

Sawdust City Roots

Genealogical Research Society of Eau Claire

Volume 37, Number 5

An affiliate of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

May-June, 2020

Message from our President-

Hi Everyone:

I hope you are all staying home safe and well. This has certainly been a strange time. I had hopes of doing lots of genealogy; working on my 28 Civil War vets. However, it is difficult to do when nothing is open. I know Dunn County had many books on Civil War vets from Dunn County but---

Since it looks like the Museum will remain closed through May, our next meeting will not be until September. This makes it confusing about the officers. I suggest that we allow the current slate of officers serve for another year and vote again in the spring.

Also, our Cemetery Walk will not be able to be held in June. We will not have time to give out information or do any advertising so I suggest we reschedule that for the last Saturday in September. I will have to call and set it up with Chad. We have nine people who have offered to serve as docents. Thank you all and I hope September works for all. I do have a list of people we are going to feature for this first year and I will write an article about it to be found in another part of this newsletter.

Hope to see you all soon. Stay well.

Linda

Cancellations, Postponements, Changes

Senior Americans Day at UW-EC

UW-Eau Claire Continuing Education is committed to the health, safety, and well-being of our customers and staff. Due to the ongoing concerns regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we have made the difficult decision to cancel Senior Americans Day for 2020.

Farm Technology Days has been postponed to July 20-22, 2021

National Genealogical Society (NGS) Family History Conference, May 20, 2020 has now been updated to a Virtual Conference. Live starting May 20, 2020 at 11 a.m. and continuing with on-demand lectures that will open July 1, 2020. Click here for more information: <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) is still going forward with their September 2-5 Family History Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Click here for more information: <https://fgs.org/annual-conference/>

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This newsletter is published in September, November, January, March and May. Deadline for entries is the 25th of the month prior to publication. (e.g., entries for November’s issue would be October 25.)

The GRSEC meets the second Saturday of each month, September through May, at 10 AM. Come early at 9 AM with your questions or just to visit. We meet at the Chippewa Valley Museum, located in beautiful Carson park, 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 is \$15.00 per year, beginning May 1st. Check your mailing label on the newsletter for your expiration date. It is on the right hand corner. **If you receive your newsletter electronically, please check with Tom Davey, our Treasurer/Membership chair.**

Our email address and website address appear at the top of every page in the header area. Membership forms are on the back page of every issue.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

MAY 9, GRSEC will not be meeting. Our program for this day will be rescheduled for the fall.

MAY 16, Online Class, Documents + DNA + FANS + Luck, Combining Tools to Find Biological Family- Sponsored by the Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS). Online \$15 MGS members, \$20 nonmembers 50% OFF REGULAR PRICE

Finding an adopted child's biological family is especially challenging for genealogists. This class will use a successful example to show how good methodology combined with document research and DNA matches (and a dose of luck) can put a decades-old question to rest. Register Here: <https://mngs.regfox.com/documents-dna--fans--luck-combing-tools-to-find-biological-family>

MAY 19, WEBINAR- "Who Needed It Anyway? Researching Around the Missing 1890 Census" Sponsored by the Wisconsin Genealogical Society (WGS). 7 PM Central time. The loss of the 1890 Federal census is a source of great frustration for American genealogists, but all hope is not lost! Learn strategies and gather tips for success in locating your family in other records between the 1880 and 1900 Federal censuses. Register here: <https://register.got-owebinar.com/register/5560168032945882891>

JUNE 16, WEBINAR- "Smarter Search Strategies for Genealogy" Sponsored by WGS. Presenter is Thomas MacEntee, 7 PM Central time. The majority of genealogists begin their research online and often become frustrated with the lack of results. The cause might not be a lack of records at the specific site, but the manner in which you're performing the search! While basic search techniques work on all

the major genealogy sites, you need to power up your search skills to get the most out of niche genealogy websites and uncover those hidden record sets! Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3120868501376986125>

AUGUST 18, WEBINAR- "Bounty Land: It's Complicated" Sponsored by WGS. Presenter is Annette Burke Lyttle, 7 PM Central time. Bounty land was offered as compensation for soldiers who fought in the Revolution, War of 1812, and Mexican War, but veterans of these wars didn't simply take up residence on their land grants. Some did, but many people who weren't veterans ended up with these lands. Learn about the laws, all the people who got involved, and where to find the records. Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2879923722299563276>

SEPT. 12, GRSEC MEETING, 10:00 am board meeting followed by our picnic and presentation, time to be announced.

SEPT. 26, FOREST HILL CEMETERY WALK, time to be announced.

Free Daily Webinars in May through Legacy Family Tree Webinars

<https://familytreewebinars.com/>

Across the top of the website is a yellow bar with "Click here to watch today's free webinar." Click on the words "click here" in the yellow box and watch your free webinar.

Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS)

Collections Page- contains links and descriptions of some of their most popular collections.

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS15310>

Online Indexes, Databases and Guides includes:

A guide to WI Newspapers, 1833 to 2004- includes descriptions of abbreviations and symbols, then listings by county. "Newspapers are listed alphabetically by county, by locality and then masthead title [title of newspaper]."

Shipwreck Database- allows you to search by name, type, county, year sank and nearest city. Clicking this link will take you to another website.

WI Corporation Indexes- Search for incorporation papers and charter documents for thousands of domestic and non-stock Wisconsin corporations, 1889-2001.

WI Name Index- Browse more than 150,000 records, including biographical sketches, obituaries, and newspaper articles published before 2000. Use filters on the left side of page to refine your search. I filtered for Eau Claire and found 2767 entries. I could refine by years or type [obituary, biographical book excerpt, and newspaper article/clipping]. Looking for Adin Randall brings up numerous entries. An interesting one was from the Federal Writers Project. Writings and Research Notes, an unpublished manuscript of field notes for a biographical sketch.

Online Collections include: Wisconsin Local History and Biography Articles; WI Magazine of History Archives; WI Women's History and WI in the Civil War.

Cemetery Walk at Forest Hill in Eau Claire

Our Cemetery Walk is going to be rescheduled for September 26th. This will be the fourth Saturday and I chose it because the first week-end is Labor Day, the second will be our picnic and program, the third will be a Sons of Norway event which would have taken some of our members.

Kathy H. has offered to do Lars Urheim and Larry H. is going to do Schlegelmilch and I am sure they are going to be very interesting. Other names we have are the Putnam family buried in the chapel, Rowell, Chesebro, John McAlpine, Hiram Brooks, Charles Moessner, Matthias Kneer (Kneer House), Charles Sommermeyer (manufacturer of pearl buttons). We also have had suggested William Carson 's daughters. All of these people, not all famous, but all important to Eau Claire.

Short Biographies of two individuals on our cemetery walk.

A. J. Rowell- Civil War Vet

Aaron Rowell was born on 6 September 1832 in Maidstone, Essex County, Vermont. The Rowell's were among the original proprietors of Salisbury, Massachusetts in 1638. Along with his brothers and cousins, Andrew enlisted in the Union Army.

He sent several letters home, detailing his life in the military. To his mother, he wrote of the food and living conditions. Everything was wonderful in the army when he wrote to Mom. To his father, he wrote about sending his army pay home and having him save it so Andrew could buy farmland when he came home. If he didn't have enough money for land in New York he would buy land in Wisconsin. To his brother, he wrote of being wounded and being in the hospital. He signed his letters "Yankee Jack."

Simon Randall- Early Settler

Simon Randall was born at Sebago, Maine on January 1, 1820. He was the first settler in Eau Claire County and with his brother, George, built the first mill and ran it for several years. He was almost wiped out when heavy flooding washed out piers and booms and destroyed over 10,000 logs. Simon was not discouraged and rebuilt his mill and soon had more business than ever. He also built the first and only grist mill at Fall Creek.

More biographies will be included in a following newsletter. *Linda*

The National Archives in England

As of April 24, 2020, the archives are making their digital records available on their website for free [as long as their building is closed to the public].

To access and download for free you must:

- » Register/sign to their Discovery account. A free account on their website.
- » Abide by the terms of their fair use policy
- » Complete the order process to receive a download link, which will remain active for 30 days.

To find records that are available, filter your search results in your Discovery account for records that are "available for download only."

Some of the collections include:

- » First and Second World War records, including medal index cards

- » Military records, including unit war diaries
- » Royal and Merchant Navy records, including Royal Marine service records
- » Wills from the jurisdiction of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury
- » Migration records, including aliens' registration cards and naturalization case papers
- » 20th century Cabinet Papers and Security Service files
- » Domesday Book

For a complete explanation and links go to: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/digital-downloads/>

US Yearbook Records Now Free and in Color through MyHeritage

MyHeritage has "colorized the entire U.S. Yearbook collection, and to celebrate this moment we're opening up FREE access to our U.S. Yearbooks for an entire month!" This offer will end on May 23, 2020.

For more information and a link to the search box, click here:

<https://blog.myheritage.com/2020/04/u-s-yearbook-records-now-free-and-in-color/>

Reclaim The Records News

"... won the first free public copy of the Missouri birth index for 1920-2015 and the Missouri death index for 1968-2015. These records, which are already stored as plain text in a state database and will not need a transcription project, are just basic finding aids to vital records; they're not actual certificate copies. They include the given name, surname, and date of birth or death. These kinds of simple birth and death indices are widely available online for other states across the country, including for several states directly bordering Missouri. And yet the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) fought us for four and a half years, fought hard and fought dirty, trying to keep these basic indices inaccessible to the general public... while they were also, perhaps not coincidentally, making money for the agency by selling copies of those same index files.

We haven't received these records in-hand yet, but we will soon, and we'll let everyone know just as soon as they're searchable and downloadable. As always, the records we win will have no copyright and no usage restrictions and no paywall..."

To read the complete article, and the fascinating plot twists, go to <https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/>. The organization has also included the pdf of the judge's ruling. It is amazing to read what the Missouri DHSS went through to keep a lid on these public documents.

British Museum Makes 1.9 Million Images Available for Free

Featured on Dick Eastman's Genealogy Newsletter, 29 April 2020

The British Museum's online collections have been updated for the first time since 2007, making over 1.9 million photos in its collection available for free online under a Creative Commons license [free, non-commercial use]. You may find local towns where your ancestors came from or other historic photographs. You no longer need to register to use these images, they can now be downloaded directly from the British Museum. Click here for more information: <https://bit.ly/2YiBW1k>. If you want to jump right to the British Museum website, click here: <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection>

What Not To Do When You Do Not Know the Date of Burial

This is one of my frustrations. I know a person died on 12 May 1973. I know where they were buried but not when. What to do? I could put "abt." 16 May 1973, which is pretty simple. But what I see many people do is put in just the year. So the burial event would be 1973. For a computer though, that date means the *beginning* of the year. I would have a death event occurring on 12 May 1973, but a burial event occurring before the death date. A family group sheet would print the following:

- » birth 18 Jan 1900, Eau Claire, Wisconsin
- » burial 1973, Eau Claire, Wisconsin
- » death 12 May 1973, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

I frequently see this happen in older family trees on

Ancestry or FamilySearch. If you use Ancestry for your genealogy program, just leave the burial date blank as that program seems to force the burial event to sort after a death event. If you only have paper records, there will be no problem, now. But a few generations from now, when a family member or relative starts inputting all your records into a computer, there will need to be quite a bit of data clean up. RootsMagic, [my genealogy program], has a data field called "sort date." This allows me to enter a date after the death for the burial event, say 16 May 1973, and the burial event will occur after the death event. The "sort date" in this program never prints, it just allows the user to force a sequence. The family group sheet would print:

- » birth 18 Jan 1900, Eau Claire, Wisconsin
- » death 12 May 1973, Eau Claire, Wisconsin
- » burial Eau Claire, Wisconsin[there would be no date, just the burial location]

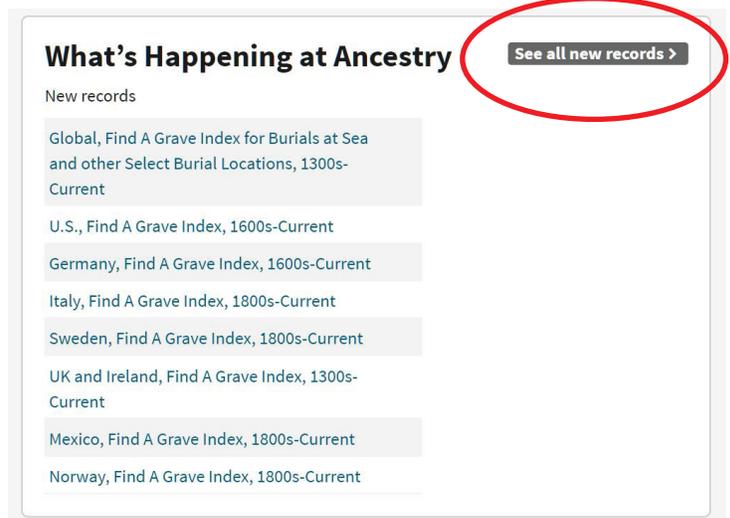
If anyone has a different method, please let me know and I can share it with everyone. *Anita*

Keeping Track of New Records or Updated Records on the Genealogy Websites

The "Big" genealogy websites [for the purpose of this article] include Ancestry, FamilySearch, FindMyPast, and MyHeritage

Ancestry.com- Does not have a regular day they report new collections or updates, but does post on their "Recently Added and Updated Collections" page. It looks like this on my home page:

Clicking the "See all new records" box will take you



to the Recently Added and Updated Collections on Ancestry." Right now the last updates seem to be to the Find A Grave Index, but one of my favorite collections, listed as "WEB: Minnesota, Marriages from the Minnesota Official Marriage System, 1850-2019," now appears on Ancestry! On the right side of this page is the "Coming Soon" records. One of the coming soon collections is "Wisconsin Birth Records" in the summer of 2020. Interesting.

FamilySearch- Has an article every Monday on new collections posted on "The FamilySearch News Releases" page. After much searching [and grumbling], I finally found the page and subscribed to it.

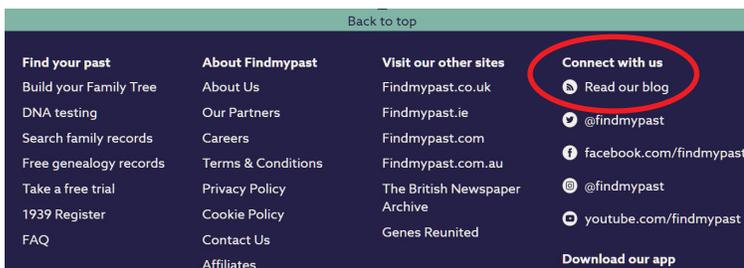
<https://media.familysearch.org/>



Included on this page [as of 3 May 2020] is a link to Free Family History Classes and Webinars for May 2020. The last update for collections is 28 May 2020 and includes over 18000 records for North Carolina, Center for Health Statistics, Vital Records unit, County Birth Records, 1913-1922.

A word of warning, every time I clicked on "sign in" it kicked me out to the FamilySearch main page.

FindMyPast- Announces new additions every Friday on the Blog. <https://www.findmypast.com/> Scroll to the very bottom [you do not need to sign up], there are four columns on links, on the far right, under "Connect with us" click on "Read our Blog." On



May 1 there were new records from England and Scotland. I am starting to think of subscribing to this website. Right now I only have a subscription to Ancestry and I do not really want to add another one. Any advice?

MyHeritage- also announces new record collections through their blog. These occur monthly. Again go to the main page, <https://www.myheritage.com/> and scroll to the bottom, under "About Us" you will find a link to their blog. The MyHeritage Blog page has a "Categories" link in the top banner. These include: "All Posts," DNA, Events and Webinars, Health, Hints and Tips, Historical Records, History, MyHeritage News and a few others. MyHeritage is hosting

live sessions on their Facebook page, and you do not need to sign up for them, just go to their Facebook page at the appointed date and time and watch, listen and participate!

May 11 at 2 PM EST time is a session of Canadian Records. I might have to

check that one out.

Another significant database MyHeritage has added is the "U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Collection, 1936 to 2007." I use the Ancestry website for this same collection and get a lot of use out of it. [I am not sure if the two record collections are exactly the same.] According to their press release, there are 240,604,242 records in the collection. What a wonderful addition.

This short article by me is excerpted from a blog post by Lisa Lisson on her blog site "Are You My Cousin?" I have signed up to receive her newest blog postings and thought everyone could learn from this one. <https://lialisson.com/>

If you do not want to visit each website to keep track of all the changes and new additions, subscribe to Randy Seaver's Genea-Musings blog. Randy covers all the major websites and a few unknown ones, every week. You can let him do all the work and subscribe to his posts here:

<https://www.geneamusings.com/>

Newsletter E-mail Subscriptions and Membership

I have made the decision to keep all electronic newsletters subscriptions current until our September meeting. The board will then discuss what to do with all subscriptions as we were not able to have a May meeting. Our May meeting usually reminds members to renew their membership dues and chose to receive an electronic newsletter rather than a paper one. You can renew at anytime with the handy form on the back of this newsletter, you do not need to contact me. If you do have questions as to when your subscription expires, please contact Tom Davey our Treasurer. He has the master email and membership list. You can find his number on page 2 of this newsletter. Thank you, *Anita*

Fun Stuff-

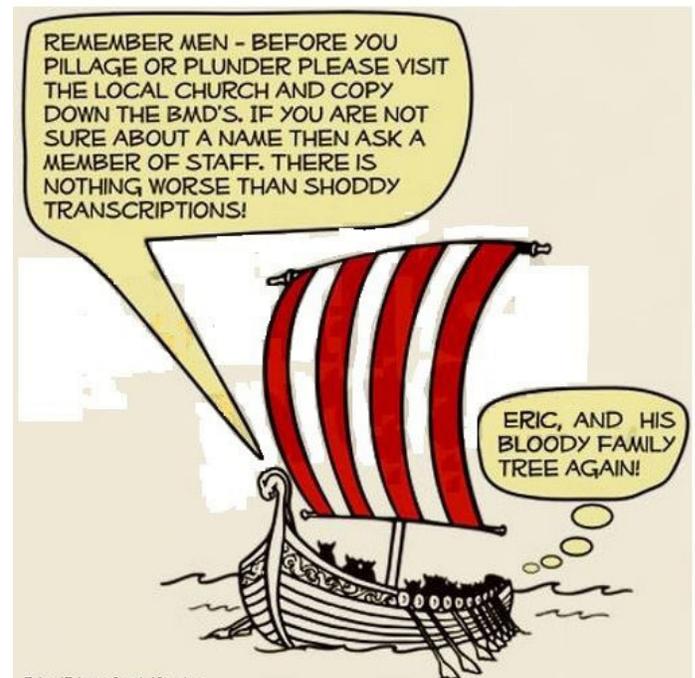
Voss One-Name Study

I started a one-name study of the Voss family, my maiden name. In 1883, there were three Voss families living within a two block area in Eau Claire's seventh ward [near where Walter's Brewery once was located]. Two of the families were headed by brothers and I have been trying to determine if the third also had ties to the family. Two Karl August Voss's and one Karl [Charles] Friederick Voss. They all appear in the St. John's Lutheran Church records, sometimes witnessing or being a sponsors at baptisms and weddings. Karl August was my great-grandfather and worked for the Eau Claire Gas company, his brother, Charley, owned a bar. So far I have not found a connection to the other Karl August between the two families, but I have collected an amazing number of stories and coincidences between the families. So, if anyone doing research in Eau Claire, Dunn and Buffalo Counties, comes across the Voss surname, please jot down some of the information and send me an email. Who knows how this new rabbit hole I am jumping down will turn out! *Anita* reidaa@execpc.com

Lutheran Church Cemetery on Omaha Street in Eau Claire

Another project for me [my husband says it keeps me out of trouble]. I am attempting to find the obituaries of those buried in just the Lutheran Cemetery, Additons 1 and 2, on Omaha Street. I have located

many through the LE Phillips Obituary Index [thank you Kathy and all those who have contributed to this database]. Once I have the name, I look to see which church, funeral home, or minister, performed the burial or helped the family. Not something a genealogist usually collects. St. John's is the only part of the cemetery that really kept track of burials and families. So, being "safer at home," I have now finished with the "A" surnames! This might take me a few years. I am involved in this project because it appears no one person has a master list of this type for the cemetery. *Anita*



Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches

From Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches. Downloaded 3 May 2020

Stay Safe and Healthy Everyone!

GRSEC Newsletter
Chippewa Valley Museum
PO Box 1204
Eau Claire, WI 54702-1204

GRSEC Membership Application or Renewal of Membership

Name (Last, First, MI) Please print or type

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Phone, email, date

Area of Research and Surnames

Annual dues of \$15 per household/year are collected in May. Please make your check payable to GRSEC and return with completed form to GRSEC c/o Chippewa Valley Museum, PO Box 1204, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1204