

## **THE POLK COUNTY POST**

*Polk County Genealogical Society (PCGS)  
June 2009, Volume #11, Issue #6*

**Polk County Genealogical Society  
POB # 101  
Balsam Lake, Wisconsin 54810**

### **VISION STATEMENT:**

The vision of the Polk County Genealogical Society is to empower those interested in developing concise, accurate, and comprehensive family histories.

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The mission of the Polk County Genealogical Society is to assist in the exchange and dissemination of information for genealogical investigations.

\* \* \*

Thank you PCGS members: **Kathy Clark, Russ Hanson, and Richard Kretzschmar** for the presentation on using the great variety of features within the software program <Ancestry.com>  
Great job and thanks again.

### **LUCK**

The Luck Area Historical Society announces the opening of the Luck Museum for the 2009 season. The museum will be open Friday and Sunday noon to 4 PM and Saturday 10-2 from April through October. Sunday afternoons - Beginning Genealogy sessions, including how-to use the resources at the Luck Museum. PCGS member, **Russ Hanson**, is often at the **LUCK** museum during these times to help with genealogy questions.

## Tentative Schedule 2009

**Don't Forget to Join in "Genie Mondays"**  
June/July/August  
Every

**Monday at the Polk County Historical Society Museum's Research Library  
1 PM to 4 PM**

*BUILDING an INVENTORY of the RESEARCH ROOM LIBRARY COLLECTION*  
Support will be available to explain and direct our work. Of course, should any guests stop by looking for help with family history research questions, PCGS members will be on hand to assist.

\*\*\*\* **NEW** \*\*\*\*

### **SEPT AND OCT. MEETING LOCATION**

once again we will meet at the

O S C E O L A  
P U B L I C L I B R A R Y

starting on

Monday 28 September 2009 7 P.M.

program:

**Anita Buck**, Author of  
*STEAMBOATS ON THE ST. CROIX*  
*CARRYING IMMIGRANTS/CARGO*  
*UP THE ST. CROIX RIVER*  
*BETWEEN 1850-1920*

**and also**

Monday 26 October 2009 7 P.M.

**Barb Oestreich** -

A New Genealogy Adventure

\*\*\* **NEW** \*\*\*

### **NOVEMBER MEETING LOCATION**

A M E R Y S E N I O R C E N T E R

Monday 23 November 2009 7 P.M.

*MAP AVAILABILITY AT THE MUSEUM*  
*RESEARCH ROOM, Balsam Lake, WI*

Monday 14 December 2009

Noon Holiday Potluck  
at the

Home of PCGS member  
**Jay / Joyce Bergstrand**  
Please call for directions  
(715).268.9523

**PCGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: **Kathy Clark**  
Vice President: **Jay Bergstrand**  
Treasurer: **Russ Adams**  
Secretary: **Dorothy Adams**  
Editor: **helen.f.stoltz-wood@uwrf.edu**

PCGS member **MURIEL PFEIFER** continues to recuperate from a recent illness. Good to see you Muriel for "Genie Monday" in the research library of the Polk County Historical Society Museum!

**Polk County Genealogy Society Dues**

**Jan-Dec \$15.00**

Please make your check or money order payable to PCGS and mail, along with your:  
Name, Address, State/Zip  
to  
**Russ Adams**  
2410 River Road  
St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin 54024

**Genealogy Events**

"2009 Tre Lag Stevne"  
a joint Stevne of Gudbrandsdal Lag National, Tronderlag of America and Nord Hedmark pg Hedemarken Lag  
5-8 August 2009  
at  
South St. Paul Hotel & Conference Ctr  
701 Concord Street S.  
South St. Paul, MN 55075  
651.455.3600  
[info@southsaintpaulhotel.com](mailto:info@southsaintpaulhotel.com)

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society  
**2009 Fall Seminar**  
2-3 October 2009  
Neenah, Wisconsin  
Best Western Bridgewood Resort Hotel & Conference Center.  
[wsgs@tds.net](mailto:wsgs@tds.net)  
or  
WSGS  
POB # 5108  
Madison, WI 53705-0106

**Local History and Historic Preservation Annual Conference**

9-10 October 2009  
Wausau, Wisconsin  
24 Sessions  
8 Hands-on-workshops  
3 Friday evening events  
2 Keynotes addresses

\* \* \* \* \*

**CD COLLECTION**

at the Polk County Historical Society Museum Research Library.  
For: PC - IBM Compatible  
\*Heritage Books Archives: Maine, Vol. I

\*World Translator: Western European Version, 8 Language World Translator and Manual

\*Manual: *Getting the most of Family Origins* Learn basics; Create detailed family history, Explore advanced concepts and techniques

\*Family Origins 10 2001 genealogy.com works with Windows 9.5 and 9.8

\*Family Tree Legends Version 4.0 2005

-all the rest are: FAMILY TREE MAKER

\*Family Archive Viewer 8.0

\*World Family Tree Vol. 8  
Pre-1600-to Present

\*Family Archives World Family Tree Super Bundle: II; III, IV; and 7-10

\*Family Archives Genealogical Records: Genealogical Dictionary of New England 1600-1700s

\*Family Archives, Social Security Death Index United States 1937-1997 CD # 10

Thank you to PCGS member **Judy Wester** for this contribution to the research library at the museum in Balsam Lake, Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Historical Society  
Events Calendar

20 June **Midsummer Pub Night**

An evening of song, drinks, and celebration of Midsummer's arrival takes place in the cozy confines of the Pendarvis Kiddleywink Pub.

**Pendarvis 7 PM-10 PM \$10.00**  
**(608) 987-2122 or**

**<pendarvis@wisconsinhistory.org>**

27 June **Celebrating Ojibwe Heritage**

Ojibwe educators will demonstrate the traditions and customs of northern Wisconsin's indigenous people.

**Madeline Island Museum**

**10:30 AM-4:30 PM**

**(715) 747-2415 or**

**<madelineisland@wisconsinhistory.org>**

From:

Price County Genealogical Society  
January-May 2009, page 3  
Editor: **Beverly Brayton**

**RESEARCHERS BE AWARE OF THESE  
PITFALLS**

1. **JR and SR:** Do not EVER assume that 'JR' and 'SR' are father and son!!! Often they are, however, sometimes they ARE NOT. They may be uncle and nephew, grandfather and grandson, cousins, or even no relation. These are merely titles to distinguish an older man from a younger one with the same name. To add to the confusion, these titles shift as 'SR' dies and 'JR' becomes 'SR' and a younger person then become 'JR'! Without sufficient research in the official records, one can not detect these changes and identities. It only takes ONE misidentification to cause a researcher to spend years researching the WRONG PERSON.

2. **Place of death and place of probate:** A person's DEATH record will be found in the county in which the death occurred not in the county he/she resided. (Check to make sure records were even kept in the very early days.) Examples would include a death while traveling, visiting, prison or for medical emergencies and hospitalizations.

[This is especially true in Polk County where our county borders the State of Minnesota

and the Twin Cities. In earlier days, families often went to a large well-equipped 'city' hospital as opposed to the local, not so well equipped, small 'town' hospital for medical help].

There MAY be a copy of the death record sent to the county of residence from the county where the death occurred-or there MAY not.

On the other hand, if at death there was property to be distributed PROBATE records would be found in the person's county of residence. Additional probate records should be found in other counties/states if the deceased owned property in a location other than his/her place of residence. Death records should contain parental information and various other important data. Probate records can often prove family relationships not found elsewhere.

3. Marriage '**license**' versus marriage '**returns**': Occasionally couples obtained a license or bond to marry but never carried out their intentions. It is the RETURN from the Minister or the Justice of the Peace that PROVES a marriage took place. Learn about the different types of data that are included in marriage records and also marriage APPLICATIONS may contain important family history data.

4. **Wills do not always mention all children of the deceased person:** Often a child received property previously from the deceased and the earlier transaction is simply not noted in the will. If the gift was real estate or other personal property, there would likely be something written on the DEED like "For love and affection for my daughter and son-in-law Mariah and Seth Clark." That is your proof of relationships.

Wills are only a small part of probate records. More can be revealed in ESTATE RECORDS, INVENTORIES, BILLS OF SALE, ADMINISTRATOR BONDS, and ORDER BOOKS, etc. ALL heirs are likely to be named in ESTATE SETTLEMENTS. Lawsuits among family members often occurred and these can be a goldmine of factual information on which to build your family history.

Thanks! **Beverly Brayton**