

WOOD COUNTY ROOTS



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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Jun 2023

Greetings Everyone!

Happy Spring to all of you! At least, I hope Spring is coming. We have had enough snow and rain to last us awhile, that's for sure. Spring brings thoughts of going on road trips to that cemetery you've had on your list to take some photos of graves, look for people buried next to your ancestors, etc. How about some of those libraries, archives, and other repositories that may have been off limits for the last few years? Time to get off that armchair and out into the world again. With the lifting of the mask mandate, it seems that the sky is the limit!

Before you go, check the resources online to see what their hours of operation are (and to make sure they are still operating!) and if they have some new rules and regulations for you to follow. These last few years have been tough on all of us, but let's be safe as we venture out into the world again.

As I close out this year as Chair and begin a new year, also as Chair, I would like to remind all of you to please email and/or call me

with any questions, comments, suggestions you may have to help me do the job better. I am always open for you.

Please think of neat ways we can celebrate our 50th year anniversary which is starting September of 2024. I will bring the old photo album up to date, and I'm sure Doreen has the new one ready for viewing. Perhaps these can be available at upcoming meetings for you to look over and reminisce of times past.

Enjoy Spring and Summer travels; be safe!

Happy Hunting!

Bev Peaslee, Chair



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:

Bev Peaslee

Vice Chairman:

Wayne Peters

Secretary:

Sue Miller &
Myra Sweet

Treasurer:

Tina Krummel

Trustee:

Betty Pearson

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 expiration date of your membership appears after your name on this newsletter label. There is a membership form on sixth page of this newsletter. Please check with Tina, our treasurer, on the status of your membership.

20 Tips for Staying Safe Online

GENEALOGY BARGAINS [HTTPS://GENEALOGYBARGAINS.COM](https://genealogybargains.com)
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The ability to connect with others through the Internet and, namely social media, brings great opportunities, but also issues, complications and problems which can turn a fun journey of sharing into a bad experience. It all comes down to common sense really: educate yourself, act responsibly and take action when needed.

- **Terms of Service and Settings**

Read and understand the terms of service (TOS) agreements at all sites. It is your duty before signing up and using a service to know how your information will or will not be used by that site.

Be responsible – know the privacy settings available for each site you use. Understand how privacy settings work and decide which settings are best for you. Do not automatically accept the defaults provided.

What types of information are gathered on social media sites? Once you add an application, on Facebook for example, go to Privacy Settings and see what data the app is collecting. Very often you can change the settings to block some or all of the collecting features.

Stay up-to-date on changes to a site's policies. Sign up for and read the e-mails about updates to a site's TOS or privacy policy. Check out the site Terms of Service Didn't Read (<https://tosdr.org/>) to compare various website terms of service

- **Privacy**

Limit the amount of personal information you display. This means information you display publicly and to friends or followers. Don't include your birth date, hometown, etc., used to verify personal identity. Remember: once posted, often it's always posted.

Is your birth date public? Facebook requires you to enter your birth year when signing up. Make sure you check Privacy settings and set the display settings to not display your birth year, at a minimum.

Never give out your e-mail password – even to a social media site. Facebook and others offer to find all your friends via your e-mail address book. Sounds like fun, right? Not if that site later on uses your contacts to send advertising e-mails.

Don't post your daily routine. Again, just like location-based check-ins, don't let strangers know your daily habits such as walking to work, etc.

- **Games and Applications**

Games can be misleading. Many games seem like fun but they are collecting data on what you click on within Facebook or another site and some games even follow what else you do on your computer or on the Internet.

Understand how 3rd party applications work. A site may ask you to authorize using it via an application so that when you post content to one site it may appear on your Facebook page etc. Under-

20 Tips for Staying Safe Online (continued)

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stand how that application will be using your content!

- **Pitfalls and Stuff to Avoid**

Avoid e-mail links to add friends/followers or to add applications. This is a common way to pick up a computer virus. Go to the original site and you should use the notification there to add friends and content.

Quizzes: wrong answer! Have you ever looked closely at what type of data is being collected? Birthplace, birthday, school info . . . all items that can be used to steal identity. Avoid quizzes; don't share online.

Check-in or check-out? Location services are a hot ticket these days with many folks stating where they are and who they are with, but who's watching the house or minding the store? Don't advertise your location activities publicly, especially concerning vacations and the like.

Beware of shortened URLs. With the increasing popularity of social media, spammers have taken advantage of the increase use of shortened URLs to hide their links. Use a program that reveals the true web address (like Check Short URL at <https://checkshorturl.com>)

- **Take Action**

Learn to post privately. This means knowing the difference between a public post and a private post. When you post publicly on Facebook for example, it remembers that setting! Always check the setting before posting; change back to private when needed.

Use strong passwords. Construct a password that is easy for you to remember but not for a hacker to guess at. Avoid names of family members, locations etc. Use combinations of letters, numbers, and special characters.

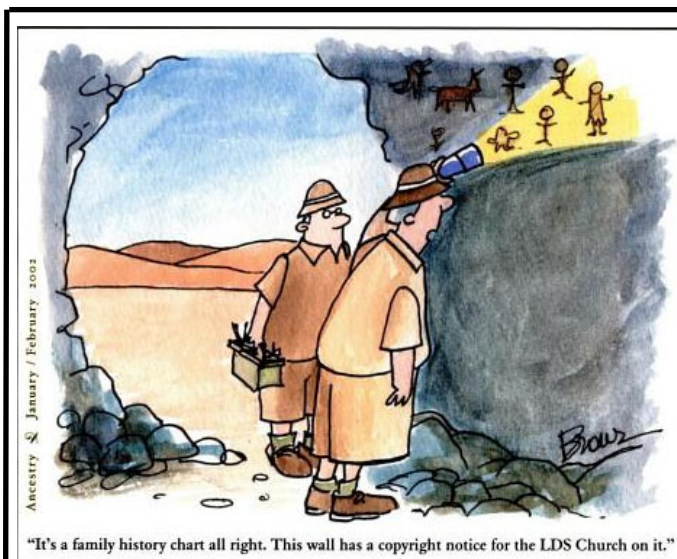
Install a good antivirus and spyware protection program on your computer. You don't need to spend a lot and some programs are even available for free!

Use a "burn" e-mail address. Set up a dummy e-mail account that you only use with social media. Forward the account to your real e-mail account.

Fake your security information. When asked for

security information, either use fake data or provide information that others would not know about you. Example: for mother's maiden name, who said it has to be your mother's actual maiden name? Be consistent with usage across all social media sites.

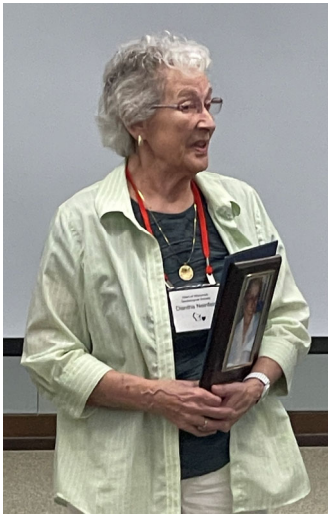
Block and report spam posts and spammers. Most sites have mechanisms to mark an update as spam or in violation of the site's Terms of Service. In addition, report specific users if they violate the rules of the site.



My Family



Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Honors Diantha Neinfeldt with the Virginia V Irvin Award



In March the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society's, at their Gene-A-Rama in Eau Claire, honored Diantha Neinfeldt for her service/promotion of the Genealogical Research. With the Virginia V. Irvin Award for exceptional Service.

Her contributions are many and follows:

Timeline of Diantha Neinfeldt's service to HOWG

1991 Di joined HOWGS, Di

helped to Index the book "Early Necdah".dah".

1993-2012 Di helped with multiple projects such as Indexing documenting genealogical materials for both the city and county Examples are:

2003 – Delinquent Land Tax 1864

2005 – Helped start the index to "Wisconsin Rapids Tribune paper"

2007 - Assisted with index of local Cemetery records

2012 - Assisted with "Early Births in Wood County"

1996 First trip of Society members to LDS Library in Salt Lake City Diantha, Bev Peaslee and Evelyn Krause

1997-2004 Diantha served 7 years as a trustee for HOWGS 1997-May 2004 (She had two 3 year terms and 1 one-year term)

1998 – Chair Brat Sale Committee proceeds used to purchase Vesper newspapers.

1999 – Diantha was part of the Society's 25th Banquet Committee

2004 Transcribed Delinquent land taxes for 1864 project

2005 Chair Research committee

2006 Vice Chair of HOWGS, Research Committee Chair, Indexing of current Wisconsin Rapids Tribune for genealogy purposes

2007 Vice Chair of HOWGS , Research Committee Chair

2008 Vice Chair of HOWGS, Research Committee Chair and worked on updating local cemetery records

2009 Vice Chair of HOWGS, DI worked on updating local cemetery records Emil Krause and Diantha spoke to a local businessman Mitch Biba about developing and loading genealogical materials on our society website. Through her efforts this society received donations for our website from the South Wood County Foundation.

2010 Vice Chair of HOWGS, worked on updating local cemetery records

Diantha hosted the society Cemetery Walk in June 2009

at Riverside Cemetery in Nekoosa

2011 Research Committee Chair, Publicity Committee Chair, Diantha presented to society members: "Breaking down Brick-Walls".

2012 Research Committee Chair, Chair of Website Committee, Diantha assisted teaching a 1 day Beginning Genealogy class

2013 Research Committee Chair, HOWGS Website Committee Chair, Through Diantha's efforts, the Incur-age foundation gave the society a grant for \$1000 to load more genealogical materials on our society website.

2014 Research Committee Chair, HOWGS Website Committee Chair, Chair of the Sunshine Committee. Presented to the society members "How to use a Google Search" both Di and Bev Peaslee.

2015 President of HOWGS. Diantha received Society's Certificate Award for Outstanding work on creating the website, for being the Vice Chair and Trustee of the Society and "for all the research you do and for being the Brat Sale Chairman". (40th Anniversary Booklet)

2016 President of HOWGS DI was instrumental in updating the Society's bylaws

2017 President of HOWGS

2018 President of HOWGS, Diantha and Flores participated in 4H Youth Project Days on genealogy. Diantha was involved in setting up the genealogy corner at Nekoosa Public Library using books received from Max Andrae. On September 24, 2017 our local society hosted the WSGS Leadership Council at McMillan Library in Wisconsin Rapids, and Diantha was in charge of the committee organizing and providing food for all the attendees.

2019 President of HOWGS, instrumental in changing meeting day and time to improve attendance, helped to set up the Tour of UWSP Archives and Roehl Public Library in Marshfield for society members. September

2018 Letter to McMillan Library about no more local history corner. Also encouraged society to donate \$75 to McMillan Library to fund solar panels and be a partner in library improvements.

2020 Attending state local and national genealogy conferences and library repositories.

Diantha Neinfeldt has been involved in Genealogy for as long as I can remember. She has been a key player in Heart Of Wisconsin Genealogical Society, serving in several key leadership roles. There is not a Committee Chair or Leadership role that she has not taken on. She has been personally instrumental in the growth of our society, for the love of family genealogy. Several of my fellow members say it better than I ever could.

I have known Diantha only for a few years since I joined HOWGS, so I cannot speak to all the contributions to genealogy Di has made prior to that. I know that Di has

Diantha Neinfeldt Continued



provided re- search assistance to many people over the years through inquiries through our HOWGS website, held multiple offices and is always ready to help in any way she can. Diantha joined HOWGS in

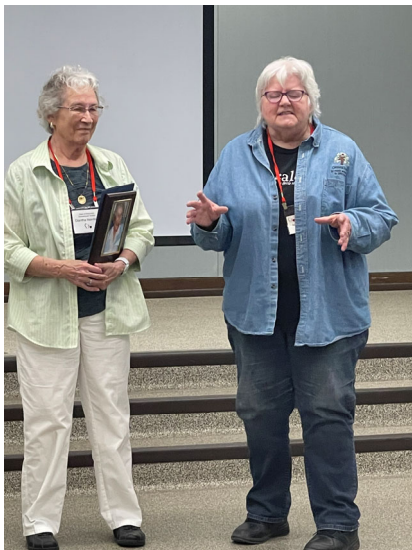
1994. She was a trustee from 1997-2005. In 2003, she became the Chairman of the Queries committee. In 2004, she became 2nd Vice Chair and Research Chair. She is still doing the Research/Queries. She was Vice Chair from 2007-2009. In 2011 she helped develop the HOWGS website and is still actively heading that committee. She became Chairman of HOWGS in 2014 and continued in that role until 2018.

Diantha has spearheaded our cemetery and newspaper index projects and typed most of the earlier ones. She has typed a lot of them into the website. She also worked on all of our Brat Fry fundraisers.

Diantha was and still is instrumental in setting up and teaching our Beginners Courses. She has also presented programs at our meetings.

Written by Wayne Peters

Diantha has been chair of the query committee which consisted of going to the local courthouse and the local library to



search for genealogical information on an individual that was submitted to the club. In 2014-2015 I agreed to be the query committee contact, and it was then that I realized how much work that was. It took a couple of hours to search all of those documents for each query, some of which were on fiche and film. The work started with finding a parking spot, and getting into

the courthouse, and all of the process for getting into the clerk's vault. Then, there were many emails back and forth with the individual who wanted the query. It was a lot

of work and I only agreed to that job for one year! But I had a new respect for what Diantha had done for several years. Diantha has also been a friend and a mentor to me. As a genealogist with about 20 years of experience when I joined HOWGS, I had hit a brick wall in my research and was irritated with no options. I had paid researchers in Salt Lake City with no helpful tips. I am thankful to Diantha for taking the time to listen and answer my questions. She also gave me a few tips, but alas I still haven't found my elusive ancestor. But Diantha listened. Since that time we have gone on a few re- search trips to Salt Lake City, to Albany NY and most recently to Boston. Diantha is generous with her time and always willing to offer suggestions.



Diantha has been instrumental in our beginning genealogy classes. For a time, these were offered every year during Discover Wisconsin Rapids Area Days. But the classes have decreased to every other year lately. Diantha always was present to teach on one topic or another. Our most recent "Beginners Class" was in May 2019 and Diantha was one of 4 main presenters at the class. Diantha is happy to share her knowledge and ignite the love of genealogy in new individuals.

Written by Mary Moss

Thank You Diantha for all that you do, did, and are still doing for HOWGS, and for genealogists that you have helped along the way.



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|--|--|
| <h3>Looking for Program Ideas</h3> | <h3>Don't Get Hooked Protect Yourself From Phishing Scams!</h3> |
| <p>⇒ Do you have a topic that you are interested in?</p> <p>⇒ Do you have a skill that you could share?</p> <p>⇒ Something special that you have learned and are willing to share?</p> <p>⇒ If you have questions about a specific topic or source, maybe someone might have information that they are willing to share.</p> <p>Give Wayne a shout and let him know what you are thinking or what you could share.</p> <p>We are always looking for program ideas.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never Click links or open attachments from unknown senders • Never send passwords or confidential customer information via Email • Never respond to Emails that request personal financial information • Always verify the sender's Email address before you open an email • Always inform your Email provider immediately if you receive a suspicious Email • Remember: If it's too good to be true, It almost certainly is!! <u>DELETE IT!</u> |

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

June 17th, 2023 Cemetery Walk Trio and Lunch at Vesper Cafe
Contact Bev if you are planning on lunch at the café or car pooling.
Bring Bug spray, umbrella, and a lawn chair.
Christian Reform Cemetery on Tenpas Rd
Immanuel Luthern Church Cemetery Arpin,
Faith Reformed Cemetery Vesper

July No Meeting Have a great summer

Dues are Due to start the new Year...

August 19th, 2023 Welcome Back

Sept 16th & Oct 21st, 2023 TBA

Nov 18th, 2023 Wood Co in 1950 Census Insights Discoveries via Zoom

Watch for Wayne's email about meeting information

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73145868172?pwd=SUhxd2EyU3NUS1Jvam1oUEc3TXdtZz09> Meeting ID: 731 4586 8172 Passcode: pxi95p

We will discuss keeping the Zoom component for the future meeting. Let us know your thoughts on the Zoom continuing or not.

The third Saturday of the month from August through June (skipping January).
At 9:30 a.m. At McMillan Memorial Library in the Multi Purpose Room on the first floor

We would like your input. You can email, or mail our President.

Email: info@howgs.org

U.S Mail : Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1565
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54495-1565

Look for us on Facebook.com

Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society.

It is a now an open group so please check it out.

Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Chairman | Bev Peaslee |
| Vice Chairman | Wayne Peters |
| Secretary | Sue Miller & Myra Sweet |
| Treasurer | Tina Krummel |
| Trustees 3 years | Betty Pearson |
| 2 years | Flores Gumz |
| 1 year | Kathy Brunner |

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 |
| Tech Data Admin | Ben Chitek |

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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—August through June—on the Third Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.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!!!