

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

Stuffed Fish News

Vol. 12 #4

Winter 2010

From the Chair's Corner

The year has gone by fast and my tenure as Chair of WIGLHR will come to an end on December 30. I will also be stepping down as interim web page editor at that time. My final act as chair is to initiate a process for WIGLHR to advance to section status.

For some time now WIGLHR has been eligible to become a section in the Wisconsin Library Association. The WLA bylaws have been under revision so I intended to defer this issue to the new leadership of WIGLHR. However, Russell Horton, the incoming chair clarified that with the Executive Director of WLA, Lisa Strand, that the process for petitioning the leadership to become a section has not been affected by the new bylaws and we could proceed with the process. The major advantage of becoming a section is that we are eligible to have a member representing our unit on the WLA Board.



I went over the new bylaws regarding the criteria which have to be met in order for our unit to be eligible to do this. We have double the number of members required to do this and have been at that milieu for several years. Moreover, our unit has been meeting the expected requirements outlined for a section in the bylaws for some time. Look for an email to join the petition to become a section!

This week I contacted the leadership of our unit with an action plan to start the process. We need to circulate petitions and get seventy-five signatures of members of WLA. The process provides some logistical challenges but I think the best method of obtaining the signatures would be at the WAAL and WAPL conferences.

As I am attending the WAAL conference I have volunteered to try to collect as many signatures as I can get. If we get the required signatures on the petition for the change the next step is to send out a ballot for all registered members to vote for or against this initiative. If we get the requisite number of votes the proposal is then submitted to the COO (Committee on Organization) for their approval.

I think the most challenging part of this process is the petition gathering and the ballot process. Of course, the first order of business will be to come up with a new acronym as we will be dropping the "r" and adding an "s". We will no longer carry the unforgettable moniker "Wiggler" ("Wiggles?").

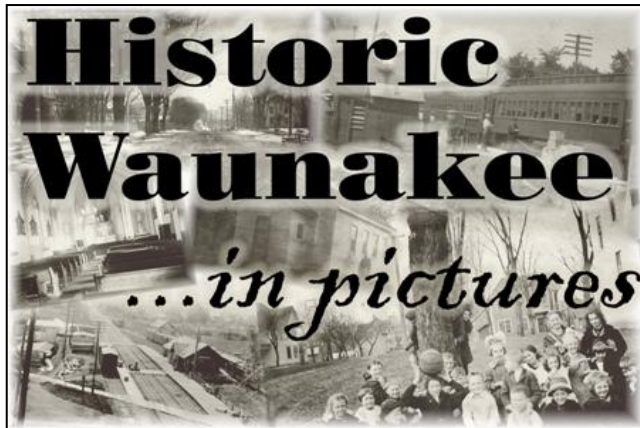
I want to thank everyone in WIGLHR for their contributions and assistance in the past year. I enjoyed the challenges and know that our unit is good hands for the future.

Historic Waunakee...in Pictures

By Katie Brenner

Waunakee Public Library

From early passenger trains at the Waunakee Depot, to the humble beginnings of famous Victorian poetess Ella Wheeler Wilcox, the new Waunakee local history photo collection, "Historic Waunakee ...in pictures,"



has something for everyone. Since Waunakee, Wisconsin does not have a historical society, most of the known local history collection is housed at the Waunakee Public Library. The library's first step in digitizing the collection was to

scan over 850 photographs that accumulated in the files over the years. The photographs include two village history slide presentations with detailed captions put together in the 1980s, a village scrapbook, a substantial number of photos from the late 1960s, and very old family and class photos, many with no captions.

The next phase of the project is to get the community involved in both identifying photos and contributing new ones. The library plans to accomplish this by giving a presentation of Waunakee local history created with photos from the collection at the Senior Center, Village Center, schools, etc. Flyers and bookmarks were distributed asking for help with the task of identifying people, places, and things in the photos through email, waunakeepubliclibrary@gmail.com or phone, 608-849-4217. The library purchased a laptop with a mobile scanner, and will schedule programs at the Senior Center and other locations where community members can bring in their own historic photos to be scanned and added to the collection. The first slide presentation will be Wednesday, January 12, 2011, 7pm at the Waunakee Village Center. A library volunteer will be present with the mobile scanner, and residents are encouraged to bring their historic Waunakee photographs.

"Historic Waunakee ...in pictures" is hosted by Picasa Web Albums, and may be found at the following link: <http://picasaweb.google.com/WaunakeePublicLibrary>, or by following the links from the Waunakee Public Library website, <http://www.waunakeepubliclibrary.org>.



Stuffed Fish News

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

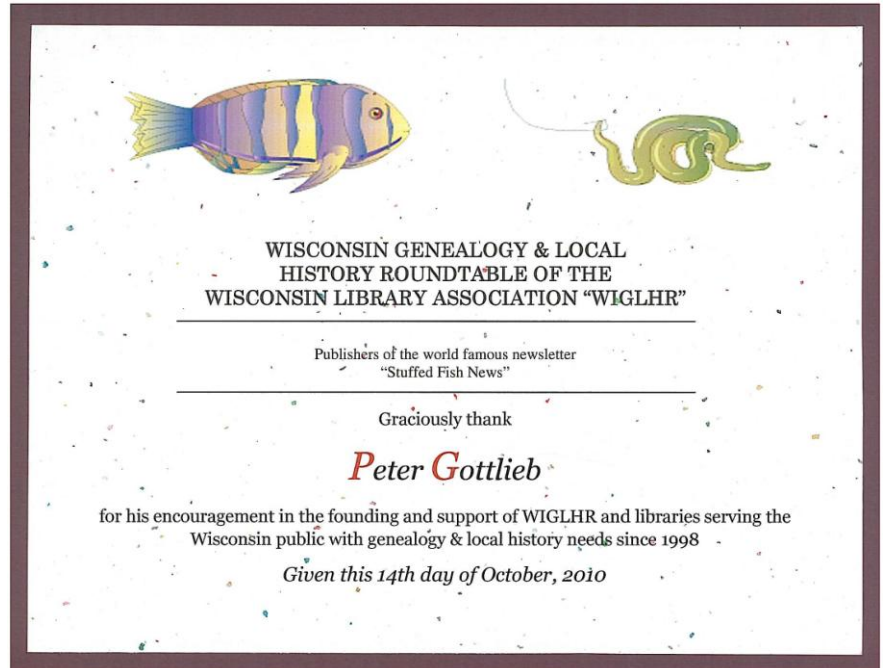
Peter Gottlieb's Importance to WIGLHR's Beginning

By Anita Taylor Doering

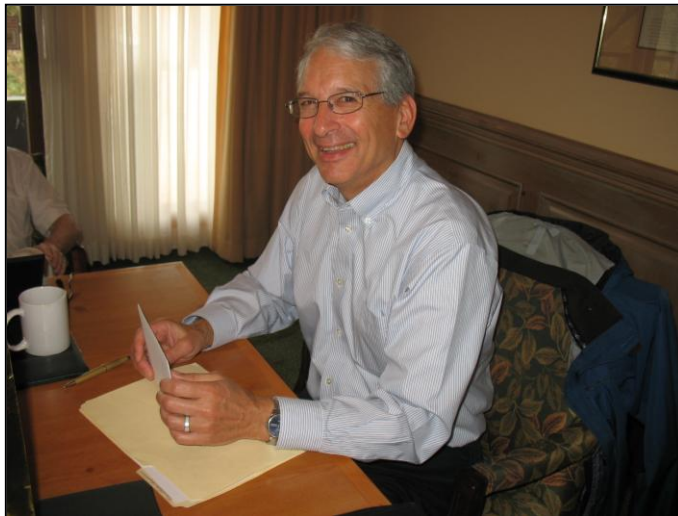
Editor, WIGLHR

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

I mentioned this in the last issue of *Stuffed Fish News*. At the Wisconsin Records Advisory Board meeting in Lake Geneva on October 14, 2010, I had the pleasure and opportunity to present Peter with a certificate of appreciation from WIGLHR and a gift certificate for \$50 to Amazon.com.



Peter sent this thank you note to share with the membership:



"I'd appreciate it so much if you would convey to WIGLHR members my sincere thanks for their good wishes on my retirement and for the generous Amazon.com gift card they gave me. Both of these gestures mean a great deal to me, and I'm very grateful for them. It's been such a pleasure to work with WIGLHR over the years. Public Librarians interested in genealogy and local history are natural partners for WHRAB and the Historical Society, but WIGLHR turned the potential into actuality!"

I hope WIGLHR continues its great work and its productive links with other historical organizations in Wisconsin.

Best Wishes to WIGLHR, always.

Yours, Peter

Temporary Suspension of On-Site vital Records Research At Wisconsin State Vital Records Office

By John Kiesow

State Registrar, Wisconsin State Vital Records Office

We apologize that the State Vital Records Office will not be able to schedule appointments or allow on-site researchers between October 1, 2010 and January 2011.

As most of you know "Deb" has retired and we only recently obtained approval to replace her. Also, vital records staff are intensely involved in a large project to modernize and protect the Wisconsin vital records systems. We regret that between this demand and current position vacancies, we cannot provide access to persons performing research in our office. We hope to resume such appointments in January 2011.

We anticipate other temporary suspensions of service in the future when vital records staff and contractors are converting paper and filmed records into the new electronic system. We believe each of you will be pleased with the end result, but apologize for the occasional inconvenience until then.

Access to county registrars should not be affected. You can find information on how to apply for a copy of a vital record on our direct website at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/vitalrecords>.



FORWARD THROUGH OUR PAST

WHO News (Excerpts)

Debbie Cardinal

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of WHO News, you can subscribe by sending a message to Debbie Cardinal at cardinal@wils.wisc.edu or to Emily Pfothenauer at epfothenauer@wils.wisc.edu.

We are excited to announce that by the end of 2010 approximately twenty Wisconsin digital collections will have their metadata harvested into the WHO portal. There are another eight to twelve collections that will be harvested into WHO as time allows, for a total of thirty-two new digital collections added by early 2011! The initial six weeks of harvesting work by the University of Wisconsin — Madison Libraries Shared Development Group will include nine new Wisconsin Heritage Online projects hosted by the Milwaukee Public Library. We'll send out an email announcement with details of the collections when the harvest is completed.

Milwaukee Public Library

WHO Collections Added to CONTENTdm Collection of Collections The CONTENTdm Collection of Collections is a searchable database of collection level records for digital collections all over the world representing historical societies, libraries, archives and museums. Some records represent individual collections; some connect you to entire digital libraries.

It's a wonderful resource for learning what other institutions have digitized, how unique materials in your collection may be, and how others decided to organize their project. We have begun cataloging WHO-hosted projects into the Collection of Collections. When you go to the Browse page, and type "Wisconsin" in the search box at the top right, you'll retrieve a list of 36 collections. This list contains digital collections cataloged by a variety of CONTENTdm license holders in Wisconsin. For Wisconsin Heritage Online collections hosted by the Milwaukee Public Library (WHO-hosted), there are records for Digital Museum of the Portage, South Wood County Historical Corporation, Richland County Digital History Room and Preservation Racine, Inc., and Blanchardville Local History Publications. We are adding all the WHO-hosted collections over the next few months.

The InfoSoup Memory Project

Contributed by Bradley Shipps, Outagamie Waupaca Library System The Outagamie Waupaca Library System (OWLS) is using CONTENTdm to provide access to the wealth of local history resources available in OWLSnet member libraries through the [InfoSoup Memory Project](#).

So far, the Appleton Public Library, Clintonville Public Library, and Kaukauna Public Library have added collections to the InfoSoup Memory Project, and staff and volunteers from more than ten libraries have attended training sessions to learn how.

Recent additions to the collection include three issues of the Clintonville Town Talk newspaper from 1905, an issue of the Clintonville Times from 1892, an industrial review of Clintonville from 1898, an industrial review of Kaukauna from 1939, and a history of the streets of Kaukauna from 1931.

According to the Clintonville Times of February 19, 1892, "Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Schroeder were agreeably surprised by a party of friends, Tuesday evening," and "Miss Meda Stein from Oshkosh and her sister from Greenville are at home." It seems that Facebook did not invent the status update!

The project is still in its early stages. We hope to add continually photographs and documents from our libraries' collections. Check back often!

Making Your Digital Collection User Friendly

Cataloging and metadata are the topic here! You probably think this won't be user friendly. But, I do hope it will be. I'm highlighting two Wisconsin Heritage Online collections in this article. The Richland County History Room has done a magnificent job of creating and using controlled vocabulary lists and a general established subject heading tool to make their image collection both orderly and searchable. The Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database uses a different subject heading thesaurus and a thorough description of the item to make the collection material highly retrievable.

The [Richland County History Room](#), part of the Brewer Public Library, Richland Center, has been featured in a past newsletter. They are building a growing collection of photographs and postcards recording the history of Richland County. History Room staffer Crystal Foley spent several weeks preparing lists of reusable words and phrases to use in cataloging the images. She entered information about each image into Excel, using dropdown lists of her prepared controlled vocabulary. If you're wondering what this means, I'll explain. Since all of her material is from or relates to Richland County, she prepared a list of township names as well as a list of villages and towns. She also prepared a list of family names since much of the material in the Richland County History Room has been donated by local families. She cross-checked family name spellings, as well as given names for identifying people in the photographs. Since she had been working on cataloging the photographs for a couple of years, she also prepared a list of local subject terms. All of these lists, simply typed and saved as unformatted text files, took some time to compose as well as to verify spelling, but once completed, oh, the time they save! Since she added the lists to her Excel spreadsheet as a dropdown list, when she catalogs she needs only to type the first two or three characters and the list pops up. She doesn't need to worry about spelling, or about typing mistakes. Other people too can enter data since the information that is most used is readily available. In fact, students from a history class at UW-Richland regularly work on cataloging the images.

Controlled vocabulary means that for Crystal's project the words and phrases were chosen specifically and then applied without variation. Use of controlled vocabulary applied lists prevents misspellings and variations in terms. In the second project, the [Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database](#), Emily Pfothenauer also made use of a standard controlled vocabulary. In addition, she thoroughly described, in a free text field, the images she added to the database. The use of standardized language, controlled vocabulary, allows items in the same or different collections to be brought together when a researcher enters a search. In many content management systems those controlled terms are highlighted in the data record, so a researcher can click on terms and retrieve more or fewer items easily. On the other hand, complete description in an uncontrolled field area allows people to use natural language and retrieve something in a search. Standards terms used in the record, but unfamiliar to the researcher can be used to expand the retrieved items.

I've been teasing Emily that no matter what search I enter into the Wisconsin Heritage Online search box, whether I search beer, or cows, or lions, or cheese, I always retrieve one or more item from the decorative arts database. Emily says this is because material culture is woven into every aspect of life. I say it's because she took the time to enter into the descriptive record about each item all she knew about it, making it possible for people to search anything they know about their topic and get something back.

HeritageQuest Online **Update Coming Soon—Periodical Source Index (PERSI)**

The Periodical Source Index (PERSI) published by the Allen County Public Library, is recognized as the most comprehensive index of genealogy and local history periodicals published since 1800. PERSI contains more than 2.2 million articles from more than 6,600 journals. In December 2010, an additional 164,000 new article citations will be added to PERSI.

FamilySearch News

Familysearch news compiled from the Ancestry Insider blog. The Ancestry Insider is the blog of a gentleman who focuses on Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org.

FamilySearch in a Corner

As I explain in my charter, FamilySearch releases a lot of information to the public, but only in out of the way corners. That's where I come in. I try to be in those corners. This past weekend one of those corners happened to be the Salt Lake Family History Expo (editor's note: the weekend of August 27th, 2010; (I told a coworker that attending Ron Tanner's presentations is the only way a FamilySearch employee can find out what FamilySearch is working on. But I digress...)).

Here's the new news:

- Records from Record Search are being transferred to the Historical Records area of the FamilySearch Beta. The data transfer, containing 447 collections and 600 million names, should be completed by the end of the month. (We all assumed he meant September.)
- Historical records from the current www.familysearch.org will be transferred after that.
- All new collections will go directly to the FamilySearch Beta.
- Ancestor discussions were recently added to the new FamilySearch tree. The length of discussions will soon increase from the current limitation of 500 characters.
- The filtering of Historical Records search results will be improved soon, along the lines of Record Search.
- The Family History Library Catalog search on FamilySearch Beta will be dramatically improved by the end of September.
- Disputes can no longer be added to the FamilySearch Tree. Soon, all the disputes on an ancestor will be moved into a discussion called "Legacy Disputes" and deleted from details.
- The new FamilySearch Asia rollout is set for a couple of months from now. Tanner showed us a photograph of the rollout map and told us we could see the original by visiting FamilySearch headquarters in the Joseph Smith Memorial Building in Salt Lake City. Ride the elevator to the 4th floor. The map is in the lobby.
- beta.familysearch.org will replace the current www.familysearch.org website by the end of this year. The new website brings together FamilySearch Beta, RecordSearch Pilot, the Wiki, FamilySearch Indexing, Forums, the Family History Library Catalog, and all other collections and content from the current www.familysearch.org. Specialized websites such as consultant.familysearch.org (editor's note: this appears to only be for members of the Mormon church) will continue to be separate.
- The general public can begin preparing for access to the new FamilySearch Tree by registering now for an account on the FamilySearch Beta. When the Tree is ready, they will be given access using that same account.
- Some time after this year the new FamilySearch Tree will become "Family Tree" on the new website.

The Ultimate Future

Tanner reiterated his vision for the future of the new FamilySearch Tree. However, changing

product managers—generally considered a healthy practice—can change the course of a product. Just three weeks ago product assignments were adjusted, giving Tanner complete responsibility for the Tree.

Tanner admitted that the current design didn't go far enough from changing "my tree" and "your tree" into "our tree" since it maintains "my conclusion" and "your conclusion." The many alternatives that exist today under the Details page will be pulled out. In their place, the system will have links to the original sources of the information. These include Ancestral File, Pedigree Resource File, and the other sources used to populate the Tree.

The tree will allow only one conclusion. This will solve the IOUS problem that slows down the system and makes it impossible to merge all copies of a person. "Combine and Separate" will be replaced with "Merge." I've stated before that I don't think FamilySearch has any corporate memory in product management. It remains to be seen if Tanner can avoid Merge pitfalls.

Tanner's future direction is to change the Tree so that anyone can correct it. Anyone can contribute to it. Anyone can contribute artifacts to it. Anyone can change the information that you contributed to the Tree—maybe for the better. When someone changes your contribution, you'll be notified and given the ability to undo the change. Ancestor Discussions will allow contact with others.

Tanner said his pet feature was Community Requests. You can post a request for a volunteer to lookup a record, take a gravestone picture, or translate a language you don't read.

Most importantly, his stated goal for the Family Tree is that it be so genealogically correct that even the best of genealogists will want to use it.

Tanner was asked what the timeline was for these features. "Before we die or slightly thereafter," he quipped, artfully avoiding being painted into a corner. Stay tuned...

New FamilySearch Rollout

I spoke with a member of the new FamilySearch (NFS) Tree hardware team the other morning about the rollout. His team is looking forward to it with great excitement and trepidation. FamilySearch really has no way to know exactly how much the general public will load the system.

That is why the Tree must be rolled out gradually. Rather than temple district, the rollout will probably start with a few, select invitations. Ron Tanner didn't comment on the rollout method at the Family History Expo, but I seem to someone saying publicly that that would begin this year with just a few targeted invitations. After that, I'm guessing that FamilySearch will do something along the lines of Google's rollout of Gmail.

As the capacity of Gmail increased, Google gave some existing users a few invitations that could be given to friends. If Gmail remained stable with the additional users, more invitations were distributed among current users. In this way Google had great control of the speed of the rollout. That is something that FamilySearch needs as well.

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 150th 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 2nd,

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 6th, and 7th 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.

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
Waukesha

Watch the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society's website at www.wsgs.org for more details and registration information.

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/>. Spring offerings are not yet set up as of this writing, but check back again soon!

We encourage library staff to look at the Ancestry classes especially. 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.

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

Jan. 7, 2011 at San Diego, CA

ALA Midwinter Librarian's Day Pre-Conference

"[Genealogy Happens!](#)" at the Genealogy Reference Desk sponsored by RUSA and ProQuest

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/meetings/index.cfm#rusa>

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

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

<http://www.wsgs.org/>



Sept. 6-11, 2011 Springfield, IL

Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference

Oct. 15, 2011 at Waukesha, WI

WSGS fall 2011 seminar

<http://www.wsgs.org/>

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



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WIGLHR Officers 2010

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