

NDSGS Newsletter

Fall 2019 —Volume 10, Issue 3

Special points of interest:

- ND Genealogical Societies Reports
- ND State Archives Reports

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President's Letter

Would you like to know if there are royalty or horse thieves in your ancestry? Some of the things I have learned by delving into genealogy include: I have found both royalty and commoners. My ancestry includes both Norwegian and Danish kings. I'm also a sixth cousin of Queen Elizabeth. I also had a great uncle in Wyoming who assigned grazing rights in the early 1900s. He was shot and killed by another person who thought he should have had the job.

What is the connection between the previous paragraph and the North Dakota State Genealogy Society? The NDSGS provides many things which have proven of great value to me. Not only do you get a quarterly newsletter, which lets you know what other groups are doing, and who their contact people are, but you also may attend quarterly meetings usually held at the State Heritage Center. Here you can listen to experts in their fields relate helpful information in an easy to follow and understand presentation. In addition, Pat Ashley and Patrice Hartman are two of the most helpful and knowledgeable people one ever has a chance to meet.

There are societies and organizations that may have information of value to your genealogical research. There are many such societies in the United States and Canada as well as in Germany and Norway. In working with fellow genealogists, you will gain a wealth of knowledge.

Please come, attend the next quarterly meeting on October 11th at the Heritage Center. Once you do, I feel that you also, will decide this is for me. At our October meeting we will elect officers for the next 2 years. Consider taking an office. You will find it a rewarding experience.

Erling Olson, NDSGS President

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the North Dakota State Genealogical Society is Friday, October 11 at 1 pm central time in the Legislative Assembly Room, State Archives, Bismarck.

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

North Dakota Genealogical Society
Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2019
Legislative Assembly Room-State Historical Society
of North Dakota

Present:
Erling Olson
Patrice Hartman
Pat Ashley
Stephanie Kom
Mary Hill
Bob Bird

President Olson called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM

Mary Hill gave a presentation, "Federal Land Records: Getting a Federal Land Case File". This included tips on finding and reading federal land records.

New business:
All those present made introductions.

Minutes from April 2019 meeting approved as

submitted.

Treasurer's Report:
\$6,660.94 balance

Marriage pre-1925 record update: Mercer County has been filmed; Oliver and maybe Stark still outstanding.

The Moorhead Genealogy conference will be in September. We will put ad in brochure and have a booth.

There will officer elections at next meeting.

May have a lead on contact to help in vital records law rewrite for next legislative session

Next meeting will be October 11, 2019 at the State Historical Society in Bismarck.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM

Is That Book Still Under Copyright?

by Dick Eastman

This article originally appeared in *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, at <http://www.eogn.com> and is used here with his permission.

Genealogists use old books more often than most other people. Indeed, we also want to take excerpts from an old book and publish those excerpts as part of our own family's genealogy. However, is that legal? Does the book still enjoy copyright protection?

Under U.S. laws, the answer is simple for books published prior to 1924: the book is now in the public domain (not copyrighted). For books, films, and other works published in 1924 or later, however, the question quickly becomes complicated.

Anything published in 1924 will remain under copyright until the year 2020, anything published in 1925 will remain under copyright until the year 2021, and so on.

The U.S. Constitution gives Congress the right to be-

stow exclusive rights to a creator for "limited times."



Unfortunately, the words "limited times" were not precisely defined in the Constitution and politicians since then have specified longer and longer periods of copyright protection.

In the first copyright act in 1790, copyright protection was limited to 14 years, with the option to apply for an automatically granted 14-year renewal. By 1909, copyright protection was increased to 28 years, with the option to apply for an automatically granted 28 year renewal.

(Continued on page 4)

State Historical Society of North Dakota

New Local Government Records

by Ann B. Jenks, State Archivist

September 2019

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 41934 Burleigh County. Bismarck Public Schools, Construction Bonds, Pupil Membership, 1962-2019, 1ft. | 1926-1974, 6v. | 41930 Grand Forks County. Clerk of Court, Miscellaneous Order Book, Vol. C, 1951-1985, 1v. |
| 41932 Cavalier County. Langdon Area School District #23, Poll Books, 1958-2003, .5ft. | 41922 Grand Forks County. Clerk of Court, Probate General Index, 1899-1950, 25v. | 41920 Grand Forks County. Clerk of Court, Probate Order Books, 1888-1895, 3v. |
| 41919 Grand Forks County. Clerk of Court, Administrators, Executors and Guardians Bonds and Letters, 1879-1945, 9v. | 41929 Grand Forks County. Clerk of Court, Probate Record, vol. A, 1896-1899, 1v. | 41923 Grand Forks County. Clerk of Court, Real Estate Record, 1885-1942, 9v. |
| 41924 Grand Forks County. Clerk of Court, Claim Record, 1880-1899, 2v. | 41917 Mercer County. Clerk of Court, Marriage Records, 1887-1925, 2r. (17872-17873) | 41933 Mercer County. Recorder, Wills for Safekeeping, 1905-1969, .5ft. |
| 41931 Grand Forks County. Clerk of Court, Index to Civil and Criminal Cases, Vol.1, n.d., 1v. | 41916 Morton County. Clerk of Court, Guardianship Case Files, 1887-1926, 3ft. | 41918 Oliver County. Recorder, Marriage Records, 1896-1925, digital. |
| 41926 Grand Forks County. Clerk of Court, Index to Criminal Dockets, 1981-1991, 8v. | | |
| 41921 Grand Forks County. Clerk of Court, Index to Deaths, n.d., 1v. | | |
| 41928 Grand Forks County. Clerk of Court, Index to Judgment Dockets, 1931-1992, 5v. | | |
| 41925 Grand Forks County. Clerk of Court, Inheritance Tax Record, 1914-1919, 2v. | | |
| 41927 Grand Forks County. Clerk of Court, Judgment Book, | | |

Citation Corner

Is there a story in your family of someone in trouble or serving time? How do you locate these records and where might they be found?

Search online indexes to penitentiary records or local newspapers for articles or local or state archives. Some records may also be found at the courthouse.

I found a newspaper article that mentioned my ancestor had served time in the Nebraska State Penitentiary.

At the time I had thought he did not have a criminal record before 1899 when he was accused of assault with the intent to kill. I did some more checking and found a court case in Thurston County, Nebraska which is in the relative vicinity of where he had previously lived in Harrison County, Iowa. Then I contacted the Nebraska State Historical Society and they found a prison record for him from 1895.

The elements for a prison record citation are the name, where the record was located, the book and page number or file number and who originally created the record if different than where it was located.

So this citation would be completed as shown.

Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, State Penitentiary Inmate Record 2879, Volume 2: 126, Robt. S. Donnelson, 1895; Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln.

Next of kin were listed on the record so I knew for sure that this was my ancestor.

This record even included a physical description of the prisoner down to scars and blemishes. It listed the term served and when released and who he was released to. It did not include a photograph but some of the records in this collection did.

North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports

Red River Valley Genealogical Society

by *Keith Zeutschel*

The Red River Valley Genealogical Society continues to expand. Recently we acquired additional books, newsletters and other bits of information for searching your ancestors. We have also created a new web page. Glenn has been working on moving all of the information from our old site to this new web page. The new address is www.rrvgs.org. Click on our new link and discover the items available there. It is still a work in progress so please bear with us as we complete the transition. Our mailing address remains the same: RRVGS PO Box 9284 Fargo, ND 58106-9284 and we are still located in the Bonanzaville entrance. We are located at 1351 W. Main Ave West Fargo, ND. Currently our summer hours are Thursday and Friday 1:00 - 4:00 PM and on Saturday from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. In November we will switch to our winter hours, which are Fridays from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Please call ahead as we are a volunteer organization and some days we may not have someone attending the library. We also

have two new certificates available for sale. First is a Phoenix Certificate for those who lived in North Dakota anytime during the 1930's (The Dirty Thirties). The second certificate is a Homesteader Certificate for those families who proved up a Federal Homestead from any date in North Dakota history. Unfortunately the application is not available online yet as that portion of our new site is still under construction. You may request a paper copy of the application from our library. The cost for each of these is \$10.00.

Our monthly meeting is on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Join us for a great time.

Keith Zeutschel Corresponding Secretary

RRVGS@fargocity.com

(Continued from page 2) Copyright

There was a further complication: copyrights back then had to be renewed, and often the rightsholder wouldn't bother filing the paperwork. If they did, the paperwork could be lost. There is no single computer database listing the copyright dates of every publication. Indeed, there isn't even a single office or other location where anyone can look at paper records listing copyright expiration dates. In short, you cannot easily find the copyright expiration date of any of the older publications.

The cost of figuring out who owns the rights to a given book can end up being greater than the market value of the book itself.

In 1976, the U.S. copyright laws were radically changed to agree with the Berne Convention, an international agreement originally signed in 1886. All new books were switched to an expiration date of the author's life plus 50 years. In 1998, an act named for Sonny Bono, who was recently deceased and always was a defender of Hollywood's expansive rights, bumped that to 70 years. These new restrictions applied only to books published on or after the date of the new laws. Older books were not impacted.

So the originally question was, "Is That Book Still Under Copyright?" The only accurate answer for books published in 1924 or later is: "Maybe."

The State Historical Society of North Dakota features articles from their *North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Plains* on its website. About 40 articles are free to the public with topics ranging from frontier photography to buffalo bone commerce, to a collection of Harris Family letters from 1882-1888. The Harris family moved from Iowa to Dickey County, Dakota

Territory in 1882. Their experiences were chronicled in letters they wrote to relatives in Wisconsin and Iowa.

Access this terrific resource at <https://www.history.nd.gov/publications/featured.html>.



HERITAGE EDUCATION COMMISSION

A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

Presents

Hidden...

Finding our female ancestors

44th Annual Family History Workshop
September 28, 2019 • 8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Horizon Middle School East Campus • 3601 12th Ave S • Moorhead, MN



Easily handicap accessible

Workshop Presentations

Alice Hoyt Veen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feminine Mystique: Finding Female Ancestors • Land Records to the Rescue! • Documentation and Citation: Buckle up and Cite Your Sources! • Prairie Patchwork: Iowa's Ethnic Heritage
Rick Crume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Genealogy Online: The Top English & Welsh Family History Websites • How to Find Your Family History in Online Newspapers
Dave Gaboury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Canadian Research
Luana Gilstrap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Be Named • To Be Named
Dan Haglund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norwegian Research
Erika Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family HEALTH History
Jackie Marler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning to Gather Your Family History
Mica Anders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genealogy and DNA Part I • Genealogy and DNA Part II
Steve Penick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking the Ball into Their Own Hands: Women and the Road to Title IX
Trista Raezer-Sturza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Be Named
Dan Saurwein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Be Named
Rob Flanagan-Stieglitz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA 101 • DNA 201
Michael Swanson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting the Most out of Ancestry.com
Art Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Be Named

Please pre-register on-line at www.heritageed.org for the workshop, including luncheon, by Friday, Sept. 20, 2019. The Moorhead Community Education on-line registration allows for payment with the following credit cards: Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. Additional information will be available at www.heritageed.com.

If you are unable to register on-line, please complete this form and mail to Moorhead Community Education.

To pre-register for the workshop, including luncheon, return this form with check/credit card information or call 218-284-3400 by Friday, September 20, 2019.

42nd Annual Family History Workshop participants ____ [number] @ \$49 each \$ ____ total workshop fees

Special Dietary Needs _____

Please indicate ALL participant name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email(s) _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Make check payable to ISD 152 for above Total and mail to: **Moorhead Community Education, 2410 14th St S, Moorhead, MN 56560** or Credit Card: (circle one) Visa MasterCard Discover

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Amount Authorized: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Subject to change without notice

An independent, non-profit organization

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

North Dakota State Genealogical Society
5750 104 Ave SW
Regent, ND 58650

Officers for 2018-2019:

President: Erling Olson—norskieole@hotmail.com
Vice President: Daphne Drewello—drewello@daktel.com
Secretary: Stephanie Kom—kom.stephanie@gmail.com
Treasurer: Patrice Hartman—patrice@ndsupernet.com
Editors: Pat Ashley—pashley@ndsupernet.com
Patrice Hartman—patrice@ndsupernet.com

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

Website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ndsgs/



www.facebook.com/#!/NorthDakotaStateGenealogicalSociety?fref=ts

Upcoming Events

28 September 2019. Family History Workshop. Moorhead, Minnesota. <http://www.heritageed.com/>

28-29 September 2019. Discover Your Swedish Roots. Lindsborg, Kansas. oldmillmuseum.org

7-8 October 2019. Minnesota Association of Museums. Fargo, ND and Moorhead, MN. <http://www.minnesotamuseums.org/events>

11 October 2019. North Dakota State Genealogical Society meeting, 1-3pm, State Archives, Bismarck.

20-23 May 2020. National Genealogical Society Conference. Salt Lake City, Utah. <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

12-14 June 2020. Manitoba Genealogical Society conference. Winnipeg. <http://conference.mbgenealogy.com/>

North Dakota State Genealogical Society

5750 104 Ave SW

Regent, ND 58650