

# WOOD COUNTY ROOTS



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## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

***Greetings Everyone:  
As of Dec 4, there are 21 days  
until Christmas!***

...and here we are in the same situation as the last newsletter. We are on hold waiting to see when meetings at the library can resume. Perhaps with news of vaccines coming out more and more, we may see our meetings being held next year. As with all of this year, we are in the waiting mode.

How have you been passing the time? I've been really busy with my accounting business. Hopefully, that will change the beginning of next year. I have so many other projects that are awaiting me... tons and tons of photos to be labeled and scrapbooked, tons and tons of family information that needs to be organized so the next genealogist in the family can make some sense out of it...after all, if the upcoming generations can't make heads or tails out of your genealogy, what do you think will happen to it? That's right; it will end up on a bonfire somewhere, at Barrett's Auction, an estate sale, etc.

So make some time during these uncertain times to get caught up on your genealogy, whether it's organizing files, going back over that brick wall, taking a short trip to

check something out that's been puzzling you, etc. There are many things you can do while we're in limbo. Now there's some opportunity to write up your "finds" for the newsletter or start that family book that's hanging around in the back of your mind!

Have you been looking for an old yearbook from your high school days or perhaps you'd like to find an ancestor's yearbook? Check out Dale Street Consignments. They have a nice bunch of annuals from Lincoln and Assumption in Rapids, from Port Edwards, Nekoosa, and Pittsville. Stop by their store and check them out.

Annuals are kind of fascinating. At a used book sale in Rapids, I found an annual from my mother-in-law's years at Lincoln. I paid 50 cents for it. When I showed her my "find," she told me they only ever got to buy the one from their senior year because they were too expensive. She told me they were a whole dollar back then!

Hang in there, everyone. Hopefully, we will be back to normal (or a "new normal" whatever that is) soon.

***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:

Mary Moss

## 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 1341 of this newsletter. Please check with Tina, our treasurer, on the status of your membership.

## After You're Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research by Thomas MacEntee

Try as we might, we really have little control over what will happen to our possessions, even our bodies, after we die. Yes we can draw up legal documents, we can express our wishes to family members and more; however, there are no guarantees when it comes to these matters. The best we can do is prepare, plan and communicate now.

When it comes to your years of genealogy research and material, what plans have you made to ensure that it doesn't die with you? Here's some advice on creating a realistic plan to get your "genealogy affairs" in order so that the next generation of researchers can benefit from your years of hard work.

### The Perils of Inaction: Lost Genealogy

To gain some insight as to what could possibly happen to all your genealogy stuff, simply read the haunting story *Cleaning Mother's House* by genealogist Michael John Neill. As you hear the words, just imagine one of your children or grandchildren being in the same situation and not knowing the importance of your genealogy research.

You have a responsibility to safe guard your research and to make sure it gets passed on properly. If you don't act now, someone else will act on your behalf.

### Basic Planning and Data Successorship

How can you create a plan for the future of your genealogy research without knowing what you have? The first step is to create an inventory of ALL of your items.

### Hard Copy Items

Use a special notebook, a document on your computer, or a spreadsheet. Just get it down in writing and also realize that you should update it periodically. Items to include:

- Genealogy research binders, folders and stack of paper
- Genealogy books and magazines purchased over the years
- Photos, slides, negatives, videos, CD-ROMs
- Technology items such as scanners, software programs, flash drives
- Miscellaneous items such as audio recordings, gadgets, etc.

It helps if you label each item or include a note; remember that the person cleaning out your possessions may not be a genealogist.

### Digital Items

And what about your genealogy data? You may not realize how much information you have and where it is stored. The easiest way to organize all your digital assets is to create two backups: one in the cloud and one on an external drive or CD-ROM.

Continued: After You're Gone:  
Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research

By Thomas MacEntee

Genealogy database files  
Scanned photographs and documents  
Digital books, magazines and guides  
Digital writings such as PDFs and blog posts you've written  
Emails from family and other researchers as well as emails that you've sent  
Any other items you believe are important including social media posts

If you plan on donating anything related to your genealogy to an archive, a library or a genealogy society, here is a plan you should follow:

**Contact the organization.** Always check a repository's policies before making a donation or directing your executor to make a donation.

**Inform family members.** Let your family or friends know what your plans are involving the organization.

**Include a monetary donation.** It costs money to process donated materials no matter how well organized those items may be. If possible, make sure you include a financial donation to the institution. Another option is to direct your executor to sell off specific items to raise money for preservation of the collection.

Finally, realize that you can always donate items NOW rather than after your passing. By donating now you have more power to direct how the items will be used and which organizations can benefit from those items.

### Technology to the Rescue

As with other industries and even hobbies, genealogy has moved into the digital realm, for better or for worse. Advantages include the ability to preserve fragile items through scanning and digitization as well as the the ability to share items with other researchers. Disadvantages include the ability to easily delete items with the touch of a key or failing to update technology like moving from floppy discs to flash drives. And there is also the fear of having your digital items stolen or "hacked."

Another idea is to utilize one or more websites that offer a virtual "lock box" for digital items including photos and documents such as **Protect Their Memories**. Or create your own using DropBox or Google Drive since online ser-

### Online Profiles

More and more, genealogists are leveraging online websites, apps and social media for research purposes and to connect with others. While you may not have valuable information stored at these sites, at a minimum you should allow family members to disable or shut down accounts. This way your followers are informed and also it avoids having these accounts hacked or mis-used.

Create a list of website names, their URLs (addresses) and login credentials. Keep the list in a safe place – print out and keep with estate planning papers or store online with a master password to access the list; make sure your executor knows the password.

### **Working with Societies, Libraries and Archives**

There are many "myths" about being able to donate your genealogy to organizations:

"You can donate any and all of your genealogy 'stuff'" to the National Archives."

**False:** The National Archives is the archivist of record for the United States government; it does not typically archive personal items.

"You can donate your genealogy to the Library of Congress."

**Partially true:** The Library of Congress does accept published genealogies and other items of importance.

Continued : After You're Gone:  
Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research

By Thomas MacEntee

vices can and do go out of business from time to time (remember **MyFamily.com?**).

For a complete list see *The Digital Beyond – Online Services List* at <http://www.thedigitalbeyond.com/online-services-list/>

### Best Practices for Genealogy Future Proofing

In summary, here are some tips of future proofing your genealogy research and making sure it is preserved for others to use for generations to come:

**Take inventory.** Determine what you have and this includes hard copy as well as digital assets and online sites.

**Include in estate planning.** Create a codicil to your will or make sure there are some form of instructions concerning your genealogy research.

**Backup your data.** Backing up your genealogy data is a good habit for the living and it will keep all your info in one place for your executor.

**Future proof your technology.** CD-ROM discs degrade over time. Negatives and movie film can fade and fall apart. Transfer items to digital ASAP.

**Have that conversation with family.** Be very clear about where your genealogy research is located, why it is important, and what you want done with it.

**Contact organizations.** Determine which libraries, societies and archives will accept all or part of your collection. Donate items you don't need NOW.

**Post items online.** Consider starting a blog – even a private one – to preserve your family stories. Do the same with a family tree on Ancestry or one of the popular genealogy sites.

**Do stuff NOW.** Tell your own stories NOW. Write that genealogy book NOW. Interview family members NOW.

### Resources

#### Articles and Books

#### 4 Things To Do Before You Donate Your Genealogy

<https://abundantgenealogy.com/gendonate1>

#### Cleaning Mother's House

<http://rootdig.blogspot.com/2010/11/cleaning-mothers-house.html>

#### Donating Your Personal or Family Records to a Repository

<http://www2.archivists.org/publications/brochures/donating-familyrecs>

#### Money Saving Resources for Preserving Family Photos, Slides and Home Movies

<https://www.genealogybargains.com/moneysaving-scanning>

#### What happens to your tangible and digital “stuff” when you die?

<http://media.familysearch.org/will-essentials-what-happens-to-your-tangible-and-digital-stuff-when-you-die/>

#### Organizations Accepting Items

#### Allen County Public Library

<http://www.genealogycenter.org/Donate.aspx>

#### FamilySearch

<https://abundantgenealogy.com/fsdonate>

#### Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/gifts.html>

#### Apps, Products and Websites

#### Action Plan for Genealogy Future Proofing

<https://abundantgenealogy.com/actionplan>

#### Forever

<https://forever.com>

#### Genealogical Codicil to Last Will and Testament

<https://abundantgenealogy.com/genwill>

#### Jumbl Scanner

<https://www.genealogybargains.com/amazon-jumbl>

**Grand Rapids, An Ideal City for the  
Manufacturer, Merchant, Artisan, and Home Maker.  
Educational, Religious and Social Advantages are Unsurpassed!  
A City of Homes Owned Largely by Artisans Who by Thrift and Economy Have Become  
Prosperous.**

It is with no little pride that the publishers of The Tribune are able to present to the local public and the world at large an edition of this paper which has been made to speak so well for Grand Rapids and her many and varied interests. Even a casual perusal of this paper will convince the most skeptical stranger that our city is one of much more than passing note.

With our 7,000 population and with our rapidly growing commercial trade, our productive agricultural section, our splendid transportation facilities, and our wide-awake and enterprising business men, Grand Rapids is destined within the next few years to rank higher than many cities in this state in many matters of general public importance.

The object of this edition is to present to those who may be interested in a brief resume of the growth and prosperity of Grand Rapids, and of the conditions which enter into that prosperity, and setting forth its advantages as a city of residences.

In connection with this is also presented brief reviews of some of the most progressive business firms and the men who furnish the brains, push energy and public spirit which enters so largely into the prosperity and growth of Grand Rapids. A city is measured very largely by the character, ability and enterprise of the men and firms which constitute its business interests, and in this respect Grand Rap-

ids is peculiarly fortunate. Nowhere can be found a more liberal, cultivated, and intelligent group of men than is found connected with the commercial and professional interests of Grand Rapids. They are conservative, yet enterprising, and every proposition having merit will meet with careful consideration, and, if found worthy, with liberal and hearty assurance.

Grand Rapids has never been compelled to withstand the throes of a professional boom; it has slowly yet surely and steadily been building from year to year, and is today a healthy city from every point of view, commercially, socially, and physically.

It has schools that are the equal of any in cities of its class; its churches include almost every denomination; its homes are substantial and in keeping with a prosperous people; its banks are sound to the core and possessed of ample capital to do double the business required of them; its streets are for the most part broad and shaded, with many miles of fine pavements; its mercantile establishments represent every line of trade and are prepared to properly cater to the wants of people of all classes.

Compiled by A. F. Leopold for  
The Booster Edition of The Daily Tribune,  
Wed, 10 Jun 1914, Page 5

**Continued:** After You're Gone:  
Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research

By Thomas MacEntee

**Knotify.me**

<https://knotify.me/>

**Organize Your Family History**

<http://organizeyourfamilyhistory.com>

**Personal Records Inventory – Family Tree Magazine**

<http://ftu.familytreemagazine.com/free-forms-personal-records-inventory/>

**The Organized Genealogist**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/organizedgenealogist/>

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## What the Words Mean: Indian Names Given Islands Are Quite Appropriate

As stated in the Reporter last week, the English meaning of the Indian names, given by the ladies to the three islands which will become a part of the park system in Grand Rapids, are given herewith as follows:

Ah-dah-wa-gam was the name given by the Chippewas to this settlement and means Grand Rapids. The Chippewas in this state were divided into 16 clans or bands numbering about 4,000 persons altogether. Each band was governed by a chief, and each had a war captain, a chief orator and a chief medicine man. The Wisconsin River band, numbered about 200 Indians and occupied the country from below the Grand Rapids up to Tommy Hawk Lake.

One island has been given the name of the head chief of this band, Osh-ka-ba-wis. He is said to have been a very sensible and intelligent Indian. He went to Washington during President Polk's administration, in company with other chiefs, to obtain redress for some grievances about their payment. They secured an appropriation of \$6,000, but were cheated out of it by the interpreter who went with them; who having

charge of the money, hid \$5,000 of it, and soon after died, so that the Indians received only \$1,000 of the amount. The name Osh-ka-ba-wis means the messenger.

The name of another Indian, Soa-pe-mau, was suggested for one of the islands as he is associated with some of the earliest settlers. A butter bowl made by him and owned by Mr. Sampson will soon be placed on exhibit at the library. Soa-pe-mau was of the Menomonie tribe which frequented this vicinity.



**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

*December 19, 2020 Cancelled due to Covid*

*January 16, 2021 No meeting*

*February 20, 2021 March 20, 2021 April 17, 2021 May 15, 2021 June 19, 2021*

The meetings of the Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society scheduled for November 21, and December 19, 2020, have been *cancelled* due to the increased number of Covid-19 cases in the area. We normally do not meet in January so our next possible meeting will be on *February 20, 2021*.

Have you joined the Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society Facebook Group? We currently have 33 members. It can be found at [www.facebook.com/groups/1696198517347536](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1696198517347536). This is a great way for people to communicate, share, and keep in touch. Ask questions, share stories and photos, get help to break through your brick walls, and let us know if you found a useful source/website that may help other people. Only members can join it is a closed group so you will only see members posts.

***Membership note:***

*Due to the Pandemic Meetings are cancelled temporarily, but when they do resume we will follow the regular day and time.*

*The third Saturday of the month from August through June (skipping January).*

*At 9:30 a.m. At McMillan Memorial Library*

*As a committee we have changed our meeting date and time temporarily to see if attendance would rise. We are in need of encouraging new members and activity from members who are in the Wisconsin Rapids Area.*

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

*Email: [info@howgs.org](mailto: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 &<br>Myra Sweet |
| Treasurer     | Tina Krummel               |
| Trustees      | Flores Gumz                |
| 3 years       | Betty Pearson              |
| 2 years       | Mary Moss                  |
| 1 year        |                            |

## 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   |

## 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—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!!!](http://www.howgs.org!!!)**