

WOOD COUNTY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chairman's Corner	1137
June Cemetery Walk	1137
New Officers	1138
New Books	1138
Heart Humor	1138
Research Report	1138
Development of Community, cont'd	1139
2013 Brat Fry Results	1139
Meeting Summaries	1140
Brat Fry, cont'd.	1140
New Books, cont'd.	1140
Ben's Brick Wall	1141
Meeting Summaries, cont'd.	1141
Calendar of Events	1142
40th Anniversary Update	1143
Society Info Changes	1143
Membership Form	1143
Society Information	1144

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Hello Fellow Genealogists!

As we prepare for another season of travel and research, let us be diligent but respectful concerning the changing laws around the country as to what records we can get access to and what are off limits. Listen for rumors of rule changes in your research areas and try to ascertain the truthfulness of those rumors. We had heard rumors of the supposed loss of access to Wood County records. I had gone to the Courthouse to check this out and found out that there is regular access at the Wood County Court House, not the limited access as rumored. It has been a very pro-

ductive year so far for me and the organization as a whole. The 40th Anniversary Committee is going strong and has accomplished a great deal so far. Any additional help would be welcome.

We had many good programs again this year thanks to Tina and others who helped her.

I hope everyone has a great summer and can continue to fill in those holes in their family lines.

Happy Hunting!

Eugene Meier

JUNE CEMETERY WALK

Come and join us for some fun on our June cemetery walk. Fred Murray has promised me we will be entertained on our tour of the Green Hill Cemetery in the Town of Saratoga.

We will gather at the cemetery at 5:30 p.m. Remember to bring a lawn chair, an umbrella, bug spray, and a light and/or heavy jacket (this is Wisconsin, after all!).

The picnic lunch at the cemetery will be provided as a "thank you" by the Brat Fry Committee. Brats, buns, soda, water, condiments, and napkins will be provided. If you don't like brats, please bring a sandwich. The idea is to have just "finger food." If you'd like to bring some type of "finger food" to share, please do so.

Green Hill Cemetery is located south of Nekoosa on County Road Z (coming from Rapids). After you pass Deer Trail Campground, you'll cross a small bridge. Immediately after that bridge is Heminger Ct. Turn left on Heminger Ct and then right almost immediately on the road that goes up the hill to the cemetery.

Green Hill is an old cemetery, with the oldest marker being from 1867. Fred will fill us in on more details—plus we'll hear what "famous" person herein lies buried!

The Editor

NEW OFFICERS!

We thank the nominating committee—Myra Sweet—for the slate of officers that was voted in at the May 2013 meeting.

The officers for the 2013-2014 year are:

Chairman:

Eugene Meier

Vice Chairman:

Tina Krummel

Secretary:

Doreen Dimick

Treasurer:

Bev Polansky

Trustee:

Ben Chitek

Give them your full support when they ask for your help!

HEART HUMOR!

My family coat of arms ties at the back—is that normal?

My ancestors must be in the witness protection program!

A new cousin a day keeps the boredom away!

“Crazy” is a relative term in my family!

A pack rat is hard to live with but makes a fine ancestor!

Only a genealogist regards a step backwards as progress!

NEW BOOKS AT McMILLAN!

(CONT'D ON PAGE 1140)

Need summer reading material? Listed here are some of the latest books our Society purchased to donate to the library.

1. AARP Genealogy Online: Tech to Connect, Matthew I. Helm (2013). Covers everything you need to know about starting a genealogical research project, beginning with where and how to find interesting information. Ideal starting point for beginners who are interested in tracking their family history.
2. Indian Nations of Wisconsin: Histories of Endurance and Renewal, Patty Loew (2013). Explores Wisconsin's rich Native tradition. Each chapter is a compact tribal history of one of the state's Indian nations. The author focuses on oral stories, songs, and interviews.
3. Kinship: It's All Relative, Jackie Smith Arnold (2012). This book explains everything there is to know about kinship—do you know the difference between a great-aunt and a

grand-aunt, between 3rd cousins and 2nd cousins once removed, between a cousin-german and a cater cousin? New chapters on the subjects of marriage, names, and wills; degrees of consanguinity and how to calculate blood relationships; new glossary also.

4. Mastering Census & Military Records, W. Daniel Quillen (2011). Covers the use of two of the most effective sets of genealogical information available: census and military records—what they are, how to use them, pitfalls, and issues concerning the information found.
5. Mastering Family, Library & Church Records, W. Daniel Quillen (2012). Helps genealogists locate, explore, and extract the most relevant information from all of these records.
6. Mastering Immigration & Naturalization Records, W. Daniel Quillen (2012).

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

I ran a surname search for Sue Steiner from Mt. Horeb on the name Steiner. I also looked up land records on Henry Bell for Sue Mullane from New Mexico.

I had an inquiry from Gunnar Engelbreksson who was looking for more information on his wife's grandfather who died here before his family had a chance to emigrate from Sweden. I was able to find some information for him.

I also did some research for Maureen McCarthy, locating a member of the Blackburn family so that a family Bible could be returned to them.

I obtained a copy of an obit of Clementine Manz for Lois Freeman of Eau Claire and an obit of Ella Nash for Mary Mullane.

Diantha Neinfeldt, Research Committee Chair

DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY TRACED IN BRIDGE HISTORY WISCONSIN RAPIDS DAILY TRIBUNE, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1922

TRANSITION FROM PRIMITIVE FERRY OF LITTLE OVER FIFTY YEARS AGO TO PRESENT STRUCTURE SYMBOLIZES PROGRESS.

(This is continued from the March 2013 Wood County Roots newsletter.)

Carried Out by Ice

Then followed a period of a year in which the community returned to the old ferry boat system of transportation between the two sides of the river. Under pressure from Marshfield, which community had in the meantime become an important factor in the county board, that body refused to authorize the rebuilding of the bridge by the county. The battle was carried to the supreme court of the state, but the final decision was returned against Grand Rapids and Centralia, and the twin cities were forced to finance the building of a new bridge themselves.

Back to Ferries

During the time of the litigation and before the opening of the new bridge, two regular lines, operating on overhead lines and propelled by current boards, were put into service. The first, operated by W. H. Cochran, operated from the island where the Consoli-

dated office now stands to the present site of the Herschleb Bakery. The second, under the proprietorship of Eusebe La Vigne of the old ferry boat days, travelled between a point near where the City News depot now stands to the location of the present MacKinnon block. Competition between the two lines was stiff, and there were also many skiffs and rowboats in use to transport pedestrians.

Finally in the spring of 1889, the steel bridge recently junked was opened to traffic. Regarded as an engineering marvel in its first days, the structure later came to be considered a freak among bridges. The length of its spans, 248 feet, and the height of its girders, 42 feet, set it apart from almost all other highway bridges.

The opening of the bridge was delayed for some time because of the difficulty of obtaining a solid foundation for the center pier. This was finally built upon a foundation of thirty inches of 10x10 timbers, with riprapping of rock for 12 feet in all directions to prevent its being undermined by the current and, after this had been done, it stood satisfactorily.

2013 BRAT FRY FUNDRAISER RESULTS

The results are in! We made a total of \$882.50! Just to recap—we held two brat fry fundraisers this year. The first one was Wednesday, May 15, held at the Pioneer Bank in Wisconsin Rapids. The second one was Friday, May 17, held at the local Walmart store. Sales at the Pioneer Bank brat fry were \$343.00, and sales at the Walmart brat fry amounted to \$ 394.50. There were also cash donations of \$175.00.

Brat fry chairman Bev Polansky reports that her goal was \$1,000.00 in sales. We laughed and said she wasn't being realistic. In the end, in spite of running out of brats on Wednesday and raining all of Friday, we came close to that goal!

Thanks to all who donated: Cash—A. Greeno, E. Blount, D. King, N. Reber, D. Neinf-

feldt, F. Gumz, B. Peaslee, M. Sweet, P. Curti, E. Meier, A. Keehn, and F. Murray. Brats—N. Reber, J. Castell, S. Miller, B. Polansky, D. Dimick, and P. Curti. Chili—B. Polansky and D. Neinfeldt. Hot dogs—B. Polansky and E. Meier. Onions—T. Krummel and J. Castell. Catsup & mustard—P. Curti. Small containers—D. Neinfeldt, B. Polansky, J. Castell, and D. Dimick. Propane for grills—E. Meier and B. Polansky. Relish—D. Neinfeldt. Water—B. Polansky. Soda—D. Dimick and E. Meier. Paper towels—N. Reber and E. Meier. Tables—E. Meier, B. Peaslee, and B. Polansky. Sauerkraut—T. Provost and J. Castell. Buns—B. Polansky.

(Cont'd. on Page 1140)

(Cont'd. from Page 1139)

MEETING SUMMARIES

Mar 2013—Jerry Soukup gave a program on coin collecting. February income totaled \$250.01 with expenses of \$25 for the speaker. Balance on hand was \$1,588.69. Flores Gumz reported she had some good suggestions for books to order and she ordered books totaling \$213. One of the books was in memory of Donald Krohn and one in memory of Grace Tomsyck. A book on German genealogy will be purchased in memory of Dave Billmeyer in the summer. Motion was made to approve the \$13 over budget. The next indexing session is scheduled for March 27. A written progress report on indexing was requested. Program suggestions were given to Tina Krummel for the upcoming months. All three books of Wood County marriages are in the cabinet. Diantha Neinfeldt has finished putting marriage books I through IV on the web site. She suggested we re-write the information on the web site since it has been quite a while since this was done. See the separate article on the 40th anniversary celebration elsewhere in this newsletter. Myra Sweet reported that all of the officers had agreed to

stay on for another year. She needs to confirm a trustee candidate yet. Volunteer signup sheets were passed around for the brat fry fundraisers. They are scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, at Pioneer Bank and Friday, May 17, at Walmart. It was suggested that a survey be sent to members regarding changing the time of our meeting from the evening to daytime. Diantha and Bev Peaslee will work on this. Read more on this later in this newsletter.

Apr 2013—Paul Gross, Wisconsin Rapids' own historian, gave the program. He brought along Phil Brown who then interviewed Paul Gross about growing up in Rapids. They then showed a DVD comparing the downtown of the 1930s with the 1970s. Everyone enjoyed this immensely. March income was \$10.01 with expenses totaling \$117.15 (mainly for the speaker, newsletter, and notecards). Balance on hand is \$1,481.55. The indexing report is being compiled. It will also be the annual report

(Cont'd on Page 1141)

(Cont'd from Page 1140)

for the Indexing Committee. Next month's pro-

2013 BRAT FRY FUNDRAISER RESULTS, CONT'D.

Thanks also to the many volunteers who worked the events: Cashiers—P. Curti and D. Dimick. Griller—E. Meier. Delivery Driver—B. Peaslee. Food Servers—J. Lukes, K. McCarthy, S. Miller, F. Murray, B. Peaslee, B. Polansky, N. Reber, and M. Sweet.

At the September meeting, we will decide how we will spend this money. Of course, there are numerous ways it could be used—toward indexing expenses, website expenses or microfilm purchases, to name a few.

Again, thanks to everyone who contributed to making our fundraisers the success they were. As is true of everything in our Society, it wouldn't be a success without all the volunteers.

Volunteers are the “heart” in the Heart O’ Wisconsin Genealogical Society.

NEW BOOKS AT McMILLAN, (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1138)

Helps genealogists hit the shores of the Atlantic Ocean looking east to the UK and Europe searching for their ancestors. Explains immigration and naturalization records and their genealogical values, as well as how to locate them.

7. Mastering Online Genealogy, W. Daniel Quillen (2012). Covers the use of computers and the internet to successfully do your own genealogical research. Includes information on genealogy databases, free genealogy websites, subscription services, pitfalls, what kind of computer and software to buy, genealogy software reviews, and a glossary of terms.

Reviews of the other 10 books purchased will be in the September 2013 Wood County Roots.

BEN'S BRICK WALL

I have been trying to locate the date and place of death for my grandmother's distant cousin, Leslie Pribbanow. Leslie Franz Hermann Pribbanow was born 14 January 1904 in the Town of Grant, Portage County, Wisconsin. His parents were Frank and Bertha (Hanneman) Pribbanow.

Leslie's mother, Bertha Hanneman, was first married to August Hanneman (her 1st cousin) on 20 July 1892 in the Town of Grant, Portage County, Wisconsin. They had three daughters—Martha, Ida, and Sophie. After August died in 1902, Bertha married Frank Pribbanow 25 March 1903. They had two children—Leslie born in 1904 and a baby who died in infancy in 1905. Frank died in 1907. Her last marriage was to Carl Adamshack on 11 January 1908. They did not have any children.

According to census records, Leslie made his home in the Town of Grand Rapids, Wood County, Wisconsin. The last census I was able to find him in was the 1930 census. He was living with his uncle's family, Albert and Mary (Habeck) Hanneman.

I searched for Leslie in Newspaper Ar-

chives using a variation of spellings. I found a snippet from the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune, dated Monday, 19 June 1933, stating that Leslie was a visitor at the Henry Moore home. I could not locate Leslie in the 1940 census, so I'm guessing that Leslie died between 19 June 1933 and the 1940 census. When Leslie's mother Bertha died in 1943, her obituary did not mention Leslie being one of her living children. I have searched for Leslie's death at both the Wood County and Portage County Registers of Deeds and in cemetery records, all to no avail.

Leslie's mother is buried at St. John's Lutheran Parish Cemetery in Kellner with her third husband and Leslie's father is buried at Forest Hill Cemetery in Wisconsin Rapids. The only other records I've been able to find pertaining to Leslie were his baptism and confirmation records, both being located at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kellner.

I'm stumped!! Help!

Ben Chitek

MEETING SUMMARIES, CONT'D.

gram will be Phil Brown with a postcard history of the area. The slate of officers was given to the Chairman. All officers will stay on for another term. Voting is held in May. Bev Peaslee suggested an "exchange of Brick Walls" as a meeting for next year. Bev and Diantha will work on this and it will be explained at the September meeting for those that want to participate.

May 2013—Phil Brown was our keynote speaker for this meeting. He brought along his extensive postcard collection for this area. He showed a movie that he and Paul Gross made comparing some of the old post cards to the then "modern-day" Wisconsin Rapids. It was very interesting. Balance on hand in the treasury was \$ 1,301.91 as of May 1. A book, *The Lands of the German Empire*, has been purchased in memory of Dave Billmeyer. The 40th

Anniversary Committee is making progress. A motion was approved for them to take \$50 out of the treasury as needed to reserve a place for the luncheon if necessary. Elections were held. Eugene Meier was elected Chairman, Tina Krummel Vice Chairman, Bev Polansky Treasurer, Doreen Dimick Secretary, and Ben Chitek Trustee. The chairmen of the Book Purchases, Indexing, Programs, Research, Trustee, and Website were reminded to turn in their annual reports, if they have not already done so. The two frat fries are fast approaching and last-minute preparations were made.

The Editor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1 Jun 2013—31 Dec 2013 **blog.geneawebinars.com** Go to “Calendar” for list of webinars for the rest of the year. Most of these are free. Check them out! Keep checking for new listings.

5 Jun 2013 **www.familytreewebinars.com** Check out the schedule of webinars for the rest of the year. There are many, many interesting ones scheduled and they are all free. Check around on the rest of this website (which is Legacy) for more interesting topics. Haven't tried a webinar yet? What are you waiting for? Try it; you'll like it!

11 Jun 2013 **Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society meeting and cemetery walk at 5:30 p.m. at Green Hill Cemetery in the Town of Saratoga.** Fred Murray will lead us on a tour of the Green Hill Cemetery (on County Road Z) in the Town of Saratoga. Come and learn the history of this old cemetery.

27 Jun 2013 **Marshfield Area Genealogy Group meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the BeeBee Forum Room of the Marshfield Public Library.** “Our Family's Founding Fathers” Members will share stories and photographs of a father, grandfather, or great-grandfather and how their efforts shaped or directed the lives of their descendants.

13 Jul 2013 **A Festival of German Family History Research presented by the German Interest Group of Wisconsin.** This will be held at the UW Whitewater campus. Roger Minert, a professor at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and a well-known genealogist specializing in German research will give an all-day presentation—topics included are German phonetics, communicating with agencies and individuals in Europe, and a day in the life of your German ancestor. Go to their web site: www.gig-wi.com/ and look for this workshop.

10 Sep 2013 **Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society meeting.** “What Did You Do Last Summer?” This is our annual kickoff meeting. Members enjoy sharing their triumphs and tragedies from summer research. What will you have to report????

28 Sep 2013 **WSGS Fall Seminar will be held in Janesville, WI, at the Janesville Conference Center-Holiday Inn Express.** Featured speaker will be Leslie Albrecht Huber. There will be a hands-on learning session Friday, 27 Sep 2013, with Lori Bessler from the Wisconsin State Historical Society. More details will follow. Go to the WSGS web site at www.wsgs.org for details as they are finalized. Click on Events.

40TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

The 40th Anniversary Committee, chaired by Bev Polansky, assisted by Doreen Dimick, Joyce Keehn, Eugene Meier, and Myra Sweet, has made much progress. Tentative plans call for the celebration to be a luncheon meeting on the last Saturday in April of 2014. The guest speaker will be Dave Engel, with a possible book signing at the event.

Various locations are being researched. A motion was approved to allow the committee to use \$50 to hold a reservation if needed. More money for program expenses will most likely be needed and requested in the upcoming months.

An anniversary booklet is in progress. Committee members are gathering information and photographs for possible use. Bev Peaslee will donate cardstock to be used for the front and back covers. Bev Polansky is working on the cover design. Myra Sweet is gathering information on members, meeting

highlights, programs, and members who have passed away.

A list of projects done by the society is being compiled. Help on this list was requested from Diantha Neinfeldt and Bev Peaslee. An Indexing Committee report was turned in to the Society Chairman at the last meeting.

Doreen and Joyce will be in charge of decorations. Gene is writing a welcome speech and an article for the newspaper.

If you feel you want to work on this committee, please volunteer now as this information-gathering stage involves a lot of work and typing. More volunteers are always welcome.

1974—2014
Happy Anniversary to Us!

CHANGES ON SOCIETY INFO PAGE

You may have noticed changes on the Society information page (the last page that also includes addressees) on the last newsletter. The USPS made changes to rules and regulations governing the uses of folded mailings—especially the tri-folds. To comply with the new regulations, I had to shorten up the info page. I did manage to leave the whole list of officers and committee chairs intact but had to shorten some of the other information. Perhaps throughout the year, some of the information I had to cut could be published as little snippets in the newsletter.

Any other suggestions or comments are appreciated!

The Editor

MEMBERSHIP FORM

**DETACH AND MAIL WITH A CHECK FOR \$15 PAYABLE TO:
HEART O' WISCONSIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 516
WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI 54495-0516**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

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: _____

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**

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.

Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society

HEART O' WISCONSIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

- Chairman Eugene Meier
- Vice Chairman Tina Krummel
- Secretary Doreen Dimick
- Treasurer Bev Polansky
- Trustees 3 years Flores Gumz
- 2 years Annie Greeno
- 1 year Ben Chitek
- COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**
- Book Purchases Flores Gumz
- By-Laws Pat Curti
- Genealogy Class (Vacant)
- Historian Bev Peaslee
- Hospitality Joyce Keehn
- Indexing Mary Peters & Bev Peaslee
- Library Files Arlene Keehn
- New Members Doris King
- Newsletter Bev Peaslee
- Pedigree Charts Myra Sweet
- Research Di Neinfeldt
- Sunshine Char Diesburg
- Website Di Neinfeldt

PURPOSE OF SOCIETY: To assist members and others in genealogical re- search 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—September through June—on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.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:

Bev Peaslee Phone: 715-652-2513 E-mail: elvistcb@tds.net

Wood County Roots Editor: