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FOR GENEALOGY

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- I. Background of the Wisconsin Historical Society.
  - a. North American collection (United States and Canada)
  - b. Established in 1846 and starting collecting in the 1850s under the direction of Lyman Copeland Draper.
  - c. We've always had a focus on genealogy as well as local and national history.
  - d. Warnings:
    - \*\*None of these pages on the site search the millions of collections of microfilm, manuscripts, books, pamphlets, maps, photos in the collection AT the Library Archives. You must use the online catalog! You will find a link to the catalog on the website.
    - \*\*The pre-1907 Wisconsin vital records indexed on this site DO NOT include all records registered in Wisconsin. It only contains the records found at the State Vital Records Office. You must contact the county Register of Deeds Office in the county in which the birth, marriage or death took place.
- II. Check out the video found in the About the WHS link at the bottom of the page.
- III. Links on the front page.
  - a. Center buttons (Research Your Family History...)
  - b. Events Calendar/Store (top of the page)
  - c. Wisconsin History Tour (Go into this link to find the new online collection and add your story. "That's My Story") Use Chrome.
  - d. Photos/Galleries of photos. Remember that this is still a small amount of the actual photos owned by the WHS Library Archives and housed here in Madison.
  - e. Highlighted Collections (These are also listed in the center button "Explore Our Collections".)
  - f. WHS Press (Find a listing of new books as well as previous issues of the Wisconsin Magazine of History.)
  - g. Connect with WHS staff and researchers through social media links at the bottom of this page.

- a. Research Your Family History button  
Look for the Browse link under the search box. Do not put in names right away. This helps you understand the collections that will be searched.
  - i. Biographical Book Excerpt
  - ii. Birth/Marriage/Death Indexes
  - iii. Book Pamphlet
  - iv. National and State Register of Historic Places
  - v. Property Record (These last 2 are also found from the first page, through the button "Preserve Your Homes and Properties".)
  - vi. Look at all of the other collections as well.
- b. Video Tutorials link will provide 4 strategies to searching our index.
- c. Staff Directory is found at the bottom of each page on the site. Once you have a name of a staff member you can look up their contact information in the directory.
- d. Obituary Search (We search 2 newspapers for every order.)
- e. Search tips pages are worth a look.
- f. Library Catalog (<http://library.wisc.edu>) (When you get a list of results, use the left side of the screen to filter the results by location, etc.)
  - a. Use the Help button at the top of the catalog for articles on how to make the most of your search.
  - b. Published Genealogies (enter these search terms)
    - i. *Surname* genealogy
    - ii. *Surname* family
  - c. Newspapers
    - iii. Enter the name of the paper.
    - iv. Enter the name of the town and the word newspapers.
    - v. Enter the county, state and word newspapers.
- g. Webinars and Workshops (Also consider contacting me for consultations by phone or in person.)
- h. Area Research Center information. (If you find a collection in the online catalog, it may refer you to the Area Research Centers. Go to this link to learn more about those centers and what they have to offer on their websites. Be sure to call and talk to an Archivist as well.)

#### IV. Explore Our Collections button

- a. Online Indexes (left side of the screen) Check out the Wisconsin Corporations Index!
- b. American Journeys
- c. Local and County Histories
- d. Maps & Atlases (Check out the Land Ownership Maps, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and the Surveyors Notes and Maps!)
- e. Turning Points (Lots of great information about the various eras in Wisconsin history!)
- f. Wisconsin Local History and Biography Articles
- g. Wisconsin in the Civil War (Check out the Roster and make sure you contact us for the many wonderful resources we have to add to these on our website. Also check out the regimental histories found on the site!)

#### V. Visit Us!

#### VI. Contact Us!