

## WISCONSIN GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY ROUNDTABLE OF THE WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION "WIGLHR"

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### Stuffed Fish News

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Vol. 13 #1

Spring 2011

**From the Chair's Corner**

**Russell Horton, chair, WIGLHR**

"Who do you think you are?" It's a question that is normally associated with trying to put someone who thinks a little too much of themselves back in their place. It's also a question that is bringing genealogy to a whole new audience. NBC's show "Who Do You Think You Are?" just began its second season and is a must watch for genealogists of all levels. In each episode, a celebrity traces his or her family tree with the help of librarians, archivists, and skilled genealogists. They go to various records repositories, dig through letters and census records, and visit the places where their ancestors once walked.



It's a very popular show, and the funny thing is that people are tuning in to watch celebrities do the things that members of WIGLHR do, and help others do, all the time! We do great things—we help people discover themselves through genealogy and local history! We should never lose sight of that fact and, in these times of tightening budgets, we should never stop trying to demonstrate the importance of what we do.

To that end, I'm asking each member of WIGLHR to take a moment to think of an interesting program that we could sponsor at WLA in November that could capture the imagination of our fellow librarians and the public like "Who Do You Think You Are?" has. For example, I've actually written the producers of the show to try to get one of them to speak at WLA—I haven't heard back yet, but I'll keep trying. Are there speakers or topics that you know of that would be a big hit at WLA? Please share them with me or one of the other WIGLHR officers so that we can make a big splash at WLA this year.

*WIGLHR is looking for a new newsletter editor! If you are interested, please contact Russell directly: [russell.horton@dva.state.wi.us](mailto:russell.horton@dva.state.wi.us) Thanks!*

## 2011 Governor's Archives Awards

Nominations for the 2011 Governor's Archives Awards are being accepted by the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board (WHRAB) and the Wisconsin Historical Society through Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. The three awards recognize archival achievement, innovation, and advocacy work with historic documents. These awards honor individuals, organizations, and formal programs that make distinctive contributions to historical records preservation and access. Award winners will be announced in June and will be formally presented an award during Archives Month in October 2011. Last year's award winners include the La Crosse Public Library Archives Department; UW Forest and Wildlife Ecology Lab in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Science Services and Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine; and Susan Braden of the Hedberg Public Library. For more information, including guidelines and printable nomination forms, visit our website at: [http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/whrab/about\\_award.asp](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/whrab/about_award.asp), or contact Kim Pittman at [kim.pittman@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:kim.pittman@wisconsinhistory.org).

### Stuffed Fish News

A quarterly newsletter of the Wisconsin Genealogy & Local History Round Table, a unit of the Wisconsin Library Association.

Send submissions to the editor:  
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Deadline	Issue
Feb. 1	Spring
May 1	Summer
Aug. 1	Fall
Nov. 1	Winter

### From the La Crosse Public Library

Anita Taylor Doering

Archivist, La Crosse Public Library

I can tell you first hand after the announcement was made that our library was to be the recipient of the 2010 Governor's Archives Award for Archival Achievement, this helped not only bring attention to the archives component of our library but other staff, board members and community members took pride in our accomplishments and seemed to bring a level of acceptance not obtainable in any other way. I highly recommend trying for this award – the application process is not that draining or difficult. I would be happy to give you some guidance if you feel you want to apply.



## “Bunny Berigan of Fox Lake” Digital Collection

By Julie Flemming

The “Bunny Berigan of Fox Lake” Digital Collection is available for online for all to enjoy. It is a collection of original materials that have been digitalized by the UWDC (University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center) and were selected by the Fox Lake (Wisconsin) Public Library. The work was made possible by a LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grant and awarded to the Fox Lake Public Library by the Department of Public Instruction. This collection is now one of the collections that are part of the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections, a wonderful resource of Wisconsin History and events. Melissa McLimans, Digital Services Librarian at the UW Digital Collections Center contacted the Library when the project was done. She said “the material on the site is great and the pictures are just wonderful. I cannot wait to begin the publicity on this awesome collection .... “Bunny Berigan of Fox Lake. You and your people did an excellent job. Congratulations.”



The idea of doing this grant was first proposed by Burlington resident Rhonda Puntney, who is the youth services and special needs consultant at Lakeshores Library System in Waterford. She had worked with libraries in the MidWisconsin Federated Library System, of which the Fox Lake Public Library is a member. She had taken a vacation in New Orleans and while there had a conversation with some musicians who asked her where she was from. When she said “Wisconsin” they immediately said “Hey, Bunny Berigan was from Wisconsin.” Rhonda replied that she knew that and went on to tell them that she was also a member of the Bunny Berigan Jazz Jubilee committee, that puts on a three day event in Fox Lake, Wisconsin every year. Rhonda kept thinking about that conversation after she got home and contacted the Fox Lake Public Library to ask them how many things they had about Bunny that could be included in a LSTA grant.

Upon making a personal visit to the Library and seeing the scope of the materials she determined that there was at least 1,000 pages of written material about Bunny and probably 200 pictures. The grant was written to digitalize the 1,000 pages and 200 pictures during the year of 2010, with the total local cost to the community of Fox Lake being \$3,149.00 and federal money of \$2,188.00. As it turned out, the actual local cost to Fox Lake was a lot less due to a number of factors.

Once the Library was notified that it had the grant the material to be digitalized needed to be selected. Some materials had already been cataloged in the Harriet O’Connell Historical Room, but many of the materials were still in boxes. The boxed materials had been donated by Ken Hansen’s family at the time of his death. Ken was the husband of Bunny’s daughter, Joyce, and had been a long time fan of Bunny Berigan. He had saved many, many materials and the task for the grant was to look at each piece of paper and each picture to determine what should be included in the collection.

After the work of choosing the materials was finished they were loaded up and taken in person by representatives of the Fox Lake Public Library to the University of Wisconsin in Madison for the development of the digital site. That work has now been completed and the site is available for all the public to enjoy and copy. Everything on the site can be printed using a home computer and printer. It is completely user friendly. To access the collection, go to: <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/WI.BunnyBerigan>.

This project will make significant historical material about Bunny Berigan available to local historians, Berigan fans, and jazz fans around the world. Bunny Berigan is a well known trumpet player who grew up in Fox Lake, Wisconsin, and went on to have a career in New York and playing with such bands as Benny Goodman, the Dorsey Brothers and Paul Whiteman in the 1930's and 1940's. He is credited with being in a band the first time "swing" was played by a dance orchestra and his musical talent is still lauded to this day by those who appreciate his ability.



FORWARD THROUGH OUR PAST

## **WHO News – Milwaukee County Marriage Certificates**

Debbie Cardinal

New from the Milwaukee Public Library Digital Collections...

[http://www.mpl.org/file/digital\\_marriage\\_index.htm](http://www.mpl.org/file/digital_marriage_index.htm)

“A marriage certificate is a document completed by a clergyman or other individual empowered to perform marriages verifying that a marriage ceremony took place. Usually, one copy is given to the bride and groom. A second copy or a standard county form filled out by the officiating individual is filed with the county. The Register of Deeds records the data as an official government record. Often, additional data is supplied from other sources and added to this record. During most of the 1800s it was not required to submit marriage data to the county. For this time period, recorded marriage information is incomplete.

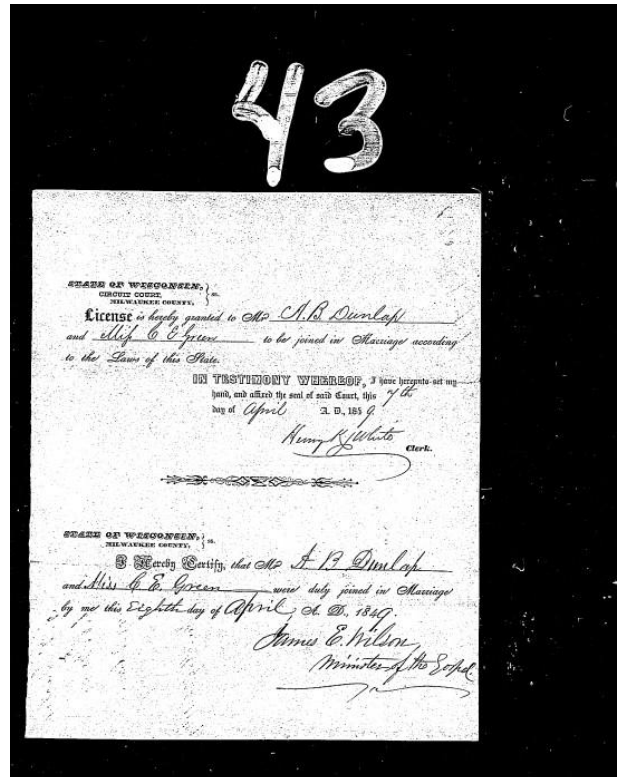
“In the 1960s a box of marriage certificates created between 1822 and 1876 was found at the Milwaukee County Courthouse. The box also included some miscellaneous documents pertaining to the marriage such as permission to marry slips, authorizations, and land deeds. The information in these documents include a parent giving permission for an underage child to marry, an affidavit of there being no impediment to marriage, information on the closeness of the blood relationship, and written permission for the clerk to hand the marriage license to a third party for delivery. These documents generally do not have standardized information, but can be quite interesting. Many of these documents were not in very good condition. Research by the Milwaukee County Genealogical Society (MCGS) indicates that most of these certificates are not recorded at the Milwaukee County Courthouse. Some of the records appear in the Wisconsin Pre-1907 Marriage Index and some do not.

“The certificates and accompanying documents were filmed in 1966. The Milwaukee Public Library owns a set of these microfilmed marriage certificates. In 1999 the MCGS arranged to have the records refilmed, adding location citations. In 2000 MCGS volunteers created alphabetical indexes for bride and for groom. Roger Cobb with Lois Molitor acted as project coordinators. Over 42,000 names were put into the database that produced the indexes. Unfortunately, the original copies that were filmed in 1966 have vanished.

“In 2009 the microfilm copy of the marriage certificates was digitized. The digital images of the certificated were combined with the index created by the MCGS to produce this digital collection.

*What information can be found on a record?*

“Like many documents from the 1800s, there can be a difference between what was recorded by one county clerk or clergy member and another. Many of the documents do list the maiden name of the mothers of the bride or the groom, but not all. Some list the maiden name of the bride if she had been married before, but others do not. Some of the documents have very precise locations when asked for place of birth, others are general or a place of birth is not listed at all. Some of the early documents used the standard form but do not seem to have been written on standard forms. If the ceremony was a religious one, the church name was often listed or if the ceremony took place in a home, the affiliation is listed. With civil ceremonies, sometimes a street address and the homeowner’s name and/or relationship are listed.



“Most of these documents were created in Milwaukee, but there are a few from other locations. The number of certificates created outside of Milwaukee County is minimal. For Wisconsin there are some records from the following counties: Brown, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Jefferson, La Crosse, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, and Winnebago. From outside of Wisconsin there are a few records from Cook County, IL, Dearborn County, IN and Frankfurt, Germany.

*Special Thanks*

“Thank you to the Milwaukee Genealogical Society, and especially to Roger Cobb and Lois Molitor for their invaluable and extensive work in making this collection possible.”

## Honoring Our Ancestors on the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War (And More!)

By Mary Rieder, MLIS

President, Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society will be holding its two-day 2011 Gene-a-Rama conference on Friday and Saturday, April 15-16, at the Radisson Hotel and La Crosse Center. The event will highlight the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the U.S. Civil War, but will also feature programs on doing general genealogical research in Wisconsin.

The entire program is still being far include:

**Lance J. Herdegen**, Historical Museum of the Upper Middle and articles on the Civil War and three units from Wisconsin, the 2<sup>nd</sup>,

**Russell Horton**, Reference and Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Man's War: The Civil War Service of the William Best Hesseltine

**Brett Barker**, Assistant Professor County, author of *Exploring Civil for Researchers*.

**Don Litzer**, Assistant Director and Free Library, Merrill, and formerly in Fort Wayne, who will be Ancestral Hunt."



Corp. Charles Walker, Co. B, 7th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, ca. 1863

planned, but confirmed speakers so

Consultant for the Civil War West, and author of many books the Iron Brigade, which included 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Infantry.

Outreach Archivist from the author of, "Unwanted in a White of the Green Bay Tribes," winner Award for best original article.

of History at UW-Marathon War Wisconsin: A Survival Guide

Head of Adult Services, T.B. Scott a librarian at The Genealogy Center speaking on, "Beginning Your

For additional information and to receive a registration brochure when it becomes available, please see the WSGS website at [www.wsgs.org](http://www.wsgs.org).

### *Plan Ahead for these Upcoming Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Events!*

**WSGS Bus Trip to the  
2011 Federation of Genealogical  
Societies Conference**

September 6-11, 2011  
Springfield, Illinois



**2011 Fall Seminar**

October 15, 2011

Country Springs Hotel, Water Park  
& Conference Center  
Pewaukee

Watch the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society's website at [www.wsgs.org](http://www.wsgs.org) for more details and registration information. <http://wsgs.wetpaint.com/page/Meetings+%26+Conferences>

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society 2011 Gene-A-Rama

**Honoring Our Ancestors on the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War  
(And More!)**



Friday & Saturday, 15-16 April 2011  
Radisson Hotel & La Crosse Center  
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Speakers:

**Brett Barker Lance Herdegen Russell Horton Don Litzer  
Kris Beisser Matthies<sup>SM</sup> Richard L. Pifer Vickie Schnitzler Vicki Tobias**

Plus a Special Display of the Wisconsin Civil War Memorial Wall



**Meals:** All meals are pre-paid ticketed events and cannot be purchased on-site. Meals include coffee, hot or iced tea.

**Friday Lunch:** Choice of Yankee Pot Roast with roasted potatoes, braised carrots, onions & celery in savory beef gravy **OR** Spinach Ravioli Pasta with grilled Portobello, summer squash, roasted pepper, mesclun & homestead cheese, tomato basil jus.

**Banquet:** Choice of Pork Roast with Peppercorn-Mustard Crust **OR** Roasted Vegetable Lasagna, both include salad, dinner breads, potatoes, fresh steamed vegetables & dessert

**Saturday Lunch:** Deli Buffet of soup du jour, breast of turkey, roast beef, smoked ham, smoked chicken salad, Wisconsin cheeses, steakhouse potato salad with bacon, sour cream, scallions, field greens, Granny Smith apples, dried cherries, toasted walnuts, buttermilk blue cheese, breads, rolls & wraps, kettle potato chips & garnishes.

**Hotel Accommodations:** Call the hotel at 608-784-6680 to make reservations by **March 15**. Room rates are \$99 sgl/dbl, \$109 trpl, \$119 quad for 1 king Cityview; \$109 sgl/dbl, \$119 trpl, \$129 quad for 2 queen Riverview; \$129 sgl/dbl, \$139 trpl, \$149 quad for 1 king Plaza Cityview; \$139 sgl/dbl, \$149 trpl, \$159 quad for 2 queen Plaza Riverview.

**Registration:** Registration fees are lower if postmarked by **March 25**. Registrations received after that date or paid on-site will be \$10 more. WSGS members may register at reduced rates if their dues are current on the date of the event. Please note that membership in an Affiliate Society does not qualify as WSGS membership. Send the completed form with your check made out to **WSGS to WSGS Gene-A-Rama, PO Box 5106, Madison, WI 53705-0106**.

**2011 Gene-A-Rama Registration Form**

Please submit one form for EACH registrant  
(Photocopies acceptable)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail for Confirmation \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary or ADA requirements \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

POSTMARKED	By March 25	After March 25	
<b>Full 2-Day Registration</b>			
Regular Rate	\$80.00	\$90.00	\$ _____
WSGS Rate	\$55.00	\$65.00	\$ _____
<b>Friday Only</b>			
Regular Rate	\$65.00	\$75.00	\$ _____
WSGS Rate	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$ _____
<b>Saturday Only</b>			
Regular Rate	\$65.00	\$75.00	\$ _____
WSGS Rate	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$ _____
<b>Friday Lunch</b>			
Pot Roast	\$12.75	N/A	\$ _____
Spinach Ravioli	\$14.00	N/A	\$ _____
<b>Friday Banquet</b>			
Pork Roast	\$22.75	N/A	\$ _____
Veg. Lasagna	\$22.75	N/A	\$ _____
<b>Saturday Lunch</b>			
Deli Buffet	\$17.75	N/A	\$ _____
<b>WSGS Membership</b>			
Individual	\$20.00		\$ _____
Family	\$22.00		\$ _____
Print Newsletter	\$12.00		\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$ _____



## Get on the Bus!

### The FGS Bus!

Join the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society on a bus trip to the 2011 Annual Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference, being held September 7-10 in Springfield, Illinois

WSGS will be sponsoring a deluxe motor coach with air conditioning and a restroom from Green Bay down I-43 to Milwaukee, and then west on I-94 to Madison, with pickups along the route. We will also have a shuttle coach from Tomahawk down I-39/Hwy 51 to Madison, where its passengers will join the main coach and proceed south to Springfield along I-90. The exact schedule and pickup locations will be determined based upon the needs of those who sign up, but the coaches will probably leave Tomahawk and Green Bay around 6 AM on Tuesday, September 6, returning Sunday, September 11.

Round-trip fare will be \$135. *This does not include conference registration or hotel, for which attendees will be responsible for making their own arrangements.*

**Conference Schedule and Registration:** <http://www.fgs.org/2011conference/>

**Conference Hotel, Springfield Hilton:** <http://www.fgs.org/2011conference/travel/>

Conference rate at the Hilton is \$119 plus tax per night. The hotel is across the street from the convention center. If you wish to stay there, please make reservations as soon as possible, as the conference hotel fills quickly. Reservations can be made online or by calling 800-445-8667.

**Alternative Hotel, Mansion View Inn & Suites**

Thanks to a special arrangement made with the Minnesota Genealogical Society, WSGS members may also stay at the Mansion View, which is across the street from the Illinois Governor's Mansion and approximately 8 blocks from the convention center. Room rates are \$75 plus tax per night. If MGS and WSGS fill 25 rooms, our rate will be reduced to \$65 plus tax per night! Our motor coach will be staying with us during the entire trip and will be available to transport attendees to the conference center in the morning and back in the evening. Reservations can be made by calling 217-544-7411 and asking for the WSGS rate.

**SPACE IS LIMITED! REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 5!**

Please sign up early so as not to miss this chance to see nationally-known speakers and further your genealogical research and society management education!



**2011 FGS Bus Trip Registration Form**

Please submit one form for EACH registrant (Photocopies acceptable)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check for \$135 payable to WSGS and send to:

WSGS FGS Bus Trip  
PO Box 5106  
Madison, WI 53705-0106

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2011\*

### Genealogy Classes and Workshops at WHS

With the increased interest in genealogy via shows like "Who Do You think You Are" and the use of Ancestry Library Edition at most public libraries, the Wisconsin Historical Society's classes that are geared to the beginner but valuable to intermediate researchers as well. There are a lot of options for learning more about genealogical research. Online and library/archives materials will be discussed to give a more complete picture of the various resources available to the family historian.

See class listings and registration information at <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes/>.

Lori B. Bessler  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
608-264-6519  
[Lori.Bessler@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:Lori.Bessler@wisconsinhistory.org)

**Apr. 15-16, 2011 at La Crosse, WI**  
WSGS Gene-A-Rama at the La Crosse Center and Radisson Hotel  
<http://www.wsgs.org/>



**Apr. 30, 2011 at Milwaukee, WI**  
Milwaukee County Genealogical Society, Inc. biennial workshop; topics are about DNA and family history; newspaper research; tracing immigrant ancestors; and Ancestry.com (library edition). Presenters include Colleen Fitzpatrick, William J. Forsyth and James L. Hansen.  
<http://www.milwaukeegenealogy.org>

**July 9, 2011 at Whitewater, WI**  
The German Interest Group-Wisconsin's annual workshop "Tracing your Germany Family" with featured speaker Lois Hemmeter Edwards  
[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wigig/workshop\\_page1-general\\_info2011.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wigig/workshop_page1-general_info2011.html)

**Sept. 6-11, 2011 Springfield, IL**  
Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference (WSGS is hosting a bus trip to this event!)

**Oct. 15, 2011 at Waukesha, WI**  
WSGS fall 2011 seminar  
<http://www.wsgs.org/>

\*WHS = Wisconsin Historical Society  
WSGS = Wisconsin State Genealogical Society  
Check out the WSGS site for other workshops around the state:  
<http://wsgs.wetpaint.com/page/Upcoming+Wisconsin+%26+National+Events>



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**Wisconsin Library Association**  
**5250 East Terrace Dr., Suite A1**  
**Madison, WI 53718-8345**

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**WIGLHR Officers 2011**

<p><b>Chair to Jan. 2012:</b> Russell Horton Reference Archivist Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center 30 West Mifflin Street, 3rd floor Madison, WI 53703 (608) 266-2320 <a href="mailto:russell.horton@dva.state.wi.us">russell.horton@dva.state.wi.us</a></p>	<p><b>Chair Elect:</b> Suzann Holland Director Monroe Public Library 925 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. Monroe, WI 53566 (608) 328-7551 <a href="mailto:sholland@monroepubliclibrary.org">sholland@monroepubliclibrary.org</a></p>	<p><b>Secretary to Jan. 2011:</b> Anne Kasuboski Reference &amp; Instructional Services Cofrin Library University of Wisconsin Green Bay 2420 Nicolet Dr. Green Bay, WI 54311-7001 (920) 465-2303/2543 <a href="mailto:kasubosa@uwgb.edu">kasubosa@uwgb.edu</a></p>
<p><b>Immediate Past-Chair:</b> Michael Watkins Government Information Librarian Forrest R. Polk Library Univ. of Wisconsin-Oshkosh 801 Elmwood Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901-8650 (920) 424-7305 <a href="mailto:watkins@uwosh.edu">watkins@uwosh.edu</a></p>	<p><b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Anita Taylor Doering Archivist La Crosse Public Library 800 Main St. La Crosse, WI 54601 (608) 789-7156 <a href="mailto:doering@lacrosselibrary.org">doering@lacrosselibrary.org</a></p>	<p><b>Web Manager:</b> Suzann Holland Director Monroe Public Library 925 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. Monroe, WI 53566 (608) 328-7551 <a href="mailto:sholland@monroepubliclibrary.org">sholland@monroepubliclibrary.org</a></p>