



# THE GREEN COUNTY GENEALOGIST

## Meetings –contd.

### Calendar

#### Meetings

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

**April 4 World War I Overview** – Mark Peteson is returning to give us a look at Europe in 1900 and examine the causes that led to the Great War (World War I). He will review tactics used, conditions of trench warfare, actions taken on the Eastern Front, Lusitania, Jutland, and the U-boat war. Various battles, the final German offensive, the American army's arrival, the Armistice, and the Treaty of Versailles will be discussed.

**May 2 Digging For Your Swiss Roots** –Anna Marie Ott and Linda Schiesser will be your guides. Among the many immigrants to the United States, the Swiss are a small ethnic group. They are distinctive because each person's roots vary by different language areas and cultural backgrounds. Everything about Swiss genealogy depends on identifying the right location of origin as well as the place of citizenship. Acquiring the basic understanding of Swiss history and the governmental role of Cantons or states will be discovered in the program.



**June 6 Tour of Green County Rural Historic Sites** - John Oschner will take us on a tour of historic sites in rural Green County. The presentation is largely based on tours that he and Tom Fey organized about twenty years ago. The tours allowed participants to visit historical sites that weren't accessible to the general public.

**July 11 Raising the Dead: Finding Clues to Ancestors from Headstones, Family Plots, and Burial Records** NEHGS Webinar - Cemetery records can offer important clues to understanding the lives of those who came before us. Join NEHGS Chief Genealogist David Allen Lambert to learn how headstones, family plots, and burial documents can shed new light on your ancestor's life.

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## Meetings, cont.

- Aug 1 **Looking for European Roots** - Caron Brennan - If you are ready to “cross the pond” in your research, this presentation will provide ideas of where to find records for your European ancestors. This presentation includes review of well-known sites like FamilySearch and Find My Past as well as lesser known sites.
- Sept 12 **Member Show & Share** – Members and guests are all invited to bring a family heirloom or story to share. Let us know if you have a special success or have written your family story.
- Oct 3 **A Peek Into The American Indian Way of Life Throughout Their History and Oral Traditions.** Kim Sigafus, an internationally published and award-winning Ojibwas author and speaker.
- Nov 7 **Land Records, Townships, and Definitions** - Rick Maliszewski, retired from Ekum, will help us to better understand land records.
- Dec 5 **Children’s “Golden Books”** - Holly Everson from Brodhead will share her love of children’s Golden Books.

## 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

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

## 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).

## 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](mailto:info@greencogenealogywi.org) with the header Surnames. Be sure to check to make sure you are not already on the list.

## 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.

## President's Message

Spring is just around the corner and aren't we glad! I hope you were able to catch up on some of your genealogy over the winter months. I have been working to clean up and correct some of my genealogy so it make sense to my children. Some of it was quite haphazard when I first started doing my genealogy. Then some of my ancestors had very complicated lives which makes it challenging to sort out whose children belong to who. My great grandparents are an example.

My great grandmother, Mathilda Bellert, immigrated to the Chicago area in 1893 with 2 children. She is listed as wife and her children are listed with the name Bellert. Husband?? I have yet to find him but my assumption is that he had died. But assumptions can get you into trouble. I made the assumption that Bellert was her married name. Wrong! It took a trip to the Family History Center in Salt Lake City to learn that Bellert was her birth name and that it was not uncommon for couples not to marry because of the cost. The immigration record said she was to live with her brother but there are no records of any brothers. Her sister and family had immigrated before her so it is more possible that the brother is really brother-in-law. One child disappears from all records and another is born after her arrival in this country. But what name is on her birth record? Where is the missing child and where is she buried? What name is on her death record? The information remains a mystery.

My great grandfather, Herman Heller, immigrated to this country in 1894 with his wife and three children and settled in the Warren, IL area. Within a month of their arrival his wife, Emilia, dies.

Two families with tragedy somehow meet and are married on 1 March 1894 in Chicago and return to the Warren area to farm. Together they have 7 children, two of

## President's Message—cont'd

which die and are buried with Herman's first wife with their names on the same headstone. After their marriage ALL the children take the Heller name. That makes it interesting for finding records.

In 1919 Herman and Mathilda Heller get a divorce. He gets custody of all the children still at home. She moves to Chicago and lives with a nephew. Then sometime before 1930 she lives with my grandparents until her death in 1944. Herman dies in 1932.

So I have spent time this winter organizing those files in a manner that the next generation can figure out all the family connections correctly. Many of us have complicated family stories. I have a second marriage and we both have children from previous marriages and we adopted a child. Plus one of my husband's children is adopted. I need to be recording this information to help future generations sort out my complicated family story. What about your family story? What clues are you leaving behind? I sure wish my great grandparents had left a few more clues to their story.

### 1/6/2020 Times Ab Marriage certificate availability to expand

MONROE — Cynthia Meudt, Green County Register of Deeds, announces that it will soon be easier to obtain a copy of a marriage certificate.

Effective Jan. 2 individuals married in Wisconsin will be able to go to any Wisconsin Register of Deeds office to obtain their marriage certificate. Register of Deeds offices are currently able to issue birth certificates from all Wisconsin counties. Certificates of death are available statewide for deaths occurring on or after Sept. 1, 2013. Certificates of divorce are available statewide for divorces occurring on or

after Jan. 1, 2016 to present.

While not all vital records are eligible for statewide issuance; the State Vital Records office continues to work with Register of Deeds offices to add or update specific vital records on demand — with the goal of having all eligible records available.

Meudt notes that statewide issuance provides an easier and more efficient method of serving County residents by providing better access to Wisconsin vital records. Individuals can contact the Register of Deeds office to receive more information about the statewide availability of records.

## Closed for January????

We thought we were closed for the month of January! Our purpose being we would catch up on projects. We accomplished a few things during this time. Usually we do not have visitors while we are closed. This new year was very different. Each Tuesday, when we came into the center, we had at least one researcher that came to see what they could find. We are always eager to help and get involved with their ancestors as they were ours sometimes. And most times, some volunteer is related in some way.

We opened again on the first Tuesday in February and were happy that we continue to have visitors. On February 10, our center was overflowing. At one count, there were 12 visitors and volunteers. (See the pictures elsewhere) What a great day! When we reorganized, we thought we would have plenty of room for everyone. Now we may need to add more tables. Love to have that problem!!!

We have been privileged to gain more volunteers. Once again we have missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints working with us. Elder and Sister Kotter will be serving here in Monroe until a year from June. They were eager to help us and now they are scanning in township records for us. We are still getting volunteers to help with the marriage project that can be done from home. All these when completed are put up on our website. Some are indexes that are offered to the public or to the member's only page. One of the perks for becoming a member.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact a member and they will get you started. One of the perks is that if you have ancestors here, you get to do research or find information while going through records.

## Closed for January???? - cont'd

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of the Green County Genealogical Society. It is you who make us successful.

Happy researching near and far!



Jean Homan, Sister Kotter & Pat Wickersham



Ginny Gerber & Donna Long Kjendlie

## Shelf Linings

Today I thought I would write about the importance of a genealogical society library. So many times we hear “I don’t need to go to a genealogical society because I can find everything on the web.” Everyone agrees and appreciates all that is to offer online. However, there is so much more to be found by visiting a local society. A case in point: A couple stopped in recently just to see if we had anything different from the web. They stayed for the day and are coming back.

What did they find? Checking our surname files, they found clippings from the local newspapers. Yes, these are on microfilm but they didn’t have to spend their time trying to find them there when all they had to do was look it up in our surname file. We don’t have all names but they were so happy to find their names there. Our subject file would lead them to stories possibly about the towns and areas that their ancestors came from. Our large photo file might give them some photos of family. Did they serve in the military? We may have a clipping of interest for them.

If that isn’t enough, we also have binders of obituaries for searching along with marriages that are being scanned. We have files from one of the local funeral homes all indexed by surname. Along with that, we have monument files from the Luchsinger Monument Office. These are things that aren’t found on the web. We have lots of other treasures in our open stacks that can be browsed.

What a treasure to find an article about your ancestors. We do have access to many of the websites thanks to our local library where we are housed. These can be accessed on our public computer which also holds indexes to town records that our volunteers have scanned and indexed. The personal property files are so interesting to find out what your ancestors owned. Did you know in the 1860’s that you were taxed

## Shelf Linings—cont’d

if you owned a watch?? It also would tell you how many cows, pigs, and horses were owned. These are not readily on line either.

Our list goes on. We hold the bound copies of the Monroe Times and Journal. They come in handy when the microfilm is not clear.

The archival shelves hold family treasures that were sent to us to keep when there isn’t anyone in the family or no one had an interest in them. The list goes on.

I hope that you will be able to stop in, volunteer, or check out our website <https://www.greencogenealogywi.org/>

*Donna Kjendlie*

*Librarian*

## “FDR” Visits GCGS

Members and visitors at the February 1 GCGS meeting were treated to a visit from Franklin D. Roosevelt. Edward O’Brien, a retired educator, educated us on FDR’s early life, political life, and legacy. As he entered the room using a vintage wheelchair with his Scottish Terrier Fala on his lap and a cigarette holder in his hand, he brought the president to life for us.

Ed O’Brien’s interest in FDR began as a school project to write about three presidents. He asked his father who was his favorite president and was surprised to learn it was FDR. He asked his dad why, since FDR had him fight in WWII. His dad explained that FDR came into office in the depths of the depression: people losing jobs, homes, and hope. FDR’s radio fireside chats gave people hope that the government wanted to help. When war came the chats gave the people faith in their selves. Just weeks after coming into office, he had agencies created. The Civilian Conversation Corps (CCC’s) put young men to work and gave their families money each month. Ed’s father said the best thing about FDR was that you could pretty much believe what he said.

## “FDR” Visits GCGS—cont’d

The president felt having polio gave him a different sense of humanity. He found it very humbling to have people help him. (It took 15 to 20 minutes to put the braces on each morning, besides the other activities of daily living.) With the braces, he could give the illusion of walking for 20 to 30 feet before getting too tired. Before he appeared/spoke anywhere, the Secret Service would check the venue by measuring distances he needed to cover and by fastening podiums to the floor so they would not move when he leaned on them.

Franklin’s mother Sara had married a very wealthy man. (Roosevelt is a Dutch name meaning rose garden or field.) James R. Roosevelt and his father were importers. Franklin didn’t go to school. Tutors came to him. He liked foreign languages, history, and geography. He didn’t like piano. After three piano teachers, his dad decided to Franklin wasn’t going to be a pianist.

James would take Sara and Franklin to New York City for lunch at Delmonico’s where Franklin had to behave. Before going home, they would stop at FAO Schwartz so Franklin could pick out a toy. There Franklin would pitch a fit if they didn’t want to buy his choice.

At age 14, Franklin was sent to Groton, an exclusive private school. From there he went to Harvard where he edited the Crimson and played baseball. After Harvard, Sara said he should study law at Columbia. While attending a lawn party, he met his fifth cousin Theodore’s niece, Eleanor Roosevelt, of the Long Island Roosevelts. The couple asked Theodore to give the bride away on March 17, 1905 since he would be there in the St. Patrick’s Day parade. The wedding was well attended, but everyone spoke to Teddy and not the couple.

## “FDR” Visits GCGS—cont’d

Franklin’s mother, Sara, purchased a house for the young couple and one next door for herself. She had passage built on the second floors that was soon boarded up by FDR to avoid unexpected visits by his mother. Sara was also known to spoil FDR’s children.

While working in a law office, he found most politicians had two phrases they’d use: “I’m not guilty.” and “I can’t remember that conversation.” When Franklin decided to get into politics, like his cousin Theodore, he asked the people what they needed. He found out they wanted sidewalks and better sewer mains. He won by 300 votes as a Democrat and realized people wanted what they needed.

FDR looked ahead. He predicted that there would be radios in automobiles. At the World’s Fair in New York, he was the first president to appear on television. He used trust funds to start research for a polio cure which led to the March of Dimes and the Salk vaccine. He started the USO. After the 1940 election, he put two Republicans in his cabinet - something never done before. He appointed people and then let them do their work. He had a brain trust he would call in for consultations. He established the National Labor Board giving the right to labor to bargain with management. In 1933 he survived an assassination attempt that mortally wounded the mayor of Chicago. FDR died from a cerebral hemorrhage in April of 1945. He hadn’t wanted to leave the presidency before the war ended, but had planned to retire at that end of the war due to his health.

Ed brought a lot of FDR quotes to share with us.

“We have nothing to fear but fear itself”

Cont’d

### “FDR” Visits GCGS—cont’d

“We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon.”

“In politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way.”

“Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country.”

“I hate war.”

He listed four freedoms in a 1941 speech: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Want, and Freedom from Fear

By:

Sharon Mitchell



### Trail’s Mix

Wondering how many of you have done the DNA testing? Did you just do FamilyTreeDNA (ancestry) or 23andME or some other one? Did you do more than one?

I did FamilyTreeDNA years ago and have been pleased with results and with the fact that they continually upgrade the results for you. Not happy with people one contacts that have DNA like you and they never respond but then that happens with more than just DNA.

Recently I decided to do the 23andMe DNA to compare. Note that on both tests I have not done the health portion. It was really interesting to see if there would be differences found in my DNA but they both were pretty much same percentages and locations it was just the way they grouped them, i.e. Eastern European vs Western European etc.

First look at the possible connections was fun and I could hardly wait to toss out few emails to see what that brings. So far, I have connected with my great grandma’s sister’s great great grandson! Haven’t had time to do too much more at the present as I learn more what the site has to offer....videos, FAQ, and email help, and have to do my regular 9 to 5 job (dang it gets in the way).

I also didn’t see any overlap yet in possible connections so one might just have another database of possible connections from FamilyTreeDNA. Here’s hoping.

So with cost of DNA testing getting cheaper I think it might be wise for people to do both tests.



By :

Debra Bailey Trail

**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
	<b>CEMETERIES</b>		
	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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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

**PRESIDENT:** Ginny Gerber

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**VICE PRESIDENT:** Donna Kjendlie

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**TREASURER:** Suzann Holland

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raisinlady69@gmail.com

## **DIRECTORS—Appointed:**

Newsletter—Debra Bailey Trail

dlb56@aol.com

Website—Ginny Gerber

ginny.gerber@gmail.com

Librarian—Donna Long Kjendlie

genysearcher@gmail.com

## **DIRECTORS—Elected:**

Program Chair—Sharon Mitchell

Smitch2416@aol.com

Sargent at Arms—

At Large—Bill Holland, Sandy Wille, Nita Halverson

Hospitality—Tamae Morrison

tmorrison3918@gmail.com



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](mailto: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.**  
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