

Kith and Kin

Official Newsletter of the Marshfield Area Genealogy Group

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Volume 30 Issue 4

November—December 2013

Oral Histories Are Not Just a Thing of the Past

By Vickie Schmitzler

An oral history is the collection and study of historical information about individuals, families, important events, or everyday life using audiotapes, videotapes, or transcriptions of planned interviews. These interviews are conducted with people who participated in or observed past events and whose memories and perceptions of these are to be preserved as an aural record for future generations. The term is sometimes used in a more general sense to refer to any information about past events that people who experienced them tell anybody else.

Shortly after Abraham Lincoln's death in 1865, for example, his secretary, John G. Nicolay, and law partner, William Herndon, gathered recollections of the sixteenth president, including some from interviews, from people who had known and worked with him. Similarly, social investigators historically have obtained essential information about living and working conditions by talking with the people who experienced them.

But how do you do an oral history? Well the answer is simple, just ask a few good questions and let the person who is being interviewed, talk.

Recently, speaker, Maureen E. Brady in a presentation to the Green County Genealogical Society, presented a list of questions that we should start with.

- When were you born?
- Where did you grow up? (town, county, state, country)
- What schools did you go to?
- When and where did you marry? Do you have a copy of your mar-

riage certificate?

- When and where did your parents marry? Do you have a copy of their marriage certificate?
- When and where was your father/mother born? Do you have a copy of the birth certificate/baptismal certificate?
- When and where did your father/mother die? Do you have a copy of the death certificate?
- Where are your parents buried? (Cemetery, town, county, state, country)
- Do you know any living relative I can write or talk to?
- Do you remember any stories about places our family has lived?
- Do you remember any stories about special events in the family's history?

Some other biographical questions could include: Where did you grow up? Where have you lived? What jobs have you had? What do you do for a living now?

Other questions can relate more to family-lore: Do you know any stories about how your family first came to the United States? Where did they first settle? Why? How did they make a living? Did your family stay in one place or move around? How did they come to live in this area? What are some of your childhood memories? What games did you play when you were a child?

Most importantly though, make sure to talk to your relatives and ask the questions. You might just break down a brick wall that has been stumping you.

President's Message

Dear Friends,

Our first snowfall arrived not long ago. It looked great outside as the big fluffy flakes fell to the ground, but like most first snowfalls, it didn't last. That's OK! It still reminded us that it is time to prepare the house and yard for the winter. Once those preparations are complete, you might want to work on that list. Not the Christmas list! I think we should have all out grown that list by now. Instead work on a list of those things that need to be done on your family history research.

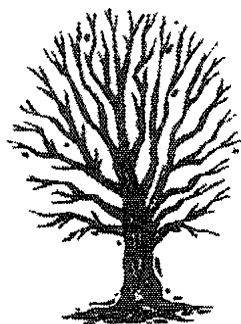
Once you have that, prioritize the tasks by breaking them into small easily accomplished pieces. Anything that requires long distance travel or nice weather put off until next summer. As for the rest, take them one piece at a time, and soon you'll have your family history research in tip-top-shape. It can all be accomplished in the comfort of your home with a warm cup of coffee or cocoa as winter winds blow, and the ground remains hidden from view by the accumulating snow.

Enjoy the changing seasons! Have a great holiday with friends and family! And of course, good luck in all your genealogical pursuits.

Schnitz

P.S. Just a special thanks to all of our members that came to the talk "History Rising from the Grave", one of the Laird Series Historical Lectures, last week at the Marshfield Library. It was great to see you all there and hope you enjoyed it. Don't forget to look for old cemetery pictures.

MAGG Officers and Committees



President: [Don Schnitzler](#) (2015)

Vice President: [Jennifer Witzel](#) (2014)

Secretary: [Jonah Jung](#) (2014)

Treasurer: [Noreen Moen](#) (2015)

Members at Large: [Lorraine Rogers](#) (2015)

Roger Winch (2014)

Newsletter Editor: [Vickie Schnitzler](#)

Program: [Don Schnitzler](#)

Membership: [Jennifer Witzel](#)

(Year office expires is in parentheses.)

The Marshfield Area Genealogy Group is an affiliate of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society.

Our purpose is to provide meetings and programs of genealogical interest and to provide instruction in genealogical procedures. Also to collect, preserve, and disseminate genealogical data found in the Marshfield area and/or relative to the people of the Marshfield Area.

Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month except November and December.

Membership Information

Our membership year is from May 1 to April 30. Individual membership per year is \$12.00 and a Family membership is \$15.00 per year. For hardcopy newsletter add \$6.

Membership Forms can be downloaded from our website <http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/>

[Renewal form 2012-2013.pdf](#)

and returned with payment to us at: MAGG, P.O. Box 337, Marshfield, WI 54449.

Index to Data Pages of Past Newsletters *(continued from previous newsletter)*

To find any of the following data pages, go to our website at <http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/Past-Newsletters.html> and scroll down to the desired newsletter(s).

OTHER SCHOOL ARTICLES

St. Joseph's School of Nursing, 1918-1921 Graduates, 1924 Graduates & Intermediates, 1927 Graduates & Juniors - Vol. 23, Is. 3, pp. 16-17. (Oct. 2006)

Married Names As Listed in Later Yearbooks, 1921-1924 - Vol. 23, Is. 3, p. 17. (Oct. 2006)

1927 Wood County Rural Schools - Vol. 24, Is. 3, pp. 27-30. (Jan. 2008)

Teachers of Willard D. Purdy School (from Marshfield News Herald, 21 Sept. 1927) – Vol. 23, Is. 1, p. 4 (May-June 2006)

27 Names on Purdy School of Honor Roll (from Marshfield News Herald, 15 Nov. 1928) – Vol. 25, Is. 2, p. 2. (Oct. 2008)

1939-1940 List of Marshfield Teachers - Vol. 23, Is. 4, pp. 3-4. (Jan. 2007)

St. Joseph's School of Nursing, 1953 Graduates - Vol. 27, Is. 3, p. 5. (Oct. 2010-Jan. 2011)

Bethel Students Get Diplomas at Academy (from Marshfield News Herald 28 May 1970) - Vol. 22, Is. 3, p. 12. (Sept.-Oct. 2005)

1981 Marshfield Public School Teachers – Vol. 26, Is. 2, pp.3-4. (Oct. 2009)

(To be continued)

(Additional Data Page indexes from past newsletters will be listed in upcoming newsletters.)

Surnames of Our Members

Vickie **Schnitzler**, 301 South Cedar Ave., Marshfield, WI 54449, schnitzl@charter.net. **HASZ, LINDOW [LINDO], STERNITZKY, NEBEL, SCHILLING, LUEHRSEN [LUHRSEN], HILLMAN HILLMANN], LUCKOW, KARSTENS, RUESCH, LINDHOFF [LIENDHOFF], DIETZ [VEITZ], GARBEN, TISCHER, LABITSKY [LABITZKE], PROWATSKY [PROWATZE], SCHWENK, ZANDER, MAUDENHAUER, LOPUS [LOPAS], REINHART [REINHARD], WEYMANN, BREITHAUPT, PAULMANN, KAMLADE, BODEN [RODEN], HAGEDORN, KNIGGE, KREGEL, HOFFMEIER, RUTR, HOPPE, BORDEN, STARKE, ELLERMANN, TIESTER.**

Donald **Schnitzler**, 301 South Cedar Ave., Marshfield, WI 54449, schnitzler.donald@charter.net.

SCHNITZLER, MATHEISEN, BORES, GRUENTHER, BARZAK, GUNS, NEUBAUER, NIKODIM, VANDENLANGE, BROEREN, VANDENBERG, VANDENBOOM, CUIJPE, SCHOONER, STRICK, SPIRINCKS, LINDEN, LAHAYE, SMETS, BEVER, KUMPS, CLABOTS, NACKOERTS, STENO, DEBECKER, MORALDI, SMIRALDI, DROESSOER, DECOSTER, VANDIEST.

* * * * *

MAGG is looking for surnames of our members and/or queries that we can publish here in the newsletter. Please try to limit the queries to 50 words or less. Submit your surnames and/or queries to Vickie at schnitzl@charter.net

Search Historical Newspaper Archives with Elephind.com

Elephind can be a great **FREE** resource for anyone who wishes to search old newspapers. The purpose of elephind.com is to make it possible to search all of the world's digital newspapers from one place and at one time. The database does not yet contain **ALL** of the world's newspapers but it does have a lot. Elephind.com allows you to simultaneously search across thousands of articles using key words and phrases.



Elephind presently contains 1,205,603 individual newspapers with a total of 1,141 titles. You can find a list of libraries that have contribute their archives on the site by clicking on "List of Titles." Clicking on any library's name displays the newspapers in that collection.

Elephind.com is much like Google, Bing, or other search engines but focused only on historical, digitized newspapers. By clicking on the Elephind.com search result that interests you, you'll go directly to the newspaper collection which hosts that story.

Of course, newspapers can be a great resource of [genealogy](#) information. Birth announcements, marriage announcements, court news, and more can be searched within seconds. If your ancestor was a merchant, you probably can also find his or her advertisements placed in the newspaper.

As I often do, I performed my first search on elephind.com looking for one of my ancestors. I simply entered his name, Washington Eastman, and was rewarded thousands of "hits" containing one or the other of those two words. Some of them were [about photography](#) and others were about Washington, D.C., or Washington State. I didn't read every article found by that simplistic search but the few I looked at

did not contain anything about the man I was seeking.

I will say however, the very first article on the list from the San Francisco Call of 6 September 1891 caught my eye:



Darling Eastman, the long-sought-for Vermont moonshiner, is under [arrest](#) in this city. Eastman's capture and escape at Corinth, Vt., last April, was the most sensational that has occurred in the State for twenty years. Orange County has been notorious for its stills. The most daring and successful operator in that section was J. Warren Eastman, who lived in an isolated quarter of Corinth. In April last a large posse of officers made a descent on the Eastman homestead. In an old blacksmith shop they discovered a still of the largest and most approved pattern in full operation. The father, Warren Eastman, his son Darling and his son-in-law were captured in their beds and heavily manacled.

(continued on next page)

- Yes, that sounds like one of my relatives! Admittedly, I have never found this family in my [family tree](#) before but they certainly sound like they might belong.

I then backed up and clicked on **ADVANCED SEARCH**. I got far better results by using that. Advanced Search allows the user to specify any combination of the following:

Contributing library years of publication to be searched

- Search of all text or limited to searches only of titles

Number of results to be displayed per page:

Search within: Full text Results per page: 20

From: Day Month Year To: Day Month Year

Publication title

Country of publication: All countries, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, United States

Collection source: All sources, Boston College, California Digital Newspaper Collection (UC Riverside), Cambridge Public Library, Massachusetts, Chronicling America (US Library of Congress)

Elephind does not search all the newspapers ever published in the U.S. No online newspaper offers anywhere near that amount of information. However, it does contain 1,141 different newspaper titles in its [database](#), including newspapers from the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore.

All the text on Elephind was created by OCR ([Optical Character Recognition](#)) and therefore has numerous errors whenever it encountered fuzzy text, page wrinkles, and similar problems. All OCR-created newspaper sites suffer from the same problem, although some sites seem to have worse results than do others. However, Elephind has a feature not seen on many of the online newspaper repositories: User Text Correction.

User Text Correction is an excellent use of "crowd sourcing." You or anyone else who sees an OCR text error on a page can manually type in the corrected text and add it to the site's database. You must first register before being allowed to make corrections,

however. The quality of the collection is continually improved through the text correction work of those who register.

Elephind is not perfect but it can help a lot if your ancestor is listed in one of the newspapers in the Elephind database. Best of all is the price: **FREE**.

You can find Elephind at <http://www.elephind.com>.

My thanks to newsletter reader Dee Snook for telling me about this great online resource.

(from http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2013/08/search-historical-newspaper-archives-with-elephindcom.html)

Update: Ireland's Registry of Deeds Indexing Project

The following was written by the folks at the Registry of Deeds Index Project: The Registry of Deeds Index Project has reached another milestone with its index now totaling 120,000 records. The online database is fully searchable and free. The names indexed come from nearly 15,000 memorials of deeds and represent an immense number of records useful to [family history](#) research. The project helps make these deeds more accessible to researchers through the sharing of information collected by the volunteer contributors.

While 120,000 is a wonderful number it is still only scratching the surface of the task of producing a complete online index to the Registry of Deeds. There are millions of names mentioned in memorials. Anyone can contribute to the project by sending the webmaster spreadsheets or text documents, or by using the following web form: http://members.pcug.org.au/~nickred/deeds/make_abstract2.htm.

The success of this project is due to the continuing magnificent efforts of a small group of volunteers – led by Australian Nick Reddan - whose efforts are summarized here: <http://goo.gl/rFFJs5>.

Website: <http://goo.gl/cBBlun>

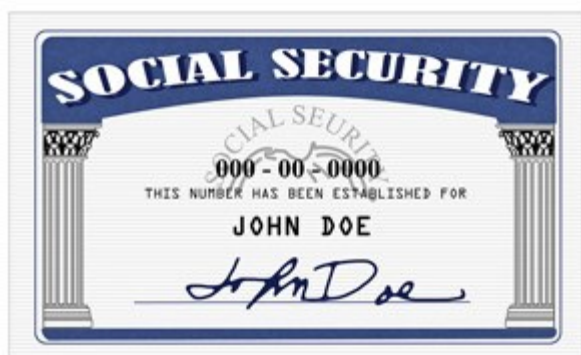
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RegistryofDeedsIndexProjectIreland>

(from Dick Eastman's on-line blog, September 19, 2013)

The Easy (and More Accurate) Method of Searching the SSDI

Written by Dick Eastman, Published September 14, 2013

The [Social Security Death](#) Index is a great research tool for finding relatives who died sometime after the early 1960s.



The SSDI is an index to the Death Master File (DMF) maintained by the [Social Security Administration](#) (SSA), which contains roughly 100 million records and is updated weekly. The file is created from internal SSA records of deceased persons possessing social security numbers and whose deaths were reported to the SSA.

The information within the SSDI is in the public domain and thereby available to everyone. However, in recent years a number of well-meaning but misguided public officials have attempted to close or at least restrict public access to the SSDI in the name of "preventing [identity theft](#)." Apparently, these officials do not realize that public access to the SSDI is one of the best tools for **PREVENTING** identity theft! (See my earlier article about the theft protection value of the SSDI at <http://goo.gl/zthmCx>.)

The SSDI traditionally has been available on a number of [genealogy](#) web sites. Because of pressures from these misguided bureaucrats, several of these sites have either deleted the SSDI from their web sites or else moved the records behind pay walls, available only to their paid subscribers. As a result, SSDI records are becoming harder and harder to find. Luckily, one web site still finds these records, wherever they may be available.

Another problem involves the method of searching the SSDI on the sites that still offer it. One search may require entry of full names while a different site may offer the ability to use wild cards. For instance, a search for CHRISTOPHER may not work on some web sites when

the person's name is listed as CHRISTOPHE. Still other web sites will allow you to search for CHRISTOP* where the asterisk means to "find all names that begin with the letters "Christop."

Still other sites may or may not offer the option to search by dates. The list goes on... different sites have different methods of searching. How is a genealogist able to quickly and easily find the information he or she seeks? The answer is easy: use **Stephen Morse's One-Step Search Portal** at <http://www.stevemorse.org>.

Steve Morse is well known for the software tools he creates to simplify the searching of many [online genealogy](#) databases. Sometimes I think that Steve Morse is God's gift to genealogists. He takes good databases and turns them into great ones. Steve has created excellent indexing tools to the Ellis Island and Castle Garden sites as well as many other databases of interest to genealogists. His search tools generally will perform faster searches with more accurate results than the search capabilities invented by the original database designers.

Steve doesn't add any new data. He simply improves the search mechanisms and makes the search software available on his own site, called the "One-Step Portal." If you'd like to try *Stephen Morse's One-Step Search Portal*, go to <http://www.stevemorse.org>. I suspect you will be impressed by all the searches available there.

Steve Morse saw the weaknesses in the various offerings of the SSDI, so he created his own index at <http://www.stevemorse.org/ssdi/ssdi.html>. As you can see from the screenshot at the top of the net page, Steve offers more search options than any of the other online sites that offer the SSDI.

Steve's search engine will search the SSDI records found on the following websites:

worldvitalrecords.com
ancestry.com
[familysearch.org](#)
familytreelegends.com
genealogybank.com
NEHGS' americanancestors.org

However, Steve Morse's One-Stop web site only searches those sites one at a time. If you want to search

(continued on next page)

Searching the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) in One Step

Stephen P. Morse, San Francisco

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) [My Other Webpages](#)

<input checked="" type="radio"/> is exactly <input type="radio"/> starts with <input type="radio"/> contains <input type="radio"/> ends with <input type="radio"/> sounds like		First Name <input type="text"/>	Middle Initial or Name <input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> is exactly <input type="radio"/> starts with <input type="radio"/> contains <input type="radio"/> ends with <input type="radio"/> sounds like <input type="radio"/> metaphone	Last Name <input type="text"/>
Born <input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/>	month day year year range	SS Number <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/>	Died <input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/>		
Age <input type="text"/>	Age Range <input type="text"/> :	Issued by <input type="text"/>			
Last Residence <input type="text"/>	city county state zipcode	<input type="checkbox"/> at foreign consulate			
Last Benefit <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> at foreign consulate				
Start search at entry <input type="text"/>	hits/page <input type="text"/>	Search Engine to use: <input type="text"/>			
<small>Not all search engines support all parameters If the parameter name is grayed out, it is not supported</small>					
<input type="button" value="search"/> <input type="button" value="reset"/>					

Data presented here comes from the following websites:

[ancestry.com](#)
[familysearch.org](#)
[familytreelegends.com](#)
[genealogybank.com](#)
[NEHGS.americanancestors.org](#)
[worldvitalrecords.com](#)

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ALL of those sites, you need to perform six separate searches, one for each online service.

Keep in mind that some of these services may restrict the information to paid members of the site. For instance, World Vital Records will only display results to paid subscribers. Ancestry.com will provide limited information to non-subscribers; but, to view the entire record, you need to sign on to Ancestry.com with a user name and password. Other online sites may or may not restrict access in some manner.

Steve Morse's *One-Step Genealogy* web site is always available free of charge, but the records it points to may be limited by the policies of the external site that controls those records.

Keep in mind that the SSDI records have some limitations. For instance, the Social Security Act was signed into law in 1935 by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and more

than thirty million Americans were registered for the economic security sanctions by 1937. While the Social Security Administration started collecting information immediately, those records were not computerized until the early 1960s. Earlier deaths are usually not shown in the SSDI. Even then, the computerizing of records was phased in over several years. As a result, one person's death in 1963 might be listed, but another person's death in the same year might not be in the database. By the mid-1960s, all deaths reported to the Social Security Administration were recorded in the Death Master File and are listed in the SSDI. However, "all deaths reported" did not include the deaths of all Americans.

In the 1960s and for many years after, the only deaths recorded by the Social Security Administration were

those of individuals who died while receiving Social Security benefits. In most cases, this was for individuals aged 65 or older. Most deaths of younger people were not recorded because they were not receiving Social Security payments at the time of death.

NOTE: A very few deaths of younger people may be listed in the SSDI during those years when the deceased was receiving a widow's or children's survivor benefits.

In fact, not all Americans were covered by Social Security benefits in those years. School teachers, railroad workers, and municipal employees, as well as housewives and handicapped people who had never been employed outside the home typically did not receive Social Security benefits, and their deaths were not recorded in the SSDI unless they were receiving survivors' benefits at the time of their death.

(continued on page 11, see "Social Security")

Graduates of Columbus High School

(from *Marshfield News Herald*, 1 June 1964, p.8, col. 5)

(cont. from previous issue)

Thomas Merkel
Peggy Metz
Monica Meyer
Frederick Michels
John Miller
Jerome Morzinski
Mary Mullin
John Nesser
Rita Nikolai
Coral Nikolay
Paula Olson
Richard O'Reilly
Catherine Pankratz
Bonnie Panske
Mary Plummer
Sandra Rhodes
Donald Riedel
Karen Riedel
Mary Riendl
Laurell Rose
Thomas Ruder
Alene Sabrowsky
Fay Schermetzler
William Scheuer
Richard Schlaghaft
Gerine Schmidt
Judith Schmitt
Mary Schneider
Thomas Schuler
William See
Donna Selner
LaVerne Seubert
Terrence Seubert
Karen Severt
Joni Shirek

Judy Shirek
Judith Siemers
Richard Specht
Roger Spindler
Rosemary Straub
Thomas Sullivan
Kenneth Swanson
Sheila Sweeney
William Thomer
William Tobin
Ann Tritz
Carol Wallner
Rita Weber
Thomas Weber
Annabel Weinfurter
Peter Weinfurter
Kenneth Wenzel
Paula Whittington
Sharon Willfart
Jeanne Zappen
Ernest Zdon
Peter Zimmerman
Mararet Zuehlke
JoAnn Zurn
Robert Zygarlicki

* * * * *

Eighth Grade Graduation at St. John's is Friday

(from *Marshfield News Herald*, 28 May 1964, p.10, col. 1-3)

Linda Baltus
Marie Biechler
Donald Bloczynski
Dean Blum
Kathleen Cherney
Lorraine Drexler
Patricia Feenstra
Terrance Fehrenbach
Michael Feirer
Terrence Fellenz
Rosemarie Felton
Nancy Fischer
Stephen Hasenorhl

Mary Heiting
Diane Huetter
Beverly Hupe
Jeanne Immerfall
Richard Jensen
Gerald Kaiser
Eugene Kautzer
Barbara Kelly
Connie Koepke
Terrance Oppman
Ronald Pacourek
Kathleen Patefield
Robert Plath
Cindy Pokallus
Sharon Rogers
Kenneth Scheuer
Katy Schlaghaft
Paul Sinn
Daniel Sutton
Deborah Tollefson
Linda Varsho
Dawn Wagner
John Wagner
Pamela Wagner
Carol Weister
Marian Werner
Ronald Whipple
Anola Willfahrt
David Wright
Darlene Zeidler
Henry Zimmerman
Dorothy Zuehlke

* * * * *

James Vogel
Frank Sladich
Judith Becker
Rochelle Bredlau
Janet Breu
Mary Jo Desbrow
Jean Devine
Darlene Fahey
Judith Fischer
Virginia Franz
Sheila Gotz
Jane Gowey
Jane Gravitter



(cont. from previous page)

Patricia Hanson
 Linda Kappel
 Dawn Kopf
 Sharon Leffel
 Kathy McHugh
 Betty Nikolai
 Sandra Noll
 Susan Normington
 Diane Schuh
 LeAnn Severt
 Karen Sweeney
 Mary J. Varsho
 Seely Weber
 Carol Weinfurter
 Roselee Wellner
 Laurinda Zwicke
 Thomas Bey
 Mark Capes
 Harold Drexler
 Gene Gowey
 Gene Hauke
 Thomas Huebl
 Kenneth Ireland
 David Johnson
 Daniel Kohl
 Leonard Kronberger
 Gerald Mancl
 Michael Martin
 Fred Scheppler
 Peter Scherr
 Charles Schindhelm
 Daniel Schmatz
 Donald Vanderwyst
 Ronald Tritz
 John Zeidler
 David Schriendl

**Eighth Grade
 Graduation to be
 Sunday at Sacred Heart**

(from Marshfield News Herald, 28 May 1964, p.10, col. 2-3)

Jeanne A. Alf
 Patricia L. Anderson
 Catherine M. Becht
 Judith A. Berg

James H. Blenker
 Judith Bloczynski
 James D Boge
 Margorie D. Bores
 Gerald R. Bugar
 Stanley J. Charron
 John Dvorak
 Susan M. Eckes
 Judith K. Grancorvitz
 Glenda M. Grassman
 John Grosbier
 Deborah M. Hauke
 Linda L. Kernz
 Kathleen M. oenig
 James W. Kondrasuk
 Carole Kopf
 Jean M. Leonhard
 Terry L. Mandl
 Kathleen J. Metz
 Susanne M. Olson
 Patricia M. Remitz
 John J. Rogers
 Brenda Schreiner
 Lois A. Schroepfer
 Thomas J. Scheutz
 Mary Jean Schuh
 Barbara A. Schultz
 Thomas P. Seidl
 Tom W. Shookman
 Thomas A. Smiith
 Lynette A. Swenson
 Susan R. Tlachak
 Karen J. Walgenbach
 Richard C. Wein
 Kathleen A. Wolf

**Sacred Heart Graduates
 55**

(from Marshfield News Herald, 29 May 1964, p.11, col. 4)

The names of 16 eighth graders were not submitted for publication with the graduation list in Thursday's edition of the Marshfield News-Herald. They are as follows:

Michael Arndt
 Jayne Barwineck

Charlene Brock
 Diane Bugar
 Vicky Eckes
 Gerald Henseler
 Mary Lou Ley
 Linda Martin
 Michelle Phaneauf
 William Rhyner
 Jane Roecklein
 Beverly Seubert
 Catherine Shwery
 Betty Smrecek
 Anthony Wenzel
 Lawrence Werner

**Eighth Grade Lutherans
 from Immanuel Lutheran
 Parochial to Graduate at
 Hall June 3**

(from Marshfield News Herald, 28 May 1964, p.10, col. 4)

Karen Adamski
 Terry Ertl
 Gloria Federwitz
 Nancy Hilker
 Sharon Kopp
 Karen Kuse
 Bonnie Schmidt
 Bruce Seehafer
 Larry Seehafer
 Deborah Wenzel
 Douglas Ziegahn
 (end of list)



Veterans Buried in Wood County (Wisconsin Historical Society, M55, 908, WI Cemeteries, Outagamie-Wood Co., Box 21)

This list was provided to the state by Ernest O. Anderson, Veterans Service Officer, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin.
(cont. from previous issue)

DALY, Donald J. WW#1

Forest Hill
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Lot 4, Block 80
Contact: Mrs. Viola Daly, wife
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

DEMARS, George J. WW#1

Calvary Cemetery
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Section 719
Contact Mrs. Hazel Demars, wife
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

DEMEROE, Wallace L. SpAm

Forest Hill Cemetery
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Grave 5 Lot 3 Block 123
Contact Mrs. Nellie Demeroe, wife
Centralia, WI

DEMING, Wayne E. WW#1

Hillside Cemetery
Marshfield, WI
Lot 8 Row F Section F
Contact Mrs. Ella Deming, wife
Marshfield, WI

DICKOFF, Oswald P. WW#1

Forest Hill Cemetery
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Lot 6 Section 160
Contact Mrs. Mary Dickoff
Iron Mountain, MI

DICKSON, Glen R. WW#2

Mound Cemetery
Pittsville, WI
Location Unknown
Contact J.A. Dickson, father
Pittsville, WI

DORTMAN, Henry WW#1

Hillside Cemetery
Marshfield, WI
Lot 2 Row F Section K

Contact Mrs. H. Dortman, wife
Marshfield, WI

EBERHARDT, Wesley A. WW#1

Forest Hill Cemetery
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Lot 1 Block 67
Contact Mrs. Clara Eberhardt, wife
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

EMERSON, Andrew A. WW#2

Calvary Cemetery
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Section 646
Contact Katherine Emerson, mother
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

ENGELDINGER, Harry M. WW#1

St. Mary's Cemetery
Auburndale, WI
Lot 646
Contact Rose Engeldinger, wife
Auburndale, WI

EWING, Howard F. WW#1

Forest Hill Cemetery
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Lot 7 Block 50
Contact Esther Ewing, wife
Chicago, IL

FELLENZ, Leo Chas. WW#1

Hillside Cemetery
Marshfield, WI
Flanders Field
Contact Mrs. Harriet Fellenz, wife
Chicago, IL

FIRNSTAHL, Francis F. WW#1

Calvary Cemetery
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
E 1/2 New Addition
Contact Viola Firnstahl, wife
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

FISCHER, John A. WW#1

Hillside Cemetery
Marshfield, WI
Flanders Field
Contact Mrs. Henry Schmidt
Marshfield, WI (continued in next issue)

“Social Security” *(continued from page 7)*

By 1990 or so, all this changed. School teachers, railroad workers, municipal employees, and others had their retirement benefits absorbed by the Social Security system. Next, the laws changed, and notice of ALL deaths within the United States had to be sent to the Social Security Administration. As a result, deaths in the 1990s and later of children and younger adults may be found in the SSDI even though deaths of younger people in earlier years are not listed.

Another limitation is that of the last update. While the SSDI is updated weekly by the Social Security Administration, the individual web sites that publish those records may be updated weekly, quarterly, annually, or perhaps never. For recent deaths, always search several web sites. Also, the Social Security adds corrections as they are found. Even records of deaths that occurred ten or twenty years ago might be corrected in recent releases of the SSDI.

Records found in the SSDI also list "last residence." Keep in mind that this is usually correct, but not always. Actually, this entry reflects where the last Social Security payment was sent. Occasionally, the deceased was living in one location, but checks were sent to someone else who was responsible for the financial affairs of the deceased. One common example is when the deceased was living in a retirement community or nursing home in Florida or some other sunbelt location, but the children were living "up north." The checks may have been sent to the child's address, not to the nursing home. Another possibility is that the deceased person was an immigrant who moved back to "the old country" to spend his or her retirement years, but the children remained in the U.S. and took care of the financial affairs of the parent. The record of "last residence" usually reflects the residence where the checks were sent. In a very few cases, that address might be a law firm that was handling the deceased person's estate after death.

When searching the SSDI, be aware that long first and last names listed for deaths in earlier years have been truncated. Apparently, this was changed around 2005. For instance, one of my close family members named Christopher died in 1994. His first name is listed in the SSDI as: Christophe (only ten letters). You can see his record and that of other males with the same name at <http://goo.gl/fRk7dF>.

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However, it appears that the name fields were lengthened about 2005. For example, look at deceased males named "Christopher Smith" at <http://goo.gl/vv32Wr>. You will find many of them listed with the full first name, but all of these people died in 2005 or later. You can see the same for other first names. For instance, Bartholomew Smith died in 1984, according to the SSDI record at <http://goo.gl/gqB74U> although I assume his full name was Bartholomew Smith.

Given these restrictions, a search for "Christopher" or "Bartholomew" or another long name may or may not work, depending upon which version of the SSDI you are using (ancestry.com, familysearch.org, familytreelegends.com, genealogybank.com, NEHGS' americanancestors.org or worldvitalrecords.com).

Use of *Stephen Morse's One-Step Search Portal* simplifies these searches. Looking at the screenshot above, you will see that the site offers options for name searches: NAME IS EXACTLY or NAME STARTS WITH. Last names also have options of SOUNDS LIKE, CONTAINS, ENDS WITH, and METAPHONE (Metaphone is an algorithm for encoding a word so that similar sounding words encode the same, similar to soundex in purpose.). When performing a new search, I suggest you start with NAME STARTS WITH and then enter only the first ten letters or less of the name. If the results obtained fill pages and pages, you can then narrow the search by using any of the other parameters on the One-Step Search Portal's search page and then try again.

Keep in mind that spelling variations are common. Perhaps your family now always spells a last name as "Deabay." However, when the deceased first applied for a Social Security Number, he or she may have spelled the name as Dubay, Debay, du Bay, or Dubé. The Social Security Administration's records will reflect the spelling on the original application unless that person later applied for a name change, which happened often. Next, the records in the SSDI typically do not reflect umlauts, diacritical marks, or other letters only found in non-English European alphabets. For example, a last name of Dubé will be shown in the SSDI as Dube.

Use of *Stephen Morse's One-Step Search Portal* simplifies the searches as well as adds powerful search options that may not be available on all web sites' copies of the SSDI data. If you want to find the death information of someone who died in the U.S. in the early 1960s or later, go to <http://www.stevemorse.org/ssdi/ssdi.html>.

MARSHFIELD AREA GENEALOGY GROUP

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com>

and look for us on **facebook**

Upcoming Meetings

November and December, 2013

No Meetings scheduled. Enjoy family and friends during the holidays. We'll see you in January!

January 23, 2014

FamilySearch.Org: Making The Most Of Their On-Line Resources. MAGG member, Jonah Jung, will take us on tour of FamilySearch, highlighting tips to connect you with your ancestors. Marshfield Public Library, Beebee Forum Room, 7:00 p.m.

February 27, 2014

Ten Common Mistakes Genealogists Make and How to Avoid Them. We have all made mistakes while climbing our family trees. In this program MAGG member, Don Schnitzler, will highlight mistakes made and how to avoid them. Marshfield Public Library, Beebee Forum Room, 7:00 p.m.

March 27, 2014

Obituary Writing Tips. Whether you're writing your own obituary, or helping prepare an obituary after a family member passes, Greg & Tami Jackan of the Rembs Funeral Home will help you during this presentation to prepare an accurate and memorable tribute. Marshfield Public Library, Beebee Forum Room, 7:00 p.m.

Meetings of the Marshfield Area Genealogy Group are regularly held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Marshfield Public Library, except August (traditionally our family picnic) and November & December (no meetings) unless otherwise specified.



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