

## **THE POLK COUNTY POST**

*Polk County Genealogical Society (PCGS)  
August 2010, Volume #12, Issue # 8*

**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.

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### **ONLY FOR AUGUST**

\*The PCGS monthly meeting will be held on the fourth Thursday at 12:00 noon 26 August 2010 as we continue to move forward at the Luck Historical Society Museum and Library, Luck, Wisconsin which now holds our collection.

### **HOWEVER,**

**the general meeting schedule for September 2010 thru May 2011 returns to the fourth Monday of each month (except Dec.'s Holiday Event) and the meeting place is once again the Senior Center in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, at 7:00 PM.**

'Genie Thursdays" will now be known as a work days for genealogy projects every Thursday for the month of August at the Luck Historical Society Museum and Library 12:00 noon - 3:00 P.M. Work day schedule may change for the months of September, October and November.

### **\*Monday 27 September 2010**

Program: **Barb Oestreich**  
"Using the City Directories"  
Update on Leon!  
Gather at the Senior Center - St. Croix Falls  
7:00 PM  
Refreshments to follow

### **\*Monday 25 October 2010**

Gather at the Senior Center - St. Croix Falls  
7:00 PM Program:  
**Tim Ericson**  
University of Wisconsin Archivist, Retired  
"Black Americans in Wisconsin"  
Refreshments to follow

### **\*Monday 22 November 2010**

Gather at the Senior Center - St. Croix Falls  
7:00 PM Program:  
"Without People it Isn't History"  
Refreshments to follow

### **\*Monday 13 December 2010**

Annual Potluck Holiday Event  
Noon  
Home of **Jay/Joyce Bergstrand**

## Upcoming Events

9 October 2010 Wisconsin State  
Genealogical Society's Fall Seminar:  
Research: "Something for Everyone"

**Lori Bessier**

of the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Four lectures:

- \* Everyone's a Beginner
- \* How to find Genealogical Collections
  - \* Google.com
- \* Genealogy on a Budget

at  
Ramada Hotel, Stevens Point, Wisconsin  
WSHS POB # 5106, Madison, WI  
53405-0106

### SHARING our STORIES

Local History/Historical Preservation Conf  
15-16 October 2010 Lake Geneva, WI  
The Grand Geneva Resort

Sponsored by:

Wisconsin Historical Society  
Wisconsin Council for Local History  
featuring

3 Workshops just made for genealogist:

\* **Turning Memories into Stories**  
(Writing from your life)

\* **Getting our Stories into Print**  
(Intro guide to publishing)

and  
featuring

WI Historical Society Archivist

**Jim Hansen**

**Tracing Your Ancestors**

(21st Century)

Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706-1482

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### British Columbia Archives

<<http://search.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca>>

then  
follow directions

### Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness

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

## WISCONSIN ANCESTORS

<[jvonhaden@wi.it.com](mailto:jvonhaden@wi.it.com)>

Researcher

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### SCANDINAVIAN CHARACTERS

In Google, type in just these two words:  
Swedish Roots

When the websites page comes up,  
open

"Swedish Roots-for descendants of the  
emigrants!"

When the Swedish Roots home page  
appears, in the left-hand column are  
several choices -under the group titled:

"The First Steps", click on:

"To write in Swedish."

The page that opens will have all the  
Scandinavian characters and directions.

THANKS to:

**Norma Holmbeck,**  
PCGS member

### Douglas County Genealogy Club

presents their 3rd

#### Annual Fall Conference

25 September 2010

Christ Lutheran Church, Superior, Wisc.

Featured Speaker: Rich Pifer

from the

Wisconsin State Historical Society.

Topics:

- \* organizing your research files
- \* drawing accurate conclusions
- \* court records

Additional speaker: Tom Holden,  
Director of the Lake Superior Marine  
Museum and Visitor's Center/Army  
Corps of Engineers.

Topic:

"Castle Behind the Light"

Local Lighthouse History

COST: **FREE!**

Lunch will be available for \$6.00 from  
Boy Scout Troop # 202

Vendors, Vendors, Vendors  
and representatives of genealogical  
interest.

## **MOMS**

is an online marriage index of Minnesota Counties from all 87 counties, developed and maintained by the Minnesota County recorders.  
<[www.mncounty.com/](http://www.mncounty.com/)>

**MOMS** Home County Index  
Follow directions.

### **Accessing Castle Garden and Barge Office Manifest 1851-1891**

In 1819, Congress passed legislation requiring passenger ships coming from foreign ports to submit lists (manifests) of the arriving passengers. Those manifest have subsequently been placed on microfilm rolls at the National Archives as follows:

- 1820-1850 -  
Microfilm series M237, rolls 1-94
- 1851-1894 -  
Microfilm series M237, rolls 95-580
- 1892-1897 -  
Microfilm series M237, rolls 581- 675
- 1897-1924 -  
Microfilm series T715, rolls 1-3590

The passengers were processed at various places, depending on the year of arrival.

Up to 31 July 1855 - No processing

1 August 1855 - 18 April 1890 -

Castle Garden

19 April 1890 - 31 December 1891 -

Barge Office

1 January 1892 - 13 June 1897 -

Ellis Island

14 June 1897 - 16 December 1900 -

Barge Office

17 December 1900 - 31 December 1954

Ellis Island

Scanned images of microfilm rolls from 1851-1891 reside on <[Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com)> while scanned images of microfilm rolls from 1892-1954 reside on <[EllisIsland.org](http://EllisIsland.org)>

Thank you - **Carlton County**  
**Genealogical Society Newsletter**

## **From James L. Hansen**

Reference Librarian  
Wisconsin Historical Society

My email question to Mr. Hansen,  
27 July 2010:

"I am looking for personal property tax records for the County of Polk 1875-1880. The local museum in Balsam Lake does have some records, however, they are in the middle of a reorganization and the tax books are not available for research. Does the State collections have any of this type of record that I could research online?"

Mr. Hansen's email reply 27 July 2010:  
**"The Polk County tax records are held on microfilm at the Area Research Center at UW-River Falls"**

Author/Creator: Polk County (Wis.) . Treasurer.

Title: Tax rolls, 1859-1965.

Quantity: 199 reels of microfilm (35 mm): plus additions of 16.0 c.f.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by township and there under chronological; cities and villages are arranged alphabetically under the appropriate township.

Summary: Real and personal property rolls showing assessed valuation of property, taxes levied against property, and taxes paid. Holdings are not complete - beginning in 1945, records are retained on for every fifth year.

The processed portion of this series is summarized above, dates 1859-1941 and is described in the register. There are additional accessions dating 1945-1965 which are described below.

Notes: The processed portion of this series is available only on microfilm. This microfilm was produced by the University of Wisconsin-Stout micrographics lab, Menomonie, Wis. 54751.

Originals were discarded after microfilming. Finding aid: Register to the processed portion.

Internet Links: Register available on-line.

Subjects: Property tax-Wisconsin-Polk County.  
 Form/Genre: Microfilms.  
 Tax records.  
 Local government records.  
 OCLC Number: 6630  
 RLIN Number: WIHV88-A372  
Contact the Area Research Center for further details.

(I contracted Ms. Otto at UWRF especially about Interlibrary Loan of these tax records and her email reply:

From **Kathryn Otto**  
 University of Wisconsin - River Falls  
 Archivist  
 Email dated 29 July 2010

"Yes, the microfilm may be borrowed on Interlibrary Loan. .... anyone can go to their local public library and Interlibrary Loan the microfilm rolls (provided their local library has a microfilm reader). "

From the **Ellis Island Foundation** newsletter: **Liberty Highlights:**

**Honor your family members on the largest wall of names in the world.**

What is the Wall? The American Immigrant Wall of Honor is a permanent exhibit of over 700,000 individual and family names featured at Ellis Island in New York Harbor. Ellis Island is part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. It is the only place in the country where an individual can honor his or her family's heritage at a national monument. Names are listed alphabetically by section.

The wall is not only for Ellis Island immigrants rather it includes immigrants from all historical periods. Regardless of when your ancestors came to America or through which port they entered, you may honor their names on the Wall. You may register your family name, the name of an ancestor relative or even yourself. You may place more than one name but please remember there is a minimum gift of \$150.00 for each name registered.

North Star Genealogy Conference  
 1-2 October 2010  
 South St. Paul  
 Sponsored by the  
 Minnesota Genealogy Society

Featured speaker  
**Thomas W. Jones**, CG, CDL  
 Special Friday Morning Research Seminar  
 "Resolving Conflicting Evidence"

MOST LIKELY TO RECEDE:

"Which immigrant groups were most apt to return to their home countries?

Hungarian Christians, Russian Christians, Italians, Greeks and certain Slavic people had a higher rate of out-migration than their fellow immigrants.

The primary reason for leaving was disillusionment - America just didn't live up to their expectations. Add language difficulties, physical appearances that didn't allow the immigrants to easily blend, and the drastically different lifestyle in a big American city (who would want to trade life on an Italian vineyard or in a small Italian fishing village for four cramped rooms in a tenement?) and it makes more sense. However, there were plenty of other groups who were determined to make their lives in America as successful as possible."

**Joan Meyer**  
 Iron County, Michigan

COMPARATIVE PRICES  
 in New York City

	<u>1893</u>	<u>2009</u>
Bread (1#)	5 cents	\$2.00
Coffee (per cup)	5 cents	\$1.85
Apartment rent	\$25.00	\$3839.-
Subway fare	5 cents	\$2.25
Average Annual household income	\$835.00	\$53,558