

NORTHWOODS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXXVII, No. 7

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

December, 2024

*** VASA ORDER OF AMERICA ***

The *Vasa Order of America* is a Swedish-American fraternal, cultural, and educational organization. It seeks to benefit its members by sharing Swedish and Scandinavian culture and heritage. It was established in 1896 in New Haven, Connecticut, at the height of Swedish-American immigration. Their symbol is a metallic "VO" superimposed on a Maltese cross which is superimposed on a gold wreath. The "VO" is gold, with the horizontal and lower arms of the cross being blue. The upper arm of the cross which is behind the "V", is red. It is quite striking.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024
Rhinelander District Library
Downstairs Meeting Room
1:00 P. M.

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 Rhinelander District Library. Membership dues are \$10.00 individual, \$11.00 family.

CHAIRMAN: JoAnne Rajek

VICE CHAIRMAN: Ila Turgeon

SECRETARY: Dave Melancon/Anita Foss

TREASURER: Gloria Rahlf

DIRECTORS AT LARGE:

Marie Byatt

Augden Windelborn

NEWSLETTER: Gloria Rahlf

WEBSITE: sites.google.com/site/northwoodsgensoc/

NEXT MEETING: January 8, 2025 Writing Obits

Upcoming Events:

RESEARCHING YOUR ANCESTOR'S MEDICAL

HISTORY: December 14th at 2 p. m., Appleton Public Library, free, virtual, Register in advance at: bit.ly/3QsGIDX

APPLY TO THE DAUGHTERS OF VETERANS OF CIVIL

WAR SOLDIERS (DUVCM), December 14th, at 11:30 a. m., by Bronzeville Historical Society, Chicago, IL, free and virtual. Register in advance. For details email Cary-stone@msn.com.

ROOTS TECH: March 6th to 8th, 2025. In person or free virtual, hundreds of seminars, including every ethnicity. Register in advance: familysearch.org

PROGRAM: Similar to last year, we will have a Christmas meeting, discussing Christmas memories, traditions, food, etc. Several members will be bringing drinks and treats to share. Bring your spouse or significant other. Guests are always welcome.

ELECTION RESULTS. Our nomination slate was unanimously approved by voice acclamation, as follows: Chairman: JoAnne Rajek; Vice Chairman: Ila Turgeon; Co-Secretaries: Dave Melancon and Anita Foss; Treasurer: Gloria Rahlf; 2-year Board Member: Augden Windelborn. Augden has also agreed to remain as Webmaster. It was approved that membership dues will remain: \$10 individual; \$11 family. **MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 1ST!**

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER WAS A WOMAN. Albert D. I. Cashier (1843-1915) served in the Civil War for the Union Army in Company G, 95th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. It was discovered in 1913 that she was a woman named Jennie Irene Hodgers. Just five feet tall and of slight build, she marched nearly 10,000 miles, dug trenches, laid rails, and wielded a gun. Battles she took part in were: Guntown, Kenesaw Mountain, Chattahoochee River, Jonesboro, and Lovejoy Station. She triumphed with Grant in Vicksburg and had taken part in Sherman's Atlanta campaign. She enlisted on 6 August 1862. She mustered out, moving to Saunemin, IL, remaining Albert Cashier and working as a truck farmer and handyman. He likely was the first woman to vote.

SAN FRANCISCO EVICTS THE DEAD. In the early 1900's, the land-starved City of San Francisco was running out of space for the living. In 1897, a law prevented new burials except in specially designated cemeteries. By 1900, all interments in the City were outlawed. In 1912, San Francisco evicted most cemeteries, except for the San Francisco National Cemetery (Presidio Cemetery). All other remains were to be moved 11 miles away to a town called Lawndale, now Colma, and reinterred. The very unpopular edict was challenged in the courts. Efforts were made to find next of kin to charge \$10 to move the grave and gravestone. Cemeteries began disinterring remains in the 1920's and the last graves moved were in 1942. There were reports of mass graves for those without relocation fees. Occasionally, a forgotten grave or grave marker is unearthed. Colma, became known as the 'City of Souls'. It is only 2.2 square miles, and has 17 cemeteries and a pet cemetery. It is estimated to have 1.5 million graves with a city of only 2,000 living residents.

IMMIGRATION. More than 95% of Americans descend from people who did not live on this continent in the 18th Century. There were three major waves of immigration. **First Wave:** In the 1600's, most came for religious reasons: German, English, Welsh, and Dutch. **Second Wave:** In the 1800's, due to starvation, Industrial Revolution and religious reasons: Scandinavians, Ireland, Scotland, England, Turkey, Armenia, and China. **Third Wave:** Early to mid 1900's most came due to political turmoil, European wars, boundary changes, religious, or political asylum, coming from Germany, Russia, Poland, Italy, Greece and Austria-Hungary.