

# NDSGS Newsletter

Volume 1 : 2005, Issue : Fall/Winter issue

September 1, 2005



## Special points of interest in this issue:

- North Dakota State Genealogical Society Minutes
- Ward County Poor Farm
- Jennie Howard



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## NDSGS President's Letter ~ Clara Bliss

Clara Bliss PO Box 911, Bowman, ND 58623 or blissrc@pop.ctctel.com

*I am sure that all of you have hear the saying, "as you get older the time flies" and also this one, "Time flies when you are having fun." It hardly seems possible that my 2 years are coming to an end and that this is to be my last letter as president. I know that I am older but I also have had a most enjoyable time the past two years, so both of those sayings must fit.*

*I would like to thank my fellow officers for keeping me on the right road and being there when I needed help or advice. You are a great bunch to work with. Also all the members of the state society how have such dedication and interest in the organization. With out all of you we could not survive and because of all of you we are becoming a stronger entity.*

*All of the programs have been most interesting and informative and I thank those of you who have arranged them. I would like to have had the chance to have some one from the LDS church talk with us about the things that they have available. Perhaps that could be a future program.*

*Once again thank you for all your help and see you in September.*

*Clara*

## Next Meeting!

The North Dakota State Genealogical Society will meet on Friday, September 16, 2005 at 1:00 PM in the Heritage Center on the North Dakota State Capitol Grounds.

All genealogy societies in North Dakota are paid members of the NDSGS and we encourage you to send your society's representative as we work toward our common mission. Your members as well as your representative are always welcome to join us.

Our program for the September 16th meeting will be on Indian Genealogy Research and Vincent Gillette will be the presenter. Mr. Gillette stated there are eleven Indian tribes in North Dakota and he will specifically be speaking about the Hidasta and Arikara people of the Fort Berthold Reservation (New Town).



## NORTH DAKOTA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MINUTES



President Clara Bliss called the meeting to order at 1:00 on June 17, 2005. The meeting was held at the North Dakota State Heritage Center. Genealogical societies/club representatives present: Patrice Hartman and Pat Ashley, SWNDGS; Clara Bliss, BCHGS; George Barron and Daphne Drewello, JRGC; Beth Bauman, Marilyn Campbell, Audrey Solheim, Valborg Zander and Don Smith, BMHGS; Greg Wysk, State Historical Society of North Dakota; John Mogren, MRLGS; Jane Skjei and Fay Littlefield, RRVGS; Julie Roe, guest. George Freeman, MGS was unable to attend.

### PROGRAM

Patrice Hartman introduced Valborg Zander who spoke about the diary of her father who was a Lutheran pastor in Burke and Divide Counties in North Dakota. Valborg has translated and indexed the diary which covers the years of his ministry from 1905 to 1937. It took her 5 years to translate and type the 750 pages of the diary from Norwegian into English. The diary consists of three notebooks. Her father, Adolph Buckneberg began the diary in April of 1905 and continued it until 1937. It was written in small print with no spaces and not always on the lines. Included in the diaries are baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials and many other interesting items. The original church records are at the Trinity Lutheran Church at Columbus, ND. Adolph kept the diaries to help him keep track of where he had been and where he needed to go next.

Adolph Buckneberg was born on an island in Norway and came to the US at the age of 18. He worked for various farmers and in a lumber camp and then enlisted in the army during the Spanish American War. He served in the cavalry in the southern part of the US and caught malaria. They thought he was dead so he was put in the dead room at the barracks. Later when they went to bury the dead they found he was still breathing. In 1900 he enrolled in the Lutheran Normal School at Augsburg College in Sioux Falls, SD. He later enrolled in seminary with his 2 other brothers. The brothers served parishes in Burke, McKenzie and Bowman County, ND. Adolph received a call to the Norwegian Lutheran church of Flaxton, ND and to the area west of Flaxton where he eventually served 11 congregations.

He homesteaded in Harmonius Township, Burke County, ND. He gave two acres for a cemetery on his homestead known as the Buckneberg cemetery. Adolph was interested in family history and collected material for a book in 1919 to 1929 on the Norwegians in the area. This book is called "Memory Book for Bokna people" Valborg also translated this and the translation was printed in 1978. Adolph drove horses and buggy until 1916 when the congregations collected enough money to buy him a Model T Ford. In 1926 they gave him another car. Adolph had a stroke at the age of 62 and died the following year.

### Business meeting

John Mogren made a motion, which was seconded by Don Smith that the minutes of the April 1, 2005 meeting

be approved as printed. Motion carried.

### TREASURERS REPORT

Don Smith gave the Treasurers Report. Motion made by John Mogren and seconded by George Barron to file the treasurers report. Motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

There is a software problem with the ND Death Index website. It is suppose to be online July 1<sup>st</sup>. A news release about the ND Death Index has been written by the NDSHS and will be published after the death index is online.

The speaker for the September meeting will be Vince Gillette, topic Native Americans: culture and genealogy.



## NORTH DAKOTA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MINUTES



### NEW BUSINESS

The BMHGS will be hosting a genealogy workshop on Saturday, April 29, 2006 at the Horizons Middle School in Bismarck. Watch for information about this workshop.

There will be a genealogy workshop in Moorhead on Saturday, October 1, 2005. Theme: Castle Garden, Ellis Island, and the National Archives.

See website for more information: <http://www.mnstate.edu/heritage/FHW30.htm>

Patrice mentioned the article about Bill Shemorry's Photography Collection. Bill lived in Williston and collected photos from the area and was also a photographer. Patrice donated a copy of the Slope County Cemetery compilation to the archives.

Society Reports: See the newsletter.

SHSND: Bidding for the archives expansion has begun with construction beginning this fall with completion in the spring of 2007. The card catalog is gone with all items now listed on ODIN, a new microfilm printer has been purchased so that there will be 4 printers available in the reading room. The archives also purchased a map scanner and a book scanner to reduce the wear and tear on the materials in the collection.

The Next Meeting is Friday September 16, 2005 at 1:00. The speaker for the September meeting will be Vince Gillette, topic Native Americans: culture and genealogy.

It is requested that Greg check on the availability of a room for us at the Heritage Center. The meeting was adjourned.

Patrice Hartman, Secretary



### Castle Garden Port of Entry

Submitted by Patrice Hartman

The Castle Garden Database is now online. You can presently search New York passenger arrivals from 1830-1892.

<http://www.castlegarden.org/>

### Lineage Societies of Long Island

Submitted by Helen Fritchie

Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Associated of Daughters of Early American Witches, Daughters of the Veterans of the Civil War, Mayflower Descendants, Order of Founders and Patriots of America.... and more!

<http://longislandgenealogy.com/linage.html>



### Castle Rock, Ellis Island and the National Archives

#### The Search for Family Roots

#### 30th Annual Family History Workshop

Submitted by Susan Dingle



The Fargo-Moorhead Heritage Education Commission Genealogy Workshop will be held October 1, 2005 at Minnesota State University, Moorhead. The keynote speaker are Barry Moreno from Ellis Island and Nancy Finke from the National Archives.

Check out details at these websites:

<http://www.mnstate.edu/heritage/WORKSHOP.htm>

<http://www.mnstate.edu/heritage/2005NEWSRELEASE.pdf>

(Reprint from March 2005 Issue of our newsletter)

We could learn a lot from Crayons: Some are sharp and straight and some are broken. Some are bright while some are dull, all are different hues but they all live in the same box. Appreciate the gifts of each Crayon in our Box.



## North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



### James River Genealogy Club

Submitted by *George Barron*

(8-10-2005)

The program for our July meeting was presented by member Lea Dell RN. She gave a talk with handouts on inherited diseases and conditions. She gave a very detailed overview of the subject with many examples and offered suggestions on places to find more detail on specific conditions. Her talk prompted much discussion and people showing crooked fingers and other family traits as examples of her talk. One of our California members, Nannette Anderson, had e-mailed a pass around sheet on webbed fingers from some of her ancestors.

Our August meeting was held at the Jamestown LDS Family History Center. We bought ourselves a catered supper. It was a first for us in our fifteen year history. We had a big crowd from all over our four county area and the attendees enjoyed the meal as well as the presentation by librarians Jerry Richter and Robert Cox. Mary Kuhn's two cakes were totally annihilated. Most of our meetings are held at Carrington, so it was a treat for us Jamestown-ers to get home before dark!

Our September meeting will again feature Lea Dell, this time as expert quilter. She is going to give us a presentation on how quilting can be used to present records of family history. Members have been asked to bring their own quilt samples and photos.

Our cemetery crew, who started work on LaMoure County cemeteries in January, and started making field trips in April are still a long way from completion. At this writing, they still have ten cemeteries to read and as yet have not started collecting cemetery records. In January it was estimated that burials there might equal the county population of about four thousand, but have already encountered about double that number of markers. It has been a weird summer for stoning. Early winds and rain, and more recent high temperatures have put the kibosh on long work days. I'm sure Jasper, our cemetery dog in training, looked forward to much dog fun when he flushed several pheasant roosters on the first cemetery we read. Since then it has been only a few disappearing gophers and cooling his heels in the shade or in the hot car. We have had a summer of helping visiting family historians from other states in their search for information on their ancestor's home ground. Most history searching tourists have been really excited about how much they have been able to find and all say they plan to visit again next year.



If your genealogical society is updating their brochures and you'd like to distribute them statewide, bring them to the NDSGS meetings.

### South West ND Genealogical Society

Submitted by *Patrice Hartman*

(8-12-2005)

The Southwestern ND Genealogical Society meets the third Monday of each month except December at the Dickinson Public Library in Dickinson, ND at 7 PM (Mountain Time). The June meeting covered census mortality schedules and the July meeting was about dealing with brick walls and early census records. The August meeting will look at divorce records. Work continues on the Stark County Cemeteries. Most of the cemeteries have been walked and recorded but there is a lot of data entry to do yet. Patrice donated a copy of the Slope County Cemeteries to the State Historical Society.

### Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society

Submitted by *John Mogren*

(8-8-2005)

Probably the biggest undertaking so far this year has been doing the inventory of our "archives." Lillian Vannett and Terry Marcotte undertook the project and we appreciated their efforts.

At the May meeting, Dallas Knudson gave an interesting presentation on Planning a Family Reunion "Building Memories."

In June we didn't have a program but spent some time discussing genealogical problems and resources.

In July, we had our annual summer trip. This year we visited the Scandinavian Heritage Park in Minot and enjoyed a picnic. We would encourage anyone visiting Minot to take a tour of this unique park.

In August, Linda Ringsaker gave us an interesting presentation on the family history book (Melin Family) that she put together for a family reunion. Linda is a recent genealogists and we were very impressed by the documentation and work she put into her book.

Betty has lined up some interesting programs for September and October. We will have our ethnic dinner and progressive auction in November.

### Williams County Genealogical Society

Submitted by *Gloria Johnson*

(8-17-2005)

The Williams County Genealogical Society has not met this summer. Our next scheduled meeting is Saturday, Sept. 10th, 9:30 AM at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. Election of new officers for the year will be held. Our cemetery book "Gateway to the Past" - Rural Cemeteries of Williams County, ND continues to sell well. Books are available for \$30.00 or on CD for \$10.00.



## North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



### Red River Valley Genealogical Society

Submitted by *Jackie Marler*

(5-28-2005)

RRVGS library has summer hours from 1 June through August:

Tuesday 11am - 3pm

Wednesday 1pm - 4pm

Saturday 11am-3pm

Call before coming. (701)-239-4129

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May All Have an Enjoyable Genealogical Summer!!

Editor's note: The above article was received after deadline for the summer issue so I am including it in this issue.

### Bowman County Historical & Genealogical Society

Submitted by *Clara Bliss*

(8-22-2005)

It has been a very quiet summer in Bowman. Not a lot of requests have come in. The few that we have had we have been able to find something for them, even if it was to recommend that they look at the state level. We were pleasantly surprised to see Patrice come in the doors one day last week and we had a nice visit with her. We always enjoy having visitors.

#### Please write

Please consider submitting your articles of interest to the North Dakota State Genealogical Society Newsletter. We have appreciated George's articles. But we'd like to hear from some of the rest of you too!

### Red River Valley Genealogical Society

Submitted by *Jackie Marler*

(8-21-2005)

RRVGS is sponsoring a workshop in partnership with the North Dakota DAR on the Saturday, 29 October 2005, 10am-3 pm at our Library at 112 No University Dr, Ste L116, Fargo. The slate of one hour topics include Beginning 10am, Military Records 11am, Death Records and Death Customs Affecting Research 1pm, Newspaper Research: Beyond Obituaries 2pm, and an optional North Dakota African American Research at 3pm-3:30pm. In addition the library holdings will be available for research and RRVGS volunteers on hand to assist.

The Society will furnish beverages and dessert, participants brown bag or outside lunch as they wish from 12Noon -1pm. Preregistration fee is \$15/person, at the door registration is \$20/person. Preregistration is encouraged by no later than 26 Oct 2005.

There is plenty of off-street parking. Photocopy service will be available. Please call us for more information: (701) 239-4129.

Submitted by *Jackie Marler*

Recently RRVGS received this email from Leonard Ermatinger: (lem22001@yahoo.com)

"Some years ago (10 or 12) I and my wife were driving across northern ND. We saw a cemetery with a metal arch over the gate. The arch said 'Snowbird Cemetery'. It has been driving me crazy since, WHERE IS IT? Could it be an Indian cemetery? I think its between Rugby ND and Sidney MT. Sure hope you can help."

A check at find-a-grave and a Google search found a Snowbird Cemetery in Tennessee and a mention in North Carolina. Looking through the ND Department of Health's List of Registered Cemeteries didn't reveal it. The McKenzie headstone book doesn't list it. The only mention we found of anything remotely like it is at the GNIS web-site there is a feature called "Snowbird Chapel" in McKenzie County. Do any of you folks have a better answer for Leonard? If so, put your answer to wing and send it Leonard's way.

### Central North Dakota Genealogical Society

Submitted by *Arlene Cable*

(8-13-2005)

The CNDGS continues to work on the Hertz funeral records (Harvey, ND) from the past. We also continue to answer any requests for genealogical information that comes in.

For the July meeting 4 members attended the musical play "Fiddler on the Roof" in New Rockford.

Summer meetings have been held at 7 PM but will go back to 4 PM in September.



## North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



### **Bismarck-Mandan Historical & Genealogical Society**

Submitted by *Marcia Hansen & Linda Hippen* (8-23-2005)

The Bismarck-Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society is pleased to announce that Henry Z. "Hank" Jones has agreed to be the keynote speaker for our genealogy workshop to be held at Horizon Middle School in Bismarck, ND, on Saturday, 29 April 2006. Hank has been actively climbing family trees since the age of eight, when he found an old trunk filled with fading tintypes, family letters, and old newspaper clippings in the basement of his parents' home in San Leandro, California. He wrote his first genealogical work *A Few More Left: The Story of Issac Hillman*, his great grandfather, while still in high school. Hank continued to pursue his genealogical interests while attending Stanford University, from which he graduated in 1963.

Hank is an entertaining genealogical lecturer, an accomplished researcher and author, and a respected Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. As to his "other life" apart from genealogical research, Hank Jones has had a 25-year acting career in motion pictures and television and is a music recording artist.

The community will have the distinct privilege of sharing an evening with Hank when he makes a presentation to the general public, Friday, 28 April 2006, at the Heritage Center, 612 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND.

The evening's lecture will be followed by a reception and book signing session, which is also open to the general public.

The Friday evening presentation is generously co-sponsored by the North Dakota State Historical Society.

Hank will be the keynote luncheon speaker at the genealogy workshop on Saturday, 29 April, and will also be presenting two of the one-hour workshop classes. We are truly honored and excited to have such a dynamic and knowledgeable speaker as a major part of our community's genealogical event. We hope you will be able to join us!

### **Don't Miss Out**

Dates to remember if you are interested in attending some genealogical presentations.



17 September 2005 (Minnkota) East Grand Forks  
29 September 2005 (SHSND) Bismarck  
1 October 2005 (Moorhead State University)  
3 October 2005 (SHSND) Bismarck  
10-11 October 2005 (UND)  
29 October 2005 (RRVGS & DAR) Fargo  
29 April 2006 (BMHGS) Bismarck

For more information on these presentations, read the Society Reports in this newsletter. There is no charge for some of these.



### **TIME MARCHES ON**

EDITORIAL BY JOHN MOGREN

At the present time it does not appear there is much hope for saving the original main house of the Ward County Poor Farm which is located on the grounds of the North Central Research Extension Center near Minot. The building has not received attention by the caretakers in the past few years and apparently has deteriorated to the extent that it would be extremely costly to restore it. The matter is now in the hands of the District Court as an injunction was filed to prevent it from being razed. Completed in 1910, this is the only original Poor Farm in the State that is still standing as a testament to the many people who sought refuge when they had no place to turn. It is unfortunate to think this grand old historic building has no place in this day and age.

### **North Dakota Statewide Death Index Delayed**

Darin Meschke, Department of Health, regrets to inform you that it is necessary to rescheduled the release of the death index to October 1, 2005.



# North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



## Minnkota Genealogy Society

Submitted by *George A. Freeman* Editor: *Wanda Seyler*

(8-22-2005)

President's Message: Greetings everyone!

Summer is flying by too fast. If you missed the annual picnic, you missed a great time with lots of good food. Attendance by members and guests exceeded previous picnics. As fall begins to approach, it is time to re-focus on your research if you have been idle over the summer months. The MGS second annual seminar is being planned with two speakers for September 17th. This is your club seminar and your participation/attendance /support is needed to help make it a success. Your ideas and input are needed to make this seminar interesting. This is also a chance for you to learn new ideas and jump-start your research itch again.

The Resurrection cemetery project is underway with digital photos and documentation of this cemetery. What a great way to preserve this cemetery for the future and for a club project. More help is needed to complete the documentation. New speakers are also being sought for future meetings as well. If you have an idea, please offer your input. See you at the next meeting! Rick

## Upcoming Meetings

We meet the 2nd Tuesday at the East Grand Forks

Campbell Library at 7 p.m.

September 17 - Seminar at Campbell Library, East Grand Forks, MN

October 11, 2005

November 8, 2005

December 13, 2005 - Christmas Party/Dinner

## MGS Officers

President - Rick Audette - - - - - 218-773-2304  
gregra55@hotmail.com

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## 2005 Projects

The Genealogy Seminar is planned on September 17, at noon at the Campbell Library in East Grand Forks, MN. Guest speakers will be:

1. At 1 PM **Professor Virgil Benoit** of UND will talk about the French-Canadian migration into the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota.
2. At 2 PM **Greg Wysk** of the North Dakota State Historical Society will talk about the newspapers, the naturalization records, local histories, censuses, manuscript collections, etc. and the expansion plans for the ND Archives building in Bismarck.
3. There will be displays by members of various genealogy materials. A lunch will be provided. The entry fee for the seminar is \$10 (Non-members).

Work is continuing on the East Grand Forks Cemetery index. Work details have been organized and digital pictures of each gravestone are being taken. Aspen 2000 computer software is being considered as the data storage. The pictures can be stored in the software too.

The Pet Haven cemetery in East Grand Forks was originally used to burial of humans. Those graves are being recorded too.

The July meeting was a picnic in Grand Forks University Park. A good time was had by all.

The August meeting was held at the Myra Museum in Grand Forks. The curator gave a tour of the facilities. A business meeting was held after the tour.

Minnkota Genealogy Society  
[www.rootsweb.com/-minnkota/](http://www.rootsweb.com/-minnkota/)



# State Historical Society of North Dakota Report



## State Historical Society of North Dakota

Submitted by *Greg Wysk*

(Submitted by Rachel White, technical services head)

(8-16-2005)

### NEW BOOKS

- ~75th anniversary, St. Boniface Catholic Church, Grenora, N.D., 1912-1987 Anniversary Observance, June 14, 1987
- ~Esmond histories (2001). A history of Esmond, N.D., and supplements the Esmond Diamond Jubilee History Book.
- ~Jewish life in the American West : perspectives on migration, settlement, and community /edited by Ava F. Kahn (2002)
- ~Attracted to America / edited by Ivan E. Nielsen (2002). The history of Danish immigrants in America.
- ~Peter S. Petersen's memoirs / edited by John W. Nielsen (2003). Biography of a Danish immigrant in small town Nebraska.
- ~Rolette centennial history : our field of dreams. Rolette, North Dakota (2005)
- ~The first one hundred years : centennial project of the Fargo Genealogy Society (1975)
- ~Letters, letter segments, and memoirs from a farm / edited by Roy W. Simonson. Biography and letters of Otto Simonson, a farmer in Rolette County, N.D.
- ~Index to school censuses of Stutsman County, North Dakota : 1945, 1947.
- ~And a few other titles that will be in ODIN (card catalog) soon:
- ~Fort Stevenson residents 1894 to 1948 / by Frank W. Reuter (2005)
- ~The McConnell family / by Lois Rohrer Ljungren (2005). Family moved to N.D. in 1899.
- ~Abraham Rorer/Rohrer, 1821-1888 / by Lois Rohrer Ljungren (2005). Descendants ended up in Emmons County, N.D. among other places.

## State Historical Society of North Dakota

Submitted by *Greg Wysk*

(8-16-2005)

Barry Moreno, archivist at Ellis Island, will give a presentation about Ellis Island's history and records at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 29, in the Heritage Center's auditorium.

Marilyn Finke of the National Archives' Central Plains branch in Kansas City will be giving 2 genealogy workshops at the NDHC Monday afternoon, Oct. 3. The workshops run from 1 to 2:30 and 3 to 4:30. The titles are "Putting Leaves on Your Family Tree," and "Genealogy and the Internet." The workshops are free but pre-registration is necessary. The Museum and Education division of the SHSND is actually in charge of this so for more information or to register contact Marilyn Snyder, curator of education, at (701) 328-2792 or by e-mail at: [msnyder@state.nd.us](mailto:msnyder@state.nd.us).

Moreno and Finke are the 2 featured speakers at the family history conference at Moorhead State on Saturday, October 1, 2005.

### RESEARCH LIBRARY IS OPEN THE 2nd SATURDAY

Remember the Research library is open the second Saturday of the month. Hours are 9:00 A.M to 4:30 P.M.

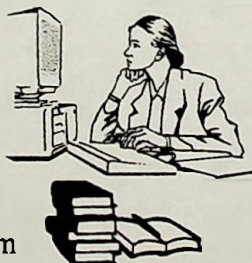
What will you find at the North Dakota State Archives and Research Center?

Check it out....

<http://state.nd.us/hist/sal.htm>

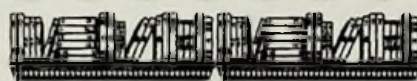
or

<http://state.nd.us/hist/sal/gen.htm>

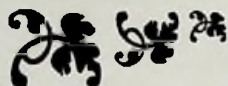


### DONATING ITEMS TO THE SHSND

Before bringing anything for donation to the State Historical Society of North Dakota, please remember to contact them in advance to ensure the item is something that will be accepted. You may contact Deputy State Archivist, Lotte Bailey in advance.



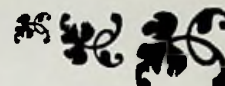
The North Dakota State Genealogical Society has requested that all genealogical societies in North Dakota consider the State Historical Society of North Dakota as our central repository. Please remember to provide a copy of your genealogical and historical works to the State Historical Society of North Dakota so that others may benefit from your research. Contact the SHSND if you have publications, photographs or other materials relating to North Dakota that you are willing to donate or sell.



## UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Chester Fritz Library

Press Release submitted by Sandy Slater

**Subject: Norwegian Heritage Conference to be held in Grand Forks, ND****Conference Dates: October 10-11, 2005**

Norwegian activity and influence in North America can be traced to the early explorers, but significant Norwegian influence in the United States actually begins with the immigration of thousands of Norwegians to the United States in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. About 4.5 million North Americans claim Norwegian ancestry, but some scholars believe that there are 30-60 million people in the U.S. with Norwegian genes, including those who have one or more ancestors from Norway. A large percentage of the people living in the Upper Midwest claim Norwegian ancestry, but there are many Norwegian descendants across the United States.

Norwegian-Americans have a strong sense of their heritage and actively trace their ancestry to the country of their grandparents. In the United States, Norwegian heritage associations have organized throughout the country. The Sons of Norway, bygdelags, and museums preserve and extend the traditions and heritage of Norwegian-Americans. In 2005, Norwegians and their descendants are celebrating the 100-year independence of Norway.

This strong sense of history and family has created a desire to preserve the history of the past and to create written stories of individuals, family, and community. The University of North Dakota Chester Fritz Library in Grand Forks, North Dakota, has been a leader in acquiring and preserving published histories and genealogical resources relating to Norway and the Norwegian immigration experience. The Library's collection of bygdeboks is the centerpiece of the Library's Norwegian resources. This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Bygdebok collection. Numbering over 1,000 volumes, it is one of the largest collections of its genre in the United States. Bygdeboks provide a wealth of information about specific geographic areas in Norway called "kommunes." Each publication contains information about the families that live in the area, usually divided by farm. The works also include general history about the area. Bygdeboks are usually written for the local Norwegian populace, but their contents hold significant historical and genealogical information that is important to researchers in the United States as well as Norway.

In recognition of this significant milestone, the University of North Dakota Chester Fritz Library with the support of the University's Nordic Initiative is holding a conference, "Norwegian Heritage in the United States: Resources and Research Experiences". The Conference is an opportunity for people interested in Norwegian heritage and ancestry to meet and participate in discussions about genealogical resources available in the United States and Norway.

Speakers for the Conference include noted Norwegian archivist, Yngve Nedrebø and Norwegian Emigration Museum Director, Knut Djupedal. These experts on Norwegian immigration and emigration topics will explore the different types of documents and records available in Norway to genealogists and family historians. Blaine Hedberg, the first Fellow of the Gerhard B. Naeseth Chair for Genealogical Research and Publication of the Vesterheim Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library, Madison, Wisconsin will discuss genealogical resources found in the Upper Midwest of the U.S. Dr. Steinar Opstad, Founder of the American College of Norway, and Dr. Rasmus Sunde, Associate Professor of History at Sogn og Fjordane University in Norway, will present their perspectives on Norwegian immigration to the United States. Noted author, Deb Nelson Gourley and genealogist, Millie Ohnstad, will discuss their experiences researching Norwegian ancestors.

The Conference is a unique opportunity to bring experts from Norway and the United States together to examine Norwegian ancestry and heritage. The collection and preservation of family histories, community histories and individual diaries offers rich sources of information about Norwegian-Americans. This event will provide an opportunity for everyone interested in their Norwegian heritage or their relative's immigration experience to learn about the fascinating breadth of historical and genealogical materials available in the United States and in Norway.

Registration and more information about the Conference may be found at:

<http://www.conted.und.edu/norwegianconference/>

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PressRelease 7.22.05



## FEATURE ARTICLE



Jennie Howard

*Transcribed by George Freeman from an audiotape of Anna Freeman (1906-2001) recorded 7/5/1998.*

Well, you see in 1910 my dad being a Modern Woodman of that lodge they have up at the Icelandic Park near Cavalier, ND. That was a lodge he belonged too. And they had a TB sanitarium in Colorado Springs, Colorado for people in their membership that got TB to be cured. So when Dad got TB or was diagnosed with TB he was sent to Colorado Springs. And that was about 1910 or somewhere in that area. Well then Mother was left alone with me and Andrew and Grandpa lived with us (in Upham, ND NE of Minot). And during that time there was this black woman that always came down every day, Jennie Howard, to see if there was anything she could do for mother. She was real kind. She would plow in snow up to her knees from one end of town to the other. Mother loved her very much. And she had a husband by the name of Jim Howard who had a dray line there in Upham. Mother was very close to them. But then Jennie Howard got sick with pneumonia or something and she got some medication from the drugstore but instead of curing her Mother said it killed her. And then after she was dead they had to bury her. The only cemetery close by was the Norwegian cemetery and they refused to have her buried in that cemetery. I think mostly because she was black. And there were some of them that raised a terrible stink about her. But they had to put her some place so they finally consented to put her in the farthest corner of the cemetery (NW corner) away from everybody else because there was man by the name of Andrew Jorgenson that had donated part of his property for that cemetery in the first place. Well for years and years I helped my mother go up to the cemetery and take care of her grave. Her husband Jim had put a small little headstone at her grave and we did that for several years because Mother also took care of another grave of Ole B. Hall who owned a mercantile where my Dad worked. We always decorated those two graves. Later on they found out that headstone of that monument disappeared and we never knew what happened to it. All that was left in that spot was a little marker with a "J H" on it and nobody seemed to know what it was. Well, I tried to explain it to some of the people in the Norwegian Church, but I don't think they believed me because, you see, they don't want to be accused of racism. But that's the story. And maybe it wasn't recorded in the paper or what but there were racists in that country. And Mother always held it against them because she (Jennie) was such a lovable woman and so kind. Every time I go up there I always go over to that grave. When Kay (Buri) took me up there the last time I picked a prairie rose and put it on her grave. We would pack a bunch of stuff in our little red wagon we had and go across the field. Mother would pick flowers and cut the grass at the grave. We did that for years on decoration day (Memorial Day). Andy (Andy Freeman) remembered holding the reins of James Howard's horses of his dray wagon when railroad cars were being unloaded. James was a janitor in the school when I was in the first grade. And he gave me a watch that belonged to Jennie Howard after she past away. I still have it.

*From African-Americans in North Dakota: Sources and Assessments/Thomas P. Newgard, William C. Sherman, pages 176-177.*

Typical of African-Americans who stayed year-around as farm workers was Jim Howard who worked on threshing crews for many years in the Upham area. In 1907 Mr. Howard was working on the Jacobson farm in rural Upham. The census says that in 1910 Jim was 54 years old, he was born in Kentucky, and that he had a wife, Jennie, who was ten years older than him. Jennie was from Wisconsin, We know from other sources that at some time the couple worked as cooks in a local restaurant. Jennie died about 1915 and is buried in the Bloomfield Cemetery. Jim was employed for a while by a local butcher; when the boss moved to Stanley, Jim went with him, but stayed only a short time in that city. His subsequent life is not known.

*The 1910 U.S. census taken April 15, 1910 shows James and Jennie Howard in Upham, ND married 9 years and both as cooks and not able to read or write. James age is shown as 54 years and Jennie's age is shown as 64 years old with no children. Jennie and her mother were born in Missouri and her father's birthplace is unknown. James was born in Kentucky along with both of his parents. George Freeman*

*6/22/2001- ND Vital Statistics in Bismarck did a check for Jennie Howard's death certificate for the years 1910 to 1914. It was not found. There is a discrepancy between Anna's story, which places Jennies death at 1912-1913, and Sherman's book, which says about 1915. George Freeman*

## FEATURE ARTICLE - WARD COUNTY POOR FARM BY JOHN MOGREN

Records dealing with the poor in Ward County date back to the early 1900's. After spending considerable time in the Ward County Courthouse back in 1984, I was able to locate some of the early records pertaining to the care of the poor. Many of the dust covered ledgers or "day books" laid in heap in the darkest of corner of the courthouse attic as if to remain a part of history's story untold. Examples of early entries were: "January 1905; payment to John Hollinger for boarded Robert Coper, a pauper." Another entry "May 28, 1905; pay to H. F. O'Hara for burying W. A. Frey child" and February 16, 1906; \$23.00 to bury L. More, a pauper and \$17.00 to bury Hannah Foss child." As there was no "Poor House" in Ward County in the early years, the only option was to board them out to private homes. Those that could not be boarded out were sent to the Northwestern Hospital. This was a county owned hospital until 1911 at which time it became St. Joseph's Hospital. The laws of North Dakota provided for buying of property for the establishment of a poor farm. In 1907, Ward County Commissioners purchased two quarters in Afton Township, three miles south of Minot for this purpose. There were no buildings on the property at the time and the land was rented to area farmers. There was much debate over the issue of erecting a poor house during this time period but in 1909 the building began. By March 1910 the poor house stood as a testimony of the compassion of the early Ward County settlers for their neighbors who had fallen on hard times. The residents were expected to participate in labor to the best of their ability and no one was allowed a "free ride." Even the physically disabled inmates were assigned some chores to earn their keep. The operation of the poor farm continued much the same from 1910 to 1920. The superintendent did the farming with assistance from the residents and the hired men. The ledgers record the names of local people who also found employment on this large diversified farming operation. In 1921, the Ward County Farm Bureau was given complete supervision of all demonstration and farming operations on the Poor Farm. The Superintendent and Matron continued to have full control of the household and the residents. The first Superintendent was Evald O. Wendt who earned a salary of \$800.00 a month and the first matron was his mother, Mrs. William (Ida) Wendt. Men, women and children all occupied the residence. The one primary stipulation for residing at the Poor Farm was that the resident much be able to care for themselves. The common attitude toward the residents was one of pity "they aren't lazy, they are just down on their luck." While it was not intended to be an orphanage, at one time there were as many as 15 children residing at the Poor Farm. But typically, children were easier to board out to families. In 1939, the W.P.A. did extensive work on the Poor Farm, including complete renovation of the house. As the Federal Government began to implement new programs for the care of the poor, there began to be less need for the Poor Farm and by February of 1940, it was decided that the county would no longer operate a Poor Farm. At that time, it was decided to lease the premises to Louis and Sophie Holum, "to care for persons received from the Welfare Department." They leased the Poor Farm for two years and then Henry and Hazel Miller leased the 480 acres until 1945. According to the March 21, 1945, Ward County Commissioner's proceedings, the motion was made and unanimously passed to allow the sale of the Ward County Poor Farm and it's inventory. In February 1945, House Bill 66 was passed which allowed for the creation of an Agricultural Experiment Station. The plan originated with the Ward County Crop Improvement Association. Thus came the end of this chapter of the Poor Farm

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH  
DAKOTA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

North Dakota State Genealogical Society  
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The North Dakota State Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization. The mission of the society is to encourage networking between genealogical societies and others engaged in genealogical research in North Dakota.



**OFFICIAL ROSTER OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SOLDIERS, SALIORS AND MARINES**  
When looking for relatives, don't forget to consult the veteran's books, such as ROSTER of the Men and Women who served in the Army or Naval Service (including the Marine Corps) of the United States or its Allies from the State of North Dakota in the World War, 1917-1918. Prepared and published under the direction of Brigadier General G. Angus Fraser, the Adjutant General of North Dakota. By authority of the Legislative Assembly of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND 1931.

**A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remebered with pride by remote generations.**

~ Macaulay

**Biography is the only true history.** ~ Emerson



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