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Gen News

The newsletter of the Douglas County Genealogy Club
Volume 11:89
Editor: Jane Sigfrids

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jnjsig@yahoo.com
[Facebook](#)

Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 6, at 6:00 p.m. at the Superior Public Library. The topic will be courthouse research resources.

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 6 – Clerk of Courts and other courthouse research resources available
October 4 – DAR
November 1 – Richard I. Bong Center
December 6 – Holiday Potluck

August Meeting Minutes August 2, 2016

Present:
Officers: President Jim Mattson, Treasurer Jane Sigfrids, Secretary David Johnson
Members: Emily Fredrick, Marlene Case, Lorrie Madden, Karen Smoley
Absent:
Vice President Jan Resberg, excused.
Guest: Karen Morse

The June meeting minutes were read. Enily Fredrick made a motion to accept them; Karen Smoley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There were no July minutes; no business meeting was held due to field trip to Parkland and Woodlawn cemeteries.

The Treasurer's reports were given by Secretary Sigfrids: for June; a motion to accept was made by Karen Smoley and seconded by Emily Fredrick. The motion passed. For July, a motion to accept was made by Marlene Case and seconded by Emily Fredrick. The motion passed.

Committee Reports:

The June 23 Executive Board meeting minutes were given by Secretary David Johnson. A motion to accept was made by Marlene Case and seconded by Jane Sigfrids. The motion passed.

The June 23 Program Committee meeting report was also given by Secretary David Johnson. It was received and filed.

Jane Sigfrids reported that the current membership stands between 24 and 27 members. An updated membership roster was handed out. President Jim Mattson requested members to check the roster for any needed corrections or additions.

A request was made to have a class on using the web and its many genealogical websites. The next committee meeting scheduled for September 21, 2016, 5:30 @ Perkins.

It was reported by Judy Aunet that the Library's DVD of "Discovering Your Roots" is missing. This was purchased by DCGC. Judy was able to obtain a

copy elsewhere and had it made available for tonight's meeting. A big thank you was given for Judy's efforts. (Applause here.)

The Bong Heritage Center has been reserved for November's meeting.

An update was given in regard to the DCGC website, www.douglaswigenalogy.org, by Secretary David Johnson. The site is live. Some corrections have been made. A request was made to have the Wisconsin Genealogy site added to the links. This was done during the meeting. After the email gets operating correctly Johnson will present a bill for the web site and email the link out to all members.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Correspondence was received from the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society for an October 8th event. **(Editor's note: see Upcoming Events.)**

The WSGS Gene-O-Rama is scheduled for a date to be announced in the spring of 2017.

Douglas County Fair. We have received no requests or information from them on having a display at the fair.

Guest Karen Morse introduced herself and expressed an interest in joining the club.

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

Following the meeting we viewed Chapter One of the DVD "Discovering Your Roots" by John Colletta.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary David Johnson.



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 Fall Seminar

The WSGS will hold their Fall 2016 Seminar on October 8, in Summit, Wisconsin at the Aurora Medical Center. The featured speaker will be Craig R. Scott, MA, CG, FUGA. He is the President and CEO of Heritage Books, Inc., a genealogical publishing firm with over 5,300 titles in print. A professional genealogical and historical researcher for more than thirty years, he specializes in the records of the National Archives, especially those that relate to the military. He is the Coordinator of the Military Tracks at IGHR, SLIG and GRIP.

A full brochure and registration details are available at <http://wsgs.org> under the Calendar of Events.

MNGS Events

The Minnesota Genealogical Society will present their flagship event, the 9th Annual North Star Conference, from Sept 29 - Oct 1, 2016 at

Colonial Church, 6200 Colonial Way, in Edina, MN. One featured speaker will be Michael Lapoco, a genealogical researcher and national and international lecturer. He has research experience in many fields with particular strengths in research involving Mennonite families, Pennsylvania Germans and Midwest/Middle Atlantic research (Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and Pennsylvania.) He is proficient in reading German script and has a particular interest in immigrant ancestry.

The other keynote speaker is Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., described as “an intellectual property attorney by day and a genetic genealogist by night”. He is the author of the long-running blog “The Genetic Genealogist” and frequently gives presentations and webinars to educate others about the use of DNA to explore their ancestry.

New this year is a pre-conference workshop, *DNA and Genealogy*, on Thursday, Sept 29th. The weekend will feature 26 “Breakout Sessions” by speakers from 5 states.

Registration is now open; details can be found on the MNGS website at <http://mngs.org>. Click on the North Star 2016 link.

WHS Events

The WHS will present a genealogy workshop, *DNA and Genealogy*, on Saturday, September 17th, at the Memorial Library, Room 126, located at 728 State Street in Madison, WI. The workshop will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the top DNA testing sites will be discussed as well as additional sites that help you get more out of the results that are provided on sites like 23 and Me, Ancestry, and Family Tree DNA.

The main speaker will be Mary Eberle, JD, from DNA Hunters, LLC.

More information can be found at www.wisconsinhistory.org/calendar.



Upcoming Events is a work in progress. 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 them to me at jnjsig@yahoo.com.



News from the Internet

New Genealogy Service Poise to Fill Gap in Genealogy Industry

[Dick Eastman](#) [August 29, 2016](#) [Education](#)
[No Comments](#)

This looks interesting. You can now obtain personalized coaching for your genealogy searches. The following announcement was written by the folks at genealogyDOTcoach.

CEDAR HILLS, Utah – August 29, 2016 – A new family history service launched today that will fill a critical gap in the multi-billion dollar

industry. GenealogyDOTcoach^(SM) is a new online service that matches up professional genealogists (called Genealogy Coaches) with people who want to have all the fun of making family history discoveries for genealogy themselves but just need a little assistance from someone they can trust.

“With do-it-yourself sites like Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org it has become so easy for anyone to start climbing their family tree,” says co-founder, Janet Hovorka. “But, sometimes people get a little stuck in the process. The traditional option at that point has been to purchase a 10 or 20 hour research package from a professional genealogist. Many people can’t afford that kind of help. Others are reluctant to do so because they want the joy of making those family history discoveries themselves. genealogyDOTcoach aims to fill that gap.”

The service launches with 25 coaches across 47 different categories. Topics include: getting started; genetic genealogy/DNA; tree analysis and writing a research plan; and document translation. Coaches also specialize in research for different regions of the world and different ethnic groups. The initial group of coaches have an average of 25 years of training and experience apiece. They are researchers, authors, and lecturers. The impressive list of coaches includes some of the most well-known genealogists in the industry.

On the genealogyDOTcoach website, users can select a topic and see a list of coaches who specialize in that topic. They can review comments and ratings from previous clients, to help them select a coach they would like to work with. Sessions can be scheduled for 15, 30 or 60 minutes. Pricing starts as low as \$15 for 15 minutes.

Shortly before the coaching session, an email link is sent that allows the user to log in to a private video chat room. There they meet face to face,

via video chat, to share screens and documents with the genealogy coach, and receive the help they need to keep them moving along in their family history journey.

“Clients leave the coaching sessions with a game plan for how to move forward in their family history research,” says Hovorka. “Just like life coaches or athletic coaches, genealogy coaches can give you the boost you need to be better at what you enjoy.”

(Thanks, as always, to Dick Eastman at <https://blog.eogn.com>)

FamilySearch Blog/ Photos and Stories /

5 Simple Ways to Add Details to Your Family Story

August 22, 2016 By Leslie Albrecht Huber



If you’ve ever tried to write a family story based only on the information you can find in a family group sheet or pedigree chart, you know that the

limited information makes for a pretty short, dull family history! Our ancestors, of course, were more than a list of names and dates. They were real people with full lives. To tell their stories, we need to dig deeper and look further. Here are a few simple ideas to help you add details to their stories.

Pull Out All the Information

Often when we are first gathering information about our families, we look for the basics: birth, marriage, and death dates and places. By spending a little more time with the records, we can sometimes discover other hidden gems to help us fill in our ancestors' stories.

One clue included in many records is an occupation. Knowing your ancestor's occupation can help you understand his daily routine and even his socioeconomic status. On my family tree, I have a lot of farmers, a blacksmith, and a bricklayer or two (among other things). I also have an ancestor in the mid-1800s in England who worked as a "carman." A little additional research on these occupations can fill in the story even more. What was it like to be a farmer in Sweden in the mid-1800s or a blacksmith in the late 1700s in England? And what exactly was a carman anyway?

Other common pieces of information in records are causes of death, names and occupations of witnesses, and an indication of whether a child was legitimate. Sometimes, you might find other notes in the records. A pastor once wrote in one of my ancestor's marriage records that my ancestor was marrying for the fourth time and that he had divorced his first wife of twenty years (something scandalous!). Pay attention to the details, and you never know what you might find!

Try Unconventional Records

If you've been doing family history research for a while, you've probably used census records, vital

records, and church records. Records like these are likely to contain the names, dates, and places that are so important to genealogy. But when you're looking to add details to your story, it might be time to try records you've never considered before. Other types of records might not be as likely to give a marriage date, but they might provide some interesting details about your ancestors that help fill in their stories. Here are a few records to try:

- Financial records
- School records
- Employment records
- Newspapers
- Minutes of meetings they attended
- Records of societies they belonged to

Rely on Personal Accounts of Others

If your ancestor left behind a diary, letters, an autobiography, or another personal account, you are fortunate indeed! But what if your ancestor didn't leave behind anything like this? (And unfortunately, after going back a few generations, you find that this is the most likely scenario!) Short of switching to the fiction genre and inventing a good, dramatic story line, is there any hope of taking your family history to the next level? Yes! While your ancestor may not have written anything, other people did—and their personal accounts can still shed light on your ancestors' experiences.

Start with people who were closest to your ancestor. If a family member or neighbor left behind personal accounts, these will be invaluable, of course. However, personal accounts written by people who never met your ancestor can still be useful. Broaden your search to include accounts by people who shared experiences with your ancestors such as those who immigrated at the same time or fought in the same war. Their descriptions of what these experiences were like will still largely apply to your ancestor.

How do you find these personal accounts? Here are a few places to look:

- [National Union Catalogue of Manuscript Collections](#) (NUCMC)
- [Eyewitness to History](#)
- [Soldiers and Sailors Database](#)
- [Immigration to the United States, 1789–1930, Harvard University Library, Open Collections Program](#)
- For Latter-day Saint ancestors, try the [Mormon Immigration Index](#) and [Mormon Overland Pioneer Travel](#)

Draw on Social and Local Histories

While our ancestors might be the center of their own paintings, they didn't exist against a blank canvas. A full, rich background is around them—if you take the time to fill it in. A little knowledge of the time and place they lived can go a long way. Of course, you can always start with general history books or articles. But drilling down a little more specifically might work even better. Local histories can give glimpses into your ancestors' lives that you can't get from a larger-scale view. They might even contain information specifically about your ancestor. Even without specific information, they often tell about the make-up of the town and important events that shaped the lives of people who lived there. They can even include photos.

A great place to start is to look for a town or county history on the [Family History Books page](#) of FamilySearch.org. Here you can find 200,000 digitized family history publications, including many town and county histories.

Don't be afraid to contact local family history or genealogical societies. People there often know about great resources. And this suggestion doesn't just apply to locations in the United States. I've found parish or town histories for every place my family lived in Germany, Sweden, and England. One trick I've found to be useful is contacting the parish directly. Sometimes parish

histories are nothing more than papers stapled together and kept in a filing cabinet in the basement of a church. You'll never know they exist if you only try online databases.

These little extra steps can make a big difference in enabling you to discover your family's story—instead of just their vital statistics!

(Courtesy of <https://familysearch.org/blog>)