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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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## Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 6 p.m. at the Superior Public Library. The topic will be a presentation about the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) from Judy Aunet.

## 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  
December 5 -Holiday Potluck, VIP Restaurant

## September Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2017

@Douglas County Historical Society

Roll Call of Officers: President James Mattson, Vice-President Jān Resberg, Secretary David Johnson, Treasurer Robin Barrett.

Members present: Marlene Case, Don Erickson, Emily Fredrick, Bobbi Hoyt, Arnold Johnson, Sandy Novak, Jane Sigfrids, Karen Smoley, Lois Teich.

Approval of August 2017 minutes.

A motion was made by Arnold Johnson to accept the minutes of the August meeting; it was seconded by Jane Sigfrids. The motion passed.

The treasurer's report was accepted.

## Review of Memberships:

Robin Barrett reports we have 27 or 28 members

## Committee Reports:

Executive Board and Program Committee will meet Sept. 13 at the Upper Deck @ 5:15 P.M.

The Program Committee reports that next year there will be an emphasis on three 100-year topics: The Influenza Pandemic, the end of WWI, the 1918 Fires of Minnesota.

## President's Report:

President Mattson has been in contact with County Board chair Mark Liebert and has been discussing the Parkland Cemetery. This is to be kept as an agenda item.

**Old Business:**

The certificate for Keith Fine (Parkland Cemetery) has been made. A small expenditure was made to purchase a frame.

**New Business:**

A review of the remaining 2017 meetings:

October 3, 6:00 P.M. @ Superior Public Library. Presentation of the D.A.R. by Judy Aunet.

November 7, 6:00 P.M. @ Bong Historical Center. WWI discussion

December 5, 6:00 @ V.I.P. No business meeting. Christmas party with TPGS. We request to have people RSVP at or before the November 7 meeting. Cost is approximately \$8.00 per person.

DCGC will still purchase a copy of the book, Vital Records Handbook, by Dick Eastman. We are looking to see if the library can get a better price than Amazon.com. The book is priced @ \$68 on Amazon.

President Mattson requests that we develop a system to track genealogy requests. Requests come in through our website, Facebook page and through the Library. Secretary Johnson will create a system that will allow members to assist in volunteer searches and not duplicate efforts. Request Committee chair: Dave Johnson  
Committee members: Jane Sigfrids and Emily Fredrick

DCHS Director Tony Tracy informed us that on September 28 & 29 the Finlandia group will present a play about a Finnish Immigrant. These performances will be held in Duluth. Tickets can be obtained through DCHS. Dave Johnson will post this on the Facebook page.

A request was made to seek old plat books of Brule, Douglas County and Ashland areas.

Arnold Johnson reports that a Local History and Historic Preservation Conference will be held October 20 & 21 in La Crosse, WI. More information can be found at <http://www.whslocalhistory.com> (See more info on page 6.)

Next Meeting: October 3, 6:00 p.m. at the Superior Public Library

A motion to adjourn was made by Jane Sigfrids and seconded by Arnold Johnson. The motion passed the meeting adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

A tour of the Historical Society basement records followed the meeting. Bob LaBounty and Tony Tracy assisted with the tour of the records.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Secretary David Johnson*

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

September 13, 2017, 5:50 P.M. @ Upper Deck Restaurant.

Board members present: President James Mattson, Vice-President Jan Resberg, Secretary David Johnson, Treasurer Robin Barrett, Bobbi Hoyt, Judy Aunet, Marlene Case.  
Excused: Jane Sigfrids

President Mattson requests the Secretary to keep current lists of committees and officers with term dates.

Program  
Audit  
By-Law

Request by President Mattson to add the current by-laws to the website.

Discussion to be held with membership to see if they want to have the standing committees listed on the website. Are there any privacy concerns? Could possibly just list first initial, last name.

Treasurer Barrett will look into the price of purchasing a book through the library:  
"International Vital Records Handbook"  
<https://www.amazon.com/International-Vital-Records-Handbook-SUPERSEDED/dp/080631981X>

The meeting adjourned @ 6:00 P.M.

### **Program Committee Meeting Minutes**

September 13, 2017, 6:00 P.M. at The Upper Deck Restaurant

Discussion of meeting topics for the remainder of 2017:

October 3: Daughters of the American Revolution, Judy Aunet at the library

November 7: Bong Veteran's Historical Center

December 5: Holiday Party at Vintage Italian Pizza. A flyer is needed to distribute to TPGS.

Tentative topics for 2018

January 2: Business Meeting, Elections (President & Secretary) Followed by research and sharing at the DCHS

February 6: Timeline of 1918 events related to family tree search. At the DCHS

March 6: Colletta video at the DCHS

April 3: LDS resources at the LDS in Duluth

May 1: Downtown walk, New York, Washington, Lurye blocks?

June 5: Fire Dept. history. At the Old Firehouse & Police Museum. Contact Gary Carino

July 3: Greenwood Cemetery Walk. Firefighters area & Soldiers Circle. Get WWI vet names one month previous to event.

August 7: Possibly get Rachel Martin to speak at the library?

September 4: Tentatively at the DCHS. Talk of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic

October 2: Moose Lake Fire by David Johnson, Location TBD (Fire Museum?)

October 5, 12 or 19: Tentative date of Genealogy Lock in at the Superior Public Library

November 6: One hundred years after end of WWI. At the Bong Center. Donation of \$25 to the Bong.

December 4: Holiday party. Location TBD

Next Executive Board meeting - Tuesday, December 19 @ 5:15 A.M., Upper Deck Restaurant, with a Program Committee meeting to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted:*

*David Johnson, Secretary, DCGC*



### **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

### **October 2017 Webinar: The Aliens are Coming: USCIS Record Sets**

**Presenter:** Rich Venezia

**Date:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 P.M. CST

**Webinar Description:** A-Files? AR-2 Forms? C-Files? Oh, my! Wade through the alphabet soup of the record sets the US Citizenship & Immigration Services holds to find where your immigrant ancestor may be hiding. In addition to handling current immigration into the USA, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) holds indispensable genealogical records for anyone with post-1906 immigrant ancestors. This lecture explores a bit about how USCIS came to be but, more importantly, the valuable records it holds. Participants will learn who is likely to show up on which USCIS file set, how the index searching and ordering process works, and see examples of each record set held by USCIS. The files that will be discussed are:

- A-Files (Alien Files), including which files are held at HARA and which are held by USCIS
- AR-2's (Alien Registration Forms)
- C-Files (Naturalization Certificate Files)
- Registry Files
- Visa Files

#### **Register at:**

**<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/358892342449943476993>**

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.

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### **The WSGS presents the 2017 Fall Seminar: Successful Genealogical Research: Update Your Toolbox Saturday, October 28, 2017**

at the

**Best Western Plus  
Eau Claire Conference Center**  
3340 Mondovi Road  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

The featured speaker will be **Paula Stuart-Warren, CG®, FMGS, FUGA**

The cost is \$45.00 for WSGS members and \$70.00 for non-members for reservations made by September 27<sup>th</sup>. A buffet lunch will be offered for \$15.00 and must be ordered by September 27<sup>th</sup>. Full details are at the WSGS website at <https://wsgs.org/cpage.php?pt=256>



#### **MNGS Webinar**

**Get Your Story Out There!**

**Presenter:** Jennifer Alford

**Date:** Wednesday, October 4, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 P.M – 8:15 P.M. CST

**Description:** Have you been writing your family's history and wanted to share it with the world? Or perhaps you just want to give it as a gift to your grandchildren? This presentation will cover the many options available for self-publishing. We'll cover the latest online services that can get your work published electronically or in an actual book format. Whether you are

publishing for yourself, your family or ultimately for sale to the general public, there are some important steps that you need to be aware of to protect your hard work. We'll also cover the important topics of copyrighting, marketing, and selling your book.

Jennifer Alford is a Professional Engineer by day and a genealogy professional by night. Her business, Genealogy, creates engaging family history treasures. The highlight of her days is her work as publisher of the In-Depth Genealogist's magazine, *Going In-Depth*.

**Cost:** Free!

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



### 2017 North Star Genealogy Conference

Set your compass to the Tenth Annual North Star Genealogy Conference, October 6-7, 2017. Meet at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota to enjoy featured speakers Paula Stuart-Warren and Cyndi Ingle, 20 topical breakout presentations, door prizes, exhibitors, the annual Awards Banquet and more!

Also, learn the value of adding DNA to your genealogy toolbox at the North Star DNA Day pre-conference on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Find complete conference information on the **North Star 2017** page on the MNGS website.



### WHS

The Wisconsin Historical Society will conduct its 2017 Local History-Historic Preservation Conference on Friday, October 20 and Saturday, Oct 21 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in LaCrosse, WI. Reservations must be made by October 6. For the past ten years, over 300 members of the Wisconsin local history and historic preservation community have gathered in the fall to network and exchange ideas. You will meet and learn from professionals, board members, volunteers, and students who share your passion for preserving Wisconsin's local history and historic places.

Conference registration is now open. Early Bird discounts are available through August 18 after which regular registration rates will apply through the October 6 deadline. Members of the Wisconsin Historical Society receive a 10% member discount when they provide their membership number during registration. We also offer a special rate for students who provide a valid student ID.

Registration, hotel and tour information is available at <https://wisconsinhistory.org>.

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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](mailto: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](mailto:jnjsig@yahoo.com).





## News from the Internet

### **How One Woman Brought the 'Mother's Curse' to Thousands of Her French-Canadian Descendants**

[blog.eogn.com/2017/09/20/](http://blog.eogn.com/2017/09/20/)

The first King's Daughters—or filles du roi—arrived in New France in 1663, and 800 more would follow over the next decade. Given their numbers, they were not literally the king's daughters of course. They were poor and usually of common birth, but their passage and dowry were indeed paid by King Louis XIV for the purpose of empire building: These women were to marry male colonists and have many children, thus strengthening France's hold on North America. French Canadians can usually trace their ancestry back to one or more of these women. For more information about the filles du roi, see my earlier article at <http://bit.ly/2wG6ecP>. Whenever a small group of people leave a large population (France) to found a new one (New France), they bring with them a particular set of mutations. Some of these mutations will by chance be more common in the new population and others less so. As a result, some rare genetic disorders disproportionately impact French Canadians. One of these is Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy, which causes vision loss, usually in young men. Recently, geneticists using French Canadian genealogy have reexamined the effects of Leber's and found a striking pattern of inheritance: It seems to show

a long-theorized but never-seen-in-humans pattern called the "mother's curse." Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy is passed down from mothers to sons and daughters alike but the daughters rarely suffer from the problem themselves. It seems to affect men eight times more often than women. Also, men never pass it to their children. If you suffer from Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy, you inherited it from your mother's mother's mother's mother's female ancestors and back through the all-female line to France. Although this condition usually begins in a person's teens or twenties, rare cases may appear in early childhood or later in adulthood. If you have French-Canadian ancestry on your mother's side of your family tree, you will want to read about Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy in an article by Sarah Zhang in The Atlantic web site at: <http://theatlantic.com/2017/09/20/leber-hereditary-optic-neuropathy/>. However, the article focuses primarily on the method by which the neuropathy is passed down from one generation to the next. For more specific information about the effects of the disease, see Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leber%27s\\_hereditary\\_optic\\_neuropathy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leber%27s_hereditary_optic_neuropathy) and dozens of other online articles by starting at <http://bit.ly/2hg4816>.

*As always, thanks to Dick Eastman at [blog.eogn.com](http://blog.eogn.com) for the above article.*