

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

Stuffed Fish News

Vol. 11 #2

Summer 2009

From the Chair's Corner

By Janice Dibble, Chair

2009 WIGLHR Programming

WIGLHR sponsored two programs at WAPL, one program at WAAL and will have programs on Thursday and Friday at WLA. Our business meeting will be held at the end of the Friday sessions – not the best time – but early bird morning meetings aren't very convenient either. My thanks to Mike Watkins, Vice Chair, for organizing the WAAL program. It's not too early to be thinking about and sharing ideas for 2010 conference programs or speakers. Don't be shy about volunteering yourself as a presenter!

At WLA, Oct. 20-23, 2009 at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton

On Thursday, WIGLHR and Wisconsin Historical Society will be co-hosting three speakers at WLA. Terese Allen and R. Bruce Allison will present unique views on Wisconsin history: understanding our past through food traditions and highlighting our famous trees. Jim Draeger will talk about the importance of Wisconsin opera houses and theaters – a topic of great interest in Oshkosh since the Grand Opera House has been temporarily (we hope) closed due to structural issues. On Friday, WIGLHR and WAAL will be co-sponsoring recent Wisconsin newcomer, Troy Reeves. This program will be of interest to public, academic and other libraries. Some libraries may partner with local historical societies or local museums to undertake an oral history project. Troy Reeves will talk about the process and tools to use.

Stay tuned for more registration and program info on the WLA conference site:
<http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/conferences/2009/index.htm>

WIGHLR Sponsors WAAL Presentation on Email Records

By Michael Watkins

Government Information Librarian, UW-Oshkosh

Email has been in existence now for over sixteen years. Many government agencies and offices are just now beginning to address the requirements for preserving email as public records. At this year's WAAL conference held April 23 at the Heidel House in Green Lake, Amy Moran — State Records Manager for the Wisconsin Department of Administration and Nancy Kunde — a records management consultant who recently retired from her position as Records officer for General Libraries at the University of Wisconsin Madison presented *Strategies for Managing Public Records in E-Mail*.

Nancy and Amy presented a comprehensive program touching on the current issues related to email as public records. A major caveat for all records managers is to treat email public records in the same fashion that print correspondence and document public records are treated. In determining which emails are public records the rules that govern the print documents would be applied. In order to facilitate this it is important to have a retention policy including a policy that addresses the special formats used for preserving emails.

There are several ways that emails can be preserved — they can be printed out, they can be stored on a server and/or email client, or they can be transferred to various digital storage devices. Whatever method is used, the length of time that the retention policy prescribes for retention is useful in determining what type of storage is used. Floppy disks, CD/DVD ROMs and flash drives are only temporary storage devices and at some point files may need to be copied to newer storage devices. One of the factors important to accessing the saved information is making sure that the metadata (to, from, date, time, internet header, etc.) is included and the records can be accessed using the metadata. Storage of files should therefore use systematic classification methods that facilitate access and retrieval.

A good retention policy insures that those emails that are actually public records are available if and when they are asked for. Noncompliance can result in expensive and costly court ordered data retrieval processes. On the other hand a good retention policy precludes saving emails that are not considered public records such as emails of personal correspondence unrelated to work or agency business. Preservation efforts require lots of storage space and time expended in copying or transferring files. Again, the decisions regarding what emails should be preserved would be the same as those that would hold true for print correspondence and documents.

The key points to remember about emails as public records is to apply the retention policy applicable to print records; have that retention policy including preservation methods and procedures in writing; and follow the policy consistently. Following these steps will serve to protect offices from costly litigation and/or electronic retrieval or reconstruction of the email. Amy and Nancy provided a comprehensive and thorough analysis and review of the issues related to this topic.

You can view the Powerpoint presentation at:
http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/waal/conferences/2009/postconference/PublicRecords_Email.pdf



Wisconsin State Genealogical Society News

Mara Munroe of Oshkosh Public Library wants readers to know that according to the WSGS' President's Letter in the Jan-April 2009 issue of the *Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Newsletter*, the newsletter will be moving to an electronic format. "Each issue of the Newsletter from this one on will be posted on a members-only website and an e-mail notification will be sent out

If you want to continue receiving the Newsletter in print, please notify the office as soon as possible . . . This information can be e-mailed to the office at wsgs@tds.net, or mailed to WSGS, PO Box 5106 Madison WI 53705-0106."

Mara has asked that OPL's subscription stay print, and mentioned that she expects most libraries will want print. Some societies, of course, donate their issues to their local public library as well.

Mary Rieder of WSGS wants readers to know that they have also just launched a new Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Members-Only Area featuring current and back issues of our *Newsletter* and WSGS publications. The 2009 Fall Seminar, "Research: Do More and Do It Better," is coming up on October 2-3 at the Bridgewood Resort Hotel & Conference Center in Neenah. Friday afternoon, October 2, there will be a workshop offered by Lori Bessler of the Wisconsin Historical Society, and David McDonald, CG. Saturday is the conference featuring Michael John Neill. He'll be lecturing on, "Research on a Tight Budget," "Researching the Entire Family," "Organization of Information," and "Locating Emigrant Origins." More information about WSGS and how to join can be found on their website <http://www.wsgs.org>.

Stuffed Fish News

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

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<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Issue</u>
Feb. 1	Spring
May 1	Summer
Aug. 1	Fall
Nov. 1	Winter



Archives Month

This year's theme for Archives Month (October) will be **Scrapbooking Wisconsin**. Stay tuned for more details or keep watch on the website: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/archivesmonth/index.asp>

Digitization of Irish 1901 and 1911 Census Records



The National Archives of Ireland

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>

The household returns and ancillary records for the censuses of Ireland of 1901 and 1911, which are in the custody of the National Archives of Ireland, represent an extremely valuable part of the Irish national heritage, and a resource for genealogists, local historians and other scholars which has not as yet been developed to its fullest potential. The Irish diaspora is estimated to amount to 70 million people in all parts of the globe, and many of these have an interest in their family and local history. The digitization of the equivalent records for England, Wales and Scotland has proved hugely popular with users, as has the digitization of Canadian and United States census records.

The National Archives of Ireland has established a research partnership with Library and Archives Canada to facilitate digitization, indexing and contextualization of our 1901 and 1911 census records. Library and Archives Canada have a world-wide reputation in the field of document digitization, and have already successfully digitized and partially indexed the Canadian census returns 1901, 1906 and 1911.

The returns for 1901 and 1911 are arranged by townland (the smallest division of land) or, in urban areas, by street. The 1901 census lists, for every member of each household; name, age, sex, relationship to head of the household, religion, occupation, marital status and county or country of birth. The census also records an individual's ability to read or write and ability to speak the Irish language. All of this information is given on Form A of the census, which was filled in and signed by the head of each household. Where the head of the household could not write, his or her mark, usually an X, was recorded and witnessed by the enumerator.

The same information was recorded in the 1911 census, with one significant addition: married women were required to state the number of years they had been married, the number of their children born alive and the number still living.

In addition to returns for every household in the country, both censuses contain returns for police and military barracks, public and private asylums, prisons, hospitals, workhouses, colleges, boarding schools and industrial schools among other institutions.

The returns for both censuses also give details of houses, recording the number of windows, type of roof and number of rooms occupied by each family. Each house is also classified according to its overall condition. The number of out-offices and farm buildings attached to each household is also given. This information is recorded by the enumerator, who provided summaries of the returns for each townland and street, including the religious denomination of occupants. These summaries include a list of heads of household, thus providing a nominal index for each townland or street.

The 1901 and 1911 censuses are an excellent source both for the history student and the genealogical researcher. They are obviously a principal source for Irish social and economic history in the early twentieth century. They also provide enormous scope for local study, and can be used with trade and street directories to provide detailed information on the composition and development of urban areas in particular.

The website was launched in December 2007. Digitization, indexing and e-linking for both censuses is expected to be complete by mid-2009.

WLA Line Up: Programs Sponsored by WIGLHR

By Janice Dibble

Chair, WIGLHR

TITLE: The Flavor of Wisconsin: History and Culture Through Recipes

Speaker: Terese Allen, cookbook author and food columnist

DESCRIPTION:

Culinary historian Barbara Haber has written that if we really want to understand our past, we've got to "follow the food." That's particularly true in Wisconsin, whose food traditions reflect the richness of an ethnically and agriculturally diverse region. In this presentation Terese Allen shares the stories behind (and recipes for) such varied foodways as cream puffs, Hmong egg rolls, and brandy old fashions. From Friday night fish fry to smashed Yukon Gold potatoes with Hook's blue cheese, Allen tracks the amazing cornucopia of what Wisconsinites have gathered, grown, produced, cooked, and eaten.

TITLE: Exploring Wisconsin Opera Houses

Speaker: Jim Draeger, architectural historian

DESCRIPTION:

Architectural Historian Jim Draeger will discuss the ten Wisconsin opera houses and theaters featured in the Wisconsin Historical Society Press' new book *Encore! The Renaissance of Wisconsin Opera Houses*. Jim's talk will explore the history of these buildings: why they were built, why they closed or began to deteriorate and finally what their communities did to restore them.

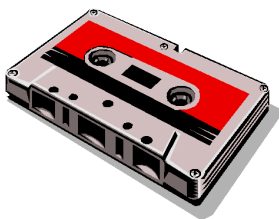


TITLE: If Trees Could Talk: Stories about Wisconsin Trees

Speaker: R. Bruce Allison, arborist

DESCRIPTION:

Arborist R. Bruce Allison will discuss his new book "If Trees Could Talk: Stories about Wisconsin Trees". Mr. Allison will explore famous trees in Wisconsin and share their stories and historical significance.



TITLE: Oral History, A Tool for Libraries, A Tool for Life

Speaker: Troy Reeves, Head, Oral History Program
Archives & Records Management Services
430 Steenbock Memorial Library

DESCRIPTION:

Intimidated by the thought of tackling an oral history project? Troy Reeves, UW-Madison Oral History Program Head, will explain how to get started, focus on 3 key components of an interview or project, and tools/equipment available for a successful interview or project. Libraries of all sizes and types, perhaps working along with local historical societies, museums or universities, will gain an understanding of the art and science of oral history. Reeves will provide steps to get started, identify guidelines, and describe successful oral history projects. Gain the confidence and knowledge to start your first oral history interview or learn new techniques if you're an old-hand at this.

Documenting Change and Diversity in Wisconsin, 1945-2000

By Anita Taylor Doering

Archivist, La Crosse Public Library

As a part of the 2006 strategic plan of the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board (WHRAB), a stated goal included the "collection of historical records that document the diverse history of Wisconsin, from 1945 to the present," an assessment of the state of collecting of historical records in Wisconsin post 1945 was deemed desirable, given the immense amount of material in electronic format and the lack of a systematic way of "archiving" and saving these materials by any Wisconsin institution. The Wisconsin Historical Society cannot be expected to "do it all." The Wisconsin Historical Society received a grant to study this problem from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

The first step was to conduct a survey of selected Wisconsin historical records repositories to determine the depth and breadth of existing manuscript collections documenting post-1945 state history and to identify perceived gaps in documentation. This survey data and information was compiled and published in an analytical report, *Documenting Change and Diversity in Wisconsin, 1945-2000* and was shared with the participants of the project (you can view this at: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/whrab/pdfs/RecordsAssessment-FinalReport2009.pdf>).

The report provided the core information for a one-day symposium that was held in Madison on April 29, 2009. The symposium reviewed the findings of the project and encouraged discussions about future collecting goals and collecting strategies. State Historian Michael Stevens' keynote address <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/whrab/pdfs/RecordsAssessment-Symposium-Keynote.pdf> is available online, and by the end of the grant period the symposium's proceedings and recommendations for future collecting strategies then will be published and made available online.

Symposium participants included staff from selected Wisconsin archival repositories, media, historians and other scholars whose work is dependent upon archival collections. A lively discussion ensued on the key findings: the need for improved documentation of ethnic and cultural diversity, specifically the experiences of the Hmong and Hispanic populations in the state; need for enhanced documentation of issues related to natural resources and the environment, specifically land use, water and air quality, pollutions, and the growing concern for the environment, as well as how changes have affected communities across the state; residential patterns and mobility and how urbanization and suburbanization have affected communities, businesses, and natural resources and the move toward move sustainable development and urban revitalization; the significant decline of the number of farms and farmland and the shift to corporate farming practices as well as the converse to document specialty farms and sustainable agriculture. Finally, recreation and leisure as related to business and tourism and how changes in society define community and leisure activities.



As a final part of the project, an online directory will be developed listing Wisconsin repositories and their holdings information which will be created and hosted by the Wisconsin Historical Society and WHRAB.

Jennifer Graham is the Wisconsin Records Assessment Project Archivist and main contact person during the course of the project. Helmut Knies, Coordinator of Collection Development for the Wisconsin Historical Society Library-Archives Division, serves as project director and Peter Gottlieb, State Archivist and Deputy Coordinator of WHRAB, is the project coordinator. More about the project and its stated goals can be found at: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/whrab/records-assessment-project.asp>.

FamilySearch Expands Canadian Census Collection *Four pre-1900 censuses available for free online*

FamilySearch, in partnership with Ancestry.ca and the Libraries and Archives Canada (LAC), announced today the addition of the 1851, 1861, and 1871 Canada Census indexes to its online collection. The new indexes can be searched for free at <http://www.FamilySearch.org> (click **Search Records**, and then click **Record Search pilot**). FamilySearch published the 1881 Canada Census previously online and plans to add the 1891 Canada Census shortly.

These censuses are part of the FamilySearch records access program reported in May 2008 to provide public access to more records more quickly. In this project, Ancestry.ca provided the indexes to the 1851 and 1891 Canada Censuses, and FamilySearch created the indexes for the 1861, 1871, and 1881 Canada Censuses. It is a win-win for the public, who will have free access to all five of the pre-1900 census indexes online at FamilySearch.org.

FamilySearch used its growing community of online volunteers to index the 1861 and 1871 Census records. For the past year, volunteers have logged online to FamilySearch's indexing application from all over the world, working seven days a week, 24 hours a day—literally—to accomplish the feat. Thousands of volunteer hours later, coupled with the added indexes from Ancestry.ca, the public now has free, easily searchable databases of millions of Canadian citizens from 1851 to 1891.

Researchers will discover heads of households, their family members, and any lodgers residing with a family at the time. They can also see the street address where ancestors were living at the time the census was taken, along with their age, occupation, and perhaps their ethnicity.

Free access to the indexes for the 19th century collection of Canada Censuses is the first phase. Free access to the record images will also be available to qualified FamilySearch members as soon as an authentication process is implemented.

Ancestry Adds Canadian Census Indexes and Images

By Megan Isely Desk Assistant

La Crosse Public Library

Ancestry now has basically the complete run of available Canadian censuses available with indexes and images of the microfilm (these are the same free indexes for the 1861/1871/1881 Canada censuses that are available on the familysearch.org pilot site). The years covered are 1851/1861/1871/1881/1891/1901/1906 (western provinces only)/1911. In some cases there is more information than just a standard population schedule. I have also found mortality schedules (those who died in the year prior to the census), agricultural schedules (with great farm details), and other business details for an ancestor who was a merchant (he had a carriage for pleasure worth \$100). When you find an image be sure to also go to the next image to the right; depending on the census year there may be more details to be discovered.

A New Resource for Genealogists

By Lori Bessler Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator, Wisconsin Historical Society

The Historical Society's genealogy collection just got better. Researchers who visit the Historical Society Library may now order microfilm from the vast collections of the Genealogical Society of Utah, the world's greatest collection of family history source materials.

The Genealogical Society of Utah has been microfilming original records from around the world for almost 70 years. They have filmed in over 100 countries and amassed a wide variety of primary historical documents such as civil registration, church, probate, census, land, tax, and military records. The collection also contains numerous family and local histories. With the cooperation of the Historical Society, the GSU has been filming Wisconsin records since the 1970s.

During the last 160 years, the Historical Society built one of North America's premier genealogical collections. The Library collection consists of published and microfilmed family histories, church and cemetery records, birth, death and marriage registrations, federal and state census, local histories, and military information covering the United States and Canada. The Society's Archives houses original land, court and military records useful to researchers studying Wisconsin families.

This new borrowing service will dramatically increase the sources available to the genealogical community served by the Society. The cost is \$7.50 per reel, and WHS will take credit cards, cash or check. People can email in their requests instead of making the order wait for payment.

See <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy/microfilm/utah.asp>. For more information, contact Lori Bessler at (608) 264-6519 or Lori.Bessler@wisconsinhistory.org.



To search the vast collections of the Genealogical Society of Utah, visit:
http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp to search the catalog.
Many items you find there can be loaned.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2009*

Genealogy Classes and Workshops at WHS

The following topics will be given at Saturday classes and workshops to be held by the Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives in Fall 2009. Registration will begin on August 15th. At that time, a registration form will be made available at the website listed below.

October 24, England, Ireland, Scotland: Conducting Effective Genealogical Research in the United Kingdom (David McDonald, CGSM, Certified Genealogist)

October 31, German Research: Conducting Effective Genealogical Research in Germany & Germanic Europe (David McDonald, CGSM, Certified Genealogist)

November 7, Swedish Research (Kathy Meade, Genline North America)

November 21, Norwegian Research (Jerry Paulson, Norwegian-American Genealogy Center and Naeseth Library)

December 5, Google Books and FamilySearch.org (Lori Bessler, Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator, Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives)

December 12, Ancestry.com and Library Edition (Lori Bessler, Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator, WHS, Library Archives) This class will be a lab so all participants will each use a computer. Limited to 20.

For dates, locations, content and registration information, please see the Wisconsin Historical Society web site, www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes or email asklibrary@wisconsinhistory.org or write to Lori Bessler, Outreach Coordinator, Library Archives, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.

Oct. 2-3 at Neenah, WI

WSGS Fall Seminar, beginning with a "Back to Basics" workshop then featuring Michael John Neill, columnist for *Ancestry World Journal* and *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*
<http://wsgs.wetpaint.com/>

Oct. 20-23 at Appleton, WI

WLA's annual conference at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel Stay tuned for more registration and program info on the WLA conference site:
<http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/conferences/2009/index.htm>



*WHS = Wisconsin Historical Society
WSGS = Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

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