The Official Newsletter of the North Dakota State Genealogical Society

MINUTES OF N.D.S.G.S. MEETING

President Patrice Hartman called the meeting to order at 1:00 on March 21,

2003. The meeting was held at the North Dakota State Heritage Center. Genealogical societies/clubs representatives present: Patrice Hartman and Pat Ashley,

SWNDGS; George Barron, JRGC; Don Smith, BMHGS; and Dolores Vyzralek,

State Historical Society of North Dakota, Iona Locken and Betty Schlichting of

MRLGS. As secretary John Mogren was absent, Patrice Hartman was appointed

to take minutes of the meeting. Patrice welcomed Ed Zuern who spoke about the

Ed Zuern worked with the ND State Penitentiary first as a research officer and later as Legal Council for the Director of Institutions during the time period of 1972 to 1995. The summary that he compiled is entitled "Historical Summary of the Biennial Reports of the ND State Penitentiary" Available at the ND State Li-

One of the statements that he made was "Prison is a microscope of society where all types of people are compressed together." The North Dakota State Penitentiary is one of the few prisons in the United States with a licensed treatment center. North Dakota has never executed anyone. The Parole Board was

The warden's residence that was built in 1897 is still being used. Some of the old records Ed used for his report were located in the attic of the warden's resi-

Funds for the State Penitentiary were first appropriated in September of 1884

and the first 25 prisoners were received in July of 1885. To provide work for the

prisoners many different industries have been established over the years. For example: brick factory, twine factory, farm, making hiway signs, coffin making.

By 1914 a library and literary society were established and high school classes

were being offered. There was always a lack of funding for the various pro-

grams and wages. In the early years guards worked 13 to 15 hour days with low

wages. In 1924 they worked 12 hour shifts and in 1945 this was finally reduced

first created in 1890 to allow prisoners a chance to function in society.

dence. Inmates at one time worked as servants in the warden's residence.

North Dakota State Penitentiary located at Bismarck, ND.

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brary and the ND State Archives.



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Special points of interest in this issue:

- North Dakota State Genealogical Society Minutes
- North Dakota Genealogical Societies reports.
- Veterans Project update



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Currently teaching staff, pastors etc. are contracted from the community. This allows for more community involvement. There was never a cemetery at the

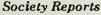
prison.

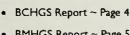
to 8 hour shifts.

Some of the early records were lost when the Capitol burned. Information given in the prisoner records would be a physical description of the person, details about their family and the length of their sentence.

For records of prisoners contact Cathy Jensen at the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation/Prisons Division. Continued on page 2





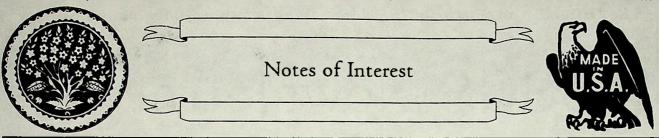


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Continued from page 1 Business Meeting:

Don Smith made a motion, which was seconded by George Barron that the minutes of the September 27, 2002, meeting be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Don Smith, Treasurer reported that our balance is \$1,608.50. Motion made by Iona Loken and seconded by Pat Ashley to file the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

- 1. Dues are due for 2003. Please send them in to Don Smith,
- 2. Copies of the new amended constitution were distributed.

New Business:

- 1. Don Smith passed out a list of the paid members. There are 32 members.
- 2. Discussion of sturdy covers for books that are presented to the ND Archives. Note the instructions given by George Barron on compiling cemetery books for more information.

The Next Meeting is Friday June 20, 2003 at 1:00. It is requested that Dolores check on the availability of a room for us at the Heritage Center. The meeting was adjourned.

Patrice Hartman, Acting Secretary

The next meeting of the North Dakota State Genealogical Society will be held Friday, June 20, 2003 at

ety will be held Friday, June 20, 2003 at 1:00 PM in the Heritage Center on the North Dakota State Capitol Grounds. All genealogy societies in North Dakota are paid members of the NDSGS and we encourage you to send your members as well as your society's representative to our meeting.

Rummage/Garage Sales are in Full Swing Submitted by John Mogren

Sometimes garage sales don't seem to be a drawing attraction for genealogists. Face it, we'd rather spend our time in a courthouse, or at a library looking at microfilm or in a cemetery reading gravestones. But garage sales may be the best place to pick up books that you didn't know existed. Recently I was rummaging through a box of old books at a garage sale, not really looking for anything specific. I happened across two biographical books and I asked the lady, "how much for the books?" She said "Is a dollar a piece too much?" To which I said with a smile and perhaps a bit too much enthusiasm, "No!" The books were:

- (1) A Biographical Directory of Pastors of The Evangelical Lutheran Church (1952) and
- (2) A Biographical Directory of Pastors of The American Lutheran Church (1962).

On another occasion I found the book Tompkins Trials and Triumphs which I snatched up in a hurry. Unable to wait to get home to read the history of these early settlers, I asked my wife to drive.

Other good places to look for county histories and biographies are thrift shops (and you normally pay a small price compared to what you would pay in an antique shop or used book store. The secret is patience and diligence. Just keep looking. When you find a book at a garage sale.... remember to bring it to your next genealogical society meeting and share your "treasure" with others.

Thank you
Patrice
For arranging
speakers for the
NDSGS
meetings.



North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



South West North Dakota Genealogical Society

submitted by Patrice Hartman

Report for SWNDGS. Our regular meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7PM at the Dickinson Public Library. Contact Patrice Hartman for more information. This winter we discussed and shared documents on the following topics, marriage and divorce records, social security applications, homestead records. In April we accessed the internet through the wireless computer lab that the library owns and explored resources for genealogy.

Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society

submitted by John Mogren

The highlight of the year has been the celebration of our Silver Anniversary. Hard to believe that our organization is twenty-five years old! Three charter members, Virginia Lee Bryans, Mary Misek and John Mogren gave brief accounts of the organizations early years at a tea commemorating this occasion on May 3, 2003. Some members wore early day costumes or vintage family attire to recognize the important role our ancestors played in development of our country.

Our society was saddened by the loss of Edward Bryans who passed away in his home on April 24, 2003. Edward was a charter member of the MRLGS and also attended the first meetings of the NDSGS and provided insight and direction in its' organization. Edward and Virginia Lee Bryans were instrumental in the work of cemetery reading in the area covered by the MRLGS. Edward was a mentor to many new genealogists and patiently answered questions and provided direction and assistance whenever possible.

Our internet committee, chaired by Calina Clarkson is busy updating our webpage.

We have had speakers at our meetings and continue to have members share their genealogical findings and to bring any research problems for group resolution.

We continue to meet the first Saturday of each month at 1:00 in the Minot Public Library, except in the month of July we do not meet. Attendance at the meetings has continue to be good and we wellcome you to visit us.

JAMES RIVER GENEALOGY CLUB DOINGS

by George Barron, Jamestown

The club's first meeting of 2003 in early April was fairly well attended. We just got in to the heart of the meeting when a building employee told us of an approaching sleet and ice storm. So we all had to skedaddle for home. We had to change the meeting place of our May meeting because of scheduling, so our smaller attendance makes us fear some lost their way. Hopefully we'll get serious about meetings one of these months!

The April program involved all of us telling of our over winter projects and special genealogical findings. In May we viewed a video on iron cross grave markers. We are scheduled to hear one of our own members, Patty Hilbert, of New Rockford on the details of finding court records, both civil and criminal. Patty is part of the Eddy County Clerk of Court/Recorder office crew."

We have been forced to reprint many of our cemetery books. The stock seems to run out on all of the books at about the same time. Our newest book: "Rural and Village Cemeteries of Barnes County, ND" has been for sale since early spring. Our cemetery crew, of Drewello and Barron, have already started their 2003 work of reading the rest of the Barnes County cemeteries—four located in Valley City. They hope to have "Cemeteries of Valley City, Barnes County, ND" compiled by early fall.

Two of our members, Cathy Paulson and Sharon Hewitt of Carrington have been working on a project of compiling a death and burial index for the Foster County area. They are using several sources, including funeral home records, obituaries, and cemetery records, as well a church records. They are planning on a printed book to be used mostly for our own searching uses.

Our club has purchased some more newspaper microfilm to help with searches we do in our four county area. We are in the process of buying a new photocopier to be used for book production and to print our newsletters.

We have talked about attempting to get grants to help with the possible installation of a film reader/printer in the Carrington Library. We have attempted to interest one of our members on running for President Elect of the state genealogical society, but so far have not come up with a candidate.





North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



Red River Valley Genealogical Society

Submitted by Jackie Marler

The purposes of the Red River Valley Genealogical Society are to:

- Encourage the study of genealogy
- Help others gather genealogical information
- Establish a library of books and research materials
- Preserve and compile genealogical records
- Encourage public officials in charge of public records to preserve them and make them accessible
- Publish such books and records.

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The alliance RRVGS formed with Time-passages in February is beginning to produce results. Between 20-30 inquiries have been received and researched, with expectations of more. Most of these researches have been requests for copies of naturalization records from North Dakota and arrived via the web. We are able to copy these from the complete set of North Dakota naturalization records microfilms provided by Time-passages. We invite you to visit these websites: www.time-passages.com

www.fargocity.com\~rrvgs

Our library continues to expand. Linda Zeutschel, our volunteer Librarian, reports in the year 2002 the library's holdings were increased by 992 new titles. This means we have lots of interesting new materials. We encourage you to visit next time you are in Fargo. Jane Skjei, one of our volunteers, is in the process of producing indexes to the obituaries found in the Fargo Forum. The years she has most recently completed are 1930-1931. Anyone working with old newspapers will appreciate the value of having an index to speed research.

Our volunteer staff is a core resource in the Society. We could not accomplish what we have without these dedicated people. We are grateful they want to help us help you.

Central North Dakota Genealogical Society

Submitted by Arlene Cable, President

Central North Dakota Genealogical Society:

We have changed our meeting time to 4 PM, the third Thursday of each month.

The society has purchased the new Maddock History Book-100 years. It will be placed in the Harvey Library.

Bert Miller and Eleanor Schmidt came to our March meeting and helped identify pictures in the Harvey Illustrated book. They had a lot of interesting information on the early days of Harvey.

At our April meeting, we looked at different documents, such as birth and death certificates, probate records, abstracts, etc. A lot of information can be found on these items.

Arley Hintz visited our May meeting where he was interviewed on his memories of living on an Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Requests for information are answered as they come in.

The society is planning a research trip to Grand Forks in late July.

& GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

submitted by Clara Bliss

Not much news from this part of the state. We do have a volunteer that is entering the burial records for us at this time. Hopefully they all will get on the computer soon. See you in Bismarck in June.

WILLIAMS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SO-

CIETY Continues to meet. No report available.

Your input is needed for our news letter. Please consider writing an genealogical research article for the North Dakota State Genealogical Newsletter. Thank you.



North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports



Bismarck / Mandan Historical Genealogical Society submitted by Don Smith

The Bismarck Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society continues to have outstanding programs. Doug Wick (North Dakota Place Names) kept us interested for the full two hours during our April meeting and ran out of time before the questions stopped. For our may meeting Clem Gerhart did his usual fine job of explaining funeral home records as well as a few bits of advice pertaining to our personal genealogy, such as planning for the completion of our chapter on this earth. The June meeting is scheduled to cover quilting history and information. You should all be so fortunate as we to have Susan Dingle as out program chair. Please feel welcome to join us when you visit Bismarck-2nd Thursday of each month except July at the Bismarck Library.

The workshop committee has recovered from our last workshop (Sep 2002) and is taking a bit of time off since we will not be conducting a workshop in 2003—but don't count us out for 2004. Stay tuned.

Our members are planning for family reunions, research, cemetery walking and all those other things genealogists do in the summers, while they supposedly are on vacation. Have a great summer and I hope everyone finds that one little tidbit of information that has been bugging them for years.

Please remember to provide a copy of your genealogical and historical works to the State Historical Society of North Dakota so that others may benefit from your research. Contact Dolores Vyzralek if you have publications, photographs or other materials to donate or sell.

The State Archives and Historical Research Library (SAHRL) - In order to provide additional access hours, the SAHRL will be open for public use the second Saturday of each month on a year-round basis, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It will also maintain its regular weekday schedule of being open to the public, which is Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The SAHRL is a division of the state's history agency, the State Historical Society of North Dakota, which has its headquarters in the North Dakota Heritage Center. Bismarck, North Dakota.

http://www.state.nd.us/hist/news/hchourschange.htm



Bonnie Bieber Att: Veteran's History Project 402 South Meadow Lane MOTT, ND 58646 701-824-2712 E-mail: bjb@ctctel.com

North Dakota Veteran's History Project

This project exists to capture the stories of war-time veterans who lived in or served from North Dakota. Created by an Act of Congress on October 27, 2000, and spearheaded by the Library of Congress, the Veterans History Project seeks to record the stories of men and women who experienced life during wartime both in the military and on the home front. Encompassing this entire nation's wars and conflicts, the project focuses first on our oldest veterans. The original interview tapes will go to the State Historical Society of North Dakota where they will be retained. Veterans who are interested in participating and have a story to tell are welcome to be part of this project. Each County's Veterans' Service Officer will assemble a list of veterans in their county who might be interviewed. The SHSND will receive \$125,000 to expand the statewide project. In the near future an overall state coordinator of this project will be appointed. Volunteers are needed to interview veterans. The AARP Volunteer who is coordinating the project until a North Dakota State coordinator is named is Bonnie Bieber or you may contact your county's veteran service officer. What a wonderful opportunity for genealogists to involve themselves in a project such as this. Imagine how you would feel if you were able to access an audio-tape of your ancestor.

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

Officers for 2002
President: Patrice Hartman - patrice@pop.ctctel.com
President: Elect: Clara Bliss - blissrc@pop.ctctel.com
Secretarty: John Mogren - mogren@goNDTC.com
Treasurer: Don Smith -- deartsmith@prodlgv.net

Editor: John Mogren - mogren@goNDTC.com

www.rootsweb.com/~ndsgs/



\$ 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.

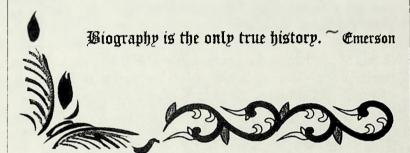


Looking for interesting reading?

Compendium of History & Biography of North Dakota. Chicago, George A. Ogle & Company, 1900. "Containing biographical sketches of hundreds of prominent old settlers and representative citizens of the State with a review of their life work; their identity with the growth and development of the State; reminiscenses of their personal history and pioneer life and other interesting and valuable matter which should be preserved in history."

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

~ Macaulay



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