

NDSGS Newsletter

Spring 2012 —Volume 2, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- ND Genealogical Societies Reports
- ND State Archives Reports

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President's Letter

I hope everyone had a good winter. I have a few goals I would like to accomplish during my time as NDSGS president.

My first goal is to increase membership. I don't want to grow just for numbers' sake, but to accomplish goals that the NDSGS have established in the past. In my opinion we need more, and active, members to accomplish indexing projects, have booths at genealogy and other events, and to perhaps put on our own workshops in the future. We also need members to take on leadership positions. Please talk to friends or family that may have an interest in genealogy and ask them to join.

My second goal is related to the first – I would like to talk to genealogy groups in the state, both to increase membership and ties between the groups. This spring I will be attending meetings of the James River Genealogy Club and the Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society, and hope to attend other events in the future.

My third goal is to increase genealogy research. In my job at the State Archives I keep track of our total visitation. Our written correspondence has more than doubled over 10 years, but visitation has dropped at least 25 percent during the same time due to high gas prices and the poor economy. Unfortunately, our family history visitation has dropped at an even higher rate. I've said this before: There's a lot online but one must visit the various archives and libraries that hold genealogy materials to really do family history. I'm encouraging everyone to visit one of the archives or other repositories in the state that hold family history materials.

Finally, I would like to see more cooperation between genealogy groups, local historical societies and organizations such as the Germans from Russia Heritage Society and the Sons of Norway.

I hope to see you at the meeting at the State Archives at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 13. Also remember that the summer meeting will be at the Dickinson Area Public Library on Friday, July 13.

Greg Wysk

gwysk1@gmail.com

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the North Dakota State Genealogical Society will be Friday, April 13 at 1pm at the Legislative Assembly Room, State Archives, Bismarck.

This will be a working meeting with no guest speaker.

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.

North Dakota State Genealogical Society Minutes

President Pat Ashley called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM on October 14, 2011. The meeting was held in the Legislative Assembly Room at the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Genealogical society club representatives present: Patrice Hartman and Pat Ashley, SWNDGS; Greg Wysk, SHSND; Jessica Rossow, BMHGS; George Freeman, ICA; Iona Loken, MRLGS; Daniel Stenberg.

Business meeting

MINUTES

George Freeman made a motion, which was seconded by Iona Loken that the minutes of the July 8, 2011 meeting be approved as printed. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT

The Treasurers Report was not presented as Don Smith was not at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Greg Wysk read a letter from the Assistant Attorney General regarding closed records. No opinion was given.

Pre 1925 Marriage Index: The Great Rivers website will remain the way it is due to lack of funding.

Iona Loken made a motion, which was seconded by George Freeman to have Greg Wysk contact the Tourism Department regarding placing information about ND genealogical resources in the ND Legendary annual magazine. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

George Freeman asked if there would be any interest in creating plat maps of cemeteries throughout the state. He has a program he used to do this and wondered if perhaps various high school groups might do this for a special project. A guide would be provided on how to do this. He was encouraged to talk to the SHSND Communications Department and the Department of Public Instruction about his idea.

Jessica Rossow made a motion, which was seconded by George Freeman to send an introductory letter to one historical society in each county and ask if they would be interested in receiving our newsletter. A brochure would be included with the letter. Motion carried.

Jessica Rossow made a motion, which was seconded by Greg Wysk to email all the genealogical societies in North Dakota about helping with the 1940 census indexing project and to ask for a response by a specific date. Motion carried.

Elections were held but no one was willing to accept the nomination for Vice President.

Iona Loken made a motion, which was seconded by George Freeman to have Don Smith continue as Treasurer if he is willing to do so. Motion carried.

Jessica Rossow made a motion, which was seconded by George Freeman to have nominations cease and to ask for volunteers to serve as Vice President with elections to be held in April. Motion carried.

Greg Wysk will move into the Presidency and Patrice Hartman will continue as secretary.

Spring Newsletter Deadline is March 13th. Include our goals and objectives.

Remember to visit the State Historical Society Archives on the 2nd Sat. of each month, open from 10 to 4:30.

Next meeting: April 13, 2012 at 1 PM in the Legislative Assembly Room at the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Secretary

Patrice Hartman

State Historical Society of North Dakota

by Rachel White, Head of Technical Services SHSND

New books since August:

NORTH DAKOTA LOCAL HISTORIES:

Eriksmoen, Curt, *Did you know that? Volumes 2 through 5*. North Dakota : [various publishers], 2008-11

Gillespie, Norman J. *Stutsman County in the World War, Jamestown, North Dakota*. Jamestown, North Dakota : Norman J. Gillespie, [192?].

Jasinski, Andrew. *The centennial of St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Zeeland, North Dakota and the spiritual heritage of St. John's Catholic Church, rural McIntosh County, North Dakota*. Fargo, North Dakota : Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, 2005.

Landsmannschaft der Deutschen aus Russland, *60 Jahre Landsmannschaft der Deutschen aus Russland e.V. : festschrift*. Stuttgart : Landsmannschaft der Deutschen aus Russland, 2010.

Makoti centennial celebration, 1911-2011. [Makoti, North Dakota : Makoti Centennial Committee], c2011.

Palanuk, Agnes. *Ukrainians in North Dakota : in their voices*. [Dickinson, North Dakota : Ukrainian Cultural Institute, 2011].

Pierce County in 2011 : 125 years of history. [Rugby, North Dakota : 125th Book Committee, 2011].

Steele, North Dakota, 1881-2006, 125 years. [Steele, North Dakota : s.n., 2006].

Wald, Katie Glatt. *History of St. Mary's Catholic Church and the town of Hague, North Dakota*. Hague, North Dakota : [St. Mary's Catholic Church], 2005.

SOUTH DAKOTA LOCAL HISTORIES:

Centennial memories, 1900-2000 : Java, South Dakota. [Java, South Dakota? : Centennial Book Committee, 2000].

Herreid centennial history book. [Herreid, South Dakota] : Centennial History Book Committee, [2001].

Huber, Clarence, et al. *McLaughlin centennial, 100 years, 2009*. Bismarck, North Dakota : Quality Printing Service, 2009.

Knoepfle, Darla Rae and Kathy Bentz. *100 years on the prairie : a history of Artas, 1901-2001*. [S.I.: s.n., 2001?].

Quasquicentennial 1884-2009, Leola, South Dakota. Leola, South Dakota : Quasquicentennial Committee, 2009.

FAMILY HISTORIES:

Bernard, Dick, comp. *The Berning and Busch letters, 1905-1906 : sent from rural Grant County, Wisconsin to rural LaMoure County, North Dakota*. Woodbury, Minnesota : Dick Bernard, 2011.

Brenneise, Nathan, comp. and editor. *Hardships, blessings, opportunities : a history of the Brenneise family*. Roseburg, Oregon : N. Brenneise, 1992.

Brenneise, Nathan, editor. *This they remembered*. [Payette, Idaho] : N. Brenneise, 2003-2005. Includes genealogies for Kessler, Losing, Kuntz, Rath, Brenneise, Schueler families.

Bye, John E., general editor. *The Bye family history : Arne and Johanne Bye from Grue, Solor, Norway to Hatton, North Dakota*. Hatton, North Dakota : [Bye Family History Book Committee, 1997].

Collison, Lloyd Bernard. *Just a snot nosed kid from North Dakota*. CD-ROM. [Garden Grove, California : L. B. Collison], 2008.

Jonas, Koreen. *The history of Joe and Maria Eva (Krueger) Schaaf family*. [Aberdeen, South Dakota] : K. Jonas, [1996].

Marsh, Geneva Johnson, comp. *The Svien family history : the ancestors and descendants of Johannes Johan-Hendrichsen Svien (1624-1990)*. Cedar Rapids, Iowa : G. J. Marsh, 1990.

McKee, Thomas H. *A boy in Bismarck when both were very young : some random notes on early life in Bismarck set down here by Thomas H. McKee, mainly for the information of his descendants*. Alhambra, California : T. H. McKee, [1953].

Mehler, Genevieve. *Searching for Albert Bomberger : from childhood legend to historical reality*. [United States.: G. Mehler, 1994].

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State Historical Society of North Dakota

New books (Continued from page 3)

Neugebauer, Robert Arnold. *Our Ghylin ancestors*. [Menokan, North Dakota] : R. A. Neugebauer, [2010].

Renschler, C. A. *A Dakota farm boy remembers*. [United States] : C.A. Renschler, [1988].

Renschler, C.A. *I married Loraine*. [United States] : C. A. Renschler, [1988].

Sedivy, Shirley Morrow. *Morrow family*. Bozeman, Montana : S. M. Sedivy, c2010.

Seelt, Rosemary, comp. *The family history of John B. King of Malone, New York, his king ancestors & his descendants*. [United States] : R. Seelt, c.2011.

Soiseth, John, et al. *From fjords to frontiers from four generations*. Appleton, Minnesota : Appleton Press, c.1992.

Solwey, Pamella Wood, comp. *Knud Olsen Hundebj and Anne Guttormsdatter : the Hundebj family history : Goplerud, Gonvick, Gonwick, Godtland, Strand*. [Fargo, North Dakota : P. W. Solwey, 2011].

Stiegler, Kathleen J. Weiler. *A North Dakota girl remembers*. Edina, Minnesota : Beaver's Pond Press, 2010.

Warner, John, editor. *Autobiography of Ole Sherven (Skjerven)*, translated from the Norwegian by Dagny Sherven Zeulow. [North Dakota : J. Warner, 2011?].

New Local Government Records

by Ann Jenks, State Archivist

February 2012 Local Government Records accessions:

41518 Bottineau County. Superintendent of Schools, Notre Dame Academy Teacher's Registers, 1932-1968. .25ft.

41519 Benson County. Superintendent of Schools, Pleasant Valley School District, Record Book. 1911-1913. 1v.

41521 Burleigh County. City of Bismarck. Building Inspection, Correspondence, 1940-1954, 1ff.

41516 Stutsman County. Auditor, Abstract of Real Estate Tax Sales, 1882-1888, 1v.

41509 Stutsman County. Auditor, Assessment Roll of Property that Escaped Taxation, 1910-1921, 1 v.

41510 Stutsman County. Auditor, Election Record, 1891-1906, 1v.

41514 Stutsman County. Auditor, Property Acquired and Sold, 1926-1939, 1v.

41507 Stutsman County. Auditor, Real and Personal Property Assessment Records, 1880-1980, 28.5 ft.

41512 Stutsman County. Auditor, Register of Township Officers, 1903-1951, 4v.

41513 Stutsman County. Auditor, School Land Sales, 1900-1929, 1v.

41511 Stutsman County. Auditor, Tax Deed Record, 1905-1932, 4v.

41508 Stutsman County. Auditor, Transfer Record, 1905-1974, 8v.

41515 Stutsman County. Clerk of Court, Inventory and Appraisalment, 1882-1902, 1v.

41517 Stutsman County. Superintendent of Schools, Pupil Membership Report, 1975-1994, 1.25ft.

41520 Williams County. Mont Township, Township Records, 1928-1968, 2v.

NOTE: The State Archives will NOT be open the second Saturday in July, July 14, due to the Girl Scout Encampment that will be on the State Capitol grounds; there will be no available parking. The Archives WILL

be open the third Saturday, July 21, to enable those in town for the Germans from Russia Heritage Society convention to visit if they wish. Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports

James River Genealogy Club

by George Barron

While our club does not meet again until April 3, members are busy doing genealogy and working on winter projects. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7PM, from April through November, alternately at Carrington and Jamestown. The April 3 meeting will be at the Northern Plains Electric Coop in Carrington. Details of our contact people, club internet page showing services and books for sale can be found on the North Dakota State Genealogical Society internet page. Links to these can be found on the ndgenweb home page.

Our September meeting was held at the ND State Hospital Cemetery, and the Learning Resource Building. We did tours through the cemetery, then held the business meeting inside.

At our October meeting in Carrington, on October 4 at the Northern Plains Electric Coop building. Members brought samples of genealogy books they had written, gave suggestions and passed them around. We also had some discussion by members who had attended the latest Moorhead Family History Workshop.

Our last meeting for the 2010 season was held November 1st at the Alfred Dickey Public Library Basement Meeting Room. Barb Caine gave us a tour of all of the how to do it genealogy books in their collection, and

handed out a list of the newest ones owned by the library.

Our next club meeting will occur at 7-9 PM on April 3, 2011 at Carrington. The program committee has not yet announced what the program will be.

Our searching experts continue to help client searchers from a distance looking for family in our four county search area. We are busy furnishing page copies of various publications which are indexed and up on our usgenweb county pages.

The current help projects being followed by this reporter include printed obituary indexes for the Jamestown Sun for 2011 and an index to the 2011 burial permits turned in to the Stutsman County Recorder.

This reporter is continuing the search for unusual deaths in the Jamestown area to add to the "murder" database and index. I am working currently in 1980 and have logged over 5900 entries. Recently there was a diversion on trying to find a newspaper article on finding a dead baby in the Jamestown Fair Store, some time during the last 50-60 years. So far it has not been found. If you can help on that foolishness--drop me an e-mail.

Southwestern North Dakota Genealogical Society

by Patrice Hartman

In September we discussed how to cite a marriage source. In October we reviewed a chapter on Finding your ancestors before 1850 from the "Family Tree Problem Solver: proven methods for scaling the inevitable brick wall" by Marsha Hoffman Rising. The November meeting looked at an article from the NGS Quarterly entitled "Finding a Man's Past through his children: Four Wives of John C. Fawcner of Kentucky and Indiana" by Jay Fonkert. At our January meeting

we shared research finds in the past year.

Our regular meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Dickinson Area Public Library. We usually meet in one of the lower level meeting rooms. We have members from Stark, Hettinger and Dunn Counties who attend the meetings. Contact Patrice Hartman for more information.

patrice@ndsupernet.com

South Dakota State Historical Society - State Archives has collected photographs, manuscripts and government resources since its founding in 1891. January 2012 they launched the South Dakota Digital Archives to provide

digital access to these unique resources. Their digital collection, including photographs, reports and other media, may be accessed at <http://sddigitalarchives.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/>

North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports

Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society

by Carol Schwan

Our officers changed in January, and my new role as President will be an interesting challenge. I was a charter member when our group organized in 1978, but eventually left North Dakota with changes of employment. Most of my genealogy work was done WAY before the internet – writing letters, scouring court houses, etc. I am now dusting off my document files and hoping to put them to the test with all of the confirmatory information now easily available.

We have had several interesting programs in recent months. Steven Bannister gave us an excellent tour and overview of the materials which we may access at the library of Minot State University. That resource is an excellent supplement to other materials available locally.

In January we were hosted by Leonard Niess, owner of Niess Impressions, who showed samples of the variety of printing work he can produce, and toured us through his facility. Not only is he able to print both soft cover and hard cover books, but also VERY large charts generated digitally from genealogy software programs. He also wel-

comed us to use his staff lounge area for our meeting that day, which was greatly appreciated.

Our community is still sorting through the effects of the flood disaster during the summer of 2011. Because the Minot Public Library had significant water damage in the lower level of their facility, we were unable to meet there for several months while repairs were in process. Since the library is so centrally located, especially for members coming from out of town, we were thrilled to be welcomed back to begin meeting there again in February. We meet at 1:00 pm the first Saturday of most months.

Our guest speaker for that meeting was Sue Bergan, from the Ward County Historical Society. It was heart-wrenching to hear her describe the tremendous damage and losses their facilities incurred due to the flood. The core group of their organization was dramatically affected not only by the impact of this disaster on individual board members, but also by the untimely death of a key player. New board members have now been put in

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Williams County Genealogical Society

by Gloria Johnson

The Williams County Genealogical Society last met February 6th at the Library. We have been working on ancestry.com through the library web site.

We continue to work on our obituary project and it is moving along. Our "Rural Cemeteries of Williams County" book continues to sell.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 8th, 10AM at the Library.

A new Williams County Cemetery has been added to the updates of our cemetery book. That info is:

STEEN CEMETERY

Twp. 154N ** Rg. 100W ** Sec. 27 of Stony Creek Township, East of Williston, ND. Located from the city limits, 2 miles East on Highway 1804, 2 miles South on County Road No. 9, turn to the right at the approach. Contacts: Pres. Larry Steen and Vice Pres. Marvel (Steen) Trowbridge. The cemetery is located in the SE Quarter (SE1/4) of the 5th Principal Meridian -- off of County Road No. 9. A new approach leading into the cemetery has been add-

ed. The cemetery has corner markers but no fence at this time. It is located on .44 acres of land more or less. Plans are to plant trees in the area and add a large statue. Paul (Gus) Thomas Shaw is the first burial in the Steen Cemetery. Date Departed: January 5, 2012 at age 33 years.

The Wildrose, ND Centennial Book is finished and going to press. Rose Howard did the bulk of the research over two winters preceding the celebration, combing through issues of 25 years of newspapers to bring the town history up-to-date. The book includes facts from earlier efforts marking the town's 50th and 75th anniversaries, so you actually have the city history for the whole 100 years. The book also contains family histories, coverage from local newspapers, with interviews and photos from the celebration and stories about the towns earlier days. The books are being produced by Basin Printers, Williston, owned by Wildrose native Darrell Twete. The cost of the book is \$50, including shipping. For questions, contact Howard at rhoward@nccray.com or 539-2277, or mail your order to: Wildrose Centennial, 8755 County Road #17, Wildrose, ND 58795.

North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports

Bismarck Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society

By Alfred Buccholz

Hello everyone.

Here at BMHGS we have had a successful 2011 and 2012 will be just as good.

In September of 2011, we had Jim Christianson give us a presentation on "Historic Downtown Bismarck," focusing on the Patterson Hotel. Mr. Christianson is Secretary/Treasurer of the Bismarck Historical Society. This was a very exciting presentation with lots of information about the Patterson Hotel and some of its colorful people involved with it.

The next month, October, we learned about "Historic Downtown Mandan" from Kathye Spilman from the Mandan Historical Society. Kathye served on the board of directors for the Mandan Historical Society from 2005 through 2010, including terms as Vice President-Programming and Secretary and on other various committees. She was recognized by the society in 2008 with a Special Achievement Award for her efforts in compiling over 50 biographies of "persons of interest" in Mandan, which she also published weekly as articles in the *Mandan News*. Kathye focused on four different cities in Mandan. The power point presentation was fantastic and I would recommend that anyone interested in historical stories of Mandan contact her at kspilman@mandanhistory.org.

November, we had Meredith Gross talk about the "World Archive Project" from Ancestry.com. Meredith is a Bismarck native whose roots go back to the founding days of Bismarck. Several of her grandparents homesteaded land in the area. Her father's mother was the one who got her interested in genealogy when she was a young girl. Her grandmother told her many stories of when she was a little girl growing up on the prairie. Meredith has continued her interest in her ancestry that brought her to the BMHGS six years ago. Since joining BMHGS, she has served as President and Secretary, and now serves as our editor of "The Dakota Homestead" and as our web master.

In December, we had our annual Christmas sharing program. There were some great stories and lots of good treats to eat.

The 12th of January 2012 we had our group dinner and installation of officers at The Woodhouse café. The BMHGS purchased a laptop computer and a report about the various programs that were purchased to better serve the fast paced world in which we live.

We all had a great time with very good food.

At our 9th of February meeting, we had Tom Weigel (Weigel Funeral Home) speak on "History of Cemetery Monuments". Tom Weigel graduated from Napoleon High School and the University of Minnesota. He lived in the Twin Cities for 10 years, joining the US Army during this period. He moved to Mandan 36 years ago owning the Weigel Funeral Home. Living in Bismarck for 4 years, he started the Parkway Funeral Service and sold it to Eastgate Funeral Service. Cemetery Monuments are a gold mine of history information for researchers and genealogist.

Our March 8th meeting, we had Ann Vadnie present "How Did Bismarck Streets Get Their Names". Ann is an experienced presenter and teacher. She taught English in the Bismarck School system for over 30 years. She loves learning herself and enjoys helping others learn new things. Currently, she is on the Board of Directors for the Bismarck Historical Society. The presentation was very interesting as to the historical names associated with street names. With Ann's family being pioneers in this area, the history of Bismarck has always been a great interest of hers and we were glad to have her share that with us.

Ann is going to be putting on a longer presentation of this program on May 9th for the Bismarck Historical Society. I would suggest that anyone interested in attending, contact them at info@Bismarckhistory.org or 701-255-2586.

Jackson Bird, our program Chairman, and his committee members Nadine Sheets and Myron Senechal, have come up with a fantastic program for 2012.

April 12th, Val Wangler will give a presentation on Germans from Russia. We welcome anyone and everyone to attend this meeting.

May 10th Jackson Bird's topic will be "Ancestor Seekers, A Salt Lake City Genealogy Tour".

June 14th Myron Senechal will present "A Tale of a French Quebec Tour." Myron is also with the IFMidwest French organization. He has done several tours to Canada to find his Ancestors.

No meeting in July

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North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports

BMHGS (Continued from page 7)

August 9th, Pot Luck Picnic (Park to be announced)

September 13th, The program will be provided by Rev. Thompson, who will do The Sons-of-Norway Scandinavian presentation. Rev Thompson has extensive Norway and Scandinavian knowledge. This is sure to be exciting.

11th October, JoAnn Winistorfer will present "Intermediate Genealogy." This topic will be of great interest to all those that need more help with researching Genealogy.

8th November, Chris Johnson will present "The Impact Of The Civil War In North Dakota."

13 December will be the Annual Christmas Story/Tradition Sharing: Sharing of Treats and Snacks.

The BMHGS has decided to sell its *Prairie Trails to HiWays* books for \$20 and \$5 extra for postage. We

have several boxes and no place to store them.

Also June 1st we will be participating in the "Library Reading Kickoff" at North Dakota Heritage Center at the North Dakota State Capital. The theme this year is "Dream Big".

We also have decided to join with The North Dakota State Genealogical Society doing "Indexing for the 1940 Census." We invite anyone who wishes to participate in this great project to contact them.

I wish to thank Jackson Bird, Program chair, and his committee members Nadine Sheets and Myron Seneshal for there excellent program line-up for this year.

Come join us at our meetings. They are held the second Thursday of each month at the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Library at 7pm, lower level, room B. Watch for changes and notices in the *Bismarck Tribune's* Calendar of Events.

MRLGS (Continued from page 6)

place, and there will be much effort needed for salvage and restoration activities. Thirteen of their fourteen buildings sustained major damage, as did many of the items which had been stored in those facilities. Sue is hoping that volunteers will be available to help them!

here are several flood-related programs ongoing in the Minot region, and it is expected that as soon as spring arrives there will be an influx of volunteers and other workers to help with rebuilding. It is likely that many of us will set aside our genealogy work in order to help with those efforts.

Citation Corner

As genealogists or family history researchers we utilize local county histories, published family histories and other books in our research. Book citations typically include the author's name, title of the book, place of publication, publisher, year of publication and page number. All of these elements are usually found on the title page of the book.

The title should be copied exactly from the title page, not the spine of the book. If a book was a compilation or had an editor, that name would replace the author's name with comp. or editor following the name. In cases where there is no author Anonymous may be substituted for the author's name or the field may simply be left blank. If it is a revised edition that would be noted. If there is no publication place or publisher n.p. or no place or no pub-

lisher should be inserted in the proper place. For no publication date insert n.d.

So a citation for a book we consulted in our research would look like this:

Cass County Historical Society, *Rural Cass County: The Land and the People* (Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing Co., 1976), 901.

The format changes a bit in a list of sources or a bibliography. See the list of new books on page 3 for that style.

Citation details allow anyone, including yourself, to locate that resource again and analyze the information it contains.

Trip to Forsyth, Montana—November 7-10, 2010 by Vicki Hoffart

Elizabeth Maier Stepper
(July 23, 1879 – February 1, 1954)

I have been putting together the family of my Great grandmother, Amelia Maier/Meyer Brandt (June 30, 1884 – April 3, 1959), daughter of Jakob Maier (September, 1851 – November, 1900?) and Katherina Hart/Herz Maier Pfau (November 5, 1854 – November 24, 1934), for some time. It has been done in bits and dabs and great leaps of progress, depending on the project part. I had verified with a contact online that Elizabeth Stepper was, in fact, the second daughter of Jakob and Katherina, and Amelia's sister - finally, success. Now I was eager to visit the area and see where they had lived...maybe add some more information to what I already knew.

I left Ellendale on Sunday morning, intending to do some shopping along the way, and planning to spend the first night in Glendive, MT. Well, I traveled much quicker than I thought and had not planned for the time change, so got to Glendive in early afternoon, which was fine. I toured the town, slept most of the afternoon and evening, and got up early to get to Forsyth and begin my search.

As I passed Terry, MT, I almost pulled off the interstate to drive through again. I had stayed in a "historic" hotel a couple of times six years ago when I went to Cody, WY, for the Thiel Family Reunion, and the lady that was running the place was interesting to visit with. She was elderly then, so maybe isn't there anymore, but it would have been fun to stop again. I decided that it would have to wait, maybe on my way back...I was eager to get to Forsyth.

I had been to Forsyth to shop for fabric with some girlfriends a few years ago, but the fabric shop has closed and has been replaced by an insurance agency...not nearly as interesting.

On the trip to Cody, I also drove through Forsyth, just to check out the community a bit, so it was not totally unknown to me. (At that time I did not know that I had a branch of my family tree there.) I had done some online research, so was sort of prepared – I knew the library hours, motel possibilities, etc.

After a few phone calls, I decided on the Restwel Motel, and it was a good decision.

I started at the public library, which has quite a selection of history/genealogy resources, as well as copies of the local newspapers. The people there were very helpful. I found a history of the Stepper family that had been submitted for the Tri-City History book published in 1976 by the communities of Vananda, Ingomar and Summatra.

The Steppers had an address of Vananda and Ingomar through the years – I won't say *lived near*, because they did not. (I found out later that they lived on Acorn Flats, which is 30 miles or so northeast of Ingomar, and more of a farming area. Later Elizabeth lived in Ingomar with her son-in-law and his daughters.)

The Stepper history gave a good outline of the family, and I realized that Elizabeth had lived up north until the very last couple of years of her life, when she moved to Forsyth. I had planned to drive to these other communities on Tuesday, but felt that I had exhausted what was available at the library, so set out Monday afternoon. The two communities are north of Forsyth, on the highway to Roundup, Vananda being about 20 miles north and Ingomar 40 miles north of Forsyth.

There is not a sign or anything for Vananda anymore, but I assumed the collection of buildings off to the east of the road must be it, because I had read of the school building there, and there was one - a large square two-story building. I didn't drive in, because I was more interested in getting to Ingomar, where the family had last lived.

Ingomar was once quite a prosperous city – they had one of the largest sheep shearing operations in Montana. Today there are a few people still living there and a bar/restaurant called the Jersey Lilly. It had been closed for a few years a while back, but is open again, and served a good cheeseburger. They also operate a craft/antique/used book store adjacent, so I was able to buy a copy of the Tri-City History Book. At \$15 I considered it a deal!

When driving to Ingomar that afternoon, I could not help comparing the landscape to that around Ashley, ND, where the family came from in 1916.

From the Ashley Tribune, Ashley, McIntosh County, North Dakota, March 31, 1916: "Four families shipped out Monday for Vananda, Montana, where they have either homesteaded or bought lands; they were Gottlieb Stepper, who shipped two cars of milch cows and young stock, one car of 18 head of horses and one car of household goods, etc. Mr. Stepper bought grazing land in the Vananda country last fall and will start ranching and farming. Heinrich Babitzke, John Nitschke and Gottlieb Walz, Jr. each shipped a car. The country north of Vananda is well represented with McIntosh county farmers, who are making good."

Ashley is hilly, lots of potholes and small lakes, farmland and some pastures, and green. It was so green the first time I traveled there. It was spring and just beautiful! Driving to Ingomar in the fall, it was quite different. There were hills, but they were HUGE – and not green, but gray, and not much water, either. I believe there are

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

some areas that are farmed, but I did not see them. This is rangeland, wide-open and vast. I couldn't help wonder what Elizabeth had thought about this country that was going to be her new home. At the time the Steppers moved here, it was sheep country, but today is mostly cattle. I did see some sheep, but was told that most ranch cattle. On the entire 40 mile drive, I met three vehicles and was passed by one. I think that was maybe a busy day!

When I made my motel reservation I had booked two nights, but by Monday afternoon was thinking that I had been too optimistic, and felt I had exhausted all the possibilities. I had gotten some facts, been to the cemetery, visited Ingomar – what else could I do? I did plan to make one phone call. There was one person in the phone-book with a surname that matched a granddaughter's married name and I thought "maybe".

Tuesday morning I went early (7AM) to get coffee in the motel office, and Diane, one of the owners, was there. We visited, and she asked why I was in Forsyth – I recognized the drill – I use it all the time in my job at the motel... *"What brings you to our community?"*

Diane and I had quite a nice visit. She and her husband have lived in Forsyth for 19 years, coming there when they bought the motel. They have fixed it up very nicely, raised their family of 3 children, and enjoy the community.

Well, Diane knew that Cal McConnell was June's son (June was a granddaughter of Elizabeth), and where to find him. He runs a hardware store by himself, so is there morning to night every day that it is open. She assured me that it would be fine to just stop by. He was interested in history, had served on the local museum board for many years, and would certainly be interested in visiting with me. Diane was able to tell me some about June, too. June was a real estate agent, and, I think, sold them the motel. Diane said she was the first person they met in Forsyth. June died of cancer a few years ago. I did go to the Clark Hardware Store, and Cal was interesting to visit with. He ran home at noon and picked up some photos and the family bible, and gave me the name of his aunt, who also lives in Forsyth. I visited with her, too. Cal had warned me "Carol talks a lot but probably knows things that I don't, if you are willing to listen." Well, he was right on both counts! Carol is about my Mom's age, lost her mother in a fire when she and her sister were almost babies, and were raised by their Grandmother Elizabeth. Sounds familiar...my mother lost her mother when she was a toddler and was raised by her grandpar-

ents, Great grandma Amelia being a sister to Elizabeth. The difference being that these two remained with their father and the grandma came to live with them. My mother was raised in her grandparent's home. Grandfather Gottlieb was still living, but Carol, said "was not welcome in their home." She got the impression that Grandmother Elizabeth was glad to be rid of him! She did not know what he did or where he lived until he died in 1939. Carol's mom, Anne, was one of the youngest, so the rest of the family was grown and gone, and Elizabeth was free to live with Carol's family. Hindsight tells me I certainly wish that I had found Cal before I had driven to Ingomar...he and/or Carol would have been interesting to take on the drive to Ingomar. Carol, especially, would have had lots of stories to tell, as she grew up in that community. Maybe I will get there again...the Thiel Family Reunion is going to be in Cody again soon.

Since Forsyth is the county seat and the courthouse is just across the street from Clark Hardware, I took the opportunity to check their marriage records and see if Emma (Elizabeth's youngest sibling, and still a mystery) might have married in that area. No such luck!

When I introduced myself to Cal, he said, "North Dakota, mmm, there were some relatives here from North Dakota in the 1970's, Viola and? Edwin, and another lady whose last name was Smette." Well, I was able to tell him that it was Viola and Ervin Brandt and Marie Smette, which he agreed with. Ervin and Marie are siblings and my mother's uncle and aunt.

When going through the photo album, there were some pictures that matched a few that we have of the 3 sisters that lived near Upham, North Dakota, Amelia, Rosie and Deanie, and Marie and Clarence. I found they were taken in the house that Carol lived in at the time of Elizabeth's death. They must have gone to Forsyth for the funeral. She said she doesn't remember all of them being there, but it was definitely her house!

In the history in the Tri-City book, it mentioned that three of the Stepper girls had worked at the Kempton Hotel in Terry, MT. That was the old hotel in which I stayed on the trip to Cody! Now, I certainly wanted to revisit the establishment. As it turned out, I woke up very early – 4:30AM - on Wednesday AM, and decided to just head for home, thinking I might detour to Sydney and search for Carl's grave (Carl is another sibling of Elizabeth). I did pull in to Terry and take a photo of the motel, even though it was still dark. That was the end of the Stepper part of the trip...I was off to Sydney to search for Carl.

Minnesota Genealogical Society 2012 Central and Eastern European Genealogy Conference

February 24, 2012—South St. Paul, MN. The Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS), with co-sponsorship from the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, the Germanic Genealogy Society, the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, the Pommern Regional Group of Minnesota, and the Romanian Genealogy Society, will present its Central and Eastern European Genealogy Conference April 27 and 28 at Inver Hills Community College, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

The conference will feature keynote presentations by nationally known genealogical speaker John Philip Colletta, Ph.D., as well as 15 breakout sessions from Upper Midwest genealogical speakers and educators.

Conference events begin Friday April 27 with an evening dessert social and lecture by Colletta, "Finding the REAL Stories of Your Immigrant Ancestors." Saturday April 28 will be a full-day conference with two more lectures by Colletta and five tracks of breakout presentations focusing on German, Czech and Slovak, Polish, Romanian,

and general genealogy topics, including maps and DNA research.

More details can be found at www.mnsgs.org. Conference registration is open at http://www.mnsgs.org/blog/?page_id=97&action=register&event_id=16.

About the Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS)

The Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS) was organized in 1969 to help Minnesotans and people with Minnesota connections research and discover their family history. MGS collects and publishes genealogical, biographical, and historical material, offers educational classes and conferences to support interest in family history, and promotes family history and genealogy as a rewarding hobby and area of lifelong learning.

Contact:

MGS Education Committee
1185 Concord Street North, Suite 218
South St. Paul, MN 55075
phone: +1 (651) 455-9057
mgseducation@gmail.com

Tentative Agenda for April NDSGS meeting

By Greg Wysk

1. Review and approval of minutes from October 2011 meeting.
2. Treasurer's report.
3. Old business.

A. Brochure idea – yes or no? (This should take up much of the time as this needs to be decided to have something for 2013.)

B. Introductory letter to other historical societies around the state – yes or no?

C. 1940 census indexing.

D. Cemetery plat mapping.

E. Web site – uploading old NDSGS newsletters.

F. Honors for past members.

G. Letter to State Library about getting new genealogy databases – yes or no?

Some items that don't need discussion: There is nothing new for a pre-1925 marriage index; we have gotten no new marriage records in to index. The GRCHN Web site has changed and I can't find any of the North Dakota

marriage indexes on it now and this project is really non-existent at this time. Ann has heard nothing from the Attorney General's office on HIPAA and its effect on records so we're guessing they don't want to touch the issue. There is also nothing on a possible brochure on open records.

4. New business

A. Nominations for president-elect and for secretary; motion to appoint treasurer as registered agent.

B. Time for the July meeting in Dickinson – 1 p.m. Mountain or Central?

C. Interest in putting on a mini-workshop in 2013 – yes or no?

1. Could use as a membership drive tool – charge \$10 to NDSGS members and charge \$20 to non-members and give them a year of membership for it.

D. Booth at Moorhead – yes or no?

E. Ideas to increase membership.

F. Other suggestions or new business.

5. Club reports and miscellaneous.

Red River Valley Genealogical Society's 2nd Annual Spring Symposium

When: Saturday, March 31, 2012, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Where: RRVGS Library, Suite L116, 112 N. University Drive, Fargo, ND.

Cost: \$30; \$25 if pre-registered by March 15, 2012. Price includes lunch.

Program

9:30 - 10:00 Registration

10:00 - 11:00 Norwegian Genealogy

11:00 - 12:00 Genealogy on a Shoestring

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 2:00 Fundamentals of Military Research

2:00 - 3:00 Technology and Genealogy

3:00 - 4:00 Library open for your research

To pre-register, fill out form and send it with check or money order to: **RRVGS, PO Box 9284, Fargo, ND 58106-9284**. The Society phone number is (701) 239-4129.

2012 Spring Symposium

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Number Attending: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

1940 U. S. Census Community Project

We are excited to announce that our society has joined the 1940 U.S. Census Community Project to help index the 1940 U.S. Federal Census! Indexing records from our state, we will be an essential part of this monumental grass-roots effort that will put one of the richest genealogical data sets in the world online, complete and free of charge forever.

Go to www.the1940census.com/society and register to participate with our society. Simply select the North Dakota State Genealogical Society on the profile screen when creating your account. Please sign up today!

Thank you in advance for your participation. We look forward to the impact this resource will have for researchers of our area and so many others.

If you are already registered to do indexing on familysearch.org then after you sign in to your account just go to my info and edit to add our society as your group. If you have any questions send me an email.

Patrice Hartman
5750 104 Ave SW
Regent, ND 58650
patrice@ndsupernet.com

2012 Membership Dues are Due!

Our membership year is the same as the calendar year:

January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-Mail : _____

Please check one:

NDSGS Membership Dues:

Individual (\$5.00) _____

Supporting Member (\$10.00) _____

Society Membership Dues:

(1 to 10 members = \$5.00) _____

(11-25 members = \$10.00) _____

(26-50 members = \$20.00) _____

(51+ members = \$35.00) _____

Please make checks out to NDSGS and mail your dues to the following address:

Patrice Hartman
5750 104 Ave SW
Regent, ND 58650

Also please indicate if you would like to receive your NDSGS Newsletter by email _____ or mail _____.

Email address: _____

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

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

Officers for 2010-2011:

President: Greg Wysk—gwyskl@gmail.com
President Elect: vacant
Secretary: vacant
Treasurer: Patrice Hartman—patrice@ndsupernet.com
Editors: Pat Ashley—pashley@ndsupernet.com
Patrice Hartman

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/

Upcoming Events

31 March 2012. Red River Genealogical Society's 2nd Annual Spring Symposium. Fargo.

13 April 2012. North Dakota State Genealogical Society meeting, 1-3pm. Legislative Assembly Room, State Archives, Bismarck.

21 April 2012. South Dakota Genealogical Society Annual Meeting. Pierre, SD. For more information: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sdgs/

27-28 April 2012. Central and Eastern European Family History Conference. Inver Grove Heights, MN. For more information: www.mnsgs.org.

27-28 April 2012. Wisconsin State Genealogical Society's 2012 Gene-A-Rama Conference. Green Bay, WI. For more information : www.wsgs.org.

28 April 2012. St. Louis Genealogical Society Annual Conference. Maryland Heights, MO. For more information contact Ed Dolata 314-647-8547 or email president@stlgs.org.

13 July 2012. North Dakota State Genealogical Society meeting, 1-3pm. Dickinson Area Public Library, Dickinson.

5-6 October 2012. Minnesota Genealogical Society 5th Annual North Star Conference. Edina, MN. For more information: www.mnsgs.org.

12 October 2012. North Dakota State Genealogical Society meeting, 1-3pm. Legislative Assembly Room, State Archives, Bismarck.

North Dakota State Genealogical Society

Post Office Box 485

Bismarck, ND 58502