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Gen News

The newsletter of the Douglas County Genealogy Club

Volume 10:1
Editor Vicki Garro

January 2015
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Meeting Date

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 6 at 6 pm at the Superior Public Library

On the agenda

Minutes

Treasurer's report

Election of Officers- VP and Treasurer

Committee and Board Assignments

Snack assignments

Memorial book for Vicki Peterson- Irish Research

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors - 4th edition - 2012 by John Grenham. Published Baltimore by Genealogical Publishing Co. - the Superior Public Library has an older edition (2006) on their online library catalog, but they could use this upgrade. Cost is \$36.05 on Amazon.

A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland - 3rd edition - 2009 by Brian Mitchell, Published Baltimore by Genealogical Publishing Co. - the Superior Public Library does not seem to have this on their online library catalog. Cost is \$20.90 on Amazon.

Other Business-

Program will be our Ancestor Swap



November 2014 Minutes (There was no business meeting in December)

Meeting called to order at 6:10PM by President Vicki Garro. President Garro read the minutes of the October meeting as published in the newsletter.

Noted the correction of \$42.00 that had been transferred to the checking account.

Discussion followed re: the purchase of DVD set by John Coletta for the Superior Library. The DVD had not been purchased and the price has risen. Roger Saari motioned to watch for sale again. 2nd by Jane Sigfrids. Motion carried. Jane Sigfrids gave the Treasurers report. Bobbi Hoyt made motion to accept Treasurers report. 2nd by Roger Saari.

New business: Joint Christmas party with Twin Ports Genealogical Society scheduled for December 2nd. Question raised about playing "Genealogy Bingo". Judy Aunet motioned. 2nd by Nancy Crider. Motion made to allow \$20. for prizes. Roger Saari motioned. 2nd by Jane Sigfrids. Motion carried.

Bobbi Hoyt showed her display from the Head of the Lakes Fair for which she won the "Grand Champion Ribbon". Bobbi encouraged those present to think about entering exhibits next year.

Buzz Buczynski attended a celebration in Automba, Minnesota and gave a presentation with audio of the emcee.

Members who participated in the ancestor swap exchanged information. Meeting adjourned.

Present: Vicki Garro, Roger Saari, Karen Smoley, Buzz Buzynski, Bobbi Hoyt, Jackie Plunkett, Judy Aunet, Nancy Crider, Emily Fredrick, Jane Sigfrids and guest, Irene Peterson.

December 9 Board meeting

Former member Vicki Peterson passed away, we would like to honor her with a gift to the Superior Public Library, Bobbi Hoyt will try to find out her area of research.

Program ideas for 2015

Meeting with Library program person on Dec 13 for ideas to work with the library on something. January will have our Swap results. Feb we can have a Colletta Webinar. Rest will be up to Program committee. Would like annual schedule by Feb meeting

Budget: Make sure dues are due gets announced in newsletter Nov-Jan

Ideas to get committees active: Hold them accountable by asking for reports at meetings. Program committee should decide early what the monthly programs are so they can be publicized by the Membership, publications and public relations committee.

Bylaws Change- The deadline to pay your dues to receive membership benefits should be the end of January. Currently reads:

Article 4—Annual Dues

Annual dues shall be \$10 per individual. These are payable at the first meeting of the calendar year. Dues received from new members after November 1 will be credited to the following year. The Treasurer will notify members who have not paid by January 31st. Names will be removed from the mailing list if dues are not received by the March meeting. Dues rates can change by a majority vote of the membership at the annual meeting.

Proposed change :

Names will be removed from the mailing list if dues are not received by the February meeting.



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

Jan 6 DCGC at Superior Library 6pm

Feb 3 DCGC at Superior Library 6pm

Mar 3 DCGC at Superior Library 6pm

Mar 27-28 WSGS Generama Madison

Apr 7 DCGC at Superior Library 6pm

May 5 DCGC at Superior Library 6pm

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.



News From the Internet

The <http://www.raogk.org> web site now states, "RAOGK is a global volunteer organization. At one time we had over 4000 volunteers in every U.S. state and many international locations, and helped thousands of researchers. We are trying to rebuild the RAOGK site. It will take a little more time to get it back to its former glory. Our volunteers take time to do everything from looking up courthouse records to taking pictures of tombstones. All they ask in return is reimbursement for their expenses (never their time) and a thank you."

It's great to see <http://raogk.org> back online. I strongly urge all genealogists to check it out and also to volunteer your efforts to help others. In the long term, you will benefit also.

Indiana Genealogical Society has added a free database about Indiana Civil War veterans: *Grand Army of the Republic Members Appointed in Indiana (1885)*. This database is free to the public - no membership is required in order to view it. It was contributed by Wayne Klusman. You can access the 3.2 gigabyte file (it may take some time to load) at http://www.indgensoc.org/membersonly/military/civil_war/gar_appointments_1885.php.

The Indiana Genealogical Society now has 1,430 databases in the Members Only area. Each of Indiana's 92 counties has at least 5 databases.

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.

Dues are Due!

Only \$10 annually (Jan-Dec) for an individual (only membership class we have) Dues can be paid at our meetings or contact our treasurer, Jane Sigfrids at 915 N 5th St. Superior WI 54880.



Committees New members needed!

Education, Programs and Presentations (EPP)- EPP- Lorie Madden, Vicki Garro, Jackie Plunkett

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

Free Webinars:

MGS presents free monthly webinars, open to the public. The evening webinars, broadcast the first Wednesday of each month except January and July, are archived, along with handouts, for viewing by MGS members in the Members Only section of the MGS website.

Wednesday, February 4, 7-8:15 p.m.

Thomas MacEntee, Genealogy Do-Over: A Year of Learning from Research Mistakes

Wednesday, March 4, 7-8:15 p.m.

Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, FMGS, FUGA, Midwestern & Plains State Level Census Records

Wednesday, April 1, 7-8:15 p.m.

Kathryn Lake Hogan, Find Your American Ancestor Using Canadian Records

Wednesday, May 6, 7-8:15 p.m.

Ginny Sharp Sommarstrom, Researching Your Swedish Ancestry in the 21st Century

Wednesday, June 3, 7-8:15 p.m.

Jennifer Alford, Genealogy and GIS: A Beginner's How-To

More information and registration at:

www.mnsgs.org



Chasing Oulu Settlers By Sari Rananpää

Editor's Note: Member Arnold Johnson was recently featured in the September 2014 issue of the Finnish American Reporter for his genealogical endeavors. With permission of both the Author and the Editor of that publication, we reprint it here. Kudos to Arnold for a job well done.

Arnold Johnson researches the migrants who settled in the township of Oulu, Wisconsin. Over the course of six winters, he has gathered the personal histories of more than 400 Oulu pioneers.

Over the 2014 Easter holidays more than ten inches of snow fell on Northern Wisconsin. It meant a delay in starting farm work but also a lengthening of the genealogy research season for Arnold Johnson of Oulu. Arnold has for six years been doing systematic research on Oulu pioneer families. His goal is to find out where the Oulu pioneers came from and who they were. Between 1890 and 1920 some 500 Finnish migrants lived in Oulu. Of them some 400 were Oulu pioneers, meaning that they homesteaded or purchased land and lived in Oulu more than ten years. The majority of the Oulu pioneers were Finns, although there were also some settlers from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany and Austria.



It is commonly thought that Oulu, Wisconsin, was named after the city of Oulu as many of the pioneers originated near Oulu. According to Johnson's research, this is not true. Namely, around a third of the Oulu Finnish pioneers came from Southern Ostrobothnia and about a quarter from Central Ostrobothnia. Only about one-eighth of the Finnish migrants originated from Northern Ostrobothnia. The Finnish municipalities with most migrants to Oulu, Wisconsin were Lapua, Kalajoki, Lohtaja and Peraseinajoki. The first Finnish settlers, John (Juho) Kangas and Henry Maryland (Henrik Luhdansyrja/Marielund) applied for their homesteads in 1889.

"This started the Oulu homestead period," Johnson said. The settlers could apply and clear 160 acres of forested land for themselves. During the first year the homesteaders typically built a small log cabin and a log sauna, as well as cleared land for a small potato field and a vegetable garden. In the following years they cleared forest for agricultural land. As time went on the population of Oulu grew, and at the turn of the century the calls for independent township status for Oulu started. The independence of the township, as well as naming it Oulu, was driven especially by Andrew Lauri (Antti Matinlauri), who came from Liminka."

The research conducted by Johnson continues the tradition of documenting the Oulu township history. The children and grandchildren of the Oulu pioneers collated a short history of the first 50 years of Oulu for the township's 50th anniversary in the 1950s. This booklet got a sequel in 2004 when the second fifty years was written down and published for the centennial anniversary of the township in 2004.

When researching his own roots in the early 2000s, Arnold received the notes of Ruth Guhl, a grandchild of an Oulu pioneer. The notes contained a list of Oulu pioneers, as well as information concerning some of the pioneer families. After finishing the genealogical research of his own family tree, Arnold organized the material he had received and started to collect information on the Oulu pioneers systematically. "I aim at collecting the personal history of each pioneer in one folder. I try

to find and verify the information, which includes date and place of birth, birth name, information on the pioneer's parents, travel to America, marriage, children, life in the United States, and any pictures," says Arnold.

He conducts a lot of his research over the Internet. He also uses cemetery and burial information, local archives, courthouse archives, as well as conducts telephone and face-to-face interviews with descendants to find information on the Oulu pioneers. Arnold has received research help from genealogists in Finland and the United States. So far he has collected the personal histories of some 365 Finnish and 40 Swedish and Norwegian pioneers. The rest of the Finnish pioneers, some 75 of them, are proving challenging. Researching these people is tricky because the information concerning them is either very little or unreliable.

Difficulties are caused especially by changed first and family names, varying or wrong dates of birth, as well as lacking information on place of birth.

"In genealogy, information is only probable until it has been verified," he said. "In my research I try to use different sources so that I can zero in on the person and verify that I am looking at the right person. A genealogist must always find the last bit of information that changes probability to truth."

At times the research goes very slowly, but sometimes even a small bit of information can result in a breakthrough. During winters, Arnold



uses between 30 and 60 hours a week on genealogical research.

"Winters are long and boring," he said. "Genealogical research keeps me busy in the winter and it also helps to fill the gaps in the township history."

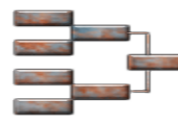
Arnold's research supports also the work of the local history society and the local history center.

The Oulu Cultural and Heritage Center, which was opened in 2002, aims at retaining local history and culture. Its goal is to collect original Oulu buildings in one courtyard, collect local history and hold exhibitions.

Today there are some 500 inhabitants in Oulu. About half of them claim Finnish ancestry. Finnishness is visible in Oulu mainly in family names, road names, food, and greetings.

Finnish language is heard only rarely in Oulu nowadays. Arnold himself can read and speak Finnish. "My grandparents only spoke Finnish," he said. "My family comes from Pello, Kalajoki, Hailuoto and Voyri, but I have never been to Finland myself."

Finnish Reporter Editor's note: *Sari Rananpää is a longtime acquaintance of Mr. Johnson's, having met him through genealogical research.*



WSGS Webinars

Researching Your Swedish Heritage in Living Color Using ArkivDigital

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Time: 7:00 PM CST

Presenter: Kathy Meade

Grandmothers, Mothers & Daughters: Researching Your Female Lines

Presenter: Lisa Alzo

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Time: 7:00 PM CST

The New and Improved Wisconsin Historical Society Website

Presenter: Lori

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Time: 7:00 PM CST