

Kenosha County Genealogy Society



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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 Registration & Social Time
6:30pm Business Meeting
7:00pm Program
(NO meetings July & August)
- Our meetings take place in the Mad-rigrano 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

Genealogy Quiz (Answers on page 6)

1. What is the Granite Mountain Records Vault?
2. How many immigrants came through Ellis Island?
3. Which actor is related to Abraham Lincoln?



MEETING UPDATE

Due to the beautiful Spring snow storm March 13, our meeting was unfortunately cancelled. However, I was able to reschedule Melissa Olson and Ariel Hundertmark from UofW-Parkside's Archives for the October 9th meeting to speak on "Unearthing the Past: Finding and Using Land and Property Records for Genealogy and Historical Research."

When Kenosha Was Young
from the 1972 October KCGS Newsletter
by Mrs. Irene Van Wormer

Thousand of Indian relics have been found in Kenosha County, a territory occupied by Potawatomi tribes before their retreat into Kansas and Iowa. Kenosha is just one of the many important Wisconsin cities which were built on the sites of former Indian settlements. Petrifying Springs Park, near Somers, was a favorite Indian hunting ground, and it was there that Kenosha County's first settlers, Jacob Montgomery, a well known hunter, and his two sons occupied a log cabin built probably in March of 1835.



Jacob Montgomery and his sons only remained in Kenosha County about eight years, then moved on, some way to the West. However, there is a little girl, Lucretia, daughter of J. and M. Montgomery, of Lake County, Illinois, buried in Green Ridge Cemetery in Kenosha. She was just six years old when she died on June 18, 1847. The thought persists that she may have been a child or grandchild of Jacob Montgomery.

Among other early Somers settlers were Hugh Longwell, Benjamin Felch and his son Alison, Garrett Shuart, Barnett Shuart, Mr. Griffin and Mr. Hague, the latter four remaining just a few years.

Pleasant Prairie was next to be settled, also in 1835, first by Horace Woodbridge family. That same year a city had its beginning when John Bullen, Jr. and Charles W. Turner marked off their claims near the mouth of Pike Creek. They were followed by Hudson Bacon and Jonathan Pierce, then by Mr. and Mrs. Dardner Wilson and Cephus Weed. Mrs. Wilson was the first woman here and the only one here for five weeks. She, Mr. Wilson and Mr.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Weed had come by wagon from Hannibal, New York, the trip taking nineteen days, an average of about 35 to 40 miles per day. The same trip today could probably be made in less than 14 hours by car.

Kenosha County was at that time included in Milwaukee County, as was Racine, but in 1836 the County of Milwaukee was divided, the southern part forming Racine County comprising that which is now Racine and Kenosha Counties.

The Spring of 1836 brought new hope to the settlers when they were able to plow and seed their land. The Van Buren, a ship owned by the Bullen family, arrived in May bringing supplies and seed. Game was available, but the pioneers would have preferred pork to the deer and chicken they hunted. Pork was seven cents a pound, but was scarce. Fishing in Millers Creek south of the village was excellent and helped to appease the hunger which prevailed among the people.

Indians became less of a menace, and, although they had never terrorized the settlements, they had a habit of helping themselves to whatever food and drink they found accessible, including potatoes, and pumpkin growing in the fields. They had their burial grounds and in two graves the Indians were buried in an upright position. Some times they just left their dead in a tree.

Forests of heavy timber covered the land along Pike Creek where it ran out through the country. This strip of timber extended north to Milwaukee. To the West and South were the prairies where the grass grew so tall a horse could barely be seen in it.

Since there were no highways or railroads, many supplies and passengers came by boat. Lack of a pier or harbor presented quite a problem, so small boats or Indian dugouts were used to bring cargo or passengers ashore.

One of Lake Michigan's Northeasters in 1836 was a fortunate one for Kenosha. A schooner carrying Mr. and Mrs. Charles Durkee and E. R. Hugunin left Chicago bound for Milwaukee; after a week it had only reached Pike River. Mrs. Durkee, seasick beyond human endurance decided to leave the boat and was taken ashore in the huge breakers with her husband who changed his mind about going to Milwaukee and settled here instead.

Kenosha's first lighthouse was made in 1836 from the 10 foot stump of a large oak tree. Upon a layer of stones a fire was kindled every night at sundown during the navigation season. In 1840, this makeshift lighthouse was replaced with a three foot square lantern placed on twenty foot posts.

The population of Kenosha (Pike River) in 1836 was 64, and grew during the year to 84. The first marriage in Kenosha County took place that year, when Nelson Lay took Marietta Towslee as his bride. Also in 1836, the first child was born — Gertrude Post, daughter of Garrett Post, on April 5, 1836. She lived until September 27, 1836. Her mother's death on May 5th of that year was the first in the county. Both were buried on the property south of Colonel Howe's residence, and this served as the cemetery for 2 years. The first white child born in Kenosha to live to maturity was probably Maria Williams, born June 8, 1836. She married John P. Sauber and died in Rockford, Illinois on February 17, 1912.

The city of Kenosha was then called Pike River, translated from the Indian name "Kenosha", or "Kenoza", as some historians report it. In 1837, the founders gave it the name of Southport, and in 1841 it was incorporated as a village.

1837 brought many new arrivals to Kenosha County and with them the names of some places still in existence; Paris, named by S.B. Myrick, who came from Paris, New York; Bristol, named for a place in New England; and Kellogg's Corners, named for a family of the same name in Somers. It was here in Somers that the first farmer's barn was built by E.B. Pierce. In Salem township a hotel was built, and a bridge constructed, spanning the Fox River in Silver Lake. Salem was first called Brooklyn, but the name was later changed to Salem by an act of legislature.

* * * * * to be continued next issue * * * * *

What Day of the Week?



You're probably looking for a *day of the week calculator*. Chances are you have a date in mind and you want to find out what day of the week it was. You're in luck! This nifty little website will help you solve your problem. Let's face it, it's not easy to find an old calendar just to find out what day of the week a particular day is.

It's also possible that you might be asking the question: "*What day of the week was I born?*" Whatever your reason is, you'll get the days of the week you are looking for.

As an added bonus, this website utilizes pages from Wikipedia to extract historical events and birthday of popular individuals. This is useful if you're creating a scrapbook and you want to know some important events that took place about a particular day.

This website is using the Gregorian calendar system as the basis for computing the day of the week. Dates before 1752 in some European countries were recorded as a Julian calendar date such as the one engraved in the above picture of a church tower in Salisbury, a city in England. (*Photo credit: Alan Clarke*) Just for fun. Try entering the date you see in the above picture and verify the day of the week.

Here are some interesting facts about the Julian and Gregorian calendars. When the Calendar Act was implemented in Britain, on September 2, 1752 the Britons slept using the old Julian calendar and woke up the following morning using the Gregorian calendar but it suddenly became September 14, 1752. They skipped 11 days overnight. Some neighboring countries made the switch to Gregorian calendar a few centuries earlier while others a few centuries later. For example, the Russians only adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1918. The Greeks did not switch to it until 1923 and they have to skip 13 days instead of just 11 days.

Read more:

<https://www.dayoftheweek.org>

Article submitted by Judy Uelmen for inclusion in the newsletter. Thanks, Judy!

Upcoming Events

- ♦ **April 1, 2017**, "Name Changing Ancestors and Why Don't We Write" at Newberry Library, Chicago, IL 12:30pm to 2:45pm. For more information, visit <http://www.chicagogenealogy.org>.
- ♦ **April 4, 2017**, "HELP! I've Done the Easy Research" at Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin, IL 9:30am to 11:00am. For more information, visit <http://www.elginroots.com>.
- ♦ **April 8, 2017**, "Pursuing Our Italian Names Together" at the Italian Community Center, Milwaukee, WI 10:00am to 12:00pm. For more information, visit <http://www.orgsites.com/wi/point22/>.
- ♦ **April 11, 2017**, "It's Not All Online: Chicago Repositories and What They Have" at Mundelein Community Center, Mundelein, IL 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, visit <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~illcgs/>.
- ♦ **April 12, 2017**, "DNA: How Companies Like Ancestry Derive Ethnicity Percentages" and "The To-America Series Research on FamilySearch" at Klemmer's Banquet Center, Milwaukee, WI 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, visit <http://mpafug.org>.
- ♦ **April 13, 2017**, "What's New in Technology" at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.org>
- ♦ **April 15, 2017**, "Researching Italian Records" at Schaumburg Township Public Library, Schaumburg, IL 10:30am to 12:30pm. For more information, visit <http://www.caggni.org>.
- ♦ **April 22, 2017**, "Finding Far Away Ancestors" at Best Western Plus-Milwaukee Airport Hotel & Conference Center, Milwaukee, IL 8:30am to 4:00pm. Learn more at: <http://www.milwaukeegenealogy.org>; then click on the "2017 Workshop" link.
- ♦ **April 28, 2017**, "Jewish Immigrants to Wisconsin" at Milwaukee Central Library 1:00pm to 2:30pm. For more information, visit <http://www.milwaukeegenealogy.org>.
- ♦ **April 29, 2017**, "Asking Questions, Finding Answers—Queries, Newspapers, and Correspondence" at Milwaukee Central Library, 9:30am to 11:30pm. Learn more at: <http://milwaukeegenealogy.org>.

Genealogy is the History of YOU!

Facts and Tips

- 1 Genealogy is the search for our ancestors. Family history is the study of the lives they led. Using the information from each area provides us with a true picture of our family.
- 2 Genealogy helps you to learn about your family and where you belong in that family.
- 3 There is no greater legacy for your children and grandchildren than teaching them about the history and lives of their ancestors.
- 4 Tracing the family medical history helps your children and grandchildren to take preventive measures with their own health.
- 5 When you begin your genealogy research, focus on one or two families so you do not become overwhelmed. The other families will be there when you are ready for them.
- 6 Everyone has a mother and a father. Female and male lines are equally important. A generation equals 22-25 years for a man and 18-23 years for a woman.
- 7 Because each generation doubles the number of ancestors, developing a plan of how you will proceed in your research is absolutely necessary.
- 8 **Document as you go!**
- 9 Identify all researchers by name for all contributions, including your own .
- 10 Use confidential information with discretion and sensitivity.
- 11 Enter sources and notes in a consistent format. The details from a source are the skeleton of our family tree.
- 12 Of primary interest to genealogists are service records and pension records. Many records are available through the National Archives.
- 13 A census is an official count of the population living in the United States on a designated day set at intervals. The census places an ancestor in a specific place at a specific time.
- 14 Church records may include births, christenings, marriages, deaths and burials. Be sure you have the correct church/religious denomination.
- 15 Use Poll tax records and jury lists as evidence of legal age.
- 16 State Land States are states that owned and distributed their lands. These include the original 13 colonies, Kentucky, Maine, Tennessee, Vermont and West Virginia, Hawaii and Texas. They used metes and bounds to survey the land.
- 17 Federal Land States were created from public domain, land the United States bought or acquired. The land was created into territories as the population spread out. The survey is done according to the rectangular survey system.
- 18 Canon Law refers to Laws of the Church.
- 19 Direct evidence speaks to the point in question. Indirect evidence gives facts from which you can come to a conclusion.
- 20 Registrations of births, marriages, and deaths first began for some areas in Germany in 1792 when the French invasion of the area west of the Rhine brought that region under their administration.
- 21 Waterways were the original lanes of communication and transportation.
- 22 Hometown Records may include newspapers (obituaries, special events, parties, etc.), City Directories (names and occupations of town residents and business information), maps (check boundary changes over time) and town and county histories.
- 23 Immigration is entering a country where you are not a native to take up permanent residence. Emigration is leaving a country where you have been a citizen.
- 24 Naturalization is the process of becoming a citizen. It is a two-step process and takes about five years. The Declaration of Intent (1st papers) can be filed after two years of residency. Naturalization and Oath of Allegiance are taken after an additional three years of residency.
- 25 Collective naturalization is a process used when a government acquires the territory of a foreign government by treaty or cession, and the inhabitants receive the rights and privileges of citizenship.
- 26 A Bounty Land Warrant is a gift of bounty land due to a person entitled by military service.
- 27 Use a Migration Map which displays everywhere your ancestor(s) lived. This Map can help you determine why your ancestors moved.
- 28 Probate records refer to wills inventories, letters of administration and guardianship. They are usually held at the county courthouse unless archived.
- 29 Vital Records include birth, marriage, divorce and death records.
- 30 Death Records can be the least accurate depending upon the knowledge of the person reporting the information.

- 31 Marriage Records may only be records of weddings. Look for the Application for Marriage which is completed by the bride and groom to be .
- 32 Marriage records may be corroborated with church records. Check everything for correctness
- 33 Look carefully at marriage records. The witnesses and bondsmen may be related to either party.
- 34 Birth Records are difficult to obtain because they can be used for so many purposes. You may be required to provide proof of relationship and proof of the person's death.
- 35 To find a birth date from a death date, subtract the age in years, months and days from the date of death. This is a very close approximation.
- 36 When ordering a death, marriage or birth certificate, request the long form which will have more information than the short form and request a non-certified copy. It contains exactly the same information as the certified copy but is less expensive.
- 37 Vital records and event information are more reliable when they are recorded near the time of the happening. The longer the time from the event occurrence that the record is made, the less accurate it may be based on the memory of the person involved.
- 38 Public record keeping was very unorganized in previous generations.
- 39 Check for cemetery records with the church, Sexton and Funeral Directors
- 40 Visit the cemetery and take a picture of the tombstone. Check the obituaries in that time frame.
- 41 If you are not sure which church your ancestor attended, search the churches closest to home first and then broaden your search in ever-widening circles.
- 42 Many legal instruments other than deeds appear in deed books. They include Bills of Sale, Prenuptial Agreements, Powers of Attorney, Contracts, Affidavits, Wills and Inventories and Voter and Jury Lists.
- 43 Do not laminate your documents. A laminated document can never be restored to its original state.
- 44 Use archival quality acid-free sheet protectors for all of your original documents, master copies and photographs.
- 45 Look for the archival label on storage products - "acid free" or "archival safe".

Article submitted by Dawn Jurgens for inclusion in the newsletter.
Thanks, Dawn!



More than 20 years ago, Will Moneymaker began his quest into genealogical research. Recently diagnosed with Crohn's disease and a blood disorder, Will found himself home for months at a time and used that time to study genealogy records to discover the meaning behind his surname, Moneymaker.

Will collected books, conducted research in libraries, and used genealogy CD-ROMs to further his desire to learn more about his family. After collecting hundreds of books and thousands of documents relating to this genealogical adventure, he wanted to share this information with others.

Moneymaker first used America Online to reach out to other members of his family and to share the current information he had gathered. Within the first week, he had hundreds of inquiries about family history, both from family members and from people reaching out for information.

On December 15, 1995, he created AncestralFindings. He received more than 1,000 free lookup requests the first few months, and now receives approximately 5,000 free requests a month from people like you who are looking for more information about their genealogy.

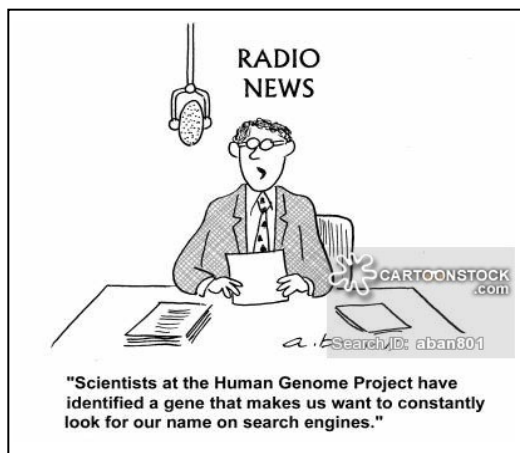
You can use AncestralFindings to cross-reference information you already have and to learn more about the people in your family who you thought were forever lost to you. If you know the general area where a family member once lived, census records and land records can both be requested to make sure that you have found the right person.

Go to: www.ancestralfindings.com. Click the "Start Here" tab located near the top.

1. Request a Free Lookup from a Category.
2. Try Posting Your "Hard to Find Surnames" at:
<http://www.ancestralfindings.com/surnames/>

Birth Lookups	Census Lookups	Death Lookups
Family Trees	Record Lookups	Marriage Records
Military Records	State Records	Passenger & Immigration Lookups

Article submitted by Judy Uelmen for inclusion in the newsletter.
Thanks, Judy!



Surname Project

To keep the KCGS Surname list current and up to date, please remember to submit any additional surnames to Dawn Jurgens at the KCGS monthly meetings or via email at: dawnj23@mail.com.

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

Spotlight on Surnames being researched:

Baker	Felegy	Kellogg
Carlson	Gamm	Trail
Dickinson	Hanley	Usa
Espinoza	Ingraham	Vernizzi
Felegyr	Johnson	Woodruff

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Genealogy Quiz Answers

1. What is the Granite Mountain Records Vault?

About 25 miles from downtown Salt Lake City, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints constructed this mountainside vault to store the master copies of the church's extensive genealogical records. The Family History Library has the records on microfilm, but the originals are stored in the Granite Mountain Records Vault to increase the likelihood of their survival in the event of a natural disaster or other calamity.

2. How many immigrants came to the U.S. between 1824 and 1924?

Between 1892 and 1924, the peak years of immigration to the United States, 22 million immigrants entered the country through Ellis Island and the Port of New York. (Source: *American Family Immigration History Center*.)

3. Which actor is related to Abraham Lincoln?

Multiple Oscar-winner Tom Hanks is a third cousin four times removed to Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States. (Source: *Genealogy.com*.)

Members interested in submitting articles may e-mail them to secretary@kengensoc.org. The Southport Editor will determine if an article will be used in this newsletter. Articles will be used as space permits. NO COPYRIGHTED ARTICLES may be submitted without express permission of the author and publisher. Articles should be submitted by the 1st Wednesday of each month to be considered for inclusion in that same month. Credit will be given for your article.

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KENOSHA COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY

Genealogy is the History of You!

Marian Pierre-Louis is a genealogical writer and speaker who specializes in southern New England research (Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts). Born and raised in Connecticut, she has lived in Massachusetts for almost 20 years. Marian has three generations of recent family ties to Rhode Island and also links to some very old Rhode Island lines. As a result, these three states have become the focus of her research activity. Unlike most genealogists, Marian is spoiled to spend most of her time working with original records. You will most often find her researching at a town hall, registry of deeds, probate court or the local cemetery. It's a rare day that Marian has to sit in front of a microfilm reader.

Her website is www.FieldstoneHistoricResearch.com.



"10 Brick Wall Tips"

Marian Pierre-Louis, the genealogist who cracked the case of Nathan Brown's parents, is at it again. Once again she's tackling the topic of brick walls. Everyone needs a little help and encouragement to jump-start the research, especially on hard-to-solve cases. In this webinar, Marian will present 10 brick wall tips that will help every genealogist look at their research challenges in a fresh way. This webinar will bring you the momentum you will need to get your family history research back on track.

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, April 10, 2017



6:30 pm Registration, Conversation & Business Meeting



7:00 pm Program — FREE and OPEN to the Public



Kenosha Gateway Technical College, 3320—30th Avenue, Madrigano Auditorium