

# NDSGS Newsletter

Summer 2022 —Volume 13, Issue 2

## *Special points of interest:*

- ND Genealogical Societies Reports
- ND State Archives Reports

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## **President's Letter**

Hello! It is late May and am not sure when/if we will get a summer that is not WET. Unbelievable weather this year. Don't have to worry about my plants freezing as have not been able to plant them outside yet as too muddy.

The club had a wonderful meeting in April. Shane Molander joined us and spoke for over an hour about what is found in the archives and how to access some of this online or find listings of what we could find by visiting the storage area itself. They are adding more items all the time. The newspaper digitizing project is progressing well and at that time he felt in the next month or two it would be released online. What a wonderful addition to accessing history.

After Shane's presentation, the four of us shared ideas on what we had been doing and areas to find information. The meeting closed about 3:30. A quorum was not present thus no official items were on the agenda but it was time well spent for all the information thrown around the room.

I finally accessed the 1950 census for my home township in Eddy County. By clicking on the side arrows, I could pull up and print to a PDF all the pages to the township. Way back then there were over 6 full pages of people. Currently I don't think they could even fill a page but that is also over 70 years. How times change. It brought back many memories reading through the names. Of course, in this area all were farmers.

I have been reminding myself that I need to write my own story, not just about my ancestors. This is important that we do this. I guess we will not

*(Continued on page 2)*

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the North Dakota State Genealogical Society is Friday, July 8 at 1 pm central time in the Legislative Assembly Room, State Archives, Bismarck. **Michael Swanson, Archivist, Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota 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

Present: Stella Papachek, Diane Stevens, Bob Bird and Pat Ashley.

A business meeting could not be conducted because there wasn't a quorum.

Shane Molander, North Dakota State Archivist, updated the group on the newspaper microfilm project that NDSGS is helping to fund. Newspapers that were chosen include the *Hettinger County Herald*, *New Rockford Transcript*, *LaMoure County Chronicle*, and papers from McClusky and Minnewaukan. Once they get these newspapers digitized they will upload them all at once to the Advantage Archives website at <http://ndarchives.advantage-preservation.com/>. The *Minot Daily News* should

also be going up soon, this was not funded by NDSGS.

Probate records from Walsh and Pembina Counties are being processed and should soon be accessible to researchers.

A new photo archivist has been hired, and there will be three summer interns. One will be working on indexing television news films that are in the Archive's holdings.

The Archives is working on better access to what is in their manuscript collections by setting up a public portal to their catalog system.

Respectively submitted,

Pat Ashley

(Continued from page 1 - President's Letter)

live forever and my memory is already skipping many events in my life. So, **remember you are all very important on the timeline of history.**

We are hoping to gather as officers in July before our regular meeting and review just what we can

do to make our state society an effective organization. If you have any ideas about this, please let one of us know.

It would be wonderful if you could join us on July 8 at 1:00 in Bismarck.

Stella Papachek

## Citation Corner

With the release of the 1950 census, I thought it might be time to review how to cite it in our family histories. The basic elements for a census citation include the census year, jurisdiction, type of schedule, civil division, enumeration district, sheet number, line number, person of interest, and website.

The citation might look like this: 1950 U. S. census, Kane County, Illinois, population schedule, Elgin, enumeration district (ED) 45-114, sheet 73, line 20, Joseph J. Juenger household; image, National Archives, *1950 Census* (<https://1950census.archives.gov> : accessed 1 April 2022).

# State Historical Society of North Dakota

## New Local Government Records

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

March 2022 – May 2022

42005 Burleigh County. City of Bismarck,  
Boards and Committees, 116 digital files

## North Dakota State Archives New Oral History Series

The State Archives is starting a short-form oral history series that will be collected at various times on various topics.

All oral histories will be collected and recorded via Teams (so basically video chat or phone, and will be open to anyone around the state) and will

be around 15-20 minutes (30 was my max when we did this before). It's a very focused collection and will be on a different topic every time.

Here's a screen shot of the graphic, with their first topic and dates.



STATE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
OF NORTH DAKOTA

HISTORY FOR  
*everyone.*

To participate in this oral history project,  
contact [archives@nd.gov](mailto:archives@nd.gov)

# North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports

## Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society

*by John Mogren, President*

We were saddened by the death of our Society's treasurer in April. Sheila Guvakosky had been our treasurer for many years and was a faithful member of our society. Nancy Bergstrazzer will serve as our new treasurer.

At our April meeting our member Kathy Holte gave a presentation of probate records which brought about good discussion. At our May meeting, I invited Barb Solberg to speak on her recently released book *What We Leave Behind*. The book is based on her family's story. Barb shared with us about gathering documentation and member's exclaimed, "I never knew that." and "I never thought of looking there!" Barb reminded us of the universal statement of genealogists, "I wish I could ask my (deceased) family member about..." She talked about timing and how important it is to start writing your life story and those family stories you have heard.

We had a visitor at our April meeting who told us she is going to Norway in June and wanted assistance in locating information on her ancestors and the possibility of living relatives in Norway. Many hours were spent burning the midnight oil and learning best methods of Norwegian genealogical research and they paid

off. We were able to construct a genogram with her Norwegian ancestors and she was provided with a contact person in Norway to help her look for relatives. After attending two meetings she joined our organization. We have received a couple queries from our website in April. One of the queries was an individual searching for her grandparents burial plots. We found that even though the death certificate, obituaries and church records point to the Norwegian Lutheran Cemetery (now 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Cemetery) at Lignite doesn't mean that the sexton's records will reflect where they are interred. She made a generous donation to show her appreciation.

I would like to remind our readers that when you are doing family history don't overlook the local historical societies. For example, when I toured the Pioneer Village Museum in Rugby, I was surprised to find the earliest funeral home director's record book in one of their displays.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, our society has been invited to be available in the afternoon to answer genealogy questions at the Midsummer Celebration at the Scandinavian Heritage Park in Minot. On June 25<sup>th</sup> we will be set up at the Ward County Historical Society's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

Have a wonderful summer!

## Red River Valley Genealogical Society

*by Keith Zeuschel*

The monthly meeting of the Red River Valley Genealogical Society is held on the third Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM in our library located in the entrance to Bonanzaville USA in West Fargo, ND. All are welcome to attend. Our library is open after the meeting for those that would like to use our research area. Currently, we are also open each Friday from 11:00 - 3:00 unless there is a holiday. We are in the process of updating our collection to make it easier to find

various books on the shelf. Our next newsletter will be sent out in June with a bonus edition to be published in late summer. Our web site is [RRVGS.org](http://RRVGS.org) and our mailing address is PO Box 9284, Fargo ND 58106. Our library is located at 1351 West Main Ave in West Fargo ND. Use the main entrance to Bonanzaville USA and we are just to the right as you enter the building.

## Hillsboro Research Query

A query from Norway was sent to the Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society. It was not in their search area so it was forwarded to the NDSGS for inclusion in this newsletter.

My grandmother's uncle Siver Melhouse unfortunately committed suicide in Hillsboro, but can not be found buried there. His brother and sister named Hjellum were buried in McHenry, so I thought Sivert might also be buried there.

Siver J. Melhouse born in Voss, Norway on January 15, 1854, then called Sjur Johnsen Kolve. Parents were Jon Sjursen and Tora Olsdatter. He committed suicide in the first half of May 1884 in Hillsboro.

A sister and a brother are buried in McHenry, N.Dak., see: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11873705/me> and <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11873686/ko>.

It would be so good to know that he got a proper burial.

Can you help me to proceed?

If anyone has information about where Siver Melhouse is buried, please contact Patrice Hartman at [patrice@ndsupernet.com](mailto:patrice@ndsupernet.com) and she will forward your reply to the individual in Norway.

Some background research in newspapers was conducted. After a surname search did not produce any results, browsing page by page in the *Hillsboro Banner* located this article on Siver: "On Monday evening last, Siver J. Melhous was found dead in the stable of widow Carrie Olson, having committed suicide by hanging. Coroner Strom was immediately notified, who summoned a jury on Tuesday, which rendered a verdict in accordance with the

facts above stated. The suicide was 30 years of age and came to America two years ago from Norway of which country he was a native. His motive for taking his life, as elicits from the testimony given before the jury, is to be sought in the refusal of the said Carrie Olson to marry him in fulfilment of an engagement. The marriage having been postponed from time to time, he grew despondent, and when on Monday he again proposed and received a negative answer, he despaired of life and ended it as above stated.

We have learned since that a third party, a clergyman residing in that neighborhood, through his interference, had caused the sway in the widows affections towards Melhous, and that jealousy was the immediate cause of the rash act." <sup>1</sup>

The following week a correction was printed: "We have been this week requested to make a few amendments to our last week's account of the death of Siver J. Melhouse and attending circumstances. It is said that Carrie Olson, the widow, now firmly denies to have been engaged to the deceased and that in the inquest, being questioned, she made the erroneous statement totally misunderstanding the meaning of the word 'engaged'; also that there had been no interference, unless it had been by relatives of the deceased."<sup>2</sup>

On the same page of each of the above articles is a reference to his probate.

<sup>1</sup> "Suicide," *Hillsboro (North Dakota) Banner*, 16 May 1884, p. 5, column 3; image, *Advantage Preservation* (<http://ndarchives.advantage-preservation.com> : accessed 2 June 2022).

<sup>2</sup> "A Correction," *Hillsboro (North Dakota) Banner*, 23 May 1884, p. 5, column 3; image, *Advantage Preservation* (<http://ndarchives.advantage-preservation.com> : accessed 2 June 2022).

FamilySearch is seeking volunteers to help with reviewing 1950 U. S. census records. Three states have been completed, with a fourth nearly done. North Dakota is 50-74% reviewed. Find out more

information at <https://www.familysearch.org/getinvolved/>. The state with the highest priority now appears near the top of the page.

## 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: Barb Knipe—[bfjknipe@gra.midco.net](mailto:bfjknipe@gra.midco.net)

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

**8 July 2022. North Dakota State Genealogical Society meeting. Bismarck.**

29-31 July 2022. Deuce of August. Mountain, North Dakota. <http://thedeuce.org/deuce-of-august/>

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/>

**7 Oct. 2022. North Dakota State Genealogical Society meeting. Bismarck.**