



SOUTHPORT ECHO

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MEETING TIME / PLACE

Second Monday of the month

(No meeting in July or August)

6:00 pm Social

6:30 PM Meeting/Program

At Gateway Technical College

Madigrano Hall behind and to the right of the main building.

Check our Website Calendar for the most up to date location at www.kengensoc.com

PROGRAMS

Our speaker for Monday January 13, 2014 meeting will be JoEllyn M Storz, Register of Deeds here in Kenosha, who will be speaking about the Wisconsin laws that govern the Register of Deeds and Genealogical research.

DECEMBER MTG AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

We held a very quick meeting on Monday December 9, 2013, our last meeting of the year. The meeting lasted approximately 30 seconds. We then enjoyed a lovely potluck dinner which included salad, white turkey chili, baked beans, pineapple upside-down cake, cranberry fluff, chips and dip, and other items. Which was very enjoyable time as we ate and talked.

Then there was a game of 'Robber's Bingo' where all the presents were placed on the front table. As each person had a bingo, they were able to choose a present from the table or one from an other player. At the end when all the Bingo cards were full and everyone had a single present we all got to open our presents.

Gifts included mugs, teas, fleece blankets, socks, bunt cake mold, chocolates and other items. The evening ended about 8:30 pm. We wished each other good holidays and will see all in the new year.



Sunshine's Corner by

Claudia SPREADING
SUNSHINE TO MEMBERS:

Joyce March is still recovering and would like to hear from members. Cards can be sent to: Joyce March c/o St. Francis Terrace, Room 112-1 3200s. 2nd street, Milwaukee, WI 53214-4442.

A card was sent to Sandy Hughes related to her mother's health condition.



Surname being Searched

Contact via website at

www.kengensoc.com/

or further information.

Surname Researcher No.

Bacon	80
Bateman	52
Hammerberg	42
Hollister	9
Kresch	3
McNicholas	93
Prader	27
Schommer	53
Swanson	64
Tunney	74

CURRENT SOCIETY PROJECTS

We currently are focusing on four projects; The Tombstone Project, Find-a-Grave Project, Obituaries Project; and the one-to-one consultations at the Kenosha Public Library—Southwest.

TOMBSTONE PROJECT AND FIND A GRAVE PROJECT

These two projects are joined as we are taking the information from the photographs that were taken of the tombstones and put this information onto a spreadsheet. The spreadsheet is designed by Find a Grave and is required by them to be able to post the spreadsheet onto their website.

We put 100 individuals on each sheet with the information that is found on their headstones. As we get each sheet done. We check them against the gravestone to make sure the information is correct. The spreadsheet is then uploaded to Find a Grave. They will let us know if any are duplicated

Due to the current weather that this area of the country enjoys, we will not be taking photos until the spring. But anyone wishing to help us in this endeavor let us know. At this time we are a committee of three so any assistance is welcome.

OBITUARIES PROJECT

As stated in last month's newsletter, we have over 12,000 obituaries to process. The current plan is to have them scanned then sorted by death dates and are placed on sheets of paper for each death date. They are not in alphabetic order but we are planning an index for the project.

At this time, work is on a five-month period from October, 2011 to February, 2012. We have several binders to be filled already and have to make an index for them. We will then have them placed into a spiral book for the library with the index as a separate book.

ONE-ON-ONE GENEALOGY CONSULTATION

Once again we will be providing one-on-one consultation for individuals asking for assistance in doing their family genealogy. We will have three sessions between January and February at the Kenosha Public Library—Southwest 7979 38th Avenue. They will be held on three separate Wednesdays, January 22, 2014, February 5, 2014 and February 26, 2014.

Sign-up will be at the January and February meetings. The sessions will run from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Those assisting please arrive about 5:45 pm. If you have your own laptop please bring it. There are a couple library-owned laptops for use but they need to know ahead of time. Don't have to be an expert. Just know the basics and want to be helpful. Greeter will also be needed.



Websites recommendations:

1. <http://www.geneszukacz.genealodzy.pl/> — Birth, Death and Marriage from Poland; need to know some Polish to use
2. <http://www.ancestrallines.net/> — Uniquely Numbering Each Ancestral Line, Generation, Pairing and Sibling
3. <http://www.bing.com/translator> — <http://translate.google.com/> — Free translators
4. <http://dictionary.site.lv/> — Free English-Latvia-English online dictionary
5. <http://dict.ibs.ee/> — English-Estonian dictionary
6. <http://www.tagebucharchiv.de/> The German Archives for Diaries collects diaries, memoirs And letters, but also family chronicles, family reference books, where autobiography plays a part. — Will need to know German or have a translator.
7. <http://www.worldcat.org/> World largest library catalog—can locate books and where they are.
8. <http://www.historic-atlas-series.com/index.html>—Has Gazetteers and atlases for sale for 11 of the states including Wisconsin.

CLIPPERS NEEDED

Newspaper clippers are needed to assist in clipping newspaper obituaries, births, marriage licenses, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, divorces, group generations, and 100th birthday celebrations.

We are pretty well caught-up with the past few years. It is the current time that we need to be clipped. We ask for only a month of your time as a Volunteer. Contact Chairperson Claudia Schiller for details.

THE JOYS OF SEARCHING CITY AND COUNTY RECORDS

We are always trying to find various original records to back-up our research. We plan trips to the counties where we want to look them up. Some places are a dream and make it very easy for us and some are a pain and don't seem to want us to bother them.

Some offices provide a room and table to work on and others do not, expecting the researcher to stand at a high table with little room. In Wisconsin we can only bring in a pencil and paper and need to identify the names that are being researched. In Ohio, one records office didn't even ask my name. Didn't search my property and the clerk didn't even get out of her chair! She point at a door and said all the records for birth, death and marriages were in there. And I was left on my own once in there.

In Indiana when asked for probate records from middle 1800's, I was taken down stairs to a circular room with 6 heavy doors to other rooms and directed to one of the small rooms filled with books and files and was left there to do my research. In Illinois when looking for possible records, the clerk had us leave the information and we were told to return in 3-4 hrs. When we returned, she had a will, divorce papers and a couple probates records for us. She stated she loved doing that kind of research for people. In California, per a friend looking for her history, all birth, death and marriage records are kept in Sacramento. In Greenville, Tennessee, the local genealogy society has their own small library. Surprisingly you can find original court records there. They got the records when the county wanted to destroy them after taking digital copies.

Remember to call, write or Email ahead. This is important, so to know where the county or state maintain their records. Also for what offices have what available records. There is the 'Red' book that gives this information for each state. Our organization has it in our collected library. Contact Suzanne Dibble if you want to borrow the book.

But it is still best to contact ahead for changes in policy or special rules for some counties. And question what records may not be available. Recently heard of the destruction of records by the Clerk of Court for Franklin County, North Carolina in article from Mocavo (<https://www.mocavo.com/>). A new clerk of court was appointed when the long standing clerk of court retired. When the clerk was checking the basement she found a massive amount of boxes, stacks of paper and old furniture. She had members of the local Genealogy Society to help her in removing and assessing the records. There was mold and water damage but they were able to rescue a large amount of it. The records had been forgotten in the cellar over time, and covered a period from the 1840s through the 1860s. In Vernon County, Wisconsin, a large amount of early 1900 divorce records are missing after

(continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4) THE JOYS OF SEARCHING CITY AND COUNTY RECORDS

a Deputy Sheriff came running in, grabbed as many as he could carry then ran outside and burnt them. Why, don't know.

In most instances, it is not an intentional effort to hide records or get rid of records. The problem begins with a lack of proper storage space. Many government offices are small, out of date spaces. With all of the government cutbacks, there is often not enough money to pay for proper office supplies, let alone the furniture and space for the proper storage of records. With the lack of space, government offices and agencies will find places to store older, little-used records. Often records are separated and placed in multiple locations. And these locations are not suited for long-term storage, such as basements and attics.

Records languish and are forgotten because there is no need to access them on a regular basis. When government officers and employees are replaced, institutional memory goes with them. New employees may have no idea the records even exist, let alone where they are located as noted in Franklin County, North Carolina. When the records are found, there is a tendency to think that they are unnecessary, and to get rid of them. Unfortunately, a major issue is a lack of understanding of what records are important for genealogists and historians. Even archivists are not always aware of what "valuable" records they may be entrusted with are. Maybe the National Genealogy Society can come up with a plan. We can do some educate by politely commenting on the importance of all records.

Again, call, write or email ahead of your trip and remember to be polite and precise with your request. Make sure you follow their rules so if you wish to go there again you and other genealogist will be welcome.

FIND A GRAVE

At last meeting, it was mentioned that Ancestry.com had purchased FindAGrave.com. If you use Ancestry.com, you will get the info from FindAGrave right there. You can still go to FindAGrave.com and search for free. That is at this time, don't know about the future.

HOLIDAY FOOD COLLECTION

The food items collected at the October and November meetings were donated to the Salvation Army and they would like to thank all those that contributed to make someone's holidays better.

New additions to the US and Canadian Censuses:

1. Canada's 1921 Census is now indexed and ready to be searched.
2. Connecticut has added to the us census mortality schedules for years 1850-1885
3. The states of Connecticut, Ohio, Oregon and Tennessee have added the 1880 ddd schedules~~~Dependent, Defective, & Delinquent

Legacy free webinars:

Sign up for one or for all of them today (so you don't forget later) and you will receive a reminder email both one day and one hours prior to the live event. Brand new - **sign up for multiple webinars at the same time** at www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com.

January 2014

Jan. 3 — What's New in Legacy Family Tree 8 by Geoff Rasmussen.

Jan. 8 — Are You a GOON? What is a One-Name Study and Why Do One?
by Kirsty Gray.

Jan. 15—Too Many with the Same Name by Karen Clifford.

Jan. 22—Irish Research 101: Learning the Research Process by Judy Wight.

Jan. 29 —Ten Reasons Your Ancestor Was in Canada by Kathryn Lake Hogan.

February 2014

Feb. 12—Family Stories: Using Newspapers to Reconnect with the Stories of Your Family's Past by Tom Kemp.

Feb. 19 —The Ties That Bond by Judy Russell.

Feb. 26 —Searching for Surnames: Challenges, Pitfalls and the Downright Ridiculous
by Kirsty Gray.

Those we Love don't go away, They walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and forever dear.



Elected Officers

President ~~ Judy Uelmen

Treasurer ~~ Frank Klein

Vice-president ~~ Claudia Schiller

Secretary ~~ Mary Ann Cole

Appointed Officers

Digital Equipment Operator ~~ Don Kueny

Sunshine Committee ~~ Claudia Schiller

Webmaster ~~ Jeff Huff

Librarian/Historian ~~ Suzanne Dibble

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