

NDSGS Newsletter



Volume I: 2009 - March



Special points of interest in this issue:

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- North Dakota Genealogical Societies reports
- State Historical Society of North Dakota, State Archives report
- Feature articles



Society Reports

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NDSGS President's Letter

You know genealogy is gaining in popularity when...

When you get an assignment in a Management Information Systems (MIS) class that asks you to explore Ancestry.com because it's one of the best databases and search tools the instructor has seen for general use. No lie!! That's an assignment for my MIS class. We'll see what this mixed group of 20-somethings and older does with Ancestry.

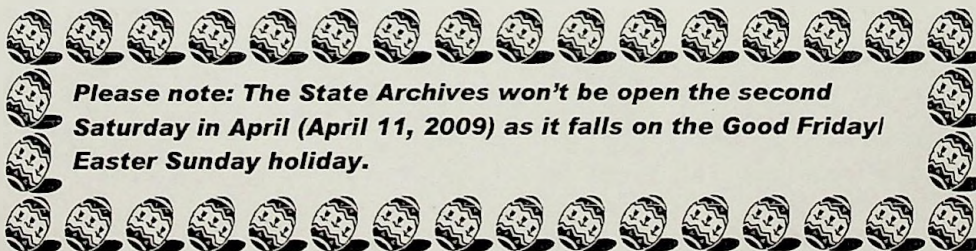
It will be interesting, too, to see what comes of NDSGS's and other genealogy groups' interest around the state in getting the Heritage Quest databases added to the group that the ND State Library licenses for use in libraries around the state.

A reminder: the ND State Archives in the North Dakota Heritage Center is still open the second Saturday of the month from 10 until 4:30. Two of the archives staff have been contributing to the Prairie Public Radio "Datebook" daily sort of "this day in North Dakota history" several-minute account of an event or person with significance to North Dakota on the current day. Jim Davis and Sarah Walker are among the regular contributors, along with people who have served as summer interns. You can listen at any time on the Internet if you go to prairiepublic.org. Jim Davis also recently received the Staff Award for Excellence at the State Historical Society. So, if you're in at the Archives and you see Jim, you can congratulate him on a much-deserved recognition.

Our next meeting is Friday, March 13, at 1:00 p.m. It will be at Bismarck State College, in the BSC library with Carolyn Twingley showing us the BSC Archives. There is public parking available in the lots just east and a tiny bit north of the library, just off the intersection of Schafer St and College Avenue. You can get directions in words along with a map at <http://www.bismarckstate.edu/newstudents/CampusMap.pdf> or go to www.bismarckstate.edu, click on Library and click on the get directions link on the Library page.

Best wishes, all,

Susan Dingle, Outgoing President, NDSGS



Please note: The State Archives won't be open the second Saturday in April (April 11, 2009) as it falls on the Good Friday/Easter Sunday holiday.

Next Meeting!

The North Dakota State Genealogical Society will meet at 1:00 PM March 13, 2009 at the Bismarck State College Library. All Genealogical societies in North Dakota who have paid their membership are encouraged to send a representative of their society. Directions available at <http://www.bismarckstate.edu> Susan



NORTH DAKOTA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



North Dakota State Genealogical Society Minutes

President Susan Dingle called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM on September 12, 2008. The meeting was held in the Legislative Room in the State Archives.

ROLL CALL

George Freeman, MGS; Pat Ashley, SWNDGS; Beth Bauman, Don Smith, Susan Dingle, and Jessica Rossow, BMHGS; Iona Loken, MRLGS; Greg Wysk, SHSND. Guests: Emily J. Ergen, Ruth Ann Ashley.

BUSINESS MEETING

George Freeman made a motion, seconded by Don Smith that the minutes of the June 13, 2008 meeting be approved as printed. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

George Freeman made a motion, seconded by Iona Loken to file the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Pre 1925 marriage index: Update by Greg Wysk and Pat Ashley on conference call with Minnesota Historical Society, SHSND, NDSU Institute for Regional Studies, UND Department of Special Collections, and NDSGS. MHS will combine existing digital indices and upload to the Great Rivers Cultural Heritage Network (GRCHN) online database. GRCHN is a partnership between North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota to digitally link their collections.

Goals: Review in March.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Wysk: Vital Records would like to put the post 1925 marriage index online but need \$10,000 to complete project. They may go to the Legislature to request funding. Vital records will transfer marriage licenses to SHS where they will be microfilmed. Ancestry.com has the 1915 and 1925 ND state censuses online. Lotte Bailey, deputy state archivist is retiring September 30, Shane Molander, reference specialist, will become the deputy archivist. Sarah Walker will become a reference specialist. The name change is official: Historical Research Library has been dropped and they now will be known as the State Archives. The new Web site is getting closer to completion, and the genealogy section will be featured more prominently. Patronage has been up this summer.

The next meeting is Friday, March 13, 2009 at 1:00 PM at the Bismarck State College Archives.

PROGRAM

Emily J. Ergen, project archivist, William E. (Bill) Shemorry Photograph Collection, presented a biography of Shemorry and an overview of her work with the collection that is owned by the Williston State College Foundation.

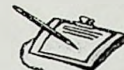
Shemorry (1914-2004) spent most of his life in Williston, working for and founding several newspapers in the area. During WWII he served as an Army photographer in China, Burma and India. He photographed the Clarence Iverson Discovery Well in 1951 near Tioga, the first oil well in the Williston Basin. In 2002 he was inducted into the North Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame.

The collection consists of not only Shemorry's photographs, but also glass plate negatives collected by him that date back to the late 19th century. Currently, 189 boxes, or 175 linear feet, have been processed, with an additional 15 linear feet to be processed. A finding aid is being created to assist in accessing the collection and will be available online. Select images have been digitized and are available at <http://www.digitalhorizonsonline.org>. An option to purchase copies of those photos is being developed. Emily is seeking ideas for other pictures to be made available on that Web site because digitizing the entire collection of thousands of photographs is not feasible.

Pat Ashley, Acting Secretary



State Historical Society of North Dakota



State Historical Society of North Dakota

Submitted by *Greg Wysk*

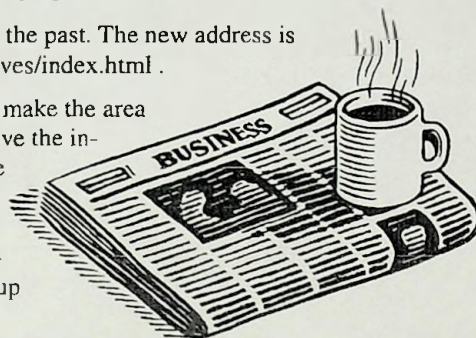
<http://www.nd.gov/hist/>

We are now filming the Bismarck and Minot papers on our own; previously we received these via a subscription but the costs have gone up and the quality has gone down. We still may buy the Fargo paper from the company, as we're just getting the state version and not the Fargo edition. As we're filming the second and fourth biggest papers that will reduce our microfilm technician's time to film other archival and manuscript documents.

Ann is working on a list of all the local government records that we have to put on our Web page. Local government records are not listed on ODIN and currently can only be searched at the archives.

The new Web site is up. The genealogy page is more prominent than in the past. The new address is <http://history.nd.gov/> and the Archives page is at <http://history.nd.gov/archives/index.html>.

Rearranging the reading room continues as time permits. The plan is to make the area where all the local history books are now the "genealogy" area, as we'll move the index tables that have the cemetery books, etc., into that part of the room. The microfilm cabinets will stay where they are; the photo facsimile files will be moved along the windows on the other side of the room; and the middle tables will become the "archival/manuscript" area, so we and SHSND security can better monitor usage of these documents. This plan will also open up more outlets for those that want to use lap top computers.



CONTENTdm and GRCHN news

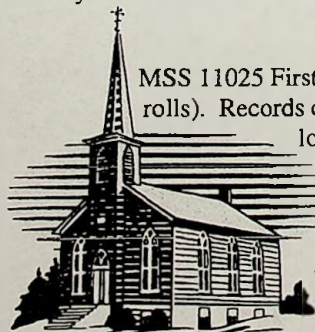
Submitted by *Ann Jenks*, State Archivist SHSND

There will be a Great Rivers (GRCHN) meeting April 20, and they'll discuss progress on the database. Ann hopes they will have entered the sample pre-1925 marriage indexes we sent to them. The cataloger, Naomi Frantes, has been cataloging maps and hasn't worked as much on CONTENTdm, (Digital Horizons) as in the past. We will hire a summer intern to work with Rachel White on adding more content to this database, just as we had last year. The number of Shemorry collection photos on the database grows every day.

New Manuscript Collections

Submitted by *Shane Molander*, Deputy Archivist SHSND

MSS 11024 Bethel United Church of Christ Evangelical and Reformed Church, New Salem, ND. Records. 1908-2008. 1 ft. (1 Volume). Volume consists of baptisms (1908-1999), confirmations (1909-2008), marriages (1908-2006), deaths and burials (1909-2008), communion numbers (1909-1942), family register, collections and gifts (1908-1942), church history, fiftieth and seventy-fifth anniversary publications, list of ministers (1908-1972). The volume is written in German with much of it translated into English. The volume is on microfilm and the original returned to the donor, Meredyth Werchau of New Salem. She will donate the original at a later date.



MSS 11025 First Lutheran Church of Harvey, ND. Records. 1896-2007. 0.05 ft. (2 - 35mm microfilm rolls). Records consist of minutes, record books which include baptismal and member lists, ministerial logs, anniversaries and other celebrations. Records include Lutheran churches that closed and joined First Lutheran. They are East Scandia (1913-1934), Eden Valley (1898-1951), Hillsdale (1901-1957), and St. Johns (1938-1961). Records on SHSND microfilm roll numbers 16005 and 16006. The original resides with First Lutheran Church. This is a positive film copy. The records were microfilmed in May 2008 for the Region III Archives at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, by Film-It, Inc., Eagan, MN.



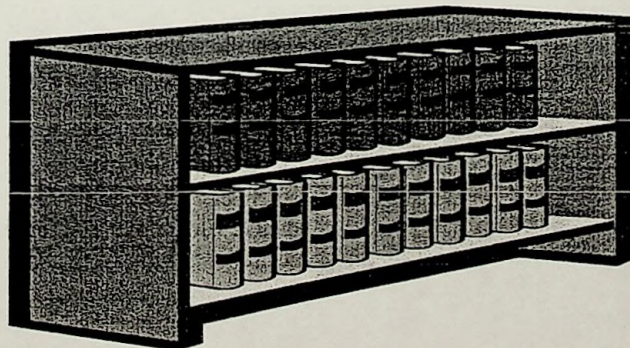
State Historical Society of North Dakota



New books received since September 2008

Provided by *Rachel White*, Technical Services Head
SHSND

1. From Neudorf, Russia to the North Dakota plains with Johann Dockter / compiled by Evangeline Schauer, written by Ronald R. Schauer
2. Weil family history / by Berniece Scheid
3. Scheid family history / by Berniece Scheid
4. The Greely family : 1832 to 1982 / researched by Margrit Hamilton Lees
5. A history of 100 years: First Baptist Church, Hebron, North Dakota
6. The Swiss-Germans in South Dakota: from Volhynia to Dakota Territory, 1874-1974
7. The Nathman family history: the descendants of Bernard Heinrich Nathman and Maria Francisca Gerding / by Barbara Mouser Nathman
8. Records, pictures, and memories: the lives of John Ludvig Larson & Gyda Amanda Vigen Larson / compiled by Alice Larson Gaugler
9. The Peter Miller (Muller) genealogy / Michael M. Miller and Linda M. Haag
10. The Peterson family scrapbook / by Martin Peterson
11. Hettinger, ND centennial: 100 years of change and challenge, 1907-2007
12. The Gluckstalers in New Russia, the Soviet Union and North America / Homer Rudolf, editor
13. Sterling, North Dakota, 125th year
14. Rural cemeteries of Williams County, North Dakota : updates & corrections no. 1 to Gateway to the past / compiled by Gloria J. Johnson
15. Prairies & people: Gackle ND 1904-2004
16. Hague area book II: the past 100 years and its people / by Katie Glatt Wald
17. Gazing forward, glancing back, remembering always: memories retold and relived by the community of Streeter, North Dakota / by Sandi Dewald
18. Venturia, North Dakota: almost gone but not forgotten, 1901-2001
19. Zeeland's golden jubilee, 1902-1952
20. 100 years celebration: Streeter Centennial July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 2005
21. 100 years celebration : Streeter Centennial supplement
22. Strasburg centennial history book / Mary Wald, editor
23. Forbes centennial book 1905-2005 : blessings of the land
24. Lehr golden jubilee, 1898-1948
25. Fredonia golden jubilee, 1904-1954
26. Wishek diamond jubilee, 1898-1973
27. The Henry P. and Selma (Nygaard) Foley family history / by David A. Foley
28. Bikes, trikes, toads, and roads: a lifetime of stories / by Betty L. Smokov
29. Child of the prairie, man of the world: the memoirs of LaVern "Vern" Freeh
30. New Salem, ND 1883-2008 : 125th anniversary
31. Deciphering handwriting in German documents : analyzing German, Latin and French in vital records written in Germany / by Roger P. Minert
32. The Schweitzer relationship, 1776-1992 / by Karl A. Lacher
33. Jamestown newspaper obituary index for 2008, also Stutsman County burial permit index for 2008 / compiled by G.L. Barron
34. If this land could talk: homesteading on the Northern Plains / by Judy R. Cook
35. Headlines in history : 100 years of Crosby News from the pages of Divide County newspapers
36. Ancestors and descendants of Torger Olsen Nerbye and Kari Hansdatter Lien / by Howard D. Baumgart
37. 75th anniversary of First Lutheran Church, Harvey, North Dakota
38. Dedication of First Lutheran Church, Harvey, North Dakota
39. The 1919 Legislative Manual (aka Blue Book) has also been added to the North Dakota Blue Books collection on Digital Horizons:





INTERNET FAVORITES



Coroner's Inquest Records

Submitted by *Patrice Hartman*

I have located the following Coroner's Inquest Records for some counties in North Dakota. At this time the records are not open to the public. They can be searched by the officials for information about the person themselves or the immediate family if the medical part is redacted.

At the State Historical Society of ND: Cass, McLean, Oliver, Richland, Stutsman, Walsh and Williams.

Clerk of Court?: Cavalier or Pembina.

Morton County. Some are located at Buehler-Larson Funeral Home with the old Kennelly Funeral Home records since he was both the undertaker and coroner. They appear at the bottom of the records for that date but are very brief.

Stark County Clerk of Court. (1888-1933)

Stutsman County Recorder. Records up to 1940 or so.

Ward County. In the 1980's the records were in the attic of the courthouse. The ledger covered from 1890's to the early 1900's.

If you have information on any other Coroner Inquest records in North Dakota please let me know.

Tips from the Pros: The Arkansas Online Archives

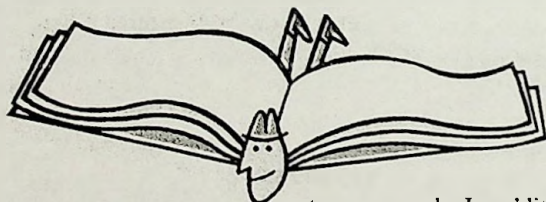
From *George G. Morgan*

Submitted by *Patrice Hartman*

The Arkansas History Commission maintains a terrific Web-based index to its extensive state archive. Included are a huge collection of photographs, in addition to thorough indices of federal census records for Arkansas, manuscripts, newspapers (with a searchable city or county index of publications and time periods for which issues are available), state government records, county records (with a searchable index), military records (searchable by surname), maps, books and pamphlets, and church and cemetery records. If you are planning a research trip or simply plan to write to inquire about records, this site is a well conceived place to begin your preparations.

www.ark-ives.com

Electronic Newsletter Option Now Available!!! If you would like to receive your NDSGS newsletter as a *.PDF file instead of a paper copy, please email me at jessicamattson@hotmail.com and provide me with an email address to send the newsletter to. You can view *.PDF files with Adobe Reader, a free software tool available for download at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>



That's What I've Been Reading

Book Review submitted by *John Mogren*

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO ANCESTRY.COM, 2nd Edition (2008) by George G. Morgan, 330 pages

George G. Morgan has written the guide to help you navigate Ancestry.com whether you are novice or an expert in family history research. In addition to writing detailed instructions on using the various research

features within this site, he also has included illustrations.

Ancestry.com has become the website synonymous with the term genealogical research. Genealogists may either subscribe to this website at home or utilize the subscriptions at their local libraries. You may actually wander around the Ancestry website and no doubt find some exciting discoveries. However, the problem that exists in the world of technology is that just when we have our comfort level high the websites make changes. This sends those of us who are less computer literate into a panic. This book is helpful to facilitate a comfort level as skills increase by moving around on the Ancestry site, which also maximizes research efforts. This guide was especially helpful to me, as I never had taken the time to study the features of the site. It is easy to return to the pages that I am most familiar with for example the Federal Census Records or Military Records. By navigating to Ancestry.com and having the book next to me, I was able to find obscure databases that I didn't know existed previously. The book encourages readers to move outside of comfort zone and explore new databases through "layering." Most of us want to jump in and start our research immediately but taking a little time to understand the tools/features available on this site will create shortcuts that will save you time and help you be more successful in your research.

Other Notes of Interest

Blackie

Written by *Margaret DeBoer*—1962

Submitted by *George Freeman*

You have all seen a crow I know, and how black their color is, like the ace of spades. And their deep caw, caw, how proud they are of their existence.

It was in the year of 1904 when my father died, he had been ill for a few years. My youngest brother Oscar and I were the youngest in the family of twelve. Our parents came to the United States from Iceland in 1885 to partake of some of the luxuries of America. Much to their sorrow they found more hard-ship; if it hadn't been for their deep-rooted faith in our Lord and Savior their plight would have been worse. They brought their personal belongings which were only the bare necessities and a trunk full of their favorite hymn books, sermons and other good books, for they were self educated by their reading of religious literature and sagas of old. Now to go back to the black crow or Blackie as we called him. So many of the old folks in Iceland believed in signs, this and that would signify some incident that would happen. That was the way it came about with Blackie. In the spring of 1906, one day a black crow flew over the house and cawed so fiercely. This was a sign that someone would die in that house. Several days later my father died. To our joy in our sorrow that crow lingered on around the house especially was he close to the kitchen windows where the table stood. At every meal he would peck at the windows so we would let him in to eat. My mother loved all animals, in fact she loved everything God created. So you would know that she was so attached to Blackie as he was to us little ones. My oldest brother who was now the head of the house, was not too fond of Blackie. He had a bad habit of taking refuge in a corner where my brother hung his good clothes, poor Blackie didn't take into consideration that these clothes were worn when he went to dances and to see his girlfriend. Occasionally Blackie would leave a little decoration he thought, but my brother was bitter and threatened to shoot him. Mother would tell him that she would see to it he wouldn't come close to his clothes anymore.

So Blackie was the sole heir to the ones who loved him. In the summer, Mother would sit outside with her mending. Now crows are very fond of shiny articles, so it was if Mother would leave a needle or thimble in her lap, Blackie would take it and fly away with it, none knew where. Then he would come back for more. We lived in a small two-room house which was rather crowded so my brother decided they could build a small shanty that would be protection from the snow and wind in the winter. There was an old man named Sigrud, very handy with a hammer, so my brother hired him to help build this shanty. There were nails by the hundreds in a box handy for them to reach, also for the feathered friend and foe, who couldn't resist the temptation to snatch a few of them for they glittered in the sun. Old Sigrud became aware of the fast disappearance of the nails, knowing he could not use them so fast. Blackie knew enough to be at his work when no one was watching. My brother, of course, suspected "Mother's Crow" as he called him - and again as she had so often pleaded for Blackie's life she had to guard against these faults of his. The summer with all its beauty of nature in North Dakota came to a close.

My brother had put in a few acres of oats and wheat to have feed for the horses and a few bushels to sell to buy mostly coffee and *mola sykur* (loaf sugar) so extensively used by the Icelandic people. To have room for the crop which was good, as the Lord had given ample moisture, it was necessary to move one granary up to another small one. When the building was removed all Blackie's mischief was revealed. Here were Mother's needles and thimbles. She always had to replace a thimble to do the mending. Also were piles of nails so very well put in order. Now Blackie must have sensed that he wasn't so popular anymore after having exposed his mischief because a few days later he flew away never to return.





North Dakota Genealogical Society



5th Tri-annual International Calkins Family Reunion

Submitted by *Minnie Frese*

The Calkins Family Association is sponsoring its 5th tri-annual International Calkins Family reunion to be held in Syracuse, NY on April 30, May 1st and 2nd, 2009. The invitation is extended to all descendents of our original ancestors, Hugh and Ann Calkins, who landed in North America in 1638. For information and costs contact:

Minnie Frese
509 Rusagonis Road
Rusagonis, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 8Z3
phone 506-357-3841
Email minmin@nbnet.nb.ca

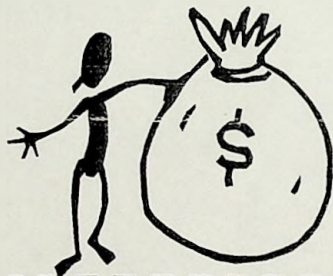
We already have well over 125 committed to attend, and would like to have as many descendents of the immigrant ancestors as possible be able to take in this event and get to know a few hundred cousins.

Some of the planned events:

Thurs evening: meet and greet with refreshments.

Friday: an all day bus tour of interesting historical places in the area.

Saturday: workshop and catered lunch; business meeting; banquet with Internationally known genealogist, Gary Boyd Roberts, guest speaker



2009 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!
OUR MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS EQUIVALENT TO
THE CALENDAR YEAR:
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2009

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____ 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) _____

MAIL YOUR DUES TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

NORTH DAKOTA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Box 485
BISMARCK, ND 58502-0485

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO NDSGS.



North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



NDSGS Current Officers

Please note that our officers hold their terms for two years. Officers for 2008—2010 are:

President:

Susan Dingle ~ suzsaid@hotmail.com

President Elect:

Pat Ashley ~ pashley@ndsupernet.com

Secretary:

Patrice Hartman ~ patrice@ndsupernet.com

Treasurer:

Don Smith ~ dearlsmith2019@msn.com

Newsletter Editor:

Jessica Rossow ~ jessicamattson@hotmail.com



Welcome!

Welcome New NDSGS Members!

Mike Hardester, of Jacksonville, ND is researching the following surnames: Menz and Mentz; they married into members of the Lakota Nation (Standing Rock Tribes at Ft. Yates). If you can provide any assistance, email Mike at tawamiciya@ec.rr.com

Geneva Olstad of Fargo, ND is researching the following surnames: Roth, Salzer, Heinlie, and Becker. If you can provide any assistance, email Geneva at 2thpick@cableone.net

Red River Valley Genealogical Society

Submitted by Jackie Marler

<http://www.reddrivergenealogy.com/>

"Oh, God, Drag us from our misery, sincere but cold!"

It has been a wee bit slow and a wee bit cold at the RRVGS Library. Perhaps if we are very good warmer weather will make an appearance???

The usual work goes on. The Roseau County Cemetery book now begins to look like it will be two books. Typesetting continues. We've had a few research requests but nothing really time consuming. A large order of books went out recently.

We are looking for alternate housing for the Library. There are some promising leads but nothing has yet been determined.

RRVGS was gifted by a philanthropic member a few years ago with several cemetery plots in the Riverside Cemetery in Fargo. We would like to sell the remaining two. If interested leave a message for our president, Alice Ellingsberg at 701-293-5027.

Here Spring, Come Spring!

Essential FACTS About RRVGS

Phone: 701-239-4129

Email: rrvgs@fargocity.com

Web site: www.reddrivergenealogy.com

Street Address: 112 N University Drive, Ste L116
Fargo ND 58102

Mailing Address: PO Box 9284
Fargo ND 58106

**** NEW HOURS ****

May-Aug: Tues/Wed/Sat 11 am -3 pm (call first)

Sept-Apr: Wed/Sat 11 am- 3 pm (call first)

Or by prior appointment

Our Officers & Volunteer Staff

Alice Ellingsberg President

John Beving Vice President

John Cruden Recording Secretary

Maxine Workman Treasurer

..... Lineage

Karen Sutter Corresponding Secretary

Linda Zeuschel Librarian

Jackie Marler Newsletter

..... Trustee

Jane Skjei Trustee

Doris Wehr Trustee



North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



Williams County Genealogical Society

Submitted by *Gloria Johnson*

The Williams County Genealogical Society has not met this winter. Our next meeting date is February 14, 2009, 10:30 am at Hardee's.

An item of interest: I have been in touch with a lady from Vancouver, WA who was adopted and is looking for information on her birth mother. Perhaps some readers of the newsletter may have information on this family.

Born: Doris Elaine Pagel on 8 Apr 1925 at Mercy Hospital, Williston, ND

Birth Mother: Dora Pagel who was age 15 years in 1925

Adopted: 5 days later by Thomas B. & Lola Mary Hogan of Williston

Renamed: Ann Mary Hogan

Married name: Ann Mary Riley

Age: 83 years old

Currently resides in Vancouver, WA

She and her children are looking for any information they can find on her birth mother. As she grew up, her adopted family would provide her with no information on her birth mother. She did finally get a copy of the adoption papers from her older brother. Birth records are sealed in Bismarck. Does anyone have any information on this family? Ann has no funds available to pay for legal council. We are trying to help her the best we can here in Williston.

If you have any information on this inquiry, please contact Gloria Johnson at gjohnson@dia.net.

Bismarck Mandan Historical & Genealogical Society

<http://www.bmhgs.com/>

Submitted by *Alfred A Buchholz*, President BMHGS

Greetings from the BMHGS!

The Bismarck Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. meet this past February 12th at the Public Library and we had a wonderful talk by Myron Senechal, "The French Midwest Heritage". Some of his talk was about the French settlements in North Dakota. The areas where most of the French settled was the Rolla-Belcourt area, Bottineau, Duseith, in the North Central part; Belfield, Trenton area in western North Dakota; Grand Forks, Pembina, Walhalla, Grafton, Cavalier area in northeast North Dakota; and Fargo, Horace-Wild Rice area in eastern North Dakota. Mr. Senechal also mentioned the "Initiatives in French Midwest Collection" located in the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of special collections, in the Chester Fritz Library at the University of North Dakota.

The French society is planning a workshop sometime in 2010 and BMHGS is looking into being a part of that great work. We will have more information as it is available.

We hold our meetings on the second Thursday of each month. Our next meeting will be on March 12th at the Bismarck Public Library in the lower level room B. The program will be "The Great Depression", using one of the 'SEND' exhibits from the State Historical Society. If you have not every seen one of these exhibits, you are missing a lot of information.

Programs for the rest of the year have not been finalized, but when they have we will post them online at www.BMHGS.com.

We are here to promote and encourage active interest in genealogy and history. If we can be of any help, come to our meetings, look at our web site, or contact me at aabuchholz@yahoo.com.

Central North Dakota Genealogical Society

The Central North Dakota Genealogical Society has nothing to report at this time.



North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



South West ND Genealogical Society

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ndstark/>

Submitted by *Patrice Hartman*

In September we had a presentation on using ODIN (Online Dakota Information Network) by Renee Paasch. In October we studied using timelines and maps to help in our research. In November we looked at photo databases that are available online. We did not meet in December. In January we looked at examples of city directories and discussed what information can be found in them. We also looked at Sanborn insurance maps and how to use them to locate businesses or residences in towns and cities.

Bowman County Historical & Genealogical Society

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

Submitted by *Clara Bliss*

Bowman County Historical and Genealogical Society has very little to report at this time. Due to the ice and cold temps we have been very inactive. We continue to clip from the papers and file as we can. We are looking forward to enlarging the area that we have and making it more easily accessible to the volunteers and also the visitors. Hopefully spring will come soon and we can become more active.

James River Genealogy Club

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ndjrgc/>

Submitted by *George Barron*, Vice-President JRGC

While our club does not meet again until April 7 at the Northern Plains Coop in Carrington, members are busy doing genealogy and working on winter projects. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM, April through November. We have "coming to the meeting" members from Eddy, Foster, Stutsman and Wells, with about an equal number of regulars from Carrington and Jamestown. We also have many other members at a distance around the U.S. At our last meeting, it was decided that starting in 2009 we would meet alternate months in Carrington and Jamestown. The Jamestown meeting place has yet to be determined. We now have co-presidents, Cathy Paulson at Carrington, and Barb Gilliss Caine of Jamestown. 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.

At our August meeting, we met for a dinner meeting at the Community Room in the Ave Maria Village Nursing Home in Jamestown. Keith Norman, Jamestown Sun reporter, author, and owner of Great Stories Book Shoppe, Jamestown, gave of first person account of Limpy Jack Clayton, the notorious stage driver renegade of the 1880's from north of Jamestown, complete with beard and limp. Keith had us all hooked on his historical presentation and there were many questions following his presentation.

Our September meeting featured member, Carolgene Wolf, presenting her part of the 125th celebration at Ypsilanti. She told about her interviewing of "old timers" and how the oral interviews were recorded and reproduced for history. She also played excerpts from the oral history that had been recorded by Steve Reidburn and herself.

At our October meeting, we heard from every member in attendance on their "Skeletons in the Closet". There were wild and wooly stories and all were exciting to hear. We all had a good time!

In addition to the business of reorganizing the club at the November meeting, we also had members report on their ancestors who had been elected to public office. Again, every attendee had stories to tell.

Our searching experts continue to help client searchers from a distance looking for family in this area. We are busy furnishing page copies of various publications which are indexed and up on our usgenweb county pages. We have been busy with a number of general searches for everything we can find on a specific family. Our search customers range across the world.

Of historical note--my three outside cats have become inside cats. It is difficult to share a noon sandwich with three cats and the dog, Max. Mostly it is just the honor of the occasion!

The current help projects being pursued by this reporter include printed indexes for the Jamestown Sun obituaries, and for the burial permits turned in to the Stutsman County Recorder during 2008. In the project of indexing obits in the Stutsman County Record, I have reached the 1961 end of that paper and am in the process of printing out the obit index from 1942-1961.