

Polk County Genealogical Society, Polk County Wisconsin

THE POST

TO:

A M E R I C A

MAY 2013

VOLUME #15, ISSUE 06

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 family histories.*

PCGS Mailing Address

PCGS

c/o **Judy Wester**

901-8th Street

Centuria, Wisconsin 54824

PCGS MEETING

for

3rd Monday in May

(1 week early due to
Memorial Day Observations)

20 May 2013

Luck Historical Society

Museum

1:00-3:30 pm

Tour of the new

Ravenholt Research Room

within the Luck Museum

Refreshments will be served.

Beginners's Basic Genealogy Class

at the

Luck Historical Society Museum on Monday

morning from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM.

the 3rd Monday in May 2013 .

For the months of June, July and August the

Group will meet on the 4th Monday of each

month., same time, same location.

Bring your curiosity, a couple of pencils and your questions about 'how-to' do family history research the old-fashioned method. learning the difference between

first-hand vs suggested evidence;
authentic vs duplicate materials; and

original or major sources vs secondary or minor sources.

Discover references to help you prove your 'facts' Complete a family group sheet and a pedigree chart, familiarize yourself with the skills for searching old newspapers, church and school records, military and census records including the techniques that adhere to the standard for "developing concise, accurate and comprehensive family histories." (1)

This class will promote the grand opening of the new Ravenholt Research Room at the Luck Museum.

(1) PCGS Vision Statement

2013 Schedule**NEW CLASS****3rd Monday 20 May 2013**

FROM JUNE thru AUGUST the class will be the **FOURTH MONDAY**, as will the **REGULAR GENEALOGY MEETING** be the **FOURTH MONDAYS**.

Monday at 10:30 AM the first class of Very Basic Genealogy - 101, using the old-fashioned methods to understand basic accepted standards for genealogy work, will get underway at the Luck Historical Society Museum. Bring your questions and a couple of pencils. Forms will be passed out during the first session.

THEN

at approximately noon we expect to adjourn for lunch at a near-by cafe (dutch treat) or if you wish, bring a brown bag lunch and join us. An invitation is expended to all class members to stay for the Polk County Genealogy meeting in the Luck Museum at 1:00 -3:30 p.m. Usually a program and (almost) always refreshments and coffee.

PCGS MAY MEETING

is the 3rd Monday (due to Memorial Day Observations on the 4th Monday)

The May program is a tour of the new Ravenholt Research Room with explanations and commentary as to already existing genealogy resources and those expected to be added to the collection.

Luck Historical Society Museum
1:00-3:30 p.m.

Fun Stuff for Genealogists

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STATE CENSUSES

State Censuses can be as important as the federal census to genealogists but, because they were taken randomly, remain a much under-utilized resource in American genealogy.

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can be as important as the federal census to genealogists but, because they were taken randomly, remain a much under-utilized resource in American genealogy. State censuses often can serve as substitutes for some of the missing federal census records - most notably the 1790, 1800, 1810 and 1890 censuses. Many state censuses also asked different questions than the federal census, thus recording information that cannot be found elsewhere in the federal schedules.

While not all states took their own censuses and some have not survived, state and local census records can be found in many locations. Most states which took censuses usually did so every 10 years, in years ending in "5" (1855, 1865, 1875, etc.) to complement the federal census. These state census records are most often found at the state archives or state library. Many are also on microfilm through a local Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and online via commercial genealogy databases.

The following list of state and territorial censuses was compiled by **Ann S. Lainhart's** *State Census Records*.

<www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/other_resources/state_censuses.html>

Wisconsin: 1836, 1838, 1842, 1846, 1847, 1855, 1865, 1875, 1895, 1895, 1905.

Alabama: 1818, 1820, 1821, 1823, 1850, 1855, 1866, 1907.

Alaska: 1870, 1878, 1879, 1881, 1885, 1887, 1890-95, 1904-07, 1914, 1917.

Arizona: 1866, 1867, 1869, 1872, 1874, 1876, 1880, 1882.

Arkansas: 1823, 1829, 1865, 1911.

California: 1788, 1790, 1796, 1797-98, 1816, 1836, 1844, 1852.

Colorado: 1861, 1866, 1885.

Connecticut: No state census records re known to exist.

Delaware: 1782.

District of Columbia: 1803, 1867, 1878.

Florida: 1825, 1855, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1935, 1945.

Georgia: 1798, 1800, 1810, 1827, 1834, 1838, 1845, 1852, 1853, 1859, 1865, 1879.

Hawaii: 1878, 1890, 1896.

Idaho: No state census records are known to exist.

Illinois: 1810, 1818, 1820, 1825, 1830, 1835, 1840, 1845, 1855, 1865.

This list will continue in the June 2013 issue of THE POST

Polk County Normal School Grads

Class of 1942

- Jean Berglund Danielson**
- Adine Demulling Jaspersen**
- Mary Doherty Johnson**
- Ruth Erickson Holmes**
- Elaine Dueholm Jensen**
- Myrtle Hach Jansen**
- Alice Hughes Anderson**
- Beulah Jaspersen Carlson**
- Helen King Larson**
- Eleanor Knutson Kreutzian**
- Eileen Knutson Johnson**
- Jeanette Mattson Smith**
- June Paulson**
- Ebba Pearson Johnson**
- Laverne Renspe**
- Mona Fay Pett**
- Lillian Herold**
- Catherine Phillips Johnson**
- Pandora Starup Gustafson**
- Harriet Sund**
- Dorothy Warner Jensen**
- Kathryn Wassberg Mettler**
- Elizabeth Carlson**

Gloria Larsen, Author
I Heard the School Bells Ringing

COMMON LAW MARRIAGE

There is a common misperception that if you live together for a certain length of time (7 years is what many people believe), you are common-law married. This is not true anywhere in the United States.

Only a few States recognize common law marriages and each has specific stipulations as to what relationships are included. If you live in a State that **DOES** recognize common law marriage and you "hold yourself out to be married" (by telling the community you are married, calling each other husband and wife, using the same last name, filing joint income tax returns etc., you can have a common law marriage.

COMMON LAW MARRIAGES Continued

Common law marriage makes you a legally married couple in every way, even though you never obtained a marriage license. If you choose to end your relationship, you must get a divorce even though you never had a wedding. Legally common law married couples must play by all the same rules as "regular" married couples.

If you live in a State that **DOES NOT** recognize common law marriage, there is no way to form a common law marriage no matter how long you live with your partner. There is one **catch** - if you live in a State that does recognize common law marriage, "hold yourself out as married" and then move to a State that does not recognize it, you are still married, since States all recognize marriages that occurred in other States, (However, this is murky legal territory and we don't recommend experimenting with it.



States that recognize Common Law Marriage:

- *Alabama
- *Colorado
- *District of Columbia
- *George (if created before 1/1/1997)
- *Idaho (if created before 1/1/1996)
- *Iowa
- *Kansas
- *Montana
- *New Hampshire (for inheritance purposes only)
- *New Mexico
- *Ohio (if created before 10/10/1991)
- *Oklahoma (possibly only if created before 11/1/1998. OK's laws and court decision may be in conflict about whether common law marriages formed in that State after 11/1/1998 will be recognized)
- *Pennsylvania (if created before 1/1/2005)
- *Rhode Island
- *South Carolina
- *Texas
- *Utah

<www.unmarried.org/common-law-marriage-fact-sheet/>

Unmarried Equality **is not responsible** for omissions or inaccuracies in the above information. And obviously **neither is** the **Editor of THE POST responsible** for omissions or inaccuracies in the above information.

Irish church records

After the coming of the Reformation to Ireland in the sixteenth century, the parish structures of the Catholic Church and the Church of Ireland diverged. In general, the Church of Ireland retained the older medieval parochial divisions, which were also used for administrative purposes by the secular authorities.

Thus civil parishes, the basic geographical units in early censuses, tax records and land surveys, are almost identical to Church of Ireland parishes. The Catholic Church, on the other hand, weakened by the confiscation of its assets and the restrictions on its clergy, had to create larger and less convenient parishes.

In some ways, however, this weakness produced more flexibility, allowing parishes to be centered on new, growing population centres, and, in the nineteenth century, permitting the creation of new parishes to accommodate this growth in population. The differences in the parish structures of the two churches are reflected in their records.

Even allowing for the fact that members of the Church of Ireland were almost always a small minority of the total population, the records of each parish are proportionally less extensive than Catholic records, covering a smaller area, and are thus relatively easy to search in detail.

Catholic records, by contrast, cover the majority of the population and a much larger geographical area, and as a result can be very time-consuming to search in detail. The creation of new Catholic parishes in the nineteenth century can also mean that the registers relevant to a particular area may be split between two parishes. Both Catholic and Church of Ireland parishes are organized on the diocesan basis first laid out in the Synod of Kells in the Middle Ages, and remain almost identical, although the Catholic system has amalgamated some of the small medieval dioceses.

<www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/browse/church/index2.htm#Church>

Adoption Records: The Minnesota Department of Human Services will begin the process of digitalizing adoption records, some of which may date back to the 19th century. This will be a slow, expensive project, projected to be finished by 2017, some details are yet to be worked out as to how one may be able to access the records. Obituaries: For a fee the MN History Center will search for one individual in up to two different newspapers per request <<http://shop.mnhs.org/>>

Thanks to **Barb Burch**, Genealogical Society of Carlton County Newsletter, April 2013, page 3

Biscuit De Reims

Take 9 eggs, weigh them & take same weight in sugar;

Take 6 eggs, weigh them & take same weight in flour;

Take 3 eggs, weigh them & take same weight in butter.

Beat the whites of the 9 eggs until stiff. Fold in sugar. Then add the 9 eggs yolks well beaten. Pour in flour gradually. Put in melted butter, start baking in a slow oven, increasing to moderate., 1 hour baking time.

My grandfather, Henri De Poortere (from Belgium) entered America through Ellis Island in Sept 1907. His departure was from the port of Liverpool, England on the 25th of September.

This recipe was called "Birthday Cake" in my family as it was the traditional cake baked for family members by my mother who came from Belgium a year or so after her father.

Violet Dolson of Stonington, Connecticut.

The Ellis Island Immigrant Cookbook
by **Tom Bernardin**,

20th Anniversary 2011 Edition page 44

What family recipe do you still use? Please share with others via THE POST. Thank you/Editor

2013 Fall Genealogy Seminar

will be held on 28 September 2013 at the Janesville Conference Center-Holiday Inn Express located at 3100 Wellington Place, Janesville, Wisconsin

with a **Pre-Conference Workshop** on Friday, 27 September 2013 lead by **Lori Bessler**, Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator for the Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives. "FamilySearch.org: A Lot More to This Site than Meets the Eye"

A Whisper in the Wind

by **Muriel Morgan Pfeifer** <mpfeifer@amerytel.net>

Subject line: Whisper

("use as you see fit" -mmp. Article edited to fit space)

DERONDA had its beginnings in a 'trading post' on the south shore of **Lake Wapogasset**, built some time before the Civil War.

Wapogasset is an **Ojibwa** word which means "Red Horse Sucker" due to the abundance of [the sucker fish] in the lake. The Ojibwa came from as far away as Red Wing, MN each spring to spear, fillet and smoke the suckers for winter use. [Camp would be] set up on a small rocky hill just south of the outlet from the lake and this practice continued until about 1900.

There is a creek which empties into the lake on the north end, seven and a-half miles south of Balsam Lake, which in turn is fed from the north by a number of small shallow lakes. On the south end of the lake the 'Sucker Branch' of 'Wapogasset Branch' wends its way south and west until it joins the Apple River a mile east of Little Falls and pours into the St. Croix River north of Stillwater.

By 1930, the siding on the old trading post walls was bleached and weathered and showed that it probably had been built before the Civil War, around 1860.

Some folks wanted to name the new town 'Sylvester' after **Abe Sylvester**, others wished to call it 'Jerdee' after **Amund Jerdee** ... they compromised and named the town after the hero of a popular book, **Daniel DeRonda** and the name stuck.

Then came two saloons ... two general stores ... that might be called a General Store with a variety of goods and community news) first known as **Mobersteig Store** and then **A.C. Route's Store**, a cream processing plant, which became a cheese factory around 1920. By 1928 **Russell Drake** built a general store that operated until mid 1940s.

Churches in the area were: first, Immanuel Lutheran Congregation, seven miles west of Deronda, eventually Immanuel Lutheran split and Deronda formed the Deronda Congregation building their worship center in 1902. The one-room school retired when the Joint-School-District #1 of Lincoln, Garfield and Alden formed. About 1954 the surrounding school districts consolidated into the Amery Schools. No school buses until September 1954. Each AM **Chris Peterson's** boys walked the 5 miles to high school.

There was a depot on the southwest corner of the junction of County 'F' and County 'P' and Garfield town road [with] four passenger trains each day: the "limited of the **Soo Line** from **Sioux Saint Marie, MI** each morning at 6:AM arriving at the **St. Paul Union Depot** at 7:45 AM and returning from the west at 10:PM. The cost of transportation was between one -two dollars.

A cheese factory built in 1900, manufactured tons of cheddar and Colby cheese until circa 1946. At one time produce was hauled to town and supplies home with the back seat of the family car removed, until contracted hauling.

Roads were not really plowed open in winter until 1924. Polk County Highway Department bought a Caterpillar '60' at that time and set out from Balsam Lake at 2:PM on a day in February. The tractor carried an 8-foot V-plow with a cable controlled wing on each side. In heavy snow it traveled 1 and 1/4 miles per hour and 3 m.p.h. in lighter snow. Heard via the Party Line (telephone) a plow was coming south from Balsam Lake so **Mr. Myhrwold** stayed up and when he saw the lights come creeping up the hill pass Lake Wapogasset he called his family awake at 4:AM and watched the machine crawling and thundering southward on the highway past the home place turning up snowbanks 8 feet high!

Threshing was an exciting time. The power was a steam engine which turned worn out fence posts and furnace wood into steam. The engineer, usually on the job at 5:AM building up power for the day when at 7:AM the bundle teams went out, loaded up and about 7:30 AM two bundle teams sidled up to the feeder, the engine began to snort, clouds of steam and smoke floated skyward and the threshing began. It took six bundle teams, two spike pitchers, four grain haulers, one straw stacker, an engineer and a separator man, three cooks and a half dozen kids to watch the excitement.

Life was simple with 'exchange work' between neighbors, sawing wood for fuel, threshing, filling silo, sawing lumber, barn raising, maintenance of the schools. There was no ambulance service but there were two medical doctors and one or two nurses to tend 2,000 citizens scattered over 1/3 of the county. The town fire department (5 miles from the home place) when telephoned, would respond only to find the neighbors, who of course, listened in on the 'party line' were already at the fire doing the best they could and doing it very well. Neighbors we knew and respected, neighbors who knew and respected us. the knowledge to handle emergencies giving us all a wealth nothing else can replace.

As told by **Arvid Myhrwold**

A.B. Peabody of Register of Baptism and Confirmations 1856-1894
Polk County Entries are for: Alden, St. Croix Falls, Osceola and Wagon Landing
(continuation from April 2013 THE POST / PCGS newsletter)

Thanks to **Nancy Hawkinson**

St. Croix Valley Gen Society and Polk County Gen Society Member

Horse Creek Congregation

Mrs. Jane Thomas Birth / May 1829 Baptism Feb / 1873

Witnesses: **Mrs. A.B. Peabody** and **Samuel Thomas**

St. Croix Falls Congregation

***Eliza Marion Blanding** Birth / Jun 1842 Baptism / Oct 1868

***Seymour William Blanding** Birth / April 1859 Baptism / Oct 1868

***Mary Lucy Blanding** Birth / Dec 1860 Baptism / Oct 1868

Parents: **William** and **Eliza Blanding**

Sponsors: **The Parents, Mrs. Ella Barron** and **Miss Fanny Field**

***Emma Ruth Blanding** Birth / Jul 1867 Baptism / Dec 1869

Parents: **Wm M.** and **Eliza Marion Blanding**

Sponsors: **The Mother, Miss Fanny Field** and **M. Blanding**

***Marian Blanding,** Birth / Jan 1871 Baptism / Mar 1871

Parents: **Wm.** and **Eliza Marian Blanding**

Sponsors: **Miss Mary Field, Miss Josephine Blanding**

***Eliza May Blanding** Birth / Nov 1872 Baptism / Dec 1872

Parents: **William M.** and **Eliza Marion Blanding**

Sponsors: **The Parents** and **Miss Fanny Field**

***John Blanding** Birth / Oct 1874 Baptism / No Date Given

Parents: **Wm.** and **Eliza Marion Blanding**

Sponsors: No Name(s) Given

PIPOST March 2013, Volume 28 Number 4