

WOOD COUNTY ROOTS



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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Greetings:

Bev has asked me to help her by writing a Presidents Message. So here we go.

Looking at the next month we have a lot going on in the genealogical world.

A great event is coming up in about a week **March 6-8th, 2025, RootsTech in Salt Lake City.**

Now I know not everyone can hop in their private jet and zip out to Salt Lake City, Utah to attend in person but Family Search offer a free service of watching the lectures in the comfort of your own home. The cost of attending the seminars is \$99 (but they are running a special right now). But if you attend the lectures on-line they are free. But you need to register to get the links.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/online/pass>

They usually have the lectures available for viewing for several days (even months). Be sure to check it out.

Finding resources in areas that you are searching is always a challenge.

The Marshfield Library (<https://marshfieldlibrary.org/adults/genealogy-history-research.php>)

has a wonderful resource center.

The UW-Stevens Point Archives (<https://www3.uwsp.edu/library/archives/Pages/default.aspx>) are another great resource to tap into. The nice part is if there are resources from another ARC's you should be able to request them send them to Stevens Point University for you to look at.

We have several newspaper indexes being

added to the website, birth and cemetery records for you to check out in Wood County.

Another resource is Wisconsin State Genealogical Society ([WSGS.org](https://www.wsgs.org)) has several items to help with your research; indexes, webinars, conferences and seminars. Gene-A-Rama is in Eau Claire **March 28-29th, 2025.**

The Wisconsin State Historical Society (<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS15307>) has a wonderful genealogical section. You can look at pre 1900 records on line and if you have time to go to Madison it is a day of information finding.

The last and most helpful resource is the members of the society who have been doing research for years and years. They are a wealth of information.

We are always looking for new members, old members who wish to help in new ways, run for an office, people to type, cross check and be active in our group. If you have a chance to help out, do some to promote the Society, please ask.

See you at our next meeting. **March 15th, 2025** at McMillian Library in the Multipurpose room.

Yours
Tina

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 line above your name has the expiration date of your membership. There is a membership form on page 1357 of this newsletter. Please check with Tina, our treasurer, on the status of your membership.

Family Papers: What to Keep and What to Trash

By Lisa A. Alzo

Are you drowning in a sea of papers, documents, old photographs, and other research materials? That's what genealogy is made of, but all that stuff can clutter your home and overwhelm you. There's only so much space, and having too many genealogical items makes it hard to access what you really need and pass research on to future generations. What can you do with it all? There are really only two possibilities: toss it out, or keep it. Some objects are obvious "keeps" or trash. But what about the things in between? How can you determine what's worth saving? If you feel more like a family history hoarder than historian, come on down and become a contestant on the genealogists' favorite game show, *Keep or Toss*? This three-step guide will help you win today's fabulous prize: a lean, well-curated family history collection.

Step 1: Sort and Separate

No matter what the task is, your first step is always the same: Decide what you want to accomplish. Tackling a pare-down project is no different, but can feel overwhelming—particularly if you've been researching for years and are just now getting started.

You might remember that old saying: "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time." Apply this principle while going through your materials. Choose a box, container or photo album. Remove everything and identify what each item is, then try to sort.

As you work through your research materials, don't forget to parse through the following items:

- photos (both loose and in boxes) and photo albums
- unfiled papers
- digital files or emails you've printed
- family mementos
- passports or other identification documents
- vital certificates

- newspaper clippings
- military paperwork and memorabilia
- memorial/funeral cards and books
- bridal books
- baby books
- yearbooks
- family newsletters
- receipts or utility bills
- old scrapbooks/autograph books
- postcards
- genealogy or history books
- county histories
- You can also consider larger physical items like furniture, jewelry, china and glassware and more. See tips for managing those items at this link:

Create three sections on your table, desk, floor, or wherever you do your sorting: one for "Keep," one for "Donate," and one for "Toss." You may feel the need for a fourth area, "Undecided"; if you opt for that section, reserve it only for items you're truly uncertain about, and come back to them before the end of your session.

Step 2: Evaluate Your Items

The sad truth is that we can't keep everything. We've all heard tales of family treasures being sold off to flea markets or auctioned on eBay. I've even heard of someone who rented a couple dumpsters and trashed his mother's belongings just a few days after her death. Many people simply don't want more stuff, particularly younger generations who might not know the importance of antiques and heirlooms. Though it can be hard for genealogists to let go of anything that connects us to the past, we have to draw the line between packrat and curator.

And wouldn't it be better to personally decide the fate of your items, rather than having a (possibly uncaring) fami-

Family Papers: What to Keep and What to Trash

By Lisa A. Alzo
Continued

ly member or estate-clearance company do it for you? There's a lot to be said for attending to as many of our own belongings as we can, before the inevitable happens. It's even the basis of a whole organization method: "[Swedish death cleaning](#)."

With that in mind, you'll need a framework for evaluating which of your items are worth keeping. First consider how much space you can comfortably allot for genealogy research and items. Then comes the hard part—determining what items are worth keeping and what aren't. One popular strategy has its roots in Japanese Shintoism. In 2011, organization consultant Marie Kondo published a book outlining her "KonMari" method. Translated into English as *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* (Ten Speed Press), the book suggests considering whether items "spark joy" when held. Those that do can stay, and those that don't should be thrown away. Owning only items that bring us joy, the KonMari method states, can bring clarity and peace of mind. The popularity of Kondo's method led to two popular reality TV series on Netflix.

While many embraced the KonMari method, others felt it was too extreme or placed too much emphasis on the idea of "joy." Regardless of what you think of Kondo's criteria, the method does highlight the importance of an organizational mindset.

For family historians, your sorting criteria should include assessments of an item's value and its ability to be passed on. Here are five important questions you might use to evaluate each item in your collection:

Is this item **irreplaceable** (i.e., one-of-a-kind)?

Is a **digital version** available? Would it be just as useful?

Who will **inherit** the information or item when I die? Will it be easy to store, and have others shown any interest in it?

What **practical value** is associated with the item? Is it worth a lot of money, or does it provide some intangible research benefit to you or descendants (for example, proving an ancestral line)?

What sentimental value is associated with the item?

Does it represent a meaningful memory or person?

There aren't simple answers to these questions, and you'll need to consider each item in context. For example, some original documents can easily be digitized but don't have the same value when viewed as a scan: birth, marriage or death certificates; family Bibles; prayer books; photos; and so on. By comparison, my grandmother's electric bills (though original documents) wouldn't hold the same value for me as her original passport.

Other items may provide interesting information about your ancestor's time period, but not be worth saving in and of themselves. Receipts and pay stubs have some social history value, but you don't need to keep all of them. Se-

lect a few representative examples to scan, and discard the rest. Old family newsletters, too, are probably best scanned and saved as PDFs, then discarded.

The checklist below offers one archiving expert's suggestions on what types of items should be kept and tossed.

Let's look at another example. Old newspapers or magazines take up a lot of space and decay quickly. (In fact, they can damage other materials as they do so!) And, because they were mass-produced, they're probably already available in digital formats. The [Library of Congress](#), [Newspapers.com](#), and [GenealogyBank](#) are just a few websites that hold historical newspapers, and sites like [Google Books](#) and the [Internet Archive](#) have digital copies of magazines and books. As a result, they probably aren't worth keeping unless they specifically mention someone in your family.

You might also think about what medium an item is in. Say you have 8mm film or Betamax video tapes, but no way of viewing them. Send the originals off to a digitization service so you can still access those family memories.

Sorting through digital items

Don't forget digital items as well! Though digital d cluttering probably won't save you much space in your home, it might very well bring you peace of mind. [New Atlas](#) and the [BBC](#) have both covered "digital hoarding" and how to overcome it.

Here are just some digital items to apply your "keep or toss?" criteria to: GEDCOMs and/or family tree files from genealogy software saved e-mails and social media posts digital images of records downloaded from genealogy websites scanned family photos and documents digital books and publications: ebooks, PDFs, etc. interview recordings (either audio or video) educational materials: downloaded webinars, podcasts, syllabi, and presentation handouts raw DNA test results website bookmarks

Back up important information you plan to keep to the cloud or an external hard drive, then delete the rest. If you're getting rid of a device, make sure to follow instructions so any personal data is *really* deleted and not residing in a cache that can be recovered. ([Read more tips for protecting your online privacy during research.](#))

Step 3: Donate and Curate

Family Papers: What to Keep and What to Trash

By Lisa A. Alzo

Continued

For those items you choose to discard, do so safely and securely to protect any personal information. Consider using a shredding service, or (in special circumstances) burning items under controlled and legally permitted conditions. Be respectful of items such as worn-out flags and fragile items like glass.

Of course, not all items that you label “toss” have to go into a garbage can or recycling bin. Old jewelry can be parlayed into new creations, or clothes reconstituted into quilts or stuffed animals for younger generations. Or perhaps a family member is interested in taking certain items off your hands.

You can also make alternate arrangements for your items. Local charities will take furniture, clothing, books, and other useful items that are in good condition.

If you’re getting rid of a sizeable, curated portion of your research, you could try bequeathing it to a local library, genealogical or historical society, or an ethnic organization. Start locally, and be sure to understand the organization’s policies and guidelines. (Contact the curator directly, if necessary.)

On a wider level, the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library and the FamilySearch Library each collect some genealogy papers, books, and other data, as do regional museums or archives. A quick online search will turn up organizations in your area (or in your ancestor’s hometown) that could be the perfect new home for your family treasures. Consult Melissa Barker’s “A Genealogist in the Archives” blog for suggestions and tips. One example is the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, which collects materials that document the lives of Western Pennsylvanians and the history of the region.

For heritage-specific items such as your great-grandpa’s Russian military uniform, consider an ethnic genealogical society or museum. One such organization, The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia in Lincoln, Neb., presents rotating displays of donated items that German settlers brought with them from Russia. Their artifact and donation guidelines can be found on their website.

And what about items you’re keeping? Store them using an archival-safe strategy. Use acid-free or buffered materials to prevent decay, and keep items in a dark place with stable temperature and humidity. Stock up on archival supplies, too, such as:

- white cotton or nitrile gloves to prevent leaving fingerprints while holding photos or negatives
- white butcher paper (available in rolls) to cover a sorting area
- archival-safe plastic clips to replace pins, staples and metal clips
- 3×5-index cards and markers to create labels (as opposed

to using sticky labels, laminating, or writing directly on the items)

How you choose to organize the materials you intend to keep will depend on two primary factors: how you want to use the connection, and what available space you have. Denise May Levenick, “The Family Curator,” suggests working through materials carefully, considering each item in the collection before committing to an overall organization scheme. For example, do you need all or some of the items as part of an ongoing research project? If so, you’ll want to keep the relevant items handy, and grouped together for easy access.

For my own keepsakes, I have a designated multi-tier shelf in a closet that is cool and dry. I organize materials by family line: a shelf for my Alzo line, a shelf for my Figlar line, and so on. I sub-divide by item type (photographs, documents, heirlooms, etc.) and store everything in an appropriate archival-safe box or container. All items are clearly labeled with the family name, the date and a brief description.

For genealogists, connections to the past are essential to learning about our ancestors. But we must also balance this and the need to preserve and share our research with future generations with less hassle and more joy.



A version of this article appeared in the September/October 2022 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*.



Local News

Wood Co Reporter (Grand Rapids, WI)

Thursday April 7th, 1898

Page 4

Nekoosa

In a village of five hundred people situated on the west bank of the Wisconsin River about eight miles south of the twin cities of Grand Rapids and Centralia in Wood county. It is on the C.M. & ST. P. Ry running north from New Lisbon to Tomahawk The Nekoosa Paper Company, have their Pulp, Paper and Sulphite plant located here and it's a thriving institution and a promising village.

There was very little interest in the village elections from the fact that a general village caucus was held at which a ticket was nominated that appeared to give uniform satisfaction. The only opposition to the caucus ticket was that of Eli Taylor for president against L. Gutheil. The following ticket was elected: For president, Eli Taylor; for trustees, August Benz, Charles Brooks, W.R. Blystone, John Buchanan, John Nash, M McStrack; for supervisor, Wm. Hooper; for clerk R.H. Day; for treasurer, Peter Huber; for assessor, R. Scheibe; for marshal, B. Bramer; for justice of the peace, Alfred Brooks; for police justice, A.H. Kleberg; for constable, Jake Gluf.

C.P. Thompson was called to Necedah on business the fore part of the week.

Brooks Bro's have material on the ground for his new store building. Work was commenced on the foundation walls this week. This building will not only be a credit to the village but to the owners as well.

Miss Mary Summerton, one of the teachers in the public schools is home in Neenah for the weeks vacation.

Emile Freund has rented four rooms over Klebergs hardware store and moved his family therein Tuesday.

S.L. Stevens' imported Oldenburg Coach stallion, Nero is at his stables in this village in charge of C.L. Smith.

Mrs. C.P. Thompson spent Saturday with her people in the town of Saratoga.

A party consisting of Messrs. A.E. Gurdy, H.E. Herick, Will Nicholas and Emery Taylor went duck hunting last Thursday down on the marshes near Bears station. Late in the afternoon the team with which the party started returned alone, without any occupants. The quarry was what might have hap-

pened. Late at night about 10 o'clock—the men came home on foot, tired and hungry, without a duck. Many questions were put to them but never an answer of explanation.

F.E. Murry, present proprietor of the Grand View House has rented the Chas. Christian house of Wm. Hooper for hotel purposes. It will undergo many repairs, a new bar will be built, a porch added to the house, wall paper put on the walls and painted both inside and out.

Daniel Curry and family took their departure from Nekoosa Saturday night and have left for parts unknown leaving many accounts unpaid. Just why so many have been attending E.W.

Fields school and following in his footsteps is a query. No loss without some small gain.

A.F. Roach moved his family into the Kleberg building Wednesday and will soon move his shop fixtures and tools therein.

R.Schiebe has moved his old building off his lot and the foundation walls for his new store building are well underway.

Port Edwards

Is located on the west bank of the Wisconsin river four miles south of the twin cities of Grand Rapids and Centralia. It has a population of about 300 people and favored with two railroads, the C.M. & St. P and Marshfield and Southwestern. The John Edwards Mfg. Co.'s Pulp & Paper Mills are located here.

Mrs. Dubberstein who has been visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. E. Eichstadt, returned home Thursday.

Mrs. Geo. B. Brazeau departed for Babcock Thursday returning Sunday morning. While there she was the guest of her friend, Mrs. Will Johnson.

Henry Fuller with his aged father and mother are now located in the company's home at Kipp's Hill. Mr. Fuller has one of his new houses well under way and will remove there as soon as it is completed.

F.E. Aneutt and family, who have been residents here for the past two years, went to Centralia to live last Saturday.

E.H. Stoddard went to Appleton Friday to spend

Local News Continued
Wood Co Reporter (Grand Rapids, WI) Thursday April 7th, 1898

a few days with his family. He expects to move his family her in the near future.

Miss Edith Lynn called on friends in town Saturday. Mr. Nimits conducted services here Friday eve at which there was a large attendance. There will be service again this Friday.

Our school closed Friday for a week's rest to teacher and pupils.

Miss Lydia Okrueg who has been visiting at Biron for sometime is now at the Allen home.

Mr. and Mrs. R.M. Beeston of Grand Rapids were guests of Mr. and Mrs. E. Eichsteadt Sunday.

E. Cleveland returned Wednesday from Milwaukee. He reports his brother, Frank Cleveland of Centralia, as having undergone as surgical operation from which he is recovering and hopes soon to be back in his usual good health.

Mrs. Fuller has bee quite sick this week, but is better at this writing.

Mrs. D.D. McNabb and Miss Anna Tierney drove to Grand Rapids Sunday.

Mrs. John Cumberland entertained her sister Mrs. Smith and husband the past week. Mr. Smith is an active member of the Salvation army and is holding services this week in the school house.

A town caucus was held in the town hall at this vilage Saturday at which town officers were nominated for the ensuing year.

Wm Severence and family moved into the house recently vacated by John Christianson.

Election was not so sweet as the caucus for the candidate in this vicinity. The marsh men were too swift for us this time.

Spring Creek

Mrs. Wm. Walker has gone to Chippewa Falls to visit her sister, Mrs. W.E. Skinner.

Mrs. C. Schneider went Saturday to the hospital at Tomah to be treated.

Miss Newland of Fairwater, who has been visiting her friend, N.H. Westman the past week, returned to her home last Thursday.

The chicken-pie supper held at H.D. Elv's was well attended—Netting the sum of \$11.15 which went to Rev. Ford.

Richard Schneider is home for Easter vacation form the Stevens Point Normal.

Bernie Feigel rides a new bicycle.

Miss Laura Hanson of Spokane Wash. Has been visiting her brother Otto Hanson.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

**DETACH AND MAIL WITH A CHECK FOR \$20 (FOR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER)
\$28 (FOR MAILED NEWSLETTER)**

PAYABLE TO:

**HEART O' WISCONSIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1565 WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI 54495-1565**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ 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**; If you wish a printed copy your dues will be \$28 to cover the cost of the printing of the newsletter.

To receive the quarterly newsletter we need your E-mail: _____

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.

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: _____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 15th, 2025 TBA

April 19th, 2025 We are looking to have someone from Family Search

May 17th, 2025 TBA

June 21st, 2025 Cemetery Walk yet to be decided.

No meeting in July 2025

Watch for Christine's email about this meeting

Starting August of 2024, the newsletter will have some changes. We will be raising our dues from \$15 to \$20, with a digital Newsletter. If you wish a mailed copy of the newsletter it would be an additional \$8.00 per year. We will need to have your email address so we can send the newsletter directly to you.

**The third Saturday of the month from August through June (skipping January).
At 9:30 a.m. At McMillan Memorial Library**

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

**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	Christine Armstrong
Secretary	Myra Sweet
Treasurer	Tina Krummel
Trustees	3 years Mary Moss
	2 years Betty Pearson
	1 year Kathy Bruner

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	Tina Krummel
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!!!