

Rith and Kin

Volume 25 Number 3 April

President's Message

Hello MAGG Members,

If your winter has been fairly quiet, it's time to get out and about. It's that time of year for lots of activity outside and MAGG is no exception. We have a lot of very interesting meetings and activities planned, for this Spring and Summer starting with our **March 25th** meeting. The speaker for this meeting is Kristin Overvaag Liebekk, a foreign exchange student from Hareid, Norway. She will provide a photographic tour of life in Norway. We will meet in the BeeBee Forum Room (lower level of the Marshfield Public Library) at 7 p.m. and we have also invited our local Sons of Norway to join us for the evening.

If you're looking for a road trip and something to do, come join us on **March 27th** and possibly **April 10th** when we go down to the Wisconsin State Historical Society in Madison as we look for information on Wisconsin veterans that will be used on **May 21-23, 2010**. The event "**LZ Lambeau: Welcoming Home Wisconsin's Vietnam Veterans**" - will feature a special evening celebration inside Green Bay's Lambeau Field that will honor and thank Wisconsin's Vietnam Veterans, while offering a warm welcome home that many never received. Go to: http://www.lambeaufield.com/events_info/news/releases/2009/08/19/1/ for more

info on the weekend. Call Vickie at (715) 897-1910 if interested in helping on the research trips.

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society presents it's 2010 Gene-A-Rama on **April**

16th -17th, 2010 in Manitowoc, WI at the Holiday Inn on the corner of I-43 and Highway 151. Stephen S. Barthel, an accredited genealogist since 1981 and formerly with the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah will be leading the conference, "Finding Your Ancestors in Wisconsin's Ethnic Melting Pot". Other speakers include Penny Dashur, George Findlen CGSM, Pat Geyh, Sandra Hynek, Kris Beisser Matthies CGSM, Kathy Meade, Jerry Paulson and Margaret Skare. For more information go to <http://wsgs.wetpaint.com/>

On April 22nd, Janet and Stan Schwarze from Rochester, MN will be sharing information on their award winning Clark County website for which they are webmasters. Their website not only contains information on Clark County, but also many of the surrounding counties including Wood County. The program starts at 7 p.m. in the General Meeting Room of the Marshfield Public Library.

Paul Schneider and Lori Belongia will be sharing the culmination of two projects that have merged together - The Marshfield Hillside Cemetery Interactive Viewer at our **May 27th** meeting. The city of Marshfield is piloting an online

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project involving the cemeteries located in the city. You can search by a person's name, and the program will give the burial location in the cemetery, show it on a map and when prompted, link it to any references to that person back in the library's Genealogy Index. Join us at 7 p.m. in the General Meeting Room of the Marshfield Public Library to find out more.

I also want to remind everyone that May is Wisconsin Historic Preservation Month.

This year's theme is "Old is the New Green". Marshfield's activities start on Saturday, **May 1st** at 1:00 p.m. with a Kick-off Celebration at the Thomas House History Center. Then, starting on **May 5th**, a Middle School Art Exhibit, "Marshfield: Past, Present, and Future". Marshfield Middle School student artwork depicts the city's downtown through various time lenses. The exhibit will be on display from **May 5-28** and may be viewed anytime that the library is open, culminating with a "Special Artist's Reception" on Thursday, **May 27th**, with refreshments and conversation to follow. On Thursday, **May 20th**, Chad Lewis, a well-known paranormal researcher will share some of the state's more "colorful" history in a presentation entitled "Wisconsin's Gangster Past – Turning the Badger State into a Crime State." Program can be seen at 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. and also 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Marshfield Public Library's BeeBee Forum Room. Then on **May 22nd**, MAGG along with the Marshfield Public Library will host another of our very popular "Beginner's Genealogy Workshops". Individuals from the community are invited to bring their questions and collected data for one-on-one help with their research. Program

starts at 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon in the General Meeting Room of the Marshfield Public Library with a brief overview of research how-to's and then breaking out into small groups. Make sure to call the library to reserve a spot. Historic Preservation's Annual Lasagna Dinner & historical re-enactments, "Taste of History" are on Wednesday, **May 26th** at the West 14th/Blue Heron Brew Pub (108 W. 9th Street). Tickets are \$12.50 and available at MACCI, Main Street Marshfield and West 14th/Blue Heron Brew Pub. The last event for the festivities is the Cemetery Tour on Friday, **May 28th**, 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. and noon – 2:30 p.m. at the Hillside Cemetery, 1110 N. St. Joseph Avenue.

"Family Reunions" is the topic for our **June 24th** program at the Marshfield Public

Library starting at 7 p.m. Members are asked to bring their favorite items for a "show and tell." It can be a story about your favorite family reunion and what made it your favorite. You could bring an artifact, picture, etc from one of your family reunions. Or bring ideas for your favorite activities during a family reunion. Maybe even creative ways on how your family reunions are funded. You are not limited to only one thing to share... the more the merrier.

Then on **July 22nd**, there will be a work meeting at Hillside Cemetery to copy cemetery information. A tailgate picnic lunch will be available anytime after 5 PM. Come when you can and wear comfortable shoes.

And don't forget our Annual MAGG Picnic on **August 26th** at Al & Pat Breden's Home, 10465 County Trunk B, Marshfield, starting at 6 p.m.

Hopefully, there is something here for everyone. I'll be seeing you at the events this Spring and Summer. Also, enjoy your summer of picnics, family reunions and gatherings. Make the most of your times together.

As Always,
Vickie Schnitzler

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German Interest Group-Wisconsin

The German Interest Group-Wisconsin will be holding their Annual Workshop Saturday July 10, 2010 at UW Whitewater. The featured speaker is James Beidler of

Pennsylvania. Topics such as “Contrasting German Migration: 18th Century vs 19th Century”, “What’s a Palatine Anyway?”, and Success Story: Finding a European Village of Origin.

Cost is \$40 before July 1 and \$45 after. Go to

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wigig/index.htm>
 | for more information.

History of City School System

by L. H. Dressendorfer

Part 10

The new high school, building was occupied in the fall of 1900. Its enrollment was 120 pupils and it had a teaching force of four.

At the annual meeting of the school district on July 3, 1900 the salary of the district clerk was raised to \$300. At this time the board was empowered “to make such arrangements as they saw fit, for a night school during the winter, from November to April, for the benefit of young people employed in business.” This meeting ordered the sum of \$13,000 raised by taxes for the support of the schools for the coming school year.

On the motion of Hamilton Roddis, at the annual meeting July 1, 1901, the school board was increased from three to seven members. The members of this board were W. W. Hollister, director; C. Vedder, Clerk; E. M. Deming, Treasurer; K. W. Doege, E. E. Finch, John Voelker, and Mary B. Cracraft. To Mary Cracraft belongs the honor of being the first woman school board member of the city of Marshfield. Another step forward was taken at this meeting when the school board was instructed to take council and if they deemed it advisable to change from the county superintendent system to make such report at the next annual meeting. The Tuition for non-resident students was raised to 50 cents per week because of the “high positions our schools have attained.” J. B. Borden then supervising principal advocated that the

method of school government be changed from the district to the commission system. Under the system the school board would be appointed by the city council. This suggestion did not meet with favor and the elector decided that it would be advisable to continue as they did in the past.

Part 11

As early as January 15, 1901 there was a movement on foot to start course in domestic and manual arts. At a meeting of the school board on this date, committees were appointed to investigate the advisability and cost of these courses. At a later meeting the matter was tabled as the school district could not see its way clear to incur the additional expense of these courses.

In July 1902 the electors decided that in order to offer proper school facilities it would be necessary to build another ward school. Therefore the board was authorized to float a bond issue for the sum of \$12,000 with which to but a site and build a new grade building in the First ward. The old building in the First ward was to be sold for what it would bring.

The building site lots one to four and thirteen to twenty-five inclusive was bought from A. S. Smith Sand Agency at the cost of \$2,400. J. H. Jeffers of Wausau was employed as the architect and Thomas Wright was given the contract to erect the building at a cost of \$9,793.

The first night school was started in the Central Avenue building on Dec. 1, 1902. This school grew so that a month later it was necessary to hold school three nights a week and hire an additional teacher. The supervision of this evening school was given to J. B. Borden.

The annual meeting of the school district held on July 6, 1903 was an important one for at this meeting it was “Resolved that the School District No. 1 of the city of Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin for the year 1903, hereby constitute itself into an independent school superintendency.” This resolution was carried and the proper

legal measures were taken to carry this resolution into effect. It too was the wish of the electors that courses in domestic science be offered. The board was instructed to equip a room on the third floor of the high school for a domestic science department and employ a domestic science teacher to carry on instruction in such a course. To be continued.

Letters From Our Soldier Boys
Marshfield Herald January 11, 1918 P. 1

Herb Weber of the Weber Brothers store, who has been in France with the 86th division, is back in the United States and expects to be mustered out of service. In a letter this week to his brother, E. V. Weber, now in charge of the store, he writes from Camp Mills:

"I am back in the good old United States again. We landed Jan. 3rd and I hope to be home soon. We expect to leave this camp in a couple of days for Camp Jackson, Kentucky or probably Camp Grant. It sure seems good to get to a place where it's civilized again. I sure am a lucky dog to get back so soon, but as it were we came back as casuals. You can't imagine all we have gone through since we left the states three and a half months ago. Oh, this army life is great after you get used to it. They say the first ten years are the hardest. We are living like kings at this camp. Sleep on real cots and have a warm barracks.

I don't see why Germany wanted France so bad. They couldn't give it to me. The French people, themselves, are nice but they are a long ways behind the times.

The 86th Division that I was in was broken up and the companies all used in the casuals to fill the ranks of the companies at the front. That's how we happened to get shipped home. Otherwise I would probably still be in old frog town, eating hardtack and beans and marching in mud up to the knees.

I haven't heard from brothers Otto or Hub since we left the states bit I suppose they are still somewhere in France."

BODEGA MOVES INTO ITS NEW QUARTERS (same issue and page)

The Bodega, the annex to the Hotel Blodgett, was moved this week one door south of the location where it had been a prosperous and popular resort the past 20 years. If its wall could talk what a story they could tell, for the Bodega was a place where the lion and the lamb laid down together, where they swallows homeward flew---where politics was discussed, wars settled and the topics of the day freely aired.

It was here where Bill Terry, for 22 years stood behind the bar and with a Wilson smile on his face, waited on the trade. In its new quarters the Bodega will lose none of its accommodations or coziness and as before will continue to its charm as a business man's club. It will be under the management of Frank Lucas, better known as "Smiles", who in years gone by made himself famous as an artist by papering a bed room in the Hotel Blodgett, using only cigar bands, of which it took more than 40,000.

A crew of men are now at work tearing out the interior of the Bodega's old home even to the tile floor, and by spring time, its surroundings will be changed into a dream like restaurant and ice cream parlor---an enterprise altogether new in Marshfield and one that for beauty and style it would be hard to find in cities many times larger than ours. The change is only another example of Mr. Blodgett's enterprise in putting and keeping Marshfield on the map.

FINDS WOMAN IN WOOD CO. ASYLUM (Same issue and page)

Mrs. P. A. Williams, worthy matron of Everett Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, received the following inquiry by letter the past week which has already brought results.

Ames, Iowa Jan. 1, 1919

Worthy Matron, O.E.S.
Marshfield, Wis.

Dear Sister and Stranger, I take the privilege of addressing you and also asking a favor which I hope will not be too much of

a task. Here is what I want to know. About 15 years ago, Mrs. Ida Riceinger, divorced, went to Northern Wisconsin to live with her grandmother, the name of the town and grandmother I am unable to state, but I think the town was Marshfield. Later she married to a Mr. Strobe. Her trouble early in life bore on her I suppose until she became insane and the last her grandmother knew of her was in the asylum at Marshfield or near there. Her father is all that is left of their family and in his old age, he worries much about her, not knowing her exact whereabouts or whether she is yet alive. I am taking it upon myself to try and find out is she is dead or where she is. If you could find time to do this, I am sure it would be appreciated. I should judge her age about 40 years. She has been insane almost ten years.

Mrs. F. G. Pratt, Ames, Iowa

The letter was turned over to Mrs. D. I. Cole, secretary of the Chapter, who upon inquiry she found the missing one in the Wood county asylum, where she has been an inmate ever since that institution was built and where she is receiving the best of care. Mrs. Cole immediately answered the inquiry.

Spotlight: Obituary Indexes

by *Valerie Beaudraut*

Beaufort County Library Newspaper
Obituary Index, South Carolina
www.beaufortcountylibrary.org/htdocs-sirsi/bdc/newobits_xml.html#_A

Beaufort County is located on the southeastern-most tip of South Carolina. The city of Beaufort is the county seat. The Beaufort County Library has made an obituary index available on its website.

Most of the index is drawn from the library's microfilmed newspaper collection. With some of the newer local newspapers started since 2006—*Beaufort Today*, *Bluffton Today*, and *Hilton Head Island Today*—there are no microfilm archives. For these papers the obituaries published in the online version are the source.

The library's newspaper collection includes newspapers from 1862 to the present. Currently, the obituary index contains 18,794 records from eighteen Beaufort County newspapers between 1862 and May 15, 1984, and October 2007 to the present. It is an ongoing project with new records being added on a regular basis. For the most complete index records, click on the Obituary Index Beta version link in the center of the page.

The data fields in the beta version of the index include the deceased's title; last name; first name; nickname; 'see also;' notes; newspaper title; day, month, and year the obituary was published; and reference (page number). You may order a copy of an obituary from the library for a fee.

Williamson County Public Library Obituaries Database, Tennessee

<http://library.williamson-tn.org/search/t?SEARCH=williamson+county+obituaries+database>

Williamson County is located in central Tennessee. Franklin is the county seat. The Williamson County Public Library has made an obituary database available on its website. This database is available through two different links, depending on whether you are in or outside of the library. Click on the appropriate link to access the database.

There are nearly 45,000 records in the database. The index has been organized alphabetically by first letter of the surname of the deceased. The data fields in the index include last name, first name, year, month, and day of death, newspaper name, location of the source newspaper, an abbreviated version of the obituary text, full name, and the newspaper date. Click on the View Obituary link to read the full text of the obituary, if it is available.

Crandon Public Library Local History
Obituary Index, Wisconsin
www.crandonpl.org/?page_id=325

The Crandon Public Library has made an obituary database available on its website. This index was begun by local and library volunteers and converted to an online database by the library. The index currently covers the years from 1909 – 1923, 2001 – 2003, and 2005. This is an ongoing project. There are nearly 1,800 records in the index. The data fields include last name, first name, age, newspaper, and date of publication. Click on the column header to sort the records.

Enter a surname in the search box to bring up a list of individuals with that name. You may request a copy of the obituary from the library for a small fee. As noted on the website, you may also request a copy of an obituary for someone who died in years not included in the index, if you have an approximate date of death.

Obituary Database, Los Angeles Public Library, California
www.lapl.org/resources/indexes/rip.html

The Los Angeles Public Library has made available on its website an index to newspaper and periodical articles containing obituary information on renowned actors, authors, journalists, and librarians. You can search the database by name, occupation, date of death, and cause of death. The data fields in the results returned may include full name, including married name, maiden name, and nickname; sex, occupation, death date, age, place of death, and information source.

Research Recommendations:
Genealogical Writing: Titles
 by Michael J. Leclerc

A friend and colleague recently asked me about capitalization, italicization, and titles. The issue of titles and subtitles in writing can feel daunting, but the rules are not that complicated.

When quoted in text or listed in a bibliography (or source notes), titles of books, journals, and other freestanding

works are italicized. Titles of articles, chapters, and unpublished works are set in roman type between quotation marks. Subtitles always begin with a capital letter, and type style is the same as the title. On title pages of works, punctuation is often left off the end of lines, especially when text is set in large type. When quoting such a work, you should add the punctuation as if it is there in the original. This is an especially common problem among nineteenth-century genealogies and local histories. For example:

The "Parting From America" chapter of Susan Hardman Moore's *Pilgrims: New World Settlers and the Call of Home* presents an interesting take on the subject of returning immigrants.

According to the fifteenth edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*, when citing newspapers and periodicals, an initial *the* should be set in lowercase roman, even if it is part of the official title. If the title starts a sentence, it should be capitalized and roman. Foreign-language titles, however, maintain the article in the original language if it is part of the official title:

I read an interesting article in the *New York Times* yesterday.
 That reporter from the *Boston Globe* really knows his stuff.
 I read *Le Monde* when travelling on the continent.

If the name of the newspaper or periodical appears in the name of a building, prize, etc., it should not be italicized:

Evening Times Book Award
 Tribune Tower

Titles of book series and editions are capitalized, but not italicized.

Black's Law Dictionary, Fourth Edition

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Research Recommendations: O, Canada!

by Michael J. Leclerc

Canadian Genealogy Centre, Library and
 Archives Canada

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca

The Canadian Genealogy Centre is run by
 Canada's national archives and library. Their
 mission is to "facilitate the discovery of our
 roots and family histories as a basic part of
 our Canadian heritage" and "to encourage
 the use of genealogy and the resources
 available in libraries and archives as tools
 for life-long learning."

The Centre is working to provide greater
 access to the materials in the nation's
 libraries and archives. A number of
 databases are available online, including
 census, land, immigration, and some vital
 records. Information is also available on
 obtaining materials through your local library
 via Interlibrary Loan.

Canada GenWeb

www.canadagenweb.org

The Canadian counterpart to USGenWeb
 offers a wide variety of information on
 researching our neighbor to the north. Each
 province and territory has its own page, with
 subpages further dividing the
 province/territory into sections. There are a
 number of national projects being
 conducted, including cemetery
 transcriptions, Bible transcriptions, and even
 an Immigrants to Canada list. The
 CanadaGenWeb blog provides the latest
 information about the site.

The Quaker Archives and Library of Canada
www.archives-library.quaker.ca

The Quaker Archives and Library of Canada
 has two components: The Canadian Yearly

Meeting Archives and The Arthur Garratt
 Dorland Reference Library. The library
 contains thousands of non-circulating books,
 journals, newspapers, and pamphlets dating
 from the late 1600s to today. The Yearly
 Meeting archives, including information from
 the half-yearly, quarterly, monthly, and
 preparative meetings and their various
 committees, are a trove of information for
 genealogists; finding aids and catalogs are
 available online for their collections. Also
 available is the Canadian Quaker
 Genealogical Index, which provides access
 to information on individuals mentioned in
 the meeting records.

Geographical Names of Canada

<http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca>

Geographical Names of Canada is a website
 run by National Resources
 Canada/Ressources Naturelles Canada.
 Since 1897 names on official federal
 government maps have been authorized
 through a national committee, now known as
 the Geographical Names Board of Canada
 (GNBC). The Canadian Geographical
 Names Data Base (CGNDB) is the data
 bank of Canada's geographical names,
 maintained by the Geographical Names
 Section, part of the Centre for Topographic
 Information, Geomatics Canada, Natural
 Resources Canada. You can search the
 database online for free, by name or GPS
 coordinates. Remember that this records the
 name of civil divisions and geographical
 features, not church parishes. You can even
 get a national or regional map that pinpoints
 the location of your town.

Canadian Genealogical Projects Registry

www.afhs.ab.ca/registry/index.html

The Alberta Family Histories Society keeps
 a section on their website devoted to
 projects being worked on to abstract, index,
 and transcribe records from across Canada.
 Listing is free, and a number of projects
 have information available online. AFHS
 itself maintains a database of cemetery
 transcriptions from the province.

Spotlight: Cemetery Databases

by Valerie Beaudrault

Dickinson Cemeteries Burial Database,
North Dakota,
www.dickinsongov.com/index.asp?Type=BASIC&SEC={D40E86AD-1357-43F0-93AD-21CC8C33593C}&DE=

Dickinson, a city in central North Dakota, is located in Stark County.

According to Dickinson's website, the city assumed responsibility for all of its cemeteries in the early 1980s. They have made an alphabetical cemeteries database available on the city's website. Because it is in PDF format you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the database files.

The cemeteries included in the database are the St. Wenceslaus Cemetery, St. Joseph's Cemetery, St. Patrick's Cemetery, and Dickinson City Cemetery. Each cemetery has been given a single letter designation in the database. The data fields include last name, first name, cemetery abbreviation, plot information (section, block, lot, grave), date of birth, date of death, and comments. Information in the comments section includes family members names, plot location, removal information, name of plot owner,

whether the deceased was cremated, and whether the plot was purchased 'pre-need.'

Walnut Grove Cemetery, West Virginia
www.walnutgrovecemetery.org

Walnut Grove Cemetery was established in the 1860s by a group of families who settled early in Bluefield. The City of Bluefield is located in Mercer County, in the southern most part of West Virginia.

There are two databases on the cemetery's website. One is an alphabetical registry of graves. The data fields in this database include the full name of the deceased and the individual's birth and death dates. The second is alphabetical database of veterans buried in the cemetery. The data fields in

this database include the full name of the veteran and service, as well as the individual's birth and death dates.

Museum of Jewish History and Culture,
Richmond, Virginia
bethahabahmuseum.org/people

The Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives "collects, preserves and exhibits materials which relate to Jewish history and culture — with particular emphasis on Richmond, Virginia — so that Jewish history and culture may be documented, interpreted and passed on to future generations." The museum is affiliated with Congregation Beth Ahabah, which is the successor to Congregation Beth Shalome (founded in 1789).

The Burial Records of Jewish Cemeteries in Central Virginia database was created to help family history researchers locate the gravesites of Jewish individuals in the Central Virginia

area. Area congregations and cemetery managers provided the information to the museum. The amount of information recorded varies from location to location.

The database can be searched by last name, first name, maiden name and middle name. The data fields in the search results also include date of birth, date of death, cemetery name and 'More Info?' If the word 'Yes' appears in the last column of a record, it indicates that the Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives has in its holdings additional information that is too extensive to be included in the database. Additional information might include obituaries, newspaper articles, photographs, congregational records, family records, or other information.

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Next-generation genealogy and one woman's quest to share the wealth of WorldCat.org

Genealogists around the world have fully embraced blogging and social networking tools as part of their routine sleuthing protocols. But have they uncovered the countless clues that WorldCat libraries provide? We did some investigative research of our own to find out.

It wasn't long before we came across a challenge of blogospheric proportions—fit for the surfing-savvy: *52 Weeks to Better Genealogy*. The creator of this challenge is (of course) a librarian, blogger and genealogist, [Amy Coffin](#), who lives in Texas.

“Each week's assignment is designed to encourage genealogists to trace their roots using tools that are available through library resources,” said Taneya Koonce, librarian, genealogy researcher and a follower of *52 Weeks*. “Week 5 of the series has particular emphasis here because the goal was to encourage hundreds of geneabloggers to explore [WorldCat.org](#) and I'm a huge personal fan of WorldCat.”

So, from January 30 through February 5, geneabloggers went to town on WorldCat.org—clicks spiked and bytes sparked all over cyberspace. From the responses on [GeneaBloggers](#), many participants found success in WorldCat.org—and many had previously used the site. We found many reports on their experiences, including tips on keywords (such as the geographic location of your ancestors for diaries and correspondence that provide insight into the lives and times of your ancestors) and how to order copies of journal articles through interlibrary loan, plus dynamite reviews like this one:

“Genealogy education' was my next choice of search terms. I was expecting to get books such

as how to do genealogy research online, using DNA to trace your ancestors, etc. The first book returned was a popular book for online genealogy, those that followed were even better. There were books on schools in various parts of the country, city and rural schools, books of graduates and teachers and schools for specific groups of people. This was another reminder that key words used in searches really are key!

With my interest aroused I will spend more time on WorldCat experimenting with various keyword phrases and see what I find.”

WorldCat.org is growing, and our user base continues to reach new heights. It's important to realize that together, we're not only helping hobbyist genealogists discover who their ancestors were and where they came from, but more than ever before, we're helping people discover who they will become.

“The posts are a great opportunity for WorldCat libraries to better understand searching behavior,” continues Taneya. “And how a variety of individuals interact with the site as they seek to make improvements and updates. I hope, too, that my fellow geneabloggers out there have also come to realize just how valuable this resource can be for family history research.

Clues in Correspondence

When someone dear to you dies and you have to go through some of their belongings, do check out the cards (birthday, Christmas, etc.). I checked them out after Mom died, and found one which said, “I remember the day you and George [her husband of 71 yrs] came by my place of work and asked me to go with you to be witness at your wedding.” There were more details, but I'd never known where they were married. I had always “assumed” they married in the town where they lived, but the card revealed they had married in the town where she grew up. I'd never even asked!

Madora

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Browsing through the *New York Herald* of 24 May 1869, a clipping titled "A Singular Wedding" grabbed my attention. In it was the story of a man in Poughkeepsie, New York, whose father had died and who had made the curious decision to wed his fiancé in the presence of his father's corpse. According to the newspaper, "The bridegroom, when asked why he was married in such a manner, replied that the spirit of his father hovered about him, telling him to get married, there and then."

When I shared the article with my family, reactions were mixed. I got a couple grimaces, but I kept thinking that the gentleman must have had a great bond with his father. The bride probably hadn't envisioned her wedding day in that fashion either, but she had gone forward with it. It had all the makings of an intriguing love story.

Marshfield Genealogy Group
PO Box 337
Marshfield, WI 54449
Forwarding Service Requested

Patricia Kell 2009-2010
 109 Summer St.
 Schofield, WI 54476-1282

I wished I could learn more about the family, but unfortunately, neither the bridal party nor the deceased was named in the article. It did say that the Reverend Hageman of the Second Reformed Church performed the service, and I found another clipping that included the date of the wedding. With the information at hand, it might be possible to identify the family through local records, but with no name included, if descendant was searching these newspapers for information on the family name, they'd probably miss the articles.

I hope that somehow that wedding story was passed on and preserved for the gentleman's family. These are the rich stories that make family history so fascinating and it reminded me of the importance of taking steps to preserve the love stories of our ancestors. Even if the stories haven't been passed down through family tradition, there are still ways to fill in some of the details. Here are some things to think about. [Read more.](#)

