

Sawdust City Roots

Genealogical Research Society of Eau Claire

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An affiliate of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

Jan. - Feb., 2021

From the President-

Hope everyone is doing well and that you had a good holiday. I know it was probably different this year (mine was) but even though we may not have been celebrate as we are used to, the reason for Christmas is still the same.

Many of us have been having meetings via Zoom. At our last Board meeting, Kathy Herfel suggested we have our GRSEC meetings on Zoom. Even though we did not have enough time for advertisements we did have our meeting.

First we had to create a Zoom account and have a contact person. Kathy has been using Zoom for some of her other meetings, and agreed to me our new Zoom Master! Thanks Kathy.

Our first meeting was on December 12th at 10:00 (our usual meeting time). We held a regular meeting with secretary, treasurer and committee reports. Our program was a Show and Tell and we shared what we have been doing on our genealogy or just what we have been doing during the pandemic. Our next meeting will be on January 9th at 10:00. I know there is a program for Feb and March but I am not sure what the January program will be. The Board decided to hold Zoom meetings for the rest of the 2020-21 season. Hopefully, we will be able to get back to the museum by September!

Hope you can join us for our Zoom meetings.

Linda

WSGS Surname Registry: If you're researching a particular surname, chances are someone else is also. By sharing your surname information on the WSGS Surname Registry, you may make a connection that could help you expand your family tree.

Surname registration is limited to WSGS members. To maintain your privacy, the system uses a confidential email inquiry to forward requests. To register surnames, go to www.wsgs.org, then:

Click the "Members-Only" tab and login

Under the "Members-Only" link, click on the "Profile" tab; then, click on the "Surnames" tab in the bottom panel to enter your ancestors' surnames.

To check if others are researching the same surnames that you are, click on the "Member Surnames" tab located in the far left-hand

Index

Board Members.....	p. 2
Calendar	p. 2
Membership Update.....	p. 3
GRSEC Notes and Additions to Library.....	p. 3
My Time With Zoe	p. 4
Finding Andrew Thompson	p. 5
Tips for Cemetery Searches	p. 6
Genealogy Quick Tip, courtesy of Wisconsin State Genealogical Society	p. 7

column for an alphabetical listing of names in the WSGS registry.

If you have any questions on the Surname Registry or your WSGS membership, please contact the WSGS office at wsgs@wsgs.org

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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. **We will not meet again until further notice.** 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

JAN. 9- GRSEC regular meeting via Zoom, 10 AM. You must contact Kathy Herfel to receive a link to this meeting. Your computer needs to have Zoom installed. For more information regarding Zoom, please see the following:

- How To Use Zoom (Beginner Guide) YouTube
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9w3Y_9FL-gc4
- Getting Started Guide For New Users <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360034967471-Getting-started-guide-for-new-users>
- Zoom Website: <https://zoom.us/>

Ignore plans and Pricing, GRSEC has a paid plan. Click on "support" for video tutorials.

JAN. 15, WEBINAR- The Crown: A Tour of Filming Locations of the Most Expensive TV Series Ever Made. 4 PM to 5:15 PM EST. You need to register by January 15, here: <https://www.americanancestors.org/education/online-classes#tc>

JAN. 28, WEBINAR- The Federal Census: Moving Beyond the Population Schedule. 3 PM to 4 PM EST. You need to register by Jan. 28, here: <https://www.americanancestors.org/education/online-classes#tc>

FEB. 13, ZOOM: GRSEC- Regular meeting at 10 AM. Author Micheal J Larson, "Dear Delia: The Civil War Letters of Captain Henry F Young, Seventh Wisconsin Infantry."

FEB. 16, WEBINAR- NUCMC and Its Cousins: Keys to Lost Ancestral Records, presented by Paula Stuart-Warren, 7 PM CST. Register here: <https://wsgs.org/cpage.php?pt=319>

FEB. 20, ONLINE CLASS- Displaying & Publishing Your Family History. Sponsored by Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS). 10 to 11:30 AM. Members, \$15 and non-members \$20. Register here: <https://mngs.org/eventListings.php?nm=38#er451>

FEB. 25-27- ROOTSTECH 2021- A Free Online Conference. You must sign up at the following page: <https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>. All content will be available following this event for "at least 12 months."

Membership Update

Tom Davey, Membership Chair

We're all presently struggling with the effects of the pandemic. It has caused us all to pull back from many of our usual activities and isolate from people we normally see on a regular basis. There are, however, some benefits to this isolation as well as the obvious downsides. Other than keeping us safe, it provides us genealogists with more time to increase our research efforts and organize our findings. It's an opportunity to evaluate our discoveries and make new research plans. Additionally, it has caused us to explore new learning sources and technology.

Unfortunately, it has made it difficult to work face-to-face with others on research. It has closed us off from some of our favorite sources of information like libraries and courthouses. We miss the society meetings and big conventions that provided us with new ideas and resources.

The GRSEC board has been wrestling with many of these same issues. We are concerned by the question of how to stay relevant to our membership and provide them with the best value for their membership dues. We recently signed up for a Zoom subscription and held our first virtual monthly meeting with about a dozen members attending. We're making plans to have another meeting soon and hope to include a guest speaker. It would be great to have 30-40 members participating. It may even be possible to have virtual Open Labs this way. If you have other ideas on how to use the Zoom platform to stay in touch, please let us know your thoughts. Although it might need to be accomplished by phone, email or some other digital means, we hope to continue to provide mentoring and research help to anyone who asks. Of

course, thanks to Anita, we plan to regularly provide our newsletter.

Our membership numbers have stayed pretty steady, losing some and gaining some new members despite COVID-19's effects. If you are not sure of your membership status you can check by looking for the renewal date on the mailing label of your newsletter. If it shows 05/01/2021 or later, you are current and paid up! If you receive your newsletter by email, you can check your membership status by emailing me at tdavey@charter.net or calling me at 715-835-2655. There is a membership form on the last page of this newsletter that you can send with your renewal (or new membership). Please use that form to update your contact information. Dues and membership information should be sent to GRSEC, PO Box 1204, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1204.

From Roger Davis, GRSEC Librarian

Colonial Ancestors: Gary Boyd Roberts wrote an article in *American Ancestors* (Fall 2018, pages 47-49) promoting a book he had written, *The Royal Descents of 900 Immigrants to the American Colonies, Quebec, or the United States*. The book includes chart showing the relationship between those early immigrants and European royalty.

Mr. Roberts claims that most Americans with colonial ancestors can find charts in his book showing their connection with hundreds of European royalty and other important historical figures. He writes that this is true because of a pattern of social evolution common among European countries before settlement of the American Colonies.

The younger sons and daughters of kings became or married nobles. The younger sons and daughters of the nobles became or married "gentry" - knights, manorial lords, gentlemen with coats-of-arms, and baronets. Younger sons and daughters of the gentry became or married merchants, clergymen, Puritan or Huguenot leaders, university fellows, bureaucrats, or professional soldiers. Members of these last groups or their younger sons and daughters immigrated to the American colonies, Quebec, and later the United States.

So, if you can trace your ancestry to the early settlers of this country, chances are pretty good that you can

claim you are descended from royalty (you might be the twentieth cousin of some obscure king from a minor European country that no longer exists; but, why bother anyone with unnecessary information).

Bert Chatterson's Papers: I organized some of Bert Chatterson's papers and added a very small part of Bert's collection to our library. It is unfortunate but the vast majority of Bert's work was not organized in a way that it could be useful to others. It is important that all of us organize our records in a way that a stranger would be able to learn from our efforts if we want our collections to survive us. Even if you have a family member that is interested in the information that you have collected, it is unlikely that they will maintain that interest if you leave them with boxes of loose unorganized papers. If you think organizing your papers would be difficult; imagine how hard it would be for someone else to do it.

Additions to our Library:

Call No.	Title	Donor
Man.Stu.01	The Origin and Growth of the Family of Charles H Stuck	Connie Davenport
Frgn.Ire.02	General Alphabetical Index To the Townlands, and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland	Linda Oliver
US.Gen.19	Index To The Roll Of Honor (Union soldier deaths from Civil War)	Linda Oliver
US.NY.07a	10,000 Vital Records of Eastern New York 1777-1834	Linda Oliver
US.NY.07b	10,000 Vital Records of Western New York 1809-1850	Linda Oliver
US.NY.07c	10,000 Vital Records of Central New York 1813-1850	Linda Oliver
WLEC.34.1 9273ed	Periscope 1927, Wisconsin State Teachers College, Eau Claire, Volume XI	Chippewa Co. Genealogical Society
WLEC.34.1 941ed	Periscope 1941, Wisconsin State Teachers College, Eau Claire, Volume 25	Chippewa Co. Genealogical Society
WLEC.34.1 942ed	Periscope 1942, Wisconsin State Teachers College, Eau Claire, Volume 26	Chippewa Co. Genealogical Society
WLEC.34.1 943ed	Periscope 1943, Wisconsin State Teachers College, Eau Claire, Volume 27	Chippewa Co. Genealogical Society

Call No.	Title	Donor
WLEC.34.1 968ed	Periscope 1968, Wisconsin State University, Eau Claire, Volume 52	Chippewa Co. Genealogical Society
WLEC.34.1 969ed	Periscope 1969, Wisconsin State University, Eau Claire, Volume 53	Chippewa Co. Genealogical Society
WLEC.34.1 970ed	Periscope 1970, Wisconsin State University, Eau Claire, Volume 54	Chippewa Co. Genealogical Society
WLEC.34.1 971ed	Periscope 1971, Wisconsin State University, Eau Claire, Volume 55	Chippewa Co. Genealogical Society
FH.M005	The Miller Ancestors of Bertha Miller Chatterson	Roger Davis

My Time with Zoe Submitted by *Kathy Herfel*

I remember Zoe Matthew's first GRSEC meeting; it was probably about 2005 or so when she introduced herself, mentioned the various groups she belonged to and her interest in genealogy. Zoe continued attending meetings, helping at an annual Christmas craft sale at the Civic Center/Ramada Inn/Lismore, and joining in different projects when she could well into her late 80s.

When Zoe asked me to interview her for a StoryCorps project, I agreed. This was sponsored by Door-to-Door-Harbor House Memory Care at L.E. Phillips Senior Center in Eau Claire. She signed us up and I met her at the Senior Center on 13 March 2008. It was probably meant for people with early dementia which wasn't a problem for Zoe. She just wanted her story told and this was her chance!

Sometime last summer (2020) I received an e-mail telling me that the recording was ready. I had almost forgotten we did it! (This and many other interviews are at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/folklife/>) I listened to it with a bit of sadness as Zoe passed away on 26 August 2012 and is buried in Hales Corners Cemetery. Some GRSEC members went to the service; the cemetery is way out in the country and I remember thinking I was lost (no cell phone with GPS yet) and would be late. I wasn't. I hope to share the interview with you when I can. Here is StoryCorps' breakdown of "my time with Zoe."

Subject Log / Time Code

- Zoe talks about the cost of a hospital bill when she was born. 1:13
- Zoe talks about going to school. 6:47
- Zoe remembers her first job after college in Pittsburgh, KS. 13:00
- Zoe talks about the passing of her mother. 21:59
- Kathleen asks Zoe 'what place do you consider home.' 32:58

Each interview is assigned keywords and subjects for future look-ups. Here are Zoe's:

Keywords

- Business and Professional Women
- Eau Claire, Wisconsin
- Family Naming and Nicknames
- Historical Events/People
- Luther Hospital
- Memories of Growing Up
- School Day Memories
- South Dakota
- Spouse
- Women's Organizations

Subjects

- Birth Children
- Community Organizations
- Dances First Job
- Genealogy Marriage
- Parents Town Life
- Urban Life Workday Life



2011 Chippewa Valley Museum's Civil War Days. Zoe Matthews (left) with GRSEC members Alice and Vicky. Photograph courtesy of Kathy Herfel

Finding Andrew Thompson *Linda McClelland*

Many of the GRSEC members know that I have

been searching for Andrew Thompson for years. I did discover some information about him when I was working with two of my cousins on our Eriksen line. We had a picture of him and five of his sons. I also had the names of his children. I knew he was born in Norway, came to America with his wife and child in 1861. He settled in Wiota and also served in the Civil War. I did research his children at the Minnesota Historical Society and found death, birth and marriage records as well as obits.

Several members tried to help me. Vicki F. gave me a book about immigrants in Wiota. I learned that Wiota was a major area of Norwegian settlement. Deb J. helped me research the on-line digital records (Norway's Digital Archives). She said Andrew didn't sound Norwegian; she thought it might be Anders so we tried Anders Thompson. We knew he was in Gran Parish, Oppland County. No luck. I also tried military records but there were THREE Andrew Thomps- sons from Wiota; all with different middle names.

Periodically, I check Ancestry and Find-A-Grave to see if there are any new records. Since I am stuck in the house, I checked Ancestry again. It took me to Find-A-Grave and a treasure trove of information. Deb was right; my Andrew was indeed Anders. His last name was Torstensen. No wonder I couldn't find him! The site gave me parent's names and farm names. It also stated that his brother and sister also came to Wiota with their families. His brother took the name Erik Thompson and his sister took the name of Sarah Thorson.

I cross checked census records and Minnesota records on-line and found lots of information. I can now go back to the digital records and find more ancestors. Deb has agreed to help me and I am really excited about what I may find. She also gave me a website that I can locate the farms. You can even see the out- lines of the buildings!

So, never give up on your ancestors and talk to other members to get their ideas. Now, if only I can find my James Mars. He was the one who got me into ge- nealogy and I have been looking for him for 55 years. In the words of Winston Churchill, *Never give-up, never surrender.*

Editor's note: Now Deb and Linda need to give us the web addresses for those Norwegian records!

Tips For Cemetery Searches *Pat Lindholm*

My home town has two major cemeteries across the highway from each other, just outside of town. On one side of the road is the Protestant cemetery, the Catholic cemetery on the other side. I have family buried in both cemeteries and contribute to both.

For years, I've been adding family information and photographs to the Find A Grave website (<https://www.findagrave.com/>). This summer I had a list of extended family members, classmates, and family friends that I wanted to add. The friend giving me grave locations at the cemetery I was focusing on said she found a person of the family name I was searching that weren't on Find A Grave if I wanted to add them too. I also looked at the list of requests for photographs on Find A Grave and added those that included grave locations to my list.

I made my route using my cemetery map starting at one end and going to the other. I got out my grave inscription forms adding the information I had so my form matched my route through the cemetery. Not only was I going to take photographs, I was going to get GPS coordinates as well.

Family Tree Magazine as well as Ancestry have free forms that you can download. I have downloaded forms as I find them for future use.

I learned that there are a number of things I would do a little differently. I was being lazy and trying to do too much in a limited amount of time. I'll put more information, or more complete information on my transcription form. I'll also take a note book along to add information not included on the forms I'd pre-filled.

Many older headstones aren't perfectly legible in photos. It may help to clean off the stones first. First brushing off sand and dirt, getting rid of overgrown grass and perhaps spritzing with water to make more legible. I'll be adding the grave stone information to my forms or notebook just for this reason. I thought I could get that information from the photos, but some were impossible.

I've been trying to put Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates in my Find A Grave information. I feel future generations will have access to GPS

either hand held devices or on phones and might be more willing to visit family members in cemeteries if they have a better chance of finding them. Graves will be more accessible to them if they don't have to find maps and grave locations.

Along with my planned searches, I came across other grave stones of family friends. I photographed and GPS'ed these graves as well, but didn't write down any other information such as grave location. My mistake!

When I got home, I copied this set of photographs and renamed the file and the pictures, putting names to the grave stones. Alphabetical order helped when I was downloading the photos to Find A Grave. The problem with this is there were photos of monuments too. Some had two or three with the same name. Which graves go with which monument? Fortunately, I can go back to my original photos and get that information.

I have added my photos to Find A Grave. A list of redo's is in the works, and a new list has been started so I'll be ready in the Spring. I will take into account the things I learned and hopefully the second round will be much better.

Side note: I took over 250 photographs on that trip. Granted some graves had more than one photograph. After adding them to Find A Grave, the total percent of the cemetery photographed only went up by 2%.

My Tips

Get grave locations (can be obtained from cemetery sextant). Having a cemetery map is also useful. I've gotten these from the cemetery sextants as well.

Have transcription forms to help accumulate information.

Take along a notebook for additional information you may find not on the transcription forms or additional graves you may find but weren't looking for.

Take along a bag of tools for cleaning off stones – plastic putty knife, whisk broom, grass clippers, something like a metal rod to find buried or hidden stones, water spray bottle.

Pens/pencils.

Camera with GPS capability or camera and a GPS device.

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society provided this genealogy tip. To learn more about this organization, including how to join, visit: www.wsgs.org

My name is Cathy Dailey – I’m the current vice president of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society (WSGS). Each month, I provide a quick tip or recommend a resource to help further your genealogical research.

The Name Game: As genealogists, we know that hereditary names (surnames) may offer clues to our ancestors. As communities grew in number, the addition of “descriptions” to given names became more and more necessary to clearly distinguish individuals. For example: Frederick the butcher, John the short, Philip from Sutton, Mary of the wood, George son of Richard.

The practice of using surnames (last names) was introduced during the 11th Century in England. The naming system utilized four general categories:

- Trade/occupation
- Place names/geographic features
- Nicknames/appearance
- Patronymics

Occupational names: As a way to differentiate John the baker from John the butcher, surnames associated the individual with their trade/occupation: Baker, Weaver, Miller, Tailor/Taylor, Cook and Cooper.

Place names: Surnames could reflect the “place” a person lived or from where they came. Associated with or living near a particular hill, brook, valley, island, bridge, meadow, road or village (i.e., specific land geography) Originated from a particular locality (i.e., village, town, city); or Owned a manor or village.

Nicknames: Hereditary family names based on nicknames often described an ancestor’s appearance (stature, hair, eyes, complexion, size), a characteristic or trait (strong, bold, brave), financial status, habits or special skills.

Patronymics (a name derived from the name of a father or male ancestor): Most cultures have employed some form of patronymic naming conventions, however, specific usage would have been applied in varying degrees. Some common clues for patronymic names with reference to parenthood include:

- English, Scottish, Swedish: Suffix of “son” or “ing”; also the prefix “Fitz”
- Scottish: Prefix of “Mc/Mac”
- Irish: Prefix of “Mc/Mac”; additionally, the prefix of “O” identifies “grandson of”
- Italian: Prefix of “De/Di”
- Polish: Suffix of “wicz”

Classifications could also be mixed together. In the case of the Italian surname D’Onofrio, a nickname was blended with patronymics to form the meaning “son of a giant.”

Of course, there are always exceptions to the rules – but as a genealogist, you already knew that was going to happen. Worth noting, in an effort to better assimilate into their new lives in America, our ancestors may have chosen to modify/change their names.



GRSEC Newsletter
Chippewa Valley Museum
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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