

NDSGS Newsletter

Spring 2021 —Volume 12, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- ND Genealogical Societies Reports
- ND State Archives Reports

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President's Letter

Happy Spring:

I was waiting until after Roots Tech conference to write my message but I spent a few hours in their site, found it very confusing and with 1,500 sessions to choose from it was just overwhelming to find the ones I would watch. It is up on their site for one year so someday I will go back in. I am sure there are many things of interest, but the puzzle is to find them.

I had another lesson lately on not giving up on finding a close Knutson cousin. I sent a message to a second cousin, once removed and got a wonderful answer. This, then, connected me to three other cousins, one which is in Denmark. He speaks English, is computer literate and is interested in his American cousins. This is going to help me verify my records and finalize many relatives. Verifying, to me, is so important. I have gone some wonderful lines just to find out, nope, they aren't my relatives.

I have many storage bins of papers that I have sorted at one time or the other into families. When I found these new cousins, I went through their bin and found many facts I had forgotten I had. One piece of paper had a blurb on creativity that I want to share a few lines with you—I believe creativity is a great help in our search for ancestors.

Creativity, by definition, has one meaning that tells us it is bringing things together in new ways. There are four characteristics to creativity.

(Continued on page 5)

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the North Dakota State Genealogical Society has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The North Dakota State Archives is open by appointment only. To schedule an appointment call 701.328.2091 or email archives@nd.gov See their website for further information <https://www.history.nd.gov/archives/index.html> .

North Dakota State Genealogical Society Minutes

There were no meetings this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

New published article by one of our members

The article "Mother Lived Through the Diphtheria Epidemic" by Mary Lou (Leintz) Bueling can be found in *Heritage Review*, September 2020, Vol. 50 No. 3; pp. 22-28.

In late 1927, diphtheria was raging in the rural German Russian community southwest of Shields in Grant County, North Dakota. My late mother, Angela (Ella) Fergel, a 10 year old fourth grader at Wade # 3 country school at the time, was personally affected by the events, and often spoke about it while I was growing up. Her father, Frank Fergel, built coffins for the neighbors and as Frank robbed boards from his granary, he worried about running out of lumber.

Stephan Dirk, a classmate, teased Ella by taking

her toy—a tiny fork and spoon that fit into an aspirin tin. It was the day before Christmas break and that was the last time she saw Stephan, or her toy. In nine days Stephan and two of his little brothers died of diphtheria.

It was a time for bravery since some neighbors were strongly against immunizations. Frank and a few other neighbors were unsuccessful in convincing a local doctor to come and so contacted the State's Attorney in Carson, ND.

The article follows the events of the next few weeks as they unfold. Newspaper articles and first-hand accounts are used to tell the story.

The article may be accessed at <https://www.grhs.org/pages/HeritageReview>.

United States, Border Crossings from Canada, 1895-1956

MyHeritage recently added 12.5 million records from the United States, Border Crossings from Canada, 1895-1956. FamilySearch also has this collection.

These records include the individual's name, age, gender, date of arrival, arrival port, marital status, birth date and place, last residence, destination, port of departure, and nationality, as well as names and addresses of family members both in the United States and the home country.

St. Albans, Vermont started collecting these records in 1895, later new offices opened that were closer to each border crossing.

This collection includes the following ports of entry for North Dakota:

Dunseith, Neche, Pembina, Saint John, and Walhalla (1912-1956)

Ambrose, Antler, Carbury, Fortuna, Noonan, Northgate, Portal, Sherwood, and Westhope (1921-1952)

Northgate and Saint John (1910-1921)

Searching these records is free on MyHeritage, to view them you will need a data or complete plan. FamilySearch provides free access.

For more information see <https://blog.myheritage.com/2021/02/myheritage-releases-new-historical-record-collection-united-states-border-crossings-from-canada-1895-1956/>.

To access on FamilySearch see <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2185932>.

State Historical Society of North Dakota

New Local Government Records

by *Lindsay K. Meidinger, Head of Collections & Information Management*

September 2020 – February 2021

41967 Billings County. School District Number One.
School Board Elections Poll Books, 1966-2009, 0.5 ft.

Minnkota Genealogical Society

by *Lenore Anderson*

The Minnkota Genealogical Society continues to meet virtually on a monthly basis. We went to ZOOM meetings early on during the pandemic, but we hope to be able to resume live gatherings later this year. Our current officers are Peter Bouley (president), Nancy Larson (vice-president), Lenore Anderson (secretary), and Donna Remer (treasurer). Our meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:00 pm.

In January, we held a planning session with a discussion of ideas for possible programs and speakers for the year. In some ways it is easier to locate speakers of interest with virtual meetings, rather than relying upon people who live within a reasonable distance and can travel to East Grand Forks for presentations. During our meeting, we were able to schedule specific meeting topics for the upcoming months. Speakers of interest were then contacted.

Our February meeting featured Charlotte Roberts of New Ulm, Minnesota. Charlotte is experienced in researching archival records of the Czech Republic and demonstrated a free online site for Czech research (<https://digi.ceskearchivy.cz/>). She also discussed some

tips and methods for locating hidden records, and what information is needed prior to researching Czech records.

Our March meeting will feature Steve and Brenda Johnson, experienced in DNA studies. They plan to Present and answer questions in regards to “Basic DNA - After The Testing, What Do We Do With All Those ‘Matches.’”

A few presentations and activities for 2021 include: Canada was appealing to our upper NW Minnesota and upper NE North Dakota ancestors, for being their stop-over to our area, or to find their ‘home’ across the Border. It is our plan to locate Presenter from Winnipeg Genealogical Society to assist us in discovering the appeal for “bridging the borders.” After successful outdoor service cemetery activity in a local cemetery, we planned another ‘Cemetery Cleaning’ in June. We have many members who have Mayflower ancestors, and therefore have contacted the North Dakota representative of the Mayflower Society to present to us of its origin and how it can assist us to find stories about our brave ancestors.

This year’s RootsTech Connect had 1.1 million participants from 240 countries and territories. If you missed it the lectures are available free online. A list of the lectures can be found here

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/RootsTech/2021/RootsTech-Connect-2021-Sessions-eng.pdf>. The sessions can be viewed at <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rte2021/>.

North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports

Red River Valley Genealogical Society

by Keith Zeutschel

The RRVGS board of directors held their February meeting in the library on February 20, 2021. This was the first meeting in many months due to the COVID shutdown. The library continues to be closed; however, if someone wants to do research at the library arrangements can be made to open by contacting us at rrvgs@fargocity.com or go to our web page at rrvgs.org to leave a message. We have planned to have another meeting on Saturday, March 20 at the library to discuss further plans for opening. As a reminder, we do now have a large collection of the Fargo Forum obituaries on microfilm which was donated to us by the West Fargo Library. We have a film reader and printer for your use when at the library.

Also because of the strange year we have postponed our annual meeting to the March

meeting. Work does continue at the library, just on an intermittent schedule.

It was noted at the meeting that an early member of our society has passed away. Judith Metcalf passed away on January 25, 2021 and will be interred at Riverside Cemetery in Fargo.

The next newsletter for RRVGS will be published in July. If you have something that you would like to have included in it, please contact us.

RRVGS P O Box 9284 Fargo ND 58106, - - RRVGS.org, --- RRVGS@Fargocity.com! You may also call at 701-239-4129 to leave a brief message and we will attempt to call you back later.

Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society

by James C. Falcon

The Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society has not met for the past few months, due to concerns about COVID. However, it is planning on reviving its in-person meetings, beginning with the

March meeting, which will be held Saturday, March 6, 2021. Meetings are typically held the first Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at the Minot Public Library.

Spring Swedish Genealogy Workshop

March 20, 2021

This virtual workshop includes an introduction to ArkivDigital, Swedish historic maps and property records, searching by name in the Swedish church books using ArkivDigital and a case study using DNA and ArkivDigital to solve a century-old family mystery.

The speakers are Robert Johnson, Greg Parish

and Kathy Meade

More information and registration is available at <https://mcpersoncountyks.us/20/Old-Mill-Museum>.

(Continued from page 1 - President's Letter)

Creative people are more adventurous. They are not afraid to fail. Remember, if you aren't failing occasionally, then you're not reaching out as far as you can.

Okay, you are adventurous, how about adding a little spontaneity to that. A person does not always have to consider how good the thought is or how it will make them look. Will Rogers once said "Everybody is ignorant, only on different subjects." Most people are receptive to ideas when they are shared.

Don't forget that sense of humor. The only bone in the human body that can't be broken is your funny bone, but it can get encrusted if it is never used. Once in a while we find ourselves taking life a bit too seriously. Laughter makes the day go much faster.

Ever hear of "women's intuition"? Well, the guys have a little of this also. Actually intuition comes from experience. With experience comes knowledge and the increase in knowledge gives us more material to draw upon.

Many of us researching genealogy are always facing change, whether with a new relative or finding new ways to record our files. Don't let fear (fear of failure, fear of entering incorrect data) stop those creative juices from flowing. Many insights have happened because someone has asked, "What else?" or "What if?" or "What about?".

Be creative—but be sure you have fun doing it!

Stella Papachek

NDSGS President

Citation Corner

Most everyone has keepsakes or heirlooms handed down by their parents or ancestors. It is important to document these items during your lifetime so that the future generations know their history.

One such keepsake in our family is the lovely linen and lace infant dress worn by each of my sisters and myself in our professional studio photographs that were taken on our first birthdays. It was decorated with pink ribbon on the neckline and short sleeves.

We don't know the history of this dress that appears to be handmade except that my oldest sister, Suzanne wore it first in our family. I decided to have my daughter, Kira also wear the dress in her one year photo and then this past year I had my granddaughter, Claire wear the

dress for her one year photo.

So a source citation for this dress could be the following listing the information we know.

Marietta Johnson, Infant Linen Dress worn by Suzanne Johnson, 1952; privately held by Suzanne Johnson Kuhl, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], 2020.

We may eventually learn more about this dress or who made it and that could be added to the description. It is possible that my mother, Marietta made this dress or one of our relatives. It is important for my family to have this documentation. We are lucky to also have the photographs that were taken on our birthdays and I can pass this information on to my descendants.

Wyoming Digital Newspaper Collection includes newspapers from 1849-1963. Search their collection at <https://wyomingnewspapers.org/>. Plains to Peaks Historic Newspapers holds both

Colorado and Wyoming historic newspapers at <https://www.ppc-historicnewspapers.org/>.

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 2020-2021:

President: Stella Papachek—psmrasmu@gondtc.com
Vice President: Erling Olson—norskieole@hotmail.com
Secretary:
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

20 March 2021. Virtual Spring Swedish Genealogy Workshop.

<https://mcpersoncountyks.us/20/Old-Mill-Museum>

9 April 2021. North Dakota State Genealogical Society meeting, cancelled.

May 2021. National Genealogical Society Virtual Conference. <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

9 July 2021. North Dakota State Genealogical Society meeting. Bismarck. (Hopefully)