A Message from the Editor

I am supplying the message this month as Ken was unable to send a greeting. I would like to encourage, strongly encourage the society membership to pen a short article, supply a picture or share a story in the future. What favorite saying’s did your parents have? What was your mother or father’s signature meal or baked good? Do you have a picture no one can identify? What about some old postcards? The more we share the more we learn from one another! Best presentation you ever heard? Best conference you attended? An amazing webinar where you learned something new. Your story does not have to be long, but you need to write it. Enliven and support our newsletter for future genealogists. You may hold a key or an idea that will help someone else.

Anita Reid

A postcard from my collection, started by my father, Jerry Voss. The Hotel Eau Claire, 1939.

Computer Labs at LE Phillips Library, Eau Claire

This year labs will be held in the lower level of the library, the Chippewa Room. Laptops will be provided or you may bring your own. Registration is not required.

Labs are tentatively scheduled for February 14 in the morning, the afternoon of March 15 and April 2 in the evening.
GRSEC Executive Board

Genealogical Research Society of Eau Claire (GRSEC)

Chairman/President
Ken Kiesow, ........................................... 715.877.2319

Vice Chairman/President
Bob Fraser, ........................................... 715.839.9893

Secretary
OPEN

Treasurer/Membership
Tom Davey .................................................. 715.835.2655

Program Chair
Kathy Herfel .................................................. 715.926.5205

Cemetery Indexing
Karin Pettis .................................................. 715.225.9901

Historian
Linda McClelland

Obituary Chair
Kathy Herfel .................................................. 715.926.5205

Librarians
Roger Davis .................................................. 715.835.1630
Patricia Anderson ......................................... 715.563.2616

Website
Michaela Walters ........................................... 715.828.1711

LE Phillips Library Liaison
Kathy Herfel

Publicity
Deb Jarvar .................................................... 715.874.6678

Newsletter
Anita Reid .................................................... 715.828.2255

This newsletter is published in September, November, January, March, May, and mid July. Deadline for entries is the last day of the month prior to publication. So entries for November’s issue would be October 31.

The GRSEC meets the second Saturday of each month, September through May, at 10:00 AM. Come early at 9:30 AM with your questions or just to visit. We meet at the Chippewa Valley Museum, located at Carson Park, in beautiful Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

The GRSEC does not meet during the summer months (June through August). The membership year runs May 1st through April 30th. Membership fee is $10.00 per year, beginning May 1st. Check your mailing label on the newsletter for your expiration date. It is on the right hand corner. Get your newsletter via email? Then check with Tom Davey, the Treasurer/Membership chair.

Our email address and website address appear at the top of every page in the header area.

Calendar

Meetings, Events and a Webinar or two!

January 10- Chippewa Valley Museum (CVM), Adventures in History Book Club, *April 1865: The Month that Saved America* by Jay Winik. 6:30 PM.


January 14- GRSEC at the CVM, 10 AM. Presenter Bill Baxa from Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Independence. Also our book sale!

Webinar, January 17- “Seven Ways to Use the Cloud,” a WSGS (Wisconsin State Genealogical Society) presentation will seven ways that you can use the cloud to make your research more effective and easier to share with other generations of your family. 7-8 PM CST. [https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5600600349448678403](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5600600349448678403) to register.


January 19- LE Phillips Library, “Dabble Box,” Grand opening, 4-7 PM. This is the former microlab space, come and learn more, see equipment demonstrations and find out what is available.

February 11- GRSEC at the CVM, 10 AM. Presenter Gary Kunz from the Fall Creek Historical Society, “Ice Cutting.”


February 18- CVM, Fiber Arts and Folk Life Festival, 11 AM to 4 PM. Over 30 local fiber artists working in many mediums, including weaving, rug hooking and braiding, spinning, quilting, knitting, tatting, and more! $7 adults, $4 kids, Museum members FREE.

Webinar, February 21- “Caring for Keepsakes (WSGS presentation). Will highlight heirloom preservation tactics for anyone caring for family keepsakes, from digitizing to basic archival care for com-
mon family treasures such as photo albums, loose photographs, Bibles, clocks, jewelry, and more. 7-8 P.M. [https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/registrer/8256923685132587011](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/registrer/8256923685132587011) to register.

## Legacy Family Tree Webinars

One of my New Year’s resolutions is to watch two webinars/month. An easy way for me to accomplish this was to join Legacy Family Tree Webinars. I found a discount through Facebook, and signed up for $39/year, giving me access to over 455 webinars. I have already watched “From the Heartland - Utilizing Online Resources in Midwest Research,” presented by Luana Darby. The handout was full of new information for me, plus many other viewers offered their favorite repositories and library web addresses too. This month I will be attending “Tips and Tricks to Organizing Your Genealogy,” presented by Shannon Combs-Bennett. A nice perquisite of membership is unlimited access to all recorded webinars for a year, access to the instructors handouts, access to the chat logs (if I want to go back and find a web address that someone mentioned), and subscribers-only door prize during each live webinar and 1 year of 5% off anything in the store (must be logged in at checkout). And no, I haven’t won a door prize yet...

Legacy is now offering another discount of $44.95/year, I am not sure how long this special will run. The “suggested retail price” for the library is $79.95. The webinar library also includes a free section of recordings, including:

- An Introduction to BillionGraves
- How to Use FamilySearch.org for Beginners
- Using Findmypast to Unlock Your Irish Ancestry
- Microsoft Word Series

The top 5 webinar’s for 2016 were:

- A Guided Tour of Cyndi’s List 2.0
- Watch Geoff Live: DNA
- Technology and Techniques for Differentiating Two People With the Same Name
- The Paper-less Genealogist
- 7 Unique Technologies for Genealogy Discoveries at MyHeritage

You can search the webinar by date, category and presenter. Check out the offerings at [http://familytree-webinars.com/index.php](http://familytree-webinars.com/index.php), make sure you have your favorite beverage on hand, a pair of headphones (if you don’t want to be distracted by your family) and settle back for a personal 90 presentation in the comfort of your home. Then share with the rest of us what you have learned!

Many thanks to our past presenters this fall. November had us listening to a German Immigration overview given by Ben Gordon. Ben is a graduate of UW-Eau Claire (congratulations!). Quite a few questions were asked and answered at the end of the talk, a reflection of the state’s German heritage. Thank you Ben!

December had us meeting at LE Phillips Library for a presentation entitled “The Puzzle of the Dolls in the Wall,” by Jean Hebert. It was a grand mystery that involved a home built in 1902 as a wedding present and the remodeling of a small bedroom, long after the original family had moved out. During the remodeling dolls had been discovered secreted away, tin-headed dolls from Austria. Two of the dolls were recovered by the presenter and her sister. Also presenting was Larry Laird (Jean’s brother) who was instrumental in getting kids to read through a live-action education television series shown on PBS. The series, “Storylords,” was also shown in school classrooms (you can watch the entire series on YouTube). His presentation was titled “Everybody Has (Another) Story,” and highlighted how an axe he happened to see in his garage sparked a memory, and story, of one of his ancestors.
Our meeting ended with sub sandwiches and beverages, along with a few Christmas cookies. Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and Holiday Season!

*This recipe was generously shared by Jean Hebert; considered the best 4H Bar-B-Que (original recipe by Leone Laird, Cleveland Lumberjacks 4H).*

### 4H Bar-B-Que

1 lb. hamburger  
1 cup onion chopped  
1 cup green pepper chopped  
1 cup catsup  
dash of cloves  
1 Tbsp. sugar  
1 Tbsp. mustard  
1 Tbsp. vinegar  
1 tsp. salt  

Brown hamburger, chopped onion and chopped green peppers. Add remaining ingredients. Simmer for 20 minutes, stirring often. Serve on hamburger buns.

### Book Sale, January 14, 2017

All proceeds will go to our society. This will be a held as a silent auction. Each book will have a blank piece of paper inserted into the book. On this piece of paper you will write your bid and put your initials next to the bid. You will be able to keep bidding until the close of bids (to be determined by the chair). Those donating books may set a minimum bid if they would like the book back if it is not sold at a price they approve.

You may also bring genealogical or history related magazines, these will be sold for .25 per issue. Please contact Ken Kiesow with your questions: kiesowkd@hotmail.com

### Cemetery Indexing

Several cemeteries were indexed during 2016: Drammen, Hales Corners, Prince of Peace, St Peters (Bears Grass), Zion Lutheran and Oak Grove was started. This coming year I would like to get Oak Grove finished, index Rest Haven plus some of the other smaller outlaying cemeteries. The two large city owned cemeteries are also in need of indexing and are on the list for 2018. I am always looking for volunteers to help out with the indexing if you are interested in helping out please get in touch with me.

A BIG thank you to those that did indexing for us in 2016; Mary Krueger, Sara Heller, Tom Davey, Anita Reid and her family, and myself; hope that I got everyone.

Karin Pettis

### Family Heirlooms

The Brass Mortar and Pestle “Toy”  
Anita Reid

This old brass mortar and pestle had sat on my Aunt Winnie’s fireplace mantle off and on through the years. Sometimes it had flowers sticking out of it, other times a sprig of bittersweet. When my boys were young it held a place of prominence. Every Sunday after church we would stop out for coffee, and every Sunday my youngest son when bring a “bouncy ball.” One of those hard rubber balls that if you threw it hard enough onto the sidewalk it would shoot to the sky, we called them “super balls” when I was his age. We would rig up a Slinky and place one end of it under the mortar and pestle, let it hang down over the fireplace mantle and drop to the floor. Creating a kind of tunnel. Then, dropping the ball in the end closest the the mortar, we would guess who could get the ball to roll the farthest or stay in the Slinky tunnel the longest. This mortar and pestle took quite a bit of abuse from all of us.

After my Aunt Winnie passed away, I was responsible for the house and the contents. I was surprised when one day I stopped by to check on things, and discovered the mortar and pestle missing. Calling my father on the phone (he lived across the street) and telling him of my dilemma, he responded with, “Well, I’ve got...”
it over here. I didn't want it to get lost like the rosette irons did. See, my grandmother brought this with her from Norway.”

Now it was an upsetting for my dad to remember the lost rosette irons story. They had been stored in the attic at the old Pederson home on Omaha street and after the house was sold, they remembered the irons and asked the new owners if they could look for them. They were told no, the attic had been cleared out. Unfortunately, my dad’s discharge papers were stored up there too. Neither item was ever recovered.

Both my dad and his sister knew I was “into” genealogy and had tracked down where the Pedersen/Løkka farm was located in Norway. Why didn’t they think to share this with me? So over I went to his house and he gave me the mortar and pestle and I asked him why he or his sister had never shared the story of the original owner. He just shrugged and said he never thought about it. He figured it was only important to him.

So today, especially around the Christmas holiday’s, I bring out the cleaned up and cherished mortar and pestle. No one hooks a Slinky to the bottom and uses it for a game. My oldest son carefully removes the cardamom spice pods, always bought fresh each year, removes the outside of the pod and then grinds my cardamom for the julekage. I think of a woman I never knew, she died long before my father was born, and imagine her making julekage too. A connection to a woman, born in 1848, in a foreign country, bringing her most precious items with her to a new land and I feel a sense of continuation. Now, I just have to teach my oldest how to make julekage.

Julekage (Christmas Bread)
2 cakes compressed yeast ½ cup chopped citron
½ cup lukewarm water 2 cups raisins
3 cups whole milk, scalded ½ cup candied cherries
½ cup butter optional

Dissolve yeast in water. Pour scalded milk over butter & when lukewarm add yeast, sugar, salt and about one half of flour. Beat well for 10 min. Add eggs, one at a time, beating thoroughly, add fruit, cardamom and enough flour to make a soft dough. Knead & place in greased bowl to rise until light. Then knead and let rise again. Shape into 5 round loaves and place on greased pans to rise for about an hour or until light. Brush tops with egg yolk & milk mixture. Bake at 375 degrees for 45-50 minutes. After removing from oven brush tops with melted butter and sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon.

Please note that this makes 5 loaves! I usually cut it in half. Also, my family never frosted their julekage, mainly because we loved toasting it on Christmas morning! You can also leave out the citron if you like.

The Secret Hiding Place  
Anita Reid

Once upon a time there were three brothers from Norway, who all came over to the new country at different times, settled in different places and were never heard from again... Have you all heard that story? In my mother's family, yes indeed three brothers came over from Norway, all at different times, but they all settled in Eau Claire. A sister came too, and two cousins. These were all from my mother’s, paternal side of the family. The two Olson cousins came first, then my mother’s Uncle Otto. Uncle Otto worked at the paper mill, and sent money back to the Norway to bring his brother, Helmer over here (Helmer is my grandfather). Then Otto and Helmer, also working at the paper mill, sent money back to bring their brother Arthur and finally a sister, Jennie. They all lived on the north side of town, along with the Olson cousins. All the men had
carpentry skills or were pipe fitters (plumbers). And the brother’s helped my grandfather Helmer build his house on McDonough street. A house that eventually held nine children with one bathroom! But best of all, they built the most wonderful hiding place a child could ever hope to find. The brothers needed a place to gather and play cards every once in awhile. My grandmother, getting tired of them sitting around her kitchen table, ordered them to take their card playing downstairs to the basement. Which they agreed to, but first they would have to build a table. It is a very unique, round table with four chairs. And since there wasn’t much room in the basement, the chairs fit inside and under the table. The seats of the chairs are covered in leather and stuffed with horsehair. The table and chairs are made out of oak. Can you see my hiding spot? If I was very careful, I could pull out one chair, climb inside and then pull the chair back in. All the chairs together made a perfect platform, and if there was a tablecloth on it, I was golden. My brother could never find me! Of course this only worked until I was about 10 years old, and I wasn’t always that careful. The reason we know the chairs are stuffed with horsehair is because I managed to get a buckle of my shoe caught on a bare patch on one chair. Wish I could have found a hiding place from my mother that time.

My mother and her sisters spent one Christmas holiday following Grandma around the kitchen as she made her Norwegian baked goods. You see, she never really had a recipe, it was mostly cooking and baking from memory. The scoop she used for flour was an old, broken handled coffee cup and the early stove was this huge monstrosity that my mom was afraid of. The lefse needed to be thin enough to almost see through and the spritz had to be just barely brown. I ate plenty of cookies that were deemed too brown by Grandma. They all tasted wonderful.

All photographs in these two stories are from my personal collection or taken by my husband.

Do you have a heirloom “recipe” you would like to share or a story? As one of our speakers recently said, “Everybody has a story. Get to know the stories of your family—they help you learn who you are.”

*Larry Laird*
This and That
These are items that show up on the computer blogs I read, Facebook, or journals I subscribe to. Hopefully some will interest you too!

2017 International Germanic Genealogy Conference
Choose from 70 presentations over three days with experts from the United States, Germany and Australia. There will be study rooms equipped with computers and personal assistance in German script, language and research. July 28-30 at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest Hotel, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Early-bird discounted rates begins in January, April 1 will begin the regular rate. Please visit the conference website at www.GGSMN.org and click “2017 GAGP Conference.” You can also visit them on Facebook: “German-American Genealogical Partnership”

2018 National Genealogical Society Family History Conference, Paths to Your Past
Will be held in Grand Rapids Michigan, 2-5 May 2018. There isn’t much else on the website yet, just a call for proposals. This is close enough to easily get to!

Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh
GRIP is planning a terrific 2017 set of courses, including a writing course, but also Eastern European, New Jersey, the states that made up the Old Northwest Territory, Irish, DNA, understanding law, documentation, proof arguments, Washington, D.C. repositories, and methodology. Registration for the June 25-30 week begins on February 22. You can begin to register for the July 16-21 week on March 8. Mark your calendars now for the opening at Noon Eastern (9 a.m. Pacific) because, as you know, some course do fill quickly!
You can find a detailed description of all 18 sessions for each course, including who is teaching what, under its corresponding link at http://www.gripitt.org/courses/. You will also note that there are six courses in each of the two weeks, for a total of twelve unique courses. This gives you a chance to “double up” on your education by taking a course in each session.

GRIP remains an affordable option with only a moderate increase to $435 (early bird tuition before May 1) to help give more compensation to our fabulous instructors for their hard work. (Willingness to pay a little more for this purpose was suggested in the student surveys this past summer.) We hope you agree that learning from the best of the best is rewarding and fast-tracks your genealogical knowledge which actually saves you time and aggravation toward your goals.

Disclaimer: I attended this course two years ago when it was held in Detroit, Mich. It was a wonderful learning experience. Each class held between 20 to 35 students. You had all meals at the facility and the instructors stayed and ate there too. One of this year’s instructors is CeCe Moore, a genetic research specialist who also happens to be a keynote speaker at this year’s 2017 RootsTech conference in Salt Lake. So instead of squeezing in a huge conference hall along with 5000 other people, go to Pittsburgh and take her week long class with maybe 30 other people.

MyHeritage and New York City Marriages, 1950-1995
Over six million records, index includes given names and surnames of both the bride and the groom. These records were indexed by the non-for-profit organization Reclaim the Records. https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-10540/new-york-city-marriages-1950-1995 You will need a subscription to MyHeritage to access the index.

Travel with NEHGS in 2017
The New England Historic and Genealogical Society has the following tours scheduled.
Washington D.C. Research Tour, March 5-12, 2017
Scotland Research Tour, June 18-25, 3017
Salt Lake City Research Tour, November 5-12, 2017
Go to https://www.americanancestors.org/education/research-tours-and-programs for more information.

My New Year’s 2017 Genealogical Resolutions
• Watch two webinars a month.
• Do not file a piece of new information on the corner of my desk. Record it, scan it, and try to throw it away. Unless it is an original of course.
• Write a biography of my each of my grandparents.
• Get my website up and running.
• Attend one conference this year!