

NORTHWOODS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 5

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

May, 2025

*** CHARLES A. NORWAY, HARSHAW, WISCONSIN ***

Charles A. Norway was the founder of Harshaw, where he established and operated a large sawmill company & village in about 1890, harvesting over 15,000,000 feet of lumber annually by 1896. He was the youngest man to hold the position of Lincoln Co. Register of Deeds and various other city/county positions. The C. A. Norway Box & Lumber Co. of Merrill was a pioneer in the box-making industry. His parents, "Lant" and Frances Norway were among the earliest and most widely known residents in Merrill, where they conducted the Jenny House and Norway Hotel. Remaining in the lumber industry, in about 1910, he moved to Everett, Washington, where he passed away in 1931.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025
Rhineland 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 Rhineland 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: June 11, 2025 - TBD

Upcoming Events:

MY ANCESTORS SPOKE GERMAN BUT WERE THEY FROM GERMANY? May 10th at 10:30 a. m., free, virtual, given by Bay Area Genealogical Society. See details at: www.bagswi.org

GENEALOGY JUMPSTART: CREATING YOUR FAMILY TREE ONLINE, May 20th at 1:00 p. m., presented by Appleton Public Library, free, virtual, and in-person, Register: bit.ly/305i8a9

EUROPEAN AND U. S. NEWSPAPERS AND DIRECTORIES May 19th at 7:00 p. m. presented by Zion Genealogical Society, free, virtual and in-person. Details: www.zgsil.org

USING SOCIAL SECURITY RECORDS TO BREAK BRICK WALLS, by Waupaca Area Genealogical Society, June 14th at 9:00 a. m. free, virtual, Details: www.wagswi.org

PROGRAM: How does AI (artificial intelligence) help with genealogical research?

THE HISTORY OF BROWNIE. When walking the Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in King, Wisconsin, you may notice a lone grave with the name "Brownie". Brownie, a German Shepherd, was born and raised near King, Wisconsin. His owner was 10-year old Oren Kendley. Kendley selflessly enlisted Brownie in the U. S. Army in 1943, when a call went out for K-9 assistance. Brownie served in the South Pacific, was wounded, and lost his left eye. He recovered and was fitted for a glass eye. He then returned to King, where he served as mascot for the veterans and marched in parades from 1944 to 1949. The pentagon approved his full military burial as a member of the U. S. Army K-9 Corps.

ONLINE NEWSPAPER SEARCHES. One of the biggest hurdles is how to search in the online newspaper databases. One has to learn the wording for various things in various areas. For an obituary, sometimes the column might be titled Obituary, Obituaries, or Died or Dies. But others use a different approach. I once saw a column entitled: "Mrs. Rice Is No More". "Succumbed" is another term. Also, first names can be tricky. Jno. for John. Jas. for James. Chas. for Charles. Newspapers often used abbreviations or just a first initial.

AMERICAN MIGRATION CAUSES. One of the largest migrations in American history was because of The Dust Bowl, which lasted for only 8 years. If you lost track of your ancestor who was enumerated in the 1930 census in a Great Plains State, they likely migrated due to the devastating conditions caused by the Dust Bowl and/or The Great Depression. The prolonged drought combined with "the great plow-up" of the prairie grasslands, over grazing, and high winds; caused the erosion of topsoil. Entire towns no longer existed, animals died, buildings were buried, crops and gardens destroyed. In November of 1933, a huge dust storm even reached Madison, Wisconsin. States from New Mexico to The Ohio River Valley were affected. You might need to look far and wide to find that former Great Plains ancestor. Years ago, I heard of a woman who agreed to marry her husband, ONLY if he agreed to move out of "Tornado Alley"! They soon resided in Oregon.

'UNCLAIMED LETTER' LISTS IN NEWSPAPERS. Those newspaper name lists for "unclaimed letters" or "list of letters" at the Post Office are valuable clues for your research. Usually, mail was not delivered to individual homes. Typically, people would inquire at the Post Office, when they got to town, to see if there were any letters for them. If it was a package, they might need to pay the postage to obtain it. It was likely that the person lived in that area or someone thought they did. A number after the name might indicate the number of letters waiting, which might indicate your ancestor moved. Any unclaimed letters after about three months or so, were sent to the *Dead Letter Office*.

GRAVESTONE SYMBOLS: A torch lit or upright represents life. A torch inverted, represents life extinguished.