

# NDSGS Newsletter

Spring 2019 —Volume 10, Issue 1

## *Special points of interest:*

- ND Genealogical Societies Reports
- ND State Archives Reports

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## President's Letter

Greetings Fellow Genealogists:

Since my primary focus is Norwegian and Germans from Russia ancestry I contacted Karen Huck, a member of Sons of Norway, who is an avid genealogist and who has worked many years with the Montana Genealogy Society. Following are a number of websites she recommends:

**DIS-Norge** has a great brochure where you can get information about Norwegian immigration to North American and how you can track down your ancestors in Norway. <http://disnorge.no/cms/en/eng/english-pages>

**Digital Archives of Norway** <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/> If not in English, click on the 3 bars on the right hand corner and it will bring up a sub menu for language and choose English. Many parish registers are here. Remember the registers will still be in Norwegian.

**Chester Fritz Library** in Grand Forks, ND, also has a research department that is very good at being able to help with Norwegian research. <https://library.und.edu/> They have many of the bydegbooker (farm books)

Another website I often use is **Find A Grave**. <http://findagrave.com/>

Another website for cemetery headstones is **Billion Graves**. <http://billiongrave.com/>

The **Family History Library** also has many documents online and is digitizing their collection. Their website is <https://familysearch.org/> Although you have to use a user name and password, these are free. They will send you an email and must click on link to complete the registration. Some of the family lines have been added to the **family trees**, but I recommend checking the actual documents at Digitalarkivet.

These websites have been a great help in Norwegian ancestry research. For the July issue I will see what I can find for those looking for Germans from Russia ancestors.

Erling Olson, NDSGS President

## Next Meeting

Shane Molander will speak at the next meeting of the North Dakota State Genealogical Society, Friday, April 12 at 1 pm central time in the Legislative Assembly Room, State Archives, Bismarck. Shane is the Deputy State Archivist and will discuss the Advantage Archives Project for digitizing North Dakota newspapers.

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

October 12, 2018

Legislative Assembly Room-State Historical Society of North Dakota

Present:

Erling Olson  
 Patrice Hartman  
 Stephanie Kom  
 Gary Ball-Kilbourne  
 John Beving  
 Dalles Schneider  
 Norma Dooley  
 Bob Bird

President Olson called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

Gary Ball Kilbourne gave a presentation, "Redeeming Heirlooms and Finding Genealogical Artifacts Online". This included tips on searching and the bidding process

on eBay.

New business:  
 All those present made introductions.

Norma Dooley made a motion to approve the 7-13-2018 minutes.

Patrice Hartman seconded  
 Motion carried

Treasurer's Report:  
 \$6,452.41 balance

The society had a booth at the Moorhead Genealogy Conference in September.

Next meeting will be April 12, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 2:38 PM

## Citation Corner

After the Civil War states were required to register voters by the Reconstruction Acts of 1867. In Texas 12 rolls of microfilm list 139,000 men age 21 and over for the years of 1867 to 1869. The rolls are organized by county and list the name, residence, length of residence, nativity, naturalization and race on two pages. Many former slaves will be listed on these registrations. To give a source citation for these records the citation would include the following information:

Texas. Bexar County. 1867 Voter Registration Lists. Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin.

The county name would change depending on which county records you are using. These records are also available on ancestry.com so if you view those records you would cite the online version.

The California Voter Registers of 1866 to 1898 are also organized by county and list men over the age of 21. The early lists give the name, age, nativity, occupation, residence and naturalization on one page. Later lists include a physical description and the ability to read and write. They are organized alphabetically and were taken

every two years and some every year. The registers helped to prevent voter fraud. The source citation for these records would include the following information:

California. Alameda County. Great Registers 1866-1898. California State Library, Sacramento.

Again the county name would change depending on which county records you are using. These records are also available on ancestry.com.

Voter registration records can help to track ancestors back to other places by listing how long they lived in the area and where they were born. Some list age and occupation which will give more detail about their lives. Good luck finding these records.

Note: The above citations are in the format of a source list to a collection only. When you are doing a reference note to identify the source you would include the name of the individual and the specific location of the information in the collection.



Jaquelyn "Jacki" Keck died 5 March 2019 in Williston. She was one of the original members of the NDSGS. For her obituary see <http://www.eversoncoughlin.com/ObituaryPrint/1489>



# State Historical Society of North Dakota

## New Local Government Records

by Ann B. Jenks, State Archivist

- |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 41906 Billings County. Clerk of Court, Coroner's Inquests, 1896-1945, 1r. (#17792)                              | 41913 Cass County. City of Fargo, Auditor. Records, 1917-1999, 1ft.                          |
| 41904 Billings County. Clerk of Court, District Court Criminal Cases, 1890-1936, 3r. (#17647, 17781, 17787)     | 41909 Divide County. Superintendent of Schools, School District Histories, 1906-1978, .25ft. |
| 41905 Billings County. Clerk of Court, Justice Court Criminal Cases, 1890-1949, 1r. (#17792)                    | 41901 Foster County. Recorder, Marriage Records, 1887-1925, 4r. (#17764-17768)               |
| 41907 Billings County. Clerk of Court, List of Persons Liable to Perform Military Duty, 1896-1909, 1r. (#17792) | 41908 Morton County. Clerk of Court, Probate Cases, 1881-1991, 164ft.                        |
| 41912 Billings County. Clerk of Court, Official Oaths, 1903-1920, 1r. (#17792)                                  | 41903 Stutsman County. Sheriff, Daily Reports, 1983-1985, 2v.                                |
| 41910 Cass County. City of Casselton. Auditor, Revised Ordinances, 1939, 1v.                                    | 41902 Stutsman County. Sheriff, Jail Registers, 1897-1975, 3v.                               |
| 41911 Cass County. City of Casselton. Auditor, Voter Registration, 1918, 3v.                                    |                                                                                              |

## New Book and Journal Acquisitions

by Stephanie Kom, Head of Technical Services—Archives

New since October:

### North Dakota Local Histories:

Anniversary Book Committee. *Selfridge Golden Jubilee: History, 1911-1961: compiled to commemorate Selfridge's 50th anniversary celebration, June 16-17, 1961*. Selfridge, North Dakota: Anniversary Book Committee, 1961.

Kudelka, Susan M. *History of Sargent County, Volume 4 1920-1945*. Gwinner, North Dakota: McCleery & Sons, 2007.

*Park River's diamond jubilee, July 1-2-3-4, 1959, Park River, N. Dak.: souvenir program*. N.p.: n.p., 1959.

Parshall Alumni Association. *Parshall High School alumni reunion : Parshall, ND, June 23, 1989*. Parshall, North Dakota: Parshall Alumni Association, 1989.

Schaff, Georgina Williamson and Martha Gress. *As I remember... the inlaws : those wonderful Schaff relatives*. Bloomington, Indiana, AuthorHouse, 2006.

Zion Luthern Church. *Fiftieth anniversary, Zion Lutheran Church, Petersville Township, Pettibone, North Dakota: jubilee festival, Sunday, June 24, 1962*. Pettibone, North Dakota: Zion Lutheran Church, 1962.

### Other:

Kaempchen, Erick, and F. A. Rittershaus. *Ebenezer, die Geschichte der Medina-Pfarrstelle Nach Fünfundswanzig Jahren von 1903 bis 1928*. N.p.: n.p., 1928.

Kosanda, David E. *The Kosanda families of the Czech Republic and United States of America*. Richardson, Texas: Ready Print, 2016.

### Journals

Max High School. *Cossacks*. [Max, North Dakota]: Max High School, n.d.

McVile Public School. *Blackhawk*. [McVile, North Dakota: McVile Public School], n.d.

Riverdale High School. *The castle*. Riverdale, North Dakota: Riverdale High School, n.d.

# North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports

## Red River Valley Genealogical Society

*by Keith Zeuschel*

The Red River Valley Genealogical Society is hosting its annual Workshop on March 30, 2019 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

The Keynote Speaker is Mica Anders who has been a professional genealogist for over 10 years. Ms. Anders lives in Minneapolis and has

recently appeared on Minnesota NPR Radio discussing DNA Testing. She will be presenting a two hour session on Genealogy vs. Genetics.

Additional topics include Newspaper Research, Census Records and Organizing Your Computer Files. The last

hour is Open so you may do research in our Library or visit with our Researchers and Lecturers.

Cost is \$30 including lunch if paid by March 15th or \$35 after March 15th and on the day of the Workshop.

See the Workshop Flyer on page 7.

Go to our new website to sign up and pay for the Workshop at this link: [Red River Valley Genealogical Society](#)

Hope to see you on March 30th.

## Southwest North Dakota Genealogical Society

*by Patrice Hartman*

For 2019 we will meet in the months of April through October. Our upcoming meetings are April 29 and May 20, June 24, July 22. For our first meeting we will share our research finds that we discovered during the winter. The May meeting will cover voter registration records. In June we will look at records from mental institutions and in July we will discover how to find Ladies of the Night.

Our regular meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month at 6 PM at the Dickinson Area Public Library. Sometimes the meetings are on different Mondays if there is a holiday to work around. We usually meet in the lower level of the library. We invite anyone who is interested in genealogy to attend. Contact Patrice Hartman for more information. [patrice@ndsupernet.com](mailto:patrice@ndsupernet.com)

## Minnkota Genealogical Society

*by Michael Swanson*

The Minnkota Genealogical Society (MGS) is composed of members from northeast North Dakota and northwest Minnesota. We meet the second Tuesday of each month, usually at the Campbell Library in East Grand Forks, MN. Our 2019 officers are Barb Knipe (President), Lenore Anderson (Vice-President), Walt Knipe (Secretary), and Ron Baker (Treasurer). This is a special year as we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a society.

We ended 2018 with our annual holiday potluck. Along with the good food and fellowship, several Minnkota members served as a panel of "globe-trotters." These members have traveled internationally and provided basic information about traveling in Europe and gave tips for incorporating family history during such trips. Our greatest accomplishment during 2018 was creating updated bylaws, adopting standing rules of procedure, and filing appropriate documentation as a non-profit organization. It had been ten years since the bylaws were last reviewed. The executive board and, particularly, president Barb Knipe are commended for their efforts to complete this important work.

Weather affected attendance at our January 2019 meeting and, therefore, not much business was conducted and no decisions were made regarding programming for the year. The February meeting also experienced weather issues, though a tentative list of topics and presenters was assembled and discussed. Thanks to vice-president Lenore Anderson for creating the calendar of programs. In addition, Lenore led attendees in a session to enhance online research skills using features on the FamilySearch website. Specifically, she demonstrated how to locate relevant webinars available through the Learning Center.

For March, we connected via Skype with Daniel Sauerwein of the State Archives in Bismarck. Daniel presented an overview to the State Archives and discussed the variety of resources available for genealogical research. He showed how to navigate their website and pointed out how to locate details about newspapers and vital records. As we look forward, hopefully spring is just around the corner, which should provide for greater attendance of our membership. As always, visitors are most welcome to attend any of our meetings.

## The Death of Oklahoma Jack

*by John Mogren*

It started as any other Wednesday morning at the home of the Danish emigrant, Albert Anderssen Hansen. His Danish born wife Rasmine had risen early to prepare him breakfast before he left to work at the Flekten Coal Mine four miles north of Kenmare. With several children in the house it was necessary to take on additional work and oldest son Friis was at home to do the chores. Albert had gone into partnership with Thomas O'Neill by leasing the coal mine from Flekten. Tom O'Neill was born of an Irish father and English mother and had followed other family members to North Dakota to work in the coal mines in the Kenmare area. Albert enjoyed the partnership as Tom was a hard worker as well and they were able to profit from the enterprise. Albert knew he had one task ahead of him that day and he wasn't looking forward to. The men had agreed to rent the little coal shack at the mine to John Collier, most commonly referred to as Oklahoma Jack. One day he had simply showed up at the mine and inquired about renting the vacant shack. Initially things had started out on a good foothold but as time went on Oklahoma Jack didn't hold up to his end of the agreement. He discontinued paying to stay at the mine shack and occasionally helped himself to coal to heat the shack. Today would be the day Albert would tell him to pay up or move on.

Oklahoma Jack didn't share too many details of his past but judging from his tales it was evident he was a drifter and would find work as a common laborer to support him. His days here were spent running a trapping line in the area and his evenings engaged in poker at the shack. While North Dakota still had Prohibition, during this time it was a common occurrence to find someone bringing "home brew" to the shack or Oklahoma Jack provided it for the men. Oklahoma Jack's taste was for his own "hard cider strengthened by yeast." John Reynolds was one of the men who played poker at the shack. John was an emigrant from County Longfort, Ireland and also had come to the area following family members to work in the coal mines. John had a likeable personality and would overlook the deficits in human character all too often according to family members.

After a day's work at the mine, Albert and Tom stopped in the yard of the mine shack and asked about the payment owed. On this day, Oklahoma Jack was liquored up having been drinking the home brew. Oklahoma Jack became irate and took a swing at Albert but he dodged the blow. He yelled that he'd get what was needed. He went into the shack and came out with his 25-20 Winchester high powered rifle. He ranted and raved as he took aim at Albert but Tom's quick thinking by jumping Oklahoma Jack no doubt saved Albert's life. The gun discharged twice and the bullets tore through an out

building instead of striking Albert. Oklahoma Jack was bigger than Tom and was able to break free and get the rifle again. Albert had disappeared in the brush and Oklahoma Jack took some shots at him but fortunately his aim was poor, impaired by the alcohol. Oklahoma Jack took off searching for Albert in the bushes. Tom went round about and avoided encountering the man but was able to find Albert and they made haste to Kenmare to swear out a warrant for the arrest of Oklahoma Jack. Along the route they met John Reynolds who was on his way to see Oklahoma Jack. Both men tried to persuade him to turn back informing him that Oklahoma Jack was drunk and "on the warpath!" John assured them that he wasn't afraid of Oklahoma Jack as he had been there earlier in the day and spoke with him.

What transpired after that encounter is sketchy. According to Oklahoma Jack, John had come to the shack but left early in the evening, returning at 2 a.m. with a threat "I'm going to get you!" At any rate, John Reynolds died at the mine on January 26, 1921. The next morning, Oklahoma Jack was seen in Kenmare, the first person he encountered he stated, "There's a dead one out there. He came for the money and he got the contents." Oklahoma Jack surrendered himself to Sheriff's Deputy Iver Walsted at Kenmare. Until the officers and undertaker made the trip to the shack it was supposed the murdered man was Albert Hansen. Collier's story is that Reynolds left the shack during the evening but then about 2 a.m. he returned with the statement he was going to get him and he shot. He denied striking Reynolds although the dead man's face showed every sign of a terrific beating before his death. One bullet entered the right leg, another the right arm and the fatal one penetrated the left arm - evidently raised as a shield - entered the neck; going almost through and then by some strange freak turned its course directly down and through the right lung and lodged near the surface. Paralysis resulted immediately from the last mentioned bullet and internal bleeding caused the death according to Drs. Ewing and Dr. Orcutt who performed an autopsy on the body.

The coroner's jury consisting of Fred W. Friis, W. J. Evans and David Clark Jr. summoned by States Attorney O. R. Herigstad returned a verdict last Thursday evening that Reynolds met death as the result of wounds from a rifle in the hands of Jack Collier.

"Evidence produced before the coroner's jury last Thursday evening indicated that the "Moonshine Trail" had found another victim and that the killings of Reynolds by Collier were the culmination of a drunken orgy in which hard cider and yeast furnished the chief motive power."

*(Continued on page 6)*

*Oklahoma Jack (Continued from page 5)*

Oklahoma Jack appeared before Judge John C. Lowe in District Court in Minot on the afternoon of January 1, 1921 and entered a plea of guilty to murder in the first degree. He was sentenced to life in the state penitentiary at Bismarck.

On May 31, 1921 Oklahoma Jack committed suicide by hanging. Inside the prison walls he cut down some electric cable, fastened them around his neck and jumped

into the storage water system. He was buried in the Fairview Cemetery in Bismarck.

John Reynolds was buried at the Saint Ignatius Catholic Cemetery, Lostwood (ND) near his sisters, Elizabeth Murphy and Margaret Jackson.

*John Mogren is a charter member of the Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society in Minot and North Dakota State Genealogical Society in Bismarck.*

## Is That Book Still Under Copyright?

by **Dick Eastman**, *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* (<https://blog.eogn.com/>)

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 bestow 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.

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.

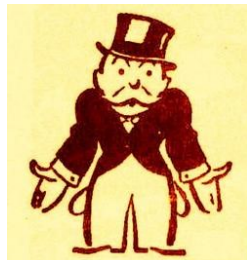
The cost of figuring out who owns the rights to a given book can end up being greater than the market value of the book itself.

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."

F+W Media has filed for bankruptcy protection. The company produces *Family Tree Magazine*, *Family Tree University* and the *Family Tree* website.

The declining market for subscription print periodicals was noted in the bankruptcy filing.



F+W Media plans to sell its businesses while continuing to operate. You can read more in Tony Silber's article in *Forbes* at <http://bit.ly/2TEoL9v>.

Red River Valley Genealogical Society  
 Event Center ~ Bonanzaville, USA  
 1351 West Main Ave, West Fargo ND

# Genealogical Workshop

\$30.00 Early Registration until March 15th, 2019

\$35.00 after March 15th and on Day Of Workshop

Lunch Included with Registration

**March 30th, 2019 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

9 am to 10 am	Newspaper Research
10 am to 11 am	Census Records
11 am to 12 pm	Computer Record Organization
Lunch Provided by RRVGS	
1 pm to 3 pm	Genealogy vs. Genetics

**Register & Pay for the Workshop Online at [RRVGS.org](http://RRVGS.org)  
 or**

Send Name, Phone Number and Email Address  
 along with a check for either \$30 for early  
 registration or \$35 after March 15th to the following:

PO Box 9284 ~ Fargo, ND 58106-9284

\* Keynote Speaker is Mica Anders, a 10 year professional genealogist from Minneapolis who recently appeared on NPR discussing DNA testing. Her session on Genealogy vs. Genetics will expose the shortfalls of DNA

**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](mailto:norskieole@hotmail.com)  
Vice President: Daphne Drewello—[drewello@daktel.com](mailto:drewello@daktel.com)  
Secretary: Stephanie Kom—[kom.stephanie@gmail.com](mailto:kom.stephanie@gmail.com)  
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

**12 April 2019. North Dakota State Genealogical Society meeting, 1-3pm, State Archives, Bismarck.**

8-11 May 2019. National Genealogical Society conference. St. Charles, Missouri. <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/conferences/>

**12 July 2019. North Dakota State Genealogical Society meeting, 1-3pm, State Archives, Bismarck.**

31 July—3 August 2019. Germans from Russia Heritage Society Convention. Fargo, North Dakota. <http://grhs.org/>

2-4 August 2019. Deuce of August Icelandic Celebration. Mountain, North Dakota. <http://thedeuce.org/>

16-18 August 2019. Find German Ancestors in Poland & Volhynia. Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe. Winnipeg. <https://www.sggee.org/>

19-21 September 2019. Montana State Genealogical Society Conference. Helena, Montana. <http://montanamsgs.org/conferences.html>

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

28-29 September 2019. Discover Your Swedish Roots. Lindsborg, Kansas. [oldmillmuseum.org](http://oldmillmuseum.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**