

## **BIGWILL MEETING MINUTES -- 21 July 2007**

Meeting was called to order by President Peggy Gleich.

Secretary's minutes were available for distribution. Woodstock Library and McHenry Library are being formally approached with the intent to house our collection at one of their facilities. Many of the publications we regularly receive were available on a table at the meeting for members to peruse.

Our membership is holding steady at about 150. New membership roster has been completed. BIGWILL has been active now for 15 years. An Anniversary luncheon is being planned for November 17<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the regular membership meeting, at Heuer's Restaurant, just up the road from our meeting place. Additional details will be available when planning has been completed. We hope to have Paul Milner and Ann Wells share stories of our past, and the 'way it was' in genealogy in general, following luncheon.

The newsletter is always looking for contributions from members. Have you heard of an event, seen an article, or found a website that you think other members might also be interested in? Pass it on to Dave Dexter, our newsletter editor. Are you excited about a find you've made, a brick wall you've finally solved, a trip you've taken??? Send a note to Dave. It's very simple to write an article – pretend you are writing a letter to a friend telling her/him about it.....then post the letter to Dave Dexter. : ) He can tweak it if it's really necessary, it certainly doesn't have to be "professional".

There were still a couple of areas needing 'helpers' at our September 29<sup>th</sup> Sherry Irvine seminar; the sign up sheet was circulated. Thanks to all who have volunteered. Upcoming events for other groups include the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Conference in Wausau, WI on October 27<sup>th</sup> with J. Mark Low as speaker; and the Lake County Conference on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, with Larry Jensen, Grace DeMull on Chicago Research, and Everett Butler, CAGGI president as presenters.

Roger Higgs gave a rundown of the tentative schedule for our own meetings next year: January - Panel Discussion We'll publish a few of the questions beforehand.

March – James Hibbard on British Pioneers of Wisconsin.

May – Jeff Bassett on DNA

July – Craig Pffankuch on Cemetery Research

September – Marion Richter

November – Lori Bessler on the Wisconsin Historical Society's collections and services

This past June 16<sup>th</sup>, which was about 100 degrees in the shade, Prudy and Dave Sullivan were costumed presenters at an event at Old Settlers Cemetery in Delavan WI celebrating Samuel Phoenix, a pioneer influential in the area, who died at the age of 42. Also the grave of Dave's grandmother in the east was recently marked by the DAR in a ceremony complete with pipers, and Revolutionary War music. The marker was unveiled by their son.

Dave and Rick Dexter then presented an interesting talk on the GOONS (the Guild of One Name Studies) relating how they became involved, the history of surnames from none at all, to simple names relating to patronymics, trades, geographical locations, and appearance, through to names of increasing complexities, derivations, and changes. A list of all the names registered with the GOONS is in our library.

