

# THE POST

TO:

A M E R I C A

AUGUST 2014

VOLUME #16 ISSUE #8

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

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

Monday help is needed in the RRC for sorting and shelving genealogical resource materials.

Thank you,  
**Judy Wester**

## Polk County Gen Society

The Amery Swedish Club met at the Luck Museum the evening of 8 July 2014 with a program of Scandinavian genealogy provided by Russ Hanson. It is difficult to give a genealogy presentation that is both informative and interesting to a group of people with experience levels ranging from none to considerable. Nonetheless, Russ nailed it.

Using his own family tree as an example he presented a show with dramatic visuals of how he traced his family back to Noah Hanson and back even further to Adam Hanson. There was a short break in the family records during the Viking era when the Hansons' were apparently out doing good works and neglected to record significant family events.

Several of us were lucky winners of door prizes consisting of bottles of maple syrup recently harvested by the Hanson family. Russ also did a great job in showing off the museum, its displays and the Ravenholt Research Center and the work being done there by the PCGS.

**Jay Bergstrand/President/PCGS**

**25 August 2014 PCGS Class**

**10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Dr. Kurt Leichtle - UWRF**

**Chair: Broad Field Social Studies**

**and Mrs. Karen Leichtle**

**Informal Lecture -**

**Family Stories Make  
Public History**

**Q and A**

**2013 PCGS Schedule**

PCGS business meeting are conducted on the fourth Monday of each month from 1-3:30 p. in the **RRC** within the Luck Museum. If you have an agenda item please contact president **Jay Bergstrand**, board members **Dorothy Adams, Russ Hanson** and/or **Judy Wester** (emails only for Judy please). Members and guests welcome.

Refreshments served

PCGS classes on genealogy and related subjects that contribute to understanding genealogy, at each level of study, i.e. Colonial Roadway travel / vital records locations / internet sources / quarterly genealogy magazines / genealogy classes online / maps, are held every fourth Monday morning from 10-11:30 in the **RRC** within the Luck Museum

**Tentative Class Schedule**

August - **Dr. Kurt Leichtle** - Family Stories  
Make Public History

September - **Northwest Writers Group** - how to create a family history story book inexpensively

October - **Jay Bergstrand** - Photography enriches your family history - Alaska

November - Trip to Luck Cemetery to use what knowledge we already own to photo tombstones.

December - Potluck Holiday Event  
Noon in the **RRC**, within the Luck Museum, **Perhaps** a presentation of cemetery photos, tools and cleaning tombstones, uploading to Find-A-Grave.

**Possible** Upcoming events:

- \*Genealogy at the Fair
- \*Tips on using LDS Library as a source of records - via the Internet
- \*Find-A-Grave training session

Please check out the PCGS website and email comments or inquiries to the PCGS email address:  
<polkgen@gmail.com>

Thanks to **Russ Hanson** for supervising this website.



*Rhonus tempor placerat.*

**Why we can't upload a whole cemetery to Find-a-Grave?** Response from Joanne Sher, As a trustee of our congregation's cemetery I can tell you that the property is private and the headstones are considered the property of the family. If an individual family member chose to include a photo of a headstone online that is their choice but someone can't come in, take photos of every headstone and post them on Find a Grave. That is why you often see just a photo of a cemetery entrance on that website along with the information about an individual buried there. Thanks, **Bobbi Hoyt**, editor, Twin Ports Genealogical Society July 2014

**Comments anyone?**

**US** – The blog [The Ancestry insider](#) has reported that Ancestry.com has quietly dropped access to cemetery records on [BillionGraves](#) from the Ancestry.com website. Previously, Ancestry users could directly search the BillionGraves database when they were logged into Ancestry. No more. BillionGraves became a competitor of Ancestry when Ancestry bought out the other major cemetery record website Find-A-Grave in October 2013 (see the article [Ancestry.com Buys Find A Grave](#)). If you attempt to do a search for BillionGraves records on Ancestry.com you will now get a message “Collection Not Available”

It is unusual, but not unheard of for Ancestry to remove access to records. As we discussed in the article [Top 100 Genealogy Websites of 2014](#), the competitive landscape in genealogy is hardening.

BillionGraves and Find A Grave both depend on users to contribute free cemetery records to help their websites grow. It will be interesting to see if users stop contributing new content to Find A Grave given this recent maneuver from Ancestry.

In addition to going to each website separately, the free [Genealogy Search Engine](#) simultaneously searches both Find A Grave and BillionGraves (and over a thousand other websites). If you want to search just one of the websites at a time using the search engine (and say you were looking for an ancestor named Smith), you would enter:

*smith site:findagrave.com*  
*smith site:billiongraves.com*

- See more at: [http://www.genealogyintime.com/records/newest-genealogy-records.html?awt\\_l=PDAMc&awt\\_m=JnP0YzWuLAK.Vy#sthash.87U9zftj.dpuf](http://www.genealogyintime.com/records/newest-genealogy-records.html?awt_l=PDAMc&awt_m=JnP0YzWuLAK.Vy#sthash.87U9zftj.dpuf)

Genealogyintime.com  
12 July 2014



**Polk County Normal School Grads**

Class of 1957

**Carol Anderson**  
**Norma Anderson**  
**Donna Fisk**  
**George Forest**  
**Corrine Hallberg Littlefield**  
**Ethyle Johnson**  
**Roger Johnson**  
**Hazel Kjar**  
**Margaret Lindahl**  
**Ariel McKenzie**  
**Laura Nelson**  
**Margaret Nelson**  
**Dorothy Olson**  
**Sylvia Peterson**  
**Barbara Potter**  
**Leona Runberg**  
**Marian VanErp**  
**Margaret Wyatt**  
**Carol Yoder**

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

By Diane Richard

If you do not use WorldCat ([www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org)) to identify what materials (books and other media) are available for "where" you are researching or "what" family you are researching, you might be missing out on some great resources. And it will only get better since the FamilySearch catalog will soon become a part of the database. See what books of abstracted records are listed. Have relevant family or community family histories been published? Are they available locally or will you need to use an interlibrary loan? WorldCat helps answer these questions for you.

--Internet Genealogy/Family Chronicle  
 Newsletter, April 2013

Google Chrome will soon be adding a new feature that will allow video chat with no software to download and nothing to setup. You must have the Chrome browser on your computer and a video camera connected to do video chat via Google hangout.

Thanks Vicki Garro/Douglas County  
 Genealogy Club July 2014

**The August 2014 Edition of *Clann* is now available**

RootsIreland is pleased to announce that the August 2014 edition of *Clann* is now available. Please click the cover to view.

An alternative link to the newsletter is :

<http://bit.ly/1mEcDZo>

If you prefer to download the PDF to view offline, or if you are having problems with the viewer then you can download it here...

<https://flipflashpages.uniflip.com/3/71043/334703/pub/document.pdf>

Yours Sincerely  
 rootsireland.ie

Brought to you by the Irish Family History  
 Foundation

**Canada** – FamilySearch has added some 334,000 indexed records to their collection of Ontario birth records. This collection spans the years from 1869 to 1912. Effective 1 July 1869, the province of Ontario began to register births, marriages and deaths. Each county kept a district registrar, which was then sent to the provincial registrar. The birth records in the FamilySearch collection can be searched by name, gender, year and place of birth. Please note that if you search by year, not all the records in the collection have the year listed. Access is free. [[Historic Ontario Birth Records](#)]

**Wales** – The National Library of Wales has digitized an additional 100,000 historic newspaper pages in the month of June for their website *Welsh Newspapers Online*. The website now consists of some 725,000 pages and 7.6 million articles from over 100 newspapers up to 1910. The website can be searched by keyword and category (such as family notices). Alternatively, the historic newspapers can be browsed by title and date. Access is free. [[Welsh Newspapers Online](#)]

<GenealogyinTime.com> 30 June 2014

### Nebraska homesteading case files

A project to digitize Nebraska homesteading case files has been completed after a decade of planning, preparation and execution. The nearly 77,000 files contain more than 1.6 million digital images, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln said Wednesday.

The database can be searched and viewed for free at Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, as well as UNL libraries, National Archives and Records Administration research centers nationwide and Family History Centers at several locations across the country. They also may be viewed for a fee at [Fold3.com](#) or [Ancestry.com](#).

You can read more in an article in the SeattlePI web site at <http://goo.gl/zSRo4e>.

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## POLK COUNTY, WISCONSIN TREASURE

The Osceola and St. Croix Valley Railway -  
operating out of the Osceola station on weekends 3 May - 26 October 2014

Dining Service: Pizza Trains; 1st Class Brunch; 1st Class Dinner

Special Events: Mother's and/or Father's Day; Fireworks Express; Pumpkin Express and

William O'Brien State Park. **Thanks** to PCGS member

**Vicki Jensen** for the great RR presentation to the Polk County Genealogy Society members at their regular class/meeting on 4th Monday of July.

## Product review:

Like many of you, I have a mountain of slides I would like digitized. To solve the problem, I recently purchased Jumbl 35mm Film Slide and

Negative Scanner - 10 Mega Pixel Film to Digital Image Converter - with 2.4-Inch LCD and TV-Out from Amazon.com. This item was

inexpensive and did not require a computer for operation. Just plug in and insert a memory card and you are ready to start scanning. It does pay to read the short manual and become familiar with your setting choices. I chose the highest resolution and my scans were saved in jpg files of about 1.5 MB in size. Of course uploading to your computer is as simple as taking the memory card from one device and putting it in the other. Scan quality was acceptable and of course many of the defects from yesterday's technology can be repaired with a program like Photoshop Elements.

I liked the fact that this product didn't need a computer so had no operating system requirements. Also, with other scanners I have used, the software required a lot of RAM memory or it would shut your computer down. This device has a small footprint, but will get the job done quickly. I was able to scan about 60 slides in less than 30 minutes.

I look forward to finishing my slide scanning project and being able to relive the memories of long ago.

Thanks, Vicki Garro

## Update on PCGS "Genealogy Roadshow"

**George A. Nelson**

I have photographed about 1200 pages and items of the George A. Nelson collection of information from his granddaughter so far.

**Probably about 1/2 done.**

Today I took photos of his Alaskan Gold Rush backback, matches, cans of lard (yes), dog harness, and some other items he used in Alaska during his 1898-1900 stay in the Klondike gold fields near Dawson City. I am reading through his handwritten journal for those two years--interesting!

I expect to finish with the copying in a few more 4 hour sessions and then will begin some interviews of other grandchildren. He died in 1962 at age 89, so there are folks who remember him, although mostly in his later years.

He was a farmer most of his life, but also got a chiropractor's training and license in 1905 and practiced that at home on the farm if someone wanted a treatment. He had a sister who was also a chiropractor.

A great deal of political information also.

**Russ Hanson and Nelson Family Team**

**Wisconsin State Genealogical Society**

Society Leaders Workshop - A Local Society Officer and Board Member Training Saturday, September 20, 2014

Marshfield Clinic, 1000 N Oak Ave., Marshfield, WI 54449

Morning Program: 8:30 a. 9:00 – 10:00 a. 10:00 – 10:15 a. 10:15 – 11:00 a. 11:15 – 12:15 p 1 2:15 – 1:p.

Afternoon Program: 1:00 – 1:45 p. 1:45 – 2:00 p. 2:00 – 2:45 p. 2:45 – 3:30 p. 3:30 - 3:45 p.

Registration opens (coffee & juice served) Welcome/"Your Society on Facebook" Break (popcorn)

"Blogging: What can you learn?" "Workshop or New Members?" Learn the basics of setting up workshops sponsored by your society and some of the advantages your society might get in return.

Lunch – Sloppy Joes, Chips, Veggies/Pickles, Bars, Water  
(Please bring your own lunch, if Sloppy Joes are not in your diet plan.)

"By-Laws: How Does Your Society Rank?" (Bring along a copy of your By- Laws for a hands-on evaluation workshop.)

Break (cookies/bars)

"Award Winning Newsletters: Let's All Do It" (Bring along copies of several of your newsletters for a hands-on evaluation workshop) "Brick-Wall/Fact Finding on Society Issues" (Bring along problems that your society might be having in regards to membership, fund-raising, speaker or whatever to discuss)

Wrap Up

(Please complete a separate registration form for each person attending. Please make necessary copies of form.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your Society: \_\_\_\_\_

What office do you hold? \_\_\_\_\_ Is your society: Affiliated Not-affiliated \_\_\_\_\_

Members of Societies affiliated with WSGS will be charged \$10.00 per person. Members of Societies not affiliated with WSGS will be charged \$15.00 per person. Unaffiliated societies may pay a \$30.00 membership fee to become affiliated and use the

\$10.00 discount rate per person. Rate for WSGS Affiliated Members Rate for Non-affiliated Members \_\_\_\_\_

WSGS Membership: Affiliate Society \_\_\_\_\_

\$10.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ email [wsgs@wsgs.org](mailto:wsgs@wsgs.org) for form

Total fee enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Email Chris Klauer, Administrative Assistant- [wsgs@wsgs.org](mailto:wsgs@wsgs.org) with questions.

Mail completed registration form with check (payable to WSGS) to: WSGS, SLW-2014, P.O. Box 5106, Madison, WI 53705 by September 1, 2014. You will receive an email confirmation from the office along with instructions for parking. So be sure you can receive emails from [wsgs@wsgs.org](mailto:wsgs@wsgs.org).

# **There are few independent voices left in the field of genealogy.**

**US** – Mocavo, the US-based genealogy search website, quietly announced in a [blog post](#) in late June that they were sold to FindMyPast.

Mocavo is based in Boulder, Colorado. The website initially launched in March 2011. Six months later in September 2011, they raised \$1 million from local venture capitalists. This was followed up by a second round of \$4.1 million of venture capital funding. The firm currently has 16 employees.

In the [Top 100 Genealogy Websites of 2014](#) list, Mocavo ranked #28, relatively unchanged from their 2013 ranking of #25. Despite a major marketing push from several prominent genealogy bloggers, the website was never able to crack the top 10 list. With 16 mouths to feed and \$5.1 million in venture capital funding, the window for any company in that kind of situation to gain traction and prove itself is somewhat limited.

Mocavo offered a service similar to the free [Genealogy Search Engine](#), which was launched about 3 months before Mocavo in January 2011. Cliff Shaw, the founder and CEO of Mocavo has been involved in other genealogy companies in the past. He founded both Pearl Street Software and GenForum. Pearl Street Software owned the once-popular genealogy software program called Family Tree Legends. They also owned the website Gencircles, an early online social website targeted towards genealogy. Pearl Street Software was sold in 2007 to MyHeritage. Since then, Family Tree Legends has slowly faded away (it is still available as a free download on the internet). MyHeritage seemed to have been primarily interested in incorporating the algorithmic matching software from Gencircles into the MyHeritage website. Gencircles no longer exists as a stand-alone website. The other enterprise founded by Cliff Shaw (GenForum) was sold to Genealogy.com, which was then later sold to the A&E Television Network back in the days when A&E was interested in getting into the genealogy field. A&E then later sold Genealogy.com to Ancestry. Ancestry recently announced that GenForum will be shut down in September 2014.

This was the second purchase by FindMyPast in a short period of time. Earlier in June, FindMyPast also purchased Origins.net. It is not clear what FindMypast's long-term plans are for either Origins.net or Mocavo.

FindMyPast's purchase of two independent genealogy companies combined with Ancestry's recent announcement that they were shutting down some of their websites clearly shows a consolidation trend going on within the genealogy industry. Ancestry, FindMyPast and MyHeritage continue to grow in size and strength. It is starting to feel lonely here at [GenealogyInTime Magazine](#).

There are few independent voices left in the field of genealogy.

See more at: <http://www.genealogyintime.com>