

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

Stuffed Fish News

Vol. 12 #3

Fall 2010

From the Chair's Corner

I am looking forward to the upcoming months. Autumn is a busy time for those of us in academia as we gear up for the forthcoming school year and the busiest months of the year. Autumn is also the start of the football season and I always look forward to watching the Wisconsin Badgers and Green Bay Packers.



The WLA elections are also upon us and should have received your ballot. We have one nominee, Suzann Holland, Director the Monroe Public Library for the position of Vice-chair/Chair elect. Anne Kasuboski from the University of Wisconsin Green Bay will be the nominee for Secretary of the organization. Anne has been active in WIGLHR and served several years as the webmaster for our website.

WIGLHR will be holding its business/board meeting via conference call sometime in mid October. I will be announcing the meeting time and conference call specifications to the membership via email well in advance of the meeting. I am making this change as the last two meetings held at the WLA conference were not well attended.

There are a couple events being sponsored by the Wisconsin Library Association in the next couple of months. On August 20, I will be attending a unit leadership retreat at the Mount Pleasant Public Library. Our parent organization is in the process of transitioning to a new leadership structure throughout the organization. I'll report on the latest initiatives in our next issue.

The WLA conference will be held at the Kalahari Waterpark Resort in the Wisconsin Dells from November 2-5. WIGLHR will be sponsoring several programs at the conference including several authors from the Wisconsin Historical Society Press and a program entitled "Raiders of the Lost ARCs (and public libraries): Adventures in Local History Digitization."

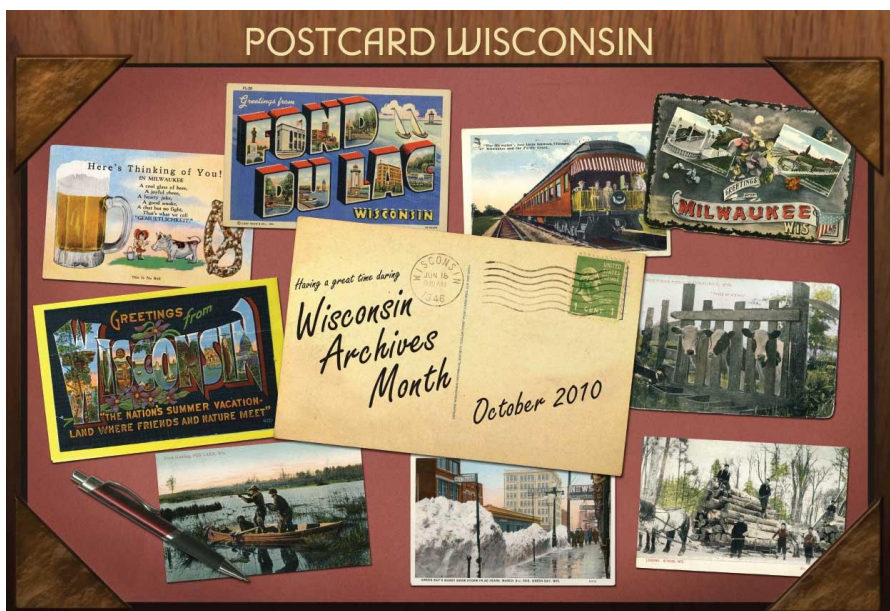
I want to congratulate the winners of the Governor's Archives Award: La Crosse Public Library won the award for Archival Achievement; Hedberg Public Library in Janesville won the award for Archival Innovation; and a collaborative effort on behalf of the UW Forest and Wildlife Ecology Lab with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Science Services and Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine resulted in the award for Archival Advocacy. La Crosse Public Library's Anita Doering and Hedberg Public Library's Sue Braden are both past chairs of WIGLHR.

I am looking forward to meeting with the membership during the conference call in October. I hope everyone enjoys the autumn weather with the changing colors of the Wisconsin scenery and the advent of the football season. I know I will.

Wisconsin Archives Month is Approaching!

While everyone is enjoying the vacation season and taking advantage of warm weather for outdoors pursuits, we are sending this first announcement of the 2010 Wisconsin Archives Month program, which takes place in October.

This year our tagline is “Postcard Wisconsin.” We will focus on historical postcards to highlight how people keep archival documents about themselves, their families, and their experiences. *Whether or not your archives has a postcard collection*, Wisconsin Archives Month brings you an opportunity to showcase your holdings, programs, and services.



Now is the time to start planning your 2010 Archives Month program. During October this year, you can hold an event that highlights the importance of your archival collections to your community or to a particular audience that you wish to engage. Our website (<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/archivesmonth/index.asp>) provides some program ideas and planning tools.

Use the events schedule at this website to send us information about the Archives Month program you are planning this year. We will mail you this year’s Archives Month poster soon. Please put the poster up in a publicly visible spot and use it to spread the news about your program.

We would be glad to answer questions and help you do your planning. Write to Peter Gottlieb at peter.gottlieb@wisconsinhistory.org or call 608-264-6480. We look forward to hearing about the program you plan for October!

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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Deadline	Issue
Feb. 1	Spring
May 1	Summer
Aug. 1	Fall
Nov. 1	Winter



Peter Gottlieb's Importance to WIGLHR's Beginning

By Anita Taylor Doering

Editor, WIGLHR

Peter Gottlieb, State Archivist and Director of the Library & Archives Division since 2000, and State Archivist and Administrator from 1991-1999, has announced his retirement at the end of October of this year.

Peter received his PhD from the University of Pittsburgh in 1977 although he was already familiar with Wisconsin having received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He also has served as adjunct associate professor of the School of Library & Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison since 1995.

Among Peter's many duties is the leadership of the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board (WHRAB) as deputy coordinator. This is how I came to know Peter. Some of you may know how our organization WIGLHR came to be if you were involved in a 1997-1998 NHPRC grant administered by WHRAB aimed at identifying best practices for three groups of professionals in Wisconsin. Dick Nelson, being an officer of WAPL at the time, was charged with creating a slate of potential candidates to serve on a committee aimed at public librarians and Peter asked me to chair this motley crew – I mean task force.

Our task force consisted of Jo Don Anderson of Southwest Wisconsin Library System; Tom Bachman of Brewer Public Library; Julie Flemming of Fox Lake Public Library; Polly Gropen of Delafield Public Library; Sue Koehler from Madison Public Library; Virginia Schwartz of Milwaukee Public Library, Cecilia Wiltzius from Appleton Public Library; and Sandra Zuehlke from Hancock Public Library. You can still read our final report put together for the group by Project Archivist Sally Jacobs called "Creating a Collection Development Policy for Local Historical Records in Public Libraries." Hey, that's a mouthful and yes, it is still relevant today. <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/whrab/wapl.pdf>



In addition to the report, we presented a session at WLA in the fall of 1998 in Milwaukee and introduced the idea of the "stuffed fish" as an unwanted donation to a public library. As I recall, it was all Virginia Schwartz's script and the little bit of play acting got all the major points across! Fortunately Virginia had at her disposal hip waders, a fishing hat, tackle box and pole as well. So if you wonder where the header for this newsletter comes from, now you know the rest of the story.

Peter not only got our group talking about archival issues in public libraries, but indirectly was responsible for being the benefactor of WIGLHR. Toward the end of the grant, some committee members begged Peter for a way in which our little group could continue our discussions of local history and genealogy issues after the grant ended. Peter, Sally Jacobs and I presented a session at the Midwest Archives Conference in Chicago in May 1999 as well on the "best practices" grant.

The likely place for such a network seemed to some of us to be WLA. We thought we could petition WLA to become a roundtable and that's just what we did. Polly Gropen, Dick Nelson, Virginia Schwartz, Cecilia Wiltzius and I constituted the group that formally petitioned WLA to for WIGLHR (Wisconsin Genealogy & Local History Roundtable) to become a round table.

Our purpose on the petition we stated:

in relation to genealogy & local history...

- *to promote and educate librarians & library staff about best practices in dealing with all aspects of these materials;*
- *to provide a forum in which librarians and library staff can network and discuss common goals and procedures;*
- *to learn about and promote these resources around the state;*
- *to develop projects around these themes*



We garnered more signatures than necessary and presented our request to the WLA board. Lisa Strand was so kind and patient with my millions of questions and Nancy McClements called to let me know that the WLA board approved our petition. We were official!

And now you know just how instrumental Peter Gottlieb was to our beginnings. On behalf of WIGLHR, I will be presenting Peter with a little something from our group to acknowledge his importance to us at his final WHRAB meeting on October 14.

Charles & JoAnn Lester Library

By Darla Allen

Director, Charles and JoAnn Lester Library

The Charles & JoAnn Lester Library in Nekoosa has partnered with the South Wood County Historical Society and Museum in the digitization of our local history photo collection. After some conversations regarding our photo collection, which covered a number of subject areas not addressed by the museum, both staffs realized that the Nekoosa Library had a great resource of pictures which spanned the time period from the late 1880s-1950s. Included in this collection of photos were the development of the Nekoosa Foundry, the changing face and working conditions of the Nekoosa Paper Mill, efforts to dam on the Wisconsin River, and historical photographs of Ed "Strangler" Lewis and his family. In addition, pictures of everyday life in Nekoosa were well represented, and hand drawn maps of the business district of Nekoosa provides a valuable reference point for genealogists and historians. The Charles & JoAnn Lester Library hope to make these images available on our website in the very near future. Without the help and expertise of the Museum Staff, this was a project that was completed in a very short turn around.

Charles and JoAnn
Lester Library

100 Park Street Nekoosa WI. 54457 Phone: 886-7879 Fax: 886-7918



Ancestry.com News

Compiled from various sources, including *Family Tree Magazine* Diane Haddad's "Genealogy Insider" blog <http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider/> and Ancestry.com blog <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/category/news/>

Subscription site Ancestry.com just announced it has acquired Salt Lake City-based professional genealogy research firm ProGenealogists. The acquisition adds to the research services business Ancestry.com launched last year with Expert Connect.

ProGenealogists has been operating for 15 years and employs a roster of more than 30 researchers including Natalie Cottrill, Kory L. Meyerink, Kyle J. Betit and Judith Wight. You may remember some of these names as the researchers who helped celebrities find their roots on the NBC television show "Who Do You Think You Are?"

The press release also stated that ProGenealogists will "continue to provide premier family history research to its existing clients while extending the Ancestry.com reach across the genealogy value chain."

Ancestry.com will acquire the leading Swedish family history website Gensline.se. Though many of the details are still being determined, this newest addition to the Ancestry.com family has access to a collection of Swedish church records that contain more than 26 million digitized pages of records spanning more than 400 years from the 16th to the 20th century. These records consist of birth/baptismal, confirmation, marriage, death/burial, church ledgers and household examination rolls. These are the main sources of genealogical information in Sweden.

Ancestry.com launched Ancestry.se, a site focused in Sweden, back in 2007. Together with Gensline.se, this will become the destination for people wanting to learn more about their Swedish family history.

Once the deal has completed more details will be provided around the future plans for the business and also the access we will be able to give Ancestry.com customers to this wealth of Swedish content. In the meantime, you won't have to wait too long for more Swedish records to come online. Separate from our deal with Gensline.se, in the coming months, we will be adding the Gothenburg, Sweden, Passenger Lists, 1869--1950 collection, which contains more than 1.2 million Swedish records.



StoryCorps Came to My Library

By Anita Taylor Doering

Archivist, La Crosse Public Library



In this issue we have two stories of library experiences in Wisconsin with StoryCorps, a National Public Radio program. Their mission is “to provide Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of our lives.” Since 2003, StoryCorps has collected and archived more than 30,000 interviews from more than 60,000 participants.

The first experience comes to us from Mary Milinkovich of the Milwaukee Public Library. MPL set up a space in their library for StoryCorps to set up an “outpost” recording booth in 2005 – the first in the nation outside of New York City!

The second story is written by David J. Marcou, a professional author and photographer from La Crosse, about the LPL experience this summer with the mobile StoryCorps trailer that visited. Pictured above is LPL director Kelly Krieg-Sigman and Wisconsin Public Radio Southwest Manager John Gaddo at the opening reception for StoryCorps in La Crosse. LPL will also receive copies of local interviews for which releases were signed at the time of recording.

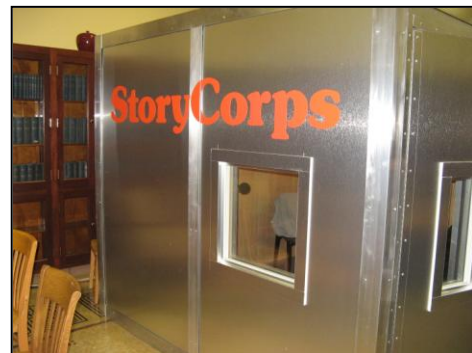
StoryCorps at Milwaukee Public Library

By Mary Milinkovich

Arts and Media Coordinator, Milwaukee Public Library

In the fall of 2004 the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) was asked to join a group of local organizations working with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to bring a StoryCorps mobile booth and outpost booth to Milwaukee. The mobile booth was in Milwaukee in the summer of 2005.

When StoryCorps decided to bring an outpost booth to Milwaukee, a delegation from the national office came to town to look at possible venues. As the group toured the Central Library and went to the room in which the booth would be placed if Central were chosen, in my mind’s eye I could envision Milwaukeeans recording the stories that would mean so much to them and to the collective memory of the City and the nation. I was hoping that something similar was occurring to the delegation from StoryCorps and, it must have, for after stiff competition from other great local venues, MPL was indeed chosen to host the first outpost booth in the nation (the first story booth outside of New York City). The cultural and historical ambience of the room and its beauty, and MPL’s role as a cultural crossroads for all of the various communities that make up the City of Milwaukee and surrounding area, convinced StoryCorps to locate the booth at Central. The booth opened on January 25, 2007, and, after approximately 600 interviews were recorded, closed on January 25, 2008.



MPL was extremely pleased to host the outpost booth. It brought a cross-section of our community, including new visitors, into the library. It was also very prestigious for MPL to be associated with such a worthwhile project. And as an institution dedicated to helping serve the educational, cultural and reference needs of our residents, MPL's taking part in the StoryCorps project also served to further its mission. Years from now when historians and other researchers want to get a glimpse of life in the later part of the 20th and the early part of the 21st centuries they will turn to the archived copies of the StoryCorps interviews, much like researchers still turn to the Works Progress Administration's Writers Project books and oral history projects that took place in the 1930s. That the stories containing the memories of local people will be shared and that the Library was part of this great project to collect and preserve those memories is very exciting and is something in which MPL takes a good deal of pleasure.

MPL is in the process of making available electronically in all City of Milwaukee Libraries an archive of the stories recorded in Milwaukee (for which participants signed releases). David Isay, the creator of StoryCorps, is fond of saying that our stories bond us together as Americans and as human beings. MPL is very pleased to be part of the process by which those stories have been gathered and will be shared.

Still Going Strong—StoryCorps in La Crosse, Wisconsin

Written and Photographed by David J. Marcou

La Crosse-based writer, photographer,
author, and editor



“Starting out, I thought the 40 minutes would be an eternity, but it turned out to be just a blink.”

Jan Gallagher was referring to the allocated time StoryCorps gives to each interview, in its renowned oral history project, which has been traversing the United States since 2003. In the last seven years, StoryCorps has developed into the largest oral history project in the United States, and has interviewed more than 60,000 people. About 240 people were interviewed in La Crosse, between July 15 and August 7.

Both noted in the community, Jan and her husband, Jim, were the first interviewees during StoryCorps' 24-day visit to La Crosse, WI. Both wife and husband earned advanced university degrees, and worked for many years for UW-La Crosse, while raising a family, too. Jan directed the Small Business Center and Jim founded and directed the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center.

For each pre-scheduled interview, two people sign on who are close-enough, to want to discuss things positive about their lives, including family/personal histories. A facilitator sits in with each pair, and occasionally asks questions, to point the interviews in interesting and significant directions. Like the site supervisors, the facilitators have earned university degrees, generally in communications.

Technical support, to man microphones, recorders, etc., also is involved. The La Crosse Public Library, directed by Kelly Krieg-Sigman, was the local host, providing space for MobileBooth, electrical outlets, and other technical support, according to Library Archivist Anita Taylor Doering. In addition to NPR (which directs the project) and WPR, additional local sponsors were Gundersen Lutheran, Merchants Bank, People's Food Co-op, and the Pump House.

Eloise Melzer, who recently took over from Anna Walters as unit supervisor, called StoryCorps "an amazing project, simply to be a part of people's lives" in the way the project works.



Virginia Lora, an interview-facilitator, commented, "There are many interesting things about the project. It allows you to know a town or city in ways you normally wouldn't. To hear what people have to say to each other is very interesting. Sometimes, people come in not knowing what they'll talk about, and their coming in and seeing them opening up after a while [is neat]. Some people are not hesitant, and are ready to go."

Jackie Sojico, an interview-facilitator-in-training on the 15th, sat in on all the interviews, and she and Virginia manned still-cameras too. The young women also made a complimentary audio-CD for each pair interviewed.

Reflecting on their interview experience, Jan Gallagher remarked, "The unifying theme was what makes us joyful and happy in life – it was kind of personal, about our relationship over the years. It included the 'Spirit of Discovery', relating to our travels and experiences. A couple of travels that were particularly memorable included one back in Taos, NM, when we were first married, on an archeological expedition. Another was our sabbatical in Great Britain and Ireland, when our children were young teenagers. We also talked about our time in Ethiopia, when we were first married."

Local news media had been covering the buildup to arrival, and on the 15th, many reporters were present. The venture is partly supported by Wisconsin Public Radio, represented by liaison John Gaddo, who is also affiliated with WLSU, WPR's La Crosse outlet.

"This city proved very welcoming to StoryCorps," Virginia Lora noted, adding, "What makes La Crosse unique is how enthusiastic the people seem to be -- the way we've been received is very good. People have wonderful things to say about La Crosse and the places they live, and about places for us to visit, like the marshlands, rivers, and bluffs. People are really proud of their city."

In a nation now accustomed to oral histories, it's nice to know communities like La Crosse, WI, and Brooklyn, NY (where StoryCorps is based) can join hands to record the pulse of people and their stories, for posterity. All the recordings done via StoryCorps will be deposited in the Library of Congress. The project was founded in 2003 by award-winning documentary producer and MacArthur "Genius" Grant recipient Dave Isay.

In La Crosse, interview-excerpts were played at a special Pump House event on Tuesday, August 3, and will also air on WPR and NPR.

WSGS Invites You to Research With Us This Fall

By Mary Rieder, MLIS

President, Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society will be holding its 2010 Fall Seminar, *Research: Something for Everyone*, on Saturday, October 9, at the Ramada Hotel in Stevens Point.



The featured speaker will be Lori B. Bessler, Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator of the Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives. Ms. Bessler will be delivering four lectures: “Everyone’s a Beginner,” “How to Find Genealogical Collections,” “Google.com” and “Genealogy on a Budget.”

The event will begin at 9:00 AM with the presentation of the 2010 Wisconsin Historical Society/Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Genealogy-Family History Book Award to Mrs. Marion (Sura) Groulik of Racine for her book, *The Peter Sura Family Quilt: Sunshine and Shadows*. The product of more than a quarter century of extensive research in many resources and repositories, this volume traces the history and genealogy of an immigrant family (the Suras and kin) coming from Poland to Wisconsin in the 1850s, settling eventually in Trempealeau County. A wealth of photos, documents and maps illustrates the account. Several genealogy- and history-related vendors will also be available throughout the day for browsing and shopping.

For additional information and a registration brochure, please see the WSGS website at <http://wsgs.wetpaint.com/>.

Plan Ahead for these Upcoming Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Events!

2011 Gene-A-Rama

April 15-16, 2011

La Crosse Center and
Radisson Hotel

La Crosse



2011 Fall Seminar

October 15, 2011

Country Springs Hotel, Water
Park & Conference Center

Waukesha

Governor's Archives Awards 2010

By Anita Taylor Doering

Archivist, La Crosse Public Library

☞ The 2010 Award for Archival Achievement goes to the La Crosse Public Library Archives Department for its work



promoting archives and preserving local history. The award recognizes a historical records repository that has made an outstanding contribution to the archival profession.

The La Crosse Public Library established its program 30 years ago to serve the community's local history needs. Aside from collecting, processing, and making available archival material, the department has supported students participating in National History Day, provided historical images and information for a book and program about the La Crosse area, received a grant to digitize La Crosse area maps, and created the [Footsteps of La Crosse](#) website.

The awards presentation will be at La Crosse Public Library on Sunday, October 17, 2010, at 2 pm.

☞ The partnership of the UW Forest and Wildlife Ecology Lab, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Science Services, and Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine is the winner of the 2010 Award for Archival Advocacy for their work with historical records of public lands surveys, and the publication of a pre-settlement vegetation map and supplement. This award honors support for historical records work through organizational leadership, public advocacy and financial or volunteer contributions.

Between 1832 and 1866, the federal government surveyed the land that is now the state of Wisconsin, including notes about tree species, water bodies, prairies, and geological features. These surveys provide a unique record of the vegetation in Wisconsin before large-scale human impact. These notes were used to create a vegetation map of Wisconsin from this time period.

The partnership also created an eight-page companion insert detailing the surveys, surveyors' notebooks, the work involved in creating the map, and the vegetation changes that have occurred in Wisconsin since that time. The map and supplement was inserted into Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine, and additional copies are available for sharing at forestry and other conferences, with schools (middle school through college), and with landowners.

☞ Sue Braden, a reference librarian at the Hedberg Public Library, is this year's winner of the Award for Archival Innovation for her work with oral histories. This award is for new ways of working with historical records and bringing those records to new audiences.

Braden, a past chair of WIGLHR, headed the effort to transcribe and digitize General Motors sit-down strike oral histories in order to make them available



on the Internet. These oral histories detail the work, union, family, and social life of 12 men who had either participated in the 1937 GM sit-down strike in Janesville, or who worked in other Janesville industries. Originally on audiocassettes, these interviews were converted into podcasts with accompanying transcripts and are now available on the [Hedberg Public Library's website](#).

On October 19, 2010, at 6:30 pm, explore the history of General Motors & the UAW in Janesville at the Hedberg Public Library, 316 S. Main Street, Janesville, Wisconsin. This program will feature resources available at the local, county and state level and displays about GM/UAW history in Janesville. A demonstration of the online interviews of GM/UAW retirees, *GM & UAW: In Their Own Words*, will feature their stories of life in Janesville in the 20th century. Listen and learn more at: http://www.hedbergpubliclibrary.org/in_their_own_words.html.



The Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board jointly sponsor the Governor's Archives Awards annually. The [Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board](#) consists of 10 members appointed by the governor. It assists Wisconsin institutions in applying for federal grants for archival work and in improving the appreciation and care of historical records in Wisconsin.

***HeritageQuest* Now Available through Badgerlink**

By Anne Kasuboski

UW-Green Bay

Many of our patrons are familiar with using *Ancestry* for census and genealogical research, but far fewer are aware of the resources at their fingertips through *HeritageQuest (HQ)*. Although both databases are available to libraries through ProQuest, HQ is only available through a library subscription. Fortunately, the DPI's Badgerlink service now makes it available to Wisconsin libraries.

The most familiar collection in *HQ* is the U.S. federal census images from 1790 through 1930, with name indexes for 1790 through 1820 and for 1860 through 1920, with name indexing for 1930 currently under way. Census images for unindexed years are still accessible and can be browsed by locality.

So why search the census on *HQ* if you have access to *Ancestry*? Experienced searchers may find the *HQ* interface more straightforward and easier to drill down to what is wanted. The downloading, e-mailing, and saving features are straightforward and navigation is straightforward. Browsing census pages by locality is very easy to do. Search history is available in a session, and records can be saved in an online notebook in the database. For those who geographically challenged, the online version of the *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses 1790-1920* is linked to each state in the "Browse Census", allowing searchers to easily determine county boundaries at the time of a particular census.

HERITAGE QUEST ONLINE

- **Search Census** Find ancestors in the complete set of U.S. Federal Census images from 1790-1930, including name indexes for many years.
- **Search Books** Find information on people and places described in over 28,000 family and local histories.
- **Search PERSI™** Find information about people and places from this index of over 2.1 million genealogy and local history articles.
- **Search Revolutionary War** Search selected records from the Revolutionary War Era Pension & Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files.
- **Search Freedman's Bank** Search for individuals in Freedman's Bank (1865-1874), which was founded to serve African Americans.
- **Search U.S. Serial Set** Search the Memorials, Petitions, and Private Relief Actions of the U.S. Congress in the LexisNexis® U.S. Serial Set.

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One of the big differences between these two vendors is how they digitized the census. *HQ*'s bi-tonal images are clearer and download faster, and it uses a standard browser to display them rather than a special plug-in. So depending on the quality of the original image, some images will be clearer in *Ancestry*'s grayscale digitization of the census microfilm, and many will be clearer in *HQ*'s bi-tonal digitization.

There has been an ongoing discussion as to whether the indexing in *HQ* may be more accurate; *HQ* staff are doing the re-indexing, rather than relying on pre-existing indexes that often perpetuate the same errors, or inexperienced volunteers. However, the inability to do wildcard and soundex searching will frustrate advanced users who count on these features as will the lack of indexes for some censuses.

The gem of *HQ* collections is its book collection. In addition to providing access to U.S. federal census, *HQ* provides full text images of over 28,000 books, with the text searchable for place names, personal names, or keywords. It includes nearly 14,000 family histories, near 14,000 local and county histories, and over 250 primary sources. Many are older, difficult to obtain historical publications, and are included in the book collection in their entirety.

Another major database in *HQ* is the *Periodical Source Index* (PERSI) for 1999-2010. PERSI is the most comprehensive index to articles in genealogical journals and newsletters, covering over 6,500 journals with over 2 million article citations. The index is searchable by surnames, place names, and keywords. You can also search for articles about specific types of records in a locality, or for "how to" articles. Since it indexes many publications with limited distribution that are not widely held in libraries, researchers have the options of requesting copies of articles by mail (for a fee) from the Allen County Public Library. A request form right in the database can be printed, filled out and submitted via regular mail. Unfortunately, there are no abstracts or indication of article length in the records, making it difficult to assess the usefulness of an article.

A lesser known database in *HQ* is the "*Freedman's Bank*" records. In existence from 1865-1874, the Bank's records include detailed personal information about the over 81,000 accounts that freed slaves had with the Bank. Another specialized collection available is *Selected Records from Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files*, containing over 80,000 files extracted from Record Group 15 in the National Archives, Records of the Veterans Administration.

One last collection, available only to public libraries and not academic libraries, is selected documents from the *U.S. Serial Set*. This collection provides information on the people and places on whose behalf Congressional action was sought during the period 1789-1969. Consisting of documents and reports prepared for the U.S. Congress, it includes Private Relief Actions, Memorials, and Petitions. The subject matter covered by this collection includes: pensions, military and naval matters, claims of election fraud, public works projects, immigration and naturalization, land grants, taxation, and many types of monetary claims made by individuals and businesses.

So if you haven't yet taken a look at *HQ*, give it a try and suggest it both historians and genealogists—there is a lot of content for both groups.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2010*

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 is announcing their fall 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/>.

We encourage library staff to look at the Ancestry classes especially. This one class is being offered four times this fall to accommodate more participants. The content will help librarians be able to assist patrons more fully with this product as well as many other sites that are covered in this class. It tends to fill up quickly so get registration forms in as soon as possible.

Lori B. Bessler
Wisconsin Historical Society
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Lori.Bessler@wisconsinhistory.org



Oct. 9 at Stevens Point, WI

WSGS Fall Seminar at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in Stevens Point, "Research: Something for Everyone." Lori B. Bessler, Reference Librarian and

Outreach Coordinator with the Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives
<http://wsgs.wetpaint.com/>

Nov. 2-5 at Wisconsin Dells, WI

WLA's annual conference
<http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/conferences/2010/>



Apr. 15-16, 2011 at La Crosse, WI

WSGS Gene-A-Rama at the La Crosse Center and Radisson Hotel

Oct. 15, 2011 at Waukesha, WI

WSGS fall 2011 seminar



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

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WIGLHR Officers 2010

<p>Chair to Jan. 2011: Michael Watkins Government Information Librarian Forrest R. Polk Library Univ. of Wisconsin-Oshkosh 801 Elmwood Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901-8650 (920) 424-7305 watkins@uwosh.edu</p>	<p>Chair Elect: Russell Horton Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center 30 West Mifflin Street, 3rd floor Madison, WI 53703 (608) 266-2320 russell.horton@dva.state.wi.us</p>	<p>Secretary to Jan. 2011: Andrew Prellwitz User Services Librarian Ripon College P. O. Box 248 Ripon, WI 54971-0248 (920) 748-8752 prellwitza@ripon.edu</p>
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