



MARSHFIELD AREA GENEALOGY GROUP



Vol. I No. 4

Marshfield, Wisconsin

Sept.-Oct. 1984

NEWS OF OUR GROUP

It has been such a long time since we have all been together for a regular meeting. It will be nice to get back in the swing of things and find out what everyone has been up to. Of course all of us have done nothing all summer except work on genealogy! Be ready to share all the good finds with the group when we return to business on September 20.

JOINT MEETING

The Joint Meeting at Wausau on June 9, was well attended by our Marshfield Area Group. Mr. Jerry Viste gave an excellent program on Computers and Genealogy. We would like to extend our gratitude for being included.

It proved to be an excellent opportunity to meet members of other groups. A few of our members were lucky and found clues for their individual research.

NEW MEETING POLICY

Don't forget our new meeting policy. We will be starting our program at 7:00 and using the time after the meeting for individual information exchange and use of the library. We will try this schedule through our November meeting to determine if it is more efficient than starting the program at 7:30.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

The September 20th meeting will be held at the Flame Room of the Wisconsin Gas Company. Don Schnitzler will be giving the program entitled "WHAT'S IN A PICTURE".

He will also be taking pictures of your pictures after the program. Please come with your pictures sorted as to size. It will save him a lot of time adjusting his camera height. This will be an excellent way to reproduce your old photos so that you can share them with others and protect the original. The cost is minimal, just the actual cost of the film and developing.

Our October meeting will be held at the Upham Mansion, 212 W. Third Street in Marshfield. Members of the North Wood County Historical Society will tell us about the Society and give us a tour of the Mansion.

BEGINNER SEMINAR

A seminar for beginning genealogists will be held Saturday, September 29 at the Beebe Forum Room of the Marshfield Public Library. The morning session will start at 9:00 A.M. It will include instruction on record keeping, use of forms, interviewing and letter

writing. There will also be time available for individual instruction. Following a lunch break, the afternoon session will address where to find information, formal and informal sources, and using pictures in your family history. The sources in the Marshfield Library will also be discussed.

The seminar is free to members of our group and a fee of \$3.00 will be charged to non-members to cover the cost of the handouts.

If you have a specialty in genealogy research, please be available for questions at the seminar. Everyone is needed to make the day a success. All members are asked to attend and help where you can.

NECROLOGY INDEX

As announced in the last issue, Marlene Cherney has been keeping track of the obituaries in the Marshfield New-Herald since 1982. She has consented to coordinate our necrology index. She is in need of volunteers to help her extract them from the past issues which are on microfilm at the library.

If you are able to help, please contact Marlene to receive assigned years to research. She will have the materials available. This can be quite interesting as it puts you in touch with our area in a historical prospective.

FORM SALES

If you need forms be sure and contact Ray or Joann Rhodes. They will be gone for two weeks in September. They are going to Germany and will return Sept. 18. Perhaps we can persuade them to tell us about their trip at one of our meetings.

WORKSHOP AT STEVENS POINT

Just a reminder about the workshop at Stevens Point on September 15. Refer to Newsletter #3 for details.

EAU PLEINE CENTENNIAL

By Patti Laissig-Zimmerman

Town of Eau Pleine residents and former residents celebrated the 100th birthday of their Marathon County township with a picnic on July 8 at March Rapids park. A program was held honoring the past and present town officials for their services throughout the years.

Eau Pleine Township was formed in 1884. On September 13, 1884 it was decided to divide the township of Brighton, and on November 27, 1884, township 27, Range 3 became known as Eau Pleine township.

Edward L. Laessig Sr. was the first elected chairman in the Spring of 1885. He also served as Supervisor from 1904-1906. Records of the township prior to 1904 are missing, so it is unknown who else served on the town board during the early years.

A photo display provided a look into the past century. Photos in the March and Weber areas depicted early settlers of these communities and some of their livelihoods including the Doud Lumber Company, an early store, and Pete Weber's Saloon.

Two well-known area history buffs were present, Adella Cline and Clarence Sandgren (who was responsible for the photo display). Both people are walking-talking history books, and are very knowledgeable about the people and places of the past and

present. Both live in March Rapids.

A 1975 history booklet of the township was available for sale at \$3.50. It was written by Mr. Sandgren. At this time there is no book being compiled for the centennial, he said.

Several area bands provided entertainment throughout the afternoon. Food and beverages were furnished by various businesses, and were enjoyed by all. Perhaps the most notable of all entertainment though, were the people themselves--both old and young--visiting with one another and enjoying the opportunity to renew acquaintances.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have two new members to our group. We would like to extend a big welcome to Char Mischka, 1710 Waushara Drive, Marshfield and Bernice Welch, 1614 W. 6th St., Marshfield. Char was at the first meeting which was called by Karen Boerboom.

LIBRARY DONATION

Patti Laessig-Zimmerman has donated a book which was put out by the St. Joseph's Parish in Stratford, Wisconsin in 1975, commemorating their 75th Anniversary.

TOWN OF DAY BOOK

The centennial book for the Town of Day, Marathon County is available through our group for \$15.00. (Add \$1.00 for mail orders). The book was written by group member Patti Laessig-Zimmerman and covers 101 years of Town of Day history.

QUERIES

Looking for others doing search on the GESSERT (GEFHERT) (GEFSERT) name in Wood County or Marshfield. Also the STAECK (STECK) (STACK) family. Contact Larry Ilk, 1050 Canterbury Drive, Oshkosh, Wis. 54901.

Information wanted on Mary Laessig Ruder (1859-1928) and Emil R. Ruder (1859-1894) and their descendants. Lived in Merrill, Wis. and operated a brewery.

Information wanted on Julia Laessig Vandehey (1879-1942) and Daniel Vandehey (1874-1957) and their descendants. Lived in Clark County, Wis.

Information wanted on Anna Laessig & John D. Kissinger (married on 9-19-1905 at Stratford, Wis.) He worked for Connor Lumber Co., Victoria, B.C. Canada.

Contact with descendants, relatives, acquaintances sought. Need children's names, birth dates, etc. Photos sought. Contact Patti Laessig-Zimmerman, Route 3 Box 355, Stratford, Wis. 54484. (715) 687-4983.

FAMILY REUNION CERTIFICATES

From Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Newsletter: Any family having had five family reunions is entitled to receive a Certificate of Commendation from the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society. Another certificate will be issued for each additional five reunions. Contact Betty Patterson at 139 West Wilson St. #403, Madison, WI 53703. Give family name, date and place of the 5 reunions for which the certificate is requested.

IDENTITY CRISIS

The following article was found in the Marshfield News-Herald, Wood County Centennial Edition, August 5-11, 1956:

RIVERS COUNTY ORGANIZATION TURNED DOWN

A move instituted early in 1895 would, had it succeeded, have given Wood county a vastly different geographic area than the 100-year-old county now occupies.

In February of that year, a proposal was advanced to create an entirely new county, to be made up of territory withdrawn from Wood, Clark and Marathon counties.

The tentative name chosen for the proposed new unit of government by its advocates was "Rivers county."

The plan, as reported in the newspapers of that day, was to take Marshfield, Lincoln and Auburndale townships, the village of Auburndale and the city of Marshfield away from Wood County and link them with 10 townships withdrawn from Marathon and six from Clark.

The proponents sent a delegation of 18 representatives to a meeting in Grand Rapids on Feb. 15 to present their case to the Businessmen's Assn. of Grand Rapids and Centralia.

Speaking on behalf of the proposal for creating the new county were B.W. Pulling, John F. Cole, John P. Hume and H.A. Lathrop of Marshfield and B.R. Salter and Samuel Shafer of Colby.

The Grand Rapids and Centralia spokesmen, who argued strongly against what they termed the "secession" movement, included L.M. Nash, George L. Williams, J.A. Gaynor, G.R. Gardner and J.D. Witter.

They pointed that the territory proposed to be withdrawn from Wood county had a valuation (for tax purposes) of \$490,000, or approximately 24.5 per cent of the total valuation of the county, and a population comprising roughly one-fourth of the county's total populace.

The opposition speakers further emphasized, according to a newspaper report of the meeting, that "Wood county is now 72 square miles short of the size fixed by the state constitution that is not to be changed without a vote of the people."

Gardner, Witter and Williams were appointed as a committee to prepare a formal statement representing the Grand Rapids-Centralia attitude toward the idea of reducing the size of the county. On Feb. 18 this committee posted a letter to the

Businessmen's Assn. of Marshfield, stating that "the people of said cities are unanimously opposed to said proposition, or to any proposition which would detach any of the present territory of Hood county or change the boundaries thereof".

Speaking editorially on the subject the Centralia Enterprise observed:

"The Enterprise has nothing but admiration for the push, the splendid go-ahead-iveness, and the business enterprise of the citizens of Marshfield. In that respect they have set a pace which it would be well for the twin cities to follow. To a man they take pride in their city, and are untiring to further and advance its interests. At the same time, the Enterprise does not believe that the proposed division will be for the best interests of Hood County."

Apparently the whole matter of carving out a new county in central Wisconsin was laid to rest after the Hood County Board voted, 20 to 11, to memorialize the State Legislature to oppose any change in the county's boundary lines.

A search of subsequent files fails to reveal whether the issue ever reached the Legislature for action.

The first mention of this new county was found in the MARSHFIELD TIMES AND GAZETTE on April 19, 1884. It is interesting to note that people of this area, 100 years ago, were talking about the special needs of the same area that was chosen by the Marshfield Area Genealogy Group. Even that long ago, this area felt the need to join together because of similarities in lifestyles and needs.

Had this movement been successful, our group would probably been the RIVERS COUNTY GENEALOGY GROUP. It would be nice to incorporate this information in our group somehow. If anyone has any suggestions as to how we can do this without it being confusing, please let us know.

From Clallum County Genealogical Society Newsletter:
GENEALOGY DIGEST MAGAZINE--to obtain a free copy write to PO Box 15681, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

REGIONAL ARCHIVES AT STEVENS POINT

If you are planning a trip to the Regional Archives at Stevens Point, you may want to know that they are in the middle of a

remodeling project and things are slightly unorganized. If you need to do research, they are open for business, but the noise of construction can be rather distracting. At present, the roof is made of plastic sheets to protect the holdings of the library. You may want to postpone your research there until things are back to normal. We will keep track of the situation and let you know when the remodeling is completed.

NIKOLAI FAMILY HISTORY

Mary Lou (Nikolai) Kirsch has donated a copy of the HISTORY OF THE NIKOLAI FAMILY to our group. Mary Lou wrote the book and it was published by Speedy Print of Marshfield in 1983. The NIKOLAI - NICKOLAI - NICKOLAY family is from the Marshfield area. Some surnames covered in the book are: ETGES, MEYER, BURR, WELSCH, MARESCH, MANTERNACH, LEINEN, KAFKA, ENGELDINGER AND GEHRKE.

From the PINERY PEDIGREE NEWSLETTER:

MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY CENSUS MICROFILM RENTALS

The Marathon County Public Library, can obtain through the interlibrary loan program, copies of all Federal census schedules (1790-1910) and the soundex. A person wishing to rent census microfilm should stop at the Library's reference & information desk. Catalogs detailing the census schedules are available there.

The library will place orders for the reels of microfilm requested by the user. Length of rental for the film is seven days. The cost per reel is \$2.25. Overdue charges of \$2.25 are assessed if the film is returned more than two days after the designated return date. Payment must accompany each order, and the checks should be made payable to the Census Microfilm Rental Program.

Customers may order film to be delivered on a specific date or they may request film to be shipped "as soon as possible." The microfilm is delivered to the Marathon County Public Library and must be viewed there.

The following articles were taken from the MARSHFIELD NEWS in the year 1909:

Feb. 11, 1909

MAKE APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION PAPERS

Under the new naturalization laws which are much more stringent than formerly, men who have neglected taking out their second papers or declaring their intention to become citizens are hurrying now to comply with the new law. On Friday of last week Clerk of Court Bever and Attorney Charles Breier came up from Grand Rapids and conducted a school for naturalization at the city hall. Eleven were present to make application for second papers and three who filed papers of declaration to become citizens. Following is the list: Michael Troiber, August Machalski, Joseph and Wenzel David, Ludwig Binder, Michael Ertl, John Kiesling, William Reichert, Nels Nelson, H.F. Thiel and Max Schmidt, second papers and Michael Kellner, Abraham Aronson and Louis Ancell, first papers.

June 3, 1909

MANY TAKE OUT NATURALIZATION PAPERS

Under the new naturalization laws many are availing themselves of the opportunity to become full citizens. On Tuesday of this week Judge Webb made it a special order of court, 66 making application of which 62 received their papers, two being continued and two denied. Those from this city and adjoining towns who received their papers were Mike Schmidt, D. Marx, Franz Stuber, Jos. Koholka, August Michaelski, Wenzel Robl, Nels Nelson, Wm. Reichardt, town of Marshfield; Joseph Bowman, Joseph Kiesling town of Cameron; H.F. Thiel, Ludwick Binder, Mike Ertl, Nels Kr. Christensen, Louis

Christensen, Mike Froiber, town of Lincoln; Alois Youngswirth, Joseph David, Wendolin David, town of Rock; Alex La Point, Marshfield city. Hon. R.S. Coleman of St. Paul, U.S. attorney for a district of states, conducted the examinations.

In 1918 German Aliens were required to register. The following list was found in the MARSHFIELD NEWS, February 21, 1918.

GERMAN ALIENS

Following is the list of German aliens who registered at the post office:

Oscar Porst, Route 3
 Jos. Karperger, Route 2
 Wm. Jangling, Route 3
 Andrew Michelbeck, Route 5
 William Kalkan, Route 3
 Jer, am Wertj, Route 2
 William Weilbecker, Route 7
 Frank Kottenbeutel, Route 5
 Carl Heise, Route 5
 Albert Stoeck, Route 3
 August Bruch, Route 5
 Stephen Schoefer, Route 4
 Jacob Henseler, Route 1
 Jos. Gleissner, Route 2
 Joseph Brey, Route 7
 Jos. A Schatzel, Route 6
 Max Degner, Route 3
 Herman Poppy, Route 2
 Adolph Doll, Route 5
 August Seehafer, Route 1
 F.W. Bartz, Route 1
 Carl Ferd Readel, Route 1
 William Rabe, Route 1
 Carl Berg, Route 1
 Fred Breheim, Route 3
 Geo. Muehlbauer, Route 5
 Fred W. Schultz, Route 3
 Bruno Schatzel, Route 6
 Leo Singstock, Route 1
 Mike Fischer, Route 1
 Jos. Sautner, Route 3
 Albert Arndt, Route 6
 Perter Kasperger, Route 1

Jos. Pankratz, Route 5
 William Witte, Route 3
 Gustave Rabe, Route 1
 Frank Kohlbeck, Route 3
 Fred Schroeder, Route 5
 William Schroeder, Route 5
 Ernest Weichert, Route 5
 August Hell, Route 3
 William Gessert, Route 3
 Ed Weilke, Route 2
 Fred Fischer, Route 6
 Otto Hoff, Route 6
 Fred Striegel, Route 6
 William Gaugar, Route 6
 Fred Podratz, Route 4
 Albert Arndt, Route 6
 Gottlieb Seehafer, Route 4
 William Hoff, Route 3
 Aug. F. Schultz, Route 3
 Fritz Kloehn, Route 4
 William F. Schmidt, Route 4
 Charles Lutge, Route 4
 William Greenberg, Route 5
 August Mathias, Route 6
 Aug. Popp, Route 6
 Louis Schaller, Route 4
 John Slatieczny, Route 6
 John Pelarczyk, Route 4
 Anton Frank, Route 4
 John G. Dietel, Route 4
 Carl Wichman, Route 4
 Wm. Riethus, Route 6
 Geo. Schimmel, Route 6
 Theo. Lehrman, Route 4
 Fred Schallock, Route 4
 Adam Bach, Route 4
 Frank Schallock, Route 4
 Aug. Schallock, Route 6
 Mat Britten, Route 6
 August Kloehn, Route 4
 Wm. Schallock, Route 4
 Carl Weber, Route 4
 Aug. Lutze, Route 4
 Frank Freuhbrodt, Route 4
 Fred Podratz, Route 4
 Albert Waldt, Route 4
 Jacob Adler, St. Joseph street
 August Senn, North Maple
 Heinrich Buttke, South Peach
 Chas. A. Brown, West Bakerville
 John Flasch, Adler street
 Herman Beell, West Sixth

I would like to take this opportunity to apologize for the quality of the last newsletter. The paper and the copier did not like one another. Care will be taken in the future to be sure they are compatible.

VALUE OF EXCHANGE NEWSLETTERS

Exchanging newsletters with other groups is a valuable source of information. The following article has really made the rounds. It originated in the Pioneer Pathfinder, V9#10, was used in Trailbreakers, V9#1, and I found it in The Appleland Bulletin V12#4.

PETITION OR APPLICATION FOR PROBATE

By Mary S. Wilkins

Most of us are aware of the value of the probate package but in the last few years another document has been brought to my attention, the "petition or application for probate." This is probably the most valuable document, after the will, to be found at the county courthouse because the probate laws in most states required that this document include the names, ages, addresses and relationship to the deceased of all heirs whether mentioned in the will or not.

The Researchers Guide to American Genealogy by Val D. Greenwood, pages 227 and 245, puts it this way: "The will is ordinarily brought before the Court of proper jurisdiction to be probated by the filing of written application or petition for probate. In more recent years, in the states which require them, these applications have proven to be invaluable genealogical documents as they must include names of all next-of-kin

of the testator, relationship or degree of relationship to him (with ages of minors) and post office addresses."

If an individual dies intestate, the requirements are much the same: "No court can acquire jurisdiction unless there is proof of death. Probate proceedings are usually set in motion by a petition...the amount of property...and, in more recent years the names and relationships of those persons who may be entitled to share in that property..."

What a genealogical gold mine these applications for probate can be!

GENEALOGY COURSE

There will be a course in Genealogy offered at the University of Wisconsin Center, Marshfield Wood County Campus. Ruth Steffen, M.L.S., will be the instructor. Those of you who took advantage of the trip to the Regional Archives at Stevens Point will remember her. She was our guide and is a librarian at UW-Stevens Point.

The course, entitled "Uproot Your Family Tree," will be held in four sessions. Sept 18, Oct. 2, 16 and 30, and will be held at 7:30 to 9 p.m.

For more information, contact Barbara Allmandinger, Continuing Education coordinator, at the UW Center.

While the course is designed for beginners, many "experienced genealogists" can tell you that a trip back to the basics can be very enlightening. Sometimes it is easy to forget the obvious.

MARSHFIELD AREA GENEALOGY GROUP

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OFFICERS

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Librarian - Susan Weber
 News Releases - Karen Boerboom
 News Letter - Susan Weber (temporary)
 Form Sales - Joann and Raymond Rhodes 387-4570
 Meeting Librarian - Laurie Clements
 Necrology - Marlene Cherney 659-4315
 Board Member - Joann Rhodes

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the MARSHFIELD AREA GENEALOGY GROUP entitles you to all of the groups services. It includes a subscription to the newsletter that is published six times a year, free queries and surname listings in the newsletter, the right to check out any of the groups library holdings that are for circulation, the right to vote and help in making decisions affecting the group, notification of upcoming events in the area and notification of meeting changes.

DUES: Individual membership is \$7.00.
 Family membership is \$8.00 (residing at same address)
 Membership is effective until May 1, 1985.
 Make check payable to MARSHFIELD AREA GENEALOGY GROUP and send to : Susan Weber, M431 N. Drake Ave., Marshfield, WI 54449

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

 _____ (city, state, zip)

PHONE: _____

Please include a list of the Surnames you are researching so they may be added to the surname list. The surname list is published periodically and furnished to members at no charge.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 5 - Seminar for the Senior Citizen's Group on "HOW AND WHY TO DO GENEALOGY" at the Senior Citizen's Center at 1:30.

September 20 - MARSHFIELD AREA GENEALOGY GROUP meeting at 7:00 at the Flame Room of the Wisconsin Gas Company. Program by Don Schnitzler - "WHAT'S IN A PICTURE" 693-3589 Moseneel

September 29 BEGINNER SEMINAR will be held at the Beebee forum room of the Marshfield Public Library. The morning session begins at 9:00 a.m. and the afternoon session at 1:00.

October 18 - MARSHFIELD AREA GENEALOGY GROUP meeting at the Upham Mansion at 212 W. Third Street. The program will be given by the North Wood County Historical Society. and begins at 7:00.

November 15 - MARSHFIELD AREA GENEALOGY GROUP meeting at 7:00 at the Flame Room of the Wisconsin Gas Company. Program by George Winkler - "MARSHFIELD AREA RAILROADS 1872-1984"

December - No meeting. Return to regular schedule in January.

MARSHFIELD AREA GENEALOGY GROUP
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\$40.00

Don Schnitzler
Mfld Clinic
in Lab

INFO Desk
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Stack (see also
Medicine)