

# Sawdust City Roots

Genealogical Research Society of Eau Claire

Volume 38, Number 4

An affiliate of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

March - April, 2021

From the President:

Here it is another month and we still cannot meet together. I miss seeing you all in person but I am glad we can still meet with zoom. Deb and Kathy are doing a wonderful job lining up programs to keep us on tract with our genealogy.

Last month our program was Mike Larson who gave a presentation on civil war letters. This led me to go over my letter and ask again a question I have had. An article is in another spot. I am anxious to hear March's offering on coffin ships. Because mine were here in the 1600s and early 1700s I never had any immigrant stories. Now that I have found my Andrew Thompson/Anders Torstenson I find I have some stories. Anders first wife, named Ragnald of course, died on the trip over in 1861. I also found Anders' brother's wife had a baby on the trip over. It was so exciting to see the place of birth as "at sea."

So, I hope you will join us for our next meeting on March 13, via zoom.

We also voted to delay our election of officers until we meet again in the fall.

*Linda*

## David Rumsey Map Collection Update

46,000 new maps and images were added to this collection in 2017. The total online collection is now over 105,000. Since we are still in quarantine, why not travel via these wonderful images? In January of 2021 18 interactive globes were added. These globes may be rotated, enlarged and shared via URL.

To "travel" to the collection, please follow this link <https://www.davidrumsey.com/home>.

## Index

Board Members.....	p. 2
Calendar .....	p. 2
L E Phillips Library News .....	p. 3
The Genealogy Center at the Allen County Library.....	p. 3
Civil War Letters.....	p. 4
Thank You Note.....	p. 4
Update to Online Death Indices .....	p. 4
Why Should I Write My Family Stories?.....	p. 5
RootsTech 2021 Take-Aways .....	p. 6
How-To from Roger Davis.....	p. 6
German Words Related to the Pandemic.....	p. 6
Genealogy Quick Tip, courtesy of Wisconsin State Genealogical Society .....	p. 7

## GRSEC Board Members

Genealogical Research Society of Eau Claire (GRSEC)

### President

[Linda McClelland](#) ..... 715-836-7719

### Vice-president

[Kathy Herfel](#) ..... 715-926-5205

### Secretary

[Ken Kiesow](#) ..... 715-877-2319

### Treasurer/Membership

[Tom Davey](#) ..... 715-835-2655

### Program Chairs

[Deb Jarvar](#) ..... 417-574-6678

[Kathy Herfel](#) ..... 715-926-5205

### Cemetery Indexing

Available .....

### Historian

[Linda McClelland](#) ..... 715-836-7719

### 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

Renee Ponzio ..... 715-839-1683

### Publicity

[Deb Jarvar](#) ..... 417-574-6678

### Newsletter

[Anita Reid](#) ..... 715-835-2248

This newsletter is published in September, November, January, March and May. Deadline for entries is the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>. Membership is \$15.00 per year, beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. 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

**MAR. 13-** GRSEC meeting, 10 AM, via Zoom. Program presented by Glenn Borreson, a retired Lutheran pastor. Glenn's presentation will be "Coffin Ships", a story of his Norwegian immigrant family to America.

**MAR. 16-** Virtual Genealogy, sponsored by the Allen County Public Library (ACPL). *Introduction to Irish Internet Sites*, 2:30 to 3:30 PM, EDT. Link here: <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/4913183>

**MAR. 20-** Webinar sponsored by the Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS). *Runestones and Runic Inscriptions*. 1 PM CST. Link here: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83370513778> . Meeting ID: 833 7051 3778

**MAR. 23-** Virtual Genealogy, sponsored by ACPL. *Genealogy Research in Poland and Their Former Territories*, 2:30 to 3:30 PM EDT. Link here: <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/4916194>

**APR. 6-** Webinar. Sponsored by the Utah Genealogical Association (UGA). "Analysis and Correlation: A Case Study on a Missing Family in the Census," by Peggy Lauritzen, AG. 6 to 7:30 PM MT. Link here: [https://ugagenealogy.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_qbXF4VIFRau0w82u9AkUyQ](https://ugagenealogy.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qbXF4VIFRau0w82u9AkUyQ)

**APR. 7-** Webinar sponsored by MGS. *Documentation and Citation: Keep Calm and Cite Your Sources!* 7 to 8:15 PM CT. Link here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5290761304745149966>

**APR. 9-10 -** Virtual Event. *Investigating Your Roots Becoming a Genealogy Super Sleuth. Featuring The Genealogy Guys, George G Morgan and Drew Smith.* Sponsored by Wisconsin State Genealogical Society.

For more information and to register: <https://wsgs.org/cpage.php?pt=248>

**APR. 10-** GRSEC meeting, 10 AM, via Zoom. Program by Anna Zook, Reference and Digital Services Librarian at the L E Phillips Memorial Public Library, "The McCann Brothers in the Chippewa Valley: Stories and Hearsay."

**APR. 17-** Virtual Conference. MGS Spring 2021 All Star Conference. There is a fee associated with this conference. Link here: <https://mngs.regfox.com/2021-spring-conference-all-star>

### **LE Phillips Library News**

For now, while we're in this building, we're committed to continuing services at their current level. However, we are exploring ways to increase service levels and library access when we move to our temporary location this spring. And as always, we're waiting for safety guidelines from state and local agencies to loosen. Watch for updates on the library's website, [www.ecpubliclibrary.info](http://www.ecpubliclibrary.info). Here are some of our current services:

**Park & Pickup** – "Park & Pickup" is our self-service, contact-free holds pickup service. This procedure offers you a safe and easy way to retrieve your reserved books and materials. Our staff has carefully created this service with guidance from the City of Eau Claire's risk management team to maximize your health and safety.

**2020 Tax Forms** – The 2020 tax forms are ready and available for pickup using Park & Pickup. Call the library at 715-839-5004 or learn more at <https://www.ecpubliclibrary.info/tax-time/>

**Book Bundles** – Stuck for a good book? Let library staff do the browsing for you! We can create a personalized bundle of books and other materials based on your interests. Staff will put up to five items on hold for each participating adult. Give us a call at 715-839-5004 or fill out the form online at <https://www.ecpubliclibrary.info/personalized-book-bundles/>

**Print services** – We can print up to 25 pages black and white and 10 color pages for free per week per customer. Send it your print request by calling 715-839-5004.

**Digital Resources** – The digital library is always open. Learn how to get started at <https://www.ec-publiclibrary.info/digital/>

**Ancestry.com** – There is temporary access offsite for many of our databases, including Ancestry.com. Learn more at <https://www.ecpubliclibrary.info/databases-research/>

### **The Genealogy Center At The Allen County Public Library**

*Pat Lindholm*

[Genealogycenter.org](http://Genealogycenter.org)

<https://acpl-cms.wise.oclc.org/genealogy>

While checking out RootsTech this year, I discovered information on the Genealogy Center and thought it worth sharing. I haven't had time to check it out yet beyond the clips presented at RootsTech, but plan to. It appears to be a great resource we could all benefit from. They also had a Resource Guide I was able to print off that covered the library plus the Fort Wayne, Indiana area.

The Genealogy Center is a treasure trove of information. Not only is it one of the largest genealogy library sources in the US, it also has a large online presence. It is part of the Allen County Public Library, large enough to give out maps to make out locating information easier. The Genealogy Center can also be found on Facebook and YouTube. Check out the above website to see all they have to offer.

They specialize in North America information but also have information for other areas such as the United Kingdom plus others.

Their online catalog covers books and materials in the library so you can prepare for a research trip there. But, if you want to search from home, much is online. Each state, in the library, has its own area, and then is broken down by county, then city, all in alphabetical order. The same is said for states online information. There is also a large military section covering all conflicts but mainly on the Civil War.

I have heard about this library and that everyone should go to Fort Wayne, but was amazed by everything that was covered.

**Editor's note:** Fort Wayne is a one day travel trip from Eau Claire. It is a lot of driving and longer than

you think. Don't visit during a convention like I did, so many people. The scanners and a printer broke down. I used my camera on my phone and on my tablet to take pictures of the books and documents I needed. I would like to go again when it is much, much quieter.

## **Civil War Letters**

*Linda McClelland*

Our last zoom presentation was on Civil War letters. It reminded me of letters I have so I looked at them again. Since the writer is going to be on our planned Cemetery Walk, I thought I would do a bio of different people we are going to be including.

### **ANDREW J. ROWELL**

Andrew J. Rowell was born on 6 September, 1833 in Maidstone, Essex County, Vermont. His immigrant ancestors were Thomas and his son Valentine Rowell who came in 1632 and were original settlers in Salisbury, later incorporated at Amesbury, Mass. Many of the Rowells served in the French and Indian and Revolution War.

Andrew's father, Benning Rowell served in the War of 1812. Together with his brother and cousins, Andrew enlisted in the Civil War from New York. As a soldier, Andrew wrote many letters home. Some were passed down through the family and some were found in old newspapers.

He wrote to his mother, his father, his brothers and two sisters. After reading the letters I noticed the different ways he reported events to the various members. To his mother, he wrote about life as a soldier and how everything was so nice. He described the food which he said was wonderful and told her what he had to eat each day. He told her how kind the officers were (really) and how good all the men were in his unit. He said he liked soldiering so much and if it weren't for missing her and his family, he would never want to leave.

His letters to his father were mostly about business. He was sending home his pay, some for his mother's care and the rest to be saved. He said he wanted to buy a farm when he got back home but if the cost of land was too high he would go to Wisconsin where the land was cheaper. He already had two brothers in

the Chippewa valley working in the lumber mill.

To his sisters, he mostly wrote about his concerns for his mother and her health.

It was only to his one brother that he wrote about the war. He had been wounded at the battle of Antietam and was in the hospital. He asked about his brother, George, who he had not seen since the battle and wondered if the family had heard if he were alive or dead. He also told about his cousin, Ned Pennock. Ned had been wounded in the same battle. Unknown to Andrew, Ned had died. All of this war talk was never in any of the letters he wrote to his mother or sisters.

I have always wondered if the soldiers wrote differently to women and men. I think it would be a wonderful study for someone to make. You would have to find letters from the same person to different members of his family. I have read a lot of different civil war letters but they are usually all to the same person as were those presented by our guest speaker. Maybe a good research job for someone younger?

**Update on Dear Delia books:** Volume One/The Local Store, has six copies of the book, *Dear Delia*, written by Micheal J Larson.

## **A Thank-you Note from Presenter Glenn Borreson**

Glenn presented our January program, *Maria the Midwife* and will present our March program on Coffin Ships.

Deb,

I appreciated the very nice thank-you note from you today (it was wonderfully creative!) -- and the \$25 check from Tom (and his note). The next program I do for you folks is "no cost" to you, please. My only cost is a bit of time, and spending it with folks who are interested and interesting makes that fun. It's nice to be asked.

*Glenn L. Borreson*

## **Online Death Indexes Website Updated**

"Online Searchable Death Indexes and Records, operated by Joe Beine, was updated in the beginning of 2021 with 100 new links.

Here is the link to the "Newest Updates"

<https://genrootsblog.blogspot.com/2021/01/online-indexes-for-death-records.html>

Here is the link to the "Online Searchable Death Indexes and Records"

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

## Why Should I Write My Family Stories?

*Pat Lindholm*

There are, and have been, a number of seminars on writing family stories/histories held in the Chippewa Valley. Hopefully there will continue to be more. I've attended some at the library, Senior Center, Senior American Day and UWEC Continuing Education. Each has given me a different perspective, ideas, and helpful hints as to how to start and continue. I wish I'd started sooner!

I think we've all been in or around conversations relatives have had talking about the past, telling stories. Some, I'm sure, have been exaggerated but hold a grain of truth. One of our family stories was about a relative being a jockey for the King of England but had to flee the country as he'd stolen a pig. Believe this was somewhere around the 1700s. Did the King of England have jockeys then? We can find no hard evidence to this but it sounds good! We do have relatives from England, however. Then I have a cousin asking who told the story – her dad or my mother, both good story tellers who often tried to outdo each other.

But why should we write stories down? Don't you remember hearing a relative tell something about his or her life or another relative's and now you can't remember it but wish you could? Perhaps this is something that future generations would enjoy hearing or like to know but it's now lost. Each generation is a little different, has different experiences, even occupations – some of which are now extinct or almost (lumber jacks, blacksmiths). Just think of the advancement in technology, things we have today that our parents or grandparents didn't. We use to talk to my grandmother, who fortunately lived to be 102, about growing up and the advancements she saw in her lifetime, going from horse and buggy to automobiles, jet planes, a man on the moon, and

advancements in the food industry – sliced bread, frozen foods, etc. So many different things. Think of the advancements in our lifetime.

Right now, Facebook has many posts that ask things like, "how did you get to school?" I grew up with neighborhood schools kids could easily walk to, and we went home for lunch. How about those who went to one room schools? Now there are centralized grade, middle and high schools where all the kids are bussed in and remain there for the entire day. I'm sure this isn't everywhere but you get the idea.

I wish I had my parents around right now as I have questions about things I remember them telling me – that I'd like to write down, stories they both told about World War II. Mom definitely told more about that era but then she was state side and had quite the flair for telling stories! She'd been in D.C., had lunch at the White House with Eleanor Roosevelt, used a hatpin on the subway when someone got frisky, danced with Gene Kelly. Nice facts, but to flesh them out! Ask now, write now!!

I applaud those in the younger generation who have taken it upon themselves to seek out the older generation, interview them, and write or record their stories for future generations. This is one of the ways we learn and enable future generations to know what it was like "way back when." This is how we get to know relatives, ancestors.

Start making a list of things to write about – when you were little; about parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles; experiences you had; things about your children growing up, etc. I have a list started and add to it when I think of something new, and check them off when done. Write about family members, your perspective on them, what you remember most about them. Just remember, what you remember isn't exactly the way other family members will remember it. It's all perspective. It's all worth writing about so others can remember or imagine.

Let's let future generations know the past.

**One tip:** Be careful when you ask questions. I innocently asked by Dad and two of his three sisters about growing up along the shores of Dell's Pond here in Eau Claire. That question started a verbal war! I causally left the table to go do the dishes. I think they argued for at least 30 minutes.

## RootsTech 2021 Take-aways

Anita Reid

As many other people did this past February, I attended the free, online RootsTech 2021. I have been fortunate to attend RootsTech in person, so this was a good opportunity to compare both conventions.

**Advantages:** No booking a flight, hotel room or budgeting for meals. No searching a map for where the next class was being held or deciding between two or even three classes I wanted to attend. No tired feet, I wore slippers the entire event. It was free.

**Disadvantages:** The Expo Hall was pretty non-existent. No cool gadgets to view, or drawings to put my name in to win something. No people to exchange ideas with, luncheons to sit down and talk about some new connection. No chance to visit the Family History Library.

Would I "attend" again. A free virtual conference? You bet I would attend again. Would I attend again in person? No, not RootsTech. This is a huge, exhausting event. Even though I missed the exhibit hall, I don't want to fight 4,000 other people to get to the front of the table.

RootsTech is ongoing this entire year. I have a bookmarked list of over 50 sessions to watch. Here is an abbreviated listing of my watch list:

- Discovering Genealogies on FamilySearch
- Locality Research: Key to Making New Discoveries
- Spanish Flu Pandemic
- How to create Google Chrome shortcuts for Faster Genealogy Research
- Records Analysis: Church Records of Protestant Europe
- Ankle Beaters and Barkers: Exploring our Ancestors' Occupations
- Navigating Patronymics in Scandinavian Research, 3 parts
- Getting the Most out of Scottish Vital Records on ScotlandsPeople

You can visit RootsTech here. You will need to log in with your FamilySearch account.

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/home>

## How-to from Roger Davis

"The Legal Genealogist", Judy G. Russell posted an easy to follow article that illustrates the method she uses to post citation information to digital photographs. The same method could be used to post the names of people in the photos as well as the date and location or other important information. She mentions a specific free program that she uses but the same process works in many photo-editing programs. It is possible to add citation and/or factual information to a digital photos meta data but there is no standard way of dealing with meta data so data added in one program may not be usable in another program. In addition, if you upload a digital photo, it may get stripped of its meta data. If you use Judy's method, the information will stay with the photo unless someone purposely removes it. See the following link: <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2014/03/17/an-image-citation-how-to/>

## German Words Related to the Pandemic

*Alltagsmaske* ..... everyday mask  
*Spuckschutzschirm* ..... spit protection umbrella  
*Schnutenpulli* ..... snout sweater  
*Mundschutzmode* ..... mouth protection fashion  
*Gesichtskondom* ..... face condom  
*Mindestabstandsregelung* ..... minimum-distance regulation  
*Anderthalbmetergesellschaft* ..... one-and-a-half-meter society

From an article by Luisa Beck for the Washington Post, March 1, 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/people/luisa-beck/>

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society provided the following tip. To learn more about this organization, including how to join, visit: [www.wsgs.org](http://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. This month, let’s chat about “taking another look.”

Does this scenario sound familiar? You’ve located a promising resource, scoured through the available data, added the appropriate information to your family history, and now you’ve moved on...

After we tap a resource, how many of us can’t wait to cross it off the list and transfer it to the “done” pile? You’re not alone – I do it too. However, we need to keep in mind the word “available” -- the resources that we’ve searched can only share data/information that is available at the time of the search.

A recent return trip to the Find-A-Grave website produced a “made my day” moment for me. As background, when looking for “outer branch” members on my family tree, I use a “broad” search strategy on Find-A-Grave ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)). Specifically, I only search using two terms: Last name and “state name” in the cemetery location blank. My hope is that someone will have identified connections or posted an obituary or photo to an “outlying” family member that will aid in my research.

This time, I used the search terms: “Pireaux” and “Wisconsin.” (Note: Find-A-Grave is only as accurate as the individual entering the information. To improve results, you may need to try different spellings of the surname, use the “similar name spelling” option, enter another location (state), or browse listings by using a partial spelling of the surname or the specific cemetery.)

As I looked through the results, I clicked on my 2X great grandfather’s listing. There, under the Family Members’ heading, someone had added family connections and a photo of his mother (my 3x great grandmother), Rosalie Hancisse Pireaux Paye Daix. I had never seen a picture of Rosalie –and even though she looked tired, I could see my grandfather’s features in her face. By the time of her death in 1913 at the age of 83, she had buried three husbands and four children. Who wouldn’t be tired?

My point is – if I had considered certain searches on Find-A-Grave to be “complete” or if I had only looked for a specific person and not performed a “broad” search, I would have never seen this photo or any of the other images that had recently been posted onto the site. Plus, I wouldn't have connected with a cousin who also happens to be one of Rosalie’s 3x great grandchildren. The bonus is that my new cousin is the “holder” of many pictures and documents that his uncle had accumulated prior to his death. His treasures include a handwritten memoir by one of Rosalie’s grandchildren that chronicles her life in Belgium and Green Bay.

Before you “check off” a resource, especially an on-line one, remember that libraries, websites, and archives are constantly adding and/or indexing content. Taking the time to “take another look” could produce amazing rewards.

Thank you again for being a member of WSGS. If you have any questions about your membership or accessing our website, please contact our administrative assistant, Chris Klauer, at: [wsgs@wsgs.org](mailto:wsgs@wsgs.org).

Stay warm!

Cathy Dailey

Vice President

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

[cathy@TrackThePast.com](mailto:cathy@TrackThePast.com)

**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