

# WOOD COUNTY



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## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

### *Hello Fellow Genealogists!*

I taught a beginner's class a few months ago for some new researchers. They were amazed that I still wrote letters to societies and historical groups. For most of us that have been doing research for a few years, letter writing was the only option we had. There is much information in this time period on the internet, but sometimes that elusive piece of information that isn't available on the net, can be found at a local historical society or museum.

Once you find your family in any state or county using census, then you can locate the local library and/or genealogy group. Some of these have databases on their websites, but, if not, give them a call or write a letter asking for specific information. When I write for more facts, I always keep a copy of that letter for reference. Sometimes it is a month or more before I hear back and it always helps to remember just what it was that I wanted.

Always keep your letter to the point: Who, Where, When and What you need. Include a SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) and a brief letter. Also include an e-mail address and your phone number in case they have any questions about your query.

Find a church in the area where your ancestors lived and

write a letter asking if the family attended their church. Most are very willing to accommodate you. You should send a small donation if they do find and make copies for you.

New York State has an official historian appointed for each township and small village. They have been very helpful. One historian for Onondaga County even took her boxes of information along when she wintered in Florida and spent time looking for my family! After receiving what they have found, I send a thank you along with family group sheets for their files. This has been rewarding, and I have made contact with distant cousins who have different information to share.

*Happy Hunting!*

*Diantha Neinfeldt*

### Genealogy

**It begins as an interest.**

**It evolves into a hobby.**

**It becomes an obsession!**

## DID YOU KNOW?

The most misused SSN of all time was 078-05-1120. In 1938, wallet manufacturer E. H. Ferree Company in Lockport, New York, decided to promote its product by showing how a Social Security card would fit into its wallets. A sample card, used for display purposes, was inserted in each wallet. Company Vice President and Treasurer Douglas Patterson thought it would be a clever idea to use the actual SSN of his secretary, Mrs. Hilda Schradler Whitcher.

The wallet was sold by Woolworth and other department stores all over the country. Even though the card was only half the size of a real card, was printed all in red, and had the word "specimen" written across the face, many purchasers of the wallet adopted the SSN as their own.

In the peak year of 1943, 5,755 people were using Hilda's number. SSA acted to eliminate the problem by voiding the number and publicizing that it was incorrect to use it. (Mrs. Whitcher was given a

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new number.) However, the number continued to

## COUNTY HISTORY GIVEN IN PAPER BY MRS. WARNER

*The following is continued from the March 22, 1927, Issue of the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune. The first part of this article was in the March 2015 Wood County Roots.*

Many funny stories are told about Dick Shay. One day he turned his oxen out to graze. There were no fences in the country. He had put a bell on one of the oxen. The next morning he could not find the oxen. He looked a long time. Then he heard the bell on the other side of Mill Creek. He couldn't swim and the water was deeper than his height. That did not bother him. He walked across the stream under water, got his oxen, and came back the same way.

Another time Dan was hauling bolts to what was then Doddville. His load tipped over near the Schmick place. He was pinned under the load and could not get out. He afterwards said, "I prayed to the Lord and I prayed to the Devil. Dan Parkhurst happened to come along, and he helped me more than either of them."

### Railroad in 1874

The St. Paul Railroad was built through Rudolph in 1874 but the first train was run through here a year later. A stage had been used for many years from New Lisbon to Wisconsin Rapids.

Mrs. Ed Warner has a diary written by Mr. Hecox. In it he wrote that he enlisted in the Beaver Dam Rifles, June 5, 1861. He returned to Beaver Dam June 7, 1864, and changed cars for New London. He wrote, "I arrived in

New Lisbon about 5 p.m. and finding no conveyance until morning by stage, I concluded to go on afoot to the Rapids. I made arrangements with T. Bacon to tote up my knapsack. Started for Necedah at half past five arriving at Necedah at 9:30 p.m. Stayed in Necedah overnight. After breakfast started for Grand Rapids. Rain fell most of the forenoon. Arrived at Searls at 9 a.m. Got my wound dressed. Arrived at the Piney house at 11:30 a.m. Took dinner and rested two hours, then travelled on. Stage overtook me before arriving at Widow Morgan's. Rode into Grand Rapids. Paid thirty cents. Stayed overnight with O. Garrison. The next morning I got my wound dressed by Dr. Witter. Mr. Butler volunteered to take me home in his buggy."

Later on he mentioned seeing J. H. Larry, W. H. Whitman, Mrs. Harkness, Joseph Livernash, Mr. Brake, Mr. Clark, Eli Taylor, Dan Parkhurst, Pat Rouhan, Mr. Herschleb, and Dan Rezin. He wrote, "They all seemed glad to see me, even the dog."

It took him from 5 p.m. June 7 until the evening of June 8 to go from New Lisbon to Grand Rapids. The same distance can be travelled now in about three hours by train.

*(Cont'd on Page 1196)*  
*(Cont'd from page 1194)*

His notations in his diary the following spring are of interest. "Started gathering sap March 6. Began making garden

## ARKIVDIGITAL WEB SITE BY TINA KRUMMEL

When I was at Gene-A-Rama this year I had the chance to learn more about ArkivDigital and what they have to offer. I had never heard of this site before. The website is <http://arkivdigital.net>. If you are doing Swedish research, this site is a must see. You can take a trial subscription or jump into a short- or long-term subscription.

WSGS also had a webinar on ArkivDigital in January of 2015 which explains how to use the site. I found this to be very helpful in navigating the site. If you are a member of WSGS, this is one of the benefits of your membership. You can watch this webinar at any time.

Depending on where in Sweden your family lived, you might be able to find digital records dating back to the early 1700s. This site has helped me locate my great-great grandparents' birth, marriage, and death records and census-type records (household records is the Swedish term). I have not yet dove into the military records but have found the estate records very helpful. The estate records are the records of who inherits the property of a family member. In the estate records, it give names and sometimes addresses (might only be country, district or parish) of where they are living at the time of the death.

When I started, I had only my Great Grandfather Andrew Magnus Carlson's date of birth (November 25, 1857) and the birth location in Sweden (Oppeby Ostergotland). With this information, I was able to locate his birth record and obtain his parents' names. In the Swedish tradition, the last name of a male Carlson means Carl's son and a female's surname would be Carlsdotter (Carl's dotter). I learned that my Great-Great Grandfather and Grandmother were Carl Magnus Dragg and Anna Lena Nilsson. Looking on either side of 1857, I discovered siblings that I didn't know existed. With this knowledge, I have now been able to find family that lives in Iowa and that Anna Lena Dragg (Carlson) is buried in Iowa (I am still looking for the exact loca-

tion). Anna came to the USA before the 1900s and I could find no record of Carl Magnus Dragg. After looking at the household records and the congregation records, I was able to learn that he died in 1866.

What was a stone wall for me in my research (not being able to go to Sweden) has now become a flood of information that I am trying to absorb. You might be thinking if Swedish records are in Swedish, how am I going to be able to read them? I have learned a few key terms that have helped me greatly. There are several dots that are above some letters that my computer will not put in. They also have more than 26 letters in their alphabet. I have no idea how you might pronounce them. Don't panic when you see them.

Death = dod, Dodsfall, forstorelse

Unmarried Single= Ogift

Married = gift, arktenskap, giftemal, brollop, vigsel forening

Birth = fodelse, nativitet fodels frekvens, ursprung, bord

Month = Manad

Day = dag

Year = ar

Age = alder

Cause of death = Dodsorsak

Dr. = hired hand (not doctor)

When you are exploring a website with digital records on them, do yourself a favor and save the images as pdfs (for documents), jpegs (mainly for photographs), or other image files, and make a hard copy for your files.

Hope this will give someone else a key to a door that has been closed in your research.

Happy Hunting

Tina Krummel

*Thanks, Tina, for this review. Have you come across a neat web site? Let me know. The Editor*

## COUNTY HISTORY, CONT'D.

April 18. April 25 sowed peas and cabbage. Apr 26 sowed black seed onions and put out onion sets. April 27 sowed oats. May 9 planted early potatoes. May 23 planted corn. Had green peas and new potatoes on Jul 14 dinner."

In those days it seemed to be popular to sow the gardens before the field crops.

*And that concludes this article of some early county history as told by Mrs. Warner. This article is accompanied by a photograph. The caption under the photo reads as follows:*

Rudolph, Wis., was named for F. Rudolph Hecox, the first white boy born in that township. He is shown in this picture with his mother and two sisters. His father, long deceased was the first school teacher in Rudolph. Mr. Hecox is now residing in Yakima, Washington, many miles away from the township where he was reared to manhood.

*There is also a photograph of Anna Harkness Garrison. The caption under this photo reads as follows:*

Anna Harkness Garrison was the first white girl born in the town of Rudolph. She is remembered by many of the old settlers of that section.

*If your ancestors lived in the Rudolph area, you may want to check the original article out in the Daily Tribune.*

**Check the date on your  
address label—your  
dues may be due!**

## WOOD COUNTY HAPPENINGS THE DAILY LEADER 19 JULY 1915

### Mulcted for One Thousand

#### Married Man Pays Polish Girl \$1,000 For Being Fresh on Railroad Train

A married man, a brakeman on one of the roads, recently paid \$1,000 to a Polish girl, working in one of the hotels of the city for something more than a flirtation on a late train from Nekoosa.

There was not much doing here on July 5th and the landlady told the girl she had better celebrate by taking the day off, so she took the street car to Nekoosa and spent the day with her sister. She had such a good time that she missed the last street car up to Grand Rapids. So she took the excursion train home that arrived from Marshfield about 2 o'clock in the morning.

When she boarded the train, there was nobody in the car. She went into another car and nobody was there and she thought the train was empty, but the conductor was in the front coach with a few belated people, and he apparently did not know she was on the train as he did not appear to take her ticket.

The brakeman came along and began talking to her, and soon was flirting with her more than a married man should. Finally he made improper proposals to her and tried to get her to go into the baggage car with him.

She was now thoroughly frightened and, when the train pulled into Port Edwards, she mistook the state for Grand Rapids and as the train slowed down she attempted to get off. But the train did not stop and the brakeman held her on. But when they reached the south side, the girl was sure they were leaving Grand Rapids and she broke away from the brakeman and jumped from the train. Fortunately,

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*(Cont'd from Page 1196)*

## HAPPENINGS, CONT'D.

she was uninjured and struck out for nearby houses to find a place to stay all night which she soon succeeded in doing.

The brakeman was thoroughly frightened when the girl jumped and stopped the train as soon as possible and went back to look for her, but she had been taken in before this so the train pulled on into Grand Rapids without her.

The folks where she stayed told her she had a good case against the railroad company and suggested a lawyer in this city who would be a good man for her to consult.

She saw the lawyer on Tuesday and he told her he would take the case for one-half of what he could get out of it and on Wednesday he paid her \$500 for her share of what the brakeman dug up, with the assistance of friends.

The girl has a regular "steady" and her wedding outfit has been giving her considerable worry, and the date of the wedding has been put off several times on account of a shortage of funds. She has now stopped work and the wedding will occur shortly, thanks to the brakeman's freshness, who is a married man with a family and ought to have known better than to have dallied with an unsophisticated and lone female.

The names of the parties are not given, because it would do more harm than good. The "brakey" has suffered enough already or will have suffered enough by the time he backs up that \$1,000.

*The above article was on the front page of the Daily Leader, Grand Rapids, Wis., Monday Afternoon, July 19, 1915*

## A "HEART" WELCOME!

A belated "Heart" welcome to Betty Pearson of Wisconsin Rapids who joined our ranks in December of 2014. The December meeting was held at the paper museum and no formal meeting was held. Her e-mail address is taratar@charter.net. (Hmmm, do I detect a Gone with the Wind fan?) We have seen Betty at most of our meetings since she joined. Thanks, Betty, and welcome to our group!

Don and Judy Pelot of Wisconsin Rapids joined our midst at the March meeting. Their e-mail address is djpelot@tds.net. Judy is using Family Tree Maker as her genealogy software and may need some guidance on that; we are here to help, so ask away, Judy. Welcome, Don and Judy!

Also joining in March via the U.S. mail is Virginia Hernandez from Waukesha, WI. She requested some help contacting some known relatives in the Rudolph area, and we were able to help her out there. Mary Moss, our research guru, also gathered some other information for her. Welcome, Virginia!

Recently, Lizabeth Swann of Puyallup, Washington, joined our group via our web site. Lizabeth said she is researching the family of Jean Baptiste Richards (sometime spelled without the "s" on the end). Welcome, Lizabeth!

A good way for the new members to let us know what you're researching is to submit a bio of yourselves, including how you got started in genealogy, along with your ancestor information. You could also write up your brick wall for the newsletter! Welcome, everyone to our Society!  
*The Editor*

## MILITARY RESEARCH!

At the Family History Library seminar in May, a lot of good information was shared with the attendees. I will cover some of the highlights in this and forthcoming newsletters. A good military web site is [www.militaryrecords.com](http://www.militaryrecords.com). It provides links to

online military indexes and records for USA research. From the home page, select a war and off you go! This listing also lets you know if it is a free or a "pay" site. Be sure to take a look at this for those elusive military records.  
*The Editor*

## IN MEMORIAM—BARB JOHNSON

It is with sadness that we report the death of another of our long-time members. Barb Johnson passed away April 4, 2015. She was born in Wisconsin Rapids to Earl & Elsie Ainsworth. She married Carl Johnson in 1963 in Long Beach, California. He passed away in 2010.

Barb is survived by her son Carl and his wife Ruby, two grandchildren, one sister, and a brother. Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents.

The above information from the local newspaper doesn't begin to tell us about Barb. She joined our society in 1984 and jumped right into volunteering on some on-going projects. She assisted two of our long-time members

index the Civil War soldiers in Wood County. She then helped on the Wood County Newspaper (pre-1908) Indexing Committee. Later, Barb located some of the old newspapers that somehow had "gone missing" and indexed those.

Even though Barb dealt with physical restrictions, she did not let that hold her back from her genealogy research, from helping others with theirs, and from volunteering on various projects for the society.

We'll miss you, Barb.



## DID YOU KNOW?

be used for many years. In all, over 40,000 people reported this as their SSN. As late as 1977, 12 people were found to still be using the SSN "issued by Woolworth."

Above is the card that started all the fuss!

*The above article is from the*



*Social Security website, <http://www.ssa.gov/history/ssn/misused.html>. The Editor*

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
**DETACH AND MAIL WITH A CHECK FOR \$15 PAYABLE TO:**  
**HEART O' WISCONSIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**P.O. Box 1565**  
**WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI 54495-1565**

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.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**9 Jun 2015 Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society Annual Cemetery Walk.** June is traditionally our annual "cemetery walk." Sue Alft will join us with maps and charts of St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery in Kellner, WI. Bring a sack lunch (dessert and soda will be provided), a chair, an umbrella, bug spray, a camera, etc. The cemetery is located 1/2 mile east of the church whose address is 8020 South Park Road, in Kellner.

**11 Jul 2015 Seminar—Breaking Down Those German Brick Walls, German Interest Group—Wisconsin.** This event will be held at the Hamilton Auditorium at the UW/Whitewater campus on Saturday, July 11, 2015. The topics covered include "Oh, Where are My Ancestors From?", "Understanding German Farm Names," "A Case Study Using Collaterals," and "Unraveling a Family Yarn." There is a discount if you register before July 1. E-mail me if you need a copy of the brochure e-mailed to you.

**8 Sep 2015 Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society Meeting, 6:30 p.m., McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.** "What Did You Do Last Summer?" is the title of our program. More details to follow. Check our website at [www.howgs.org](http://www.howgs.org).

**17-19 Sep 2015 FGS 2015 Regional Conference, Syracuse, New York.** Held in partnership with the New York State Family History Conference, the event kicks off with a Focus on Societies Day—a full day packed with sessions for society leaders, members, and those wanting to become more involved in societies. Go to [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org) for more details and registration.

**16-17 Oct 2015 Fall Seminar 2015, Wisconsin State Genealogical Society.** This event will be held at the Hotel Marshfield in Marshfield, WI. The main event will be Saturday with a smaller, hands-on workshop session held on Friday. Details will be announced as they become available, or go to [www.wsgs.org](http://www.wsgs.org).

**8-9 Apr 2016 Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Gene-A-Rama.** This will be held at The Plaza Hotel & Suites, in Wausau, Wisconsin. More information coming soon. Stay tuned to [www.wsgs.org](http://www.wsgs.org).

**31 Aug-3 Sep 2016 FGS 2016 National Conference in Springfield, Illinois.** Celebrate FGS' 40th Anniversary as they return to the Land of Lincoln. Go to [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org) for more information as it becomes available. Plan now to attend this nearby conference.

*If you're a member of WSGS, don't forget their very informative webinars which you, as a member, can access on their website at [www.wsgs.org](http://www.wsgs.org).*

Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society

**HEART O' WISCONSIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

- Chairman Di Neinfeldt
- Vice Chairman Tina Krummel
- Secretary Doreen Dimick
- Treasurer Bev Polansky
- Trustees 3 years Eugene Meier
- 2 years Ben Chitek
- 1 year Flores Gumz
- COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**
- Book Purchases Flores Gumz
- By-Laws Pat Fischer
- 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 Mary Moss
- Sunshine Sue Miller
- 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:**

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