

THE POST

TO:

AMERICA DECEMBER 2014 VOLUME #16 ISSUE #12

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.*

Polk County Genealogical Society

Potluck Holiday Event

will be held in the **RRC** within the Luck Historical Society Museum.

**Date: Monday 8 Dec.
2014**

Time: 1 - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Luck, WI

Finger-Food such as those Holiday treats our **grandmothers** may have made using a recipe saved from their homeland or nationality of a loved one and/or **your** favorite Holiday hot dishes are welcome!

Hot Coco and Coffee will be served.

Guests are welcome

Don't forget
to pay your
dues!
Thank You.

PCGS Holiday Event

at the RRC within the Luck Museum

on Monday 8 December 2014 1-4:00 p.m. This is a potluck so if you wish to bring a favorite dish that your mom, aunt or grandma made every year at the Holiday Time -
PLEASE DO SO!

If you prefer to bring finger-food, **PLEASE DO SO!** Coffee/tea/coco/conversation. At this time there is no program or business meeting planned. If anyone has a guitar, harmonica or dulcimer and you would be willing to bring your music to our event and share, volunteers always welcome-
PLEASE DO SO! (lunch is on us)

(I have a dulcimer but I play so s-l-o-w-l-y, it would sound more like a wake than a holiday! - EDITOR)

2013 PCGS Schedule**December**

Potluck and Finger-Food Holiday Event
on Monday 8 December - 2014
1:00-4:00 p.m.

Bring any Finger-Food OR dish you wish
for sharing at this gathering
of members and friends.

Guests are welcome!

2015 Schedule

Mon **afternoon** 1-4 p.m. 26 Jan 2015

Mon **afternoon** 1-4 p.m. 23 Feb 2015

Mon **afternoon** 1-4 23 March 2015

Mon_eve. 6-9:00 p.m. 27 April 2015

Mon eve. 6-9:00 p.m. 23 May 2015

Mon eve. 6-9:00 p.m. 22 June 2015

Mon eve. 6-9:00 p.m. 27 July 2015

Mon eve. 6-9 p.m. 24 August 2015

Mon eve. 6-9 p.m. 28 Sept 2015

Mon eve. 6-9 p.m. 26 Oct 2015

Mon **afternoon** 1-4 p. 23 Nov 2015

Mon **Noon Holiday Event - 14 Dec 2015**

All meeting are scheduled to be held at the
 RRC, within the Luck Historical Society
 Museum, Luck, Wisconsin

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.

2015 PCGS dues

\$5.00 a year.

Please send your check/money
 order made out to PCGS to:

Judy Wester

901-8th street

Centuria, Wisconsin

54824

Thank you.

Polk County Normal School Grads

Class of 1960

- Linda Born**
- Mary Cassavant**
- Robert Clifton**
- Russell Erickson**
- Shirley Fleming**
- JoAnn Forrest**
- Jorgine Graf**
- Kay Graf**
- Elizabeth Johnson**
- Earl Kammerud**
- Alma Mae Karels**
- Beverly Larson**
- Kay Larsen**
- Patricia LaRue**
- Marilyn Severson**

Jeanne Alling, Author
I Heard the School Bells Ringing

A Whisper in the Wind
Muriel Morgan Pfeifer (1934-2014)

Lewis

Lewis started out as Knapville when **Capt Oscar Knapp** purchased 800 acres of timberland with a natural spring, stream and abundance of trout. In 1900 Knapp sold Knapville to **Charles E. Lewis** for \$8000.00, who in turn renamed the village 'Seven Pines.' Lewis mapped out streets, a bank was established and a church called the Peoples' Church was built as a memorial to Lewis' parents. The town grew with a gas station/garage, grocery store/post office (**Campbells's**), two taverns and a school.

A bell, initially intended for the church, end up over the fire department in circa 1919. A village hall was a building called the Lewis Amusement Hall, where elections were held, dances were enjoyed, card playing and later used for the young people playing basketball.

Seven Pines is now a Bed/Breakfast (2004). The post office moved to Frederic and shortly after the grocery store closed.

Do it for the future generations!

A mother was telling her little girl what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!" (author unknown)

So what's your story? What do your children know about your childhood? We genealogists spend a lot of time searching for our ancestors, forgetting that someday we will be gone too. A sobering thought for many.

So what are you waiting for? Just do it!

Janet (Agombar) Roy

Vol 35-1 Thunder Bay Branch OGS Page 5

*HAPPY
HOLIDAYS*



From: The Rambler <riverroadrambler@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2014 7:10 AM
Subject: Familysearch.org update

The free Mormon website for family history -- <https://familysearch.org/> continues to improve. The latest thing I have found are searchable and viewable pages from the Wisconsin state censuses --

To use this resource you have to create an account -- it is free. I spent some time looking at the online 1885 Wisconsin census and the 1885 sailors and soldiers census. Lists all living veterans of the civil war by township and gives their company/regiment/rank

[Wisconsin, Birth Index, 1820-1907](#) 985,65926 Oct 2012
[Wisconsin, Births and Christenings, 1826-1926](#) 1,440,96523 Jan 2014

[Wisconsin, Death Index, 1820-1907](#) 435,20809 Feb 2012
[Wisconsin, Death Index, 1959-1997](#) 1,629,09306 Dec 2011
[Wisconsin, Death Records, 1867-1907](#) 432,95924 Jan 2014
[Wisconsin, Deaths and Burials, 1835-1968](#) 34,94323 Jan 2014
[Wisconsin, Divorce Index, 1965-1984](#) 231,49907 Mar 2012

[Wisconsin, Marriage Index, 1973-1997](#) 948,96109 Feb 2012
[Wisconsin, Marriages, 1836-1930](#) 734,52423 Mar 2012
[Wisconsin, Milwaukee Naturalization Index, 1848-1990](#) 76,41218 Jun 2014
[Wisconsin, State Census, 1855](#) 133,16424 Mar 2010
[Wisconsin, State Census, 1865](#) 21,16218 Jun 2014
[Wisconsin, State Census, 1875](#) 296,89926 Feb 2013
[Wisconsin, State Census, 1885](#) 407,13821 Jan 2011
[Wisconsin, State Census, 1895](#) 494,91126 Feb 2013
[Wisconsin, State Census, 1905](#) 2,228,39230 Apr 2010

Russ Hanson PCGS member
 River Road Ramblings now appearing at riverroadrambler.blogspot.com



United Kingdom
World War I Records

UK – FamilySearch has created an important image collection of United Kingdom World War I military service records. These records span the years from 1914 to 1920 and consist of some 43.5 million images. The images are arranged by last name, making it relatively easy to search for an ancestor. The images come from the National Archives. Access is free. [[UK WWI Service Records](#)]

UK – FamilySearch has also created an important image collection of United Kingdom World War I Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps records that span the years from 1917 to 1920. This collection consists of about 265,000 records. Records are organized by last name. These images come from the National Archives. Access is free [[UK WWI Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps Records](#)]

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

15 November 2014

The Polk County Genealogy Society sponsored several different types of learning classes, one each month, for the last couple/ three years. The sessions covered everything from multiple discussions on Beginning Genealogy to how to put together and print a family history book. Most often PCGS members stepped up to the plate and did the leading/training, but on occasion we had professional people helping us. One such class, concerned using the Danish Archives to research family members in the old Danish script. Nicol Nelson, class member, unfortunately missed this class, but what a wonderful story she is willing to share with all of us with respect to her Danish family and the wonders of genealogy research. The final class of this series will be Monday 24 November 2014 - 1-4 p.m. (RRC-Luck Museum/Luck, WI) when we learn how land records often lead family historians to their ancestors. Here is Nicol's story on her Danish family:

"Sorry I missed the Danish meeting. Since my grandfather from Balsam Lake was born near Arhus, Denmark, and I have been to Denmark it would have been fun if I could have been there. (*Nicol and her family had already left for their home in CA.*)

After my grandparents died, my aunt and I cleaned out the attic of their home and found some old letters from Denmark dated from late 1800's to the early 1930's. She had them translated at the Danish Consulate in Los Angles, and then we met at the Pasadena Library, where we knew they had telephone books from major cities around the world, and we wrote a letter to everyone in Arhus that spelt their last name the same way as my grandfather, explaining who we were and which family we were looking for. We asked whomever received the letter to pass it on to

someone if they were not our family. Well, we found an 80 year old cousin of my mother and aunt, who could not read or write English, so her granddaughter answered our letter, and eventually came to the US on a school trip, and met us in LA at my aunt's house. (This was many years ago, before computers were in our home. I still do not know enough about computers to do research on it....but plan to learn because I see it is the best way to do it.

Well, my daughter and I had dinner at their home in Arhus in 2005 when we went to Europe, including a week in Denmark. We also took copies of 5 of those old letters, the ones that still had addresses on them, and rented a car. We drove across Denmark and found all 5 addresses those letters came from so very many years ago. My family was poor, and did not own those properties....but it was absolutely awesome to stand in front of the very address we knew our family had lived. We even took a photo of my grandparents with us, taken around the time of their 50th anniversary. We had the photo blown up so we could read the writing on the building in the yard behind their yard. When we found that address we stopped a house painter on the sidewalk and asked him what that said on the building in the photo. He said "that is where old people sleep". Then he took us to the home he was painting, introduced us to the owners who were so excited to meet us and learn what we were doing. She invited us into their home, made copies of that letter in Danish and English...then took us over and introduced us to the people that live in my grandparents old home. We stood in that very yard they stood in for the photo. Amazing!

That's my Danish story. See you all in the spring when we return (*to Polk County, WI.*)
Nicol Nelson" (PCGS member)

Genealogy Researching via GOOGLE

Case Sensitivity The first thing to know about Google is that it is **NOT** case sensitive (some search engines are case sensitive but not Google). Searching for [John Smith] is the same as searching for [john smith] or even [JOHN Smith]. Google converts everything to lowercase format before running your query through their search engine.

Knowing this fact makes it easier to type in names because you do not have to worry about capitalization especially with compound last names. Upper case and lower case do not matter when searching records such as historic newspapers online.

The lack of case sensitivity with Google is also important to know when searching for the definition of an acronym – make sure you put the periods between each letter so that Google knows it is an acronym. **Tip– Write names and places in lowercase when using Google.** In addition to case sensitivity, many first names are abbreviated in historic records. Charles becomes Chas, Edward becomes Edw and Caroline becomes Car. We maintain the most complete list of first name abbreviations on the internet at [First Name Abbreviations](#). You might want to bookmark this list and refer to it regularly when searching for ancestors. We also maintain a list of [City Directory Abbreviations](#) and a [List of Occupation Abbreviations](#).

Country Bias Google runs search engines in most of the major countries of the world. If you are located outside of the United States and you type in www.google.com then chances are that Google will redirect you to the Google search engine in your country. They do this for a variety of reasons, but mainly to make their searches faster and (more importantly for genealogy) they assume that most users have a home country bias in the search results that Google presents.

Genealogists, however, are not like most other Google users and this subtle but distinct country bias that Google imparts in its search results can have a profound impact on the likelihood of success with genealogy searches. You want to make sure you use this bias to your advantage.

In general, when searching for an ancestor it is best to use the Google search engine in the country that contains the ancestral record. For example, say you are living in the United States but you are looking for an ancestor in the UK. When you go to the Google website, you will be directed to www.google.com because you live in the United States.

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OCCUPATION ABBREVIATIONS

ab above
 agcy agency
 agt agent
 al alley
 agrl agricultural
 apt apartment
 assn, Ass'n Association
 auto automobile
 av, Av avenue
 b, bdg, bds boards
 (room and board)
 bdg hse boarding house
 bet between
 bldg building
 blk block
 blvd, boul boulevard
 br branch
 bros brothers
 c, cor corner
 causew causeway
 ch, Ch church
 chmbrs chambers - See more at:
[www.genealogyintime.com/
 dictionary/city-](http://www.genealogyintime.com/dictionary/city-) 7 NOV 2014

