct line ancestor (8"x10" or smaller)
6. Any other photo of genealogical significance (8"x10" or smaller)
7. Display of ancestral photos (no larger than 24"x36")
8. Display of genealogical research (no larger than 24"x36")
9. Book (not scrapbooks) of genealogical significance
10. Display of genealogic charts
11. Pedigree photo chart (at least 4 generations and no larger than 24"x36")
12. Genealogy scrapbook
13. Biographical sketch of an ancestor (typed, double spaced, 12 pt font). May include photos
14. Genealogical video: up to 5 minutes in length. Must be present and able to play it at judging
15. Census records (State of Federal). Three or more from same individual
16. Any other genealogical exhibit

It is not necessary to display originals (in fact it is preferred that you display copies) The premiums will be sponsored by the Douglas County Genealogy Club. You do not need to be a resident of Douglas County to enter. Pre-registration will be necessary and will be able to be done online at <http://holfair.com> soon. The genealogy category is under Dept. 19 Antiques, Class B

