

# NDSGS Newsletter

Fall 2022 —Volume 13, Issue 3

## Editors' Note

### *Special points of interest:*

- ND Genealogical Societies Reports
- ND State Archives Reports

### Inside this issue:

NDSGS Minutes	2
Citation Corner	2
State Historical Society— Documenting MHA	3
MRLGS Report	4
JRGS Report	4
BCHGS Report	4
RRVGS Report	4
MGS Report	5
Pioneer Trails Photo Project	5
Fergel Siblings	6

The digitization of the newspapers that NDSGS funded has been completed and will be uploaded to Advantage Archives soon. The newly digitized newspapers are the *Hettinger County Herald* (1907-1927), *LaMoure County Chronicle* (1888-1926), *LaMoure Progress Chronicle* (1888), *McClusky Gazette* (1909-1931), *McLean County Gazette* (1909), *Mott Pioneer Press* (1907-1928), *New Rockford Transcript* (1883-1920), and *Transcript New Era* (1889). To access these newspapers and others sponsored by the North Dakota State Archives at no charge go to <http://ndarchives.advantage-preservation.com/> or to access all of Advantage Archives' digitized newspapers for North Dakota using a map go to <http://ndarchives.advantage-preservation.com/SiteDirectory?state=North%20Dakota#>. The North Dakota State Archives also digitized newspapers through the Library of Congress, Chronicling America project, these are also free at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=North+Dakota&ethnicity=&language=>.

Pat Ashley  
Patrice Hartman  
NDSGS Newsletter Co-editors

## Next Meeting

The next meeting of the North Dakota State Genealogical Society is Friday, October 14 at 1 pm central time in the Legislative Assembly Room, State Archives, Bismarck. **John Hallberg from the Institute for Regional Studies, NDSU will be our 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

Michael Swanson, Archivist, UND Chester Fritz Library, Special Collections.

The Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections has 5 areas. The Orin G. Libby Manuscript Collection, North Dakota books, family history, rare books and the University Archives.

The manuscript collection has a sub division of political collections and also letters, diaries and photographs.

The family history area includes local history books. Town and county histories, donated family histories and the Arne G. Brekke Bygdebok collection.

Some indexes to records are on the website. Bygdebok collection, Index to the Grand Forks County Coroner Inquest Records 1882-1989 and the Grand Forks County Marriage Index from 1875-1925. The Norwegian Consulate Records

Index 1922-1968, Dakota Student Index 1888-2009.

Grand Forks City and County Resources. City directories, WW II Service Records, Marriages, Coroner, Church, Tax assessment, Supt of Schools, City Administrative Records, Organizational records, Grand Forks Herald on microfilm.

UND Scholarly Commons has some digitized material, Audio, video, images and text files. ND Sanborn Maps 1884-1960 for larger towns which are digitized.

Norwegian resources. Largest collection of Bygdeboks in US. About 1800 volumes of farm name books, family books and general area information books. Sons of Norway.

## Citation Corner

Estate records, wills or probate records can be potential gold mines of information. Particularly if the person owned property and did not have any descendants. Many times siblings, nieces or nephews are named as next of kin or heirs. Also if there was a dispute over who was to inherit more documents would be filed as part of the process. Sometimes these records are hard to locate so check for the surrogates office, register of wills, clerk of court etc. Also remember to check for court order books or indexes and devisor or devisee indexes. Estate packets might be filed in separate files from the administrations or wills.

Elements of these citations include the name of the estate, where the estate records were located, name of the book or file and page number, date and the type of record and the office they were filed in.

For a will if the copies are obtained from the

Courthouse:

Clermont County, Ohio, Will Book A:26-28, William South, 1811; Probate Court, Batavia.

If it was on microfilm it would be:

Clermont County, Ohio, Will Book A:26-28, William South, 1811; FHL microfilm 327,599.

Other documents for this probate were located in the Minutes of the Court of Common Pleas.

Clermont County, Ohio, Court of Common Pleas Minute book A: 216, William South, 1811; FHL microfilm 1,763,560.

Remember to search for probates, wills, administrations and orphans court records for all of your ancestors, their relatives and the members of their FAN club. FAN means friends, associates and neighbors whose records might mention or identify your ancestors.

# State Historical Society of North Dakota

Sarah Walker, Head of Reference Services, shared this post from the State Historical Society blog.

## Documenting the MHA Nation: Marilyn Cross Hudson Collection Opens to the Public

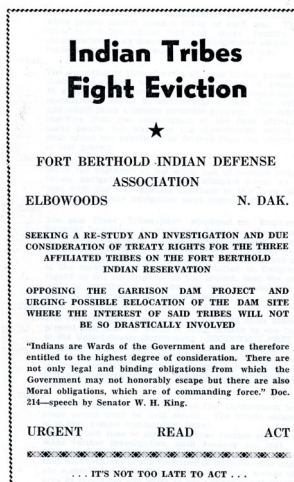
by Emily Kubischta, archivist

Here at the North Dakota State Archives we are thrilled to announce that a lifetime of research and writing by tribal historian Marilyn Old Dog Cross Hudson has been processed and is now open to the public. The [collection](#) includes research, manuscripts, articles, working and subject files, historical records, photographs, and other materials created or collected by Hudson. Major subjects include tribal and oral histories of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, as well as stories of Native American veterans, rodeos, and ranching, and of the Cross family. The collection also features records, histories, and photos of Elbowoods High School and the city of Parshall, North Dakota, Hudson's home from 1953 until her death in 2020.

Central to the collection are records of tribal, state, and federal government proceedings related to the construction of the Garrison Dam and its impact on the MHA Nation. The collection chronicles all stages of the project, from initial planning to completion of the dam. Significantly, it documents a wide range of efforts to stop the project, which necessitated the flooding of homes and farms and the relocation of hundreds of families. After the dam's completion, Hudson carefully recorded its long-term effects on the people of the Fort Berthold Reservation.



In this May 25, 2015, article from the Six Star Observer, Marilyn Hudson wrote about the names of World War II servicemen recorded in the Elbowoods Community Hall. Hudson, a prolific author, conducted extensive research for her published work. Both her sources and final articles are included in the collection.



One of many documents in the Marilyn Cross Hudson Collection that preserves the record of Garrison Dam opposition, this booklet was produced by the Fort Berthold Indian Defense Association in 1946 to galvanize resistance and encourage further study. SHSND SA 11517-0001-040-00001

Hudson's collection represents the most comprehensive series of tribal records at the State

Archives and includes the correspondence and writings of Martin Cross, Marilyn's father and long-time tribal chairman and council member. Bringing the historical documents to life are photographs, oral histories, and published articles by Hudson about life in the Missouri River bottomlands before the construction of the dam and after the flooding of the area.

Born in 1936 in Elbowoods, Hudson graduated from high school there in 1953. Her college education and professional career took her across the country until she accepted a position with the

(Continued on page 7)

# North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports

## Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society

*by John Mogren, President*

The Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society has had a busy summer. In June we had the Minot Public Library present on-line newspapers and how to use the search engines. We were once again asked to be at a table to answer genealogical questions at the June Swedish Midsummer Fest at the Scandinavian Heritage Park in Minot. Two of our members volunteered to do this. We had lots of interest and people waited in line for their turn. We gained a couple new members that day. The Ward County

Historical Society had a festival and asked if we would do the same thing. There too we had considerable interest and gained a couple new members. As one of our volunteers said, "It is so interesting to hear the family stories of others." We had interest by our members in having a tour of the State Archives and a few attended that tour in July. At our August meeting we had a genealogy quiz on research and resources with lots of discussion.

Enjoy the autumn!

## James River Genealogical Society

*by Cathy Paulson*

We only meet 3 times a year in Carrington. The rest of the time is in Jamestown. In August we had the veteran's service officer for Foster Co. speak to our group. In September in Jamestown everyone is asked to bring a picture or document

of an ancestor to share w/the group. When we meet in Carrington (which is June, August and October we now meet at the Forster Co. Museum.

## Bowman County Historical and Genealogical Society

*by Jean Nudell*

The BCHGS meets on the evening of the second Tuesday of each month. I gather everything and present each month at the meetings.

## Red River Valley Genealogical Society

*by Keith Zeuschel*

The RRVGS continues to be active in doing research for members and friends of the society. Be sure to check our web site at [RRVGS.org](http://RRVGS.org) for updated information and our Facebook page at [Facebook/redrivervalleygenealogicalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/redrivervalleygenealogicalsociety).

At the Society meeting on August 20, 2022, it was decided that we would cancel our Meeting in September due to the Family History Workshop being held on the same day. RRVGS will have a table set up selling some of our duplicate books, mugs, and other fun items.

The Society is planning to resume it's Spring Workshop schedule, which had been on hiatus during COVID, in either February or March 2023.

The Society was represented with a table in the main building during Bonanzaville's Pioneer Days August 27 and 28. We passed out information about our library and also had drawings for items from the library.

Our next meeting will be on October 15th, 2022 in the library. All are welcome to attend.

## Minnkota Genealogical Society

*by Barbara Knipe*

The Minnkota Genealogy Society (MGS) identifies a community service project each year. In July members met at Memorial Park (Cemetery) to work on marker clean in the “Babyland” area. Cathy Altepeter also led members on a fascinating tour of family historical markers after which all enjoyed a potluck hosted at the home of by Peter and Beth Bouley. MGS has successfully used the ZOOM link to increase member participation in the Society’s programs. The September 8 program will be both a Zoom and a live, in person, presentation by Anne Muir, Director of the Polk County Museum ([polkhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:polkhistorical@gmail.com))

(218-281-1038) located in Crookston, Minnesota. Her presentation is “Polk County Historical Society and Museum” a how to utilize historical society information to search for ancestors.” Members and friends of the Minnkota Genealogy Society are invited to join the ZOOM meeting link. Lenore Anderson (218) 207-8375) is our expert in setting up ZOOM links. In October, member Steve Johnson, will present a program on using DNA. President Peter Bouley has compiled a Genealogy Questionnaire that members are using to share how they use genealogy sites. The Society holds an annual Holiday Season Party.

## Pioneer Trails Regional Museum Photo Project

*by Jean Nudell*

In the Fall of 2021, Pioneer Trails Regional Museum was awarded a SHARPS Grant through the North Dakota Humanities Council to digitize and re-house the entire historic photo collection. The project had actually begun a year earlier, during the COVID shutdown, when staff took the opportunity to take advantage of the uninterrupted time to sort through and re-organize many of the photos in the collection. However, with the return of visitors, staff changeover, and a lack of funding for new archival materials to re-house the photos, the project was once again put on the back burner.

Which is why we were so pleased the next year to receive the SHARPS Grant, which allowed us to bring the project back to the forefront and finish it out. The first step was to number the many photos in the collection which had never been accessioned. We set up a “found in collections” number in the accession record and got to work. Following the numbering of the photos, each photo was scanned front and back. We then entered each photo into the PastPerfect collection software, making sure to link photos to related items and listing people and places in the photos when we knew who or where they were, in order to make the collection searchable by name and location. After the photos were entered into

PastPerfect, they were rehoused from the folders and boxes they originally came from, which had been sorted previously by decade, into new acid-free album sleeves and put into box albums. We chose to sort the photos by category (such as churches, community events, portraits, etc.) and labeled each box album accordingly (and made sure to mark which album each photo was in in PastPerfect).

All in all, museum staff scanned, cataloged, and re-housed over 3,200 photographs through the course of the project. The photograph collection has become a much more user-friendly collection since the project has been completed. Not only have we been able to quickly locate specific photos based on a search in PastPerfect, but researchers have been able to easily access all photos in the collection based on topic. It has also made it much easier for staff to add photos to the collection as we continue to accept donations and find photos hidden elsewhere throughout the museum collections. We’re also planning to take advantage of the digitization to post the unidentified photos to our website and social media, as well as in our newsletter, this winter to see if we can identify the people, places, and events we have photos of that are currently unknown!

## Fate of Fergel Siblings in Russian Slave Labor Camps

by Mary Bueling

On 25 March 1944 while Grandpa Frank Fergel's family was living a peaceful life in North Dakota, his brother's family took part in a mass exodus from the village where the brothers had grown up, Selz (Limanskoye), Russia. Even though their people had emigrated from Germany and Alsace over a hundred years ago and had suffered injustices in the past, the accelerating tyranny and violence made it too dangerous to stay. Their only option was to trust their German occupiers to escort them to safety. Forced to leave hearth and home they joined 360 wagons in the muddy quagmire that was the main street of Selz. This scene was being repeated all over Russia as an estimated 500,000 German Russians were evacuated from their villages in 1944.

Grandpa's brother, Alexander and Margarethe (Meier) Fergel and their seven children: Veronica, Helene, Maria, Julia, Rosina, Anna, and Joseph were resettled in Konin, a city in central Poland teeming with refugees. The young people found jobs on farms and in a creamery. Alexander found work in his trade as a tailor.

After several grueling months on the road Margarethe, 56, died in 1944 upon arriving in Poland.

A year later as Germany was losing the war and their army was retreating west, Russian troops moved in and conquered the vacated territory. Alexander became separated from his family. The Fergel siblings were among thousands turned over to the Russians by the Allies, under terms of the Yalta agreement.

"A Russian lieutenant attempted to rape Helene (Fergel, 23) and she kicked the hell out of him. He took out his revolver and shot her," says Otto Noel, tailor apprentice to Alexander Fergel, in personal correspondence in the 1990's.

Alexander's entire family was sent to slave labor camps where they toiled under inhumane conditions for 11 years making Russia "great" by

logging her forests, working her mines, building her railroads, and more.

Military personnel loaded the Fergel siblings into reeking, crowded railroad cattle cars with almost no food or water for weeks as they were transported to the far reaches of Kazakhstan and Archangel.

They were arrested for "being a person (or family member) of German nationality." In 2011 the USSR NKVD files, MVD files, and MGB files were declassified and we were able to learn of their fate.

Rosina Fergel (born 1927 in Selz, Russia), Anna Fergel (born 1928 in Selz), and Veronika Fergel were sentenced to "live forever at the place of compulsory settlement at a timber felling site" in the bleak, desolate, frigid Archangel Region. They worked in forests to do logging, year around. The chopping, sawing, transporting was all done by hand on meager daily rations of bread and inadequate clothing.



Rosina Fergel

Maria Fergel (born 1924 in Selz, Russia) and Joseph Fergel (born 1930 in Selz) were sentenced to slave labor on a collective cattle farm in the Karaganda region of Kazakhstan; making hay, caring for the livestock, milking, and working in the dairy. Julia Fergel (1925-1946) was also sentenced to the collective farm in Karaganda. She became ill



Joseph Fergel



Maria (Fergel)  
Reiswich

(Continued on page 7)

*Fergel Siblings (Continued from page 6)*

and died there in Kazakhstan after slaving for a year.

Some years later the family, except Veronika, were able to live in Beloyarka, a village in the Vishnewka district, Akmolinsk region, Kazakhstan. Eventually they were able to arrange for their impoverished sister, Veronika (Fergel) Duttenhefer and her 2 young children, to move from Zaruba in the Archangel region, to Beloyarka as well. The siblings were all together. Their father, Alexander, attempted to join them in 1953. Sadly, he had become abusive, and the attempt to reunite failed.

In 1955-1956 Khrushchev, Stalin's successor, began the process of releasing the prisoners from the labor camps. The Fergel siblings were given their freedom; "struck off the registers" as if this nightmare had never happened. The Decree stipulated that their release came with no rights of exoneration nor restitution of any kind, including lost wages, their prior home, nor any confiscated property. They were generously told they could live at any place of the country they wanted, except Poland and their homeland village of Selz.

Today the whereabouts of the Fergel siblings is not known to us.

Sources:

1. Joseph S. Height, *Paradise on the Steppe*, pp. 379-381.
2. Personal File # 7337 and photo for Fergel, Rosina; born 1927 in Selz. People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs: USSR NKV files, MVD files, MGB files, UMVD files. Translations by Serge from Wahpeton, ND.
3. Personal File # 7801 and photo for Fergel Reiswich, Maria; born 10 July 1924 in Selz. People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs: USSR NKVD files, SNK files, MVD files, MGB files. Translations by Serge from Wahpeton, ND.
4. Personal File # 7336 and photo for Fergel, Joseph; born 1930 in Selz. People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs: USSR NKVD files, MVD files, MGB files, UMVD files, SNK files. Translations by Serge from Wahpeton, ND.
5. Letters of correspondence with Otto Noel (born 1920 Selz-died 2001 Germany).
6. Peter Goldade, *Life Under Tyranny*.

*MHA Nation (Continued from page 3)*

Bureau of Indian Affairs working at the Fort Berthold Agency and returned to North Dakota.



*Hudson collected historical photographs as well as more modern images in her quest to document events for posterity. Pictured here on All-American Indian Day in New Town, North Dakota, are Martin Cross, Sam Meyers, and Mary Louise Defender. The two men on the far right are unidentified. SHSND SA 11517-00045*

Hudson retired from federal service in 1992 but stayed active in cultural and historic preservation

as well as in the promotion of the state. She served as administrator for the Three Affiliated Tribes Museum in New Town and received the North Dakota State Historical Society's Heritage Profile Honor Award in 2009. Hudson's legacy in the state endures through her writings, organizational work, and the memories of those who had the privilege to know and work with her.

Hudson's passion and love for the history of her people and state is reflected in the breadth of topics she researched and wrote about and in her meticulous gathering of primary and secondary sources. Her collection provides insight into the experiences and lives of members of the Three Affiliated Tribes and is an invaluable resource for current and future generations.

The public can view the collection at the State Archives in the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum in Bismarck. For more information, contact us at [archives@nd.gov](mailto:archives@nd.gov).

## North Dakota State Genealogical Society

5750 104 Ave SW

Regent, ND 58650

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

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

#### Officers for 2022-2023:

President: Stella Papachek—[psmrasmu@gondtc.com](mailto:psmrasmu@gondtc.com)

Vice President:

Secretary:

Treasurer: Patrice Hartman—[patrice@ndsupernet.com](mailto:patrice@ndsupernet.com)

Editors: Pat Ashley—[pashley@ndsupernet.com](mailto:pashley@ndsupernet.com)

Patrice Hartman—[patrice@ndsupernet.com](mailto: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/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ndsgs/)



[www.facebook.com/#!/NorthDakotaStateGenealogicalSociety?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/#!/NorthDakotaStateGenealogicalSociety?fref=ts)

## Upcoming Events

17 Sept. 2022. Family History Workshop. Moorhead, Minnesota.  
<http://www.heritageed.com/>

29 Sept.-1 Oct. 2022. Montana State Genealogy Conference. Fairmont.  
<http://montanamsgs.org/conferences.html>

30 Sept.-1 Oct. 2022. Rapid City, South Dakota Genealogy Conference.  
<https://www.rcgenealogy.com/>

14 Oct. 2022. North Dakota State Genealogical Society meeting.  
Bismarck.