

AN AFFILIATE OF THE WISCONSIN STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Sawdust City Roots

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY OF EAU CLAIRE

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WISCONSIN STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2023 Spring Gene-a-Rama



Trials and Tribulations of Coming to America Featuring

Katherine Wilson

Friday & Saturday, March 24-25, 2023

Location

The Lismore – A Double Tree by Hilton
333 Gibson St, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

KEYNOTE

The 1918 Influenza Pandemic and Its Effect On Our American Ancestors

LECTURES

Resources for Genealogical Research in Foreign Countries

Our European Ancestors' Voyage to America

They Didn't All Come Through Ellis Island: Finding and Analyzing Passenger Arrival Lists

America's Westward Expansion: Records of Travelers and Service Providers

Also Featuring: Renee Garrick, Russ Horton, John Berg and Sarah J Beer

Genealogical Research Society of Eau Claire (GRSEC)

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 1 PM at the Chippewa Valley Museum, located in beautiful Carson park, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

The GRSEC does not meet during the summer months (June-Aug.). 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 or wish to, 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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• PROGRAM CO-CHAIR: Deb Jarvar	715.874.6678
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• HISTORIAN: Linda McClelland	715.836.7719
• OBITUARY CHAIR: Kathy Herfel	715.926.5209
• LIBRARIAN: Roger Davis	715.835.1630
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Notes from the Chair

Greetings!

We are soon approaching Spring 2023, and there is much to look forward to. March and April will be packed with events. Our meetings for both March and April will be held at the Eau Claire Public Library in downtown Eau Claire. March 11th, Russel Horton from the Veterans' Museum in Madison will hold a virtual presentation. He will share tips on researching military ancestors from the Civil War to the present. A room at the library is reserved for those that wish to watch as part of the group. There will be an option to stay home and view it on your computer.

March 24th and 25, Gene-A-Rama is coming to Eau Claire. It will be held at the Lismore Hotel downtown. Trials and Tribulations of; Coming to America! The event will have multiple lectures throughout the days regarding the migration from Europeans into the United States and westward.

On April 8th, there will be another virtual presentation. This time it will be Scott Norrick, a specialist in researching using the U.S. Census. He will give us a detailed look into using the 1950 census in researching our ancestors. Members and guests will also have the option to see the presentation at the Eau Claire Public Library. On Thursday evening, April 20th, Ken Szymanski will present a book talk accompanied by music at the Eau Claire Public Library. He does a great job entertaining people while sharing family stories.

That's many events for the next few months. It's enough to keep us busy; Soon, the snow will be melted in the little cemetery we have been waiting to search all winter.



Sara

Upcoming Events

Genealogical Research Society of Eau Claire

Meetings:

- 11 March, 1 PM at the LE Phillips Public Library in the Carnegie Room. Program presented virtually by Russell Horton, Reference Archivist from the Veteran's Museum, Madison.
- 8 April, 1 PM at the LE Phillips Public Library in the Carnegie Room. Program presented virtually by Scott Norrick. "Eau Claire in the 1950 Census: Insights and Discoveries."
- 20 April (Thursday evening), 6:30 PM, GRSEC is co-sponsoring a presentation by Ken Szymanski at the public library, 3rd floor; "The Grandpa I Never Knew." (Book talk accompanied by music.)

Wisconsin Genealogical Society (WGS)

Webinars:

- 21 March, 7 PM, "Finding Females in US Naturalization Records, 1790-1945. Presented by Nancy E Loe.
- 18 April, 7 PM, "Genealogy of a Neighborhood: Urban and Rural. Presented by Mary Risseuw.

For more information: <https://wsgs.org/upcoming-webinars>

Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS)

Webinars:

- 25 March, 10:30-12 NOON, "Using Google Earth Pro, Griffith's Valuation and Irish Townlands to Map the Land of Your Ancestors." Presented by Joe Hunter and sponsored by the Irish Genealogical Society International.
- 27 March, 6:30 PM, "Introduction to Danish Genealogy," presented by Heather Nelsen, Vice President of the National Danish-American Genealogical Society.
- 22 April, 10:30 AM to 12 NOON, "Ancestors Who Called Canada and the U. S. A. Home." Presented by Annette Burke Lyttle.
- For more information and to register for the above webinars:

<https://mngs.org/Branches-&Partner-Events>

Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS)

Class

- 18 March, 9 AM to 4 PM, Room 126, UW-Madison Memorial Library, Madison, Wisconsin. Presented by the staff from the Ulster Historical Foundation. For more information, please contact Lori Bessler at Lori.Bessler@wisconsinhistory.org or 608-264-6519.
- Webinar: 22 April, 9 AM to 3 PM. "Genealogy and the Archives Workshop." Presented by the Wisconsin Historical Society and Lee Grady, the Society's reference archivist. For more information, please contact the box office at 608-264-4848 or boxoffice@wisconsinhistory.org.

Minnesota Historical Society

Workshop and Lecture

- March 12, 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM. "Cracking the Genealogy Case Workshop." Presented by Mica Lee Anders. Location: Minnesota History Center. For more information: 651-259-3015 or boxoffice@mnhs.org

AmericanAncestors

Online:

- 9 March, 4 PM to 5 PM. "Finding Your Ancestral Homestead," presented by Sheilagh Doerfler. For more information and to register: <https://www.americanancestors.org/>
- Events and Tours. Take advantage of the extensive offerings from this organization. For more information: <https://www.americanancestors.org/events>

BYU Library, Family History Webinars

All webinars begin at 5 PM MT (Mountain Time) and are free.

- March 23, "Where Was Your Ancestor Buried? Using Online cemetery Programs." Presented by James Tanner. To register: <https://fh.lib.byu.edu/classes-and-webinars/online-webinars/>

More News

Fountaindale Public Library, Online Genealogy Events

- March 22, 11 AM, “Buckeye Expansion: Migration into Ohio,” presented by Dana Ann Palmer
- April 12, 7 PM, “Publishing Your Genealogy Using Windows (Hybrid In-person and virtual)” presented by Jacquie Schattner
- April 26, 11 AM, “How Advertising Brought Our Ancestors to the Midwest (Online),” presented by Annette Burke Lyttle

For more information, contact Debra at ddudek@fountaindale.org or call 630-685-4201. Thanks to Pat Lindholm for providing me (Anita) with this information.

2023 Gene-a-Rama in Eau Claire

“Trials and Tribulations of Coming to America” is the theme of this year’s spring genealogy show. The feature presenter is Katherine R Willson, a genealogy teacher and researcher from Michigan. Her keynote address will be “The 1918 Influenza Pandemic and Its Effect On Our American Ancestors.”

Gene-a-Rama will be held at The Lismore Hotel, March 23 through the 25th.

The full WSGS member rate for both days is \$55, for non-members \$95. One day rates at \$40 for members and \$7 for non-members.

This event is hosted by the Genealogical Research Society of Eau Claire. Hope to see you there!

Research Project for those with Norwegian Heritage

A research team at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is conducting a study about language, identity, and culture among Norwegian heritage populations in North America called “Continued connections: Linguistic and cultural identity among North Americans with Norwegian heritage.”

We are searching for participants who are members of a Norwegian heritage community in North America and/or are of Norwegian descent. Even though there are questions about personal experiences with the

Norwegian language, knowing Norwegian is not a requirement to participate.

We have developed a confidential survey that can either be taken online through Qualtrics, an online survey platform, or it can be downloaded and filled out by hand. Physical copies can be mailed to our University of Wisconsin-Madison address.

Online survey:

https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Sp2Khy0XRdmMKi

Printed survey:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/12d9LtPoiwiL-sT9jiqL3ZS5TwcdbEhOoRLMiYwMhxlXY/edit?usp=sharing>

Online Genealogy Certificate Program

“Starting on the Right Foot” Did you know that Salt Lake Community College has a genealogy certificate program you can complete in just one year? The lessons and coursework are completely online and students from around the country have benefited from learning best practices in genealogy for both United States and international research. Elective classes are also available that will help prepare you for accreditation or certification. Come learn more about this amazing program and decide whether it is right for you. Presented by Julia Anderson, AG. April 4 at 6 pm. This talk is free, but the cost of the course itself is not mentioned. Register here:

https://ugagenealogy.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_upyHj5BtQjer6MpKxWlrkQ

Interesting Websites

Places that caught my attention these past two months. If you have found an interesting website, please share it with us by sending me (Anita) the link!

- <https://circusworld.wisconsinhistory.org/>
- <https://theancestorhunt.com/>
- <https://www.davidrumsey.com/>
- <https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/>

Business/Building History

DOTTERS books is moving into downtown Eau Claire from their previous location on Hogeboom. This wonderful independent bookstore will have a new location at 307 S. Barstow Street and a unique building history.

This site is the former Pedals Music store, but before that it was the Press Building for almost 80 years; from 1895 to 1920 it was the Elbert Printing Company and home of *Der Herold*, the largest-circulation German-language newspaper in Northern Wisconsin; from 1923 to 1943 it was home to the Fremad Printing and Publishing Company. Publisher of the Norwegian-language newspaper, *The Reform*, and the novels of Waldmar Ager; and from 1946-1980, the Eau Claire News Company.

DOTTERS hopes to reopen sometime in April. You can still do online shopping here:
<https://dottersbooks.com/>

March is Women's History Month

How many of us have seen obituaries for female ancestors, who are only identified as Mrs. John Doe, rather than by their given name and family surname? Here are some helpful links (supplied by the Minnesota Genealogical Society, for those doing research on their female lines and ancestors.

- Top 10 Sources for Locating Maiden Names (Kimberly Powell)
<https://www.thoughtco.com/top-sources-for-locating-maiden-names-1422659>
- Female Ancestors: Finding Women in Local History and Genealogy (Library of Congress)
<https://guides.loc.gov/female-ancestors>
- Can't Find Great-Great-Grandma? Pro Tips for Researching the Women in Your Tree (Patricia Hartley)
<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/researching-female-ancestors/>
- Tracing Female Ancestors (FindMyPast YouTube video)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwzjrZeryZ4>
- Finding Women's Maiden Names (Ancestry YouTube video)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0-8FY9mkIQ>

- "A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Female Ancestors." By Sharon DeBartolo Carmack (book)

Wisconsin Historical Society

WI has one of the best historical societies in the nation (personal bias!). I have just come back from a research trip to this facility, and enjoyed my limited time immensely and fruitfully. Even a short trip is worthwhile if you do your research from home. Here are a few of my favorite databases and online collections to spark your interest.

- Pre-1907 Vital Records Collection
- Shipwreck Database
- Feature Film Database
- Wisconsin Name Index
- GI Press Collection: This collection contains page images and searchable text of 2,400 periodicals and other items such as pamphlets and posters created by or for U.S. military personnel during the Vietnam War era
- American Journeys: Digital library and learning center containing eyewitness accounts of early American exploration and settlement
- Local and County Histories
- About Our Newspapers: Full Newspapers, Name Index, Local History and Biographical Clippings. Explore our physical and digital collections of newspapers, which is the second largest collection of newspapers in the U.S.
- Wisconsin Women's History
- WI Local History and Biography Articles

If your ancestor lived, worked, or passed through Wisconsin, the Historical Society Collections might just be the place to find them

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

In Remembrance

Kathy Herfel has assembled a wonderful tribute of those GRSEC members who have passed away. This was shared at our picnic this summer. If you missed the picnic, I will be honoring a few people each month. Thanks Kathy!



Claudine *Steinmetz* Arnsdorf
20 March 1917-11 Dec 2020
Buried: Northern WI Veterans' Cemetery, Spooner
An Army nurse during WWII and mother of Karen Arnsdorf



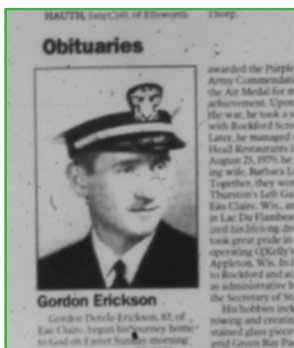
Stanley A "Stan" Hillestad
17 July 1933-28 Sep 2022
Buried: Lutheran Church Cemetery, Eau Claire
Proud of his Norwegian heritage, he built a detailed family ancestry and visited distant relatives in Norway



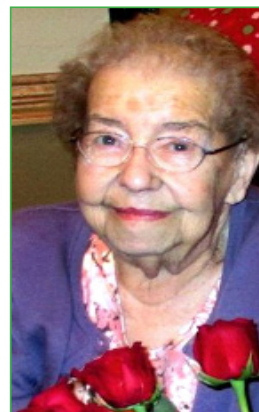
Marion *Wuethrich* Barnes
6 Sep 1937-22 May 2021
Buried: Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery, Rice Lake
Speaker at Open Labs, research trip to San Diego



Marion *Gray* Hoesly
18 Sep 1935-25 March 2013
Buried: Forest Hill Cemetery, Eau Claire
An Elementary substitute teacher and active in GRSEC and the Chippewa Valley Museum



Gordon D Erickson
12 October 1921-1 April 2005
Buried: Forest Hill Cemetery, Eau Claire
Always accompanied his daughter, former member Nancy, to our meetings and events



Gloria *Johnson* Holte
18 June 1926- 29 April 2016
Buried: Lakeview Cemetery, Eau Claire
A member of the Sons of Norway and the GRSEC



Phyllis *Neubauer* Goff
19 Jan 1926-3 April 2-17
Buried: Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Town of Drammen
In 1981 she inherited articles of family memorabilia from her mother that sparked an interest in learning more about her family

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