



THE GREEN COUNTY GENEALOGIST

Calendar

Meetings

Meetings are held at the Monroe, WI Public Library at 10:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month.

May 5 Annual Meeting - lunch - 2 programs - Display by Sons of Norway
See website for more details. Registration and prepayment of \$10 required for lunch by April 29. (1) **Sandy Wille's 2017 Trip to Norway** and (2) **"The Coffin Ships: Death on the Ocean Crossing and One Family's Story"** - Glenn Borreson.

May tbd Green's Prairie Cemetery Walk given by **David Greene & Tom Mitchell** for GCGS members

June 2 Dairy By Design: the Transition to Dairying in the Badger State- **Dave Driscoll** of Wisconsin State Historical Society will address the fact that Wisconsin became the Dairy State not by fate or accident, but by the sustained actions of dedicated promoters and risk-taking farmers over several decades. The results transformed the economy of the state and the lives of Wisconsin farmers.

July 7 Taverns, Trinkets, & Tidbits - Dr. Lance Sathoff will discuss the history of Monroe's Taverns and Bars

August 4 Swiss Cemetery Walk Field Trip details TBD



Meetings—contd.

September 1 Early Cheesemaking in Green County – Donna Douglas from the National Historic Cheesemaking Center will share the history of cheesemaking in Green County.

October 6 Preserving Family Treasures – Katie Mullen Preservation Coordinator Wisconsin Historical Society

November 3 Funeral Homes and Family History: They Are Dying to Meet You! – Daniel Earl –webinar

December 1 Members Show & Share – Christmas/holiday memories and family traditions – favorite ornaments or gifts from the past or any other family heirloom or story.

SAVE!!!

Please save your NAME BRAND ink cartridges!!!

We have received notice that we are able to be reimbursed for Name Brand cartridges Only.

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President's Column.

Hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter Spring will actually have arrived weather wise. We all are looking forward to warmer weather and the opportunity for genealogy excursions whether it's a trip to our ancestors' homes or a visit to a local cemetery. In the meantime, after you have shoveled away the snow, have you considered what weather storms your ancestors experienced? Did they live through a tornado or hurricane or maybe it was the Dust Bowl? What was it like for them?

My great-great grandfather had emigrated from Norway in 1854, settled in Lafayette County and married in 1858. They farmed and raised their family of eight children in Wiota Township. So I checked to see if they experienced any historical weather events.

October 16, 1880 there swept down on the state of Wisconsin a terrific storm of snow and sleet, with winds up to 70 miles per hour. The mid-fall blizzard dropped several inches of snow stalling hundreds of trains, preventing crops from being harvested and causing untold suffering with its zero weather. The storm was the forerunner of the winter of the big snow which came in early March. For many years after events were dated from "the year of the big snow."

How many crops would my great-great grandfather have lost? What kind of hardship did that cause for his family? All eight children, ages 2-22, were still living at home. More snow was yet to come.

Everyone was already storm beleaguered from the early fall blizzard and just days earlier on February 26 and 27 a major storm swept the area with rain, thunderstorms and snow drifting into piles from three to ten feet and when the temperatures plummeted they were wrapped in ice. I imagine the Hanson family is working to tunnel out to take care of their farm animals and reach their wood

President's Column. —contd

supply. Then on the evening of March 2 the snow began to fall. The Wisconsin State Journal reported, "All night long air filled with huge flakes which were piled up into drifts as soon as they fell." Strong winds and heavy snow continued without interruption for 24 hours. The blizzard stopped to catch its breath before starting up again. When it ended, snow drifts had blown 40 feet high and covered trees growing in low places up to their tips. Streams, roads, and small buildings had completely disappeared from view. Two to four feet of snow had fallen. What did it look like on this small Wisconsin homestead? Farm homes were buried to their roofs. Farmers had to tunnel to their barns and melt the snow in tubs for water to give to the cattle. Lamps and lanterns had to be used all day long because windows were covered with snow. Roaring fires had to be kept burning and farmers dug down to their rail fences for additional supply of fuel. Food supplies ran low because of the loss of crops from the mid fall blizzard. The snow crusted so solid that a sleigh sailed over fences and new routes were created to reach town.

My ancestors survived the "winter of big snow" so I have little to complain about an April snowstorm that dumped a "few inches". And it gives me time to go digging for those storms that add to understanding my ancestor's life in the 1800's. So.....Happy Storm Hunting!

Ginny Gerber

Web Page Statistics

Here are some web page statistics to give you an idea how our website is being used. We average about 500 unique visits to our web page a week and they view about 1250 pages.

Stats for month: March 18 – April 15

Unique visits per day: 54 – 102

Page visits per day: 81 – 281

Top 5 pages visited: Obituaries, Townships, Births-Deaths-Marriages, Photo Gallery, and Cemeteries.

116 people have contacted us through the website since its inception.

Shelf Linings

Our research center has a problem!! We are almost out of space for our family genealogies. We keep moving books and trying to reorganize to make the all fit. What a great problem to have. I am amazed at the generosity of family genealogists and historians. Keep up the good work.

We have rearranged some of the categories and have taken a look at some things that aren't being used. By doing this, we will have room for all genealogies and yours too, if you would like to share a copy of your research.

Keeping the local material user friendly is a must. While our winter has been quiet for visitors, it is getting busier and we want to be able to help those that visit.

Our volunteers at home have been busy indexing marriage records, town records, Luchsinger Monument records and just recently we have added a volunteer to extract items from the Glancing Back series in the earlier Monroe Times. These indexes are then put on the web for you to look at and decide if you need to contact us further. If you haven't taken a look at what is already on the website, I hope you take a few minutes to do so.

We are happy to announce that those that have donated used cartridges, it has paid off. We received a very nice check for all the name brand cartridges and toner sent in.

Please continue to save name brand cartridges and toner.

Thanks to all of the volunteers. We have about 20 people that do some kind of volunteering in the library and out. Our society could not operate without the generosity of you.

Shelf Linings—contd

Feel free to contact me if there is something you might like in the library for research. We have many resources on how to, State helps, German resources and don't forget that we have a large collection of Rock and Lafayette books as well

Happy searching,

Donna Kjendlie

Librarian

Trail's Mix

By: **Debra Bailey Trail**

While I sit and contemplate on the changes in my life presently (getting divorced after nearly 24 yrs of marriage and 4 yrs together prior) I think of all the people who are currently there for me and those that have been over my life. This made me think...shouldn't we include short stories about the people that were in our lives (not just family but the family we chose for ourselves, aka Our Friends).

And besides the people in our lives, what about our pets. Or special hobby you have.

Maybe we can ask others on our family tree to share some stories about events in their life, friends, pets, etc. It certainly would make our stories even more personal. So start writing!!

Here's hoping by the time you get this newsletter we have all (wherever we are) gotten our "TRUE" spring weather.



2018 Membership Dues

It's that time of year. Your 2018 dues will be due Dec 31, 2017. The dues are \$15 for an emailed newsletter and \$22 if you want postal newsletter.

If you need membership form there is one at the end of this newsletter.

Railroads - April 7 Meeting Topic

By: Sharon Mitchell

Monroe retired teacher Paul Schoenike entertained us with facts and stories about the railroads. A model railroader, he started collecting trains at birth when the doctor gave him his first train. He told us the railroad does not sustain itself, but depends on the landscape through which it runs. The railroad company owns the land the railroad runs on. It is private land, not public land. They pay taxes on the land and the rails. This is one reason rails are pulled when a route is abandoned. The railroad's purpose is to haul product (or people) from one place to another. The landscape may present challenges to the building of the railroad requiring bridges, tunnels, etc.

Holding the train together was one of the first challenges. At first trains were held together by chain couplers. Passengers would jump out and try to slow down the cars. The next type of coupler was the link and pin. The engineer could not see the trainman or how far apart the cars were while trying to connect. If the trainman had all his fingers, he was a rookie. Now the two pieces of the automatic coupler fit together and lock. Trains use air pressure to stop them. Air pressure builds up as

Railroads—contd

as the trains sit and is stored. As the brakes are applied, the pressure that held them back is released and stored pressure works the brakes.

The rail right of way is made up first of ballast (rough rock). Then come the ties which absorb the weight and hold the tracks. The tie plates hold the rails to the ties. Rails are measured by pounds per yard (60#, 90#, 120#). There are 2700 ties per mile. Standard gauge track rails are 4 feet 8 1/2 inches apart. This measurement goes back to Roman days when chariots were pulled by a pair of horses. Steam engines (early 1800's) heated water with wood, oil, or coal. The piston was forced back and forth by the steam. They needed round houses to turn around. Engines now can go either direction. They may be found in the front, back, and/or middle of the trains. The current diesel engines work an electric generator. The fuel tanks are underneath and hold up to 5000 gallons of fuel. The engines can take on 300 gallons per minute and use up to 200 gallons per hour when wide open. Urban areas have had electric trains that run on a pentagram connection to overhead electric wire or on a third electrified rail between the other two.

Rail cars are made for particular purposes. The spine car made for lumber must be loaded and unloaded both sides at once to prevent it from tipping. The gondola cars are multipurpose. The refrigerator cars prevent food spoilage. The hopper cars are varying lengths depending on the weight of the cargo. The caboose was the office/home for the brakemen and is now a thing of the past. When it was time for the train to stop, the brakemen would climb to the roof of the cars and apply the brakes on each – running down the train.

Contd.....

Railroads—contd

Originally the Appalachian Mountains “contained” the colonies as transportation over them was difficult. In 1803-1805 the Lewis & Clark Expedition walked and used water travel covering 17 miles on a fast day. The Erie Canal opened up faster travel and a reliable route for merchandise transportation and movement west.

Chicago earned the title of “Railroad Capital of America.” Its central location and access to Lake Michigan connected it to several industries such as lumber. Open land to the west was available for homesteads. The first railroad was the Galena and Chicago Union chartered in 1836 to bring ore out from the lead mines. Railroads hauled grain and livestock helping Chicago develop grain marketing and meat packing industries. As the U.S. expanded, rail-related companies established their headquarters in Chicago and eastern rails their western terminals. Today more railroads still come in and go out of Chicago than any other city. Chicago developed a large interurban rail system to bring workers into the city for jobs from outlying communities. Chicago has more street-level crossings than any other city which causes traffic delays at times.

In the past rails brought Monroe coal, grain for the brewery, lumber for furniture, and paper for Moore Business forms. Now it brings corn for the ethanol plant. The used corn goes out to be mixed in animal feed. Smokey Row got its name from the train smoke loading cheese and unloading lumber. Products from Minhas still ride the rails, but first are loaded into containers onto semis to be driven to Chicago and then put on flatbed railcars. 85% of these go to Calgary, Alberta. Paul commented that private companies wanting to build railroads find it

Railroads—contd

very difficult because they can't use eminent domain to acquire land.

To learn more about the railroads and their employment records, visit Cyndi's list and Ancestry and FamilySearch wikis. More information can be found in our Research Center Subject Files.

MAC Features Cuttings by Elda and Linda Schiesser

By: Sharon Mitchell

An opening reception for the “Scherenschnitte: A Swiss Folk Art” exhibit by Elda and Linda Schiesser was held April 13 in Monroe Art Center. GCGS member Linda Schiesser gave the gallery talk about the Scherenschnitte (paper cuttings) that she and her mother had designed. Included in the exhibit are the first large cuttings by Elda (1986) and Linda (2017) as well as others showing a variety of designs. The exhibit continues until June 8.

Scherenschnitte (pronounced Sher-an-schnit-uh) is an old Swiss folk art involving the use of a tiny scissor and piece of paper. Elda and Linda were introduced to scherenschnitte on their 1985 visit to Switzerland where they bought a book (written in German) about it. Since then they taught themselves and have shared the art and Swiss culture with others at festivals, in publications, and in classes. Elda's work has been exhibited in Wisconsin, nationally, and internationally. Elda did her last cutting a couple of years ago. It is exhibited at Turner Hall which is the subject. We lost a talented member last November when Elda died just a few months short of 100 years old. Be sure to visit the exhibit before June 8 to see the intricate cuttings done by two of our members. The exhibit is in the Wellington and Muranyl Galleries of the Monroe Art Center located at 1315 11th St. in Monroe, WI. These galleries are in the new addition of the Art Center.

Fraternal Societies Topic of March Meeting

On March 3, we watched an NEHGS webinar given by Rhonda McClure. She told us clues to discovering if our ancestors belonged to a fraternal organization. There were several reasons our ancestors joined one of these societies. Some did it for social reasons, others for the support network and insurance, some to do service for others, and others as a tie to old ways or the old country. Fraternal organizations differ from lineage societies in that fraternal organizations focus on ethnicity, occupations, etc. and except for auxiliary organizations, there is no familial relations required. Lineage societies focus on history and members are required to prove descent or relationship to a qualifying ancestor.

There are many different fraternal organizations. Some are familiar to most of us such as the Masons, Knights of Columbus, Odd Fellows, Lions, and Kiwanis. Others may no longer exist or have changed names. Many are referred to by acronyms such as IOOF (Independent Order of Odd Fellows – the American branch of the Odd Fellows.) Clues to an ancestor being a member of a fraternal organization are often found in jewelry, photos, newspaper articles including obituaries, and fraternal symbols found on grave-stones. Online old catalogs that have jewelry may help identify symbols found in a jewelry box.

To find the lodge he belonged to, look in city directories, published county/town histories, society websites newspapers. Start at the local level first, then the state level, and finally the national level. Some records may be found in the Family History Library, other libraries and archives, or university libraries and manuscript

Fraternal Societies—contd

collections. Records of groups that offer death benefits may supply death information beneficiaries, and other information. Records of fraternal organizations are considered private and they do not need to share them. Rhonda told us interesting facts about the various societies. For example, The Improved Order of Red Men was founded in Baltimore in 1834. Their aim is “to perpetuated the beautiful legends and traditions of a vanishing race...,” however, it wasn’t until 1974 the “all white” clause was removed. Free Masons were originally formed by operative (stone working) masons in the fourteenth century in England. “Accepted” masonry was founded in the 1600’s but didn’t become truly active until the 1700’s. The organization varies by country and has had breaks.

Use the catalog search in FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com and their wikis to learn more. Google searches can be used to learn more about the societies and archives that may contain their records. The handout and other information regarding fraternal organizations is located in the subject file in the Research Center.

By:
Sharon Mitchell

See Photos of our Fraternal Society Display on next page.



Fraternal Society Memorabilia Display



The Flood of 1915

By Christine Spencer

(Remembrance of my father, who was in grade school at the time)

September, 1915, the opening day for the Albany Public School, was also the day of the Flood of 1915. I have been told we had torrential rains for several days, causing the high water which overran the levee. The flood pursued a course down Mechanic Street and east to the hill. I am estimating twenty-seven homes were flooded plus Cleveland's Blacksmith Shop and Nick Webb's dray barn. It returned to the main streams due to the hill on State Street and the junction of Water Street.

Both of my grandparent's homes were severely damaged. We lived at 221 South Mechanic Street and the water came up to our second step front door and two feet in the basement. The old iron bridge had to be checked at all times, especially the end footings. The water level was only eight to ten feet below the bridge.

I had walked to school that morning. I was eight years old and in the second grade at the old yellow brick school. Our teacher was Miss Hazel Leitel and our classroom housed the beginners, now called Kindergarten. They had no desks, just a corner and floor area. The first and second graders had desks.

My return home was considerably different. All children living west of the flood were ferried across the flooded area of Main Street by Baron's livery bus pulled by two white horses and driven by Mr. Ed Dooley, who later chauffeured a Model T taxi.

The bus crossed and re-crossed Main Street taking about ten children per trip. Main Street was level with the property owners on both sides and not built up as it is today.

The Flood of 1915—contd

I have several photographs of the flood taken by my father. They are yellow and faded but show as it covered that part of Albany, sometimes referred to as the Valley. I will only describe three photos now. One shows some people in a row boat on Mechanic Street. I assume they were being taken from their home to safety. Another shows the water level up to the middle of the windows—first floor level. The third shows little George Roberts and his mother walking to the drug store. The water was up to the doors of the Town Hall.

My uncle, Sid Tilley, wrote about the flood: Dad sent me up and down Mechanic Street, rapping on doors and telling people, "get out of your house and go up to the Hill". The levee broke about 1:00 a.m. It flooded all our street. We had three feet of water on our floors for about one day and until noon the next. When the water went down, there was at least two inches of mud on the floor. I assume this was true of all homes flooded.



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Remembrance of my father, born in 1907.

By: Christine Spencer

How well I remember the winter mornings at our residence on Mechanic Street. First you had to take hot water in a tea kettle out to the pump and pour it onto the pump to unfreeze it. We needed about two pails of water brought in. I did this twice daily. Other twice daily chores included making sure the kerosene jug had contents and was corked with a corn cob. Then cobs or kindling had to be ready for the kitchen range. Also, one coal scuttle of soft coal had to be mixed with wood chunks for the range. This mixture was for heat, and for baking only wood was used. Next, two scuttles of hard coal for the hard coal burner in the living room. And then, emptying those awful ashes. But what a comfort that nickel-plated hard coal burner was to me as a small boy. From my bedroom, on a cold winter's night, I would watch the blue, yellow and red flames blazing in that stove. Watching those colorful flames flickering in the stove and hearing our Grandfather's clock tick-tock and striking the hour, what a wonderful entrance to a boy's slumberland. Mother always kept the icing glass panes clear of any coating, using vinegar and water once a day to clean them.

And now back to the chores. It was necessary that kitchens of our day have two pails of hard water, one for drinking and the other for incidentals. The soft water in the range reservoir was too precious to be used for usual purposes. When our outdoor jobs were complete we had to check the reservoir for soft water and fill it from the kitchen cistern pump.

Potatoes also bring back a memory of another chore. In late summer or early fall, we usually harvested our potato crop. Dad planted most of our garden in potatoes. When the vines had dried, Dad would get out the spading fork and say "son, you get the pails".

Remembrance—contd

Now pails meant picking up potatoes and that, my dear friend, is one back breaking chore. Often school was closed for two days so boys and girls could help harvest the area potato crop.

There were many summer chores like getting the ice box ready for the iceman, cutting the lawn with a hand mower, weeding the garden and others. On occasion, when company was expected, there was another chore mother asked me to do. "Son, would you check on the toilet paper in the outhouse. And for pity's sake close the Sears Roebuck catalog. It always seems to be opened to the section showing ladies undergarments".



Research Center Location & Hours

We are located on the lower level of Monroe Public Library, 925 16th Ave., Monroe, WI.

Hours:

Tuesday & third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First Saturday of the month 1 pm to 3 pm

Oct. thru May

Friday 1 pm to 4 pm June thru Sept.

Other times available by appointment. Call 608-328-7436

GREEN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Quantity	Publication	CD	Book
	1852 Militia Lists		\$5
	Naturalization Book One CD only	\$15	
	1873 Green County Atlas with index	\$15	\$15
	1877 History of Green County, WI.,		\$30
	1877 History of Green County, WI., Index only		\$15
	1884 Green County History CD only	\$15	
	1885 Monroe City Directory	\$15	\$15
	1913 Commemorative History of Green Co Bios and Index EACH Vol		\$30
	1913 Commemorative History Of Green County Bios and Index 2 vol		\$55
	Prairie Farmer's Reliable Directory of Farmers & Breeders of Green County, WI 1919		\$12.50
	2000-2005 Monroe Times Obituaries	\$15	
	Green Co Genealogical Newsletters 2001-2012 with Index coming soon	\$15	
	Juda Facts and Photos reprinted from original 1975 version and includes index		\$10
	CEMETERIES		
	Albany Township Cemeteries	\$15	\$20
	Adam Township Cemeteries	\$15	\$20
	Cadiz Township Cemeteries, revised edition 2013	\$15	\$15
	Calvary, Old Calvary, Poor Farm Cemeteries	\$15	\$25
	Clarno Cemetery Transcriptions	\$15	\$15
	Exeter Cemetery Transcriptions		\$15
	Greenwood Cemetery – Brodhead inscriptions	\$15	\$35
	Greenwood Cemetery, Monroe inscriptions	\$15	\$35
	Lewis-Jordan Cemeteries	\$15	\$15
	Monroe-Washington Twnshp Cemeteries – transcriptions	\$15	\$15
	Mt. Hope Cemetery Photos - Spring Grove tnsHP	\$15	\$35
	Mt Pleasant Township Cemeteries- Highland, Zwinglii, Truax, Trumpy	\$15	\$20
	Mt Vernon Cemetery – Juda	\$15	\$20
	Spring Grove Cemeteries-Transcriptions	\$15	\$15
	Spring Grove Township Cemeteries, Photos	\$15	\$25
	Twin Grove Cemetery, Photos, Jefferson Tnsp	\$15	\$25
	Union/Oakley Cemetery Photos	\$15	\$35

Shipping and handling—CD's are \$3 Books are \$3 for 1st book and \$2 for each additional

Send check to Green County Genealogical Society, 925 16th Ave, Monroe, WI 53566 Enter quantity you want in quantity col.

Annual membership is \$15.00 per year and entitles members to 10% discounts on publications. Year runs from Jan 1-Dec 31. If you wish hard copy, please remit \$22.00 to cover postage.

NAME	ADDRESS
PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Total book price	Amount paid \$
Membership	Amount paid \$
DATE Cash or check #??	Total amount paid \$

MEMBERSHIP FORM

We invite you to join us.

Name _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone No. _____

Can we print your name in the newsletter as new member? _____

This is a _____ Renewal _____ New _____ Sponsored Membership

I would like to give an additional donation of \$ _____

What topics are you interested in learning about? _____

Your surnames _____

Membership Fee \$15.00 (EMAILED NEWSLETTER) \$22.00 (POSTAL NEWSLETTER)

CGGS Meeting and Contact Information:

info@greencogenealogywi.org

Website: <http://www.greencogenealogywi.org/>

Meetings are at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month. They are usually held in the Monroe Public Library located at 925-16th Ave. Monroe, WI. We are in the community meeting room on the second floor.

CGGS OFFICERS

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Sargent at Arms—Jerry Stabler

At Large—Bill Holland, Sandy Wille, Nita Halverson



**Green County Genealogical Society Research Center
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Monroe, WI 53566**

**Hours Tues and 3rd Sat 10-3
1st Sat 1-3 other times by appt 608-921-1537 (Donna Long Kjendlie)**

**WEBSITE: <http://www.greencogenealogywi.org/>
EMAIL: info@greencogenealogywi.org**

Contributions to Green County Genealogical Society, Inc. are deductible under section 170 of the IRS code. We are now a 501(c)3 organization. Please keep us in mind if you have articles, memorabilia, donations or other gifts in kind.

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