

TO:

**A M E R I C A**

F

February 2012.

Volume #14, Issue #2

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

### **VISION STATEMENT**

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

*Thank you **Muriel Pfeifer** and **Dorothy Adams** for offering to do the program on Civil War Ancestors and Research Trip Preparations respectfully, at the January 2012 meeting. Unfortunately inclement weather conditions forced the cancellation of this program.*

PCGS Mailing Address:  
PCGS c/o **Judy Wester**  
901-8th Street  
Centuria,  
Wisconsin 54824

### **From the 1835 Almanac:**

How to make Farm Paint (barn/sheds)  
4 lbs or half gallon skimmed milk  
6 ounces lime  
4 ounces linseed oil or neatsfoot (cow's hoof glue)  
1 and a half pounds of color (usually red)  
For outside painting, add 2 ounces of slacked lime, oil and turpentine.

**Eric Sloane's *America***. New York, page 66

Officers and Leaders of Polk County  
Area Historical/Genealogical Societies

**"DO MORE TOGETHER"**

**1 pm - 3 pm**

**Thursday 8 March 2012**

**Luck Museum South Main Street  
Luck, Wisconsin**

The Luck Historical Society invites all area history interested/genealogy interested groups to join together in a social time of learning from each other. The Wisconsin Historical Society Northwest Regional field representative, **Janet Seymour** and the new director of the Polk County Historical Society, **Allysa Austin** expect to attend. LHS asks each society to bring brochures, pictures, mission statements, etc., to set up on tables for distribution. What worked for your society? Be prepared to introduce yourself and share two or three sentences about your affiliation. Contact **Chuck Adleman** at 715.472.4378 if you have any questions.

**2011-2012 Tentative Schedule**

Refreshments after each meeting.

**4th Monday 27 February 2012 2:00 pm**

**Luck Historical Society Museum**  
Open Forum Discussion

**4th Monday 26 March 2012 2pm**

**Luck Historical Society Museum**  
**Pre-1790 Research. BEFORE "first census records" to prove ancestry.**

**4th Monday 23 April 2012 2 pm**

**Luck Historical Society Museum**  
**Russ Hanson -**  
Internet (hands on help)

**May 2012 Field trip** to Minnesota  
Genealogy Society House  
on Concord Street in So. St. Paul  
Date TBA **Carpooling** available.

NOTE: If you have a suggestion for a program, PLEASE do not hesitate to share that idea with a board member. Thank you.

**DEATH RECORDS** (Websites)

- <[www.interment.net](http://www.interment.net)>
- <[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)>
- <[www.gravematter.com](http://www.gravematter.com)>
- <[ancestorsatrest.com](http://ancestorsatrest.com)>
- <[www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)>

**Carlton County Gen Society**  
**January 2012**

**PCGS WEBSITES**

<[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wipolk/index2011a.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wipolk/index2011a.html)>

is tje mew;u expanded Polk County Genealogy Website. Thank you:

**Marie Loughlin, Judy Wester,**  
and most recently  
**Russ Hanson**

Please check out this website and email a thank you and/or a comment to the PCGS email address:

<[polkgen@gmail.com](mailto:polkgen@gmail.com)>



*Rhonus tempor placerat.*

**US Federal Census Dates:**

It is important to know the official census dates when incorporating census data into your genealogy records. Each census year is assigned an official date by the census agency. Make sure you confirm the census data with another source as census information was not always given by family members.

| CENSUS YEAR | CENSUS DAY                   | TIME ALLOWED |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1790        | 02 August                    | 09 Months    |
| 1800        | 04 August                    | 09 Months    |
| 1810        | 06 August                    | 10 Months    |
| 1820        | 07 August                    | 13 Months    |
| 1830        | 01 June                      | 12 Months    |
| 1840        | 01 June                      | 18 Months    |
| 1850        | 01 June                      | 05 Months    |
| 1860        | 01 June                      | 05 Months    |
| 1870        | 01 June                      | 05 Months    |
| 1880        | 01 June                      | 01 Month     |
| 1890        | 01 June                      | 01 Month     |
| 1900        | 01 June                      | 01 Month     |
| 1910        | 15 April                     | 01 Month     |
| 1920        | 01 January                   | 01 Month     |
| 1930        | 01 April                     | 01 Month     |
| 1940        | - Due to be released in 2012 |              |

**William Dollarhide**

<[www.historicalpreservationgroup.org](http://www.historicalpreservationgroup.org)>

**Polk County Normal School Grads**

*Class of 1927*

- Evelyn Anderson**
- LeRoy Faurot**
- Ruth Anderson**
- Stella Anderson**
- Walter Anderson**
- Ethel Burgh**
- Marjorie Buss**
- Alberta Dellage**
- Lulu Feske**
- Evelyn Greenlee**
- Rose Hendrickson**
- Ethel Holmberg**
- Paul Holmberg**
- Hazel Jensen**
- Grace Kromery**
- Leland Lapham**
- John LaRue**
- Doris Marcotte**
- Dorothy McKenzie**
- Leta McKenzie**
- Eula Oglvie**
- Alice Peterson**
- June Reed**
- Ellen Peterson**
- Clara Resnow**
- Della Resnow**
- Angela Thoreson**
- Ruth Tilton**
- Claude VanHolland**
- Lorraine Anderson**

**Jeanne Alling,** Author  
*I Heard the School Bells Ringing*

**Newspapers at the Library of Congress**

The Library of Congress project for digitizing newspapers and making them available online **free** gets updated frequently so it helps to make random checks for the updates. 1836-1922

Click on:

<<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/>>

***Recent letter from the PCGS Treasurer:***

***Friday 20 January 2012***

The Polk County Genealogy Group (PCGS) began in 1998 with a discussion between three people: **Marie Loughlin, Jay Bergstrand,** and **Judy Wester.**

From this small beginning the Group grew to 24 members in 2011.

PCGS members sponsored several successful program meetings including "Beginning

Genealogy" Ancestry.com., "Scandinavian Research", the website "Find A Grave, and "Surround your People with History."



The Luck Museum continues to prove an excellent facility in every way for the genealogy group: good light, good ventilation and heat, convenient kitchen and bathrooms. PCGS invested in a moveable cart for supplies and assisted the Luck Museum in purchasing a cart to hold folding chairs used by both the Luck Historical Society and PCGS for programming sessions.

Many PCGS members enjoy helping at the ARC-UWRiver Falls. The next Polk County research day is scheduled for 9:30 am Saturday 11 February 2012 at the ARC.

A field trip is planned for one day May 2012 to the Genealogy Society House in St. Paul, MN, carpooling will be available.

Annual dues are five dollars (\$5.00) per person with eight paid members so far in 2012. January is membership month, thank you for sending your dues to:

**Judy Wester**  
901-8th Street  
Centuria, Wisconsin 54824

### The Tech Side -- Genealogy Search Engines -- by Wayne Scott UE

There have been genealogy search engines around for quite a while. New ones are introduced on a regular basis. In an effort to help genealogy students in using dedicated search engines, the Utah Valley Technology and Genealogy Group published a document in pdf form to help students use online resources: [uvpafug.org/classes/rflick/Using\\_Genealogical\\_Search\\_Engines.pdf](http://uvpafug.org/classes/rflick/Using_Genealogical_Search_Engines.pdf). Even though this paper was published in 2005, there are a number of tips here that are still relevant.

For those researchers who use Cyndi's List, a listing of 21 search engines is available. Some of the listed search engines offer a brief description. There are also direct links to the search engines for the researcher to use.

Google seems to be dominating the search engine field. Genealogy In Time Magazine has issued a guide to using Google Search Engines, "A Genealogy Guide to 130+ Search Engines": [http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/genealogy\\_guide\\_to\\_google\\_country\\_search\\_engines\\_page1.html](http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/genealogy_guide_to_google_country_search_engines_page1.html). The article illustrates the best practices for using Google for genealogical research. Many tips are offered with examples to illustrate how to target the information you are after.

Another search engine, Mocavo, found at: [www.mocavo.com](http://www.mocavo.com) is getting a lot of attention. The first iteration was published a year ago to mixed reviews. Over the past year many of the original shortcomings have been addressed. Mocavo has moved past its original free offering to an updated version that has both free services and paid options. Dick Eastman has championed this program since its inception. In his latest blog entry, the upgrades are explored. You can find his article here: [http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2011/12/mocavo-plus-the-next-generation-of-genealogy-search-engine.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2011/12/mocavo-plus-the-next-generation-of-genealogy-search-engine.html).

All of the usual features found in most genealogy search engines are still free. You can search on family names, locations, dates, etc. You have the option of uploading your family tree and all the names will be searched and a report sent to you. Your gedcom files can be added to the data mix so that they may aid other researchers. There can be opportunities for collaboration and information verification. Mocavo boasts an index of 6 billion names.

The paid version (\$80.00 per year or \$10.00 a month) offers many search enhancements such as, First Name Alternatives, Sounds Like, Intelligent Data Searching, Date Ranges and GeoSearching -- US Only. The advanced name search knows that the name Elizabeth Scott can also include Liza, Liz, Beth as first names, and that Scott is a last name.

Considering the quality of the data received, and the time that is saved by using fee based advanced search engines, sometimes a free service isn't the best way to go. There is an old adage; you get what you pay for. If you are paying nothing, don't expect volumes of top rate information

Some genealogy researchers will find these advanced search utilities a boon to their efforts. Others will find the website daunting. Finding a genealogy search engine that you are comfortable with can be a prime consideration. Sometimes sites such as Gen Source are ideal: <http://www.gensource.com/>. Here the researcher can troll through databases of specific information such as census records. Sometimes there are just too many web pages to sift through.

Some researchers complain that when they search for a family name (such as Woods), not only would you find a number of pages that might include Tiger Woods, but also includes hundreds of pages on botany and trees, building materials, paints and finishes, etc. Articles such as the one listed above, A Genealogy Guide to 130+ Search Engines, will help frame the parameters of a usable search.

When you find a search engine that you may think fits the bill, do a Google search on that site and find out what other people think of it. You will be able to find out if the site is current or out of date. Will you have to use a proprietary file system? Is the information transferrable to your own files or genealogy programs?

Finally, always consider your options. Don't get locked into one system, search engine, or program. Explore other sources and resources and keep up to date with trends and techniques of genealogical exploration.

**Doug Grant , Editor**  
[loyalist.trails@uelac.org](mailto:loyalist.trails@uelac.org)  
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[apple.com/iwork](http://apple.com/iwork)





