

by Barbara Nelson, genealogy teacher
for the week of 7/2/2014

The next meeting of the Beginning Genealogy Class is Tuesday, July 8th at 1:00 P.M. The Advanced Class will meet on Thursday, July 10th at 10:00 A.M. Classes continue to be well attended, but more students are welcome. Two evening classes in October and November 2014 are being considered for those who work days. This will be a trial, and depending on attendance and interest may continue. Spread this word to those you know that work days and have expressed an interest in studying genealogy research.

The classes have been studying German ancestry research and this will continue on a limited scale. In the meantime, Brent and Nancy Frazier (Mormon missionaries) will be leading the classes on genealogy research. They called the museum offering to volunteer teaching genealogy research and their help was accepted. In June they gave expert advice on "How to Write A Family History Book". The classes benefited from their expertise.

The July classes will receive instruction on using the Familysearch.org website. Several class members have expressed the need for this topic because of the change in the website to a new format. The Mormon History Library in Salt Lake City has been indexing records, making it easier to find information. However, there are still unindexed records, which can be tricky to find. This situation can create a "brick wall" for researchers.

Brent and Nancy will explain how to get around the site to research. Class members are encouraged to bring names and dates they are having particular difficulty finding. I recommend using this website as it is free to users. The integrity of this website is also a plus for researchers. A recent article starting on page 70 in the July/August 2014 Family Tree magazine will give interested class members a reference for the classes. Copies of this magazine are sold at the Village Market in Viroqua or at Barnes and Noble in La Crosse.

A bus trip to Madison for genealogy research at the Wisconsin Historical Society facilities is being planned. Karen Sherry, a class member and an experienced genealogy researcher herself, is gathering information for this trip. Many attending the classes in June expressed interest and further information will be forthcoming. This trip would be separate from the class dates.

Classes are free to members of the Vernon County Historical Society. Otherwise, a \$5.00 fee payable to the Society is charged. Membership in the Society is \$15.00 per year and class attendance is then free.

Here are a few quick reminders: If you are reading this on or before July 4, then you still have time to get to the Strawberry Shortcake Social at the Sherry-Butt House, which runs from 1 to 6PM. And the annual Cemetery Walk has been rescheduled for July 13 at 4PM at the Viroqua Cemetery.