

Polk County Genealogical Society, Polk County Wisconsin

THE POST

TO:

AMERICA

OCTOBER 2014 VOLUME #16 ISSUE #10

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.*

Don't forget to pay your dues! \$5.00 a year.

Please send checks to

Judy Wester

901-8th Street

Centuria 54824

Thank You.

The Polk County
Genealogical Society

members express a huge

THANK YOU to the

**Northwest Wisconsin Regional
Writers Group**

for the September 2014 class
presentation - it was most interesting!

SECOND SATURDAY

at UWRF Archives

11 October 2014

PCGS members please join
together to assist other
Polk County researchers,
give aid to the current
Civil War Project and 'give
back' to the ARC-UWRF.

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Polk County Genealogy Society

Due to a scheduling conflict the
Bergstrand's Alaska slide presentation
has been postponed.

In place of the photos, **Ms. Kathy
Wilson** is going to visit the PCGS
meeting at the RRC/Luck museum on
Monday 27 October 2014 1-4 p.m. to
answer questions, assist with research
within the Danish Demographic
Database (DDD) if needed and
answer questions regarding Danish
genealogy for members and guests.

Snacks will be served.

ENGLISH SURNAMES

Many of us have **surnames** passed down to us from ancestors in [England](#). Last names weren't widely used until after the Norman conquest in 1066, but as the country's population grew, people found it necessary to be more specific when they were talking about somebody else. Thus arose descriptions like Thomas the Baker, Norman son of Richard, Henry the Whitehead, Elizabeth of the Field, and Joan of York that, ultimately, led to many of our current surnames.

English surnames

Occupational

Occupational names identified people based on their job or position in society. Calling a man "Thomas Carpenter" indicated that he worked with wood for a living, while someone named Knight bore a sword. Other occupational names include Archer, Baker, Brewer, Butcher, Carter, Clark, Cooper, Cook, Dyer, Farmer, Faulkner, Fisher, Fuller, Gardener, Glover, Head, Hunt or Hunter, Judge, Mason, Page, Parker, Potter, Sawyer, Slater, Smith, Taylor, Thatcher, Turner, Weaver, Woodman, and Wright (or variations such as Cartwright and Wainwright) — and there are many more.

This kind of name also gave a clue about whom a servant worked for. Someone named Vickers might have been a servant to Mr. Vicker, and someone named Williams might either have served a William or been adopted by him.

From the obscure fact department: In medieval England, before the time of professional theater, craft guilds put on "mystery plays" ("mystery" meaning "miracle"), which told Bible stories and had a call-and-response style of singing. A participant's surname — such as King, Lord, Virgin, or Death — may have reflected his or her role, which some people played for life and passed down to their eldest son.

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Describing a personal characteristic

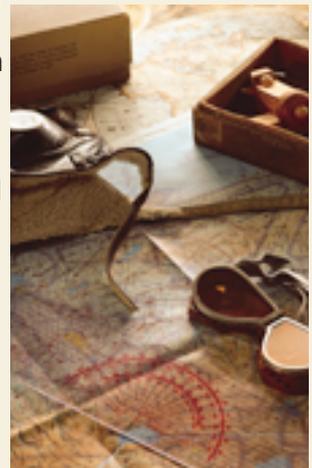
Some names, often adjectives, were based on nicknames that described a person. They may have described a person's size (Short, Long, Little), coloring (Black, White, Green, or Red, which could have evolved into "Reed"), or another character trait (Stern, Strong, Swift). Someone named Peacock might have been considered vain.

From an English place name

A last name may have pointed to where a person was born, lived, worked, or owned land. It might be from the name of a house, farm, hamlet, town, or county. Some examples: Bedford, Burton, Hamilton, Hampshire, Sutton. Writer Jack London's ancestor may have hailed from London.

From the name of an estate

Those descended from landowners may have taken as their surname the name of their holdings, castle, manor, or estate, such as Ernle or Staunton. Windsor is a famous example — it was the surname George V adopted for the British royal family.



Rhonus tempor placerat.

Author Margaret Atwood is probably descended from someone who lived "at the wood."

Continued from Page 2

From a geographical feature of the landscape

Some examples are Bridge, Brooks, Bush, Camp, Fields, Forest, Greenwood, Grove, Hill, Knolles, Lake, Moore, Perry, Stone, Wold, Wood, and Woodruff. Author Margaret Atwood is probably descended from someone who lived "at the wood."

Patronymic, matronymic, or ancestral

Patronymic surnames (those that come from a male given name) include Benson ("the son of Ben"), Davis, Dawson, Evans, Harris, Harrison, Jackson, Jones (Welsh for John), Nicholson, Richardson, Robinson, Rogers, Simpson, Stephenson, Thompson, Watson, and Wilson.

Matronymic ones, surnames derived from a female given name, include Molson (from Moll, for Mary), Madison (from Maud), Emmott (from Emma), and Marriott (from Mary).

Scottish clan names make up one set of ancestral surnames. These include Armstrong, Cameron, Campbell, Crawford, Douglas, Forbes, Grant, Henderson, Hunter, MacDonald, and Stewart.

Signifying patronage

Some surnames honored a patron. Hickman was Hick's man (Hick being a nickname for Richard). Kilpatrick was a follower of Patrick.

From: "There are 7 types of English Surnames - Which One is Yours" Ancestry.com

When searching for clues to your family history:

- 1) start with one member.
- 2) Identify what you already know about them.
- 3) Learn the background information on them.
- 4) Set a goal or a timeline.
- 5) Decide what records will contain the information you need about them.
- 6) Locate and search the record for clues to your family member.
- 7) Copy the information and get any certificates you need to document the source.
- 8) Document when and where you got your information.

Thanks to Carlton County Genealogy Society/**Barb Burch**/Editor

2014 PCGS Schedule

NOTE: Time change from morning to afternoon sessions.

27 October 2014 1-4 p.m.

Kathy Pedersen Wilson

"Helping Session - in Danish Records" (DDD)

RRC/within the Luck Museum

24 November 2014 1-4 p.m.

Russ Hanson -

Land Records & Genealogy Online sources for land records as well as the basic of what is at township and county offices for Wisconsin land records, as well as what is online at state level. Also will be examples of original surveys, abstracts, maps, and homestead information.

Monday 8 December 2014 1-4 p.m.

Holiday Event (Enjoy Finger-Food while the Group shares stories of an old-fashion Holiday when the PCGS members were young(er))!

Bring any Finger-Food you wish for sharing at this gathering of members and friends.

Guests are not only welcome but, encouraged!

Monday 26 January 2015 1-4

p.m. "Sharing Time -

What works/What doesn't"

1-4 p.m. RRC/ Luck Museum

Please check out the PCGS website and email comments or inquiries to the PCGS email address: <polkgen@gmail.com>

Thanks to **Russ Hanson** for supervising this website.



FamilySearch adds more than 183 million indexed records and images to Belgium, China, Czech Republic, England and Wales, Finland, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Korea, Ukraine, and the United States. Notable collection updates include the 66,586,112 indexed records from the England and Wales, Birth Registration Index, 1837-2008, collection; the 6,142,790 images from the US, Missouri, Probate Records, 1750-1998, collection; and the 1,019,409 images from the US, Washington, County Records, 1803-2010, collection. See the table for the full list of updates and search these diverse collections and more than 3.5 billion other records for free at FamilySearch.org.

Thanks to **Vicki Garro**
Douglas County Genealogy Club
Volume 9:10

Polk County Normal School Grads

Class of 1959

Janice Anderson	Luanne Baasch
Adelaide Bishop	Merle Erickson
Arlene Gerber	Mabel Johnson
Mildred Larson	Leon Lindh
Carol Loudenbach	Fay Marxon
Donna Reents	Rose Rogers
Alice Rostad	Jennie Sine
Hilda Swanson	Gertrude Tulgren
Arlene Warner	Jeanne Wikstrom Hansen

Jeanne Alling, Author
I Heard the School Bells Ringing

Common sense is not so common." *Voltaire*



Names of Women Remarrying – Most marriage certificates list a woman's family name before she was married. *Do not assume this is your ancestor's maiden name.*

The marriage certificate you are looking at could be a woman's second marriage and she may be listed by the family name of her first husband. This was incredibly common back in the days when people often died young and had to remarry quickly for economic reasons.

Always look for corroborating evidence that you are, in fact, looking at your ancestor's maiden name. Otherwise, you may end up tracing the family tree of your ancestor's first husband.

Economic necessity often required a woman to enter a new household quickly after the death of a previous spouse. It was not uncommon for women to remarry within 6 months. If you suspect this may have been the case for a female ancestor, consider looking back at the death records in the same church that your female ancestor was married in starting back from the date of the marriage. Since women typically pick the church for a wedding, it is logical to assume your female ancestor may already have been a member of the church before the wedding. You might find evidence in the church records of a previous spouse.

GenealogyInTime
27 September 2014



THOSE WHO SERVED

The “Honor Those Who Served Act of 2014” would enable veterans service agencies, military researchers, historians or genealogists to request a free headstone or marker from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for a veteran’s grave.

Until 2012 the VA provided headstones for unmarked veterans’ graves based on documentation of that vet’s identity and service provided by these groups or individuals. That policy was then changed, limiting headstone requests to a veteran’s next-of-kin or authorized family representative – a difficult requirement when dealing with graves dating back 100 years or more and unknown family descendants. (The policy does not apply to replacement of worn, illegible or damaged markers.)

The **proposed** new legislation will change that policy again, making it possible for non-relatives to obtain a headstone for a documented veteran.

You can read more in an article by Brian Albrecht in The Plain Dealer at <http://goo.gl/dPkRCn>.

A Whisper in the Wind

by

Muriel Pfeifer (1934-2014)

LAMAR

During the period 1902-1909 the Lamar area was a very busy place

The two versions on how Lamar was named are: (1) from Father Gordon of the Long Lake Catholic Church:

“There was a great battle between two Native American tribes, the Chippewa and the Sioux. The Chippewa Chief LaMar, was killed in a battle at the site where the Lamar school now stands.” When the the first one-room school was replaced with a larger school this site was chosen in memory of Chief LaMar.

The second version reminds us that at the time the Lamar community was being settled and the school registered as a State Graded School, the community and the school were named for Secretary of Interior, Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Lamar.

Scotch, Irish and English were attracted by the level, rich soil in which to plant their crops. First families were: **Athertons, Seeds, Woosters, Lipsetts, Dombrocks, McSpedons, Mastersons and Brokaws** all arriving between 1840-1870. Swedish immigrants began arriving about 1880. The families worked hard, often together to accomplish a job such as harvesting. BUT, the children also played hard: outside games included: Farmer in the Dell and Skip to my Lou, with winter parlor games such as: Tip the Fruit Basket, Spin the Bottle, Pass the Scissors, Post Office and others.

By 1900 the hopes of becoming a village with a railroad were overturned when the railroad by-passed the community and went thru Centuria.



Why Immigrants Change Their Name

A common problem in genealogy is tracing people who have changed their name. This occurs most often when someone migrates to another country. The general assumption in genealogy is that immigrants change their name to help them become more assimilated into their new homeland. There are, however, a variety of other reasons why immigrants may change their name.

A study published in the *Journal of Labor Economics* provides valuable proof to the field of genealogy that money can be a major incentive for immigrants to change their name. The study by Mahmood Arai and Peter Skogman Thoursie of Stockholm University studied recent immigrants to Sweden ([Renouncing Personal Names: An Empirical Examination of Surname Change and Earnings](#)). In Sweden, there are only two ways for a person to change their name: by marriage and by legal application to the government. The researchers looked at immigrants who changed their name by legal application, a process that takes from one to two years to complete.

The study focused on immigrants who changed their name to make it more Swedish sounding or more ethnically neutral sounding. The researchers looked at the pay of this group of immigrants before and after the name change. What they found was that an immigrant could significantly increase their earnings by adopting a more local-sounding name. Specifically, an immigrant could more than double their earnings potential simply by changing their name.

Interestingly enough, the impact of a name change had a larger economic impact for women than men. The authors hypothesize that the local populace assumes the name change is due to marriage to a local husband. According to the authors, this provides further proof “that individuals are treated differently [in their new country] depending on their name”.

The United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand are all examples of countries founded by immigrants. Most immigrants were motivated by a desire to lead a better life for themselves and their families. A cornerstone of living a good life is to have a good job. For genealogy, this study helps validate the notion that immigrants changed their name to help improve their economic prospects. <http://www.genealogyintime>. September 2014