



# SOUTHPORT ECHO

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## Holiday Collection-

Remember to bring a nonperishable goods for donation. Please bring to the November meeting. Thank you.

Monthly Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm with program following at 7:00 pm except during December, July, August.

Meetings are held at Gateway Technical College at 3500 30th Avenue.

Next meeting is Oct 14, 2013. at Gateway's Bioscience Building on 30th Ave just a block north of the main building in Room 120

## Genealogy Workshop

### at Kenosha Public Library—Southwest

The one-on-one Family History Consultation event held on Thursday September 19 was a great success with us helping 22 individuals with their research into their families. These people were at various skill levels from just beginning to those with better knowledge than some of the volunteers.

We will have another couple of these One-on-One Family History Consultation at the library. One on Tuesday October 1 and again on Wednesday October 30. Both will be from 6 pm to 8 pm.

We will also be having a special beginners class to be held at the Kenosha Public Library—Southwest on November 13. There would be an hour long lecture with an hour of questions and answers and/or consulting at:

Kenosha Public Library—Southwest  
7979 38th Avenue  
Kenosha, WI 53142

Volunteers to assist individuals wanting to do research are needed. Although the library does have one or two laptops we can use, we would prefer you bring your own if possible. The library only has two license for Ancestry.com. So, if you have a subscription to use would help. One or two Greeters are also needed. Please sign up at October's meeting for whatever help you may be able to give.

## RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

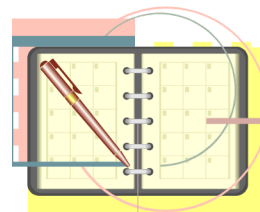
Journals—<http://landing.questia.com/>

Diaries & Letters —<http://www.cyndislist.com/diaries/locality/>

Journals and Diaries— <http://www.loc.gov/search/?q=war+journals+or+diaries>

Civil War Journals—[http://www.rarebooks.nd.edu/digital/civil\\_war/diaries\\_journals/](http://www.rarebooks.nd.edu/digital/civil_war/diaries_journals/)

World War 2 Journals—[http://www.teacheroz.com/WWII\\_Oral\\_History.htm](http://www.teacheroz.com/WWII_Oral_History.htm)



## **Sunshine's Corner** **by Claudia Schiller**

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

A Get-well card was sent to Sylvia Canada to wish her husband a good recovery.

If you know of any members in need of cheering up with a card, notify Claudia Schiller or Judy Uelmen.

### **Surname being Searched**

Contact via website at

[www.kengensoc.com/](http://www.kengensoc.com/) for further information.

Name	Researcher	No.
Dugger		105
Froemming		57
Janca		13
Kiefer		39
Mankowski		56
Reynolds		67
Rutkowski		69
Soukup		8
Wicklund		3
Williams		12

### **Volunteers with Scissors**

#### **and Acid-free Tape**

#### **Needed**

Newspaper clippers are needed to assist in clipping newspaper obituaries, engagements, weddings, anniversaries,

births, marriage licenses, divorces, group generations, and 100th birthday celebrations. Contact Chairperson Claudia Schiller for details.

### **New and renewed information for the surname list requested.**

If you haven't submitted the surnames you are researching yet, please do so either on a piece of paper or the membership form and leave it with Judy or Paula at the end of meeting or email it to either of us or to the website.

Please include surname, dates of time period, location and most important, your name.

## **THE HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US** **IT'S TIME TO PLAN INTERVIEWS WITH THE FAMILY**

Plan out for where and with whom you'll be spending the various holidays. (Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Day and New Year's Eve and Day). Which family member would you like to interview.

If possible, record the interview on video or audio. If doing audio, you may want to take a couple pictures too. Make sure you let them know you are recording the session so not to surprise them. Take notes even if you are recording. Arrange to set up in a quiet place with good light and ventilation. Take into effect who you are interviewing. Someone who doesn't like bright lights, or maybe gets chilled easily. Ask the interviewee if they are comfortable. Take notes even if recording it. Prepare the questions you would like to ask. Have about ten (10) main questions for the interview. These should be a little more general such as; What school did you go to? Who was your best friend when growing up? How did you meet your spouse? How did your family celebrate Christmas, Thanksgiving or Halloween? Etc.

Specific questions are good for a specific individual such as; You like to dance, when and where did you first learn? You talk about an incident when you had a special dream about grandpa, what was it? (Even if you already know the story, you want it repeated in their voice.) Listen to the recording and create a text file and save it to your family tree.

For groups, set up where all can be seen and be heard. Give all a chance to speak. Set up the groups as family group, siblings, first cousins, children, teens, etc. Don't make the group too big. The group should be about six people more or less. If doing siblings, you may not have a choice about size. If there are 9 children present there all should be asked to join the conversation. If you are part of the group, make should have your list of questions so to keep the conversation on track and on going. Let others watch, but ask them to keep their interruptions to a minimum.

~~Paula Frye~~

## A SOLDIER'S JOURNAL

By Paula Frye

Sometimes you find an interesting fact in your family but not in a direct line. It still could be interesting enough to add it to your family research. Could your distant cousin be famous? We all may have secretly wished for that, but it's our less famous family members that can be memorable. **This is not really off the direct line but I still wish to share.**

Journals have been given to soldiers for years, especially during war times. Some were used as a journal but other times the paper was used for letters. They were made into a sketch book or made to hold the soldier's own prayers or even as toilet paper.

My Uncle Robert Lee Frye (1920-1970) was the oldest of my father's four younger brothers. (No, we are not southern but Grandma like the name of Lee as a middle name and gave it to several of her sons.) He lived between Richland and Vernon Counties and later in life in Kenosha. He was an English literature major at U-W Richland. He did not graduate due to World War II. He had married prior to joining the service and his daughter was born while he was overseas but the marriage did not last the war. When he returned he did various factory work at Nash and Snap-on. He tended bars and he played the guitar on a Chicago 1950's TV's show "The Barn Dance". His life after the war was lonely. He came to family functions and joined the fun until 1957 when his mother died. After, although four (4) of his siblings lived nearby he did not visit them or attended anymore family functions even though invited. June 1970, my father received a phone call from the veteran's administration with the notification of his death at the Veterans Hospital due to cirrhosis of the liver. The siblings got together to plan the funeral. My father and Uncle Rick when to clean out Uncle Bob's apartment. They found a collection of Christmas cards from his daughter Sandra, a music box that had been his mother's, his Gibson guitar, and his soldier's journal.

My Uncle Bob's journal only had a dozen or so written pages but those pages were filled with poems. Also found was a small book of published World War II soldiers' poetry that included some of his poetry. There were several cards of his poetry that were printed during the war and passed out to soldiers in the field along with other soldiers' poetry. The poetry was about his beloved childhood home by the Kickapoo River, about falling in love, and about his feelings about the war. There was one poem he had not written. Well, he wrote it into his journal but was not the originator. It was written by his mother Maude Pearl Dougherty Frye about missing her son. To my family, this small journal and its dozen and a half written pages is a treasure and it reminds us of the brother and the uncle we remember from our youth and have missed dearly.

### **TOO MUCH FOR THE DEVIL**

The devil sat by the lake of fire  
On a pile of sulphur kegs;  
His head was bowed upon his chest  
And his tail between his legs.  
He seemed so broken-hearted  
And the tears fell from his eyes;  
For he had sent his resignation  
To the Lord up in the skies.  
I am down and out, the devil said,  
For all has not gone well;  
And I find I am not up-to-date  
In the art of running Hell.  
Give my job to Hitler,  
The author of the war,  
He knows more about damnation  
A thousand times by far.  
Compared to a Hitler blitzkrieg  
The fiery furnace is fun;  
If people can come to escape him,  
Why, hell will be overrun.  
Please take me away, dear Lord,  
To a place in the land of the blest  
Where far from Hitler's domain  
Even I can find peace and rest.  
Robert Frye  
USA—September, 1941

### **TO MY SON, ROBERT, IN ICE- LAND**

As I am sitting alone  
I am thinking  
Of an island far out in the sea  
And I know that out there in the distance  
There is someone who's thinking of me

Son, you are doing your duty.  
Far be it from me to complain.  
For the time that you spend in the service  
Will help in Americas gain.

So be brave and stand by the colors,  
That's waving o'er land and o'er sea  
And when the fierce conflict is over  
We'll all live in the land of the free

Written by my Mother about myself in  
October, 1942  
Robert Frye



## **"THE HISTORICAL CHRISTMAS TREE SHIP" Given By Rochelle Pennington**

By Claudia Schiller with Suzanne Dibble as photographer



Rochelle Pennington signing her book



Items recovered from the Ship Wreck

Starting in the late 1800's, the Schuenemann Family believed that everyone, rich or poor, should have a Christmas tree. Captain Herman Schuenemann loved Chicago, the people, and especially the children, who enjoyed the candy he always carried in his pockets.

In November 1912, as in previous years, he sailed to upper Michigan to cut Christmas trees for the Chicago area. On the trip home that year, near Two Rivers, Wisconsin, a winter storm came up with high winds and sleet. Ice formed on the rigging and deck. With the added weight of ice on the already overloaded ship, it sank into the storm tossed sea. There were no survivors.

His wife Barbara, and their two daughters continued the tradition. Barbara stated that she felt the presence of her husband while helping gather evergreens from the upper peninsula of Michigan. In 1933, Barbara passed away and her daughters, Pearl and Elise opened a store located on LaSalle Street in Chicago, selling wreaths they had made.

The city of Chicago had loved Captain Herman Schuenemann, and so to honor him in December of 1913, they erected a 40 foot Christmas tree decorated with lights in Grant Park. It would be the first time that a decorated Christmas tree was to be set up outside. They did not expect much of a crowd, since it was being held on Christmas Eve, but over 100,000 people came to the park, to honor Captain Schuenemann.

For many years, skeletons of evergreens would wash up on Wisconsin and Michigan shores. But the location of the ship wreck was a mystery until 1971. That year, Kent Belrichard found the ship nine miles from Two Rivers, Wisconsin, at the depth of about 185 ft. The water temp at that location ranged from 38 to 42 degrees. He noted the top layer of trees were bare and the trees below were preserved as fresh cut.

(Continued on page 6)

Wagon with Christmas tree ship stock



Christmas tree from the wreck



Rachel Penninton's Book



## **VIRGINIA: THE FIRST FRONTIER**

### **NGS 2014 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE**

The NGS 2014 Family History Conference will be held in Richmond, Virginia, 7–10 May 2014. The program is for Genealogists of all skill levels. The Conference will feature ten tracks per day covering a broad array of topics including records for Virginia and its neighboring states; migration into and out of the region; military records; state and federal records; ethnic groups African Americans, Germans, Irish, and Ulster-Scots; methodology; analysis and problem solving; and the use of technology including genetics, mobile devices, and apps useful in genealogical research.

For more detailed information about the conference and events, visit National Genealogy Society site at <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org> and scroll down to the Registration Brochure which will be posted on the website by 15 November 2013. Registration for the Conference will begin 1 December 2013 at <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/event-registration/>.

### **WINTER RESEARCH TRIP TO SALT LAKE CITY**

Join the NGS's group leaders Shirley Langdon Wilcox, CG, FNGS, and Marie Varrelman Melchiori, CG, CGL, for a week at the world renowned Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, from 5–12 January 2014. The trip leaders will be available throughout the week to help participants focus their research work and to take the utmost advantage of the Family History Library resources.

The Deadline for this trip is December 6, 2013. The group will be limited to 30 participants. The land portion will be for seven (7) nights and six (6) full days of research at the Family History Library and guidance from the NGS experts. There would be a Sunday evening orientation and social. On Monday evening a group lecture is scheduled, on Wednesday evening a pizza party and Saturday evening a group meal. Shuttle van provided between the airport and the hotel. The hotel is Salt Lake Crown Hotel. A single room for a NGS member is \$1175 for the seven (7) nights and for the non-member of the NGS for \$1550. The double room prices are for members \$925 for the week and for the non-member \$1300 for the week.

For more information about the trip, visit the NGS website at [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conferences\\_events/research\\_tips/slc\\_research\\_trip/slc\\_research\\_trip\\_winter\\_trip](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conferences_events/research_tips/slc_research_trip/slc_research_trip_winter_trip)

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#### **Invitation from Ann Day, President of the local chapter of the DAR.**

The local meetings are held at Bombay Louies at 11 am for lunch & a speaker. On Saturday October 12 Ross Astoria will talk about climate change. Monday November 4th at 11 am Margaret Heller will talk about the Southport Beach House. And on Sat Feb 8th Heritage Musick Band. Revolutionary War band will play music. RSVP annmday@hotmail.com if you plan on attending. You all are welcome to attend to hear the speaker and have lunch with us before the meeting. Lunch is about \$11 depending on your choice from the menu. ~Ann Day~

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#### **ANY GOOD STORIES OR SUBJECTS OUT THERE**

Anyone with an idea for an article, story of an "eureka" moment, experience on a research trip, please let either Paula Frye or Suzanne Dibble know about it. You are welcome to write an article if you wish and submit it to Paula or email it to Paula. My e-mail addresses is prfrye@hotmail.com or snail mail to 7528 Pershing Blvd, Kenosha, 53142.

~~ Thank you, Paula ~~

## **The Historical Christmas Tree Ship** (Continued from page 3)

He dropped his light and it landed up-right, shining on the ceiling where he saw light bulbs floating. He decided to bring some to shore. One of the recovered bulbs still lite after 59 years under water.

Rochelle brought artifacts that were loaned to her from the museum, for speaking engagements. She noted that it is illegal to remove artifacts from any wreck. She brought copies of her book "The Historical Christmas tree" for purchase.

Rochelle Pennington is an award winning author of 10 books which besides "Historical Christmas Tree Ship" also include "The Endurance" and "An Old Fashion Christmas". She is a popular presenter at schools, libraries, civic organizations, etc.

She resides in Wisconsin with her husband of 30 years and has two grown children and two grandchildren. In her free time, she enjoys spending weekends at her family's 100 year old cottage in the Porcupine Mountains of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Her web site is [www.RochellePennintonBooks.com](http://www.RochellePennintonBooks.com).



One of the  
Capt. Herman  
Schuenemann's  
daughters  
onboard the new  
Christmas Tree  
Ship



One of the light  
bulbs from the  
Christmas Tree  
Ship Wreck that  
continued to func-  
tion after 59 years  
in the freezing wa-  
ter.



### **Elected Appointed Officers**

Digital Equipment Operator ~~ Don Kueny  
Sunshine Committee ~~ Claudia Schiller  
Webmaster ~~ Jeff Huff

Librarian/Greeter ~~ Suzanne Dibble  
Surname ~~ Paula Frye  
Publicity ~~ Judy Reynolds

### **Elected Officers**

President ~~ Judy Uelmen  
Treasurer ~~ Frank Klein

Vice-president ~~ Claudia Schiller  
Secretary ~~ Maryann Cole

### **Contact Information**

Website ~~ [www.kengensoc.com](http://www.kengensoc.com)  
Judy Uelmen (President) ~~ [juelm@aol.com](mailto:juelm@aol.com)



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