



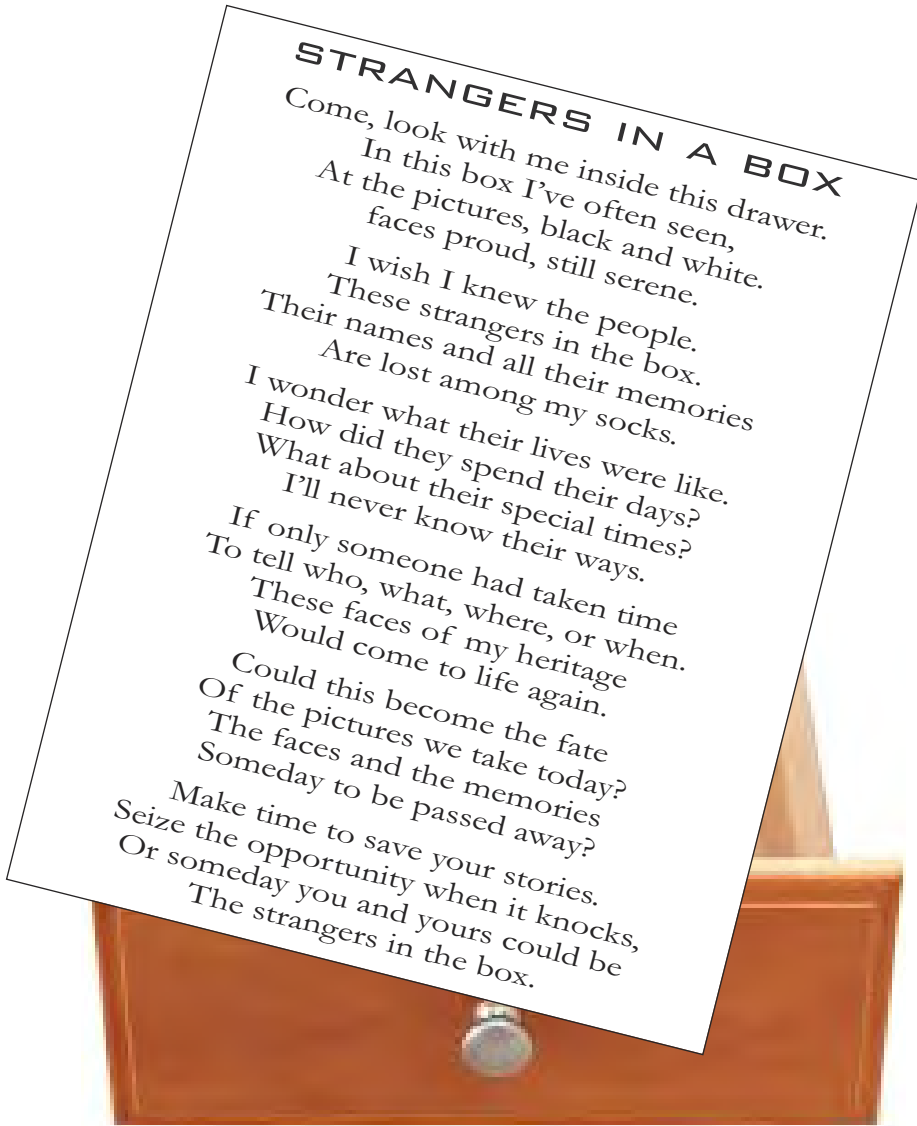
Price County Genealogical Society

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STRANGERS IN A BOX

Come, look with me inside this drawer.
In this box I've often seen,
At the pictures, black and white,
faces proud, still serene.
I wish I knew the people.
These strangers in the box.
Their names and all their memories
Are lost among my socks.
I wonder what their lives were like.
How did they spend their days?
What about their special times?
I'll never know their ways.
If only someone had taken time
To tell who, what, where, or when.
These faces of my heritage
Would come to life again.
Could this become the fate
Of the pictures we take today?
The faces and the memories
Someday to be passed away?
Make time to save your stories.
Seize the opportunity when it knocks,
Or someday you and yours could be
The strangers in the box.

PRICE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

CALENDAR

Mar 31, 2020 ..	Ogema WI Library	Program: Great Lakes: The Third Coast.....	1 p.m.
Apr 3-4.....	WSGS Gene-A-Rama Conference Workshop Manitowoc, Wisconsin		
Apr 28.....	Phillips WI Normal Building.....	Book Review <i>Bohemian Girl in America</i>	1 p.m.
May 26	Jump River Valley Museum Field Trip W9224 U.S. Highway 8		1 p.m.
Sept 29	Phillips, WI Court House	Military Records in Price County	1 p.m.
Oct 27	Ogema WI Library	"Who Gets Grandma's Pie Plate?"	1 p.m.
Nov 24	Phillips Normal Building.....	Annual Meeting	1 p.m.

ROSE (WAGNER) BATZER – TEACHER: TAYLOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Karen Baumgartner

During a recent visit, my aunt Harriet Batzer Reese, brought out a strong box made by her father, Herman Batzer. Harriet's mother, Rose Batzer, born in 1888, was a teacher. I was delighted to find that this small safe contained a packet of documents that detailed the rich history of Rose's education and teaching career.

Each item represents a milestone in her career or education. The earliest surviving document is her report card from Medford High School, her sophomore year, 1903 – 1904. Her name on this report card is "Rosa". The name "Rosa" also appears on her 1945 Certificate of Membership to Wisconsin State Retirement System. She evidently used this report card as proof of her high school attendance or used the name Rosa as well as Rose and Rosalie throughout her teaching years. Her parents, Marie (Cuny) and Charles Wagner, signed the back of the report card.

A document that testifies to Rose's teaching career includes a "Teacher's Second Grade Certificate" that she received in 1910. This licensed her to teach in Taylor County for three years. She reported attending the two-week Teacher Institute in Medford in 1903, 1904, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1910, and 1911.

A summary of her education and teaching experience was sent to the Taylor County Superintendent of Schools in 1951. The strongbox contains her worksheets for this project. She has written "Copy" on each document in pencil, or pen. Undoubtedly the forms sent to the county were in pen, in her perfect Palmer Method penmanship. This document summarizes her school and teaching experience over a period of sixty years. Her elementary school years are documented as "1892 – 1901, Medford city and Medford rural". Since she lived with her family in the Town of Browning (a picture survives with her class in front of the Mathy School in 1895) it is unclear what year she attended elementary school in the city of Medford. Her report of the first years of teaching, 1904 – 1907 are in Stetsonville, Deer Creek and Browning. The name of the school where she taught in the Town of Browning may have been Hana School. In 1906 - 1907 she taught at Spiel School in rural Westboro, near the Indian village.

The earliest surviving Teacher's Contract is the year 1912 for the Joint School District No. 1 of the Town and Village of Rib Lake. This is the year she taught at the Ward School in the Village of Rib Lake for \$50.00 a month. She reported teaching at Spirit Lake, Gad, and Mud Lake, all one-room rural schools, before 1912. After the 1912 – 1913 school year is a gap in the records. She married Herman Batzer, a tinsmith, on August 28, 1913, and raised a family of six children. She returned to teaching during World War II when every available substitute teacher was employed when male teachers were called up to serve in

the military. She taught at Fawn Valley, near Rib Lake for six weeks in 1942. Although it is not written on her Experience Summary to the Taylor County Superintendent, she received a one-year permit to teach at Fawn Valley (upper grades) in August 1943. Rose taught regularly from that time until her retirement in 1955.

Ever the adult learner, when Rose's son David was a senior in high school, Rose attended chemistry and science classes at Rib Lake High and took classes by mail, earning her high school diploma in 1946. She could then matriculate at State Teachers College at Stevens Point for summer sessions and receive a lifetime teaching license. Rose taught at Rib Lake Elementary School in 1955, her last year. One of her students that year, Carl Ron Marschke, later founded Marquip Inc. (now MarquipWardUnited) and internationally known manufacturing company

(but I digress)

Rose remembered her first teaching assignment, at age 16, in a memoir in her later years. "My mother lengthened my

Batzer continued on page 3

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December. The purpose of the society is
education and assistance in genealogical
research, and development of resources for
genealogical research in Price County.
Contact the society by email at:
pricecountygenealogy@gmail.com



MARY E. BERNARD has gone missing after residence in Kennan on the 1930 census. She was 42 years old, a widow. Born Mary ROSS in 1887 in Wisconsin, she married in Minnesota in 1906 to a Walter WESTON (later WESTON-WILLIAMS), divorced, lived in Colorado and Montana, married again in 1924 to BERNARD. Did she marry again? When and where did she die?

Any insight into this case would be of interest to Terry Kahler of Port Angeles, WA tkahler66@centurylink.net

Batzer continued from page 2

skirts and taught me to coil my braids on the top of my head, and make them stay there. I hope I earned the twenty-eight dollars salary as a teacher and janitor. However, my room, board and laundry were furnished for only six dollars a month. I saved enough to pay my father's taxes that year, plus enough to enable me to go to summer school the next summer."

Teaching was Rose's first love. Cooking and cleaning—not so much. Everyone survived. Her thirty years of homemaking and community involvement is a story for another time.



FROM THE CHAIR

Karen Baumgartner

As you can see, this Chair message is coming to you from a different spot in the newsletter. The *Stranger in a Box* has rather succinctly illustrated our focus with this last 2019 newsletter issue.

Programs this year have been geared toward getting down on paper those stories behind the genealogy research we diligently [well, so we wish] do. These documented facts are important and we want to be as thorough as we possibly can be. Learning about available resources and how to use them is very important. Often that is where a coveted *ab ha* moment comes into play.

But all of us know how utterly overwhelmed we can become when we sit down to document all that information so as to be able to pass it along

to the next genealogist in our family.

Perhaps we should step back a bit. Perhaps we should not be quite so hard on ourselves and should not require a thoroughly completed family tree, all wrapped up in citations and photos and copies of original documents before we pass along what we have.

We should begin to tell the story as we know it. A story perhaps of just a single event that captures something unique or stunning or poignant. Perhaps a description of a place that evokes a memory, gentle or difficult. A recalling of a single ancestor, giving them a chance to be remembered across all these years. It does not matter that every single bit of their life is not documented and cited; we recount what we know and work with what we have.

Rather than always looking to the research we have been doing, perhaps we should look at the small familiar things. Is there a photo of ancestors standing in front of a house, for instance, that evokes a memory? Is a family heirloom or personal treasure just waiting for a story to be written about it?

No, we might not have much in the way of 'facts' but we do have a story we have been told. And sometimes what we do not know makes a good story too.

That is the focus of this newsletter: a sampling of a family story. These 'short' stories can be updated, expanded and verified [or debunked] with found citations and documents ... but in the meantime, we have something tangible we can hand to our family and say, "These are our people."



WRITING TIPS

- Schedule writing time into your day.
This makes it harder to forget or procrastinate.
- Create a timeline.
It's a good way to organize your research.
- Keep your focus tight.
A single event, even a single day in the life of an ancestor, can make a great starting point.
- Keep writing time and research time separate.
Research tends to be addictive — and distracting.
- Remember your audience.
Pick stories that family members will want to read.

Sharon Carmack, Lynn Palermo, Valerie Elkins

THE SCARF MYSTERY

Irene Villarreal

The query was simple enough: Why is Grandmother Sörenson wearing a scarf in her wedding portrait? This question had never been raised, and searching for the answer upended some family stories.

The wedding portrait in question was taken in Thisted Denmark in 1862, no doubt in Skyum, where Sören Sögaard [b 1833]¹ married Dorthe Marie Vestegaard b 1834]. They had two sons who were sailors and died at sea. They had two daughters, Mette [b 1870] and Kirstine [b 1871]. The girls immigrated to America in 1889, going to Chicago where their cousin lived. Sören reluctantly agreed to follow them after Dorthe took to her bed and refused to get up until he did so. Though they were in their mid-50s, they immigrated a year later, with Sören's monthly military pension helping pay for passage. And in a lovely twist, it was Sören [by now in his 80s] who took to his bed each winter, declaring he wouldn't live to Spring. But when Spring arrived and the garden was ready for planting, Sören got out of that bed and went out to tend to the garden he dearly loved and he did so until his death in 1920.

That is the story the family knew and repeated..

But then came the question from a cousin who had never known that story. Constructing the answer became an Ancestor Profile of Sören.

Sören Kristian Jensen Sögaard was born 25 Apr 1833 in Skyum Thisted, which is in Denmark's Jutland peninsula, on the western side of the Limfjord. He was a small landowner in this part of Denmark which was good for farming. He married Dorthe Marie Jensdattir [b 28 Feb 1834] in the Stagstrup parish on 23 Mar 1862.² Their son, Jens Sögaard was born 26 Aug 1862.

Then the second Schleswig-Holstein war erupted; Sören was called up. He served from 12 December 1863 until the Danish loss at Dybøl on 18 April 1864, when his 17th Regiment surrendered to the Germans. He was wounded on that last day of the battle.

The conquered Danes must have been almost immediately discharged home, because in 1865 Sören and Dorthe had their second son, Christen, followed by son Jens Christen [b 1866], daughters Mette [b 1870] and Kirstine [b 1871] and Karen [b 1876].

The children of Sören were born in a time of history when the death of a child was not at all unusual. When King Christian IX, in 1877, awarded the Danish Campaign Medal for the War of 1864 to the veterans still living, Sören was 44 years old, and had only two living children: Mette and Kirstine. He had his portrait taken with Dorthe at the Wilhelm Kjölby Studio in Thisted Storegade, wearing his medal and holding a sheet of paper. Dorthe is seated, wearing a scarf, and holding a white dog on her lap.

Mette and Kirstine emigrated to America in 1889, to join their cousin in Chicago.

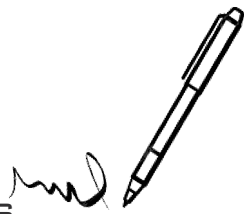
Dorthe was adamant she and her husband follow them, and indeed in 1890, they too emigrated to America, where their last name became Sorenson.

In the 1890's, Kirstine married in Chicago, and died there in childbirth. Dorthe and Sören now had only one living child Mette, called Minnie in America, who married Johannes Mortensen Larsen in Chicago, Illinois in 1894. Sören and Dorthe lived with them, and went with them when they moved to a farm in Union Grove Wisconsin sometime before 1899. Being a farmer again must have warmed the heart of Sören.

In 1914, Denmark located the veterans of the Schleswig-Holstein War, even those who had emigrated. These veterans were to be paid 100 crown per annum for the remainder of their life. [\$14.83 in 2019 US dollars]. What was unexpected is that the Danish Government located these veterans even in America. Sören was 81 years old when this pension began.

He died in March 1920 at the age of 87; Dorthe followed two and a half years later in September 1922. Both are buried next to each other in Union Grove Wisconsin.

Scarf continued on page 5



WRITING WEBSITES

For a google search geared toward writing, here are some options. You will notice this search brings up a page of similar resources, which gives you more options.

In the google search box, type in:

The Secret to Writing a Family History -
Genealogy.com

From the FamilySearch blog site:
familysearch writing tips

If you are more inclined to visual learning, type in:

ancestry.com writing tips [video]

This resource sounds complicated, but many google books are full editions in the public domain.

In the google search box, type in:

<https://books.google.com>

>in search box type in:

10 Easy Steps to Writing Your Family History

>Scroll down and select *Ancestry magazine*-
Jul-Aug 2003

>*Adding Detail to Your Narrative* is on page
19

[note: the layout is a bit funky because this is a magazine layout scanned flat, but the article is all there]

Scarf continued from page 4

Thus a family story was updated and corrected: the portrait was not commemorating a marriage in 1862, but the King of Denmark awarding a medal to war veterans in 1877. And the assumption that Sören had been receiving a war pension, enabling passage to America, was completely inaccurate.

¹ Sogaard Christen, Denmark Burials, 1640-1917, Family-Search.org

² Stagstrup parish, Thisted church records, LDS film #005317

KAREN PETERSON KRALICEK

Beverly Kralicek Brayton

My Mom, Karen Peterson Kralicek was born and raised in Phillips WI in a family of twelve. She had two sisters, (one older and one younger) and nine brothers (five older and four younger). Karen was child #9. They lived on Germania Avenue.

She was a 1927 graduate of Phillips High School and a graduate of the Phillips Normal School who then became a teacher in a one room schoolhouse in the Town of Harmony, Price County Wisconsin.

Karen taught at the Lake 10 school which was located on Pioneer Road. Many of her students spoke the Czech (Bohemian) language. When they were dismissed for recess to go out onto the playground, she would tell/warn them that once they returned to their classes in the school, they were to speak only English. They learned English quickly and well.

There were eight grades in that one room and arranged accordingly. The first graders sat at the front and the eighth graders at the back. Each grade level would have their own lessons during the day. Many of the standard subjects were taught such as history, arithmetic/math, English, social studies, printing/writing (cursive) and reading.

It is probably accurate to say Karen was responsible for starting the wood fire in the morning to heat the schoolroom. She might also have been responsible for pumping water and bringing it into the schoolroom and pouring it into the drinking fountain. There were inside bathrooms, but no running water. There was electricity so there would be enough light in the room on cloudy days.

She lived with or stayed with a family a short distance from the school. She probably walked to work/school every day since she did not have a car of her own.

Across the road and only a very short distance from the school was the Kralicek family who had moved to the Town of Harmony from the Racine, WI area. The father and mother of that family and a few of the older children had come from Czechoslovakia about 1907. A few members of

Kralicek continued on page 6

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

<http://www.genealogynow.org/blog/genealogy-gift-ideas-for-friend-family-or-yourself>

On the Twelfth day of Christmas
My true love gave to me

Twelve Deeds & Titles,
Eleven Probate problems,

Ten lost relations,

Nine legal letters,

Eight Manorial records,

Seven census searches,

Six GEDCOM'S downloaded,

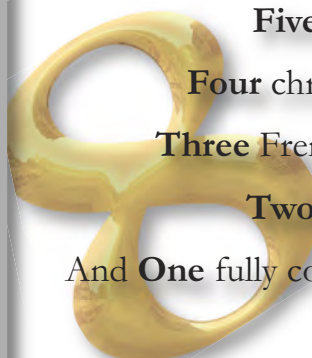
Five old wills,

Four christening cards,

Three French connections,

Two CD titles,

And **One** fully completed Family Tree!!!



Kralicek continued from page 5
that family were students at the
Lake 10 school.

Because Karen lived so close to the school and the Kralicek family, she was acquainted with them and eventually became a friend of the family. She later dated one of the older sons, George Kralicek. When they later married, Karen had to stop teaching.

Karen was active in the local community Homemakers group. She was involved with the local 4-H club which was known as the Harmony Harmonizers. She was the clerk for the Town of Harmony for a few years and was also a member of the School Board for the Phillips School District for a number of years.

Karen worked in the kitchen at the Red Roof which was owned by Karin Anderson. This business was located on County Highway W west of Phillips, WI. She enjoyed working with others and of course, preparing food to be served to the guests. At home she cooked the meals when her husband had friends and neighbors helping with the harvesting, cutting and baling hay, threshing oats or cutting corn and filling the silo.

My mother used her sewing skills creatively. She made tied quilts as well as applied quilts. She embroidered pillow-cases and crocheted lace onto pillow cases. She also embroidered dish towels (one for each day of the week). And she knitted, making mittens and sweaters, as well as crocheting afghans and a few other items. The quilts, pillow-cases, afghans and dish towels are still in my possession!

The Dragon With the Red Shoes has been one of my favorite childhood stories. I was originally told the story while up north and then taken on a walk to find my very own dragon with red shoes. This story was originally told by my Grandpa Kenneth and has not been committed to paper before. My interpretation of this and the other stories he told does not truly do Grandpa's stories justice, but it is with love and fond memories that I write these down, with the help of Grandma, as a way to remember Grandpa and his storytelling.

Jennifer Roach



HISTORY QUOTES

The history of the world is not complete until your story is told.

To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain perpetually a child. For what is the worth of a human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history.

Cicero 106-43 B.C.

They tried to bury us, they didn't know we were seeds.

Mexican proverb

As always, the editor is looking for your article for the next edition of Price County Genealogical Newsletter. Please include permission to print if it is not your original work.

Send your articles to Karen Baumgartner, %Phillips Public Library, 286 Cherry St., Phillips, WI 54555 or krbaumga@pctcnet.net

Membership Form

Please use this form for

- new member
- renewal Date
- enclosed is \$10 membership dues

Price County Genealogical Society
c/o Phillips Public Library
286 Cherry St
Phillips, WI 54555

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

email _____

Surname Research

Country of Origin

Settlement

WE'RE LOSING GENERATIONS OF FAMILY HISTORY BECAUSE WE DON'T SHARE OUR STORIES

Dick Eastman November 21,2019

Here is a quote from an article by Rachael Rifkin in the *Good Housekeeping* web site:

“Most people don’t know much about their family history. This is because people usually don’t become interested in genealogy until they’re in their 50s and 60s, when they have more time to reflect on their family identity. The problem is that by that time, their grandparents and parents have often already passed away or are unable to recount their stories.

“Because of this, we’re losing generations of stories, and all of the benefits that come with them. ‘Because our families are among the most important social groups we belong to and identify with, stories about our family tell us who we are in the world, and who we should be,’ says Robyn Fivush, Ph.D., one of the researchers behind the study *The Power of Family History in Adolescent Identity and Well-Being*. ‘Stories about our parents and grandparents provide models of both good and bad times, as well as models of overcoming challenges and sticking together.’

“The solution to this problem is to get people interested in their family histories when they’re still adolescents or young adults, when they can still hear directly from relatives. But how do we cultivate an interest in each other to begin with?”

You can find a number of answers in Rachael Rifkin’s article at:

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/a29610101/preserve-family-history-storytelling/>

reprinted from Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter

Programs are held the last Tuesday of September, October, November, March, April and May. Meetings are open to everyone. Dues are \$10 per calendar year, due the beginning of the year.

Price County Genealogical Society
% Beverly Brayton
W9025 Cty Rd J
Catwba, WI 54515-9736