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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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jnjsig@yahoo.com
www.douglaswigenealogy.org



Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 6 p.m. at the Richard I Bong Veterans Historical Center, 305 Harborview Parkway in Superior. Clyde Annala, a volunteer at the museum, will present a program on the effect of World War I on immigration and immigrants in the United States.

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
April 4 – LDS Family History 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 Hebrew Cemetery
August 1 – John Colletta video
September 5 – Meeting at the Douglas County Historical Society
October 3 – DAR
November 7 – Richard I. Bong Center; Clyde Annala presentation on World War I
December 5 -Holiday Potluck, VIP Restaurant, 1201 Tower Ave, Superior

October Meeting Minutes October 3, 2017; Superior Public Library

President Jim Mattson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and conducted the roll call of officers; present were President Jim Mattson, Vice-President Jān Resberg and Treasurer Robin Barrett. Secretary Dave Johnson was excused. Members present: Judy Aunet, Marlene Case, Carol Lindberg, Jackie Plunkett, Jane Sigfrids, Karen Smoley

President Mattson called for approval of September 2017 minutes. Marlene Case stated a correction to them, in that the book referenced for purchase by the club, *Vital Records Handbook*, is authored by Thomas J. Kemp, not Dick Eastman. Treasurer Robin Barrett is still looking into whether the library can purchase it for less than the Amazon.com price of \$68.00.

Jan Resberg made a motion to accept the minutes; Robin Barrett seconded. The motion passed.

Robin Barrett read the Treasurer's report . Judy Aunet made a motion to accept the report as read; Jan Resberg seconded. The motion passed.

A review of memberships was discussed; Jane Sigfrids stated the active membership stands at 31 per the newsletter email mailing list.

Committee Reports

A list showing the make-up of the club's various committees was given to each member; several corrections were made. Judy Aunet was shown as an at-large member of the Executive Board;

she is not. She was missed as a member of the Program Committee; she has been added. Jackie Plunkett was missed as an at-large member of the Executive Board; she was added. Marlene Case was noted as no longer being on the Financial Review Committee; she was re-added. Lorrie Madden was shown as a member of the Financial Review Committee and the Library Lock-In Committee. Her name was removed as she has moved out of town.

It was agreed upon that the committee membership be a regular item in the monthly newsletter; this change will take effect with the February newsletter so that the change to the officers, due to the January election, can be included.

There was some discussion about the by-laws, both in terms of changes that have been made over the last couple of years and whether a by-law committee now exists and/or is necessary. Jackie Plunkett felt that a by-law committee could be formed on an ad-hoc basis. Marlene Case will present the by-laws to the January meeting; potential updates can then be discussed. It was felt that the by-laws should be published on the website. After some discussion, it was agreed that the committee membership should also be on the website, with member names only.

Program Committee:

Jan Resberg presented a Program Committee update, outlining the remainder of the 2017 schedule. The November 7 meeting will be held at the Bong Veterans' Museum, with a presentation by a member of the Bong. A \$25 donation will be made to them. Discussion of the December 5 meeting was held for later so the Holiday Party details could be examined.

There was a review of the potential programs for 2018. Jan was asked about Rachael Martin, the executive Director at the Cloquet Historical Society, being our speaker in August; he pointed

out that this is a possibility, but will have to be confirmed.

October 12 was decided on as the date for the annual Library Lock-In; it is being moved from the normal springtime scheduling due to the library remodeling.

Some details about the cemetery walk at Greenwood Cemetery were clarified, particularly in regard to obtaining names of veterans to research prior to the walk itself. Jackie Plunkett stated that names are available online through the cemetery.

Jim Mattson noted that the next meeting date for the Executive Board and Program Committee is Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017.

Research Request Committee

Chair Dave Johnson was absent, as was committee member Emily Fredrick. Committee member Jane Sigfrids stated she hasn't received any contact from Dave in regard to current research requests. Karen Smoley said that she has sent Dave information as to how the Twin Ports Genealogy Society keeps their research logs.

President's Report:

President Mattson is still conducting an informal discussion with the Douglas County Board regarding Parkland Cemetery. This is to be kept as an agenda item.

Old Business:

Jim Mattson is attempting to contact Keith Fine in order to present him with his certificate of recognition. He has Mr. Fine's email address.

New Business:

It was mentioned that there is no link between our website and that of the library.

Nine RSVP's were received at the meeting for the Holiday Party to be held at VIP Pizza on Tuesday, Dec. 5. Jane Sigfrids mentioned that she is aware

she needs to put a street address for the VIP on the invitation and resend it. She will also contact Bobbi Hoyt for materials to conduct the Genealogy Bingo. She will also purchase door prizes. Marlene Case made a motion that up to \$50 be allotted for these purchases; Jan Resberg seconded. The motion passed.

There were questions about what kind of money would be owed to the VIP if the party needed to be cancelled or if there weren't enough responses to make the amount of food allotted necessary. There was also a question as to whether pop and coffee would be available. Jane Sigfrids will contact the banquet manager at the VIP with these questions.

It was suggested to have as many people as possible pay for the party in advance, either at the November meeting or by sending funds to Robin Barrett. It was also suggested to let spouses and significant others know they're welcome to attend.

Judy Aunet brought in a copy of the April/May 2017 issue of *The Senior Reporter*, which contains an article about Woodlawn Cemetery, written by Rachael Martin. The magazine was given to Jane Sigfrids to archive.

Judy Aunet requested that time be allotted in the meeting agenda each month for individuals members to present outside material they feel would be pertinent to the group. Jane Sigfrids suggested that such material also be submitted as newsletter items.

The next meeting will be held on November 7, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bong Veterans' Historical Center, 305 Harbor View Parkway in Superior.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Marlene Case and seconded by Jane Sigfrids. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

After the meeting, Judy Aunet presented a video: "That's Revolutionary (War)!: Answers to Basic Questions Genealogists Are Afraid to Ask". The video was provided by the Lake Superior Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), of which Judy is a member.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sigfrids, Acting Secretary for October meeting*



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 Holiday Party!

The annual Holiday Party is coming up on Tuesday, December 5th. Due to the library remodeling project, it will be held at the Vintage Italian Pizza Restaurant, 1201 Tower Avenue, in Superior. Rather than having a potluck, the food will be catered by the VIP; on the menu are rigatoni, assorted pizzas, and caesar salad. Genealogy Bingo will be featured.

The cost is \$10.00 per person; spouses and significant others are welcome. You can pay prior to the party at the November 7th meeting or

by sending a check to Treasurer Robin Barrett at 313 Homecroft Court, Superior, WI 54880.



WSGS

November 2017 Webinar: Midwest Historical Genealogy for Genealogists

Presenter: J.H. Fonkert

Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2017

Time: 7:00 P.M. CST

Webinar Description: Our ancestors crossed time and space, history and geography. An understanding of how geography and technology drove a region's history creates context for your ancestors' migrations. Cincinnati was Porkopolis Chicago out-dueled St. Louis. Minneapolis milled grain from the Dakota bonanza farms. The Upper Midwest farmlands, forests and mines fed the cities' hunger for food and lumber and steel. Railroads made it possible, bringing raw materials to the city and sending consumer goods back to the hinterland. The Cut-over region of Wisconsin and Minnesota was devastated by wildfires. Copper and iron ore drew immigrants to the lands around Lake Superior. Learn about how the development of the Midwest created opportunity and hardship for your ancestors.

Register at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/351084030882920407553>

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 is 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.



MNGS

Yes, MGS is moving!

MGS will be moving starting **October 16th** to the new space at 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100, Mendota Heights, MN 55120. The first part of the move is to install the shelving in the library, then move all the books – some 30,000 of them – and then the offices, tables and chairs for the conference rooms and other furniture for the reception area.

The new phone number is **651-330-9312**.

The WJH Library and Research Center will close after business hours on Saturday, October 14th and reopen after Thanksgiving. There are a lot of boxes which have to be packed and then unpacked. A professional moving company will be moving the books and furniture, but many file cabinets have to be emptied and packed into boxes. If you would be able/willing to help with packing or unpacking, please e-mail libvolunteers@mngs.org and we will get details to you.

Although the WJH Library and Research Center will be closed, there will still be many meetings going on in the Conference Rooms, so please check the Event Calendar on the MGS website for where and when those will be held.



Webinar

The Holiday Talk: Get to Know Your Family's History

Presenter: Michelle Chubenko

Date: Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Time: 7:00 P.M – 8:15 P.M. CST

Description: Each year as families gather for holiday dinners, the opportunity for discovering our own roots presents itself. Discover methods to learn about your family's ancestral connections and traditions through family activities. Learn about the top three ways to share your family legacy – pictures, stories and documents – with other family members and fellow researchers

Michelle Chubenko is a professional genealogist with paternal roots in colonial America and a maternal flair of Eastern European ancestry. In 2016, she joined Legacy Tree Genealogists as a Researcher specializing in Central and Eastern European challenging research problems and projects.

Cost: Free!

Visit the website at <https://mngs.org/eventListings.php?nm=38> for registration information.



WHS

Saturday, November 4

Advanced DNA: Adoption and Unknown Parentage

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

UW-Madison Memorial Library, Room 126

Cost: \$30.00 (WHS and Wisconsin State Genealogical Society receive 10% off! Use code: **WSGS17**)

Location: Memorial Library Room 126

Lecturer: Mary Eberle, J.D., DNA Hunters, LLC

This series of lectures will show how to use DNA to solve adoption and unknown parentage brick walls. It will cover who can benefit from using DNA to discover unknown parents or ancestors. The history of adoption will be discussed, along with the laws governing access to birth and related records. Types of DNA, companies to test with, and third-party websites for analyzing DNA

will be discussed, along with how to review DNA matches. “Mirror trees”, which are trees built on matches to identify relevant branches of matches’ trees, will be explained.

There will be two case studies: Case Study One covers a female adoptee born in 1954 and how she found her birth father using autosomal DNA. Learn about the steps required to solve this mystery.

Case Study Two covers a woman born in 1986 who found her birth father using autosomal DNA; learn how she was able to find her birth father when her closest matches were a second cousin once removed, and a third cousin related to the second cousin.

Each attendee has the choice of the following box lunches:

- **Choice 1:** Ham, Swiss, Dijon Aioli, Spring Mix, Rye Bread
- **Choice 2:** Smoked Turkey, White Cheddar, Bacon, Tomato Aioli, Multigrain Bread
- **Choice 3:** Butternut Squash Spread, Grilled Vegetables, Greens, Spinach Tortilla--vegan

Please select if you would like Gluten Free bread

Each lunch box contains the following: Mixed salad/balsamic dressing on the side, chocolate truffle, kettle chips and soda/water. Feel free to bring your own drink.

[Register on the Wisconsin Historical Society website.](#)



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.

Dues Reminder

As 2017 draws to a close, it's time to think about renewing your membership for 2018. Dues are \$10.00 and can be paid at the monthly meeting or by sending a check to Treasurer Robin Barrett, 313 Homecroft Court, Superior, WI 54880.



News from the Internet

This comes from Dick Eastman's Genealogy Blog. Workarounds are suggested in several of the comments

RootsWeb Has Problems Again

blog.eogn.com/2017/10/25/rootsweb-has-problems-again/

Many of the web pages on RootsWeb have stopped working. Today, the following message is displayed at <http://home.rootsweb.ancestry.com>:

As you know, RootsWeb is a collection of products that has grown organically over the last two decades. Many of these have not been updated or maintained in years. Ancestry is currently working

on updating and revising World Connect, Mailing Lists, and hosted sites such as Free Pages over the next twelve months; however, all other products and functionality are under review. We will continue to notify you of updates here as decisions are made.

- I hope Ancestry doesn't disable the U. S. Town/County Database. I use that several times a month to find the county where the town currently resides. It is a big time saver for me.
- If the one on RootsWeb does go away, you can find a number of other online lists of counties. I just did a quick search and found somewhat similar lists, some of them even more detailed, at: and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_counties_in_the_United_States and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index_of_U.S._counties and http://www.ng3k.com/misc/usc_ind.html <https://www.data.gov/open-gov/> and probably some others as well.
- I agree. Unfortunately, none of the links that have been posted replicate the ease with which you can find the county where a town is located in the U.S. Town/County Database on Rootsweb. Heck, you can even type part of the name of the town and get results, which is extremely helpful when there may be misspellings or transcription errors in the information that you've received.
- I always use Wikipedia for town, city, township, county locations, whether in the US or elsewhere in the world.
- RootsWeb was one of the earliest genealogy data sites on the internet. The information that has been posted on those sites is still very valuable and I refer to them often. I hope Ancestry does not change the format too much, or heaven forbid do away with the data!

- I've spent a great deal of time with RootsWeb almost since they came into being, when a man and a woman took care of *all* the business 24/7 (pretty much). It's been a great place for me to share my tree (in WorldConnect) for most of that time. I've been amazed at how many people have commented on how helpful that tree has been to them; they've also been willing to share with me. I update it every month or so. But there's a quick, simple way to get current county names for current towns or cities: just Google the town or city with the name of the state. Almost invariably good information comes up, as well as a summary with a photo of the place, to the right side of the page. Quick, easy, and most often very useful.
- I wish they would contact Brian Leverich and Karen Isaacson who were the originators of Rootsweb and see if they could offer suggestions.
- I used "Gen Forum" and US Gen Web for years and now they are gone or almost useless. Also Family Search has gotten so complex I even have a problem using that site so Ancestry has become my default "go to" for genealogy searching. Rootsweb may just go the way of the USGen Web—there but just not the same site as intended.
- Freepages is probably on borrowed time. The ability to administer one's files was eliminated about two months ago (without warning) so what's there now is what will be there until they eliminate them.
- What about the disaster with FTM? It has been about a year and their sync is still not functioning properly.
- I moved any sites that were on Rootsweb last year when the site was down for weeks, and when it returned, they were all messed up. There are many USGenWeb affiliated sites still there (were there?). Ancestry started gutting Rootsweb almost as soon as they acquired it. The only question in my mind now is when will it become permanently kaput.
- I update my Freepages all the time. Just use a free FTP.
- Remember what happened to genealogy.com when Ancestry got hold of it?

As always, thanks to Dick Eastman at blog.eogn.com for the above article.