

WOOD COUNTY



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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Hello Fellow Genealogists!

Welcome back to another year of sharing and learning about genealogy. I hope everyone had a productive and eventful summer in their areas of research. Personally, my research was not as productive as I intended due to time and other event conflicts. However, I have more plans for the upcoming winter season of visiting county records offices and historical societies. I will have to hold off on the cemeteries and site research until next spring and summer.

As of now, I see that we are going to have some interesting speakers and programs for our meetings—thanks to Tina's hard work. I hope everyone can make the monthly meetings and enjoy the programs and speakers.

If anyone has ideas for future programs, please notify Tina or me for follow-up.

On another note, I am looking at possibly getting a monthly 'Madison Trip' going for visits to the State Historical Society. We could also have trips to the local adjacent counties of Marathon, Clark, Portage, etc. I can do the driving and take three or four passengers. With school in session, the State Historical Society usually has extended hours compared with the summer months. I hope to get more input at our meeting on these ideas and plans.

Hope to see you all at our next meeting on September 10th. Keep on digging!

Happy Hunting!
Eugene Meier

RHONDA WHETSTONE IS VISITING AGAIN!

Come and join us for some fun at our September meeting. Rhonda Whetstone, featured columnist and freelance writer will be joining us to regale us with some of her stories and writings on local history. You may remember that Rhonda joined us a few years ago to talk about her book, Saratoga Sands. She always has an interesting tale to tell.

Are you following her on Face-

book? She has three pages—Mostly Rhonda's Rendezvous (Wis. Rapids), Back to the North Wood (Marshfield), and Portage to the Past (Stevens Point). Search for them and "like" them. You will then be notified when the new columns are published.

After the program and meeting, we will have a little "summer catch-up" session. See you there!

ANNUAL DUES!

Dues are due! The date noted on the address label of this newsletter is when your membership expires. Please let me know if you don't agree.

Our bylaws state that our membership year ends on July 31. You are given two months' grace period before your name is removed from the membership list. The grace period will expire on September 30.

If your dues are not paid by that time, you will no longer receive the newsletter. You can be reinstated at any time after dues are received but, if you wait too long, your name might not appear on the membership list which accompanies the December newsletter.

Bev Polansky, Treasurer

HEART WELCOME!

A big Heart Welcome goes out to Coleen Burns of Madison, WI, our newest member. We hope to get a query from her to learn more about who she is researching in our area.

Volunteers are the "heart" in the Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society!

NEW BOOKS AT McMILLAN!

(CONT'D ON PAGE 1148)

Continuing from our June 2013 newsletter, here are the rest of the books our Society purchased to donate to the library.

8. The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy, Christine Rose, 2012. An up-to-date edition to replace an older edition.
9. Find Your Story, Write Your Memoir, Lynn Miller, 2013. (Placed in memory of Don Krohn) Every person has a story to tell but few beginners know how to uncover their story's potential. This book addresses that problem.
10. Hey, America, Your Roots are Showing, Megan Smolenyak, 2012. Follow Megan as she takes you along to discover news-making connections, unexpected ancestors, long-hidden secrets, and historical puzzle solutions.
11. How To Do Everything Genealogy, George Morgan, 2012. Learn how to start and continue your family history research; learn how to organize and create your family tree; learn how to evaluate sources; plus many more topics.
12. A Farm in Wisconsin, Richard Quinney, 2012. This is the story of a few acres of land in Walworth County purchased in 1868, told from the perspective of descendants of the immigrants through letters, diaries, and journals.
13. Secrets of Tracing Your Ancestors, Daniel Quillen, 2013. The new 6th edition is an easy-to-use guide for the beginner. This starts with the basics and takes you through the tips and tricks of professional genealogists.
14. Tracing Your European Roots, Daniel Quillen, 2012. This book covers the topics of where to find European records, how to access them, how to use the Internet, pitfalls and issues in obtaining European records, plus research tips for vari-

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Various places—the courthouse and the library—have my name on file for inquiries regarding genealogy. I did have occasion this summer to do some research from these sources.

From the courthouse, I did some research for a Jeremy Klein who was looking for his grandfather, Donald Klein, of the Nekoosa area.

From the library, I answered an inquiry from a Michael Smith who was doing research on a Kathleen Van Wormer. After some digging, I referred him to one of our members, Patricia Van Wormer, who was able to help him.

Through our own web site, Sue Zentmeyer contacted me looking for information on John David Kromer, son of Henry Kromer and Sarah Dodge Kromer. This is a work in progress.

Diantha Neinfeldt, Research Committee Chair

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARIES

Book Purchases—Flores Gumz has headed up this committee since inception. Her primary responsibility is to order books or other genealogical material for placement at McMillan Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids. The Society normally sets the budgeted amount for the Book Purchases Committee to spend at the first meeting of the year. Books in memory of deceased members are also purchased with this budgeted amount. She gets input from Society members and from library personnel. The books purchased in the last year were reviewed in the June 2013 newsletter (see pages 1138 and 1140) and in this issue (see pages 1146 and 1148). A book in memory of David Billmeyer has been chosen and will be purchased out of the 2013-2014 year's budget. Some older edition books are withdrawn at the discretion of library personnel. If you hear or see a book advertised that you think would be beneficial to people's research, be sure to bring it to Flores' attention. Many thanks to Flores for a wonderful job as always.

Indexing—This committee is co-chaired by Mary Peters and Bev Peaslee. The full Indexing Committee annual report was four pages long. If you would like to see the full copy, please contact one of the trustees. Following is a condensed version.

Vesper Newspaper Indexing Project—the index of the Vesper State Center newspaper covers the years 1911-1943. Some years are spotty and some are missing. The newspaper holdings of the Vesper library were used in the indexing itself. The typed information is in the Microsoft Access database program. Bev Peaslee has this on her computer and on several floppies (yes, I mean floppies!). Once the corrections and additions are made, this can be transferred to Microsoft Excel. This project was not done correctly from the start; therefore, there are pages and pages of corrections, additions, and revisions. Bev has gathered all of these together and will be working on these revisions this year.

W.R. Daily Tribune Bound Volumes—In October of 2004, McMillan Memorial Library

approached us to ask if we wanted the old bound volumes of the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune that were located in their storage room. There were 157 bound volumes dating from January, 1966, through December, 1985. The volumes contain either two months (81 of the volumes) or one month (76 of the volumes). Joyce Keehn, a Society member, graciously volunteered a room in her new home for storage of these volumes. This is not meant to be a permanent home for these volumes as once the indexing is finished, we need to figure out what to do with them. As of March, 2013, Volumes 1, 4-55, and 57-60 are indexed. Volume 2 is checked out to Joyce; volume 3 to Myra Sweet; volume 56 to Suzanne Mudrak, volumes 61-64 to Jim Diesberg, and volume 65 to Sue Miller. Volume 10 is out for proofing. Joyce is working on typing volume 12. The completed indexing sheets are turned in to Joyce when the indexer returns the bound volume. Jim Diesberg has been faithfully checking out volumes and indexing them.

Along with the indexing of the old bound volumes of the newspaper, it was decided to start indexing the current daily newspapers. Char Diesberg has been doing that since 2005 (and doing a wonderful job of it). A few of these have been transcribed but not many. In 2007 (Feb 16, to be exact) Flores Gumz volunteered to help Char index the current newspapers. Char does not get the Sunday paper, so Flores is indexing those.

The Indexing Committee will set up more work days at the library for volunteers to meet and either input data, index, or proofread the sheets.

We do have a steadfast rule that the person must be trained before they are allowed to check out a volume. A list of indexers

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that are trained is being kept by Bev Peaslee. She also lets Joyce Keehn know of any new ones that are trained so they may check out a volume. To avoid any issues with indexers, we also ask each of them to sign a form called

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARIES, CONT'D.

"Acknowledgment of Ownership" before they can do any indexing. Sometimes when a member goes off on their own to index something, there is not a clear separation of what is the Society's property and what is that person's property. This form was written up by the trustees to take care of this problem.

We do need to get moving on these indexing projects so we can start some new projects. The chairmen of this committee want to make sure that these indexes are accurate though so proofreading is a must!

Programs—Tina Krummel, the Vice Chairman, is the head of the Programs Committee. Her primary responsibility is to help recruit, introduce, and facilitate setup of the All-Purpose Room for the evening's speaker. She can call for volunteers to serve on her committee as she requires them. Members are asked to let Tina know of any potentially interesting programs for meetings. We had many informative programs last year. Thank you, Tina.

Research—The Research Committee is chaired by Diantha Neinfeldt. She asks for help as she needs it. Her primary responsibility is answering questions routed through our web site, researching out-of-county new members' requests, and handling requests channeled through the courthouse, library, or historical society. Attached to Diantha's annual report is a listing of research done over the past year. If you would like to see the full list, please contact a trustee. She keeps a copy of all queries and letters in a file cabinet at her house for future reference.

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Trustees—The trustees for the past year were Flores Gumz, Annie Greeno, and Ben Chitek. Trustees serve a three-year term so each year only one trustee is replaced to preserve the continuity of the position. As defined in the Bylaws, trustees act as custodians of Society property. The bulk of our property is

JUNE MEETING SUMMARY

Our thanks go out to member Fred Murray and his assistant, Jim Joslin, for the very enjoyable Green Hill Cemetery walk. Together, they are caretakers of this cemetery. They showed us their book of obituaries for all the people buried at Green Hill. We wandered around the cemetery as they pointed out unique tombstones.

Prior to the cemetery walk, we all enjoyed left-over brats from the brat fries. Some members brought homemade desserts also. The lack of mosquitoes also added to our enjoyment of the evening.

We did have an informal meeting also. During that meeting, a motion was made to allow the library to dispose of the card files from the newspaper indexing project. These have been microfilmed already, and the microfilm is at McMillan Memorial Library.

NEW BOOKS AT McMILLAN, (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1146)

ous countries.

15. Tracing Your Irish & British Roots, Daniel Quillen, 2012. Topics covered include where to find Irish and British records, how to access them, and research tips specifically geared to Irish and British records.
16. Tracing Your Irish Ancestors, John Grenham, 2012. This replaces an older edition. Genealogical research in Ireland has always depended on records that are more fragmented, localized, and more difficult to access than anywhere else. This book is an essential part of any Irish family history project.

The last book is a large-print edition of the AARP Genealogy Online Tech to Connect that was reviewed in the June 2013 newsletter.

Happy Reading!

TIDBITS

I received an e-mail from Diantha back in May that she had done some work for a lady from Missouri who was searching for her birth parents. The family had been in Port Edwards, then moved to Illinois, and on to California from there. Di said she had an e-mail from this lady saying she had since found a half brother. They had talked a few times and were planning to meet soon. Diantha said it was really touching to be a part of this. It does warm a person's heart, doesn't it? Thanks for all you do, Diantha!

~~Did you know that more than 80,000 digitized genealogy and family history publications are available on line? These books are available at: Google books (books.google.com), Archive.org (archive.org), Allen County Public Library (www.genealogycenter.org), Brigham Young University (www.lib.byu.edu/), LDS Family History Library (www.familysearch.org), the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research at the Houston Public Library (www.houstonlibrary.org/clayton), Midwest Genealogy Center at the Mid-Continent Public Library (www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/genlh/mgc.htm). The menus and the search methods will obviously vary from one site to an-~~

other. However, a few minutes spent exploring each site's holdings could pay big dividends.

As summer winds down, this may be a good time to point out an anniversary you might have missed. Somewhere between all the hamburgers, hot dogs, and fireworks was the 85th anniversary of sliced bread. On July 7, 1928, Otto Rohwedder, a jeweler from Davenport, Iowa, and Frank Bench, a baker from Chillicothe, Missouri, made history selling sliced bread for the first time. Most commercial bakers scoffed at the idea and told them presliced bread would get stale and dry out long before it was eaten. So they proposed wrapping the bread in waxed paper after it was sliced. This became so iconic that every subsequent good idea was heralded as "the best idea since sliced bread."

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARIES, CONT'D.

kept in three cabinets located at McMillan Memorial Library. Anyone wishing to inspect these cabinets can contact a trustee, also as spelled out in the Bylaws. This year there was nothing new to report except placement of some local maps donated by Myra Sweet.

Web Site—Diantha Neinfeldt is chairman of the Web Site Committee. Her primary responsibility is updating the Society's web site and keeping the calendar current. Any expenditures for additions to the web site are either brought before the Executive Committee or the full membership. During this past year, the Wood County deaths prior to 1920 were added to the web site. Some changes were made to the Early Birth index. Volunteers are indexing the early births for future addition to the web

site. Volumes 1 through 4 of the Marriage Index covering marriages through 1908. PayPal was set up for payment of dues and donations. A description area was added for churches and cemeteries. We have received e-mails from people thanking us for our informative web site.

The Editor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1 Jun 2013—31 Dec 2013 **blog.geneawebinars.com** Go to “Calendar” for list of webinars for the rest of the year. Most of these are free. Check them out! Keep checking for new listings.

5 Jun 2013 **www.familytreewebinars.com** Check out the schedule of webinars for the rest of the year. There are many, many interesting ones scheduled and they are all free. Check around on the rest of this website (which is Legacy) for more interesting topics. Haven't tried a webinar yet? What are you waiting for? Try it; you'll like it!

10 Sep 2013 **Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society meeting, McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.** Rhonda Whetstone, featured columnist and freelance writer, will speak about her stories of local history. This is our annual kickoff meeting. Members enjoy sharing their triumphs and tragedies from summer research. What will you have to report???? Program at 6:30 p.m.; meeting to follow.

28 Sep 2013 **WSGS Fall Seminar will be held in Janesville, WI, at the Janesville Conference Center-Holiday Inn Express.** Featured speaker will be Leslie Albrecht Huber. There will be a hands-on learning session Friday, 27 Sep 2013, with Lori Bessler from the Wisconsin State Historical Society. More details will follow. Go to the WSGS web site at www.wsgs.org for details as they are finalized. Click on Events.

08 Oct 2013 **Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society meeting, McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.** Andy Barnett from McMillan Memorial Library will share his knowledge of Google Maps with us. Program at 6:30 p.m.; program to follow.

11-12 Oct 2013 **Local History and Historic Preservation Conference, Hotel Mead & Conference Center, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.** Go to http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/localhistory/annual_convention.asp for more information and registration. Registration ends September 27. Some of the tours are sold out already. The agenda looks interesting and seems to have something for everyone, from Boop to Bennett Film Festival Friday night at 7:30 p.m. at McMillan Library, free to public, to fundraising, and tax-exempt status presentations. Check it out!

12 Nov 2013 **Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society meeting, McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.** Our own Tina Krummel will help us in “Tackling U.S. Census Stumbling Blocks.” Program at 6:30 p.m.; meeting to follow.

IN MEMORIAM—BETH KLUMB

It is with sadness that we report the death of another valuable member of our society. Elizabeth "Beth" Klumb died June 19, 2013. Beth was born in Mauston and graduated from high school in Necedah. She went on to school and received an associate degree in history from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.

Beth was an active and contributing member to many organizations in the Wisconsin Rapids area, including the Central Wisconsin Cultural Center, the Arts Council of South Wood County, Big Brother & Big Sisters of Central Wisconsin, the City Center Committee, Tri-City Community Concerts, Necedah High School Alumni Association, McMillan Memorial Library Board of Directors, and the

City of Wisconsin Rapids Ethics Committee—just to name a few.

Beth, of course, has been a member of our Society since August of 2007 when she and her special friend, Dave Billmeyer, joined. Dave died August 24, 2012. The September 2012 Wood County Roots had a memoriam to Dave. Her death comes too soon after his.

Beth was also a member of the Ah Dah Wa Gam Chapter National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Upon retirement, Beth tackled the daunting task of establishing the first-ever database of alumni of Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids. Using this database, Beth assisted class reunion commit-

tees with class lists, mailing labels, etc.

Beth was a crusader for causes she believed in and gave generously of her time and talents. Her hobbies included piano, music, reading, genealogy, history, and travel to many foreign countries. She could always be persuaded to present a program on her many travels for our club.

Beth didn't hold an office in our club but she worked behind the scenes whenever asked. She helped us write grants and go before the library board to present our case for a larger local history corner.

Our sympathies go out to her family and friends. She will be missed by many.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM
DETACH AND MAIL WITH A CHECK FOR \$15 PAYABLE TO:
HEART O' WISCONSIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 516
WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI 54495-0516**

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.

Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society

HEART O' WISCONSIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Chairman	Eugene Meier
Vice Chairman	Tina Krummel
Secretary	Doreen Dimick
Treasurer	Bev Polansky
Trustees	Ben Chitek
3 years	Flores Gumz
2 years	Annie Greeno
1 year	

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Book Purchases	Flores Gumz
By-Laws	Pat Curti
Genealogy Class	(Vacant)
Historian	Bev Peaslee
Hospitality	Joyce Keehn
Indexing	Mary Peters & Bev Peaslee
Library Files	Arlene Keehn
New Members	Doris King
Newsletter	Bev Peaslee
Pedigree Charts	Myra Sweet
Research	Di Neinfeldt
Sunshine	Sue Miller
Website	Di Neinfeldt

Wood County Roots Editor:

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).

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