

# NORTHWOODS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXXVI, No. 10

106 N. Stevens St., Rhinelander, WI 54501-3158

March, 2024

---

## \*\*\* *KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS* \*\*\*

The Knights of Pythias was founded in 1864, its members worked for the government and it was the first fraternal order to be chartered by an act of Congress. While in the midst of the Civil War, many felt the moral need for an organization that practiced "brotherly love". Their colors are blue for friendship, yellow for charity, and red for benevolence. One symbol is the letters, F, C and B inset in their color, on an inverted triangle. It is still active and is a partner of The Boys Scouts of America, the second organization to receive its charter from Congress. The name stems from the Greek legend of Damon and Pythias, the Pythagorean ideal of friendship.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024**  
**Rhineland District Library**  
**Downstairs Meeting Room**  
**10:00 A. M. - Noon**

Meetings of the Northwoods Genealogical Society are typically held on the second Wednesday of the month (except July and December) at 1 p. m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Rhineland District Library. Membership dues are \$10.00 individual, \$11.00 family.

**CHAIRMAN:** Augden Windelborn

**VICE CHAIRMAN:** JoAnne Rajek

**SECRETARY:** Jane Windelborn

**TREASURER:** Gloria Rahlf

**DIRECTORS AT LARGE:**

Marie Byatt

Ila Turgeon

**NEWSLETTER:** Gloria Rahlf

**WEBSITE:** [sites.google.com/site/northwoodsgensoc/](https://sites.google.com/site/northwoodsgensoc/)

**NEXT MEETING:** April 10, 2024: Bootlegging

Upcoming Events:

**GENEALOGY FOR SENIORS,** Mar. 26, 2024, free, virtual via Zoom, 1 p. m, given by Appleton Public Library and Thompson Center on Lourdes. Register for Zoom: [bit.ly/3SjJMne](https://bit.ly/3SjJMne) or call 920-939-3088.

**LOCATING VITAL RECORDS IN POLAND,** Apr. 9, 2024, free, virtual via Zoom, 6:30 p. m., presented by Rock County Genealogical Society. See website: [www.rcgswi.org/events-speakers.html](http://www.rcgswi.org/events-speakers.html)

**WSGS GENE-A-RAMA:** April 12 & 13, 2024, Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel, Oshkosh, WI. See website: [wsgs.org](http://wsgs.org)

**THIS MONTH:** A Saturday Public Program: *Capturing Family Memories* given by Augden Windelborn, demonstrating methods of capturing, saving, and tagging memories (photos, movies, papers, and audio). April's program: *Bootlegging* by Kathy Stephan.

**RHINELANDER'S ARTIFICIAL LAKE.** The New North reported on August 24, 1899, that there was a movement a foot to make an artificial lake. W. E. Brown and E. S. Shepard proposed a plan to flood the swamp east of the Courthouse to form a lake. Their plan was to run a 12 inch pipe from Boom Lake to the swamp area, after they cleared the swamp of trees. They then would erect a short dam to hold the water on the south side. I guess this never panned out. Lake property on two sides of Rhineland? That would've been interesting.

**FAMILY REUNION TIME!** Tips to get started: Send out a questionnaire for planning input; decide on a venue and lock it in; set up a command center; recruit & delegate tasks; build a budget; make a back-up plan; send a save-the-date ASAP; plan activities for everyone; begin the reunion with an icebreaker activity; compile & share your family's story; plan to maintain the reunion's momentum to keep everyone involved. Always post a family tree so everyone can see how they fit into the family.

**EARLY EUROPEAN ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.** These children were not welcomed by society and many perished at a very young age simply due to neglect, malnutrition, or the inability of the mother. The mothers were oppressed, marked by society, denied any inheritance or help, some had to stand in front of the church and beg forgiveness. Many illegitimates also gave birth to illegitimate children and not usually just one child. Military men had to first obtain permission to marry. Sometimes, after his service, he came home and married the woman and then the church legitimized the births. The "illegitimate" mark followed them for years. I noticed one such marriage record, where they noted that the groom was illegitimate and it likely followed into the baptisms of his children. Illegitimacy was very common.

**MAIL ORDER TOMBSTONES.** In 1902, one could order a tombstone from Sears, Roebuck & Co. Moderate stones ranged from \$4.88 to \$40. The "Direct from Quarry to Cemetery" custom grave markers had to be paid in full in advance. Shipment was by rail which was very economical, averaging only 75 cents to \$1.50 per pound, many times delivered right to the cemetery.

**LOCALITY SEARCH ON FAMILYSEARCH:** On *FamilySearch*, log in and go to "Research Wiki", type in your ancestor's village, city, district, or country to find out what records are accessible for that area. Tip: Use present-day names such as Szczecin, formerly known as Stettin.

**Gravestone images:** A **Weeping Willow** signifies sadness and grief but also immortality. This was a popular symbol in the Victorian era.