

THE POLK COUNTY POST

*Polk County Genealogical Society (PCGS)
November 2010, Volume #12, Issue # 11*

**Polk County Genealogical Society
C/o Judy Wester
901-8th Street
Centuria, Wisconsin 54824**

VISION STATEMENT:

The vision of the Polk County Genealogical Society is to empower those interested in developing concise, accurate, and comprehensive family histories.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Polk County Genealogical Society is to assist in the exchange and dissemination of information for genealogical investigations.

Many thanks to **Tim Ericson** for the program, "Black-Americans in Wisconsin " at the October meeting.

Good presentation, good questions/expert answers.

Thanks **Tim**

The Polk County Genealogy Society will staff the Luck Historical Society Museum on

Monday 8 November and
Monday 22 November 2010.
12: Noon- 3:00 PM.

Sometimes refreshments will be served!

2010-2011 SCHEDULE

***Monday 22 November 2010**

Gather at the Senior Center - St. Croix Falls
7:00 PM Program:
Lynne Schauls, Centuria Librarian will speak on Beginning Genealogy using public library sources.
Refreshments to follow

***Monday 13 December 2010 - NOON**

Annual **Potluck** Holiday Event
Home of **Jay/Joyce Bergstrand**-
PCGS member
Program: Collection Policy Discussion

***Monday 24 January 2011**

Gather at the Senior Center - 7:00 p.m.
St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin
Program: **Russ Hansen** - PCGS member
"PCGS and the Luck Historical Society"
Refreshments to follow

***Monday 28 February 2011**

Gather at the Senior Center - 7:00 p.m.
St. Croix Falls Wisconsin
"Sharing Software Reports"
Judy Wester - PCGS member

***Monday 28 March 2011**

Gather at the Senior Center - 7:00 p.m.
St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin
"1914 Plat Map Project"
Norma Holmbeck - PCGS member
Refreshments to follow

***Monday 25 April 2011**

Gather at the Senior Center Main Street
St. Croix Falls, WI. Program:
"Surround Your People with History"
PCGS member
Refreshments to follow

***Monday 23 May 2011**

Gather at the Senior Center
St. Croix Falls, Wisc. - Program:
"Ancestry.com/Family Tree Maker"
PCGS Team presentation

December Holiday Event Program

At the October PCGS meeting, a Polk County family made the trip to the St. Croix Falls Senior Center seeking out the genealogy society president and entrusted the Polk County Genealogy Society with an entire box full of their family's genealogy undertakings. Between 25 and 40 local families are a part of this collection. Perhaps PCGS should have said "this treasure belongs at the State Historical Society" or "this jewel should be committed to the ARC at River Falls" and given the family our suggestions. We did neither. **Now**, having accepted this family's lifelong work, how do members of PCGS (you and me) access the accumulation of local history using current archival standards to ensure a foregoing proper PCGS collection policy. This needs to include ethical and principled handling of a Polk County Genealogy Society holding, being ever mindful that the collection will be housed in the Luck Historical Society Museum.

Perhaps a couple/three questions PCGS members need to ponder on?

1. Understanding narrow vs broad interest and local connections, should this particular collection be kept intact or divided and spread out within the communities of interest (other genealogy societies / ARC / State Historical Society)?

2. Does PCGS want to accept and house all and any families genealogy work, for example, . when 'Aunt Tilly' doesn't want to mess with the "stuff" any longer?

If PCGS accepts all and every family genealogy project, can we all reasonably expect, when Happy Valley Resting Home has our room ready, all our (collection would be a really nice and upscale word as opposed to 'junk') has a home and our kids then do not have to deal with all our "stuff?"

3. Space is always an issue (be it my library or the Wisconsin State Historical Society Library) - how much space does PCGS have and how much of that space should be committed to what one family

deemed important? Should it always (and only) be the family with name recognition that gets to 'share' their family history treasure at our doorstep?

Discussion at this December meeting will be informal, and therefore, hopefully easier to begin making important decisions. Please attend and help your Genealogy Society use inclusive language where

- ideas are encouraged
- suggestions will be considered
- opinions will be studied
- proposals will be examined
- recommendations will be advocated,

to form a conscientious and honorable collection policy for all of Polk County citizens and their life stories.

In the end citizen and genealogists "together" can, by first taking small steps, be assured that eventually our genealogy society archives can compete in being the best of the Wisconsin Genealogical Society system.

The State Historical Society's Fall Conference
Excellent conference! which offered two workshops whose focal points were:

Writing Your Life
presented by author - **Jerry Apps**
A handout from **Mr. Apps** listed what he called_
"Memory Joggers"

Start with remembering the
"Early Years (to age 12)
-where you lived
-Describe the house you lived in
-Did you share a room with a sibling?

Teen Years
-Rules your family had for you
-Describe your first love

Young Adult Years
-Military service
-First full time job/pay

Early Married Years
-Rules established at your new home
-If not married, describe your life during these years

Middle and Later Years
-Relationship with siblings now
-Hobbies/Volunteer activities"

Probably the most interesting exercise **Mr. Apps** gave he called
"Mind Mapping"

Draw a circle and write an idea you want to focus on in that circle. As you recall more memories draw a circle around each new memory. Soon you will have many circles that can be connected suggesting other memories, and certainly a story.

These two drills will help each person write the story of her/his life in bits and pieces, and therefore, writing the story becomes manageable.

Writing for a specific amount of time is good discipline.

Examples of writing from Life Experience:

Horse Drawn Days: A Century of Farming with Horses by **Jerry Apps**

Madison, WI: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2010.

and

Country Ways and Country Days by **Jerry Apps**

St. Paul, MN: Voyageur Press, 2005.
&

Getting Our Stories Into Print

presented by

Kate Thompson and Diane Drexler

Wisconsin Historical Society Press.

One of the most interesting aspects of this presentation was two power points.

One on "**CONTENT**"

which automatically led into one on

"PUBLIC DOMAIN"

"Content is: -Text (diaries, letters, oral histories, written narratives, captions) -

Images (photographs, documents, objects, maps, original and/or new art.

*Unless items are old enough to be in the public domain, you will need the rights to use/reproduce these things!

Public domain means:

1. Published before 1923 /in the public domain, and therefore, not protected by copyright

2. Published 1923-1963 (with a published copyright notice). Protected for 28 years from publication date. If the copyright was renewed, work is protected for an additional 67 years. If the work was not renewed, it is now in the public domain. (Research is always needed to verify copyright status.)

3. Published 1964-1977 (with a published copyright notice): Protected for 95 years from publication date.

4. Created before 1/1/1978 and never published:

Protected by copyright for the life of the creator + 70 years OR until 12/31/2002, whichever is greater. "

Along with copyright always comes the issue of "fair use".

Simply put this means if the writer uses material that is in copyright BUT the article written is not written for profit, it is usually

'fair-use.' The writer, however, needs to show a good faith effort in identifying the author/artist .

A tip from **Vicki Garro,**

Douglas County Genealogy Club

Gen News-Nov 2010, pg 4.

"When searching on the Internet, less is more." In other words, just because you know all the data a form is asking for, you may get better results by NOT putting it all in. If it is there, the computer is required to match all fields that you have entered data into before bringing you the results.

Different types of records will not have all the information. Example: a marriage record will not have a death date. If you included the death date in your search, the computer cannot bring you that marriage [record]."

MAPS

Map Guide to AMERICAN MIGRATION ROUTES 1738-1815

by **William Dollarhide**

Published by Heritage Quest, Bountiful, Utah, 2001, pg vii

"The important overland migration routes used by Americans from about 1735-1815 [was during] a period of the French-Indian War, the Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812 [and] all played a critical part in the development of improved roads in America."

[Historical routes] are the roads a family historian needs to identify in order to learn how his/her ancestors moved from one place to another."

