

**THE POLK COUNTY POST**

Polk County Genealogical Society (PCGS)  
August 2007, Volume #9, Issue #8

**Polk County Genealogical Society**  
**POB # 101**  
**Balsam Lake, Wisconsin 54810**

**VISION STATEMENT:** The Polk County Genealogical Society vision is to empower those interested in developing concise, accurate, and comprehensive family histories.

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

**PCGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: **Richard Kretzschmar**  
Vice President: **Kathy Clark**  
Treasurer: **Russ Adams**  
Secretary: **Dorothy Adams**  
Editor: **hs35@uwrf.edu**

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**ATTENTION**

The 2007 PCGS yearly membership dues are payable at our monthly meetings or may be mailed to the treasurer. Thank you.

Polk County Genealogy Society

Jan-Dec \$15.00

Please make your check or money order payable to PCGS and mail, along with your:

Name, Address, State/Zip  
to

**Russ Adams**

2410 River Road

St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin 54024

2007

**Tentative Schedule**

Summer board meetings  
4th Monday of each month  
June, July, and August

Polk County Historical Society Museum  
Balsam Lake, Wisconsin 1:00 p.m.

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**CONTINUING WITH THE PCGS**

Summer Service Project at the  
PCHS museum in Balsam Lake  
every Monday afternoon beginning  
Monday 4 June to  
Monday 27 August 2007  
from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Come join the activity as we assemble a  
**Complete Inventory of Family Names**

**from all the Family Histories**

in the PCHS Museum.

This is an ongoing project .

**!!!!!! NOTICE!!!!!!**

COMING UP THIS WEEKEND  
TRIP TO

**Minnesota Genealogy Soc. Library**

5768 Olson Memorial Highway  
Golden Valley, MN 55422  
(763) 595-3947

**Saturday 4 August 2007**

Meet at the home of

**Richard Kretzschmar at 8:00 a.m.**

205 - 9th Avenue -

Osceola, Wisconsin

715.294.3447

kretweed@cornernet.com

to carpool or caravan to the MGS library. Please notify any PCGS Board member of your interest in attending this event if a ride share is necessary. If a ride share is not needed - see you all at MGS!

Library Fee: There is a \$5.00 fee for non-member use of the library.

From: **Jim Roberts** Anchorage Gen Soc. at  
[j.roberts@gci.net](mailto:j.roberts@gci.net)

"Widowed" doesn't always mean the  
spouse is dead."

When researching my ancestors and  
relatives from the 1870s through the 1920s,  
I found on several occasions that my aunt,  
cousin, or great-grandmother was "widowed."  
In trying to find when the spouse died, I found  
out - to my surprise - that the spouse was  
not (in every case) dead, but living with other  
relatives or married again.

One example was my great-aunt Josie  
who listed 'widowed and living with grown  
children' in North Dakota in 1900. Well, I  
thought poor Karl had died just as the  
children were grown and he could enjoy his  
later years. Then accidentally I saw his  
name in a Minnesota census. Yes, he was  
the right age. Yes, his birth was in Germany.  
What is going on here? Karl was living with a  
daughter of a previous marriage and he listed  
himself as "D" (divorced) while Aunt Josie  
had listed herself as "Wd" (widowed).

Jossie's first husband had indeed died  
young back in Kentucky, but she remarried.  
Should she list herself as widowed? I found  
several instances where the woman listed  
widowed, but the man listed divorced. This  
seemed to be a trend as divorce was frowned  
upon. Keep looking until you are sure "Wd"  
means widowed.

**Tom Humphrey**  
Jacksonville, Alabama

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## UPDATE

### on naturalization process

from **Alyson Jones**, Archivist at the Area  
Research Center (ARC) located in the  
basement of the university library on  
campus of University of Wisconsin -  
River Falls.

There were basically three steps in the  
naturalization process. The first: file a  
declaration of intention (first papers) to  
become a citizen. Second: a waiting  
(residency) period, ranging usually from two  
to seven years. Third, petitioned the court  
for citizenship (second papers). If the  
petition was accepted, the person was  
admitted as a citizen.

In general the ARC at River Falls has the  
paperwork documenting the declaration and  
petition phases, though there are sometimes  
naturalization certificates and other  
documents. Records are arranged by county.

The best place to start is with the index(es)  
the county kept by the name of the individual.

These indexes are usually to the petitions,  
however, working backwards can be  
productive, since it usually states on the  
petition when and where the person filed his  
declaration of intention. Sometimes the  
declaration is even attached to the petition.  
If this approach does not work, consult an  
index to the declarations or the individual  
declarations books themselves. It is  
important to do this because people would  
often file first papers - the declaration was all  
that was required to be a voting citizen in  
Wisconsin until 1908.

An important point to keep in mind is that  
1906 was a pivotal year. The Basic  
Naturalization Act passed, which provided for  
federal supervision of the naturalization  
process through Immigration and  
Naturalization Services (INS). Another point  
is that women and children often did not file  
papers - they were automatically naturalized  
when the male head of household became a  
citizen.

There are categories on the censuses  
regarding the year of immigration to the US  
and status of the naturalization process.  
"A1" stood for 'Alien' - meaning no papers  
had been filed yet  
"Pa" stood for 'papers' - meaning the first  
papers had been filed  
"Na" stood for naturalization - meaning the  
person had supposedly finished the  
naturalization process.

### POLK COUNTY NATURALIZATION RECORDS

HELD AT ARC IN RIVER FALLS:

Container List - Contents Indexes

Card Index to Citizenship 1859-1905;  
1927-1954 A-K

Card Index to Citizenship 1859-1906;  
1927-1954, L-Z

Index to Declarations, 1855-1889

Index to Petitions and Certificates  
1859-1906

Index to Citizenship 1907-1954

(Will continue list in Sept. 2007 issue)

### **OAKDALE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER**

German Genealogy Research

**8 September 2007 - Open House**

at: 2140 Hadley Ave N - Oakdale, MN  
For additional information: **Nancy Roell**  
<[roellish@aol.com](mailto:roellish@aol.com)>

**VETERANS GRAVES REGISTRATION**

Polk County, Wisconsin - Volume 1  
(con't from June newsletter)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>Page</b>
-P-		
<b>PETERSON, Frederic</b>	Sand Lake	244 & 245
<b>PICKET, Royal T.</b>	St. Croix Falls	279
<b>PREBLE, Eli</b>	Traveler's Rest	288
<b>PETERSON, Harry Walter</b>	Zion Lutheran/Frederic	319
-Q-		
<b>QUIGLEY, Walter B.</b>	Mount Hope/Beaver	191
-R-		
<b>RICHARDS, Thomas Edward</b>	Amery	22
<b>ROBBINS, William H.</b>	Amery	24
<b>RIDLER, George C.</b>	Amery	25
<b>ROSS, Amos</b>	Balsam Lake	35

**2007 schedule con't.**

\* Monday 24 September 2007

**Gretchen Hellie** - "Why Do Genealogy?"

Program meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Osceola Public Library - Osceola, Wisconsin

\*Monday 22 October 2007

**Wally Milbrath**

"Wisconsin, the Civil War, and Genealogy"

Program meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Osceola Public Library - Osceola, Wisconsin

\*Monday 26 November 2007

**Barb Oestreich**

"Writing your Family History."

Bring your memories along with pen and ink "

Included will be an update on Leon, his three

wives, and how that information was discovered.

Osceola Public Library - Osceola, Wisconsin

\*Monday 10 December 2007

**Noon Holiday Potluck**

at the home of

**Richard and Norma Kretzschmar**

205-9th Avenue

Osceola, Wisconsin

**FARMING IN EARLY MINNESOTA**

by **Edward J. Letterman**

@1999 Ramsey County Historical Society

This book tells the story of pioneer farm life through the tools and implements exhibited at the Gibbs Farm Museum, St. Paul, Minnesota. The tools, implements, and stories are typical of those used by thousands of pioneer farmers throughout the vast area known as the Middle West.

The history of farming in "the vast area known as the Middle West" may be divided into three periods:

1. about 1850-1870: subsistence farming, when farmers were just getting established on their new land.

2. about 1870-1895: wheat era, when most farmers put nearly all of their crop-land into wheat.

3. about 1895-to the near present: diversified farming period, when dairying and raising cattle, hogs, poultry, and feed (for them) became the major activities.

Title to land in Minnesota could not be obtained before 1848 and it was not until after 1853 that farmers could acquire land lying west of the Mississippi River. During the 1840s, settlers had begun to claim farms in the area between the St. Croix River and the Mississippi River (this land was a part of Crawford County, Wisconsin - when in 1848, Wisconsin became a state, the boundary was moved east to the St. Croix River).

Government land was measured by using a surveyor's chain (called Gunter's chain): 100 links of wire (each link 7.92 inches long equals 66 feet or 4 rods long. 80 chains = 1 mile (80x66=5280 feet). Ten square chains = 1 acre (66 feet x 66 feet x 10 = 43,560 square feet). A Congressional Township was six (6) miles square. A mile square contained 640 acres and called a section. Public lands could be secured from the government by preemption; by warrants, and, after 1862, by homesteading.

Available for purchase at the Minnesota History Center-St. Paul, Minnesota.

Good information, many drawings (by **E. Letterman**) of tools and implements used by nearly every farmer in the Middle West.

Well worth the small cost/Editor

400th Anniversary of  
**Elizabeth Tilley's**  
Baptism

On 30 August 1607 **Elizabeth Tilley** was baptized at St. Mary the Virgin Church in Henlow, Bedfordshire, England. Thirteen years later she was among the small band of pilgrims headed for the New World aboard the Mayflower. Within a few months her parents, **John** and **Joan (Hurst) (Rogers) Tilley** had died and 13-year-old **Elizabeth** was an orphan. Even her aunt and uncle, **Edward Tilley** and **Agnes (Cooper) Tilley** (also on the Mayflower) had died. She wasn't alone long, for about three years later, she married fellow passenger **John Howland** and they became the parents of 10 children and over 80 grandchildren!

St. Mary the Virgin Church is a lovely old church with over 800 years of history. We can verify that the **Tilley** family has been there for over 500 years.

**Gail Ann Adams**

Editor: The Howland Quarterly  
*The Mayflower Quarterly*  
Volume 73, No. 2 June 2007

**27 October 2007**

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society  
Fall Seminar  
**Find Your Roots on the Family Farm**  
Stoney Creek Inn  
Wausau, Wisconsin

**Society Leaders Workshop-North**

Saturday 22 September 2007  
Comfort Inn - Tomahawk, Wisconsin  
715-453-8900  
9 AM-3:15 PM

Please contact for info: Jennifer Ehle at  
<stevee@inwave.com>

Thanks **Dorothy Adams**

## **CLUSTER GENEALOGY**

One of the pitfalls we all fall into at some point in the course of research is to analyze and evaluate evidence with today's values - taking a term or practice from a prior era and 'thinking' we know what that means without doing our homework to find out what the intent or reason behind the creation of this record - creates what I call "nearsighted research".

'Cluster genealogy' or whole family genealogy ... broadens the scope of where and who we research. Tunnel vision - seeing only the direct line ... is one of the reasons why many of the brick walls exist - we put (them) up ourselves. Failure to research the period of time and locale as well as records (adds to) tunnel vision. Our ancestors did not live in a vacuum ... they witnessed deeds and wills of family members or close friends. They were bondsmen for the marriages of brothers, sisters, or cousins ... Your family picture (becomes) more complete when you work on a cluster, and sometimes you find clues, evidence, or proof you could not have found by working only on one individual.

By ignoring the people in and around your ancestor's life and the people they associated with, you miss out by limiting your research to a one-name, one-person approach. The most obvious place to start is with the siblings as they were part of the same family and for the most part share the same childhood history. Do not despair if your ancestor was an only child ... look for cousins who often became your ancestors siblings.

Look for naming patterns -  
look for migration in family groups -  
look for family possessions:  
Bibles/photographs/letters  
look for extended family as neighbors on the census records.  
Look for neighbors who ended up as family members through marriage.

**Cindy Bergeron Scherwinski**  
Stevens Point Chapter of NSDAR  
*The Mayflower Quarterly*/ June 2007

