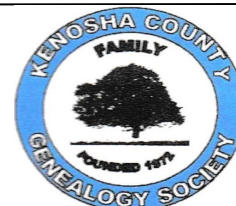


Kenosha County Genealogy Society



Volume 45 Issue 10
October 1, 2016

SOUTHPORT ECHO

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MEETING TIME / PLACE

- **2nd Monday of the month**
Gateway Technical College
3320-30th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53140
6:00pm Social
6:30pm Business Meeting
7:00pm Program
(NO meetings July & August)
- Our meeting will take place in the Madrigano Auditorium. The Auditorium building is to the North and back of the Main GTC Building.
- Check our Website Calendar for the most up-to-date location at www.kengensoc.com

American Quiz

- How many stars did the first Confederate flag have?
(Answer on page 5)



FamilySearch.org Primer Caron Brennan

We were off to a rocky start for our first meeting with computer glitches but Caron was a trooper and carried on with her presentation.

FamilySearch is a genealogy organization operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and is the largest genealogy organization in the world. FamilySearch maintains a collection of records, resources, and services designed to help people learn more about their family history. FamilySearch gathers, preserves, and shares genealogical records worldwide. It offers free access to its resources and services online at FamilySearch.org, one of the most heavily used genealogy sites on the Internet. In addition, FamilySearch offers personal assistance at more than 4,500 family history centers in 70 countries, including the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In the search section of FamilySearch.org anyone can search for records of an ancestor. Use of the Family Tree section requires a (free) registered account. The Family Tree section allows users to collaborate on a single, shared, worldwide family tree (currently with about a billion names in it).

The FamilySearch.org website offers free access to digital images of genealogical records. These images can be searched along with a number of databases. FamilySearch.org also contains the catalog of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. The library holds genea-

logical records for over 110 countries, territories, and possessions, including over 2.4 million rolls of microfilmed genealogical records; 742,000 microfiche; 310,000 books, serials, and other formats; and 4,500 periodicals. The microfilm and microfiche can be ordered and viewed at over 4,000 library branches (called Family History Centers) worldwide. FamilySearch also offers research help through the Family History Research Wiki, Forums, digitized books, and online free family history courses through the Learning Centre.

Federation of Genealogy Societies 2016 Conference



Judy Uelmen and I headed for Springfield, Illinois on Tuesday, August 29 to collect new ideas for our Society from the Federation of Genealogy Societies. We were not disappointed!

My goal was to network with other Board members from other societies to share ideas, understand what was expected of a president to better serve our members, acquire new dynamic ideas for programming, how to embrace change while steering a new course for our society by integrating youth programming

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(Con't from Page 1)

and my favorite – “Making the Most of My First 90 Days” presented by Joshua Taylor, President of the Society and co-host of the Genealogy Roadshow.

The sessions began at 8:00am each day and lasted until 6:00pm, so our brains were filled with lots of new ideas to explore with you.

One of the big announcements was the completion of the fundraising for the Preserve the Pension Project.



FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES



Thank You!

Fundraising for the Preserve the Pensions project is now complete thanks to the generous donations of over 4000 individuals & 115 genealogical & lineage societies and one \$500,000 anonymous gift from outside the genealogical community!

Upcoming Events

⇒ **Tuesday, October 4, 2016, 6:30pm**

Walworth County Genealogical Society
Community Centre,
826 E. Geneva St., Delavan, WI

Topic: Matt Rutherford, Curator of Genealogy and Local History from The Newberry, Chicago's Independent Research Library since 1887, manages the Newberry's renowned genealogy collection, teaches seminars on a variety of genealogy topics, and often speaks at state and local genealogical societies. He will be attending the National Genealogical Society Conference just prior to speaking to our group.

⇒ **Friday, October 7, Noon to 3:30pm**
Saturday, October 8, 8am to 4pm

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society
Fall 2016 Seminar
Aurora Medical Center
365 Aurora Drive (Hwy 67 and I-94)
Summit, WI (30 miles W of Milwaukee)

Topics:

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP with George Findlen
“Crafting Sources for Our Research: a Workshop”

SATURDAY LECTURES with Craig R. Scott:

- Finding Aids & the National Archives
- Reasons for Not Serving in the Civil War
- Epidemics and Pandemics
- Treasury Records: An Untapped Source for Genealogists

For more information: <http://www.wsgs.org>

⇒ **Thursday, October 13, 2016, 7:00pm**
McHenry County IL Genealogical Society
The Pointe
5650 Northwest Hwy, Crystal Lake, IL

Topic: Resurrecting a Cemetery

For more information: <http://www.mcigs.org/>

⇒ **Friday & Saturday, October 21-22, 2016**
Historic Preservation Annual Conference
Glacier Canyon Conference Center
Wisconsin Dells, WI

Topic: ~ You can choose from 30 sessions and 12 workshops plus enjoy ample opportunities for networking and socializing. The conference offers a wide variety of topics relevant to museum professionals, volunteers, students, preservation advocacy groups, and historic preservation commission members and staff.

Visit Wisconsin Historical Society for more information or call 608-264-6579 to register by phone.

⇒ **Friday, October 21, 2015, 7-9:00pm**
Gateway Building,
496 McCanna Parkway, Room 100
Burlington, Wisconsin

Topic: Folklore and Family Stories, Sorting out the facts from the fiction facilitated by Bonnie Bolster.

For more information contact, Burlington Genealogical Society at 262-634-8815.



"You found who in your family tree?"

SITE OF SALEM WITCH TRIAL HANGINGS DISCOVERED WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO GENEALOGISTS

ANCESTRALFINDINGS.COM



Nineteen people were executed by hanging during the 1692 Salem witch trials, with a 20th being pressed to death to try to force a confession from him (to his credit, he never plead one way or the other, knowing the city could take his property from his heirs if he said anything). The tradition has long been that the victims of the witch trials were hanged on the summit of Gallows Hill, and their bodies were buried together in a shallow pit at the site, since, as convicted witches, they would not be allowed burial in consecrated ground in the city cemetery.

Yet, the story of the place of the hangings and what happened to the bodies is only that...tradition. While there is usually a truth behind historical and genealogical traditions, the real story can often get lost in the retelling. This is what happened with the Salem witch trial executions. Fortunately, new research has revealed the actual location of the hangings and the likely fate of the bodies of those who were hanged there. This is important to genealogists with Salem roots in several ways.

The Traditional Location is Close to the Actual Location

Like most genealogical and historical traditions and myths, there is a grain of truth in the story of the executions taking place on Gallows Hill. The truth of the matter is that they took place not at the summit of the hill, as tradition says, but near the bottom of it, on a rocky outcropping called Proctor's Ledge. Today, it is located in a residential neighborhood, with some commercial buildings behind it. Residents of the neighborhood who have lived there a while have always suspected Proctor's Ledge may have been the actual location of the hangings.

Interestingly, Proctor's Ledge is named after Thorndike Proctor, a son of witch trial victim John Proctor, who bought the land after the witch trial delusions were over. As far as historians can tell, no executions but the ones from the witch trials ever took place there, before or after 1692.

Using a precious few snippets of eyewitness testimonies to the executions located in the thousands of pages of original documents produced by the witch trials, along with comparing old maps and new maps, as well as using satellite images and ground penetrating sonar, Proctor's Ledge was definitively confirmed as the site. There are only a couple of statements in the witch trial documents from people who actually witnessed the hangings, but they proved invaluable in locating the place. What these people said they saw, and where they were when they said they saw it enabled historians and archaeologists to use maps both old and new, in-

cluding satellite imagery, to pinpoint the place. From the vantage point of the eyewitnesses, the summit of Gallows Hill would not have been visible. Further, the summit is too high to have easily pulled a wagon full of prisoners up to it. Finally, the town and church leaders would have wanted as many people as possible to see the executions. This makes the low, rocky outcropping of Proctor's Ledge the only possible location when the eyewitness accounts are taken into consideration.

No Gallows, No Bodies

There is no room to build gallows on Proctor's Ledge. This fact, along with the lack of reports of any gallows being built for the witch trial executions, and no debris being found at the site led researchers to conclude the convicted witches were hanged from trees. Also, the ground penetrating sonar revealed no bodies at the site. This also makes sense, as the soil on the ledge is too thin to make a shallow grave for even one person, much less a pit for nineteen convicted witches.

So, where are the bodies? Tradition has long said that the sons of convicted and executed witch Rebecca Nurse came back to the execution site under cover of darkness and removed their mother's body for burial in the family cemetery. There is certainly a headstone for her in the family cemetery today, though it was erected long after the execution. George Jacobs, another witch trial victim, was also said to have been removed from the execution site by his family and buried on their farm. This was confirmed in 1864 when his heirs discovered his body on the property. In 1992, it was sent to Danvers, MA to be buried in the Nurse family cemetery in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the witch trials.

Because no bodies were found on the site of the hangings, this likely means that ALL of the victims were moved by their families and buried privately on family property.

Significance for Genealogists

Knowing where the site of the hangings took place means descendants of those involved in the trials can visit it and honor their ancestors there. The city of Salem is already planning some kind of memorial for the place, which will likely be small in keeping with the character of the residential neighborhood where it is. Those with ancestors who were hanged can stand in the spot that was the last place those ancestors saw while on earth. Knowing the families probably buried all the victims on family property will give those with "witch" ancestry a better idea of where their ancestor now rests.

Looking at old maps to discover where family farms were once located and where that property is today will give descendants at least a general idea of the resting places of their witch trial victim ancestors. With the discovery of Proctor's Ledge and what likely happened on it, genealogists with a connection to the witch trials have a more complete picture of what really happened to their ancestors than they did in the past, and this is always one of the most important parts of genealogy.

Stories of Interest

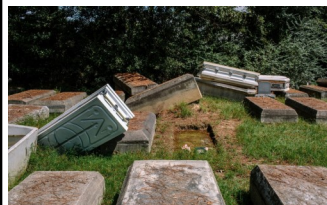
Historic Recognition: Washington's Family Tree Is Biracial

President George Washington had no descendants, but his wife, Martha Custis, was a widow when they married, and he adopted Martha's grandchildren—Parke Custis and his sister "Nellie"—and raised them on his Mount Vernon estate. Parke Custis likely fathered children with two of his stepfather's slaves: Arianna Carter and Caroline Branham, according to the exhibits at Arlington House and Mount Vernon.

Read more at:

<http://www.aurorasentinel.com/news/historic-recognition-washingtons-family-tree-biracial/>

"We Built an App": Keeping Track of Louisiana's Flood-Tossed Tombs (awesome article!)



"With an ever-sinking coast and a front-line position for the fiercer hurricanes and other weather threats related to climate change, [Louisiana] has begun to advertise itself as a disaster laboratory, a

place to figure out how to combat storm surge or how to resettle imperiled communities—or how to keep track of the dead."

Read more at:

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/19/us/we-built-an-app-keeping-track-of-louisianas-flood-tossed-dead.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share&_r=3

Sept. 16 Is Most Popular Birthday in the United States

This article offers data about the most popular birth months and correlations between birth month and medical conditions.

Read more at:

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/living/family/linda-lewis-griffith/article101516067.html>

In Search for Lost Relatives, Nebraska Woman Uncovers Truth about Long-ago Tragedy (Good Research Tips)

Lisa Smith's grandmother Maurine Chaney Everette was like a mother to her. But she rarely talked about her scar and details of her childhood spent in an orphanage in Oklahoma. Maurine died in 1992, but Lisa set out to find answers to her questions.

Read more at:

http://www.omaha.com/news/nebraska/in-search-for-lost-relatives-nebraska-woman-uncovers-truth-about/article_92bbe19f-b2a8-581d-9f1e-8fdc92848c6d.html

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors? These New Records Might Help

"More than 2.5 million images of old documents from the General Register Office can now be accessed for free from irishgenealogy.ie/en"

Read more at:

<http://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/generation-emigration/tracing-your-irish-ancestors-these-new-records-might-help-1.2785771>

DNA test and the Web Uncover Tawdry Story of Missing Dad

A 93-year-old Washington woman finally discovered her father's identity through DNA testing.

Read more at:

<http://www.heraldnet.com/news/you-d-be-surprised-this-daughter-certainly-was/>

8 Odd Beauty Standards in Turn-of-the-Century Photographs

This article discusses the ways in which "photographers or specialized retouchers would alter images, sometimes drastically, to please their customers."

Read more at:

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/84687/8-odd-beauty-standards-turn-century-photographs>

Surname Project

To keep the KCGS Surname list current and up-to-date, please remember to submit any additional surnames to Kathy Nuernberg at the KCGS monthly meetings or via email at: president@kengensoc.com

Be sure to check out the surname list on our website at www.kengensoc.com.

Spotlight Surnames being researched:

Beall	Ogle
Cessna	Parsell
Downeiz	Raquet
Evenson	Sauder
Fassbender	Shagnessy
Gillis	Stulgen
Hofich	Swanson
Kelly	Thumhorst

Printable Family Trees and Genealogy Charts

Printable Family Trees and Genealogy Charts The website FamilyTreeTemplates.net has added two dozen new family tree templates and genealogy forms to download and print. "These new family trees round out the site with crafty 'do it yourself' trees as well as traditional designs and an array of ancestry charts and form," said Kevin Savetz, the site's creator. "These are perfect for genealogy buffs as well as kids or anyone interested in recording their family history." The new family history and genealogy forms include: a deed index, family health history, questions to ask of living relatives, trackers for home video and photographs, military service biographies and checklists, online search records, a marriage index, surname variants list, a blank cemetery map to track grave sites, and a form to record information that's on tombstones. Each form, chart or tree is free to download and print in PDF form. Most designs are also available in a \$4 DOC version that can be edited in Microsoft Word. The family tree templates and genealogy forms are available at <https://www.familytreetemplates.net>.

*[This article is re-published here with permission from Dick Eastman.
Visit "Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter" at <http://www.eogn.com>*

National Digital Newspaper Program ~ By Dick Eastman · August 11, 2016

Four new partners have been added to the National Digital Newspaper Program. The National Endowment (NEH) for the Humanities has made awards to digitize historic newspapers to the Alaska Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums; the Colorado Historical Society; the Maine State Library, and Rutgers University in New Jersey. With forty-three states and one territory now participating in the program, NEH is approaching its goal of representing every state and U.S. territory in Chronicling America, the open access database of historic American newspapers maintained by the Library of Congress. This year, NEH awards have also been issued to state partners in Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, and Texas to continue their contributions to Chronicling America. You can read more about the project at: <http://goo.gl/SxTOTL>.

American Quiz ~ 1 Star — It was a blue background with a white star in the center. It was called the 'Bonnie Blue'.

ELECTED OFFICERS

President ~~ Kathy Nuernberg
Vice President ~~ Patrick Stulgin
Treasurer ~~ Frank Klein
Secretary ~~ Brenda Miller-Lambert

CONTACT INFORMATION

Website ~~ www.kengensoc.com
Kathy Nuernberg (President) ~~ president@kengensoc.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Research & Corresponding Secretary ~~
Mary Ann Cole
Digital Equipment Operator ~~ Frank Klein
Librarian/Historian ~~ Suzanne Dibble
Newsletter Editor ~~ Kathy Nuernberg
Publicity ~~ Judy Reynolds
Sunshine Committee ~~ Claudia Schiller
Surname Project ~~ OPEN
Preservation Projects ~~ Judy Uelmen
Webmaster ~~ Jeff Huff

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KENOSHA COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY

... where we gather together to trace our lineage

When you cross an aerospace engineer (a.k.a. rocket scientist) with a teacher, librarian, and genealogist, you get a wide range of knowledge and a depth of experience rarely equaled. You also get complex topics explained in everyday language with enthusiasm and excellence. I like to talk about just about anything from basic to advanced topics. I'm particularly adept at making obscure and under-utilized resources understood. I am both tech-savvy and fond of dusty archives and court houses. I tend to focus on topics that are more unique. Many include demonstrations of internet resources.



Sarah A. V. Kirby

Genealogical Speaker will present

Map It!

The focus is on how to use maps to illustrate your genealogy and even discover new facts and insights. A few typical computer applications and websites that can be used to help build your own maps will be covered as well.

The Kenosha County Genealogy Society is happy to grow our membership. We would love to have you as one of our members. If you are interested in researching your heritage, please join us:

- 🍁 Monday, October 10, 2016
- 🍁 6:30 pm Registration, Conversation & Business Meeting
- 🍁 7:00 pm Program — FREE to the Public
- 🍁 Kenosha Gateway Technical College, 3320—30th Avenue, Madrigano Auditorium