

# Sawdust City Roots

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GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH  
SOCIETY OF EAU CLAIRE

AN AFFILIATE OF THE WISCONSIN  
STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



**Tips,  
Tricks,  
and Ideas**

# GRSEC, Genealogical Research Society of Eau Claire

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 1 PM at the Chipewewa 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.**

Visit us at: <https://grsec.org/>

Email us at:

<http://www.grsec@cvmuseum.com>

Membership forms can be found on the back page of each newsletter.

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# Notes from the Chair



Linda McClelland researching at the LE Phillips library. Photograph by Kathy Herfel

This will be my last newsletter to you. Elections will be on May 14 and it looks like a great slate of officers. I have served over six years as president and although I have enjoyed it, that is far too long. We need new blood to come up with new ideas and plans.

I am looking forward to becoming more involved with the Dunn County group and volunteering at the

genealogical center and the museum. I also want to do more with my own genealogy. My cousin, Mark Hendrickson, and I are working on the Danish side and that is growing all the time. I am also looking forward to the Norwegian group meeting in New Ulm this fall. I have found a lot of information and hope to find more.

Deb Jarvar and I are working on a project tentatively titled *Maid in America/Maid in Eau Claire: Scandinavian immigrant women who*

worked as Domestic. If you have an ancestress who worked in domestic service (maid, cook, or nanny) and would be willing to share her/your story and perhaps a picture, please let me know. I am also working on a children's book.

You see I have lots of ideas; just need more time. Have a happy summer and keep searching for those lost ancestors.

*Linda*

# Tips, Tricks and Ideas

## Online Cemetery Research for Rainy Days

**Find a Grave-** a user submitted website for documenting graves. Remember, user submitted, those are key words.

- Confirm birth dates and death dates with other records. This is a grave site locator website.
- Confirm birth and death places if given. How does the person that uploaded this information know where they were born?
- If there is no grave image, click the box to request a photograph
- Click on the name of the cemetery and then check for other family members of the same surname
- Also, just scroll through the memorial to see if there are any surnames found in your family ancestry
- <https://www.findagrave.com/>

**BillionGraves-** can be used on your phone. Images of grave markers on this site have a GPS location tagged to them. Also, user-submitted.

- On you phone, download the BillionGraves app and you can search by name and cemetery
- Sign up for a free account
- <http://billiongraves.com/>

**CemeteryCensus.com-** another user-submitted database for the following states: Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. <https://cemeterycensus.com/>

### **Ancestry.com**

- Use the search box at the top of the page and choose card catalogue
- In the “keyword” box type “cemetery records” and filter by location

## **Cemetery Websites**

With your browser window, type in the name of the cemetery you are interested in, they just might have a website!

### Remember:

- User-submitted websites update and add records all the time. Be sure to go back and check again.
- The University of WI- Eau Claire, Eau Claire Area Research Center at McIntyre Library has a wonderful microfilm series titled “Church and Cemetery Records (Genealogical Society of Utah Project), covering the years 1857-1982. The call number is Eau Claire Micro 21. This collection contains 16 reels of microfilm.
- <https://tinyurl.com/Finding-aid>
- The University of WI- Stout, University Archives and Area Research Center has the Evergreen Cemetery Index, 1873-2003. And numerous others.
- <https://tinyurl.com/Evergreen-Cemetery>
- Writing a letter still works! If you do not know the address, try using Finding a Grave or BillionGraves cemetery locator. If the cemetery has a website, use the contact information link.

## Improving Research Habits

How many of us just plunk down in front of a computer and just go to our favorite website and start plugging in names? Or, go to the library, find a book we are interested in, and then just flip to the index to see if it contains a “name” we are researching?

Amy Johnson Crow, a genealogist I follow, has five tips to building better research habits and thus finding more ancestors. They include:

1. Reading the introduction of the book or website you are using. You might find out they are missing key areas you are looking to investigate.

2. Search Terms: Sometimes less is more. Try leaving out the birth year, changing a location from something specific to one more broad, and my favorite, changing how you spell the surname. Such as Taylor to “Tayler” or Mc Neal to McNeal.
3. Cite your sources! If later on you find something that conflicts with what you have written down, how do you resolve the conflict if you can remember where you found your first bit of information? Don’t worry about periods, italics or commas. Title, page number and what you used is fine. Title of website, specific database, heading of page; title of book, and page number.
4. Before researching, ask yourself what you want to find. Having a specific question in mind will help you focus.
5. Write more. It is great to get all your papers in a binder or folder, or get all those events into your genealogy software, hopefully that is not all your doing. Do your family members know how to use your computer? Do they want ten binders of surname births, deaths and marriages? Putting our research into a readable format will allow our research to go forward after we are gone. It may even help the research process, you might realize that you don’t know everything or know less than you that you did about that ancestor.

## Free Websites to Add to Your Research

Instead of going to the same old place try these to spice up your research.

**InternetArchive:** home of the “Wayback Machine,” and just about anything in the public domain that can be digitized. Rather than just putting in your ancestor’s surname in the search box, try a location search or a topic. <https://archive.org/>

**The website for the State Archive, State Library or the State Historical Society.** Some states, like Wisconsin and Kansas, the State Historical Society functions as the State Archives. The Library of Virginia has a fantastic website.

**The website for the state and local genealogy societies where your ancestors lived.** The State of Indiana Genealogy Society has numerous records available to everyone, you do not need to be a member. Another great place to find genealogy societies is US GenWeb. This is one of my (Anita) favorites.

<https://usgenweb.org/>

**The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA).**

You can type your ancestor’s surname into the search box, but try a subject or locality search for where your ancestor lived, what church he/she attended, what schools. <https://dp.la/>

**Linkpendium.** All about genealogy links created by the people who brought us RootsWeb. Almost 10 million links. <http://www.linkpendium.com/>

**WorldCat:** World catalogue. Put together by libraries from around the world. The key is to think by subjects. <https://www.worldcat.org/>

**FamilySearch Research Wiki.** Great for areas you that you have never researched in. Locations and subjects.

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page)

If you need help with genealogy terms in another language, when records first started in a certain locality, this is a great starting place. Under Norway Research, there is a Parish List, a Word List, a Dialect List, even a parish Register Heading List. Under Polish Research you can find a *Kartenmeister* or German/Polish Place Name Conversion.

## Rules of Genealogy

James Tanner is one of my (Anita’s) favorite bloggers. He has developed the following rules.

- When the baby was born, the mother was there. The mother may be the key to where the records are located. Records are created at the place the event occurred. Events occur in specific locations.
- Absence of an obituary or death record doesn’t mean the person is still alive. Be realistic and not obsessive.



- Every person who ever lived has a unique birth order and a unique set of biological parents. Applies to adoptions, foster children, guardianships, step-children, and any other type of relationship.
- There are always more records. (This answers a brick wall question.)
- Records move. Borders change.
- Read the fine print.
- Even a perfect fit can be wrong.
- Genealogists hate a blank field.
- You can guess but you can't make assumptions.

James Tanner's blog, *Genealogy's Star*, is located here: <https://genealogysstar.blogspot.com/>

## Computer and Keyboard Hacks

- Need to take a screen shot? Simply press alt + prt sc (print screen) simultaneously.
- Alt + Tab is a simple shortcut that lets you navigate through active windows quickly.
- Accidentally closed a tab? Simply press Ctrl + Shift + T to reopen the most recently closed tab and get back to what you were doing (Cmd + Shift + T on Macs).
- Did you know you can undo almost any action? Ctrl + Z is the ultimate hot key, and for sure you knew about it already, however note that undo doesn't just apply to typing. If you accidentally delete or move a file, you can hit Ctrl + Z to bring it right back to where it was (Ctrl + Y will redo whatever you undid).
- Paste the plain text of what was copied When you copy text from any source, programs will usually include any formatting that comes with it. To paste this as plain text, press Ctrl + Shift + V instead of the standard Ctrl + V, and the system will paste unformatted text. This also works on Mac: Cmd + Shift + V.
- Scroll through pages with the spacebar. Tapping the spacebar on a website will scroll down in full page chunks and hitting shift + space will take you back up.
- When you want to close an open window or program you can do so by using Alt+F4

- While browsing the internet you need to open a new tab very often and doing it by using a mouse can be irritating so here you can use Ctrl+T to open a new tab and in the same way if you want to open a new window you can use Ctrl+N to do so.
- Sometimes while browsing the internet you need to increase & decrease the text size in the browser. You can change your font size bigger and smaller by using Ctrl+ or + and Ctrl+ or-, and Ctrl+0 will reset the text size in the current window.
- My personal favorite. Right-click the tab. You will find a whole list of options, including mute site and duplicate.

## Visit the Library

What is so great about that? Well, I mean ANY library near your ancestors location. While I was looking for an elusive ancestor, I just typed in the county name, state and the word, library. Many library websites have an "Ask A Librarian" link. Click and ask your question. You can also use the US GenWeb site, go to the state and county you are interested in then look for local resources.

## Create a Stylesheet for Yourself

Are you working on writing short paragraphs regarding your ancestors? Make yourself a stylesheet. Just open your word processor of choice (I use Microsoft Word) and write down your "rules."

- Whether or not to use a comma after the last in a series (called the serial comma)
  - What words should and shouldn't be capitalized
  - What terms and phrases should and shouldn't be used
  - The spelling of commonly appearing names and titles of individuals and entities
  - Formatting guidelines, such as when to use bold, when to use italics, and whether to use a period at the end of each bullet in a list
- Being consistent now really helps later.

## Genealogy and Facebook

Here are just a few Facebook groups you can belong to!

- Genealogy Tip of the Day
- Genealogy Do-Over. The administer is Thomas MacEntee
- Nebraska Genealogy
- Ancestry and FamilySearch both have a Facebook presence.
- Midwest Genealogy Center, Independence, MO.
- Kansas Genealogy

The list is endless. In the Facebook search box, type in your state of interest and the word “genealogy.”

## Research by Locality

Too often we just search by a surname. For a change, to a locality search instead. Ask yourself:

- What happened?
- Where did it Happen?
- Look at a map of the area
- Use a gazetteer to track down historical place names
- Learn about those boundary changes
- What about the history of the location.

I always wondered about why my family settled in Eau Claire. Turns out it was a cousin, that first started in Illinois. He came to Eau Claire because of the lumber industry. Thus started the immigration of three brothers, one sister and numerous cousins to Wisconsin.

## Mistakes to Avoid

- Not reading thoroughly
- Not staying organized
- Not asking extended family what they know
- Not verifying someone else’s information
- Not being flexible about spelling of names, places, dates, nicknames, where someone lived, where someone was buried. Sometimes memory can be fallible
- Only using online sources!

I have personal knowledge of the above mistakes plus many, many more.

## Going to the Courthouse

In Wisconsin you will most likely find birth, marriage, death and property records at the Register of Deeds. Links to the Register of Deeds (RODs) in each county is located here: <https://rvoigt9.wixsite.com/wrdaprofiles>

- Most RODs have a “Genealogy” link, click this to

find out hours of operation and forms of identification you may need to search in person.

- Put your phone on mute and put it away. Ask first if you can take pictures of property deeds or property indexes. At one small office they told me not to surrender my phone because they would “keep an eye on me.” Other offices have asked for my phone.
- Dress comfortably, bring a sweater.

## Genealogy Research Trip to Salt Lake City, October 16-23, 2022.

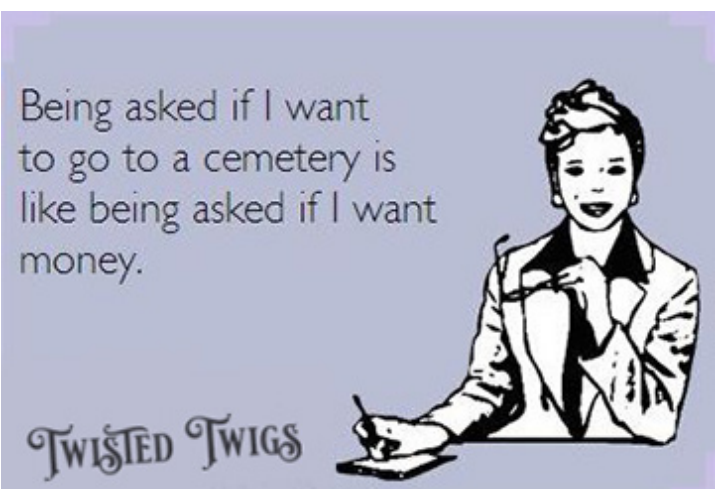
Join Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library for a research tour to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah where you’ll find the largest collection of genealogical materials in the world; NAGC researchers (Jerry Paulson & Chris Klauer) will be available to assist you during the entire trip; knowledgeable library staff & volunteers will be on hand for research help. This trip is not limited to those with Norwegian ancestry!

\$1500 (NAGC Members) \$1700 (Non-members) \*Cost of trip does not include transportation, meals or entertainment.

Accommodations: Salt Lake Plaza Hotel (122 W. South Temple, Salt Lake City UT 84101) is located conveniently next to the Family History Library and offers a free airport shuttle and has an on-site restaurant. Other attractions in the area include the Joseph Smith Memorial Building and many shops and restaurants.

Contact the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library for more information.

<http://www.nagcnl.org/>



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

**GRSEC Membership Application or Renewal of Membership**

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

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Street Address

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City, State, Zip

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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