

# Kith and Kin

Official Newsletter of the Marshfield Area Genealogy Group

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## Archives Recalls Fire That Claimed Millions of Military Personnel Files

By Kerri Lawrence | National Archives News

WASHINGTON, July 23, 2018 — The National Archives and Records Administration recently marked the 45th anniversary of a devastating fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri, that destroyed approximately 16–18 million Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF) documenting the service history of former military personnel discharged from 1912 to 1964.

Shortly after midnight on July 12, 1973, a fire was reported at the NPRC's military personnel records building in St. Louis, Missouri. The fire burned out of control for 22 hours and it took two days before firefighters were able to re-enter the building. Due to the extensive damage, investigators were never able to determine the source of the fire.

The National Archives focused its immediate attention on salvaging as much as possible and quickly resuming operations at the facility. Even before the final flames were out, staff at the NPRC had begun work toward these efforts as vital records were removed from the burning building for safekeeping.

“In terms of loss to the cultural heritage of our nation, the [1973 NPRC fire](#) was an unparalleled disaster,” Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero said. “In the aftermath of the blaze, recovery and reconstruction efforts took place at an unprecedented level. Thanks to such recovery efforts and the use of alternate sources to reconstruct files, today's NPRC is able to continue its primary mission of *(continued on page 3)*”



A fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, on July 12, 1973, destroyed approximately 16–18 million Official Military Personnel Files. (National Archives photo)

## President's Message

Dear Friends,

I am trying to get caught back up and apologize for the last few newsletters being sent out a little late. So this is my effort to get back on track and a little more prepared for a busy Fall schedule. Between being at the FGS Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the Minnesota State Genealogical Society's Conference and the Illinois State Genealogical Society's Conference, we will be hosting the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society's Fall Seminar and Pre-Conference on October 12 & 13th, here in Marshfield at Hotel Marshfield. Please, just a quick reminder, that we will need door prizes and volunteers to stuff bags and to help on that Saturday. Sign up sheet will be going around at the next two meetings.

Now for something new...Below is the beginning of a new feature column on DNA. I am asked many questions on DNA and thought this might be a good way to answer some of the questions and provide a little extra information from a reliable source, MyHeritage. So enjoy. Hopefully you will gain a better understanding of DNA and how DNA testing can help you learn about yourself and your family.

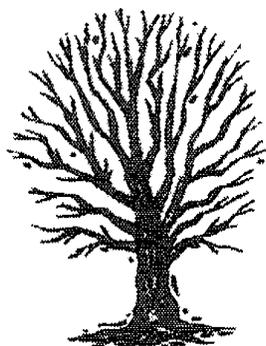
Vickie

## DNA Basics Chapter 1: A New Blog Series

by Aaron, November 9, 2017

Hi, I'm Yael and as a new member of the MyHeritage team, I'm excited to share with you a new DNA Basics blog series. I completed my Ph.D. research in medical neurobiology at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem where I also taught physiology in the medical school. My laboratory specialized in genetic approaches to answering research questions. I'm proud to join MyHeritage, where we help millions of people find new family members and discover their ethnic origins.

*(continued on page 6, "DNA")*



## MAGG Officers and Committees

President: [Vickie Schnitzler](#) (2019)  
 Vice President: [Jennifer Witzel](#) (2018)  
 Secretary: [Lorraine Rogers](#) (2018)  
 Treasurer: [Noreen Moen](#) (2019)  
 Member at Large: [Keri Likes](#) (2018)  
 Member at Large: [Lori Belongia](#) (2019)  
 Newsletter Editor: [Vickie Schnitzler](#)  
 Program: [Don Schnitzler](#)  
 Membership: [Jennifer Witzel](#)  
 (Year office expires is in parentheses.)

The Marshfield Area Genealogy Group is an affiliate of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society.

Our purpose is to provide meetings and programs of genealogical interest and to provide instruction in genealogical procedures. Also to collect, preserve, and disseminate genealogical data found in the Marshfield area and/or relative to the people of the Marshfield Area.

Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month except November and December.

## Membership Information

Our membership year is from May 1 to April 30. Individual membership per year is \$12.00 and a Family membership is \$15.00 per year. For hardcopy newsletter add \$6. Membership Forms can be downloaded from our website <http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/> and returned with payment to us at: MAGG, P.O. Box 337, Marshfield, WI 54449.

*(continued front page)*

“serving our country's military and civil servants.”

Removal and salvage of water- and fire-damaged records from the building was the most important priority, according to NPRC Director Scott Levins. Standing water—combined with the high temperatures and humidity—created a situation ripe for mold growth. This work led to the recovery of approximately 6.5 million burned and water-damaged records, Levins said.

The estimated loss of Army personnel records for those discharged from November 1, 1912, to January 1, 1950, was about 80 percent. In addition, approximately 75 percent of Air Force personnel records for those discharged from September 25, 1947, through January 1, 1964 (with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E.) were also destroyed in the catastrophe.

However, in the years following the fire, the NPRC collected numerous series of records (referred to as Auxiliary Records) that are used to reconstruct basic service information.

Bryan McGraw, access coordinator at the NPRC, emphasized the gravity of the loss of the actual primary source records. “Unfortunately, the loss of 16–18 million individual records has had a significant impact on the lives of not only those veterans, but also on their families and dependents,” McGraw said. “We can usually prove eligibility for benefits and get the vet or next of kin their entitlements; however, we cannot recreate the individual file to what it was—we don't know what was specifically in each file, and each of these was as different as each of us as individuals. So from a purely historic or genealogical perspective, that material was lost forever.”

In the days following the fire, recovery teams faced the issue of how to salvage fire-damaged records as well as how to dry the millions of water-soaked records. Initially, NPRC staffers shipped these water-damaged records in plastic milk crates to a temporary facility at the civilian records center where hastily constructed drying racks had been assembled from spare shelving. When it was discovered that McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corporation in St. Louis had vacuum-drying facilities, the NPRC diverted its water-damaged records there for treatment using a

*(continued on page 12)*



*(above & below) A fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, on July 12, 1973, destroyed approximately 16–18 million Official Military Personnel Files. (National Archives photos)*



*Recovery efforts at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, salvage documents after a fire on July 12, 1973, destroyed approximately 16–18 million Official Military Personnel Files.*



*Preservation staff must restore and preserve documents nearly destroyed in a fire at the National Personnel Records Center staff in St. Louis, Missouri, on July 12, 1973. (National Archives photo)*

## OldNews USA – an Online Search of Old Newspapers

Dick Eastman's Blog - July 12, 2018

**OldNews USA** is the app that won the RootsTech 2017 Innovator Showdown. It makes it easy to find interesting stories and articles in historical US newspapers, using the Library of Congress' *Chronicling America* collection of over 11 million newspaper pages from 1789 to 1943. Quoting from the OldNews web site:

“Designed for both genealogists and history enthusiasts, OldNews USA makes getting started with historical newspaper research easier than ever. With OldNews USA, you can quickly discover interesting stories and articles in historical US newspapers, using the Library of Congress *Chronicling America* collection of over 12 million newspaper pages from 1789 to 1963.

With OldNews USA, you begin by entering who or what you are looking for. If you

want to find articles about a person, all you need to enter is a name, a date range, and a location.

OldNews USA uses this information to automatically suggest the newspapers that are most likely to contain articles about your person. Furthermore, it automatically creates search suggestions that you can use to populate the advanced search screens, without any additional data entry. The list of search suggestions contains variations of the person's name, since you never know how the name may appear in the newspaper. All you need to do is select a search suggestion and go!

When you view a newspaper page, you can view each highlighted search term by tapping the screen. The app will automatically zoom in to the next matching term each time you tap the screen. When you review the last search term, the app tells you that you re-  
*(continued on page 7, “OldNews”)*

The screenshot displays the OldNews USA mobile application interface. At the top, there is a green header with the app name and navigation icons. The main content is organized into several panels:

- Last Search:** Shows a search for "St. Johnsbury Caledonian" from 1880 - 1915 with the exact phrase "Catherine Nelson". A "SELECT PREVIOUS SEARCH" button is visible.
- Current Goal:** Displays the current search goal: "Catherine Nelson" (1880 - 1915) in "Saint Johnsbury, Vermont" (powered by Google). It includes "RESEARCH LOG" and "MANAGE GOALS" options.
- Get Started!:** A section titled "What do you want to find in the newspapers?" with a button for "ARTICLES ABOUT A PERSON".
- Search Suggestions:** A list of suggestions based on the current goal, including variations of the newspaper name and exact phrases like "Catherine Nelson", "C. Nelson", "Mrs. Nelson", and "All within 10 words: Nelson Catherine".
- Newspaper Suggestions:** A list of newspapers closest to Saint Johnsbury Vermont, including "St. Johnsbury Caledonian" (0.0 miles, 2598 issues), "Essex County herald Guildhall, VT" (19.0 miles, 2298 issues), "Orleans County monitor Barton, VT" (24.0 miles, 2646 issues), "Barre evening enterprise Barre, VT" (28.0 miles, 31 issues), "Cronaca sovversiva Barre, VT" (28.0 miles, 773 issues), and "Barre evening telegram Barre, VT" (28.0 miles, 1363 issues). It includes "SEARCH" and "BROWSE NEWSPAPERS" buttons.

## Why You Can't Find Land Records

Amy Johnson Crow's Blog, posted on July 19, 2018

Land records can give us loads of information about our ancestors. But what do you do when you go through the deed index and you can't find your ancestor's land records? There are some reasons why you're not finding them. Fortunately, there are some ways around it.

Before we get into it, let's get this out of the way... **Your ancestor might not have owned land.** However, before you decide to skip land records completely, consider that your ancestor might appear in records other than deeds. Could he have attempted to purchase land? Look in mortgage records which are sometimes available in the same office that records deeds. Look also for records of tenant farming and sharecropping agreements.

### You're Looking in the Wrong County

Most states weren't formed with all of their counties already in place. County boundaries evolved over time. The records are going to be **in the county where the land was at that time.** My ancestor Peter Starkey purchased land in what is now Perry County, Ohio. However, when he bought it, that land was still part of Fairfield County. I would have to look in Fairfield County's records for the purchase.

Similarly, if you can't find a sale of land you know your ancestor had, look to see where that land was located. Is it now in a different county? If so, you need to look in that other county for the sale.

### He Didn't Record a Deed

Deeds cost money to file. They also require a trip to the courthouse. If your ancestors were like mine and they were cheap... I mean, frugal... **they might have skipped recording the deed** if they had another document that proved the transfer of ownership.

Several of my early Ohio ancestors purchased land directly from the Federal government, yet never recorded that purchase with the County Recorder. They probably figured that the certificate they received from the Federal land office was good enough.

I've also seen countless examples of people receiving



land in a will, but who never recorded that transfer at the Recorders Office.

### He Isn't Listed by Name

If your ancestor sold land as part of a group, perhaps with his or her siblings, he might not be listed in the grantor (seller) index by name. Some clerks wouldn't list everyone who was party to the deed. Instead, **they would index the first person and add "et al" (Latin for "and others").** If your ancestor wasn't the first in the list, he would be part of the "et al."

How to work around this is to look through the index for people associated with your ancestor, especially the siblings. Are there any deeds listed as *Smith, John et al*? That's your clue to take a look at that deed, because there are other people besides John Smith in it.

But what if you don't know your ancestor's siblings? Look through the index for anyone with that surname. Focus first on the records of land in the same area where your ancestor was.

### He Didn't Sell the Land Himself

If your ancestor fell onto some hard times, he might have lost his land. In those cases, **the deed might not reflect him as the seller.** The seller might be the bank he lost it to or even the county Sheriff or other official. The deed might reference how the bank or Sheriff came to sell this land (often mentioning court cases, giving you another research lead), but how do you get into these records if you don't know who is considered the seller and you don't know who purchased it?

*(continued on page 7, "Land Records")*

*(continued from page 2, "DNA")*

A lot of people ask me how it all works. What are we really looking at when we analyze your sample in our lab? This new DNA Basics blog series will answer some of the most commonly asked questions by MyHeritage DNA users about the science behind DNA testing for family history.

This series will explain DNA for non-scientists. Are you interested in learning about DNA in general, curious about your personal Ethnicity Estimate results, or are you looking for a deeper understanding of how this tool can take your genealogical journey to the next level? If the answer is yes, DNA Basics is for you.

### **Genetics 101**

Our bodies are composed of cells. The headquarters of each cell is the nucleus. Inside each nucleus is an identical copy of the unique instruction manual for YOU, written in DNA. There are more than 30 trillion cells in our bodies and, in each nucleus, is a copy of your DNA. No one else's DNA is exactly like yours. So if you know how to read your DNA you can learn much about who you really are.

### **Inheriting DNA**

We inherit 50% of our DNA from our mother and 50% from our father. They each received 50% of their DNA from their mother, and 50% from their father. So when we look at your DNA, we're looking at about half of your mom's and half of your dad's, which is about 25% of each of your grandparents, or 12.5% of each of your great-grandparents. In other words, by looking at your DNA, we can see little pieces of all your ancestors who together gave you the exact combination of DNA you have today.

### **Sharing DNA**

It follows that two people, who have inherited DNA from the same source, will have some common DNA. For example, a daughter who received 50% of her mother's DNA and 50% of her father's DNA, will share some of the same DNA as her brother, who also inherited half of his DNA from each parent. The siblings may have inherited a different 50% of each parent's DNA, and so the siblings won't have identical DNA but they will have about 50% in common.

That means you have 50% of your DNA in common with your mother, 50% in common with your father,

and 50% in common with each of your siblings. Two anonymous DNA samples with 50% overlap might be a brother and a sister, or a child and a parent. To identify the relationship, we first look at the gender of the samples. Males will have a Y chromosome in their DNA sample and females won't. Next, we look at the age of the sample donor, if we have it. That part isn't written in the DNA itself. Knowing those three pieces of information — the amount of DNA in common between the two samples (in the current example, 50%), the donors' genders, and the donors' ages — is enough to give a good estimate of the relationship between the sample donors. Two people with 50% DNA in common, both female, 30 years apart in age, are most likely mother and daughter.

### **DNA and you**

DNA carries the code for YOU — your eye color, hair color, height, even whether you hate the taste of coriander, is written in your DNA. That's why two people with common DNA have common features. The more DNA in common, the more features you would expect to have in common. If you've always been told you look like your mother, or have your father's nose, or if people who have never met your siblings know you're related the instant they meet them, now you know why!

### **DNA and your family**

While you have a large portion of DNA in common with close relatives, you have a smaller portion in common with more distant relatives. Two distant cousins who have never met but have a common ancestor will have a small piece of DNA inherited from that ancestor in common. That's the basis for using DNA tests to discover relatives you otherwise wouldn't know about.

How small a portion of common DNA depends on how many generations back the common ancestor was. Combined with our huge database of family trees where we have the types of clues discussed above (such as gender and age), MyHeritage DNA has reunited families all over the world. Check out real user stories at [MyHeritage Stories](#).

### **DNA and your family's past**

Generations ago, people didn't move around as much as we do today. They didn't fly cross-country or across oceans. Most people married and died in the same region where they were born. Because people

*(continued on page 7, "DNA")*

*(continued from page 4, "OldNews")*

viewed all matches. When you compare this experience to using a web browser, you will never want to use a web browser for newspaper research again!

Genealogists and historians will love these advanced research features:

- Enable automatic research logging for a Goal, which saves every search, page view, and action to a research log, which can be exported as a csv file for easy import into your favorite spreadsheet app
- Automatically generated source citation for every page that you save
- Save your discoveries and citations to DropBox, Google Drive, Evernote, or any other app of your choosing
- Research dashboard that preserves the context of your research, making it easy to pick up where you last left off

OldNews USA includes a database of all the newspaper titles available on the Chronicling America site. Searching this data is fast, since it is part of the app and always available on your device.

OldNews USA is free to try, including all research features. After a successful search and file save, a one time in-app purchase is required to continue using the app.

I am guessing that about 99% of the results found will be in U.S. newspapers. It normally doesn't find newspapers outside the U.S.

OldNews USA is a cloud-based application that runs on Android and Chromebook computers. A new version for Apple iOS (iPads, iPhones, and iPod touch systems) is promised but is not yet available. You can save your discoveries and citations to DropBox, Google Drive, Evernote, or any other app of your choosing.

OldNews USA is free to try, including all research features. After a successful search and article save, a one time in-app purchase of \$3.99 is required to continue using the app. Details may be found at <https://revgenea.com/>.

(from <https://blog.eogn.com/2018/07/12/oldnews-usa-an-online-search-of-old-newspapers/>)

*(continued from page 5, "Land Records")*

There are two ways around this problem. First, see if there is a **geographic index** to the deeds in the county. (In some places where they used a rectangular survey, it's called a Range Book.) Look up the property description and follow the transactions back to where your ancestor acquired it; the next transaction would be the next person acquiring it. Now that you have the buyer's name, you can look up that person in the grantee (buyer) index.

If the area doesn't have a geographic index, **look at tax records**. Real property tax lists generally include the legal description of the land. Read the tax list for your ancestor being taxed on that land. When he drops off the list, read the next year's tax list but instead of looking by name, scan the columns for the legal description. Once you find it, see who is being taxed on it. Now that you have that person's name, look him up in the grantee (buyer) index to see how he acquired it.

(from <https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/why-you-cant-find-land-records/>)

*(continued from page 6, "DNA")*

married other people from the same region, and had children who then married in the same region, a correlation can be seen between DNA and geographic location. This was especially true for geographically isolated places like the island of Ireland.

Sometimes this insular DNA inheritance wasn't necessarily geographic — it may have been cultural. For example, Jews or Mennonite Christians married and had children within their own groups for generation after generation, creating a correlation between DNA and cultural identity.

When you do a MyHeritage DNA test, we compare your DNA to our models of DNA from different ethnicities to see which ones you match. MyHeritage Ethnicity Estimates include 42 ethnicities. Reading DNA Basics will help you understand more about how we're able to provide the best ethnicity breakdowns in the market.

### Stay tuned

We hope you'll follow the series for a better understanding of DNA and how DNA testing can help you learn about yourself and your family.

(from <https://blog.myheritage.com/2017/11/new-blog-series-dna-basics-begins-today/?ga=2.260450318.2040440814.1533150906-543927690.1533150906>)

## Odds and Ends from the 1940's

*Items Reprinted from the Marshfield News Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin*

### JOHN HESSLERS WED 50 YEARS

#### Open House is Held at Home in Vesper

(By News Herald Correspondent)

**Vesper** - Open house was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Hessler in Vesper Sunday afternoon, in celebration of their golden wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Hessler were married in St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Seneca Corners by Rev. Mr. Bittner of Wisconsin Rapids on Sept. 22, 1890. Their attendants, Mrs. William Jackson of Seneca Corners, and Mrs. Charles Gibson, Herman Hessler, and A. C. Gilmaster, all of Wisconsin Rapids, were present at Sunday's celebration.

Mr. Hessler, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Hessler, was born in Manitowoc County March 22, 1868. When he was 12 years old he worked as assistant cook in lumber camps, and became regular cook at 16, an occupation he followed until he was 30.

#### Have Five Children

In 1881 he came to Wood County, locating in Vesper. Thirteen years later he purchased 54 acres of land at the edge of the village, the present Hessler home.

Mrs. Hessler, nee Carolina Gilmaster, was born Sep, Calif. Mrs. Taylor was unable to attend the celebration. t. 21, 1870, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Gilmaster of Wauwatosa. She has been a resident of Wood County since 1876.

The Hesslers have five children: Mrs. John Dabel, Antigo; Miss Ella Hessler and Mrs. Philip Morey, Waukesha; Mrs. Roy Murgatroyd, Port Edwards; and Mrs. E. C. Taylor, Oakland, Calif. Mrs. Taylor was unable to attend the celebration.

#### Many Guests Attend

Guests here on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Hessler, Delevan; Mr. and Mrs. Philip Morey and family and Miss Ella Hessler, Waukesha; Mr. and Mrs. John Dabel and family, Antigo; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Murgatroyd and sons. Howard and Neal, Port Edwards, and daughter, Ethel Mae, who attends teachers college at Whitewater; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Frederick, Sheboygan; Mr. and Mrs. John Flanagan, Mr.

and Mrs. Charles Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Gilmaster, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Gilmaster, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Billmeyer, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hessler and son, Bernard, Mr. and Mrs. James Miller, and Mr. and Mrs. Rollie Murgatroyd, all of Wisconsin Rapids; and Mr. and Mrs. William Jackson, Seneca Corners. (from the Marshfield News Herald, September 27, 1940, page 9, column 3.)

\* \* \* \*

### LOCAL TOT TAKES CITIZENSHIP OATH

#### Only Four Years Old, But Roberta Reid is Taking No Chances

**Wisconsin Rapids** - Taking nothing, not even citizenship, for granted, tiny 4-year-old Roberta Reid of Marshfield today repeated the oath of citizenship with her mother and 28 other Wood County residents who were naturalized in Circuit Court here.

The tiny tot, listening intently while her mother, Mrs. Hedwig Reid, and the other applicants answered the questions of Naturalization Examiner LaMont Eaton of Milwaukee. Roberta solemnly arose and repeated the oath when they did.

Her mother said the child was accustomed to repeating the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Others besides Mrs. Reid to whom citizenship was granted were John R. Dorn, Paul Tyrolt, August Berlin, Patrick Lyons, Hans H. Paulson and Frank Boyance, Marshfield; Gustave Schroeder, John J. Hentz, Hedwig Wittbold, Harold E. Anderson, Lotte Paulowitz, Nima Johnson, Kaspara Scank, Hattie Scheunemann, Joseph Smits, John Sandstrom, Kryn Hamelink, and Ellen Engstrand, Wisconsin Rapids; Kate Wilke, Nekoosa; Karoline Berg, John Debevec, and Frederick Gunther, Pittsville; Agnes Hahn, Rock Township; Martha Broecker, Carl G. Anderson, John O. A. Anderson, Arpin; Sister May Ludgera, Hewitt; and Wenzel Berdan, Milladore.

Technicalities resulted in continuance of the hearings of Christ Schultz, Nekoosa; Adell Leland and Alfred Biot, Wisconsin Rapids, and Rudolph Fleischhauer, Arpin, another applicant, was absent.

Henning Engstrand of Wisconsin Rapids, the 35th applicant, discovered that he was already a citizen, having been granted that status while an American soldier in the World War but never having received his citizenship papers.

*(from the Marshfield News Herald, October 1, 1940, page 2, column 4.)*

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## **RODDIS FAMILY HONORED GUESTS OF ROTARY CLUB**

### **50th Anniversary of Roddis Factory Observed**

Approximately 80 Marshfield men and women gathered at the Rotary Ann dinner given by the Rotary Club at the Hotel Charles last night to honor the Hamilton Roddis family and Miss Frances Roddis on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Factor in this city.

In the words of Charles M. Pors who introduced the speaker of the evening, Hamilton Roddis, "A group of home folks gathered to offer heartiest congratulations to another group of home folks."

Complete informality was the keynote of the banquet, and as Dr. Karl Doege, Rotary chairman of the month, aptly put it, no attempt was made at "high and mighty sounding phrases."

### **History of business**

Expressions of gratitude for the years of hard work and tireless effort put forth by the Roddis family in making their factory the greatest of its kind in the world were offered by members of the Club chosen to speak for the group.

Mr. Pors gave a brief history of the progress of the factory from the time of its founding, in 1890, to the present date.

W. H. Roddis, father of Hamilton and Frances Roddis, took over the reigns some 46 years ago, three years after the founding of the company. At that time, he found himself with an insolvent business, in strange territory, and in a branch of work with which he was entirely unfamiliar. His determination to succeed was so strong, however, that within 25 years, the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Factory was well on the way to success that it now enjoys.

Hamilton Roddis, in his remarks following Mr. Pors' introduction, elaborated on the traits of his father that made possible the surmounting of the many obstacles along the way. An insatiable thirst for knowledge, a sternness tempered with an understanding of and a love for humanity, and an inexhaustible supply of energy - all these were responsible for the growth of his great enterprise.

Mr. Roddis' talk was interspersed with clever stories and reminiscences that delighted his audience. In closing, he expressed his great appreciation of the fidelity, thrift, and good citizenship of the employees who have served him so faithfully and well.

### **Resolution Offered**

W. R. Kenney brought a close to the evening's program by offering the following resolution, which was unanimously accepted by the Rotarians:

"Being fully cognizant of the many years of service rendered to this community by Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Roddis and Miss Frances Roddis, during which tie many and grave responsibilities have had to be met in the successful operation of the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company and in further recognition of the enviable position of this institution as the largest and greatest of its kind in the world, doing a worldwide business and bringing honor and international recognition to this community: Now be it resolved, that this Rotary Club extend to our honored guests this tangible evidence of our real and deep appreciation. And be it further resolved, that the Rotary Club of Marshfield present to Hamilton an Honorary Life Membership in this club, granting him the privilege of attending our meetings and functions whenever he may find it convenient to do so."

Following the adjournment of the meeting by Lloyd Felker, president of the Club and toastmaster of the evening, Mr. and Mrs. Roddis, daughter, Augusta, and son, William, and Miss Frances Roddis stood in line to receive the individual well wishes and congratulations of the Rotarians and their guests.

*(from the Marshfield News Herald, October 1, 1940, page 7, column 1.)*

*(More 1940's articles to be continued in next issue)*

**Clark County Wisconsin Homesteaders**  
**Homesteading Act of May 20, 1862: Homestead Entry Original (12 Stat. 392)**

*(Continued from last issue of "Kith N Kin")*

Names	Date	Doc #	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #
MILES, WILLIAM	8/10/1875	1110	026N - 001W	E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	13
			026N - 001W	N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	24
MILLER, GEORGE F	9/20/1884	2996	029N - 001E	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	22
MILLER, THOMAS H	12/19/1885	5296	023N - 001E	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	26
MILTENBERGER, CHARLES	10/1/1874	783	026N - 001E	E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	27
			026N - 001E	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	27
			026N - 001E	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	27
MILTIMORE, JAMES A	4/30/1880	2095	029N - 001E	E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	8
MITCHELL, WARNER B	9/15/1871	298	026N - 001W	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	10
MITTIMORE, DANIEL	9/20/1875	1128	029N - 001E	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	14
MOELLER, HENRY HERMAN	5/18/1925	04577	027N - 004W	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	18
MOH, CHRISTIAN	6/15/1874	2319	023N - 001W	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	18
MOLDENHAUER, MICHAEL F	5/10/1875	2752	024N - 001E	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	18
MONROE, CLARK C	6/1/1880	4156	023N - 002W	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	26
MOORE, JOHN	5/10/1882	2440	028N - 004W	S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	15
			028N - 004W	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	15
MOORE, LYNUS	6/13/1878	1711	028N - 003W	W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	7
			028N - 003W	W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	18
			028N - 003W	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	18
MORSE, FRANK	4/26/1902	6313	023N - 003W	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	34
			023N - 003W	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	34
MULLER, GERMAN	5/15/1877	1487	029N - 001E	W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	20
			029N - 001E	W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	20
NAGEL, AUGUST	1/31/1890	3654	026N - 001W	W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	6
			026N - 001W	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	6
NAVRATILL, JOSEPH	6/25/1920	04011	027N - 003W	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	3
NEITZEL, AUGUST	2/15/1889	3410	029N - 001W	W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	14
NEITZEL, WILLIAM	5/14/1890	3770	029N - 001W	W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	14
NELSON, ANDREW	4/30/1880	2097	029N - 001E	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	14
NEUBECKER, WILHELM	3/12/1908	6019	023N - 002W	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	35
NEVERMAN, WILLIAM	2/9/1898	5602	023N - 002W	N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	2
			023N - 002W	N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	2

Names	Date	Doc #	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #
NEVERMAN, WILLIAM	10/18/1898	5602	023N - 003W	N½SW¼	2
			023N - 003W	N½SE¼	2
NEVILLE, MARTIN	3/1/1875	988	027N - 002W	S½NE¼	3
			027N - 002W	N½SE¼	3
NEWCOMB, JOSEPH A	6/1/1878	1552	028N - 001E	NW¼	32
NEWCOMB, WILLIAM H	10/1/1880	2139	025N - 003W	S½SE¼	2
NICHOLS, GEORGE W	10/1/1880	2109	027N - 001E	W½SE¼	12
NICHOLS, JOSEPH	3/1/1876	1264	026N - 001E	SE¼	2
NICHOLS, MILO L	10/1/1874	768	025N - 003W	SE¼	24
NICHOLS, THEODORE	3/1/1876	1285	026N - 001E	W½NW¼	2
NICHOLS, WILLIAM	11/5/1878	1773	026N - 001E	NE¼NW¼	2
			026N - 001E	NW¼NE¼	2
NORMAN, ERVIN	10/25/1895	5208	023N - 003W	N½SW¼	30
			023N - 003W	S½NW¼	30
NORTON, JOSEPH B	12/15/1879	1832	029N - 001E	SE¼NE¼	12
			029N - 001E	N½SE¼	12
			029N - 001E	SW¼SE¼	12
NUTTING, AMASA	5/15/1876	3178	024N - 003W	SE¼	2
NUTTING, RHODOLPHUS L	6/24/1878	3663	024N - 003W	E½SW¼	2
OLDHAM, AARON	2/20/1877	3368	023N - 002W	E½NE¼	10
			023N - 002W	SW¼NE¼	10
			023N - 002W	NE¼SE¼	10
OLSON, ANDREW	4/30/1880	2004	029N - 001E	S½NW¼	30
			029N - 001E	N½SW¼	30
OLSON, DORE, AMUNSEN, PETER	4/15/1875	2731	023N - 002W	E½SE¼	18
OLSON, GILBERT	4/10/1882	2390	029N - 001W	S½NE¼	36
OSTROM, JEROME B	7/13/1875	1066	027N - 002W	NW¼NW¼	34
PADDOCK, CHESTER M	4/10/1882	2319	028N - 001E	S½SW¼	12
PALMER, WILLIAM	6/1/1878	1688	025N - 003W	E½SE¼	28
PARKER, GEORGE W	10/1/1874	782	027N - 001W	E½SW¼	25
			027N - 001W	E½NW¼	36

(To be continued in next issue)

(Continued from page 3)

vacuum-dry process in a chamber large enough to accommodate approximately 2,000 plastic milk cartons of water- and fire-damaged records.

"This is a somber anniversary," Levins said. "In terms of the number of records lost and lives impacted, you could not find a greater records disaster. Although it's now been 45 years since the fire, we still expend the equivalent of more than 40 full-time personnel each year who work exclusively on responding to requests involving records lost in the fire."

Much has been written about the fire and its aftermath. A white paper, *The National Personnel Records Center Fire: A Study in Disaster*, provides an extensive account. It was originally published in October of 1974 in *The American Archivist*, Vol. 37, No. 4. In addition, *Prologue* magazine published "[Burnt in Memory: Looking back, looking forward at the 1973 St. Louis Fire.](#)"

Each year, the NPRC connects more than a million veterans with their OMPFs as part of the National Archives' services to the nation.

(from <https://www.archives.gov/news/articles/archives-recalls-fire>)



On July 12, 1973, a devastating fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri, damaged or destroyed approximately 16–18 million Official Military Personnel Files documenting the service history of former military personnel discharged from 1912 to 1964. (National Archives photo)



Preservation staff work meticulously to restore and preserve documents that were nearly destroyed in the fire. (National Archives photo)

## MARSHFIELD AREA GENEALOGY GROUP

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## Upcoming Meetings

### **August 30, 2018 (Notice this is a date change to the fifth Thursday!!)**

**Czech Centennial: Charles J. Vopička & the Konopiště Spy.** Anna Cooková, President of Wisconsin Czechs, Inc., will be including in her lecture the importance of getting old articles, letters, and journals translated and ways to help posterity stay connected to those roots. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library, in the Felker Family Genealogy and Local History Room on the second floor.

### **September 27, 2018**

**Finding the Family of Libby Sharp - Building a Case For Family Relationships Using Indirect and Negative Evidence.** MAGG's own Jen Witzel, will be sharing her experience in breaking through a brick wall by thinking a little outside the box and using some of the techniques of Indirect and Negative Evidence.

### **October 25, 2018**

**"Dearly Departed"**, A Round-table discussion by members of MAGG on interesting obituaries that they have found during their genealogical research. They will highlight interesting leads and clues to helping with their research.

### **November/December - No Meetings**

**Meetings of the Marshfield Area Genealogy Group are regularly held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library upstairs in the Felker Family Genealogy and Local History Room, except July (month of our family picnic) and November & December (no meetings) unless otherwise specified.**