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# Gen News

The Newsletter of  
the Douglas County Genealogy Club  
Volume 14:3 – March 2019  
[www.douglaswigenealogy.org](http://www.douglaswigenealogy.org)



## Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5, at 6 p.m. at the Superior Public Library. Our guest speaker will be Michael Olson, director of the LDS Family History Center in Duluth.

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



## February Meeting Minutes

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

The February 5, 2019 meeting of the Douglas County Genealogy Club was called to order by President Jim Mattson. Officers present were President Mattson, Vice-President Jan Resberg, Secretary Dave Johnson and Treasurer Jane Sigfrids.

Minutes of the January meeting were read by President Mattson. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Jane Sigfrids and seconded by Jackie Plunkett. The motion passed.

Treasurer Jane Sigfrids reported the finances for December 2018 and January 2019. A motion to accept the report was made by Jan Resberg and seconded by Jackie Plunkett. The motion passed.

Financial Review Committee members Dave Johnson and Marlene Case presented a two-year financial review (2017 and 2018). They met with Treasurer Sigfrids on January 31<sup>st</sup> and went through both years to get the current review.

\*Note: One outstanding check for \$60 has not been cashed. The check ledger has been adjusted to reflect that check is lost. A new check was written to pay dues to WSGS. Should the lost check



## Tentative Meeting Topics for 2019

**March 5:** Michael Olson, director at the LDS Family History Center in Duluth

**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

re-appear in the future, it is to be voided.

A motion to accept the financial review was made by Jackie Plunkett and seconded by Judy Aunet. The motion passed.

Membership Review: As of this meeting, 15 of 33 members have paid dues. Dues can be paid at this meeting.

### **Committees Reports:**

#### **Executive Board and Program Committee**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 5:15 pm at the Golden Inn Restaurant, located at 24 "E" Street in Superior. Dave Johnson is to make a reservation for the side room.

A motion to accept the time and place for the meeting was made by Marlene Case and seconded by Jane Sigfrids. The motion passed.

#### **Request Committee**

Dave Johnson reports one request for a divorce record for a Blaylock family. Emily Fredrick searched the Douglas County Courthouse records and did not find the divorce. The requestor was notified.

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

President Mattson reports he will be out of town for the March and April meetings, including the Executive Board/Program Committee meeting. President Mattson donated a book, *Historical Maps of Europe*, for the Lock-In event on April 5, to be used as the Lock-In committee decides.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **Review Constitution and By-laws**

Treasurer Sigfrids noted that Article 4 creates problems in that we are to stop sending out newsletters if dues are not paid by the February meeting. A new month may be considered as many do not attend winter meetings and pay their dues in later months.

Reminder that the by-laws are published and up-to-date on the [www.douglaswigenology.org](http://www.douglaswigenology.org) website. The latest revision is dated January 5, 2016.

#### **May Presentation**

Our presenter for May is Eileen Gannon. She is requesting direction from us for her presentation. It will be on DNA but she would like more specific direction. Members suggested Gen-Match, comparing DNA sites such as Ancestry and 23andMe, or DNA mapping reliability.

#### **New Business:**

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

The committee met; the date of the Lock-In is Friday, April 5. Members should be there by 4:00 pm; the event starts at 4:30. The committee is looking for local presenters. Prizes are also needed. The next organizational meeting will be February 12.

There was discussion on fees for speakers. A motion to allow up to \$250 for speaker fees plus lunch was made by Vice-President Resberg and seconded by Emily Fredrick; the motion passed.

##### **Monthly Speaker Fees**

Jackie Plunkett asked about allocating money for our monthly speakers if needed. It was suggested to contact the Duluth genealogy club (TPGS) and ask what they do.

##### **Projector**

The library now charges \$10 for use of the projector for private clubs. A discussion arose concerning purchasing our own projector. It was generally thought that this would be too large an expense and we would not need a projector for every meeting.

A motion to pay the \$10 fee to the library for when the projector is needed was made by Marlene Case and seconded by Jackie Plunkett. The motion passed.

##### **Financial Review Committee**

President Mattson requests one more volunteer to sit on the committee.

##### **Family Tree DNA**

They have apologized for sharing DNA information with the FBI outside of their published rules.

## Viola Sandgren

Arnold Johnson reports that Viola Sandgren is working on a genealogy translation project. She is transcribing church records from the northern parts of Scandinavia. She can be found under the name Viola S.

## Newsletters

Several genealogy club newsletter were passed around, including a brochure from the WSGS for the 2019 Gene-A-Rama which will be held March 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> in Onalaska, WI.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jane Sigfrids and seconded by Jackie Plunkett. The motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

After the regular meeting, Jane Sigfrids gave a presentation on Presidential Genealogy. A lively discussion took place concerning tree nomenclature and generations removed. Thanks, Jane, for overcoming some technical difficulties and presenting a very interesting topic.

Note: The next meeting will be on March 5, 2019 at the Superior Public Library. The presentation will be an update on changes at the LDS Family History Center in Duluth.

*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.



## March 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 Webinar

### **Is Great-Grandmother Really Native American? An Introduction to Native American Genealogical Research**

**Presenter:** Janice Lovelace

**Date:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019

**Time:** 7:00 pm CST

**Description:** Many families have the oral history that an ancestor was Native American. How does a family researcher begin to discover if this is true? What federal, state and tribal records are available?

**Register at:**  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7626238334278423043>

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.



Information for the 2019 Gene-A-Rama is now available on the WSGS website, <https://wsgs.org.2> 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 there, along with registration information.

Please note: The deadline for early-bird conference registration is **March 4, 2019**; the deadline for the discounted hotel room rate is **February 28, 2019**.



### **MNGS** **Webinar**

#### **Organize Like an Archivist**

**Presenter:** Nancy E. Loe, MA, MLS

**Date:** Wednesday, February 6

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

**Description:** *This webinar helps you put your genealogy research records in order, using the same techniques as professional archivists who manage vast collections.*

*Discover effective step-by-step strategies to manage your genealogy research, using six digital folders. Learn how to name and organize digital files for quick retrieval, link paper and digital records, and tame your genealogy records. No need for color codes, numbering systems, or other complicated schemes with this archives-based system.*

*Nancy E. Loe, MA, MLS, is a genealogy writer and*

*educator. After a long career in libraries and archives assisting researchers, Nancy now writes and lectures on her specializations: organizing research and finding Midwestern U.S. and European records. She appears frequently at regional, national and international genealogy conferences.. Please see the Events page at [mngs.org](http://mngs.org) for registration information.*



#### **DCGC Upcoming Event: April**

##### **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 Scher, 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. Scher 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 Scher (Library Study Room)
- 5:00-5:05 pm: Introduction (Leslie Mehle – Meeting Room)

- 5:05-6:00 pm: Joanne Scher; "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 Scher (Study Room)

**OR**

Independent research in the library

- 7:30-8:30 pm: Optional breakout session with Joanne Scher – "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 Scher (as needed)

**OR**

Independent research in the library

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

Box 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 me at [jnjsig@yahoo.com](mailto:jnjsig@yahoo.com) or Leslie Mehle at the library at [mehlel@superiorlibrary.org](mailto:mehlel@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 me at [jnjsig@yahoo.com](mailto:jnjsig@yahoo.com) if you can give us a hand.



**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.



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**

**Preserving Documents Digitally Versus on Paper Alone**

[Dick Eastman · February 21 2019 · Preservation · 11 Comments](#)

I frequently hear a genealogist say something like this: "Digital storage methods are dangerous and won't last long. I am going to save everything on paper so it will last forever."

I strongly disagree. That is one of the fallacies that seem to float around forever. Professional archivists and data center managers all know better than that.

I certainly do not object to saving information on paper as long as that is **only one of the copies made** and is in addition to digital copies. However, I would never trust paper as the **only** means of storing information for many years.

Paper is one of the most delicate storage methods available.

Most of today's paper has a life expectancy of about 25 to maybe 75 years. If you use acid-free paper, the life expectancy is 100 years and possibly more. However, acid-free paper is kind of rare. It is available in a number of places but very few people purchase it.

The bigger issue is the ink that is used. Nobody uses real ink these days. Most documents are printed with ink-jet (which isn't ink) printers or with laser toner. The liquid ink-jet printing will start to fade within a very few years and, depending upon storage conditions, will probably disappear entirely within 25 to 50 years. Red text made with an ink-jet printer fades faster. The good news is that black text lasts longer, in some cases maybe even 25 to 50 years if printed on good quality paper and stored in ideal conditions.

Laser-printed documents last 25 to 50 years, depending upon storage conditions. Unlike ink, the laser toner is not absorbed by the paper. Instead, the toner is simply heated and "fused" to the outside of the paper. It then slowly fades and flakes off. After 50 years or so, you may have a blank sheet of paper but also might notice some black dust in the bottom of the container where the document was stored.

Of course, the biggest threat to paper is external causes: mold, mildew, insect damage, burst water pipes, condensation, fire, earthquake, hurricanes,

tornadoes, theft, or simple neglect. Those things destroy far more paper than simple old age.

In contrast, if maintained properly, digital documents can last forever and be used forever, long after paper has disappeared. The keywords in that sentence are "**If maintained properly.**" Digitized documents cannot be expected to last for centuries if they are simply stored on a disk or flash drive, placed on a shelf, and left there. The information has to occasionally be "refreshed": that is, periodically it is read and copied to new media, sometimes translated to new formats.

The U.S. Social Security Administration and most other government agencies have been doing this for more than 50-years. Digital information recorded more than 50 years ago is still available today because someone took the time every few years to copy it to modern media. One obvious example is the Social Security Death Index. Digital records created in 1963 are still available to you and me today and undoubtedly will also be available to our great-great-grandchildren.

The U.S. military, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, many other civilian agencies, aircraft manufacturers, automobile manufacturers, drug companies, insurance companies, and thousands of other corporations have all done the same. Most of them still have and use digital information daily that was recorded decades ago. Every competent data center manager knows how to maintain digital information for his or her employer, keeping it available for decades (so far) and probably for centuries.



If you record information with real India Ink (which is almost impossible to purchase these days) and a fountain pen (not a ball point pen) and acid-free paper, then store the result in a climate controlled environment that never has a fire, flood, earthquake or other disaster, paper documents probably will last 200 or 300 years, possibly more. (When writing the document, a high stool, green eyeshade, and sleeve garters are optional.)

Another huge problem is those fires, floods, earthquakes or other disasters. They instantly destroy a lot of paper. The solution is to make duplicates of everything before the disaster and store it elsewhere, ideally storing multiple copies in multiple locations. This process is often called **L.O.C.K.S.S.** – “Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe.”

Making multiple copies of paper documents is difficult, slow, and very expensive so it rarely gets done. In contrast, it requires only a few seconds to make copies of digital documents and file transfer them to distant “digital warehouses.” All data center managers know how to do that and most of them do it daily, if not hourly.

When I worked in large data centers in the 1970s, we typically copied all new data to magnetic tapes daily, then put them in the back of someone’s automobile and took them someplace else. I later worked for Iron Mountain, a company that has

made millions by storing paper, microfilm and digital documents in remote storage facilities. You probably see Iron Mountain trucks often. I worked for the Iron Mountain division that handled off-site storage of digital information. Our software made multiple digital copies of all new information every 15 minutes and transferred it to data storage facilities around the world for safe keeping. We were not worried about any one disaster in one place... we had multiple copies of our customers’ data stored in multiple countries.

Today, almost everyone stores digital data “in the cloud” for safekeeping and that has proven to work well in the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, in Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, numerous tornadoes, fires, and other disasters. In most of the recent disasters, a lot of paper was destroyed but most digital data was preserved simply because it had been backed up “off site.”

**\*Editor’s note:** At the end of this article, Mr. Eastman provides links to an extensive list of articles he has written previously on this subject, too many to include here. There are also several interesting comments from his readers.

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



## Committee Memberships - 2019

### **Executive Board**

Jim Mattson (President)  
Jan 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**

Jan 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  
Jackie Plunkett  
Jane Sigfrids  
Leslie Mehle - library liaison

*Newsletter Editor: Jane Sigfrids*

