

# NDSGS Newsletter

Summer 2010—Volume 1, Issue 2

Summer 2010

## ***Special points of interest:***

- ND State Genealogical Society Minutes
- ND Genealogical Societies Reports
- ND State Archives Reports
- Philatelic Genealogy

## **Inside this issue:**

<i>NDSGS Minutes</i>	2
<i>State Historical Society</i>	4
<i>Philatelic Genealogy</i>	8
<i>JRGC Report</i>	9
<i>SWNDGS Report</i>	9
<i>MRLGS Report</i>	10
<i>MGS Report</i>	10
<i>WCGS Report</i>	11
<i>ICA Report</i>	11
<i>BMHGS Report</i>	12

## **President's Letter**

I recently attended the National Genealogical Society annual conference in Salt Lake City that had a record attendance of over 2700 people. This was a wonderful learning opportunity with almost 200 lectures and workshops on methodology, skillbuilding, migration, records, international research, writing, photography and technology. In addition there were hands on workshops. There was also an exhibit hall with over 100 booths showcasing software, books, society information, etc.

Several special events included an open house hosted by FamilySearch providing an opportunity to visit with their managers, engineers, designers, and researchers. The LDS Church History Library also hosted an open house in their new archival library.

Family Search and the Utah Genealogical Association sponsored a multi-media Celebration of Family History with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra, several short films and a wonderful talk by author and historian, David McCullough. There were about 20,000 people in attendance at this event in the LDS Conference Center.

During the conference the Family History Library was open until 11pm and there were hundreds of people busily researching each time I was there.

Local, state, regional and national conferences are a fantastic learning experience. Not only are we able to attend lectures by experts in their fields, but we can network with fellow researchers.

I hope to see you at the Bismarck French Heritage Convention in July!

Pat Ashley

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the North Dakota State Genealogical Society will be Friday, July 9, 2010 in the Legislative Assembly Room, State Archives at the North Dakota Heritage Center, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Central Time.

All individuals who have paid their membership are welcome to attend. All genealogical societies in North Dakota who have paid their membership are encouraged to send a representative of their society.

There will not be a speaker at this meeting because the Bismarck French Heritage Convention begins at 1pm.

# North Dakota State Genealogical Society Minutes

President Pat Ashley called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM on April 9, 2010. The meeting was held in the Legislative Assembly Room at the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Genealogical societies/club representatives present: Patrice Hartman and Pat Ashley, SWNDGS; Greg Wysk, SHSND; Iona Loken, MRLGS; George Barron and Daphne Drewello, JRG; guest Ann Jenks, State Archivist, SHSND.

## Business meeting

George Barron made a motion, which was seconded by Daphne Drewello that the minutes of the September 11, 2009 meeting be approved as printed. Motion carried.

## TREASURERS REPORT

There was no report.

## OLD BUSINESS

Patrice Hartman made a motion to have a booth at the Moorhead Workshop on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>; seconded by George Barron. Motion carried.

Pre 1925 marriage index. The Great Rivers Network is still having problems setting up the database. Hopefully we will see some progress soon.

The idea to create a record preservation committee and/or write a letter to the legislators introducing the NDSGS was tabled to the July meeting.

Footnote.com has offered the NDSGS a 50% discount on individual annual memberships. Price would be \$40 for a year. This offer is good for 60 days from the time Pat Ashley responds to this offer. Please contact Pat Ashley if you are interested in this offer.

Ann Jenks, State Archivist, SHSND gave a presentation on the Collection Conversations Report: North Dakota's Heritage at Risk. A Project of the North Dakota Cultural Heritage Initiative (NDCHI). Made possible with support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. (IMLS) This report can be found online.

Eight regional meetings were held across the state last fall to document the condition of North Dakota's collections and determine the priority preservation needs. The NDCHI survey was based on the Heritage Health Index survey conducted by IMLS and Heritage Preservation and on similar statewide surveys in Minnesota and South Dakota.

The most important ideas to come out of these conversations/surveys were:

Storage Conditions at facilities need to be improved

Need for education

Need to establish an emergency response network

A final meeting will be held to decide where to go with the information that was gathered. All legislators will receive a copy of the report and hopefully money will be earmarked to help with these needs.

A meeting was recently held to look at the applications for the second round of the Cultural Heritage Grants

There is a total of \$100,000 available for funding projects. The committee received requests for \$500,000.

Emmons County marriage records have recently come into the SHSND Archives. The earliest records date from March of 1884 and will be microfilmed before being returned to the county. The archives also received many other records from Emmons County.

Ann Jenks is working with the Attorney General's office to get more information on what records are restricted and what is not. It would be nice to have a brochure outlining this information.

*(Continued on page 3)*

*NDSGS Minutes (Continued from page 2)*

The archives is working on a webpage with detailed information on State and Local records that are located in the archives collections.

The next meeting will be held Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM in the Legislative Assembly Room.

Secretary, Patrice Hartman

### **Dickinson State University Centennial**

*by Patrice Hartman*

Dickinson State University is starting to plan for their centennial celebration in 2018. The first steps have been taken to index photographs and documents stored throughout the campus.

Some of the interesting items that have been located are early school catalogs, early correspondence about the buildings on campus, a scrapbook compiled by Maude Klinefelter, the dedication address by President May and a history of the early teachers written in 1929.

The research is being done by Carl Larson, DSU pro-

fessor of English emeritus, along with Shanna Shervheim, DSU associate director of communications. The dream is to have an archive room where things can be brought together and more appropriately organized and preserved.

If you have any college annuals, student directories, photographs, programs or historical documents that could help to add to this history please contact Carl Larson at [clarson@ndsupernet.com](mailto:clarson@ndsupernet.com) or call 701-225-8851. Items may also be mailed to Carl Larson: Box 103, Dickinson State University, Dickinson, ND 58601.

### **Attention Authors –**

#### **Submit Your Book to the Missouri State Genealogical Association's (MoSGA) Library Program**

The MoSGA Library program is seeking complimentary copies of recently published books on family histories, genealogies, local histories, and any other books relevant to genealogists. Every book will be reviewed in the MoSGA Journal, and a copy of the review will be sent to the author.

A bookplate naming the donor will be placed in the book and the book will be placed in the circulating collection at the Midwest Genealogy Center of the Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence, Missouri. This collection is available for use at the library, and

more importantly, available for interlibrary loan, reaching genealogy patrons across the United States.

Please include with the book the following information: title, author(s)/ editor(s)/ compiler(s), place of publication, publisher/self-published, year of publication, contact/ordering information, including price and shipping.

For more information contact Jean Foster Kelley, Library Director, by email at [jean@fosterkelley.com](mailto:jean@fosterkelley.com). Book donations may be mailed to MoSGA Library Director, P.O. Box 833, Columbia, MO 65205-0833.

### **In Memoriam**

Dr. James Edward Keck died 18 May 2010 in Williston, North Dakota after battling advanced diabetes and depression for many years. He was born 7 October 1942 in Berea, Ohio to Charles G. and Irene (Ruhlman) Keck, the youngest of three sons. Jim obtained a PhD in Psychology from Case Western Reserve University in 1974. After his marriage to Jacquelyn "Jacki" Dennis on 27 August 1977 in Iowa, he worked as a psychologist in the Chemical Dependency Unit of the Mental Health Institute in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. In 1992 he was offered a position as a psy-

chologist at Mercy Medical Center in Williston. Primarily a pianist, Jim learned to play the organ and played at Faith United Methodist as well as other churches in the Williston area. He also participated in the church choir, the Williston Community Chorale, City Band and Williston Strings. Jim is survived by his wife; sons Jonathan, Wesley, Samuel and Robert; daughter, Vail; brothers, Richard and David; and four grandchildren. Jacki, Jim's wife, was one of the organizers of the NDSGS and served as the NDSGS Newsletter editor prior to 2002.

# State Historical Society of North Dakota

*by Rachel White, Head of Technical Services SHSND*

New Books received since February 2010:

- *100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Nora Congregation of the American Lutheran Church, Gardner, N.D.*
- *There is a season : the centennial history of St. Mary's Parish, Fargo North Dakota, 1880-1980* written and edited by Frank J. Richard and Joseph M. Di Cola
- *Fiftieth anniversary of the Congregational Church, Williston, N.D., 1889-1939*
- *Fiftieth anniversary celebration, Bethany Lutheran Church, Minot, N.D. 1886-1936*
- *NDSU 50 year club : honoring the classes of 1937, 1942, 1947, 1952 & 1957*
- *Henderson then and now : in the Minnesota River Valley*
- *The boys : 1<sup>st</sup> North Dakota Volunteers in the Philippines* by John Durand
- *They were ready : the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry in the Pacific War, 1942-1945* by Terry L. Shoptaugh
- *Growing up in New Leipzig : family, faith, and friends* by Dennis R. Dubs
- *Love on the Dakota plains : a memoir* by Dorothy Schmitz

All of our high school and school yearbooks have now been cataloged. This includes schools from the following towns: Carpio, Lidgerwood, Mott, Washburn, Hankinson, Steele, Dickey, Donnybrook, Forbes, Gackle, Cleveland, Turtle Mountain Community, Casselton, Minot, Bismarck, Velva, Garrison, Hillsboro, Valley City, Ellendale, Dazey, Strasburg, Linton, Berthold, Minot, Wolford, Grand Forks, Lisbon, New Rockford, Fargo, Elbowoods, Page, Rugby, Granville, Ashley, Leeds, Westhope, Inkster. You can check in the ODIN catalog for titles and holdings. We do not have complete runs of most of the titles (in fact in some cases we may only have one or two issues), but we are always looking to add new issues to our yearbook collection.

Some new manuscript collections:

- Dahners Store records
- Muir and Kloubec family papers
- Bismarck Historic Preservation Association Records
- William G. Dow account ledger
- John D. Czapiewski Operation Desert Shield reminiscence
- Patricia Paulson papers
- Young People's League of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America Imanuels Congregation correspondence
- Dickey Rural Telephone Mutual Aid Corporation records
- Central Hotel register (Braddock, N.D.)
- John Kerr Porter papers
- Lillian Ulsrud Grove reminiscence

*(Continued on page 5)*

# State Historical Society of North Dakota

*(Continued from page 4)*

Some new photograph collections on Digital Horizons that may be of genealogical interest: photographs from the L.W. Sperry family of Burleigh County, and the Weinrebe family of Minot. Search the collections at: <http://www.digitalhorizonsonline.org/index.php>

Interns Alyssa Gerszewski and Lori Nohner have been hired to do scanning and description for the Dakota Mosaic project this summer (<http://www.digitalhorizonsonline.org/mosaic.html>). This is Alyssa's second year as an intern on this project. Items from the following organizations will be available for viewing online at the Digital Horizons website by the end of the summer:

- Barnes County Historical Society
- Bismarck State College Library Archives
- Cass County Historical Society
- Dickinson State University
- Enderlin Historical Society and Museum
- Pembina County Historical Society
- Pioneer Trails Regional Museum, Bowman, N.D.
- Richland County Historical Society
- Towner County Historical Society
- Walsh County Historical Society/Minto Museum

## Summer and Saturday Employees at the Archives

*By Greg Wysk*

There are 4 summer interns working at the State Archives this year:

Rachel Trythall of Bismarck is a junior at NDSU, majoring in elementary education and child development, and is the reading room assistant in the archives until mid-August.

Alyssa Boge graduated from Beloit (WI) college this spring with degrees in anthropology and Russian and a museum studies minor. She is the "Dakota Datebook" intern until mid-August, and then will take Rachel's place in the reading room until the end of September.

Lori Nohner of Mandan is a senior at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN, majoring in history and Hispanic studies. She is a digital project archivist working on the Digital Horizons project.

Tracy Popp is a graduate student at the University of Illinois in Champaign, working on a certificate of advanced studies in library and information science with an emphasis on archival studies and digital humanities. She is working as a film and audiovisual intern.

In addition, Judy Weigum, one of our summer staff members from 1999 through 2003, has been back working open Saturdays for the past several months.

# State Historical Society of North Dakota

## New Local Government Records

*by Ann Jenks, State Archivist*

- 41429 Emmons County. Auditor, Estray Notices, 1895-1896, 1ff.
- 41426 Emmons County. Auditor, Petitions, 1922-1945. 1ff.
- 441427 Emmons County. Auditor, Poll & Tally List/Proceedings of Annual Township Meeting, 1939-1952, 5ff.
- 41428 Emmons County. Auditor, Proceedings of Board of County Commissioners, 1916-1952, sc. 9ff.
- 41425 Emmons County. Auditor, Proceedings of the Board of Equalization, 1940, 1ff.
- 41431 Emmons County. Auditor, School District Election Returns, 1884-1917, sc. 2ff.
- 41432 Emmons County. Auditor, Seed Grain Bonds, Contracts, Correspondence, Petitions, 1ff.
- 41430 Emmons County. Auditor, Sheep Inspector's Report, 1889, 1ff.
- 41415 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Bonds of Administrators, Executors and Guardians, 1897-1935, 3v.
- 41403 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Burial Transit Permit, 1929-1967, .5ft.
- 41404 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Certificate of Sire, 1891-1898, 1ff.
- 41397 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Civil Case Files, 1891-1955, 38ft.
- 41421 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Complete Record, 1902-1935, 6v.
- 41407 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Coroner's Record, 1891-1963, 3ff. RESTRICTED
- 41400 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, County Court Docket, 1884-1993, 6 rolls.
- 41438 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Criminal Case Files, 1885-1955, 5 ft.
- 41423 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Driver's License Record, 1935-1938, 2v.
- 41420 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Final Decree of Distribution, 1903-1944, 2v.
- 41411 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Guardianship Case Files. 1875-1980, 5 ft. RESTRICTED
- 41424 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Index to Civil and Criminal Cases, 1885-1987, 1roll.
- 41416 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Inheritance Tax Record, 1913-1939, 1v.
- 41412 Emmons County. Clerk of Court. Insanity Case Files, 1892-1990. 6 ft. RESTRICTED
- 41406 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Insanity Record, 1890-1957, 1v. RESTRICTED.
- 41417 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Inventory & Appraisement, 1884-1917, 2v.
- 41413 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Judgment Docket, 1889-1922, 2v.
- 41410 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Justice of the Peace Dockets, 1885-1973, 4ft. (28v. And .5ft)
- 41418 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Letters of Administrators, Executors and Guardians, 1902-1923, 2v.
- 41399 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Marriage Record, 1888-1994. 7 rolls.
- 41414 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Minute Book, 1884-1910, 3v.
- 41402 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Mother's Pension Record, 1917-1935, 1v.

*(Continued on page 7)*

# State Historical Society of North Dakota

*New government records (Continued from page 6)*

41422 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Motor Vehicle Register, 1942-1948, 1v.

41409 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Notice of Election of Justice/Qualification of Constable/Official Bond and Oath, 1891-1934, 19ff.

41398 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Probate Case Files, 1884-1987, 65.5 ft.

41419 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Probate Journal, 1902-1921, 1v.

41405 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Records of Notaries Commissions, 1886-1915, 1v.

41408 Emmons County. Clerk of Court, Seed Grain Contracts, 1922, 1927. 1ff.

41437 Kidder County. Auditor, Abstract of Votes, 1958-1998, 3ft.

41435 Kidder County. Auditor, Justice of the Peace Quarterly Reports, 1940-1946, 2ff.

41436 Kidder County. Auditor, Officials' Oaths, 1998-2003. 1ff.

41434 Kidder County. Auditor, Report of the State Examiner, 1916-1941. 2ff.

41433 McIntosh County. Clerk of Court, Divorce Case Files, 1892-1961, 7ft.

41439 Richland County. Recorder, Index to Marriage Licenses. 1887-1924. .25 ft.

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyrighted by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

## 2010 Census Forms to be Preserved as Digital Images

In 2082, your descendants will be able to check your handwriting. For the first time ever, original census forms filled out by residents will be preserved and scanned. Digital images will be kept and will be released to the public in 72 years.

The original pieces of paper will be scanned, then

shredded. The digital images will be preserved.

130 million household forms will be converted into permanent electronic records. The images will even include notes scribbled in the margins. You DID write some extra information that will benefit your descendants, didn't you?

## Electronic Version of the Newsletter is Available



If you would like to receive this newsletter as a .pdf file instead of a paper copy please send an email to Pat Ashley at [pashley@ndsupernet.com](mailto:pashley@ndsupernet.com) and we will add you to our list.

You can view .pdf files with Adobe Reader, a free software program available for download at <http://www.adobe.com> and click on Get Adobe Reader.

## Philatelic Genealogy in North Dakota: Immigrant Origins and Domestic Family Ties

by James R. Miller

Old envelopes and postcards from postal history collections are a source of genealogical information.<sup>1</sup> This paper presents seven old envelopes and postcards from North Dakota with key genealogical data on the sender and recipient (when available) to introduce the Philatelic Genealogy website and database (<http://philgen.org>). The website was launched in March 2009 to begin building a digital archive of envelope and postcard images with genealogical value and to promote an exchange between postal history collectors and genealogists. The site has grown to more than 1,250 envelopes and postcards. Every item includes a photograph (used with the owner's permission) and U.S. census or similar details on the sender and/or recipient. The website currently has 22 envelopes and postcards sent to/from North Dakota.

Finding a European immigrant's birthplace can be difficult. An address or a postmark can provide a clue. Henry Buehner of Bailey, North Dakota sent an envelope to Münster, Westphalia, Germany in 1909 (search on *Philgen.org* for Buehner). A Henry Buehner, from Germany, is in Dunn County (where Bailey is located) in the 1910 U.S. census<sup>2</sup> and is shown as being from Westphalia, Germany in the 1920 U.S. census.<sup>3</sup> A Henry Buehner appears in an online family tree with the birthplace of his wife and two of their children shown as Münster, Westphalia, Germany.<sup>4</sup> The envelope, by itself, could have been a starting point to search for the Buehner family home in Europe. As with any source of genealogical information, an old envelope must be used in combination with other sources before reaching any conclusion. This envelope, for sale for \$25, and the other items discussed in this article, for \$10, \$15 or \$30 each, were found on a postal history vendor website that has given permission to *Philgen.org* to use more than 150 pictures of envelopes and postcards sent to/from North Dakota.<sup>5</sup>

Two other envelopes sent from North Dakota may point to the writer's home before coming to the U.S. An envelope from the office of Leutz & McClure of Taylor, North Dakota was sent to Wilhelm Leutz of Heilbronn, Germany in 1901. See Figure 1. A Herman Leutz, from Germany, is in Taylor in the 1920 U.S. census.<sup>6</sup> The shared family name of the sender and the recipient in-

creases the possibility of a family connection. Ole Olsen Sand of Kindred, North Dakota wrote to Gerda Nielsen in Eidsvoll, Norway in 1929 (search on *Philgen.org* for Kindred). An Ole Sand, from Norway, is in Davenport Township (where Kindred is located) in the 1930 U.S. census.<sup>7</sup> These items do not necessarily involve the person's place of origin, but may be worth pursuing if other information is not available.

An envelope sent within the U.S. may provide a clue regarding an earlier place of residence within the country. E. C. Rice of Mandan, North Dakota sent an envelope to Mrs. Eliza Smith in Avoca, New York in 1900 (search *Philgen.org* for Mandan). An Ezekiel Rice, from New York, 60 years old, is in Mandan in the 1900 U.S. census<sup>8</sup> and an Eliza Smith, 51 years old, a widow, is in Avoca in the 1900 U.S. census.<sup>9</sup> An Ezekial C. Rice, 19 years old, and an Eliza Rice, 11 years old, are together in Howard, New York (about six miles southeast of Avoca) in the 1860 U.S. census.<sup>10</sup> It appears that Ezekial C. Rice was writing to his sister in 1900 and that he lived in Howard, New York before coming to Mandan.



Figure 1. 1901 envelope from Taylor, North Dakota to Heilbronn, Germany (Photograph courtesy of Jim Forte Postal History)

The text on a postcard sent within the U.S. can clearly indicate a family relationship. Mrs. Frances Hardebeck of Napoleon, Indiana received a postcard from Mrs. T. Mehrling postmarked in Edmunds, North Dakota in 1915 (search *Philgen.org* for Hardebeck). A Frances Hardebeck is in Jackson Township, Indiana (which contains Napoleon) in the 1920 U.S. census<sup>11</sup> and a Theresia

(Mrs. Frank) Mehrling, born in Indiana, is in Walters Township (adjacent to Edmunds) in the 1920 U.S. census.<sup>12</sup> The postcard text begins "Dear Cousin." An online family tree shows that Frances (Herbert) Hardebeck and Theresia (Herbert) Mehrling were both granddaughters of Gerhard Henry Herbert and each a daughter of different sons of Gerhard Henry Herbert, and thus first cousins.<sup>13</sup>

Mrs. B. H. Burg of Lawrence, Washington received a postcard postmarked in Flora, North Dakota in 1909 (search *Philgen.org* for Maddock). The postcard text begins "Kjære soster Mari" (Dear Sister Mary, in Norwegian) and it has a return address, difficult to read, of "Mr. O.[?] J. Kopp..dal, Mettock, ND." A Mary (Mrs.

(Continued on page 13)



# North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports

## James River Genealogy Club

*by George Barron*

Our James River Genealogy Club held the first meeting of 2010 on April 6 at the Carrington location. The program for the meeting were reports by members, of what they accomplished on their winter projects. Almost everyone in attendance had an interesting project to report on. Many brought things to pass around to show us details.

We are holding meetings this year again in alternate locations, so the May meeting was held May 4<sup>th</sup> at Jamestown. The program featured a presentation by James Lees, Jamestown. James' great grandfather, by the same name, came to Jamestown with the construction of the Northern Pacific RR in 1872. He took up hauling freight, and owned a saloon and seed house. He hauled freight by many wagons and teams of oxen up the Ft. Totten Trail from Jamestown. James told many stories of his relative, and had many questions from the crowd. A very interesting program.

Our next meeting will be June 1 at Carrington. The program will be by one of our Jamestown members, Jeanne Smith, who will show and tell how you find what grandpa was doing in various US and State and school censuses.

Our July meeting will be the 6<sup>th</sup> at Jamestown. At the date of writing this report, the program for that meeting has not been set.

We now have two co-presidents, Cathy Paulson at Carrington, and Barb Gillis Caine, at Jamestown, George Barron, vice president, Jamestown, Mary Kuhn, Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter Editor, Jamestown.

We meet at 7PM the first Tuesday of every month, April through November. We have members throughout the US, and those who attend meetings are from Eddy, Foster, Stutsman, and Wells counties

## Southwestern North Dakota Genealogical Society

*by Patrice Hartman*

At our March meeting we looked at the DDD (defective, dependent and delinquent) 1880 census entries that are available online on ancestry.com. Only 14 states are included so far.

In April we had a presentation by Carl Larson about Dickinson State University gathering archival material for their centennial in 2018. See additional article about this elsewhere in the newsletter. We did not meet in May. An upcoming presentation will be by

Patrice Hartman on her recent genealogical journey to Denmark and Sweden.

Our regular meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Dickinson Public Library. We usually meet in one of the basement meeting rooms. We have members from Stark, Hettinger and Dunn Counties who attend the meetings. Contact Patrice Hartman for more information. [patrice@ndsupernet.com](mailto:patrice@ndsupernet.com)

## England Parish Maps

*by Pat Ashley*

England Jurisdictions, 1851 is an internet based Geographic Information System (GIS) showing parish maps of the 40 counties in England.

Metadata collected includes: places, changes prior to 1851, villages, hamlets, years the extant parish registers and Bishops' transcripts begin, non-Church of England denominations, civil registration district, hundred, probate court, diocese, and Ordnance Survey underlay.

Maps can be accessed by using the search box or double-clicking on the map. Zooming in and out will pro-

vide a detailed or general view of the area. Layers show boundaries of various jurisdictions.

The search feature includes variant spellings, increasing the chance of finding a place in the database.

Contiguous parishes, and parishes within a radius, county, civil registration district, hundred, probate district or diocese are displayed in an information bubble.

All data and map views can be printed. This free resource is available at <http://maps.familysearch.org>.

# North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports

## Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society

*by Diane (Grubb) Stevens*

The MRLGS group continues to meet on the first Saturday of the month at the Minot Public Library in the lower level at 1:00. If no program is planned our networking between members is beneficial. Often useful tips and helps are shared.

A few queries have come our way in the last months and our members research them and find what they can and sometimes find someone else to refer them to.

In May we had someone lined up to present history on a portion of downtown Minot. Her husband was in the military and got orders to transfer before the presentation so they moved to Wisconsin. She did send some information that we will attempt to use.

There will be no meeting in July.

Perhaps during this time of year we have replaced Ancestry.com with gardening (at least part of the time) or just enjoying the outdoors. As I take my walk I enjoy the many beautiful flowers folks have graced their yards with.

The quarterly printing of the RECORD is complete and published. It focuses on Prosperity Township in Renville County. Thanks to John Mogren and others that provide the necessary information.

Enjoy your summer.

## Minnkota Genealogy Society

*by Larrie Wanberg*

The highlight of the spring quarter was a program on "Orphan Trains" on May 11<sup>th</sup> with a presentation by Ann Zemke, author of "They Called Her Marjorie."

Her unique presentation had a backdrop of a very large commemorative quilt that she made in memory of her grandmother. Each block introduced a story taken from her grandmother Marjorie's autobiographical journal. The graphics of the quilt, coupled with Ann's narratives from her book, quoting the grandmother's diary was presented in "storyboard" fashion.

The large turnout at the East Grand Forks Library were captivated by the history of the orphan trains, and especially in the personalized documentary of Ann's grandmother, named Marjorie Peterson.

Ann described the history of the 200,000 children during 1854-1929 that were transported by the train-full

across the Midwest to scheduled stops where interested families selected children for adoption by appearance and a brief interview.

Charles Loring Brace of the Children's Aid Society initiated the social experiment of relocating abandoned, homeless and street children in New York to "better lives" with families.

Ann's grandmother journaled her lifestory as one of these children. For more information, you can Google the book title, the history of Orphan Trains, or the commemorative quilt at [www.crocuslanequilt.com](http://www.crocuslanequilt.com).

This month, member Michael Swanson of the UND Chester Fritz Library will host the Minnkota Society for a tour of the genealogy references and collections. He is Assistant Archivist, Department of Special Collections.

## Local Government Records at the Archives

The Archives continues to add their holding lists of local government records to their website. A North Dakota county map is at <http://history.nd.gov/archives/whatlocalgov.html>. Click on one of the shaded counties to view the list of county, township and municipality records held by the Archives.

# North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports

## Williams County Genealogical Society

*by Gloria Johnson*

The Williams County Genealogical Society met May 1st at Hardees.

Our group continues to work on collecting obituaries to put on file in the library. And we continue to collect updates for our cemetery book.

The McKenzie County cemetery book has been updated by Phylis Hystad and Gloria helped with the publication.

Our group had a booth at the Scandinavian Days at the new armory in February. We centered on family genealogy and had the Williams County and McKenzie County cemetery books for sale.

We discussed the 1918 Flu Epidemic which many have encountered when doing our family histories.

We also shared an article on Documents of Auschwitz death camp doctors found in attic of old house.

On the lighter side we shared an article on "Grandma's Apron."

Gloria is doing research on the Minton family who lived in Lindahl Twp. and Tioga, Williams County, ND during the early 1900's. Alfred Urwin (A.U.) Minton has a headstone in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Tioga but no records can be found of his death or burial. The last record there is of him is a document in the newspaper in April 1918 when he took the train to Canada. From there it is a brick wall.

Our next meeting will be in October.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jack Keck and her family on the death of husband Dr. James Keck.

## Icelandic Communities Association (ICA)

*by George Freeman*

Preparations are underway for The Deuce of August celebration 30, 31 July and 1 August 2010 in Mountain. See [www.august2nd.com](http://www.august2nd.com) for further details of events.

Pam Furstenau & George Freeman are making preparations for the Genealogy Center that will be open during the celebration to help people with their family histories and searches.

There will be about 100 visiting Icelanders and dignitaries from Iceland and North Dakota present. Among the visitors will be the Prime Minister of Iceland and Governor Hoeven of North Dakota.

The "Cousins Across the Ocean" project is in its third

year this year. We offer to visiting Icelanders an effort to find and unite them with their western cousins. This project is becoming very popular in the Icelandic community. Most of the cousins have never met. It is an emotional event when long unknown cousins meet.

Pam Furstenau and George Freeman are also inventorying and mapping ten Icelandic Cemeteries in Pembina County. Gardar, Thingvalla, Mountain, Vikur, Fjalla, Andvari, Vidalin, Hallson, Peters, and Pembina Icelandic cemeteries are involved. This work has been going on for 2 years. There are about 3,500 graves involved.

We'll see you at the Deuce!!!

## Minnesota Marriage Index

There is now a statewide Minnesota marriage index online. Minnesota Official Marriage System (MOMS) is about 80% complete so be sure to check the county you are interested in to see what years have been indexed. Some of the entries date back to 1850. There

are links to the individual county websites for contact information. The website is <http://www.mncounty.com/Modules/Certificates/Marriage/Default.aspx>.

# North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports

Bismarck Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society

*By Alfred A Buchholz*

Excitement! Excitement! Excitement!

That is what you get when you attend our monthly meetings of the BMHGS and also that is what you miss. In May we had an excellent talk by Evelyn Landis. She was a farmwife and mother of four sons- doing all the things that women do and serving where she was needed. Did the bookkeeping for the farm, air spray, and trucking. She served as National President for American Agri-Women and served as their spokesperson. Evelyn organized North Dakota Agri Women and with Gary Enright developed the farm women's conference and farm woman of the year award that has been held annually in Grand Forks. Evelyn received the Bread and Roses Award from UND for promotion of women, received the Pioneer in Agriculture from NDSU for promotion of women, served on North Dakota Commission for the Status of Women, and served as an ATAC Advisor to the Foreign Agriculture Service under Pres. Carter.

After that Evelyn went back to school, at age 50, and got her endorsement in Bilingual Education and taught ESL and Science in Houston, Texas from 90 to 2002. The last years she was there, she was very cognizant of the 42 ethnicities that came through her classroom and recognized the struggle to keep their identity and culture alive while fitting in to our westernized civilization. Evelyn had always been curious and proud of her French heritage and that experience added to her need to 'know'. Because she was part of the American Experience she also had a flavoring of Polish and English...all that she is, she is addressing in her research.

Many years ago my stepfathers aunts presented their family tree and research (they were nuns by the way) and I became fascinated with the process. Evelyn says, "It is now- since retirement and particularly the advent of the net- that I have been able to assuage my curiosity....and develop wrinkles in my butt and calloused fingertips from this infernal machine to which I am umbilicaled to." She talked about her family heritage and about the quilt that her grandfather made, which she has donated to the Library at the University of North Dakota. Dr Virgil Benoit, the Professor of French from the University of North Dakota and also the director of IFMidwest, was also at May 13th meeting. We had an excellent program.

Before the meeting started, KFYZ did an interview of Evelyn Landis and about the "Quilt" and it was aired

on the 10pm news that night. Also we had the whole talk by Evelyn Landis taped to be edited and possibly aired on Prairie Broadcasting.

We are looking forward to the joint conference put on by IFMidwest and BMHGS July 9th and 10th in Bismarck starting at the State Heritage Center. Please don't miss this opportunity of a lifetime. Heritage provides the stories of our lives.

The heritage they will consider began in North Dakota with the arrival of La Verendrye in the 1730s. French fur traders from Quebec followed, and they contributed to the creation of the Michif culture as it is known in North Dakota. Later French-Canadian farmers settled in North Dakota, adding to the variety of French heritage in the state. Most recently, Africans from former French colonies are adding to the state's diverse French and French language heritage.

We invite you to help spread the word about this convention on French heritage. Please visit the web site at [www.ifmidwest.org](http://www.ifmidwest.org) and click on "News" on the home page. Under heritage schedule take note of the state, national and international topics from Rolette, to Manitoba, Quebec, Africa and France.

On the genealogy schedule notice the numerous opportunities to attend workshops, interact with specialists and hear expert practitioners.

Like heritage food and good company? Register for the Friday evening dinner at the Elks Club.

Concerned about opportunities to get out into Bismarck and enjoy fine entertainment? Take note of the variety of performing artists who will be at the Belle Mehus on Saturday evening. Myron Senechal is the local contact at 701-258-1463 or [msenechal@bis.midco.net](mailto:msenechal@bis.midco.net)

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have our pot luck picnic. It will again be at the Burlington Northern Park on West Main Street in Mandan, North Dakota. Bring some food, your own plates and utensils, and some stories about yourselves, your family, or whatever.

If you are not a member of the BMHGS, become one by contacting us at [BMHGS.com](http://BMHGS.com) or write BMHGS, PO Box 485, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502.

Thank you and have a safe summer.

*Philatelic (Continued from page 8)*

Ben H.) Burg, 44 years-old (and thus born *circa* 1866), with four children born in North Dakota, is in Whatcom County, Washington (where Lawrence is located) in the 1910 U.S. census,<sup>14</sup> and an Ole J. Kopperdahl is in South Viking Township, North Dakota (near Flora and Maddock) in the 1910 U.S. census.<sup>15</sup> A Ben H. and Mary Berg, with four children, plus a “George Coperdehl,” are in Viking, North Dakota in the 1900 U.S. census.<sup>16</sup> An online family tree shows that Ole J. Kopperdahl had a sister Mari born in 1866.<sup>17</sup> This postcard, which has a photograph of the “Old Settlers Picnic – Viking, N.D.,” appears to have been sent by a brother to his sister who has moved to Washington state.

Miss Ethel Hoffmeister of Wabasha, Minnesota received a postcard from Stone, North Dakota in 1909 (search on *Philgen.org* for Hoffmeister). An Ethel Hoffmeister, single, is in Wabasha in the 1910 U.S. census.<sup>18</sup> The postcard text begins “Dear coz” and is signed Edith. The sender has not yet been identified.

I hope this article has shown you several types of genealogical information available from postal history. In addition to place of origin and family connections within the U.S., other envelopes and postcards show our ancestors' political and social interests, military service, work, and recreation.<sup>19</sup> Many more envelope and postcard photos involving North Dakota residents are available and most have not yet been placed on *Philgen.org*. Postal history being sold on the Internet, at stamps shows, and in auction catalogs is classified by its stamps and postmarks. The purpose of *Philgen.org* is to make postal history accessible to genealogists by identifying the senders and recipients of envelopes and postcards. Anyone interested in helping to add North Dakota envelopes and postcards to the website is invited to contact the author. Photographs and data posted for each item will be credited to the person and/or their genealogical or philatelic association.

<sup>1</sup> James R. Miller, “Philatelic Genealogy: Old Envelopes, Postcards, and Immigrant Origins,” *New England Ancestors* 10:2 (2009): 37–38 and “Philatelic Genealogy Update: An Initial Assessment of the Genealogical Value of Old Envelopes and Postcards,” *American Ancestors* 11:1 (2010): 45 (both viewable at <http://philgen.org>, click on NEA Article or American Ancestors in the Main Menu).

<sup>2</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Township 146, Dunn County, North Dakota, ED 41, p. 8A (written), NARA series T624, roll 1,140. Viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>3</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Township 146, Dunn County, North Dakota, ED 53, p. 1A (written), NARA series T625, roll 1,333. Viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>4</sup> One World Tree, Henry Buehner, viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>5</sup> Jim Forte Postal History (<http://postalhistory.com>, go to “U.S. by

State,” click on North Dakota; accessed 5 April 2010).

<sup>6</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Taylor Ward 1, Stark County, North Dakota, ED 205, p. 1A, NARA series T625, roll 1,339. Viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>7</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Davenport Township, Cass County, North Dakota, ED 19, p. 5A (written), NARA series T625, roll 1,733. Viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>8</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Mandan Ward 2, Morton County, North Dakota, ED 239, p. 10A (written), NARA series T623, roll 1,230. Viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>9</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Avoca, Steuben County, New York, ED 57, p. 8B (written), NARA series T623, roll 1,162. Viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>10</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Howard, Steuben County, New York, p. 6 (written), NARA series M653, roll 862. Viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>11</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Jackson Township, Ripley County, Indiana, ED 159, p. 4A, NARA series T625, roll 462. Viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>12</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Walters Township, Stutsman County, North Dakota, ED 234, p. 3B, NARA series T625, roll 1,341. Viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>13</sup> “Young, Uphaus, Bower, Taylor, Dunn, Jones Family” tree, published online at *Ancestry.com*, owner wmrobert; census records cited as source for Herbert, Hardebeck, and Mehrling births and marriages.

<sup>14</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Licking Precinct, Whatcom County, Washington, ED 348, p. 8B (written), NARA series T624, roll 1,674. Viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>15</sup> 1910 U.S. census, South Viking Township, Benson County, North Dakota, ED 17, p. 10B (written), NARA series T624, roll 1,138. Viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>16</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Viking (also shown as Township 151, Range 69), Benson County, North Dakota, ED 12, p. 4B (written), NARA series T623, roll 1,226. Viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>17</sup> “Skagen and Christensen Family Tree,” owner Olav Skagen; primary source citations not shown. Viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>18</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Wabasha Ward 2, Wabasha County, Minnesota, ED 157, p. 13A (written), NARA series T624, roll 728. Viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>19</sup> For examples of other types of information available from postal history, see James R. Miller, “Philatelic Genealogy in Iowa: An Introduction,” *Hawkeye Heritage*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (2010): cover, 7–14; James R. Miller, “Philatelic Genealogy in Minnesota: An Introduction,” *Minnesota Genealogist*, Vol. 40, No. 4 (Winter 2009–2010): 9–14; and James R. Miller, “Philatelic Genealogy in Ohio: An Introduction,” *Ohio Genealogy News*, Vol. 41 (Spring 2010): cover, 6–9 (all viewable at <http://philgen.org>, click on Iowa, Minnesota, or Ohio in the Main Menu).

## Acknowledgments

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

North Dakota State Genealogical Society  
PO Box 485  
Bismarck, ND 58502

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**NDSGS Dues**

Individual	\$5.00
Supporting	\$10.00
Society (1-10 members)	\$5.00
Society (11-25 members)	\$10.00
Society (26-50 members)	\$20.00
Society (51+ members)	\$35.00

**We're on the web!**  
**[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ndsgs/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ndsgs/)**

## Upcoming Events

25-26 June 2010. Second Annual Colorado Family History Expo, Loveland, Colorado. For more information and to register: [www.fhexpos.com/expos](http://www.fhexpos.com/expos) or call **801-829-3295**.

9—10 July 2010. Bismarck French Heritage Convention, 1pm Friday—4:30pm Saturday, North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck. For the schedule: <http://www.ifmidwest.org/en/Convention%20Schedule.htm>.

12—17 September 2010. XXIXth International Congress of the Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences 2010 will be held in Stuttgart, Germany. For more information: <http://www.congress2010.info>.

23-25 September 2010. Montana Genealogical Society Annual Conference, Lewiston. For more information: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mtmsgsgs/Conferences/2010%20Conference.htm>

1-2 October 2010. Minnesota Genealogical Society Conference, St. Paul. For more information: <http://www.mngs.org/quarterly.shtml/#northstar>

2 October 2010. Family History Workshop, 8am—4:30pm, Moorhead, Minnesota. For more information: <http://heritageed.org/>

**2 October 2010. North Dakota State Genealogical Society meeting, 3:15pm-4:30pm in Room 227, Comstock Union, MSU, Moorhead, Minnesota**

**North Dakota State Genealogical Society**

**Post Office Box 485**

**Bismarck, ND 58502**