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# Gen News

The Newsletter of  
the Douglas County Genealogy Club  
Volume 14:4 – April 2019  
[www.douglaswigenealogy.org](http://www.douglaswigenealogy.org)



## Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2, at 6 p.m. at the LDS Family History Center, 521 Upham Road in Duluth, for a review of their resources. No business will be conducted.



## Tentative Meeting Topics for 2019

**April 2:** Visit to the LDS Family History Center in Duluth

**May 7:** Eileen Gannon, DNA

**June 4:** Sharing members' genealogical research

**July 9:** Calvary Cemetery tour

**August 6:** Vickie Chupurdia, Proctor resident and professional genealogist ([www.vintagevickie.com](http://www.vintagevickie.com))

**September 3:** Dan Reed to discuss immigration

**October 1:** Members will share their genealogical research

**November 5:** Location and topic to be determined

**December 3:** Holiday Party; location to be determined



## March Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2019; 6:00 pm  
Superior Public Library

Officers present were: Vice-President Jān Resberg, Secretary David Johnson Treasurer Jane Sigfrids. Absent: President James Mattson (excused).

A motion to accept the February meeting minutes was made by Arnold Johnson and seconded by Jane Sigfrids. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Jane Sigfrids. A motion to accept was made by David Johnson and seconded by Emily Fredrick. The motion passed.

Review of membership: we have 33 current members.

## Committee Reports:

### **Research Request Committee:**

Chair Dave Johnson reports that former Minnesota Vikings coach Bud Grant is looking for information about his ancestry. He contacted Dave through the fire department.

### **President's Report:**

President Mattson is out of town and did not submit a report.

## **Old Business:**

### **Summit Cemetery**

A request came in a few months ago from someone looking for a contact person for the cemetery. Jackie Plunkett has this information; Dave Johnson will email her and officially request the contact info.

### **By-Law Committee:**

The committee will discuss possible changes at the next Executive Board meeting.

### **Library Lock-In:**

Judy Aunet reports that one of our speakers, Nancy Broughton, agreed to wave her normal speaking fee in exchange for a letter of donation for her time. She will still get a free box lunch and a stipend will be offered to cover her travel expenses.

Jane Sigfrids made a motion that miscellaneous expenses for the lock-in be included in the \$250 that was passed as a motion in the February meeting; it was seconded by Emily Fredrick. The motion passed.

It is requested that the volunteers sign up for their box lunches soon.

### **New Business:**

Jane Sigfrids received an email from the Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, IN. requesting copies of all of our "Gen News" newsletters. This will be discussed at our next board meeting.

**What are you doing?** A general discussion was held concerning members' personal searches.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jane Sigfrids and seconded by Arne Johnson; the motion passed. The meeting adjourned by 6:38 pm.

After our regular meeting we were given a presentation by Michael Olson of the LDS Family History Center, who updated the club on what is happening with the LDS. He spoke about the "Genealogy Proof Standard" and presented a link: <https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/GenealogicalProofStandard>

He also presented information from <https://recordseek.com>

*Respectfully submitted.*

*Dave Johnson, Secretary, DCGC*

Members present: Judy Aunet, Marlene Case, Emily Fredrick, Arnold Johnson, Edna Johnson, George Johnson, Jackie Plunkett, Lois Teich



Reminder: Membership dues for 2019 are now payable. You can pay at the monthly meeting or send a check to me at:

Jane Sigfrids  
4521 S County Rd E  
South Range, WI 54874

Please be sure to make your check out to the club, not to me personally. Also, please write "2019 Dues" in the memo field on your check. Thank you.



### **April 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

### Annual Library Lock-In

The Douglas County Genealogy Club will hold its annual Library Lock-In, "Foolin' Around With Your Family Tree", on Friday, April 5, 2019 at the Superior Public Library, beginning at 5:00 pm.

Our keynote speaker will be professional genealogist Joanne Sher, a member of the Twin Ports Genealogy Society, whose topic will be "It's Not All Online: Using Archives, Libraries and Onsite Resources". She will also conduct a breakout session: "Putting Meat on the Bones: Incorporating Social History into Your Family History".

A second breakout session is planned, with a speaker and topic to be determined.

As well as doing two presentations, Ms. Sher will offer eight 15-minute individual appointments for participants to ask specific genealogy questions. These will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. In order to accommodate participants wishing to attend the second breakout session, two of the eight time slots will be made available either before the lock-in begins or at the end of the evening.

#### Lock-In Schedule

- 4:30-5:00 pm: Individual appointments with Joanne Sher (Library Study Room)
- 5:00-5:05 pm: Introduction (Leslie Mehle – Meeting Room)
- 5:05-6:00 pm: Joanne Sher; "It's Not All Online: Using Archives, Libraries and Onsite Resources" (Meeting Room)
- 6:00-6:30 pm: Dinner Break
- 6:30-7:30 pm: Optional breakout session – speaker and topic TBD (Meeting Room)

**OR**

Individual appointments with Joanne Sher (Study Room)

**OR**

Independent research in the library

- 7:30-8:30 pm: Optional breakout session with Joanne Sher – "Putting Meat on the

Bones: Incorporating Social History into Your Family History" (Meeting Room)

**OR**

Independent research in the library

- 8:30-9:00 pm: Prize drawings (must be present to win)  
Individual appointments with Joanne Sher (as needed)

**OR**

Independent research in the library

Registration will open Monday, March 4 and forms will be available at the library.

Lunches from Super One will be available again this year; the cost is ten dollars. Sandwich choices are turkey, ham, roast beef and veggie. Beverages will be provided by the Friends of the Library. If you don't want to purchase a box lunch, please feel free to bring your own dinner. Please contact Leslie Mehle, the library liaison, at [mehle@superiorlibrary.org](mailto:mehle@superiorlibrary.org) with your meal preference.

Volunteers are needed to assist with registering attendees, accepting payment for and handling distribution of lunches, and with table/chair set-up and take-down. Please contact Leslie at the above email address if you can lend a hand. Also, even as a volunteer, if you want a lunch, you need to let Leslie know.



### TPGS Upcoming Event: April

"Making Sense of DNA"

A mini workshop sponsored by Twin Ports Genealogical Society at the Duluth Public Library is scheduled for April 6, 2019 in the Green Room from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM. Topics will include the basics of DNA and inheritance and how to navigate your results. Free and open to the public. No pre-registration is required.



**WSGS**  
**Webinar**

**Picture This: Cataloging Digital Family Photographs**

**Presenter:** Nancy E. Loe

**Date:** Tuesday, April 16, 2019

**Time:** 7:00 pm CST

**Description:** Family photographs may seem so complex that they defy organizing. Tame your digital family photographs by learning how to insert names, dates, and other information inside images to make them searchable. This webinar outlines a simple and effective workflow, beginning with scanning and adding information for retrieval, followed by linking photos to digital images, and then filing and backing up your family photographs.

**Register** **at:**  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3307326973560366851>

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. If you have problems connecting to the software, be sure to check that your browser software is running the most current version available.



**2019 Gene-A-Rama**

From the WSGS website: You've hunted for years looking for any clue that could help to fill in your family's history. Then, by sheer coincidence, you learn about a rarely used, but available resource that could help break down your brick

walls – of course, you wish you would have known about it sooner. Join us -- we'll introduce you to a variety of untapped resources that can help advance your family research.

Registration for the 2019 Gene-A-Rama is now open. The event will be held at the Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center in Onalaska, WI, on Friday, March 29 and Saturday, March 30. Speaker and schedule information is on the WSGS website, <https://wsgs.org>.

**New This Year: "Ask A Genealogist" Sessions**



**MNGS**  
**Webinar**

**Getting the Most Out of DNA Ethnicity Reports**

**Presenter:** John Vanek

**Date:** Wednesday, April 3

**Time:** 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm

**Description:** The most frequent complaint about DNA tests is that ethnicity reports don't match people's expectations. John Vanek will help us look at how these reports are calculated and explore some of the challenges that stand in the way of presenting ethnicity accurately. In the end, you'll better understand how you can incorporate ethnicity results into your research.

John Vanek has a master's degree in American history and currently works as an exhibit developer for Split Rock Studios in Arden Hills. He has been doing genealogical research since 6<sup>th</sup> grade (and at a high level for more than a decade). In 2015, John identified his biological father – a sperm donor – by reconstructing his family tree based on distant DNA relatives. For two-a-a-half years, until the end of 2018, John worked as a professional genealogist, specializing in cases involving DNA.

Please see the Events page at [mngs.org](http://mngs.org) for registration information.



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 her 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

#### **F+W Media, Citing Debt, Decline and Mismanagement, Files for Bankruptcy Protection**

[Dick Eastman · March 15, 2019 · Books, Business News · 2 Comments](#)

F+W Media is a publisher of many popular magazines, books, digital products, videos and other content. Within the genealogy community, the company is best known as the producer of *Family Tree Magazine*, *Family Tree University* and the *Family Tree* website. Sadly, F+W Media filed for bankruptcy protection a few days ago.

Facing near-term liquidity issues with only about \$2.5 million in cash available and \$105.2 million in outstanding debt, F+W Media filed for protection

under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy code, citing in various documents a perfect storm of secular industry decline, poor investments, and even mismanagement.

**NOTE:** *Family Tree Magazine* published by F+W Media in the U.S. should not be confused with a magazine of the same name published in England by Warners Group Publications Plc. (See <https://www.family-tree.co.uk/> for the “other” *Family Tree Magazine*.) The two magazines may share a name but nothing else. They are owned and published by totally different companies.



#### **Four Nations Unite Today in Boston to Share Plans for Mayflower 2020**

[Dick Eastman · March 14, 2019 · Announcements · 3 Comments](#)

The following announcement was written by the New England Historic Genealogical Society:

March 14, 2019—*Boston, Massachusetts*—Four nations are set to unite and share their 2020 Commemoration Program plans for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mayflower Voyage with an audience of guests invited to attend the event, which will be hosted today at the New England Historical Genealogical Society in Boston. Presenters will include representatives from Mayflower 400, Leiden 2020, Plymouth 400, Inc., VisitBritain, American Ancestors, and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Over the course of the event, each of the nations: United Kingdom, United States of America, the Wampanoag Nation, and the Netherlands will share their unique perspectives of that pivotal moment that defined the course of world history.

The four international Mayflower compact partner nations are united in their passion to commemorate the anniversary and to celebrate shared values of freedom, democracy, humanity, and the future.



### **Muckrock Provides a State-by-State Look at Your Public Records Laws**

[Dick Eastman · March 13, 2019 · Legal Affairs, Online Sites · 4 Comments](#)

These are laws that strongly affect genealogists. Many states are locking up public domain birth, marriage, and death records under the bogus claim of “preventing identity theft.” What’s the odds that an identity thief wants to use the personal information of my grandmother who died more than 60 years ago? Does anyone believe a thief can obtain a loan or a credit card in her name?

In any case, *MuckRock* tracks the laws of 50 states plus Washington D.C., all with different statutes, exemptions, and limitations that dictate what you can get from your state and local agencies. With the rules of access differing across the board, *MuckRock* provides an easy way to keep track of them all through our interactive database showcasing the best, the worst, and the confusing parts of state records law.

MuckRock is available at: <https://www.muckrock.com/news/archives/2019/mar/08/sw-state-guide>.

**\*Editor’s note:** *The full transcript of each of these articles is fairly lengthy; you can go to the website to read them in full, and as always, thanks to Dick Eastman at [blog.eogn.com](http://blog.eogn.com) for permission to use them.*



### **Committee Memberships – 2019**

#### **Executive Board**

Jim Mattson (President)  
Jän Resberg (Vice-President)  
Dave Johnson (Secretary)  
Jane Sigfrids (Treasurer)  
Judy Aunet (at-large)  
Marlene Case (at-large)  
Emily Fredrick (at-large)  
Bobbi Hoyt (at-large)  
Jackie Plunkett (at-large)

#### **Program Committee**

Jän Resberg (Chair)  
Judy Aunet  
Jim Mattson  
Jackie Plunkett  
Jane Sigfrids

#### **Financial Review Committee**

Marlene Case  
Dave Johnson

#### **Research Request Committee**

Dave Johnson (Chair)  
Emily Fredrick  
Jackie Plunkett  
Jane Sigfrids

#### **Library Lock-In Committee**

Judy Aunet  
Jane Sigfrids  
Leslie Mehle – library liaison

*Newsletter Editor: Jane Sigfrids*