The Official Newsletter of the North Dakota State Genealogical Society

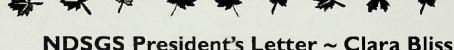
STATE HISTORICAL

NDSGS Newsletter



Volume 1: 2004, Issue: Fall/winter issue







Special points of interest in this issue:

- North Dakota State Genealogical Society Minutes
- North Dakota Genealogical Societies reports.
- Cemetery Adventures by George Barron



Society Reports

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President's letter and report from Bowman County Historical & Genealogical Society

On July 15, 1864, the Fisk Expedition left the Minneapolis/St.Paul area headed for the gold fields out west. There were approximately 100 wagons and 170-200 men, women and children in the wagon train. Nothing note worthy happened during the trip form Minneapolis/ St.Paul to Ft. Rice except for the birth of a baby. It seems there is some controversy over the gender of the child; while one diary reports the birth of a healthy young soldier weighing 12 1/2 pounds another diary reports the birth of a daughter.

At Ft Rice a military escort, under the direction of Colonel Daniel Dill, joined the wagon train. Unfortunately the soldiers who were assigned this duty were convalescent troops so physically not in top notch condition. Never the less they pressed forward. Their route took them near the present day cities of New Leipzig, Regent and New England. They would have passed on the north side of the Rainy Buttes, Chalky Buttes and Black Butte. Some where near Deep Creek they were attack by the Indians. The main body of the wagon train had proceeded on while the rear guard remained behind to assist a wagon which had tipped and it was while they were trying to rejoin the main body they were attack. According to James Fisk's official report to Washington 9 were killed and 4 were wounded, of these 3 would later die. As quickly as possible the wagons formed the circle and secured the area as best they were able. An earthen fort was constructed around the wagons and here they remained for 16 days until assistance came from Ft Rice.

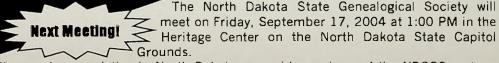
The above historical information comes from "Ft Dilts...The Story Behind The Story" authored by Dean A. Pearson of the Pioneer Trails Regional Museum.

One of the mortally wounded was Corp. Marmduke Betts, Co F 6th Iowa Cavalry. Just over a year ago PTRM received an e-mail requesting any information concerning Marmaduke Betts. When I was able to supply the information that he was part of the Fisk Expedition and Ft Dilts and that there is a tomb stone at the fort interest flared. It seems the Betts family had been searching for Marmaduke for a long time and the only information that they has was that he had been killed by Indians in Dakota.

Marmaduke was married with one child, a daughter. Since this time we have heard from several Betts relatives and have been visited by a number of them with more to come in September. A research into family history that has paid off.

Pioneer Trails Regional Museum has found requests for genealogy has been rather slow this summer. We have had a few stop by looking for information and so far have been rather successful in being able to help. The museum, itself, has had a successful year.

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



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.



North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



Bowman County Historical & Genealogical Society
Submitted by Clara Bliss

See President's letter page one

Bismarck Mandan Historical & Genealogical Society
Submitted by Susan Dingle, Program Chair BMHGS

The book just completed, but not yet printed, is "Burleigh County Marriages 1874-1 Jul 1925". Buehler Funeral Home Abstract is a forthcoming publication. News about price and availability will be added to the society's webpage some time in the very near future. The Bismarck Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society (BMHGS) webpage is: http://www.rootsweb.com/~ndbmhgs/

The mailing address is:

BMHGS, P.O. Box 485, Bismarck ND 58502-0485 The BMHGS is hosting Genealogy Help Night, Thursday, 12 August 2004, at the Family History Center, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1500 Country West Road, Bismarck. Members of the public and BMHGS members are invited to come share their genealogical knowledge and their genealogical setbacks, questions, roadblocks, and successes.

There will be no Genealogy Workshop this September. The society needs more volunteers who attend meetings and who have the time to donate to planning and helping at the workshop. The membership survey in Spring 2004 showed that a number of members are interested in the work of BMHGS, but they have multiple commitments stacked up at many of the same times that we and other groups hold meetings. BMHGS will work on a workshop for next year if volunteers to help on it will make themselves known to one of the officers, such as the newsletter editor, the corresponding secretary, the treasurer, or the president of the society.

BMHGS will hear from Mike Rempfer 9 September 2004 on the story of a German-Russian who was drafted to serve in WWI and his letters home. Mike also will talk about using a relatively new resource available now at the Family History Center and at the State Archives at the State Historical Society: the WWI Draft Card Registration Index, which is on microfilm purchased from the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC.

Bismarck Mandan Historical & Genealogical Society Continued

On 14 October 2004, Don Baglien will show his family history digital photo show and talk about how it is linked with a family history chart/text program.

BMHGS member Glenn Herdebu proposed Genealogy Help Night. BMHGS hopes to continue offering Genealogy Help in the time available after speaker sessions at regular monthly meetings. But only the August program (so far) is in a genealogy resource center, where we can also try out some resources to see what we find after we've heard about a new strategy to try.

More than 3,400 Medals of Honor have been presented to U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coast guardsmen since the decorations creation in 1861. Looking for an ancestor or relative who received one?

Check out this site: http://www.army.mil/cmh/Moh1,htm

Source: Dakota Homestead Historical Newsletter, Volume 33 No.2

Central North Dakota Genealogical Society

Submitted by Arlene Cable

In May we had a short meeting and then took a road trip to several rural cemeteries. They had all been nicely mowed and cleaned up for Memorial Day. We also went to see the huge cottonwood tree at Egg Lake.

Genealogical requests are answered as they come in. Helen Fritchie reported on the new LDS family history center in Jamestown.

A donation was made to NDSGS for the statewide death index to be placed on the internet.

We are planning another outing, this time to Devils Lake where we will visit the Old Post Office Museum, the new Library and the Fort Totten Historical square.

Arlene Cable and her sister Clarice Matthews are having a book published on the Gallinger Schools and McClellan Township in Benson County. They plan to donate one to UND Library, NDSU Library and North Dakota State Archive Heritage Research Library.

New members and visitors are always welcome to attend our meetings which are held on the third Thursday of each month, 4 PM at the Harvey Public Library Centennial room.



North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



James River Genealogy Club

James River Genealogy Club August 2004 Report Submitted by George Barron, August 8, 2004

Our cemetery crew of Daphne Drewello and George Barron have recently completed reading all the cemeteries and collecting records on Sioux County cemeteries and have completed the project. The book is "Cemeteries of Sioux County, North Dakota 2004" and has been distributed to libraries and is now for sale.

Our meeting program in June was member stories on "the good guys" amongst their ancestors. We heard lots of stories of heroes and nice people. At the July meeting, one of our members, Robert Cox of Carrington, and Australia, and a volunteer librarian at the Jamestown LDS Family History Center (open Mon & Sat 10AM-2PM) demonstrated how to use the center gave examples of records that are available there. Our August program was member tales of attending family reunions. Almost everyone had reunion experiences to share with the large group in attendance. Our September meeting program is scheduled to have members tell "harvest" stories. We expect interesting historical information about cook cars, threshing crews, threshing machines, steam engines, and hand shocking of grain bundles from the horse pulled binder.

Our searching helpers continue to be busy all summer with visiting descendants whose ancestors populated this region in earlier days. They often find tourists from distant states and counties parked in their driveway, wanting to purchase cemetery books or get help on locating the route to a cemetery, or asking for help. Often when the door bell rings it is a guy saying the court house send me. They say you are the leading expert on how I might find information on Uncle Harry who lived here in the early days. One of them, Joel Opsomer and his wife, from Washington, IL, who visited our Alfred Dickey Library in Jamestown was so enamored with all the information he found decided to donate \$500 to our state society to help get the ND death index up on line. Way to go Joel!

James River Genealogy Club

Continued

Our club and the Carrington Library are attempting to raise money and get grants to install a microfilm reader/printer in the library. We need to find a few more Joels! If you know some source rich in money, contact our President, Cathy Paulson, 651 4th ST. North, Carrington!

Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society

Submitted by John Mogren

Since the last newsletter, the following has been some of the highlights of our organization.

We purchased books on Irish research that were donated to the Minot Public Library in memory of two of members. The September issue of the North Central North Dakota Genealogical Record is our 100th issue. We continue to publish our newsletter four times a year and we run between 28 and 32 pages per issue. In June we did an "re-orientation" to the Minot Public Library and showed new members where to find research resources. In July a group of us went to St. John's to tour the Rolette County Historical Society Museum. We also returned the San Haven Sanatorium patient books and the completed indexes. The indexes are now for sale. (see the advertisement in this publication). The focus of our August meeting was Family Reunions. The discussion was interesting and many helpful hints were offered on organizing reunions. In September we are looking forward to a presentation by Nancy Bergstrazer on her recent trip to Kenya.

We continue to meet monthly on the first Saturday at 1:00 in the Minot Public Library. Visitors are welcome!

The Indexes to the San Haven Sanatorium Patient Registers

Volume 1 (1912-1936) \$32.25 Includes postage/handling Volume 2 (1936-1954) \$32.25 Includes postage/handling Or special offer (if both are ordered at the same time) Volumes 1 & Volume 2 (1912-1954) \$54.50

Write to: Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society
Post office Box 1391
Minot, ND 58702-1391

(Names are indexed both my surname and county)

Example:

Classon Kingsting Minch Ward 2 43 4040 Pint 2 20 4004

Olsson, Kjerstine Minot, Ward, 3-13-1919 Died 3-30-1921 She is listed again in the Ward County section



North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



Red River Valley Genealogical Society

Submitted by Jackie Marler

Unlike a lot of other genealogical societies, RRVGS maintains its own library space. In the real world Space = Rent= \$\$\$, and sometimes funds are harder to come by than at other times. A sluggish general economy caught up to RRVGS this summer and so the Society has had to undertake fund raising activities apart from our regular genealogical research services and book sales. We participated in a new venture of the Moorhead, Minnesota parks district called "RiverArts." Throughout the summer, on Tuesdays, many cultural activities took place all over the downtown area in Moorhead. We opted to have a booth at the Tuesday afternoon Flea and Farmers Market held at the Heritage Hjemkomst Center selling member donated what-have-you. It was an interesting experience to say the least-one is never certain who is going to be interested in buying what!

Speaking of finding the right buyer at the right moment, RRVGS is the owner of four plots in the Riverside Cemetery in Fargo, a donation from a member. If you are looking for the ultimate permanent spot, Riverside is certainly a lovely cemetery, lush, green, and serene. Begun in the 1870s, Riverside is currently home to 15, 000 + of former Fargo residents representing a good mix of the high and the not-so mighty both. If you are interested in purchasing contact President Alice Ellingsberg at RRVGS, PO Box 9284, Fargo ND 58106.

The newest publication of the Society is the headstone transcriptions of the stones in the Sunset Memorial Gardens cemetery in Fargo, N.D. This cemetery was started in 1951. This book contains headstone inscriptions recorded as they lay with a separate surname index and maps of the grounds. The price of the book is \$20. Please write the Society at the post office box above.

Librarian Linda Zeutschel is updating the holdings list of RRVGS. The library has experienced a large growth spurt over the last couple of years making the update timely. Linda is anticipating having the work complete and available in time for the Heritage Commission's 29th Annual Family History workshop "Stirring the Melting Pot" on 2 October 2004 on the University of Minnesota--Moorhead campus.

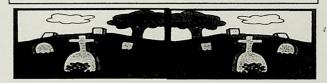
RRVGS had to say so long to two of our more faithful servants. Jim and Fern Stark, each of whom has served as treasurer over the last dozen or so years, were honored at a farewell party held at the RRVGS library on August 7. Jim is on the mend from an accident last winter. He and Fern decided to move to Oregon to be near their daughter. We thank Jim and Fern and we wish them good luck, health and happiness in their new home.



South West ND Genealogical Society

Submitted by Patrice Hartman

At our June meeting we discussed a variety of field trips and other projects. In July we visited the Stevenson-Mischel-Olson Funeral Home in Dickinson. This funeral home has the oldest funeral home records for the Dickinson area. When Frank Mischel established the funeral home in Dickinson he purchased the Boulger-Hughes funeral home which was established in Dickinson about 1910. The records dating from 1910 are mainly listings of funerals and the billings for these funerals. Beginning about 1916 the records become more detailed. In about 1920 obituaries are included in the records. The oldest records are in the red books and these books include records to about 1961. The Mischel Funeral Home had affiliate funeral homes in many of the surrounding towns so they have a number of records from these other areas. There are a few records from the Mott funeral home dating from 1950 to 1961. Also a few records from Dunn Center dating from 1939 to 1956. These records are indexed in each book. There are a few records from the Tweeten Funeral home that was located in Dickinson. There are also records from the Price Lisko Funeral Home which was also located in Dickinson. These records cover the period from 1954 to 1978. An overall index to all the records has been compiled dating from 1952 to the present. We are considering compiling an index of the earlier records. Contact Muriel on Saturdays if you have a genealogical request.



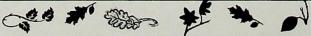
Williams County Genealogical Society

Submitted by Gloria Johnson

Our last meeting for the summer was in May. This allows time for members to go out and do their own researching, visiting family members, etc. during the summer months.

We had a very successful fundraiser - to raise funds for publishing our Rural Cemetery Index of Williams County. We had our drawing in July for an oak (cedar lined) chest built by Dan Lynch. A young lady in Williston is the proud owner of the chest. Data entry on our cemetery book is almost finished and we are looking forward to the publishing this fall.

Our next scheduled meeting will be the second Saturday in September, with election of new officers for the year.





NORTH DAKOTA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MINUTES



President Clara Bliss called the meeting to order at 1:00 on June 25, 2004. The meeting was held at the North Dakota State Heritage Center.

Genealogical societies/club representatives present: Patrice Hartman and Patricia Ashley, SWNDGS; Clara Bliss and Dorothy Pearson, BCHGS; George Barron and Daphne Drewello, JRGC; Don Smith, Susan Dingle and Beth Bauman, BMHGS; and Greg Wysk, State Historical Society of North Dakota, and John Mogren, MRLGS. Visitors: Dr. Brent Askvig, Stacy Askvig, Don and Pat Theisen.

PROGRAM

Clara Bliss welcomed Dr. Brent Askvig who is a Professor of Special Education at Minot State University. His presentation was on the State School at Grafton, ND.

Dr. Askvig is writing a book entitled "One Hundred Years, A Chronology and History of the North Dakota Developmental Center," which will be available by early July. The Des Lacs, N.D., native, became interested in the subject after his college adviser Dr. Ronald Archer, a former superintendent of the center, suggested he write a report about the center's history. There is a wealth of information available on the center at the Minot State University Library including the biennial reports. The admission records for the first 22 years of the center are at the State Historical Society Archives.

In 1901 the Board of Trustees for the Institution of the Feeble Minded was established. Located a mile west of Grafton, a large imposing structure was erected in 1903 at a cost of \$27,000.00. Originally intended for 125 inmates and staff the main building was 2600 square feet. The first Superintendent Dr. Louis B. Baldwin was hired in 1903 and the first 6 residents were admitted on May 2, 1904. The names of these residents were not recorded in the records. Twenty seven residents were transferred from Jamestown on May 28, 1904 and by November there were 75 residents at the institution. The records for the residents include their names, addresses and other information.

Originally the farm encompassed 40 acres and expanded to 700 acres with another 800 acres rented from area farmers. The farm provided most of the food for the residents and provided an avenue of work. There was also a Holstein herd for 70 years. Other types of work were basket weaving, the making of nets and handcrafts. In the early years there was a high mortality rate of 10 to 15% with the three main causes being epilepsy, pneumonia and tuberculosis. A hospital was built in 1911 to allow for the segregation of those with infectious diseases. By 1910 there were 165 inmates and by 1916 there were 260 inmates. The peak population was in the 1960s with 1451 residents. Genealogical studies of the residents were compiled in the 1930's but these records no longer exist. In 1933 the name was changed to the Grafton State School to recognize the training emphasis at the facility.

In the beginning the staff lived on the top floors of the dormitories. In 1959 a separate cottage was built for the Superintendent. There is a cemetery on the campus but some residents were buried in the cemetery on the east side of Grafton. The school was renamed the Developmental Center in 2000. The current Superintendent serves both Grafton and the state hospital at Jamestown. There are currently about 150 residents and many of the buildings are no longer used.

BUSINESS MEETING

Dorothy Pearson made a motion, which was seconded by Don Smith that the minutes of the March 19th meeting be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Don Smith, Treasurer reported that our overall balance is \$4,396.30. Special Projects Fund is \$1508.82. Motion made by John Mogren and seconded by Patricia Ashley to file the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: None



NORTH DAKOTA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MINUTES



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Continue from previous page:

NEW BUSINESS

1. The speaker for the September meeting will be Gerald Newborg or someone from the State Historical Society with the topic being upcoming legislation that will affect historical and genealogical research.

- 2. Discussion of funding for posting the ND State Death Index online. Letters were sent in April to 54 Historical and Genealogical Societies in the state of ND asking for donations. The NDSGS has received a total of \$1545.00 in donations to date for this project. There has been a delay with the funding of the estimated monthly maintenance fee of about \$185.00. Another letter will be sent to Darin Meschke at the ND Division of Vital Statistics for additional information.
- 3. Discussion of the Records Preservation Liaison. The FGS/NGS Records Preservation and Access Committee is seeking a State Liaison from North Dakota. The Committee is a cooperative venture between the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society intended to advise the genealogical and historical communities on ensuring proper access to vital records, on means to effect legislation, and on supporting strong records preservation policies and practices.

Clara will talk to Gerald Newborg about this position.

Society Reports

MRLGS: They are finished indexing the San Haven Patient List and will present a copy to the Rolette County Historical Society and the State Historical Society of North Dakota when it is printed. They are planning a field trip to the Rolette County Museum in July.

BCHGS: Their beginning genealogy workshop in June was well attended and they hope to offer another workshop for intermediate genealogy next year.

JRGS: They are having a speaker from the Jamestown LDS Family history library to talk about the records in their facility. Working on compiling the Sioux County Cemetery records.

BMHGS: Working on records from the Buehler Funeral Home that was located in Mandan and the Burleigh County Marriage Records. They will not be having a workshop this fall.

SWNDGS: Planning a visit to the Stevenson-Mischel-Olson Funeral home in Dickinson.

SHSND: The moveable shelving is installed but access to these records is slow. They are doing a reinventory of the records. Some new staff has been hired and duties have been reorganized. They are planning to microfilm the Walsh and Barnes County marriage records. Most of the county and local government records will be moved onsite from storage. Compiling an index to the newspaper abstracts.

The Next Meeting is Friday September 17, 2004 at 1:00. 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

One Hundred Years, A Chronology and History of the North Dakota Developmental Center By Brent A. Askvig, Ph.D.

The book is available from the ND Center for Persons with Disabilities, 500 University Ave. W., Minot, ND 58707. The cost is \$20 and no charge for shipping/handling fee. You can call 1-800-233-1737 and ask for Susan Anderson. She is handling the orders.

Brent A. Askvig, Ph.D. ND Center for Persons with Disabilities Minot State University Minot, ND 58707

Thank you to Brent Askvig for coming and sharing his knowledge of this institution with us.

(Be sure to tell them you read it in the North Dakota State Genealogical Newsletter)

Orders are being taken for the following book, if enough orders are received it will be reprinted: Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, New Hradec, North Dakota, 2003

363 pages, Cost \$50.00
Contact: Lorraine Bezdicek
11395 26 St. SW Dickinson ND 58601 or
Evelyn Stroh e-mail estroh@pop.ctctel.com
Table of Contents are:

- · Parish History
- Family Histories
- · Parish Religious Vocations
- Organizations
- Landmarks
- · Parish Life in Pictures
- New Hradec
- Customs, Traditions and Adages
- Statistics
- Memories
- 100th Anniversary Celebration
- Advertisers

Donations received as of August 2004 for placing the North Dakota State Death Index on the Web

THANK YOU

Individuals
George L. Barron
Bryce Fornes-Bates
Beverly Jensen
William L. Kotarski
Joel Opsemer
Muriel Prosise

Organizations
Alfred Dickey Library
Bismarck Mandan Hist. & Gen. Society
Bowman County Hist. & Gen. Society
Central North Dakota Genealogical Society
Dunn County Historical Society
James River Genealogical Club
Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society
Red River Valley Genealogical society



Garrison Cenntennial is in 2005, they are pre-selling the history book (to be out June 1st, 2005) for \$30.00 a copy, the price after publication will be at least \$35. Check can be made out to:

Garrison Cenntennial Committee and mailed to:

Garrison Public Library

PO Box 459

Garrison, ND 58540

There are many family history's in this book, I believe they had over 300 last count.





A HISTORY OF FOSTER COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Hardback book published in 1983. Over 500 pages of biographies and businesses of Foster County. They are cleaning out the remaining books and selling them for \$5.00. Add \$3.00 (Total \$8.00) if you want them shipped to you. Send your check to the Foster County Treasurer, P.O. Box 104, Carrington, ND

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF BOTTINEAU COUNTY

Hardback book published in 1977. 151 pages of history of villages and townships in Bottineau County. Book sells for \$8.00 at the museum. Contact them for price of postage.

Bottineau County Historical Society

c/o Velma Wondrasek

522 Sinclair

Bottineau, ND 58318

They also have available, compiled by Rena Roland THE ONE-ROOM SCHOOL OF BOTTINEAU COUNTY,

(Paperback) \$18.00

HEADLINES IN HISTORY -100 YEARS OF CROSBY NEWS 240 pages compiled by Cecile Wehrman and published in June 2004. Interesting reading for those who like human interest stories with a local connections in the Divide County area.

For information contact: Journal Publishing

P.O. Box 2

Crosby, ND 58730



"You City Folk! or Adventures in Sioux County Cemeteries by George Barron, Jamestown

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We were bumping across about three miles of original native grassland. William Sandland was occupying the front navigator seat. "We" are the James River Genealogy Club cemetery crew. There is me, the old geezer. Then there is Daphne Drewello, Jamestown librarian, and task master. Recently she has also been known as "Snake Woman" or "Skunk Woman". The newest member of the crew is Jasper, or Jazz, my four year old second hand Golden Retriever. I have had him a little over a year, and his education is far from complete. Jazz can be best described as exuberant. He studies animal life and habitat. He likes cats. He especially likes them just in front of his nose, moving off at full throttle. He does have some cemetery experience from last summer and the Valley City cemeteries. We found that he was quite effective at discouraging old ladies from invading "his" cemeteries.

This was the third time that we had pestered Bill about the cemetery out in no man's land east of his place along Highway 6 near the South Dakota border. It had been only a cross on our county atlas. He said he knew of the cemetery and that a couple of boys were buried there. With his instructions on the last time we were here, we spent about two hours but didn't locate the burial. This time his wife had convinced him to ride along and take us to the markers. We had followed the section line road through his pasture and then headed up into the first buffalo pasture. "Here's where you go down the hill," Bill said. Jeez! The view was breathtaking as you looked out over the outwash plain several hundred feet below where we had paused at the edge of the cliff. The road was a steep dirt track that had been dozed out of the side of the vertical wall and about the width of the car. Down we went. That turned out to be a mild distraction compared to what was left to see.

At the bottom of the hill we drove toward the windmill. Then Bill directed us to take the trail to the right toward the fence. The trail was mostly a memory and soon disappeared. At the first deep gulch I managed to knock off the van's front bumper skirt. Poor Ford--it had to suffer the giggles and finger pointing at going skirtless for about two weeks until a new one was installed. Then came the creek flat bottoms. It had rained several days before and I worried about possible spongy ground. Then came the sickening sound of the wheels spinning. Thoughts flash. We could be here the rest of the day. Luckily we had just momentum enough to spin up the far side and dry ground. Up the hill around the rocks and a gate into the second buffalo pasture. Around the rocks and the steep draw and up to the next hill. From here we could see John Nagel's white vertical military marker shining in the sun on top of the next hill about a half mile away. Down the hill and around another draw and up to the burial hill.

Bill and I got out and walked the ridge. I copied the markers and got the GPS fix, then photographed the Slater boys' stone. Jazz thought this was a neat place and tore down the vertical hill to the fallen Nagel buildings below. I worried about him getting back up, but in a flash he appeared and waved his tail as much to say, "Didn't see no snakes down there, boys!" With as much fun as we had getting here, we decided that the Slater stone photo would be one on the cover of the book.

Then back trying to read our track in the grass. As we neared the soft floor, Bill, a man of few words, said, "You should speed up here!" Then a stop to retrieve the broken bumper skirt. Then up the thrilling climbing dirt road and back to the Sandland farm. We thanked him for his help and let him know that without his help, we would never a have found the markers.

The next day I stopped at the library. Daphne had told Mary Jane, the library secretary, about our exciting trip. Mary Jane was and still is a born and raised farm girl. I can just see Daphne wild eyed telling her the story. "Do you know what Mary Jane said?" No. She said, "You city folk!—we have to chase cows in pastures like that every day!"

Our preparation for working Sioux County had started in January and February. We had ordered by interlibrary loan all of the history books, church history books, church record films, and had obtained copies of old and recent county atlases. We also had cemetery lists from the usual places, but no such list existed in the Sioux County Recorder's office. Since we were both antsy about rattlesnakes, Daphne ordered two huge volumes of "Rattlesnakes: their habits, life histories, and influence on mankind" written by a Californian, Laurence M. Klauber, and recognized as one of the world's experts on rattlers. Naturally, I was to be the student of snakes. One of the things learned was that prairie rattlesnakes are somewhat the panty-waists of rattlers. They almost always slip away if they are aware of your presence, while some of their big cousins are known to charge—especially in warm weather when they are a bit 'testy'. The best 'snake bite kit' is the car—get in and drive to the nearest hospital. Daphne agonized that I'd be the one to get bit since I wouldn't hear their rattling, and she'd have to drive, but never is too sure of where we are geographically. One thing that got my attention was that snake bite is almost always fatal do dogs within a couple hours. That doesn't sound like good news for a dog that spends most of his inspections with a nose down the prairie dog hole reading scent. Snakes are known to seek respite from the heat in dog burrows with the biting end a few inches from the surface. So Jazz spent a lot of time in, or tethered to the rear bumper of the car.

Only a few cemeteries were found to be mowed when we made our first reconnoiter in March. Many had grass and weeds arm pit high. We weren't too thrilled to contemplate walking around in tall grass keeping an eye out for snakes.

Native American burials when first seen appear quite messy, with beer cans and bottles strewn around. After we had studied them many hours we came to recognize that the bottles and cans and plates of food are left in case

spirit needs some refreshment. The grave decorations include colored bits of glass or marbles, favorite toys, spinners, and tall flag poles. Much stuff to step over.

As we neared Memorial Day, the cemeteries began to shine with fresh mowing, new markers, and the clay on the grave site carefully raked. We saw a dead rattlesnake on the road along the route to the new Reed Cemetery. When we got there to read, the cemetery had been carefully mowed, and even Jazz unloaded to inspect animal scent as we read the markers. Many of the private family cemeteries are located high on the hills, with the tall flag poles reaching to the sky. Even those were lovingly groomed for the May memorial.

We were reading stones in the St. James Catholic Cemetery at Porcupine, one Sunday. Jazz had already jumped out and ran back about a quarter of a mile. He must have marked that spot as having seen a prairie dog. He was so busy with his inspection that he ignored the come-here whistle. So I had to walk back and get his attention to deliver harsh words. So he was parked in the car while we worked. I had been assigned to read the eastern end of the cemetery. When I finished, I walked back to see how Daphne was doing.

"Sure-now you show up! Where were you two minutes ago? I had a snake!"

"Was it a rattlesnake?" "Yes!" "How big was it?" "Big enough!"

"Was it in a resting coil or a striking coil?" "No, it was just lying there. I bent down to read some of the fine print and saw some movement about two feet away!"

"What did it do?" "It just slithered away and went down a hole over there."

She said, "You go back and get the shovel. I have two stones that need digging to get to the dates."

I came back with the shovel over my shoulder. She was still reading. I asked, "Where's the hole that the snake went down?" She looked at me and the shovel and retorted, "Don't get any ideas about trying to dig out THAT snake!" I was just curious as to how small a hole a snake could use. So now she's known as "Snake Woman"!

We were checking copy at the St. James Episcopal Cemetery. I was working her copy from the east and. Soon a big furry dog showed up and followed me around for a while, expecting a pat now an then. After a while he spied Daphne and went over and followed her. When I got back to the car, Jazz had his antenna tuned to the visiting dog. He likes to play with dogs, so I let him out to go play. Wrong move! He took off Hell bent for election and tore right into that interloper. They weren't far from Daphne and a big rolling snarling bowling ball of legs and tails and teeth rolled right into her like she was a spare bowling pin to be downed.

They soon settled and I was able to call Jasper back to the car. Off we went to check copy on the Old Catholic Cemetery. On our twelfth and last 12-14 hour days forth and back from Jamestown to Sioux County we checked copy on the big St. Peter Catholic Cemetery at Ft. Yates. I had spent about an hour in the manse photocopying the various church death registers and lot books, while Daphne checked alone. She had predicted that we would be finished checking by one o'clock. I joined her in checking, but we were in the car eating our lunch at that time and still had more to do.

After lunch, I told her that I was going to turn the dog into the cemetery for five or ten minutes and then put him back in the car. So I started and she resumed her checking in a few minutes. Jazz is supposed to stay where I can see him, and he was doing that. I soon became aware of strong skunk smell upwind of me. I looked in that direction and there was Jazz with his tail flashing. I whistled him back and checked him for skunk smell but didn't think he'd had a direct hit. So I put him in the car. Your nose gets out of joint fast on strong skunk odor!

I had the shovel over my shoulder and was heading out to dig up three stones for dates when I met Daphne headed for the car. "I'm all done for the day!" she said.

"What's the deal?" She said, "I heard three 'whish' sounds and I looked around and the skunk had come out of his bush and was firing at me! You told me one time that if you saw a skunk in the day-time that he was usually rabid. So I'm all done!"

I told her that rabid skunks out in the daytime usually charged things in the furious stage and didn't spray. I told her I was going to dig up and read those three dates and then we'd go. When I got the third date read, I looked around for Daphne and she was back checking markers. I went over to see what was going on and she handed me a sheet of copy with about a dozen markers to check in the skunk's bush area. The skunk must have looked at me as a fellow skunk, as I didn't see anything of her. As we were driving off, Daphne mumbled something. Hearing aids don't give you the full text of what is said. It sounded like "How does a person resign from this chicken-shit outfit?" Bad ears play tricks on you!

We had anti skunk juice, alkaline hydrogen peroxide, along in the car, but it needs to be washed off after it has done its thing. We didn't find a convenient slough until we reached McIntosh, SD to neutralize and swim the dog a number of times. He smelled a lot better, but we weren't sure how we smelled. We were checking to see if there were any cemeteries in the western end of Sioux. There weren't. We finally got to an 8 pm supper at the Mandan Bonanza. I told D, that we'd soon know how bad we smelled. If people at the next tables all got up and moved it was a bad sign. No one moved.

So if you are a "city folk" and your life is humdrum, without excitement, you can always get yourself a second-hand dog, head out and read a few cemeteries. At least you will have something to talk about!

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

North Dakota State Genealogical Society Post Office Box 485 Blamarck, ND 58502

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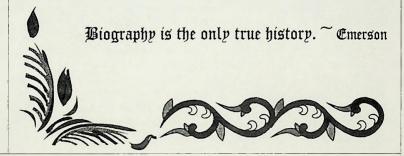
The North Dakota State Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization. The mission of the society is to encourage networking between genealogical societies and others engaged in genealogical research in North Dakota.



OFFICIAL ROSTER OF THE NORTH DA-KOTA 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



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