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a publication of the
Genealogical Research
Society of Eau Claire

SAWDUST CITY ROOTS

VISIT

Chippewa Valley Museum
1204 E Half Moon Dr
Eau Claire, WI 54703

EMAIL

grsec@cvmuseum.com

MAIL

GRSEC c/o Chippewa
Valley Museum
PO Box 1204
Eau Claire, WI 54702-1204

About GRSEC, this newsletter, and your membership

The Genealogical Research Society of Eau Claire is an affiliate of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society. GRSEC publishes Sawdust City Roots bimonthly: January, March, May, July, September, and November. Please submit articles and events to Ollie Fischer-Pedersen by the 25th of the month prior to publication. GRSEC meets the second Saturday of each month, September through May, at 1pm at the Chippewa Valley Museum in Eau Claire. GRSEC does not currently meet during June, July, or August. Membership is \$15 per year, beginning on May 1st. Check the righthand corner of the mailing label on your newsletter for your membership expiration date. If you receive your newsletter electronically (or wish to), please contact Tom Davey. To apply for or renew a membership, please fill out the form below.

GRSEC Membership Application or Renewal of Membership

DATE

NAME (Last, First, MI)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

AREAS OF INTEREST (regions, surnames, etc.)

Mail to:
GRSEC c/o Chippewa Valley Museum
PO Box 1204
Eau Claire, WI 54702-1204

Please include a check for \$15
payable to GRSEC.



Board Directory

<i>PRESIDENT</i>	Sara Thielen 715.829.8502
<i>VICE PRESIDENT/ PROGRAM CHAIR</i>	Kathy Herfel 715.926.5205
<i>SECRETARY</i>	Ken Kiesow 715.877.2319
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<i>CEMETERY CHAIR</i>	Position available, see "Volunteer With Us"
<i>CHIPPEWA VALLEY MUSEUM LIAISON</i>	Position available, see "Volunteer With Us"
<i>HISTORIAN</i>	Linda McClelland 715.836.7719
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<i>LIBRARIAN</i>	Roger Davis Patricia Anderson 715.835.1630 715.563.2616
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<i>PUBLICITY</i>	Position available, more info soon
<i>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</i>	Ollie Fischer-Pedersen ollie.elizabeth@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Voting: Our Duty, Then and Now

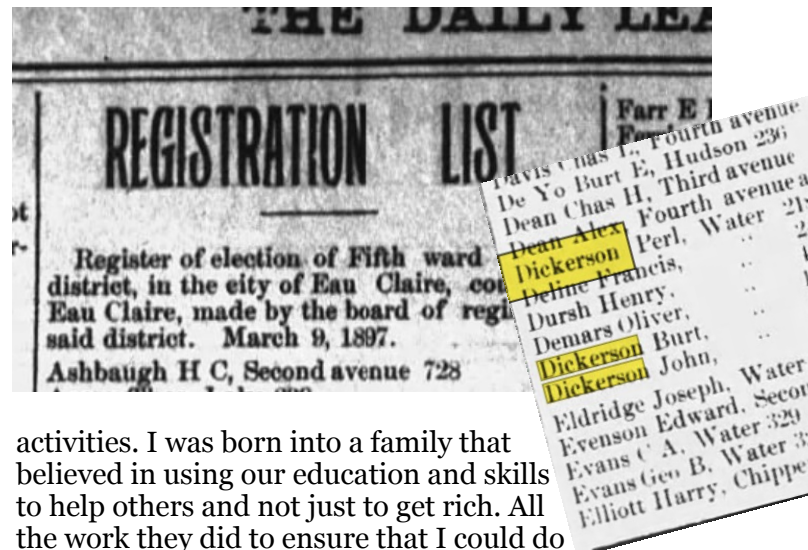
The first time I found my great-grandfather, Pearl E. Dickerson, in the digitized newspapers was on a list of voter registrations. He and his brother and father were listed as voters in the Fifth Ward. Searching more, I found he was a Democratic delegate to the 1900 convention and a secretary to the Blacksmith and horseshoer's Union.

You can't separate politics and history. That's why, in early education, we have Social Studies, which include a mixture of politics, history, and geography. This has been my all-time favorite class since first grade. I don't want to run for office, but I have always had an interest in politics. Pearl's father, John E. Dickerson, immigrated from England when he was nine. They lived in a workhouse in Cambridge before leaving Liverpool port for New York on April 3, 1848. It was the law of England that determined who went into workhouses. If you wanted a better life, you either changed the rules or moved to a different country with different laws. The United States had a form of government that most other Europeans couldn't fathom.

The people created the laws. "The people" are citizens of all different jobs and incomes. Some lived on farms, and some in cities. Some owned their own business, and some worked for those that owned businesses. It wasn't perfect, but there was always a way for improvement, as spelled out in our Constitution.

I also understand that not all ancestors came here because they wanted a better life with more progressive laws. Some came here because they felt safe with strict laws that were set in stone. They might have been more comfortable with one person, a King or a Pope, having all the power over the rules of the land. This isn't always a bad thing. The world can be complicated, and it's nice to know that some things are black and white.

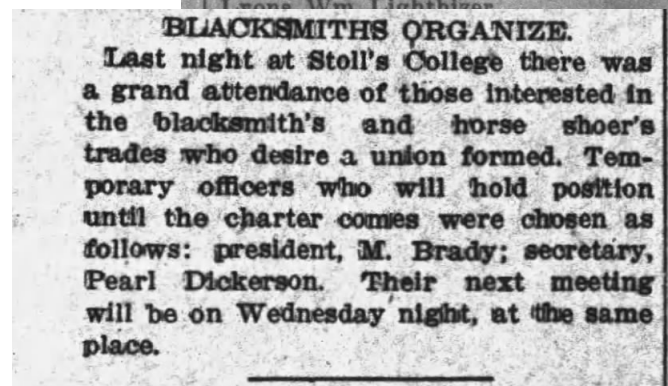
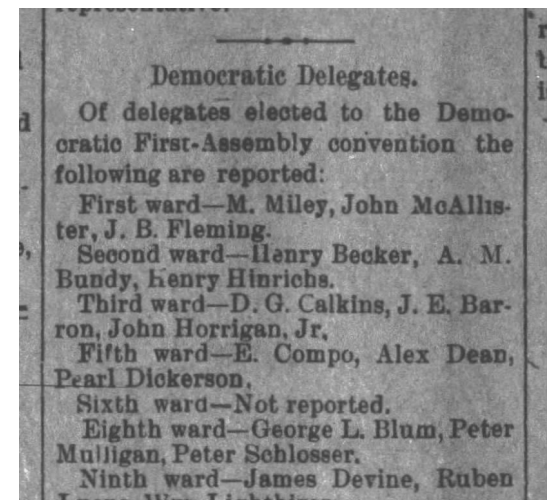
Genealogists know that no ancestor is perfect. At least the honest ones do. There is no perfect person; therefore, there will never be a perfect United States government. The votes of the men and now women determine our rules. I have always seen it as my duty to my ancestors to take part in civic



activities. I was born into a family that believed in using our education and skills to help others and not just to get rich. All the work they did to ensure that I could do the same, I owe it to them to defend that right to vote.

I used to stare at Pearl's name on the voters list. How lucky I was to have an ancestor who had the right to vote and took advantage of that right. Pearl had ancestors who fought in the Revolution for that right, and he also had sons and grandsons who fought wars afterward to defend that right. People can disagree on policies, but we should all agree on the right to vote regardless of who is voting or for whom they are voting in the election.

Sara Thielen



Upcoming GRSEC Presentations

Sat, September 14, 1pm

RECENT ACQUISITIONS AT THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

UWEC's Associate Archivist and Records Officer Sarah Beer will review some significant collections donated recently, including their historical significance and the donors who shared them.

Sat, October 12, 1pm

RESEARCHING IN SALT LAKE CITY

Ten-year GRSEC member Patrick Mattson took a second research trip to Salt Lake City this summer. Join us as he recaps his experience and shares some tips and tricks for researching. Pat was born and raised in Eau Claire and earned college degrees in Aviation, Business Studies, and Instructional Design, among others. Pat was trained as an Air Traffic Controller and retired after 10 years of active duty in the Air Force. Pat is also a retired Professor of Aviation at St. Cloud State University and is the author of "Air Traffic Control Career Prep". His best genealogy find thus far is an autographed copy of "In the Footsteps of Immigrants" by Arnold Bakken. On the cover is a pencil drawing of Pat's 2nd great-grandfather Ole Olsen Røe's family farm in Norway.

Sat, November 9, 1pm

THE IMPORTANCE OF GENEALOGICAL SOURCES IN MY WRITINGS: I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

Jane Glenz will discuss the importance and use of genealogical sources in writing about local history. Most of the examples will deal with the book, "Remarkable People You Probably Never Heard Of," but she will introduce us to her other books including the Cave Lady of Eau Claire and the Moore Farm on Tainter Lake. A limited number of her books will be available at her presentation.

Sat, December 14, 1pm

THE ART OF THE OBITUARY

Join writer and obituary lover Patti See for a discussion on what makes obituary writing an artform. She'll share some of her favorites and offer

ideas for what to include in your own or your loved ones' obits. Patti See is an award-winning author whose work has appeared in Brevity, Salon Magazine, The Wisconsin Academy Review, The Southwest Review, HipMama, Inside HigherEd and many other magazines, journals and anthologies. She writes a monthly column for the Eau Claire Leader Telegram's Sawdust Stories. Her essay collection, "Here on Lake Hallie: In Praise of Barflies, Fix-it-Guys, and Other Folks in Our Hometown," was published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press in 2022. Patti works as an Academic Advisor at UW-Eau Claire, and as a Senior Lecturer in the Honors Program and Women's Studies.

Sat, January 11, 1pm

THEY DIED OF WHAT?!

If there's one thing you need to know about Sara Thielen, it's that she loves learning about old-timey illnesses. Learn what the diseases of the past are known as today, what their treatments were, and what sorts of records were kept about health.

Sat, February 8, 1pm

SHOW AND TELL

All members are welcome to bring items or findings of genealogical interest and share their stories!

Sat, March 8, 1pm

MILITARY DOG TAGS

Bill Parker will share the incredible amount of information one can find using dog tags. Bill's program will take you on a journey through American history from before World War 1 up through the Korean War. Bill is Military Historian at the South Wood County Historical Museum in Wisconsin Rapids, serves on the Wisconsin Rapids Historical Preservation Commission, and is a collector of American Military memorabilia and a Civil War reenactor.

Sat, April 12, 1pm

TOPIC TO BE DETERMINED

Ollie Fischer-Pedersen will share genealogy insights. Possible topics include "How to Fall Down Research Rabbit Holes and Make It Out With Your Sanity Intact" and "What Makes Genealogy Appealing to Teens and 20-Somethings?"

Sat, May 10, 1pm

HIDDEN HISTORY OF EAU CLAIRE

Jodi Kiffmeyer and Diana Peterson's book "Hidden Eau Claire" comes out in January! The book is available for pre-order on October 7, but you'll certainly want to get all the details about their research and writing process at this meeting.

To go directly to each page, open the camera on your phone, aim at the square, and tap the link that pops up.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Native American Geneaology

“Tracing Indian ancestry is both intriguing and perplexing. Part of the challenge of determining ancestry has to do with history itself. Traditionally, familial relationships were passed down through oral history. While this still occurs in many Native families today [...], intentional federal policies disrupted other methods of recording these relationships.”

From the National Indian Child Welfare Association

At the request of a fellow GRSEC member, I've put together this list of resources to help you tell the stories of your American Indigenous ancestors. As the excerpt above suggests, this can be a murky and oftentimes heavy process to undertake, but uncovering your connections to your Native American foremothers and forefathers is a powerful way to bring their histories into the light.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR: INDIAN AFFAIRS



The first page I've linked to includes plenty of suggestions and links to get you going on your research. I found the subheading “Where To Look For Ancestral Information” to be especially helpful, as well as the page linked under “Doing Genealogical Research.” I've included a second link directly to the Tribal Leaders Directory Map to help get you in contact with leaders of specific tribes.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

This site includes a long list of federal agencies that may have records relevant to your search. It also mentions that many records are available only on microfiche at National Archives research locations

— time to plan a roadtrip to Chicago!

WISCONSIN FIRST NATIONS



Linked here are over a dozen videos of tribal members sharing stories specific to the tribes to which they belong. If you are already certain about which tribes you need to look into, this may be a good place to start getting more details about what your ancestor's life may have looked like.

NATIONAL INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION (NICWA)

This whole website is rich in information, but I've linked directly to the PDF from which I pulled the quote above. Modern day indigenous populations continue to experience the ripple effects of colonization today, and this site does a great job of shedding light onto both the historical and more modern reasons why your indigenous history might be difficult to trace.



FAMILYSEARCH

The Native American Online Genealogy Records wiki page is full of links to other pages relevant to Native American genealogy, including records of obituaries, military service, church



membership, and emancipation. If you're looking to get straight into Wisconsin-specific records, I've included a second link to a page about the indigenous people of Wisconsin.

MIKE STEVENS

Mike Stevens is a researcher and a member of the Oglala Sioux tribe who shares a veritable wealth of information on this page. Even if you're looking into different tribes than the ones he has expertise in, this is still very worth a read.



DR. THERESA SCHENCK

Dr. Theresa Schenck is an associate professor at UW-Madison who is of both Blackfeet and Ojibwe descent and is an expert in her field of American Indian Studies. She has written seven books on the Ojibwe tribe, three of which are available at the L. E. Phillips Memorial Library in Eau Claire.





Volunteer With Us

GRSEC is looking to fill several positions. If you are interested in volunteering with us in this capacity, please reach out at grsec@cvmuseum.com.

OBITUARY CHAIR

This person is responsible for the group which enters current obituaries from the Eau Claire Leader Telegram. The obituary chair:

- Ensures everyone records obit citations in their assigned month
—currently, 4 members take 3 consecutive months each.
- Finds a replacement in case of member resignation.
- Keeps in contact with the tech person at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library who created the database.
- Asks the tech person for records to be deleted on occasion.
- Makes suggestions for changes to the database.
- Edits citations already in the database.

CEMETERY CHAIR

This position has changed since the advent of Find a Grave and after the GRSEC stopped printing the cemetery info in book form. Ideas for changes to the position's responsibilities are welcome. At present, the cemetery chair:

- Maintains a list of all cemeteries in Eau Claire County, no matter how small.
- Keeps track of the contact person for each cemetery.
- Suggests indexing that needs to be done in any cemetery.
- Features a cemetery in the GRSEC newsletter and the website.
- Works with for the Historic Preservation Society on the Cemetery Walk. (For example, attend that day if at all possible, suggest persons to be featured or help gather historical information on the person.)

CHIPPEWA VALLEY MUSEUM LIASON

This is a new position, and thus the responsibilities may change somewhat over time. Currently, the CVM Liason:

- Arrives early to the museum prior to each GRSEC meeting.
- Ensures that all technology necessary for running the meeting is set up and working correctly.
- Troubleshoots any technology issues during meetings.

Upcoming Events

Sat, September 21, 9am

REVOLUTIONARY ANCESTORS

Wisconsin Historical Society via Zoom

Two experts on Revolutionary War family history, David Allen Lambert and Melanie McComb, share their wealth of knowledge with you! Women of the Revolutionary War, going beyond the muster roll, ancestors who didn't serve directly ... there's a lot here to take in. **Note:** You must register by September 19th at noon. Fee is \$40.

Fri, September 27, 1-3pm

FUN WITH CENSUS AND PLAT MAPS

Milwaukee County Genealogy Society via Zoom

This presentation from John Von Haden focuses largely on the Milwaukee area, but will have helpful information for any genealogist looking to understand how to use plat books to give clarity to census records (and vice versa). His website, www.wisconsinancestors.com, is an incredible resource even on its own. **Note:** You must register in advance at www.milwaukeegenealogy.org.

Fri, October 4 through Sat, October 5

WHY DID THEY TRAVEL TO THE MIDWEST?

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society (WI) at Jefferson Street Inn in Wausau

Join Dave Miller, Brad Casselberry, and Don Litzer as they share their unique expertise on Midwestern genealogy. Topics of discussion include Irish and German genealogy (specifically Pommeranian and Prussian), verifying oral histories, effectively searching digitized collections, and understanding the appeal of the Midwest to the immigrants of the 1800s. Check out www.wsgs.org/2024fall or contact wsgs@wsgs.org for more info.

Note: Book your room at Jefferson Street Inn (715-845-6500) by September 6 using room block code WSGS. Register online or via mail. Registration forms, checks, and meal orders must be received by September 15. Registration after September 15 does not include meals.

Thu Oct 10, 8-9am

HOW TO LOOK AFTER YOUR BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS AT HOME

Norfolk Record Office (UK) via Zoom

Learn from Senior Conservator Nick Sellwood the best methods to preserving paper goods from things like moisture, heat, and general wear. **Note:** Register by going to www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk, clicking "Events," then selecting this seminar.

Tue Oct 15, 7pm

UNCOVERING WISCONSIN'S SEAFARING ANCESTORS

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society via Zoom

Peter McCracken, the founder of the vessel research website Ship Index, explains how to navigate that and other resources to uncover the maritime tales of your forefathers. **Note:** You must register in advance at www.wsgs.org.

Sat, October 19, 9am

TRACING EASTERN EUROPEAN ROOTS

Wisconsin Historical Society via Zoom

Eastern European genealogy can feel full of brick walls and missing records if you don't know where to look. Lisa Alzo can help you get going again with maps, gazetteers, church records, and other resources. **Note:** You must register by October 17 at www.wisconsinhistory.org. Fee is \$40.

Tue, Oct 22, 8pm

RESEARCHING YOUR FEMALE ANCESTORS

Pikes Peak Library District (CO) via Zoom

I often find myself exasperated when searching for records of my female ancestors — when a woman's surname changes after marriage and she doesn't own property outright, she can often seem to disappear into the shadows of history. This class will teach new strategies to help trace the stories of your female ancestors more clearly than ever before. **Note:** You must register by October 21 by going to ppld.librarymarket.com, clicking "Virtual Library," then selecting this seminar.

Sat, Nov 2, 9am-12pm

FINALLY GET ORGANIZED: CONQUER THE CLUTTER USING YOUR NATURAL LEARNING STYLE

Florida Genealogical Society of Tampa via Zoom

This seminar by Elizabeth Swanay O'Neal looks to be a great listen for anyone struggling to keep all of those hundreds (if not thousands!) of records organized. Understand why certain organizing tips and tricks just don't stick, learn what will work for you, and start making progress towards a more sensible filing system that you'll actually stick to. **Note:** You must register in advance by visiting www.fgstampa.org.

2024 GRSEC Summer Picnic a Success!

On July 31st, the party animals of GRSEC descended upon Carson Park to share food, swap stories, play lawn games, and discuss plans for future events. A good time was certainly had by all, and we look forward to the next picnic! If anyone has ideas for another similar group outing, reach out to the board and we'll get the ball rolling.



Media Recommendations

CAUSES OF DEATH

by Sara Thielen

Our very own Sara Thielen has created a Youtube video about a common historical cause of death – summer complaint. What were the symptoms of this illness? What were the causes? How did it get its name? What do we call “summer complaint” today? Check out Sara’s succinct yet information-rich video and find out!

Search “Summer complaint” on Youtube.



UW DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

The University of Wisconsin has a massive archive of digitized texts available, including platbooks, family genealogies, histories of towns, counties, and schools, and more. The collection is searchable for ease of use.

Search “UW digital collections” on Google.



PERRY-CASTAÑEDA

LIBRARY MAP COLLECTION

Hosted by the University of Texas, this collection is truly extensive! A well-organized list of links allows you to peruse a variety of

Search “Perry-Castañeda maps” on Google.



“Done! Everyone in my family tree has been found and all of my records are perfectly organized,” said no genealogist ever.

GRSEC c/o Chippewa Valley Museum
PO Box 1204
Eau Claire, WI 54702-1204



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