

# WOOD COUNTY



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## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

### *Greetings Everyone*

Chairman's Corner:

There will be no Chairman's corner this issue as was told to me at the last meeting. Due to the fact that Diantha is moving from her home or many years to a new home that is smaller and easier for her to care for.

This made me think of the facts of moving and having to sort out your life of how ever many years in a few short days.

Having moved many times in my life once you set down roots and have a place of your own, things happen. Things like collecting. This is something that I have in abundance. But as a genealogist collecting is something that we all do. We collect stories, pictures, information and most of all memories.

I had a conversation with my Uncle who is only 4 years older than me, he told me that his daughters ask him about his grandparents. That was when he ask me for information about his

grandparents. He had no memory of them. They had died before I was born, and he was only at most 4 years old.

That is when I realized, that I knew more about them than he did. So I shared enough to make his head swim. My Aunt LaVera (his oldest sister) had done the family research. I had collected her research shortly before she died.

So as you are looking at the space that you are in now. Looking at all the things that you or your family will have to sort through. Look for that person or place that you will send, share or give your family memories to, and make sure they all know it.

Tina Krummel  
Happy Hunting

*Genealogists  
Hunting Season  
12 Midnight Jan 1-  
11:59p.m. Dec 31*

## NEW OFFICERS

Officers were voted in at the end of last year to take us on into the new year. Please help the officers out in any way that you can. Our society is only as strong as its members.

Chairman:  
Diantha Neinfeldt

Vice Chairman:  
Tina Krummel

Secretary:  
Doreen Dimick

Treasurer:  
Norma Reber

Trustee:  
Karen McCarthy

## Dues!

It's that time of year again—your annual dues are payable now. Our membership year runs from August 1 through July 31.

Check your newsletter label. The line above your name has the expiration date of your membership. There is a membership form on page 1206 of this newsletter. Please check with Bev, our treasurer, on the status of your membership.

## Sketches of Wisconsin Pioneer Women Compiled by Florence Chamber Dexheimer Sarah Janet Wood Balderston

(Continued from Dec 2016)

Gradually “the neighbors” came to the south end of town, the Sampsons, The Neeves and the Scotts’ the Butterfields and the Rows, the Wheelans, Whitneys, Purdys and smiths. The Kromers and Fritzsingers, the Witters and Webbs, the Lunts and the Woodworths, the Naylor, the Sweeneys, the Robert Grace family; and a little later, the Emmons, La Breche, Belanger, Bezoir, Bell Farrish and Lyon families, the Warrens, and La Vignes, each to help make history, and all to lend a helping hand.

Trained nurses were unknown in those days, and countless are the bed-sides where these pioneer women have served.

“Auntie” Sampson, Nancy Smith, “Auntie Lem” Kromer and Janet Balderston were famous nurses in those days, and scores of Grand Rapids children were given their first bath by these willing faithful hands. Many a tooth has Grandma Balderston pulled by the good old method of tying a stout string to the offending member and giving a equally stout pull. And the ears she has pierced for “stylish” little lassies.

Mother told us her first telephone was a piece of red flannel hung on the front of the house to signal Mrs. Henry Jackson, who lived on the west bank of the Wisconsin River. This meant “I’m coming over”, and there being no bridge, the row-boat journey began.

Mother saw the Indian trails become paved streets, the one story shanties grow into brick and stone structures, the ferry replaced by the toll-bridge, that by the by steel bridge – and then the concrete – the ox-cart give place to the horse, and to see the horse fast losing his place for the automobile.

My mother was a constant reader, her mind being exceptionally keen, and her interest in politics and all present day happenings was quite remarkable.

She lived through four wars. The man who became her husband served in the Mexican war; she was one of the women who helped make the flag presented to Captain John Compton’s Company serving in the Civil War. Then came our war with Spain. And her only grandson served overseas in the World War.

Eight children were born to my mother, three of who are living. Our house was always open, a stopping place for all

our school friends, boys and girls. For the grandchildren and their school-mates.

Mother was a true exponent of the word neighbor”, her willing hands always doing and giving, her cooky-jar always open to children’s hands.

She was a member of Ah-dah-wagam Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution.

Possessed of a wonderful memory – she was always – even to the end, a source of inspiration to those who came in contact with her.

On February 2, 1924, she slipped quietly away to the “far country”. And on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February the “Neighborhood Grandma” was carried forth from the little house she entered as a bride nearly seventy-one years before.

Carried by the sons of pioneers – whose fathers and mothers helped make Wisconsin history.

“She hath done what she could.”

Written by her daughter, Grace Balderston Daly, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin.

<http://digioll.library.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/WI/WI-idx?type=header;id=WI.PionWomen>

*If you want to  
have some  
fun, say  
“Who’s your  
daddy?” to a  
room full of  
genealogists  
and watch the  
heads turn.*

## HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

When I was a kid I noticed this sign, every one knew about Ed “Strangler” Lewis. So now after nearly 50 years I stopped and actually read the sign. What I found out while looking for information is that a friend has him in there family tree, so I ask for help.

Ed “Strangler” Lewis  
(1890 - 1966)

Driving south on Wisconsin Highway

73 (Prospect Avenue), a Wisconsin Historical Marker can be seen as one leaves Nekoosa. It commemorates the life of one of the most famous wrestlers in history, Ed “Strangler” Lewis. He was only 14 years old and 200 pounds when he won his first professional victory in Madison, the beginning of a

wildly successful career.

Lewis was born Robert Herman Friedrich in 1890 in the Town of Port Edwards, an area now known as Nekoosa, Wisconsin. One of six children born to, Jacob “Jake” Friedrich Jr. and Amalae “Molly” (Gueldenzopf) Friedrich, he adopted the wrestling persona in part



due to his father’s disapproval of his career. Jacob Friedrich did not believe wrestling was an appropriate, long term career calling. Both Mr. and Mrs. Friedrich had immigrated from Germany and settled in Wisconsin.

Robert held his parents in high regard and even purchased a home for them in California. In an interview with the *Chicago Tribune* in 1934, he reminisced about the memories he had of his parent’s time out west. He acknowledged that he had purchased the home with the best of intentions: for his parents to enjoy his father’s retirement from the Nekoosa police force. He later came to somewhat regret the purchase when he acknowledged that California life did not suit Jake and Molly. Robert

realized that his parents were unhappy being so far away from the “neighborliness” of Nekoosa, Wisconsin.

“There was no ‘Hi Chief’ for Jake, no ‘Good morning, Mrs. Friedrich’ for Molly,” he acknowledged in his *Chicago Tribune* interview. “Years of living in the

little town with the same neighbors had spoiled them for whatever pleasures a California mansion might offer them.” The couple wished to live out their retirement in Nekoosa, where friends, neighbors and family were a constant. Jake and Molly left their California mansion to return to central Wisconsin where they passed away in 1942 and 1966 respectively.

Lewis went into semi-retirement in 1935, only to later come out of retirement seven years later, despite being legally blind at the time. Lewis’s blindness was due to trachoma, a contagious bacterial infection. After earning over 3 million dollars throughout his career, traveling the world Ed “Strangler” Lewis, whose signature move was the strangle hold/sleeper hold, was six time World Heavyweight Champion, inducted into the George Tragos/Lou Thesz Hall of Fame in 1999, and the Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2002. In 1951, Lewis was inducted into the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame and his marker is currently on display at the UW-Milwaukee Panther Arena in Shorewood.

Submitted by Genny Gildenzoph

### Books donated to the Nekoosa Library

Genealogy Books to Nekoosa Library, Dec 2016

From the collection of Patricia Andrae of Wisconsin Rapids, WI

**The Complete Great Migration Newsletter**, Vol. 1-15. Anderson Robert Charles. 2007

**Directory of the Ancestral Heads of New England Families 1620-1700**. Holmes, Frank. 1923

**Early New England Families 1641-1700**, Vol. 1. Williams, Alicia

Crane. 2015

**Early New Englanders and Kin: A Genealogical Tree of more than 12,000 Inter-related Individuals with Roots in Early New England**. Burgess Roy. 1992

**The Early Settlement of Stamford, Connecticut 1641-1700**. Majdalany, Jeanne. Rev. Ed. 1992

**Early Settlers of Nantucket: Their associates and descendants**. Hinchman, Lydia S. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1901

**A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England showing three generations of those who came before May 1692**. Vol 1-4. Savage, James. 1860

**The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England 1634-1635**. Vol 1-7. Anderson, G. Sanborn, M. Sanborn. 1999.

**The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633.** Vol 1-3. Anderson, Robert Charles. 1995

**The Great Migration Newsletter. Volumes 1-5.** 1990-1994. Anderson, Robert, ed. 1998.

**The History of Nantucket, being a compendious account of the first settlement of the Island by the English.** [With prominent events from 1835-1880.] Macy, Obed. 1880.

**The History of Nantucket: County, Island, and Town, including genealogies of first settlers.** Starbuck, Alexander. 1924

**John Howland of the Mayflower, Vol. 1:** The first five generations;

Documented descendants through his first child Desire Howland and her Husband Captain John Gorham. White, Elizabeth. 1990.

**Nantucket Lands and Land Owners.** [Goes back to 1637.] Worth, Henry. 1992

**New England Marriages Prior to 1700.** Volumes 1, 2, 3. Torrey, Clarence. 2011

**New Englanders in the 1600s: A Guide to Genealogical Research Published Between 1980 and 2005.** Hollick, Martin. 2006

**The Pilgrim Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth Colony 1620-1633.** Anderson, Robert. 2004

**Vital Record of Mendon, Massachusetts to the year 1850.** Bald-

win, Thomas. 1920.

**What did they Mean by That? : A Dictionary of Historical Terms for Genealogists.** Drake, Paul. Rev. ed. 1998

**The Winthrop Fleet: Massachusetts Bay Colony Immigrants to New England 1629-1630.** Anderson, Robert. 2012

There are more book donations by Patricia Andres to other libraries in central Wisconsin.

Next Newsletter I will include book list given to the Mauston Library.

## SOME DISEASES OF OUR ANCESTORS CONTINUED

*Epilepsy: Periodical convulsions with unconsciousness during the attack.*

*Erysipilas: A contagious disease of the skin marked by redness and swelling of the affected area. Sometime related to Gangrene.*

*Fits: Epilepsy or convulsions.*

*Flux: The discharge of large amounts of fluid from a body cavity such as vomiting or diarrhea, resulting in dehydration.*

*Grippe: An old term for influenza.*

*Gravel: Course concretions from the kidney or bladder such as kidney stones.*

*Hives: A reaction of the skin marked by the appearance of smooth, slightly elevated patches which are redder or paler than the surrounding skin and often accompanied*

*by severe itching. Causes may be allergy, infections or emotional stress.*

*Hydrocephalus: Dropsy of the brain; almost always an affliction of early life.*

*Hysteria: Main characteristic was a morbid excitability of the whole nervous system; from the occurrence nearly always in females, thought to originate in some affection of the womb. Different types of hysteria required different types of hysteria required different treatment but generally tonic regimen was given; iron and cod liver oil were often appropriate remedies.*

*Jaundice: A syndrome characterized by a deposition of bile pigment in the skin and mucous membranes, resulting in a yellow skin appearance.*

*King's Evil: Another name for Scrofula.*

*Lock-Jaw: Uncontrollable spasmodic contraction of muscles of the lower jaw; thought often to be a consequence of disease involving the jaw, teeth or gums. Treatment included Calabar Beans, Camphor, Indian Hemp and ice applied along the spine.*

*Marasmus: A form of protein malnutrition occurring during the first year of life, resulting in growth retardation and progressive wasting away of fat and muscle.*

*Measles: A highly contagious viral infection involving the respiratory tract and skin tissues. Frequently complicated by a very high fever.*

*More to follow in next issue. From The Pipost, June 1987.*

## Dear Genealogists From California



### Ernenputsch, Jr, John Henry

August 25, 1923 – November 13, 2014

John Ernenputsch passed away peacefully at home on November 13<sup>th</sup> surrounded by his family. John was born in

Marshfield, Wisconsin and grew up in Peru, Illinois. He enlisted in the Marines during WWII and was assigned as a tail gunner flying over the Caribbean on sub patrol. He met his love, Shirley, in a dance hall after the War and soon asked her to marry him and come with him to California where he would attend USC. He graduated USC as a structural engineer (has remained an avid Trojan to this day) and moved to their first and only home in the San Fernando Valley in 1950. John and Shirley were the first registered parishioners at St Genevieve's Church their church envelopes with the number 1. He was a gifted structural and architectural engineer working on many buildings in and around Los Angeles, many of the most popular rides at Disneyland and Disney World and in his later years also engineered the 230 foot Bracci Bridge over the Winchuck River in Oregon.

John was a dedicated family man who took great care of all his family. He was a golfer, a coach, loved to take the family camping and loved working in the garden. He was always working on something, including taking care of his yard up to a week before he passed. He is survived by his loving wife Shirley, his children Lynn (Loren) Bracci, Janice (Ron) Simmons, Leslie (Scott who passed away in 2013) Smith, and John (Kelly) Ernenputsch III- his son Tom Ernenputsch passed away suddenly in April of this year. He is also survived by his sisters Norma Leibol and Janet Pioli, his 13 grandchildren, Jim, Kim, Todd, Tami, Josh,

Haylie, Rusty, Brett, Kristen, Matthew, John IV, Alex and Eric as well as numerous great-grandchildren. He will be dearly missed. Services will be held on Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9am (viewing at 8:30am) at San Fernando Rey De Espana Mission in Mission Hills (coordinated by Mission Hills Catholic Mortuary). Los Angeles Times 18 Nov 2014



### Rannow, Renee Kathryn

Rannow, Renee Kathryn, age 58 passed quietly at the home she shared with her sister in Madison on November 1, 2015, following a 3-year struggle with cancer.

She was born to Howard and Esther (Vienneau) Rannow at St Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield, WI on October 8, 1957. She attended Colby Public Schools and graduated in 1975.

In 1978, Renee drove to California and created a successful career in technology. She began her career with Emulex Corporation, a high-tech company, where she established an international division that had direct sales offices in seven countries. Her efforts help grow the company into a \$150M business within 5 years. Renee later became a founding partner of Lantronix, a local manufacturer of networking products. Her sales achievements were recognized through numerous awards from both employers and customers. She also served as a consultant to companies interested in expanding their businesses to the international arena and establishing overseas distribution.

The American Electronics Association asked her to represent them on the Export Control Committee established by to represent them on the Export Control Committee established by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission to increase U.S. exports of high-tech commodities and streamline export controls. Renee held officer

## Dear Genealogists Cont.

positions in several trade organizations, and was a past president of the International Marketing Association of Orange County. Renee loved to cook, entertain family and friends, spend time in wine country, and anything Italian. In 2011, she fulfilled a life-long dream of traveling to Italy, where she rented an apartment in Florence and explored her beloved Tuscany, including at museums, cooking classes, and anywhere there were people. Renee is survived by her mother Esther Rannow, Abbotsford; siblings, Rick Rannow of Abbotsford, Robyn Rannow of Madison,

Ross Rannow (Evonne of Colby, Randy Rannow (Vicki) of Huntington Beach CA, Rae Miles (Eddie) of Madison and Rochelle Rannow of Verona. She is also survived by nieces, nephews and aunts and uncles. The family wishes to express their appreciation for the care Renee was given by staff members of Hoag Hospital (California) and the Carbone Cancer Center at UW Hospital and Clinics (Wisconsin). It is being assisted with arrangements by Cress Funeral Home and Cremation in Madison. In Lieu of flowers, Renee asked that gifts be made to Second harvest (or your local food pantry). Please share a memory at

[www.CressFuneralService.com](http://www.CressFuneralService.com)  
 Cress Center Funeral & Cremation Madison WI  
 Orange Co Register 15 Nov 2015

Editors Note. I was in Marshfield, Wisconsin at the new library. Their genealogical room is amazing.

They have an old card catalog file full of newspaper clippings from all over Wood county. I will be sending these clippings to the library to be stored and saved for those looking for these family members.

If you get a chance to check it out please do.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
**DETACH AND MAIL WITH A CHECK FOR \$15 PAYABLE TO:**  
**HEART O' WISCONSIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**P.O. Box 1565**  
**WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI 54495-1565**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**New members only:** You may have **one** free surname search if you reside outside of Wood County, WI (a \$10 value).

Surname you would like researched: \_\_\_\_\_

The membership list is published once per year in the December newsletter. We ask that you give permission for us to publish your address, telephone number, and e-mail address by responding to the following questions. **(Please clearly circle your answer; if no response is given, we will automatically publish):** I wish to have the following published in the December newsletter: my address? **Yes No**; my phone number? **Yes No**; my e-mail address? **Yes No**

Members may submit one free query per year, which will be published in the Society's newsletter in order to contact others researching the same ancestors. It should be 50 words or less, not counting the name and address of the submitter. Members and non-members may submit additional queries at the rate of 10 cents per word.

Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want a membership card mailed to you. Thanks.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 14, 2017** Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society Meeting, 6:30 p.m., McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Mary Moss will be sharing her Timeline form of genealogy.

**April 11, 2017** Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society Meeting, 6:30 p.m., McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Yet to be decided.

**April 6-8, 2017** WSGS Gene-A-Rama Date will be in Chula Vista in the Wisconsin Dells. WSGS and FGS will be presenting GAR. Thursday is Society day, Friday and Saturday will be filled with speakers and presentations. For more information contact WSGS@wsgs.org or <http://wsgs.org/cpage.php?pt=248> for GAR flyer .

**May 9, 2017** Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society Meeting, 6:30 p.m., McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Yet to be decided.

**May 13, 2017** HOWGS Brat Fry at West Grand IGA

**May 20, 2017** HOWGS Brat Fry at Baker Street IGA  
Come and support our society and have some great brats.

**June 13, 2017** Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society Meeting, 6:30 p.m., McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Cemetery Walk

*If you're a member of WSGS, don't forget their very informative webinars which you, as a member, can access on their website at [www.wsgs.org](http://www.wsgs.org).*

## Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society

Chairman	Di Neinfeldt
Vice Chairman	Tina Krummel
Secretary	Doreen Dimick
Treasurer	Norma Reber
Trustees 3 years	Eugene Meier
2 years	Anne Greeno
1 year	Flores Gumz

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Book Purchases	Flores Gumz
Hospitality	Joyce Keehn
Indexing	Mary Peters
Library Files	Arlene Keehn
New Members	Joyce Keehn
Newsletter	Tina Krummel
Sunshine	Sue Miller
Website	Di Neinfeldt

## Wood County Roots Editor:

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**HEART O' WISCONSIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**PURPOSE OF SOCIETY:** To assist members and others in genealogical research and to preserve local records.

**DUES:** \$15 per household—one newsletter per address. Please list names of all persons joining. Due at or before 31 July. Membership year runs from 01 August through 31 July.

**MEETINGS:** Held monthly—September through June—on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the McMillan Memorial Library, 490 East Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI (right across the street from the Hotel Mead & Convention Center).

**Wood County Roots Editor:**

Tina Krummel Phone: 715-325-5840 E-mail: krummtin@gmail.com

**Visit us on the web at [www.howgs.org!!!](http://www.howgs.org!!!)**