

NORTHWOODS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

November, 2025

*** HOW "PELICAN TOWNSHIP" GOT ITS NAME ***

The oldest township, Pelican, was established in 1882 being part of Lincoln County. When Oneida County was established, the Town of Pelican extended from the Lincoln County line to the Michigan line. All of Oneida County's townships have been carved from the original Township of Pelican. It was likely named Pelican due to the first settler, John Curran, having a trading post at "Pelican Rapids", at the junction of the Pelican and Wisconsin Rivers. Early residents of this area documented the presence of many pelicans in the area. Pelicans also were common on Pelican Lake and at the Pelican railroad station near that lake.

PROGRAM: I believe our Chairman is planning a webinar. As she has been on vacation, I was unable to determine the title.

ALTERNATIVE IMMIGRATION RECORDS. Most of us think of the usual passenger arrival lists and naturalization records. There are others: Required Custom Lists began in 1820 in the USA. They have fewer details but still named a passenger, age, occupation, sex, and nationality along with the ship's name and ports of departure and arrival. Emigration Records taken in the country your ancestor left, many times not the country he lived in but where he was on layover. Permission-to-Leave Records were required by some European governments. Oaths of Allegiance were sometimes taken in their new country. Church Records in some countries documented their members emigration.

"FINDING YOUR ROOTS", the popular television show hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. will air new episodes on PBS starting on January 6, 2026.

USING PROBATE RECORDS. Types of records: Wills, Inventories, Petitions & Affidavits, Guardianship Files, Letters of Administration or Testamentary. Info you can find: names of spouses; kids; in-laws; neighbors; cousins; family relationships; unknown children; name changes; residence and ownership; maiden names; married daughters; a glimpse into their lives, especially if it lists the personal property such as cows, pigs, chickens, loom or spinning wheel, or forge; literacy whether signed by an "x" or not; orphans may be named and a guardianship set up. Places probate records can be found: Online at FamilySearch, Ancestry.com, MyHeritage, USGenWeb; County Courthouses; State Archives; & Historical Societies.

FOLD3 IS DIGITIZING KOREAN WAR DRAFT CARDS.

The following states have been digitized: Arizona, Indiana, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Washington.

WILD AND HISTORIC HALLOWEEN PRANKS. Common Halloween pranks of yesteryear were: Greasing the railway tracks of trains and trolleys with oil or soap, making it impossible for them to climb hills, etc. Cows were led from pasture and tied to the front door. In Iowa in 1928, some boys put a cow in their school; causing school to be canceled the next day for cleanup. Buggies were dismantled and reassembled inside churches or homes.

CEMETERY SYMBOLISM. Alpha and Omega, first & last letters of the Greek alphabet – the beginning & the end.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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: December 10th – Christmas Party

Upcoming Events:

FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS: VOTING RECORDS, ETC.

Saturday, November 8th at 2:00 p. m. presented by Appleton Public Library, free, virtual hybrid. Zoom attendees please register at: bit.ly/3YZ2v9f

MILITARY AND CIVILIAN RECORDS WITH TIAN BEAIRD.

Saturday, November 8th, at 9 a. m., free, virtual and in-person presented Waupaca Area Genealogical Society. See details at: www.wagswi.org

GENEALOGY, JUMPSTART: CITY (AND OTHER)

DIRECTORIES. Tuesday, November 18th at 1:00 p. m., free, in-person and virtual presented by Appleton Public Library