



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.

All meetings thru December have been cancelled due to CoVid 19 restrictions. Stay healthy.

Credit Card Payments

We are now able to take Credit Card payments. Currently we can take credit card payments for memberships, workshops, and some publications. We will be working over the next couple of months to make more of our products available for credit card purchase. We are also able to receive credit card payments for research records also by sending an invoice by which credit card payment can be made. We also will be taking credit card payments at the research center/ meetings with a terminal. We are excited to provide this service to our members and researchers.

Green County Surnames List

We are updating the surname listing on the web. If you have Green County surnames and would like to add yours, please send us the information to :

info@greencogenealogywi.org with the header Surnames. Be sure to check to make sure you are not already on the list.

Research Center Hours

Due to Covid 19 restrictions these are our hours and requirements.

The Green County Genealogical Society Research Center will be open to researchers by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**.

- Appointments available on Mondays 10:30 am – 3:00 pm (Please consider that if maximum capacity is met you will have to wait for entrance to the Library)
- Call Bill Holland (608) 325-2990 to schedule appointment
- Appointments on other days would be dependent on volunteer staff availability. No appointments on Tuesdays.
- Masks Required (We will have disposable masks available)
- Door to Research Center will be locked. Please knock for entry.
- Bring your own pens, pencils, paper, etc.



Index

Calendar	Page 1
President's Column	Page 2
Shelf's Linings	Page 4
Trail's Mix	Page 2
Publications	Page 8
Membership Form	Page 9

President's Message

I hope all of you have not grown too weary of this Covid year. As the number of cases continue to rise in Green County and all of Wisconsin now is not the time to let your guard down. As I write this the School District of Monroe has gone to all virtual learning. Because the Library is part of the school district that means the library closes when the schools are all virtual and our Research Center is closed. Hopefully this is a temporary situation and by the time you have received this newsletter we are open again. Please watch our Facebook Page and Website for the current status of the Center.

We have several books that are either duplicates or not needed in our library at the Center. These books are available to you for a donation. The list is included in this newsletter. If you would like to see a picture of the cover of the book please contact me at ginny.gerber@gmail.com and I can email you the picture. Don't wait too long if you are interested as we will not be keeping these books beyond the early part of next year.

NEW FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP: The board decided that we would like to offer our members the benefit of access to Newspaper Archives which is a newspaper subscription site. Another article tells you how you can access this site. Our Members Only website page has a link to all the information. Please remember this is a member benefit and not meant to be shared outside of the membership.

Since we are also unable to meet as members, the board voted to retain our current officers and board members for the year 2021. We look forward to the time when we can resume meetings and life is not so shut down. It may be a new normal but hopefully pandemic free.

Then one of our saddest moments has been the loss of our member and friend

President's Message—contd

Sharon Mitchell. Her obituary is included in this newsletter. Sharon was very involved with our program planning, a face we always saw at our meetings or workshops and an author of many of our newsletter articles. She is very much missed! If you would like to send a memorial in remembrance of Sharon it may be sent to our mailing address or you may use the Online Donation link on the home page of our website if it is \$100 or less. In the future we will share how we are going to honor Sharon's memory.

As you continue your genealogy research, please share your stories with us! This last month the cousin I had made contact with last year turned 104! We were disappointed we could not share in her birthday celebration but we are hoping to share her 105th birthday! Stay strong and healthy!

Ginny Gerber

Trail's Mix

I will make this short, Just want to remind everyone to make the very best of our upcoming holiday season under Covid 19. If you are like me maybe you are even writing up some of your personal experiences during Covid 19 so people in future will understand. I've even put a photo of myself wearing a mask (and any family member that has sent one) in our family tree. So go forth and enjoy life.



In Memory of:

Sharon Lea (Small) Mitchell



age 70 of McConnell, Stephenson County, Illinois, passed away Sunday, September 6, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer at her home surrounded by her family. She was born on

March 17, 1950 in Libertyville, Lake County, Illinois, the daughter of Earl Berton and Vera Letitia (Elliott) Small. She graduated from Libertyville High School in 1968 and received her Bachelor's degree in Business from Columbia College. Sharon married Gilbert Ernest Mitchell on February 28, 1970 in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Libertyville, Illinois. She moved from Lake County, IL to Stephenson County, IL in September 1979. While she was staying home to raise her children, she was involved in PTO, 4-H, Home Extension, church women's groups, and Girl Scouts, and taught catechism at St. Joseph's Church in Lena, IL. Later she retired from the Human Resources department of the Monroe Clinic and Hospital in 2006 after 14 years employment. Sharon was always willing to help local charities or anyone else needing assistance.

Her memberships included St. Vincent de Paul Society, Audubon Societies, the Mock Orange Home Extension Group, genealogical societies, and tree farm associations. She was program coordinator for the Green County Genealogical Society, and has been an active member of St. Victor's Church (St. Clare of Assisi Parish) in

In Memory of: contd.

Monroe, WI. Her hobbies included genealogy, photography, scrapbooking, gardening, wildlife, and traveling with her husband and granddaughter.

Sharon is survived by her husband, Gilbert of McConnell, IL; daughter Julie (David) Prindle of Orangeville; granddaughter, Megan Davis of Orangeville, IL; sister, Susan (John) McCormick of Grayslake, IL; many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her father in 1996, her mother in 2004, son Michael John in 1971, and daughter Pamela Ann in 2004.

An immediate family only (due to the pandemic) memorial service will be held at St. Victor's Catholic Church in Monroe, WI with Monsignor Larry Bakke presiding. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, also in Monroe, WI. Shriner Hager Gohlke Funeral Home is assisting the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be donated in Sharon's name to St. Clare of Assisi Parish, Green County Genealogical Society or a charity of your choice.

The family would like to thank St. Clare of Assisi Parish, the Monroe Clinic Hospice, and all other friends and family members for your loving support.

Notes from Newsletter Editor:

Living in Washington State I never had the opportunity to meet Sharon in person but I always knew if I needed stuff for newsletter, Sharon could manage to find stuff. There were times when I felt the whole newsletter was her articles about events and happenings. Sharon, I will miss our contact and thank you so much for all your help.

Debra Bailey Trail

Newspaper Archives for Members

The board has made Newspaper Archives available to our membership. This is a subscription Newspaper site and is of great savings to our membership.

The archives contain more than 15,685+ different Newspaper titles from every US state and twenty-eight other countries around the world. Every newspaper in the archive is fully searchable by keyword, date, place, and title making it easy for you to quickly see if they have the article you're seeking.

To access the site please go to our Membership Only page at our website: <https://www.greencogenealogywi.org/401/login.php?redirect=/members-only.html>

Scroll down to Member Only Resources and click the Newspaper Archives link. All login information is available there.

Please remember this is a member benefit and do not share information outside of our membership. Thank you.

Donations through AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets you enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the eligible charitable organization of your choice (that's us – Green County Genealogical Society).



Shelf Linings

We enjoyed a nice run of volunteering until this past week (October 15th) when once again the library was shut down. This time, we were a little more prepared. We will be able to get into our center if necessary.

While we were working as volunteers, much was accomplished.

Sherry is almost done clipping and trimming articles that have been waiting for a long time.

Sandy is busy sorting and filing the surnames

Jean has had a lot of obituaries to sort through and put in our binders

Evelyn and Judy have been keeping up with queries and have enjoyed researching for answers.

Bill is still plugging away at scanning marriages, but taking a break as he tries to get the scanning done for the Sylvester Township records.

Donna has been transferring files from the file cabinets to the shelving units to make more room in the center.

We received a large collection (approx.) 500 photos from Byron Schmid. They are all identified and are from his family lines. I am working on putting them in archival boxes and each one will be sleeved so that researchers are able to look at them.

It has been a challenging year for all. We miss not having meetings.

Most of all, we miss Sharon as she was such a great addition to our membership. When you come downstairs, the first thing you would see is her bulletin board and the display cases that she set up for us. Always there to offer help, and it is greatly missed. We are so greatly for all of the memorials sent in her name and will be thinking of a way to honor her.

Stay safe and healthy and hopefully, next year will bring us our meetings and programs back to us.

Donna Kjendlie

My Father's Accident

J LEWIS ABRAMS

My father was born September 5th, 1900. On April 13, 1930 he was showing off his new Harley Davidson motorcycle and giving rides to family members. He was at the farm where he grew up near Gays Mills, Wisconsin. His nephew, Laurel who was 14 at the time wanted to get on but Laurel's mother jumped on first. Laurel watched as they rode off up the hill. He witnessed them as they came to a curve and he saw the awful accident when the motorcycle was struck by a car coming around the corner. Later there was a lawsuit with family members saying the car was speeding and the driver was drunk but the people in the car claimed the cycle went over the center line. Nothing was ever proven either way. No matter what was said my father lost his right arm up to the shoulder that day and his sister-in-law, Ella died at the scene. My father then survived a 16 mile trip on the back of a pickup truck on a bumpy gravel road on his way to the hospital in Boscobel.

What were some of the effects of that day? Lewis' brother, Charles, lost his wife, Ella, aged 30. Laurel who was 14 lost his mother; his brother Edward who was just 11 was sent to a nursing home for the rest of his life. Edward was a quadriplegic and his father could not care for him by himself. My father who had gone to school to be an auto mechanic could no longer work in that field. Soon after his recovery, Lewis set out on his own and moved to Brodhead, Wisconsin. I believe it was at this time that he met his future wife. She was licensed practical nurse. I believe they met after the accident and she came and took care of him while he was recovering. They were married in 1933 in Rockford, Illinois. Lewis'

My Father's Accident—contd

Lewis' sister and her husband were living nearby in Beloit, Wisconsin. Lewis' grandmother was being cared for by his sister Delia when he moved to Brodhead. Soon after he moved he took over care for his grandmother and she died at his home in 1934, less than 6 months after he was married.

After he lost his arm, Lewis was able to work in Brodhead through Roosevelt's WPA programs. I believe that was one of the key reasons that he moved to Brodhead as this was during the depression and jobs were scarce. He was able to accomplish many things in his life. He built a house for himself and his wife. A few years later he sold that house and bought a 40 acre abandoned farm south of Brodhead where I was raised. On the farm he built a farmhouse around an old one room building. He bought farm implements and started a fruit and vegetable farm; he built a shed, a greenhouse, and structures to operate a stand on the highway. A story told to me illustrates his independence. There was a program to provide aid in case of crop failure. One year he received this aid. The following year when crops were good, he repaid the aid even though it was not required. He worked the farm all his life until his health failed. He taught me the work ethic early in my life. Although I didn't pursue farming for a living, I have worked hard at whatever I have pursued in life.

By George Abrams (Adopted son)

Sources

My father's account of the accident. Interview of Laurel Abrams around 2000. A newspaper article in the Boscobel Dial dated in 1930. Land Abstract record of Brodhead house and farm. Story told to me by Jerry Stabler told to him by Bob Smith from account by Bob's father who was a barber in Brodhead.

HAMMER, SAW AND WORK LICK HOME OWNERSHIP PROBLEM FOR LOCAL MAN

7/25/1940 IR



Louis Abrams built this comfortable residence with a small outlay in cash, but plenty of good hard work.

One way to own a home of your own is to get a hammer and saw and go to work. That is the way Louis Abrams, of Brodhead, figured out his home ownership problem a few years ago. That was in 1936.

With his family Mr. Abrams now owns and occupies his modest but comfortable four room house on a block of land in the southwest part of the city.

Building a house is quite an undertaking for any ordinary man. But, Louis Abrams is no ordinary man. He is one of those fellows who does things despite obstacles and handicaps.

Ten years ago Mr. Abrams was a first class garage mechanic. Sixty dollar weekly paychecks were the rule rather than the exception. He usually was able to get pretty good jobs.

One Sunday he was riding a motorcycle along the highway. An auto came over the crest of a hill. There was an accident that cost Mr. Abrams one arm.

Thereafter garage jobs were hard

to find, for mechanics need both hands. Some pretty lean years followed, but Mr. Abrams was determined to make his own way in the world.

Four years ago he began to build his own home. An old building in the city was to be torn down so Mr. Abrams bought it for around \$140 and went to work. He also bought the block of land on which his home now stands. He made his own cement blocks for the wall and basement.

Out of that he constructed his home, a structure 22 by 30 feet, including four rooms, a clothes closet, full basement and a garage. Mrs. Abrams says, "it really isn't finished yet, but is very comfortable and we don't have to worry about moving from one place to another."

The home represents a small outlay in cash and many hours of work on the part of a man who has shown his determination to make his own way.

In addition to finding time to work on his house Mr. Abrams has operated a sizable vegetable gardening bus-

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued from page 1)

ness. This year he is working 40 acres of land, including 10 acres of beans, 10 acres of melons, 10 or 12 acres of corn, and numerous other minor crops which add to the family income.

A pen of 10 or 12 goats form another project in the Abrams scheme of things. There are usually plenty of buyers from nearby cities for the annual increase in the goat herd. The animals are of good breeding, too; some are registered and others eligible for registry. 7/25/1940 IR

NOTE: There was a photo of goats with this page of the article but copy was very poor.

BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR A DONATION

The following books are available for a donation. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Ginny Gerber at ginny.gerber@gmail.com. Pictures are available.

MY HISTORY IS AMERICA'S HISTORY, 15 Things You Can Do To Save American Stories

FAMILY TREE PAGE IDEAS FOR SCRAPBOOKERS

SOME PIONEER FAMILIES OF WISCONSIN (An Index), Wisconsin State Genealogical Society
1977 (1 copy)
1987 Vol 2 (2 copies)
2001 Vol 3 (2 copies)

CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS FROM GREEN COUNTY, Vol III, compiled by Mrs. John M. Irvin

BRODHEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY BICENTENNIAL BOOK 1976

REVOLUTIONARY FINDS by Nancy Alberth Lehman (DAR) (2 copies)

THE SOURCE – A GUIDEBOOK OF AMERICAN GENEALOGY

MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS, A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY

BOOKS AVAILABLE—contd

THE NATIONAL DIRECTORY 1984 Vol XX

MY FAMILY TREE – A Heritage Memories and Keepsake Album

GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE 1994 SYLLABUS

WELCOME TO MARTINTOWN, WI

BLUE BOOK WISCONSIN, 1954 (1 copy) 1958 (2 copies)

STICKIN' WITH THE UNION – SONGS FROM WISCONSIN LABOR HISTORY

GERMAN – ENGLISH ENGLISH – GERMAN DICTIONARY

BELOIT COLLEGE 1917-1923, The Brannon Years by Lloyd V. Ballard

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF COMPOSERS, AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY, Third Edition

SCUDDERS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION by Hamilton Cochran



GREEN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Quantity	Publication	CD	Book
	1852 Militia Lists		\$7
	Naturalization Book One - cd only	\$15	
	1873 Green County Atlas with Index	\$15	\$20
	1877 History of Green County, WI		\$25
	1877 History of Green County, WI, index only		\$10
	1884 Green County History - cd only	\$15	
	1885 Monroe City Directory	\$15	
	1913 Commerative History of Green County - Bios and Index - Each Volume		\$30
	1913 Commerative History of Green County - Bios and Index - 2 volumes		\$50
	Prairie Farmer's Reliabe Directoy of Farmers & Breeders of Green County, WI 1919		\$15
	2000 - 2005 Monroe Times Obituaries	\$15	
	Green County Genealogical Newsletters 2001 - 2012	\$15	
	Juda Fast and Photos - reprinted from orignal 1975 version and includes index		\$10
	CEMETERIES		
	Albany Township Cemeteries	\$15	\$20
	Adams Township Cemeteries	\$15	\$20
	Cadiz Township Cemteries; 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	\$25
	Greenwood Cemetery - Monroe inscriptions	\$15	\$30
	Lewis-Jordan Cemeteries	\$15	\$15
	Monroe-Washington Township Cemeteries - transcriptions	\$15	\$15
	Mt. Hope Cemetery Photos - Spring Grove township	\$15	\$35
	Mt Pleasant Township Cemteries - Highland, Swinglii, Truax, Trumpy	\$15	\$20
	Mt. Vernon Cemetery - Juda	\$15	\$20
	Spring Grove Cemetery Transcriptions	\$15	\$25
	Twin Grove Cemetery Photos - Jefferson Township	\$15	\$20
	Union / Oakley Cemetery Photos	\$15	\$30

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 _____ Date: _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone No. _____

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)

I do _____ do not _____ give my permission to have my information printed in any handouts, newsletters or publications that GCGS may develop. If the box do not is not marked permission is granted.

GCGS 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.

GCGS OFFICERS

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Sargent at Arms—

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**Green County Genealogical Society Research Center
925 16 th Ave.
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.

**Green County Genealogical Society Inc.
925—16th Ave.
Monroe, WI 53566**

First Class Postage