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Gen News

The newsletter of the Douglas County Genealogy Club
Volume 11:12
Editor: Jane Sigfrids

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jnjsig@yahoo.com
[Facebook](#)

Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. at the Superior Public Library for our annual Holiday Potluck. There will be no business meeting.

Meeting topics for 2016

January–Business Meeting
February–Meeting with the DCHS
March–Potluck celebrating our heritages and cultures
April–Joining TPGS at the LDS Center in Duluth.
May–Library resources at UWS.
June–Picnic with TPGS; Native American research
July–Cemetery Walk at the cemetery on County Highway Z
August–*Songs of the Mariners*, a musical group that sings sea chanties and gives some history of sailors' lives. ***Cancelled***
September–Clerk of Courts and other courthouse research resources available
October–*Songs of the Mariners* (rescheduled from August)
November– Richard I. Bong Center
December 6 – Holiday Potluck

November Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting was held on November 1, at the Richard I. Bong Heritage Center; it was called to order at 6:00 pm. President Jim Mattson and Vice-President Jan Resberg were in attendance; Secretary Dave Johnson and Treasurer Jane Sigfrids were absent.

The October meeting minutes were read. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Emily Fredrick and seconded by Bobbi Hoyt. The motion passed.

There was no treasurer's report.

The next Executive Board and Program Committee meetings will be held on December 14, 2016 at 5:00 pm at Perkins' Restaurant. The tentative 2017 events schedule will be discussed and upcoming locations will be determined.

Due to the absences of Dave Johnson and Jane Sigfrids there was no update on the Club website.

President Jim Mattson reminded the members of the genealogy presentation scheduled for November 3 at the Grand Central Plaza apartments.

Old Business: Our annual Holiday Potluck is on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at the Superior Public Library.

New Business: The Second Annual Genealogy Library Lock-in is scheduled for March 31, 2017. DCGC members on the committee are Judy Aunet, Lorrie Madden, Jackie Plunkett and Jane Sigfrids. The library liaison is Leslie Mehle.

We will have elections for the offices of Vice-President and Treasurer at our January monthly meeting; these are two-year terms.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jackie Plunkett and seconded by Emily Fredrick. The motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

After the meeting, Ryan Jost from the Bong Center presented a program on the life of Richard Bong.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Resberg

Genealogy Presentation

Several members of the DCGC conducted an Introductory Genealogy presentation at the Grand Central Plaza apartment complex on Thursday, November 3, per a request from Peter Golden. Approximately a dozen residents attended. An overview of genealogical research practices was given and there was a lively exchange of ideas and questions and answers. We received very positive comments from the attendees and hope to see some of them at future club meetings.

Library Lock-In Planning Committee Meeting

The committee met on Wednesday, November 16, to begin planning the second annual Genealogy Library Lock-in, scheduled for Friday, March 31, 2017.

It was hoped we would be able to have Lori Bessler from the Wisconsin Historical Society as a keynote speaker, but she's unable to make it on that date. There was discussion about moving the date to March 24.

We had approximately 40 attendees at last year's event; we'll plan for the same number of registrations for this one. We'll also offer a dinner option as we did last year.

Much of the feedback from the last lock-in came in regard to providing more time for independent research. We also discussed possible break-out sessions, such as using Ancestry.com.

Judy Aunet has connections to a bookseller who might be interested in selling books during the event – this would be materials that are relevant to our area. We would also like to contact various area organizations (i.e.: Bong Museum, UWS, Douglas County Historical Society, etc.) to see if they have handouts for us to distribute.

Many members of the club either attended or volunteered to help last year. We'd like to see members spread themselves out amongst attendees however, rather than sitting together.

Having made a connection with Peter Golden, we decided to ask him if he will post information about the event at the Grand Central Plaza.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Sigfrids

***Note:** After this meeting, we received word that Lori Bessler can't make it on March 24, either. The current thinking is to keep the event on March 31 to tie it in with our April Fools' Day "Fooling Around With..." theme. We have a couple of options for using the talents of local presenters.



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

WSGS Events

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Eight Common Mistakes That Genealogists Make and How to Avoid Them (WSGS Webinar)

Time: 7:00 pm, CST

Presenter: Donald Schnitzler

Webinar Description: This program highlights some of the common mistakes made by genealogists researching their family history as well as strategies that help overcome them. Discussion topics include basic research methodologies (alternate records selection tables), documenting and citing sources, use of research logs, and planning for the future. Objectives: At the end of this presentation, attendees will be able to:

- Recognize and avoid common mistakes made in genealogical research
- Strategize for the best approach to finding the missing pieces of genealogical information
- Discuss and apply elements of the Genealogical Proof Standard
- Acknowledge and analyze inevitable contradictions in and between family records
- Consider possible approaches to “passing on” genealogical work

Register

at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3558432315931053058>

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

MNGS Events

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Wisconsin Research in a Nutshell (Webinars)

7:00 pm to 8:15pm

Description: The webinar will explore both the standard—and some not so standard—resources for Wisconsin genealogical research, including:

- Vital records & their restrictions
- Local records—land, probate, courts
- The Wisconsin Historical Society & its collections
- The Area Research Center Network
- Digital Collections—Wisconsin Digital Collections, the Recollection Wisconsin Project and the Found in Wisconsin Collection
- The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society
- Other repositories of local or ethnic information: Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies, and the Norwegian-American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library
- Church record availability

Instructor: Anne Kasuboski, MLIS, is an APG member with 35 years of experience in academic libraries and a Genealogical Research Certificate from Boston University. She has conducted genealogical research for others for over fifteen years, specializing in Wisconsin’s Fox River Valley area, but also researches Polish, German and Irish genealogy.

Cost: Free!

To register:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6144934464201972737>



WHS Events

The WHS will present the following workshop on Saturday, December 3:

Family History Projects

There are many ways to share the research you have done in family history. This workshop will provide guidance on many types of family history projects. It will also allow attendees to share the projects they have already produced. It promises to be an inspiring day of sharing ideas and making plans for ways you can get the family interested in the stories you have uncovered in your research.

Lecturer: Sarah White,

www.firstpersonprod.com

“I help individuals, families, businesses, and communities record their stories for presentation in book form and more. I also facilitate life story writing workshops and hands-on intergenerational programs exploring personal history.” Sarah maintains a blog that inspires writing personal stories and documenting life stories: www.truestorieswelltold.com. Check it out!

Date: Saturday, December 3rd

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Madison, WI, Memorial Library, Room 126 (UW-Madison Campus)

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.



News from the Internet

German-American Genealogical Partnership is Renamed to International German Genealogy Partnership

[Dick Eastman · November 21, 2016 · Current Affairs, Societies · No Comments](#)

I have written before about the German-American Genealogical Partnership. See <https://goo.gl/Apu1yZ> for my past articles. Now the organization is changing its name to International German Genealogy Partnership.

The following announcement was written by the newly-renamed International German Genealogy Partnership:

International German Genealogy Partnership is new name of young organization, reflects growing global participation

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—International German Genealogy Partnership is the new name adopted by members of a new and rapidly growing global organization known since its founding less than two years ago as the German-American Genealogical Partnership.

“New member societies are coming into the Partnership from around the world. There is a

growing international participation in the Partnership, and our members decided on a new name that better describes the organization's international presence," said Kent Cutkomp, a Minneapolis resident and co-founder of the partnership.

The Partnership was founded in 2015 by genealogy society leaders in America and Germany. Today, the Partnership joins Germanic societies across America, Germany, Canada, England and other European countries.

"The purpose of the Partnership is to expand cooperation among societies nationally and internationally. It's a great way individual societies can become more successful in serving their members, and that includes helping their members make personal connections worldwide. We're delighted to see such interest coming from so many parts of the world," Cutkomp said.

He said organizations joining the Partnership range from small to large. For instance, the Germany-based Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Genealogischer Verbände, a founding member of the Partnership, comprises more than 65 societies serving 22,000 individual members.

Several major initiatives are being undertaken by the Partnership, including the 2017 International Germanic Genealogy Conference, scheduled for July 28-30, Minneapolis, Minn., and themed "CONNECTIONS: International. Cultural. Personal."

Other initiatives include sharing of knowledge and resources such as exchanging periodicals, sharing researcher and speaker lists, and creating a list of most valuable references, resources and websites. Communication and connections between Partnership organizations are important parts of the process.

For information about the Partnership, visit the website of the Minnesota-based Germanic

Genealogy Society at www.GGSMN.org, click "German Partnership." The Partnership's official website is expected to launch soon.



MURPHY WAS A GENEALOGIST

[https:// freepages.family.rootsweb.ancestry.com](https://freepages.family.rootsweb.ancestry.com)

The keeper of the vital records you need will have just been insulted by another genealogist.

Your great-grandfather's obituary states that he died leaving no issue of record.

The town clerk you wrote to in desperation, and finally convinced to give you the information you need, can't write legibly, and doesn't have a copying machine.

That ancient photograph of four relatives, one of whom is your progenitor, carries the names of the other three.

Copies of old newspapers have holes which occur only on maiden and surnames.

No one in your family tree ever did anything noteworthy, always rented property, was never sued, and was never named in wills.

You learned that Great Aunt Matilda's executor just sold her life's collection of family genealogical materials to a flea market dealer "somewhere in New York City."

Yours is the ONLY last name not found among the billions in the LDS archives in Salt Lake City.

Ink fades and paper deteriorates at a rate inversely proportional to the value of the data recorded.

Anything that could have burned, did.

The census taker with the clear handwriting and good ink never enumerated your ancestors.

If you find a well-documented, illustrious ancestor, you've probably made a mistake.

Your folks hated government and never filled out forms.

The book you need is never indexed, or, if indexed, doesn't include people.

Your families never had attics, much less Bibles or boxes full of photos.

All real library "finds" are made five minutes before closing, when the copier is broken.

The correctly shelved books and correctly filed forms are never the ones you need.

The person sitting next to you at the research center is finding ancestors every five minutes...and telling you.

The e-mail address that bounces is the one from a person who listed your exact names. If you find a working address, you aren't related.

Your microfilm reader is the one that squeaks, has to be turned backwards, and doesn't quite focus.

Your cemeteries have no caretaker or records archive.

Alternate spellings and arcane names were your folks' favorite pastimes.

Your ancestors only knew three names, and used them over and over in every collateral line.

Your sister neglects to mention that the date she gave you, which you have researched, and sent to other researchers, was just a guess with no foundation, and she guessed because she "didn't like leaving that line blank."

Your mother neglects to mention that, "Oh, yes, we knew they changed their name."

The critical link in your family tree is named "Smith."

The document containing evidence of the missing link in your research invariably will be lost due to fire, flood or war.

The will you need is in the safe on board the "Titanic".

The spelling of your European ancestor's name bears no relationship to its current spelling or pronunciation.

The 37 volume, sixteen-thousand-page history of your country of origin isn't indexed.

The blot on the page of the census covers your grandmother's birthdate.

Your ancestor's will leaves his estate to his beloved wife and children but he doesn't name them.

The only overturned, face-down gravestone in the cemetery is your great-great grandfather's.

The information you desperately need could be only found in an 1890 census.

You finally find your ancestor's obituary in an old newspaper and all it says is "Died last week."

You finally get a day off from work to travel to a courthouse -- and when you get there it's closed for emergency plumbing repairs.

