

## **THE POLK COUNTY POST**

*Polk County Genealogical Society (PCGS)  
September 2011, Volume #8, Issue #9*

**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.

### **PCGS Websites**

<[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wipolk/index2011a.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wipolk/index2011a.html)>

is the newly expanded Polk County Genealogy Website. Thank you:

**Marie Loughlin  
Judy Wester  
and most recently  
Russ Hanson**

Please check out this website and email a thank you and/or comments to the PCGS email address:  
<[polkgen@gmail.com](mailto:polkgen@gmail.com)>

## **2011-2012 Tentative Schedule**

Refreshments are served after each meeting.

### ***Please Note:***

***Date change for Sept  
Thursday 29 September 2011***

Cosponsoring with Luck Library and Luck Historical Society

**Carolyn Wedin**

Scandinavian Research

**7:00 at the Luck Museum**

**PCGS members please** bring a dozen cookies/bars/treats to go with coffee.

### **4th Monday 24 October 2011**

**7:00 PM at Senior Center**

**St. Croix Falls**

Roundtable discussion on  
Beginning Genealogy

**Judy Wester** - Forms

**Helen Stoltz-Wood** - Sources

**Muriel Pfeifer** - Civil War

**Dorothy Adams** - Trip preparations

**Jay Bergstrand** - Miscellaneous

**Russ Hanson** - Internet

### **4th Monday 28 November 2011**

7:00 PM at **Senior Center**

St. Croix Falls

**Find a Grave**

### **2nd Monday 12 December 2011**

12:00 Noon at the home of

**Joyce and Jay Bergstrand**

(please call for directions  
715.268.9523)

**Potluck Holiday Event**

**(Schedule continued on page 2)**

**4th Monday 23 January 2012 -**

7:00 PM at **Senior Center**

St. Croix Falls

Funeral Home Records for genealogy

**Jane Austin**, speaker

**4th Monday 27 February 2012**

7:00 PM at **Senior Center**

St. Croix Falls

Preparations for **Genealogy Exhibits**

at the Polk **County Fair**

**4th Monday 26 March 2012**

7:00 PM at **Senior Center**

St. Croix Falls

**Records for Pre-1790** (First Census)

to prove ancestry.

**4th Monday 23 April 2012**

7:00 PM at **Senior Center**

St. Croix Falls

**Russ Hanson** - Internet

(Hands-on help)

**4th Monday 28 May 2012**

**Field trip** to Minnesota

Genealogy Society House

on Concord Street in So. St. Paul

**Carpooling** will be available

NOTE: If you have a suggestion for a program, PLEASE do not hesitate to share that idea with a board member. Thank you.

**The First Farm**

The first farm crop is credited to a farm near the present Polk County Fair Grounds. It was, no doubt, a meager crop as it was raised in 1837, the year actually recognized as the first actual settlement at the Falls of the St. Croix. The farm later passed into the hands of Wm. Blanding who named it Jerusalem. Mr. Blanding came to Polk County in 1850 and the farm remained in the Blanding Family almost 100 years. Mr. Blanding was born in Ohio 30 January

1829. After coming to the Falls, he did some lumbering, served as County Surveyor, was a member of the County Commissioners, served in the Civil War, was probate Judge 1862-1866 and Register of U.S. Land Office. All of his life he was a prominent Democrat. He died 17 December 1901. Fourteen children was born to him and Mrs. Blanding - nee Eliza M. Tuttle.

1919-1994

First National Bank  
of St. Croix Falls pamphlet

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Polk County Genealogy Society members will staff the Luck Historical Society Museum on Monday 12 September 2011 and Monday 26 September 2011.

**TIME - 1:00 - 4:00 PM**

And speaking of the Luck Museum, the PCGS Directors are trusting there are PCGS members who would enjoy staffing the museum on an every second and/or fourth Monday schedule 1-4 PM during the winter months

Nov 2011 - April 2012.

The Luck Historical Society is asking for additional volunteers. Please call Judy Wester (715.646.1447) or Jay Bergstrand (715.268.9523) to schedule a time slot.

**Finish Genealogy Resources**

**The Genealogical Society of Finland:**

- <<http://www.genealogia.fi/>>

**Finland GenWeb & Finland Genealogy Resources:**

- <[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/finwgv/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/finwgv/)>

- <[www.feefhs.org/link/finland.html](http://www.feefhs.org/link/finland.html)>

**Kith and Kin**

**Volume 28 Issue 2, pg 6**

### **Towns versus Townships**

Statewide: There seems to be a lot of confusion when it comes to the use of the words town and township. The word town, in Wisconsin, refers to a politically defined piece of land while township refers to a surveyor's unit measuring six by six miles square. Many towns in Wisconsin, but far from all, have roughly the dimensions of a township. Many incorrectly refer to towns as political or civil townships, because in most other states political units are also called townships. In Wisconsin, approximately 30% of the citizens live in towns and 95% of the state's land area is within a town. With information from *Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey*.

Thanks to newspaper article from  
**Judy Wester**, PCGS member

### **Polk County Normal School Graduates**

#### Class of 1919

**Elsie Burch** and **Hazel Burch**  
**Mabel Carlson** and **Signa Carlson**  
**Mathilda Feske** and **Esther Gronlund**  
**Clara Hanson** and **Gertrude Hanson**  
**Gertrude Peterson** and **Nettie Lumsden**  
**Myrtle Nelson** and **Clara Peterson**  
**Anna Rogers** and **Celia Smith**  
**Pearl Swanson** and **Mildred Will**

#### Class of 1920

**Helen Brown** and **Fern Bunker**  
**Marie Caithamer** and **Ethel Corey**  
**Alice Cowley** and **Mildred Gregerson**  
**Fern Haves** and **Gladys Laier**  
**Hazel Miller** and **Eleanor Linn**  
**Bessie Schandorff**  
**Gladys Williamson**

**Jeanne Alling**, Author  
*I Heard the School Bells Ringing*

### **GOOGLE Search**

Seven Tips for Genealogists

by **Lisa Louise Cooke**

1. Google works best with keyword searches not sentences
2. Underutilizing operators. Operators are characters or search terms that will bring back filtered results.
3. Stopping at the results page and not looking far enough at the results. Learn to selectively narrow your results using additional keywords coupled with multiple operators.
4. Be sure to save your query and set up a Google alert. (You will need a Google account to do this but Google will continue to search for any additional web pages using your original search string/send you emails with results.
5. Be sure to use a number range. Enter the two years with three dots between them, i.e. 1870...1900 and Google will bring back results with those 2 dates and anything that falls between.
6. Use the same search rules on other websites: i.e. YouTube, Google books, the eBook store, etc.
7. Use keywords more effectively. If you search on a town name + the word history, in YouTube, you will get videos concerning that town's history.

**THANK YOU - Vicki Garro**

Douglas County Genealogy Club  
September 2011

### **Thursday, 29 September 2011**

**7:00 PM at the Luck Museum**  
*the PCGS and Luck Historical Soc. and  
the Luck Public Library  
will be featuring*  
**Carolyn Wedin**  
*speaking and teaching on  
Swedish  
( and other Scandinavian )  
genealogy research.  
Please plan to attend.*

### **Research in Wales and England**

[<www.bbc.co.uk/familyhistory>](http://www.bbc.co.uk/familyhistory)

BBC Family History portal: research advice, photos, message boards, case studies and more

[<www.gro.gov.uk>](http://www.gro.gov.uk)

General Register Office: Home office website from where you can order birth, marriage and death certificates.

[<www.findmypast.com>](http://www.findmypast.com)

Indexes of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales, including British overseas; Wales and England census indexes and images (except 1851), burial records plus other resources (subscription or pay-per-view)

[<www.walesgenweb.com>](http://www.walesgenweb.com)

Welsh branch of the WorldGenWeb Project, a volunteer based organization providing genealogical and historical records and resources.

[<www.freebmd.org.uk>](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)

Free partial indexes of birth, marriages and deaths in Wales and England.

[<www.cwgc.org>](http://www.cwgc.org)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, containing a database of almost two million men and women of the Commonwealth who died during the two world wars.

[<www.britishorigins.com>](http://www.britishorigins.com)

Genealogy specialists featuring online access to original British ancestor source records, map images from Great Britain including maps, marriage, census, wills, apprentice records via a free family name search/British place search.

[<www.fhswales.info>](http://www.fhswales.info)

Association of Family History Societies of Wales

**BBC**

**Wales/History/Themes**

**[<www.bbc.co.uk/wales/history>](http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/history)**

**St. Croix Valley Gen Society  
Informal Gathering to share success'  
over the summer.  
Thursday 15 September 2011, 7:00PM  
at the River Falls Public Library.**

This is also the annual 'divide and share' meeting for any magazines, pamphlets, books you no longer wish to keep, please bring to give to the 'stop/swap and shop' event at this meeting. For a nominal fee, which goes to support SCVGS projects, you may find and purchase exactly the resource you need to continue working on your project. Come early to browse before the open round-table discussion.

### **REMINDER**

#### **Luck Museum Hours Staffed by PCGS**

"We are here the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoons (1:00-4:00 PM) to serve you with family research.

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#### **Volunteer if possible to assist in staffing**

#### **Polk County Wisconsin Genealogy**

Contact Person: **Judy Wester  
715-646-1447**