# NDSGS Newsletter



Volume: 2003, Issue: Fall/Winter issue

September 2003



## Special points of interest in this issue:

- North Dakota Veteran's Home
- . Smokey the Cemetery Dog



#### Index

NDSGS-Minutes	1-2
North Dokota Veteran's Home ~ Article	3
President's Letter	4
North Dakota Genealogi- cal Societies Reports	5 ~ 7
Genealogy Hero who maps cemetery	7
Smokey the cemetery dog	8~9



## Minutes of the N.D.S.G.S. Meeting

The regularly scheduled meeting of the North Dakota State Genealogical Society was held in the Heritage Center Project Room on June 20, 2003 and called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Patrice Hartman. Those in attendance: Clara Bliss, Linda & Keith Zeutschel, George Barron, Daphne Drewello, Dorothy Pearson, Patrice Hartman, Pat Ashley, Delores Vyzralek, Greg Wysk and John Mogren. Visitors: Allen & Liz King

President Patrice Hartman introduced Liz King who was invited to do a presentation on the North Dakota Veteran's Home in Lisbon, ND. See program notes at the end of the recorded minutes.

- ~§ Motion by Dorothy Pearson and seconded by Pat Ashley to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2003 meeting as printed in the June NDSGS newsletter. Motion carried.
- ~§~ Motion to approve by John Mogren and seconded by Dorothy Pearson to approve the financial report submitted by Treasurer Don Smith and distributed by President Patrice Hartman. Motion carried. Balance as of June 20, 2003 is \$1,624.11.

Old Business: Dues were briefly addressed but there were no resolution or motions.

New Business: Patrice called upon each society representative to give a report or updates on their genealogical society activities.

- ~§~ Bowman County Historical & Genealogical Society gave a report and distributed the new brochures from the Pioneer Trails Regional Museum. They had hoped to get a summer student to continue indexing cemetery records, but Job Service was unable to find a youth whose family met the eligibility income criteria. They will have a presentation "World War II on the Home Front" at 2:00 on Sunday, June 29, materials on loan from the Smithsonian Institute. On July 20, at 2:00 this theme will continue with presentation of the effects on farming on the home front during WW II.
- ~§~ Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in May. A picnic is planned for July. The website coordinator has resigned and the society is looking for someone with technological knowledge to manage the MRLGS website.
- ~§~ James River Genealogy Club indicated that they are answering queries as they come in. They purchased a new copy machine and their club is working on the Valley City Cemeteries. George Barron indicated that some of the North Dakota cemetery record indexes are on ND Genweb or go to Stutsman County (genweb) page and look for the link.

  Continued on page 2

#### Continued from page 1

- ~§~ South West North Dakota Genealogical Society reported a printout of the original burials in the Hettinger Cemetery was obtained by Patrice Hartman and she is working on this cemetery. There is a Slope County cemeteries list. Patrice is working on a database of the burials.
- ~§~ Red River Valley Genealogical Society provided a report on their activities and referenced the activities in their newsletter.
- ~§~ Delores introduced Greg Wysk, research specialist with the SHSND. George Barron expressed appreciation to Greg for his willingness to assist researches. Delores expressed appreciation for the Stutsman County school census sent in by George Barron and for the Morton County information submitted by Don Smith. The Union Cemetery is listed on the Germans from Russia website.
- ~§~ Patrice thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked that if representatives are unable to attend that they please let her know. Group discussed that under the Articles each society would have someone appointed to serve as their representative and they may appoint an alternate to represent their group.
- ~§~ Patrice also reminded everyone that the ND State Archives is open 9:00-4:30 on the second Saturday of each month. She is still looking for grant monies for posting the ND Death Index and has looked at the ND Community Foundation for the possibility of funds. Max grant is \$2,000.00 per year. Correspondence was received from the Saskatoon Branch of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society regarding their workshop on October 24-28 at Saskatoon.
- ~§~ Patrice indicated that the individual who read the Dunn County cemetery records was willing to release them to the NDSGS for publication. Consensus that we should do this in order to make the information available to researchers. Daphne Drewello indicated the Alfred Dickey Public Library is willing to make copies for placement in the ND State Archives, Institute of Regional Studies, Library Congress in exchange for a copy for their library. The group expressed appreciation to them for doing this. Patrice informed the group that the Bowman County cemeteries have been read and she is looking for volunteers to type the database for those cemeteries as well as a number of other cemeteries. Please contact her if you are willing to help with this project. Question on the status of the Williams County cemeteries.
- ~§~ George requested that we please update him if your email address has changed. gbarron@daktel.com. The secretary will send out new/revised addresses. Greg's e-mail will be added to the list: gwysk@state. nd.us
- ~§~ Motion by John and seconded by Daphne to have the President draft letters to Senator Dorgan, Senator Conrad, Representative Pomeroy and Governor Hoeven regarding our concerns with the HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) policy for record destruction. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion of the loss of loss of records from ND facilities such as the ND State Hospital, ND Veterans Home and other State facilities. John volunteered to assist Patrice with drafting the letter.
- ~§~ John asked that members consider writing articles for the fall issue of the NDSGS newsletter in addition to the society reports.
- ~§~ Election of officers for the next meeting we need a president elect. Discussed original intent that each society would rotate and have the opportunity to serve in the president seat.
- ~§~ Next meeting: September 19, 2003 (third Friday). Sanatorium at San Haven, Arthur Rude Sr. speaker. Delores will find a room. Adjourned at 3:00 Respectfully Submitted, John Mogren, Secretary



Please put this date on your calendar and plan to join us.

There will be a meeting of the N.D.S.G.S Executive board. Program will be Arthur Rude, speaking on the T.B. Sanatorium at San Haven. All of the genealogical societies in North Dakota have paid membership and members are welcome to attend. The meeting will be at 1:00 P.M. on Friday, September 19, 2003 at

the North Dakota State Heritage Center, Bismarck.



### North Dakota Veteran's Home

Program: Liz King, ND Veterans Home for 28 years. She is the Admissions Coordinator and case manager and works with the County Veterans Services officers regarding veterans at the North Dakota Veterans Home. lizk@ndvh.com

Originally known as the Old Soldier's Home, this facility at Lisbon, ND, opened its doors in 1893 to North Dakota Veterans. Initially, only wartime veterans with an honorable discharge were admitted but change came in 1980, when peacetime veterans were also admission. The name of facility was later changed from Old Soldier's Home to the North Dakota Veteran's Home. When the facility opened, the residents were expected to be independent and capable of caring for their own daily needs as well as working at the facility. In fact, when they first came they had to wear a facility uniform and work on the 90-acre farm, in the laundry, kitchen, and greenhouse, in the gardens, orchards or other chores on the grounds. As the age of the residents became older and state laws changed this type of work was less common as well as complications from physical disabilities. Residents who are physically able are still required to help keep up their own rooms. There are also odd jobs available in the various departments for which they can work and receive minimum wage. It is not a free residence, either private pay or apply for Medicaid. Basic care is 50% of your net income in basic care. The facility now provides both basic care and nursing care for residents.

Liz showed slides from the grounds. In 1980's added a living unit on to the barracks due to cramped living conditions. Served 150 veterans and spouses. In 1990 added on a nursing home and opened in 1991 with 38 beds, this year (2003) the legislature gave them 8 more beds. Census now will be 94 in basic and 46 in skilled care. Ages the resident's ages range from 95 to 40 years. They have a museum on the first floor of the 1950 buildings.

In 1899, a hospital building was erected of Menominee Brick. The hospital closed in the 1950's; the building was renovated into civilian residences. In 1981, this building was demolished. A civil War Cannon mow marks where the entrance to the hospital building once had been.

The Veteran's Home maintains a plot in Lisbon's Oakwood Cemetery, which is north of the city and veterans may designate this site for burial. At the 1903 session of the ND Legislature an appropriation was made for the erection of Central Monument in the cemetery. The monument was erected in memory of the soldiers and sailors who had once lived in the Home. The monument was constructed of Barre, Vermont granite at a cost of \$2,150. The monument was dedicated and unveiled on Memorial Day in 1906.

The Veteran's Home may no longer release the records kept there due to HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act). This is a health care facility and the protected health information must follow the policy set by the Privacy Officer for the facility. The policy is based on the Federal Rules. At this time, the Veteran or power of attorney must sign a Release of Information form for that veteran before any information may be released. This is in relation to the oldest records as well. Present policy is being written which will destroy all records that have had no activity in the past ten years. The HIPAA Privacy Officer Jake Reuter is working on how some records might be retained. Neil Asper is the New Administrator of the Veteran's Home.

Submitted by John Mogren



## **NDSGS President's Letter**



This is the last Presidents letter I will write as my term will expire in September. Thank you for all of your support and participation in the activities of the NDSGS over the past four years.

The following is a summary of the responses I received to the HIPAA letters that were mailed to Senator Byron Dorgan, Congressman Earl Pomeroy, Senator Kent Conrad, Governor Hoeven, ND Senator Aaron Krauter, Jake Reuter. I received a call on July 24th from Mr. Reuter and he said he has talked to their governing board and the Administrator about this issue. He stated that basically HIPAA does not require destruction of the records. The fact that the ND Veterans Home is a medical facility requires them to follow the guidelines for medical records. This policy does allow for the destruction of records after a 10 year period of time has passed. They will review their policy on the retention of records and let me know what they decide. Aaron Krauter called me on July 29th and mentioned that the Legislature visits the state agencies once a year and to let him know if we have not heard from them in the next 10 months and he will speak to them. Letter from Governor Hoeven: July 29. Records of state agencies can only be destroyed under an approved retention schedule or one time approval by the Information Technology Department Records Management Section. The State Archives has the option to claim any records through this process. However, any access restrictions that apply to the records while within the originating agency, also apply when the records have been transferred to the State Archives. For that reason, the State Archives accepts restricted records only rarely. In the case of the Veterans' Home records, while resident's medical records are currently under retention schedule series 800304, resident files are maintained permanently. If the Veterans' Home wishes to change the retention schedule for resident files, it should contact Records Management. Since these files are currently considered confidential, the State Archives will need to make a determination at that time if it will want to claim these records. Letter from Senator Dorgan: August 5th, HIPAA only requires that documents be destroyed if the medical facility was in a relationship with another business and the relationship was terminated. North Dakota's Administrative Code requires that long term and basic care facilities retain records for a certain number of years, but then have the option of destroying or preserving them. Resident Records: "All records of discharged residents must be preserved for a period of ten years from the date of discharge. Records of deceased residents must be preserved to seven years."

Email from Senator Conrad. August 15, 2003. Asked how they can help. I responded that we are waiting to hear back from the NDVH once they review their policies.

At this time I think we should wait to see what the NDVH decides to do with their records. It appears that the resident files will be retained and that only the medical records can be destroyed. *Patrice Hartman* 

(Editor's note: I'm sorry Patrice, I did not get this printed in the last issue. John )

One of the goals that I set as president for 2002-03 was to have a cemetery compilation for every county in the state. I am happy to announce that the Dunn County Cemetery records are almost complete and will soon be available online at the rootsweb site for Dunn County. Hopefully there will also be a published book of these records available in the next year. I believe Grant County is also completed but not published yet. The Billings County History book which includes the cemeteries should be available in June. This is a hard cover book and the cost will be about \$65.00. We are still working on the cemetery records for Stark and Slope counties. So we still need volunteers for Sioux, Adams and Golden Valley counties. I would love to have someone volunteer to help or to compile these areas. A couple things to remember if you are posting data on the internet. Give the data a name such as Slope County Marriage Records 1915-1925. Indicate whether it is a complete or partial record and the source of the information. Also note the time period covered. This will help those who are researching to make a more complete search. Hope to see you at our meetings in June and September. The speaker for the last meeting this year will be from Dunseith and will give a presentation about the San Haven TB sanatorium. \*Patrice \*Haxtman\*\*



# North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



## SOME DOINGS FROM THE JAMES RIVER GENEALOGY CLUB

Submitted by George Barron, Jamestown

Our April meeting found us all eager for meetings after our winter at home. We decided years ago not to meet during winter driving conditions as many of our members drive many miles to meet. Our April program was reports by members on their winter projects and on workshops attended.

At our May meeting we viewed the most recent film on iron cross burial markers. Jodi Bunde, Jamestown, surprised us with a traditional Norwegian cake, Blotkaka, as a requirement for a cultural skills pin from the Sons of Norway. Genealogy always goes better with cake!

During our June meeting we were instructed by one of our members, Patty Hilbert, Eddy County Register and Clerk of Court, on the fine details on using court records. Patty made it sound easy, but haven't heard any stories about Uncle Harry's jail term for running a blind pig--so far anyway.

July found us discussing things to do to entertain the folks at family reunions, and at the August meeting we had a member presentation on "Doing Genealogy at Alfred Dickey Public Library in Jamestown" September is our "Back to School" night and members who attended or taught in rural schools are going to share memories. At our October meeting we are scheduled to hear 63 year old recollections on the life of a CCC boy in the camps of South Dakota.

Our secretary/treasurer/newsletter editor, Mary Kuhn, Jamestown, is learning the quirks of the new photocopier. We have also turned out some cemetery book reprints on the new machine. Our cemetery crew of Barron and Drewello have finished reading and checking copy on the Valley City cemeteries and are now matching records to find "no stoners" Our president, Cathy Paulson, and her husband Gerald are spending a month or more in Holland at the home of their son. We are looking forward to hearing all of the Amsterdam stories.

Our world traveler member, Bette Vote, is finished with her six years of over seas teaching in Bahrain and Peru. She sounds like she might retire and is looking for a house. She says she is not considering relaxed living in Sykeston--as "it snows there"!

Central North Dakota Genealogical Society
Submitted by Arlene Cable, Pres.

The Central ND Genealogical Society met in June and July where some of the members worked on a large research project that had been received. Much information was found and sent to the person requesting it.

A road trip was planned for August, to do research at the Special Collections Library at UND, Grand Forks. The members who went on this trip reported success in finding information.

For our September meeting, we are planning to attend the ND State Genealogical Meeting in Bismarck.

Bismarck Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society Submitted by Don Smith

Our society has been on its summer hiatus from meetings, however you can bet that our members are hard at it with reunions, courthouses, cemeteries and all those other places genealogists go.

The publications committee has nearly completed the St. Petri Scandinavian Lutheran Church records (Tuttle, ND), just waiting for final tweaking, if necessary. Also the Rural Burleigh County School Census and Burleigh County pre-1925 Marriage Records transcription projects are continuing.

Our meetings begin again in September, so come visit and share. 7 p.m. at the Bismarck Public Library on the second Thursday of each month.

For information, Roger Harmon has completed and is publishing Cemeteries of Grant County (I am not sure of the exact title or price). Includes over 40 cemeteries and is 80 + pages in length. For more information, contact him at Box 300, Carson, ND 58529 (telephone 701-622-3380).



# North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



Bowman County Historical & Genealogical Society
Submitted by Clara Bliss

We spent 4 days in Cavalier. They have the WWII display and we all had to go see how it was set up and staved for their grand opening. All I can say is that they (Cavalier) will be a tough act to follow. This summer we had an elderly gentleman and two of his son's that came to the museum looking for something/anything on their roots. Proof that the family had lived in southwestern North Dakota. The older man's parents had both died before he was a year old and he was raised by family. He knew what he had been told by relatives but had no proof that any of it was fact. One of the son's spent the better part of 2 days going through the old tax books that we have and at long last he found where taxes had been paid by his grandfather. The land description was also listed so they were a very happy trio to find this information. There was nothing at the court house.

Have had several other inquires but not all of them end as happy as that one.

#### Williams County Genealogical Society

The Williams County Genealogical Society of Williston, ND meets September through May, the second Saturday of each month, 9:30 AM at Our Redeemers Lutheran Church. The group continues to work on indexing the burials in the cemeteries of Williams County.

South West North Dakota Genealogical Society
No report will be submitted for the fall newsletter.

The new Billings County History; Echoing Trails II is now available for purchase from: Billings County Historical Society Box 364, Medora, ND 38645

Price is \$69.95 until November 1, 2003

Price after that will be \$74.95 Postage and handling is \$5.95 Credit card orders can be placed with the Americian in Medora Ph. 701-623-4800.

This is a huge book that includes all of the cemetery listings and burials in Billings County. Patrice Hartman

Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society
Submitted by John Mogren

We have been excited to learn about the work that Herb Schwede has been doing using Global Positioning Systems, to locate burials/old cemeteries. Herb has entered the Aurelia Cemetery (Ward County) on a web site <a href="http://www.findagrave.com">http://www.findagrave.com</a>.

Calina Clarkson gathered information on abandoned cemeteries in our area. The stories with these old cemeteries are fascinating!

Pam Orth was kind enough to offer her back yard for the society's picnic this year. We appreciated her hospitality.

Some members took in the North Dakota State Fair and indicated that the Ward County Historical Society has completed considerable restoration work. Remember to consult the Ward County Historical Society if you are doing research in Ward County as they also have some genealogical holdings in their reading room.

Lillian Vannett took a trip to Denmark. There is nothing quite like visiting the homeland of your forefathers and seeing where they emigrated from.

We have had some changes in our society this year and continue to make adjustments as members leave and others join. We find that sharing research tips is the one area that we have in common and is always great way to begin discussion with others.

At noon on November 1, 2003, we will have our annual progressive auction and ethnic dinner. We meet in the Minot Public Library the first Saturday of the month and visitors are always welcome!

### A Note from our President

Election of officers
for the NDSGS for 2004–2005
will be held at the September 19th meeting.
Please consider volunteering for these offices.



# North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



Red River Valley Genealogical Society

Submitted by Jackie Marler

The Red River Valley Genealogical Society covers a huge geographic area. We have members from many states in the US and provinces in Canada. Our newsletter is our basic and key method of communicating with our members and maintaining exchanges of publications with other genealogical societies.

In the past year July 2002-July 2003 we have published the following topics/titles:

Ross\*Bassett Story (An Account of Pioneer Days in Dakota.) by Mrs. L.V (Mary E. Ross) Coulter (written in 1936 for the WPA about 1880s-1910s from east to west in North Dakota)

Wells County marriages from September 1940

The Five Musketeers: Old French Guys Just Want to Have Fun (short biographies of 5 men, 21 Jan 1911-Polk and Pennington counties, Minnesota)

Heroes for the Times: F-M Firefighters (1940s Fargo-Moorhead continuing series)

<u>Dakota Tourism, Territorial Style!</u> A review of <u>A Walk</u> with a Wagon Train (completed in 1866, recorded in a diary) published in 1964.

Biography of Henry M. Wheeler, Territorial Grand Mason by Dr. Al Ohrt

Jimmie Wyckoff, Jimmie Wyckoff, Seems Like We Hardly Knew Ya; compilation of records about a fireman who died in the line of duty in Fargo in 1936

<u>Riddle Me This?</u> an expose about the RRVGS funeral home records index project which contains 51,391 names of deceased from the records of 29 funeral homes, located in 9 counties.

<u>The Biography of William Walters</u>; from the WPA Historical Data Project for Foster County, ND; written and researched by Ortho Wiley

The Analysis Zone; by Jackie Marler; how to analyze a document

<u>To Reap, Perchance to Glean</u>; a database of names in the vital records published in the Northwood Gleaner in 1933

Headstone Transcriptions in the old section of the Riverside Cemetery in Fargo

<u>Stay Forever Green, Sabrina Lee</u>; confession about the fate of a headstone dating from 1854

We try to cover as many different kinds of records from a variety of places by offering this smorgasbord of stuff.

The newsletter comes out quarterly, January, April,

July, October and contains 10-12 pages. The theme for the upcoming October issue is Bad boys & Bad girls!

If your society is not currently receiving an exchange publication from RRVGS and you would like to arrange an exchange (that is ours for yours) please contact: Linda Zeutschel at rrvgs@fargocity.com

Genealogy Hero Maps Cemetery in Bismark, ND Submitted by Patrice Hartman

Genealogy has thousands of unsung heroes. Luckily, one of them received some local recognition this week. Other retirees play golf or go fishing. Jim Ferder, however, mapped a cemetery. In April 2001 Ferder began the two-year project of mapping the cemetery and compiling a database of who was buried in the graves and where they were located. He spent up to 40 hours a week in the Mandan Union Cemetery in Bismark, North Dakota, mapping cemetery plots and transcribing tombstone inscriptions. When the weather turned colder, he moved indoors tothe auditor's office and spent many more hours poring over birth, marriage, and death certificates to compare and correct his notes. When gravestones in the cemetery only listed the month and year of a birth or death date, Ferder would try to find the exact date in the auditor's records. Along the way, he discovered that his own great-grandfather was buried there, a fact that he had not known previously.

Ferder then entered all the information into his computer, slow work because he is blind in one eye and uses only two fingers for typing. "In my genealogy work I've looked up many cemeteries on the Internet, and I thought it would be nice to have Mandan on there," Ferder said. "I went to the Internet and read up on how you're supposed to record a cemetery," Ferder said. "I had no idea."

Ferder's work is now available for use by present and future genealogists at http://pixel.cs.vt.edu/pub/cemeteries/nodak/mortonnd.txt. You can read more about genealogy hero Jim Ferder on the Bismark tribune's Web site at: http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2003/06/06/news/local/nws04.txt

The Mandan Union Cemetery is listed online at: http://pixel.cs.vt.edu/library/cemeteries/nodak/link/mortonnd.txt

Submitted by Patrice Hartman



### ADVENTURES WITH SMOKEY, THE FAMOUS CEMETERY DOG

By George Barron



I hate dog stories. The dog always dies. I will tell you right up front this dog died more or less of natural causes this last January. He was buried this spring behind my garage, along with four other Golden Retrievers and a half dozen or more cats

He had a good life. He was around 80 is people years, and never wanted much for anything. His dog dish was in the living room, and he slept where ever he wanted. During the cold nights in the winter he slept on my bed. Since Martha cat occupied the foot of the bed, he had to take a side position. That put his smelling and licking side too close to her and she would relocate under my armpit. Needless to say it was a bedful for a non-four legger.

Hunting was his favorite activity. If he saw hunting clothes or boots being carried his blood pressure spiked until he was sure he was going. He was a good flusher and retriever. One of our hunting party made the comment, "That Smokey never lies!" He was describing his scenting ability.

I remember one dumb shot I made. Others in the party had flushed a pheasant rooster that came at us. By the time he passed me he must have been two hundred feet up and going down wind about sixty miles an hour. I made a ridiculous lead and fired and Smokey took off after the bird. He came down maybe a quarter mile away, with the dog almost there when he struck the ground.

Smokey trotted back to me with flashy tail action and the big bird in his mouth. The hunters up on the hill who had flushed the bird were jumping up and down and giving high signs. One of



them told me later, "It must be nice to have such a dog to do all the work."

His second love was going to cemeteries. He outlasted two cars and had the present one well broken in. I think he has been a van passenger for something like two hundred thousand miles. I estimate that he has visited over six hundred cemeteries. Since we make a minimum of two visits to each one, that makes for a lot of browsing. He has checked out cemeteries in ND, SD, MN and Canada.

Some times people watching were not too sure that he was only a passenger in the car. Any time I left him in the car, he quickly occupied the driver's seat. He has had his picture snapped in that spot many times. I recall one cemetery trip to Logan County, when I forgot to fill the cookie box. I was sent in to the Gackle grocery store to buy some cookies. When I got to the check out, the store keeper was gone. He and the three or four other customers were standing watching something out in the street. I asked, "Accident?" He replied, "No. You see that van over across the street? There's a dog driving!" I admitted as how he did that a lot.

One day I parked in the lot at Leever's in Jamestown. I always talk to dogs in more or less complete sentences. I was being silly as I got ready to get out and said something like, "Now Smokey—you can get in my seat when I get out, but for Krisesake—don't drive off and leave me again!" I didn't notice until I got out of the car that there was an old lady sitting in the car along side me. I often wondered what she did when Smokey got up in the seat. I'll bet she worried that the dog was going to drive off—again!

He started his cemetery career as a pup in the fall in 1991. I was working on the big Highland Home Cemetery in Jamestown and would let him out to wander about. I always cautioned him to stay where I could see him. I had to yell at him if he started admiring the flower pots too much. When he started bringing me some of the ornaments, he was relegated to the car

He was always cautioned not to do any digging. One day in the McClusky Cemetery, I looked to see where he was and he had started to dig furiously at a gopher hole. I yelled at him," Hey--we don't do any digging!". He stopped digging and looked at me like "but I just saw a gopher go down there!" "I don't care--we

don't do any digging! "But he insulted me!" "No Digging!"

With a cemetery dog, you always have to carry a pooper scooper. Daphne had joined me as a stone reader when we worked Logan County in 1996. By the time we had started Kidder County cemeteries that late summer and fall, she kept an eve on just what he was up to. Before we pulled out I would ask her, "Any poops?" She would say, "Yes--one over there, and one over by that red stone, and one under those lilacs!" We were at the Catholic cemetery at Steele, and it was morning but getting unbearably hot. She had finished her stones and was resting in the car along with the dog. When I got there, I asked, "Poops?" Her answer was, "No poops-but he PEED on the CRUCI-FIX!" I tried telling her that dogs pee only in very special places, or to erase marks left by other dogs-but it wasn't flying!

That summer of 1996 was hot. We had to turn back for home many times when the temperature got up around a hundred. We couldn't even stop for

lunch without swimming Smokey in some big slough so he'd be wet enough to help with his cooling system. So there we'd be, three wet dummies riding around in a carone with a smile on his face.

Goldens often generate "hot spots" in the summer or fall. They have an itch, or one develops from licking, and they won't leave it alone. He seemed to open up his cheeks quite often, so spent a good part of the summer and fall with his head in a plastic ice cream bucket. More than once at guy would rap on the car window and ask why that dog has his head in a bucket. We were working a cemetery south of New Salem one Sunday when he had been wearing an Elizabethan collar for chewing open a hind leg. A woman asked Daphne, "What did that dog do that he's being punished for?"

We both swear that Smokey could see and make out a cemetery on the horizon a mile or two away. We often made use of that when we were trying to find burial grounds not marked on the maps. It was not one of his trained skills. He just knew that if we found the cemetery, he would be allowed to get out and inspect. We were sizing up cemeteries in northern Stutsman County one day. We found a route to the Gem Cemetery at Woodworth. Being April or May, it was still pretty full of snow, so we drove through and didn't stop. When Smokey saw that we were leaving the cemetery without his being let out, he put up a very vocal objection--"Hey, you Creeps-when we get to a cemetery, I get out--that's the law!"

We found that he was a lot of help in trying to find marked abandoned graves out in the middle of no where. We often had general instructions from some native as to about where the burial was, but in tall grass they were not easily found. So we would walk back and forth through the knee high grass hoping to find it, and keeping an eye on the dog. Often the tail would go and he would wheel and turn into a spot. There would be the grave! I'm sure he wasn't tuned into the smell of 100 year old buried bones. Perhaps some fox or rabbit had rested a bit and left a trail for the "famous cemetery dog". Or maybe it was someone's ancestor speaking in dog language--"Over here dog!"

He would wait patiently in the car while we had lunch in some village cafe. He was pretty sure when we got back to the car he'd get a hamburger, or at least someone would break out the cookies. We ordered hamburgers in the Pettibone Cafe one day. The waitress brought out two meals and said, "Tell me when your are about to leave and I'll make the dog's hamburger so it will be hot for him." We often wondered if Smokey had given her the high sign through the window-"Hey lady, be sure my hamburger is hot!"

Dogs have a phenomenal visual and scent memory of geography, almost like having a built in GPS receiver. We were working the Old Ft. Rice Cemetery, south of Mandan in the late summer of 2001. Smokey found a dead half grown pheasant and had carried it around for a half hour or so. He would carry it to shade, lay it down, then pick it up and move to the next shade etc. When it was time to go, I made him spit it out at the gate. When we came back to that cemetery a week or more later, I told Daphne, "I bet he remembers where he spat out his "bird". When he got out, went immediately to that spot and searched the area thoroughly. Then he looked at me with a scowl on his face as much to say," See, Creep! Ya shoulda let me take it in the car. Now somebody stole my pheasant!"

Smokey was always his formal name, but I called him by all kinds of things, like Dog, Mr. Dog, Bowser, Mr. Bowse, Schweinhund, Dummy Dog, Ignatz, Hey, and various unprintable monikers. Often he got called by the name of some long ago burial that we were searching. "Over here, Oliver Hansen!" He seemed not to mind having many names and likely responded to the sound of my voice--whatever the name.

The last few years of his life, in addition to cancer, he had some kind of muscular arthritis in his rear legs. It got so he couldn't jump in the van, but learned to use a stool to get there in two hops. Later that was too tough and he learned to hot foot up into the van on a carpeted board. Where there's a will there is a way. He could always get up on the car seat or davenport by balancing on his forelegs, shifting his body weight forward while he shoved off with his better rear leg. None of that bothered him when there was hunting or cemeterying to do. He just put his handicap out of mind when there was a job to do.

Over the years there were often dogs that would come over from the house or farm across the road to visit him in the cemetery. They always seemed to be friendly visits. I expect the dog visitor was told in dogese "We have to stay in the cemetery—and no digging!" When it came time to load up and move on, there was always a friendly wag of the tails from inside and outside the car as distance shrunk the visual images. I expect the message was perhaps, "See ya later—Mr. Dog."

After much urging from the members of the NDSGS, George finally gave in and provided us with a tribute to Smokey. Thanks George (and Smokey) for all the work you have done to collect and compile genealogical information in North Dakota!

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

North Dakota State Genealogical Society Post Office Box 485 Bismarck, ND 58502

Officers for 2003

President: Patrice Hartman – patrice@pop.ct.ctel.com President Bect: Clara Bliss – blissrc@pop.ct.ctel.com Secretarry; John Mogren – mogren@stellamet. Com Treasurer: Don Smith – dearlamth@prodigy.net Editor; John Mogren – mogren@goNDTC.com

www.rootsweb.com/~ndsgs/

## NDSGS Dues

- \$ 5.00 Individual
- \$ 10.00 Supporting
- \$ 5.00 Society (1-10 members)
- \$ 10.00 Society (11-25 members)
- \$ 20.00 Society (26-50 members)
- \$ 35.00 Society (51+ members)

The North Dakota State Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization. The mission of the society is to encourage networking between genealogical societies and others engaged in genealogical research in North Dakota.



Looking for interesting reading?

<u>History of North Dakota</u>, University of Nebraska

Press, Lincoln—1966 by Elwyn B. Robinson.

<u>North Dakota A Living Legacy</u>, Kaye's and

Knight Publishing Co., - 1983, by Theodore B.

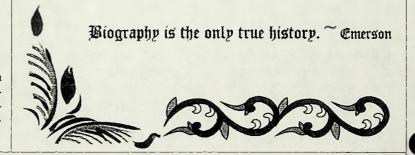
Jelliff

Our Towns—North Dakota Communites, Our Story, Sweetgrass Communications—1992, Henke

North Dakota Place Names, Hedemarken Collectibles—1988, by Douglas A. Wick

A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations.

Macaulap



North Dakota State Genealogical Society Post Office Box 485 Bismarck, ND 58502