

# NDSGS Newsletter

Spring 2023 —Volume 14, Issue 1

## *Special points of interest:*

- ND Genealogical Societies Reports
- ND State Archives Reports

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## **Editors' Note**

Greetings from the hinterlands where the snowbank in my front yard is peaked at over my height of 5'5".

I have not spent much time on research lately but have scanned in hundreds of photos that were shared with me and from part of my own collection that I found in my sister's stash.

I have used Family Tree Maker as my building tool for my family for several years. What amazed me was their newsletter that came with their renewal notice. They are located in Ukraine. How small our world has gotten. Just a quote from their letter:

"Most of our development staff have long since returned to Kyiv from the camp we built as a safe haven high in the Carpathian mountains. But there's a new spirit in town. It's the pride of David having taken on Goliath. And the steely determination to carry on, no matter what. The air raid sirens still sound all too often and the electricity goes out for a few hours now and then. But we have a generator. And our own satellite dish. So for those of our staff not fighting at the front, the work of making Family Tree Maker goes on."

Hugs and Prayers for these people so far away from our country and Hugs and Prayers for all the genealogists that keep working on recording their own history for our present and future family members.

Stella Papachek

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the North Dakota State Genealogical Society is Friday, April 14 at 1 pm central time in the Legislative Assembly Room, State Archives, Bismarck. The topic is Preservation and **Matt Ely, Photo Archivist and Emily Kubischta, Manuscript Archivist will be our speakers.**

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.

State Archives hours: 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m. M-F, except holidays; 2nd Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

# North Dakota State Genealogical Society Minutes

John Hallberg, Archives Associate from the Institute of Regional Studies, NDSU was our speaker for the October 14, 2022 meeting.

The NDSU Archives are located in the West Building, 3551 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Room 123, Fargo, ND. They are open Monday - Friday from 8 to 4. Their catalog is online so patrons can search and locate the collections before going to the Archives.

The archives was located in the basement of the NDSU Library until the flood of 2000. There have been lots of moves to different locations since then. The Archives was founded in 1950 by the Professors of the ND Agricultural College now known as NDSU. In 2011 all of the archives collections were consolidated.

The NDSU Archives has a printed 4 page handout which covers most of the major collections. Some of their online databases are the North Dakota Biography Index, Dakota Territory 1885 Census, North Dakota Naturalization Records Index, Fargo Forum Obituaries Index, Cass County Divorce & Civil Cases Index, Cass

County Probate Records, Cass County Marriage Licenses.

Some of the items that John covered in his talk were that Fargo was the Divorce Capitol because you only had to be a resident for 90 days to obtain a divorce. In 2022 lots of records from the Cass County Courthouse such as Civil Court Cases up to 1965 were moved to the Archives.

Some special collections are the Lawrence Welk Music Collection and scrapbooks which were donated to the Archives at his death. The H. Elaine Lindgren collection was given to the archives and contains many items including photographs and manuscripts. The ND Homemaker's Council Oral History Projects where interviews were edited into 3 books. The GAR records for one post in Fargo. The inventory of Melvina Massey's "Crystal Palace" is included in her probate records. This brothel was located where the Fargo City Hall is now.

Lots of interesting items are at the NDSU Archives. Go and visit sometime to explore all that they have to offer.

## Citation Corner

Newspaper articles can be very useful in our research, but what if we inherited a newspaper clipping with no newspaper or date recorded on them? How do we cite them? The lack of a newspaper name or date should be noted along with the provenance. The provenance will usually include the current owner and how that owner acquired the clipping.

"Cub Scouts of Dens 2 and 4," undated clipping, ca. late 1950's, from unidentified newspaper;

privately held by Patricia Ashley, Dickinson, North Dakota. Inherited in 2019 by Ms. Ashley from her brother, Paul Juenger, who was in the photograph.

Do you have a question about citations? Email us at [pashley@ndsupernet.com](mailto:pashley@ndsupernet.com) or [patrice@ndsupernet.com](mailto:patrice@ndsupernet.com) and we will try to answer your questions.

The Library of Congress has several email newsletters on various topics including the latest news, an insider look at the Library of Congress,

preserving the national collection, newspapers, etc. You can subscribe to one or more of these at <https://loc.gov/subscribe/>.

# State Historical Society of North Dakota

## New Local Government Records (May 2022-February 2023)

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

41833 Adams County. Clerk of Court, Criminal Case Files, 1925-1927

40888 Burleigh County. City of Bismarck. Auditor, Commission Minutes, 2017-2022

41477 Cass County. Clerk of Court, Appealed Cases, 2001

42006 Cavalier County. Langdon Area School District #23, Election Certificates and Poll Book, Tally List and Official Returns, 1996-2003, 2005, 2011-2013

41953 Grand Forks County. City of Thompson. City Council Minutes, 1962-2013

40859 McHenry County. Clerk of Court, Civil Case Files, 1958-1980

40684 McIntosh County. Clerk of Court, Civil Case Files

40920 McIntosh County. Clerk of Court, Criminal Case Files, 1995-2002

42007 McKenzie County. Wilber School District #24, School #2 Teacher's Register, 1922-1925

42011 Pierce County. Clerk of Court, Divorce Case Files, 1930-1932

42008 Ramsey County. Clerk of Court, Appealed Cases, 2000-2001

42009 Ramsey County. Clerk of Court, Subject Files, 1944-1993

42010 Richland County, Dakota Territory. Auditor. Recapitulation of Tax List, 1883

41898 Richland County. Recorder, Burial Permits, 2022

Sarah Walker, Head of Reference Services, shared this post from the State Historical Society blog.

## Online Resources for Genealogical Research

by *Ashley Thronson, Reference Specialist*

Sometimes in the State Archives, we get phone calls or emails from individuals seeking advice who are trying to do genealogical research but are unable to come to Bismarck in person. Luckily due to the increased digitization of archival records, we can still help by suggesting the many digital resources available to anyone with a computer. The following are some Archives-recommended resources for the remote researcher.

Two websites that will get you a lot of bang for your search are [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org). These websites provide access to census, naturalization, military, and vital records (e.g., birth, death, and marriage). A helpful aspect is their ability to filter the results to fit your search parameters. One can search for specific names, geographic locations, and dates, making large collections, such as the census, easier to navigate. That these sites contain records from the entire United States as well as foreign countries makes genealogy research so

much more accessible, especially if your ancestor moved states or emigrated from elsewhere. While we use Ancestry.com for all our federal and state census searches at the State Archives, it's also available free of charge through the many local libraries that have subscriptions to Ancestry.com.

Another site that we recommend for people conducting personal research is [Digital Horizons](https://digitalhorizons.org). Digital Horizons contains digitized materials from archives across North Dakota. You can find so much information in the site's different collections, but for genealogy research we recommend the [North Dakota Histories collection](https://digitalhorizons.org/collections/north-dakota-histories) of digitized county and town centennial, jubilee, and other anniversary history books. There is also a selection of [North Dakota atlases and plat maps](https://digitalhorizons.org/collections/north-dakota-atlases) that can be helpful when researching the land ownership of your ancestors. Additionally, Digital Horizons has a lot of digitized photographs from across the state, including from

(Continued on page 5)

# North Dakota Genealogical Society Reports

## Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society

*by John Mogren, President*

Dear friends,

Can you believe we are celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Mouse River Loop Genealogy Society this year? How quickly those years have passed. Carol Schwan and I are the two remaining charter members. It is fun to reminisce and I reflect on all of the wonderful people I have met through our organization over the years. People who shared their knowledge of genealogy and local history with one another. In the past, we would take overnight trips to places such as Bismarck, Grand Forks and Fargo to visit repositories with genealogical materials and learn about new resources. We also enjoyed summer picnics at members home's, such as our home in Fessenden and the Edward and Virginia Bryan's home in Donnybrook. We held genealogical workshops and offered assistance to

those researching in our area. I always enjoy the annual ethnic dinners and recall when we started them the hospitality committee would create lovely Christmas themed tables. Evelyn Zablutney was our photographer, always capturing the events and bringing the album to the November meeting so we could enjoy reminiscing about the events of the years. The member's names have changed as much as the research methods have changed greatly in 45 years, but one thing remains constant; the enjoyment of being with people who share the passion for genealogy and the thrill of making exciting discoveries in their family tree. We are looking forward to another year with our genealogist friends!

## Red River Valley Genealogical Society

*by Keith Zeutschel*

As I sit here at the RRVGS Library, I think back to those that started this organization so many years ago. They had an idea and a very determined group of volunteers that were able to go to each of the Cemeteries along the Red River Valley and record the information on each headstone.. Paper and lead pencil with an old manual typewriter were their tools. Even copy machines were a rarity. But they persevered and today our library boasts over 5,000 books, collections, family histories, a modern computer system, and the latest microfilm reader with print capability. I wonder if those beginners would be proud of the Society's success. Today, the visitation is smaller as more genealogists are finding that research online is much more convenient. But we still do get the occasional visitor that loves the challenge of paper research, dusty books, faded letters, missing pages, etc.

This Friday, Linda is working on the membership list, sending reminders to those whose dues are not current. She has also reworked one section of the shelves in order to give additional space to new items. I am expecting Glenn to come bursting into the room with his usual higher volume greeting. I jump every time. Jackie might arrive at any time also as she is working on the next Newsletter from our Society. I see Secretary John has dropped-off a number of new emails, research papers, and general information to keep us busy. Currently our library is open on Fridays from 11:00 AM till 3:00 PM and on the third Saturday of each month when we have our monthly meeting. If you are in the West Fargo area on a Friday, stop in to chat, do a bit of research, reminisce about the "OLD" times, or just to gossip. We will be glad to help you.

*Online Resources for Research (Continued from page 3)*

the [State Historical Society of North Dakota](#), [NDSU Institute for Regional Studies](#), and the [Bismarck Public Library](#).

In my opinion, the land patents from the [Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office Records](#) are a hidden gem among digitized records. These patents show the transfer of land ownership from the federal government to individuals, which is particularly helpful if your ancestor took advantage of the 1862 Homestead Act. Aside from the searchable database and digitized documents, this website has a lot of other cool features for researchers. There is an interactive map showing land descriptions on a contemporary map and also transcriptions of land patent contents. The information on this site as well as the State Archives' collection of [county](#)

[plat maps](#) can resolve many genealogical questions related to land and land ownership.

As more records are digitized, it becomes easier to do genealogical research without having to travel to the individual state or country to access those records. The growing number of historical newspapers online at sites such as [Chronicling America](#) and [Advantage Archives](#) is another great resource. (Check out this [blog post](#) for inspiration as to how Chronicling America can assist with researching your family history.)

Genealogy and archival research are more approachable for every type of researcher than ever before, making roadblocks and frustrations less common. But if you are not sure where to start or have questions, State Archives staff are always available to help. We can be reached at 701.328.2091 or [archives@nd.gov](mailto:archives@nd.gov).

## Genetic Genealogy Workshop

Have you ever wanted to learn more about your family history? Join us for this FREE special event presented by Rob Flanagan Stieglitz. Rob is an author, public speaker, and researcher in genealogy and genetic genealogy. Topics covered in this workshop will include DNA for genealogists, tools for Genetic Genealogists and Genetic Genealogy in Action.

April 29th 9:00am- 12:30pm

BSC National Energy Center 1200 Schafer St  
Bismarck Room 304 (Auditorium)

Learn from Rob Flanagan Stieglitz author, public speaker, and researcher.

Presentations to be given include:

- Understanding DNA for genealogists
- Tools for the Genetic Genealogist
- Genetic Genealogy in Action
- Hands on Experience (optional, if attending you may want to bring a computer)

This event is hosted in partnership with the Three Crowns Swedish Association, Northern Plains Heritage Foundation and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at BSC (OLLI@BSC).

## Donate to the SHSND Archives

The State Archives actively acquires, preserves, and makes accessible to researchers historical materials relating to Dakota Territory, North Dakota and the upper Great Plains. The State Archives wishes to acquire for permanent preservation newspapers, letters, diaries, organizational or business records, photographs, maps, and audio/visual materials. Special

emphases include agriculture, military, education, Native Americans, ethnic groups, religion, mining/drilling, politics, and social organizations. Should you have knowledge of or wish to donate such material, please fill out the State Archives Potential Donation form.

Donation Form: [https://www.history.nd.gov/data/donate\\_archives.html](https://www.history.nd.gov/data/donate_archives.html)

## Digitized Newspapers

The State Historical Society of North Dakota, in partnership with the North Dakota Genealogy Society, has added more than 50,000 pages of newspapers online at [ndarchives.advantage-preservation.com](https://ndarchives.advantage-preservation.com).

The following newspapers have been added:  
McClusky Gazette (1909-1931)  
Mott Pioneer Press (1907-1928)  
LaMoure County Chronicle (1888-1926)  
Hettinger County Herald (1907-1927)  
New Rockford Transcript (1883-1920)

The State Archives, a department of the State Historical Society, digitized the newspapers for Advantage Archives to host.

"It's great to see organizations like the North Dakota Genealogy Society help fund this

important project," said State Archives Director Shane Molander. "The ability to do specific searches, using keywords or names, across enormous numbers of newspapers makes researching fun and fast. Whether an individual is doing family history or working on a school paper, the newspapers are a great primary source and full of information not found elsewhere."

Over 1.4 million pages of newspaper are freely available for access and searching on Advantage Archives. The State Archives works with local libraries, historical societies, and other entities interested in getting newspapers online and word searchable. For more information or to learn how to get historic newspapers online, contact Shane Molander at [smolander@nd.gov](mailto:smolander@nd.gov).

## Using Advantage Archives

Access the site at [ndarchives.advantage-preservation.com](https://ndarchives.advantage-preservation.com) and type in your search term. I searched on "William Witte" and the dates from the beginning to 12/31/1920. The results were in 27 newspapers on 3 pages. The results can be filtered by newspaper, decade and year.

I picked the *Hettinger County Herald* for 21 July 1910 Page 4. Click on the title of the newspaper.

[https://ndarchives.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?k=%22william%20witte%22&i=f&d=01011800-12311920&m=between&ord=k1&fn=hettinger\\_county\\_herald\\_usa\\_north\\_dakota\\_new\\_england\\_19](https://ndarchives.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?k=%22william%20witte%22&i=f&d=01011800-12311920&m=between&ord=k1&fn=hettinger_county_herald_usa_north_dakota_new_england_19100721_english_4&df=1&dt=10&cid=2904)

[100721\\_english\\_4&df=1&dt=10&cid=2904](https://ndarchives.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?k=%22william%20witte%22&i=f&d=01011800-12311920&m=between&ord=k1&fn=hettinger_county_herald_usa_north_dakota_new_england_19100721_english_4&df=1&dt=10&cid=2904). Scroll down to the highlighted area in column 6 under Legal Notices: Five Year Proof.

You can crop and save the article or download the whole page.

Or you could go to the newspaper title and search just within that newspaper. Since I was searching for a William Witte who lived in Hettinger County I would pick the *Hettinger County Herald* and the *Mott Pioneer Press* as the most likely newspapers to have information about him but there could be articles in the other newspapers also so a check of the previews is a good idea.

The National Genealogical Society library holdings are housed in the St. Louis County Library in St. Louis Missouri. These books are available for interlibrary loan (ILL) through your local library. Search the catalog at <https://slouc.na2.iiivega.com/>. Information about lookups and other services can be found at

<https://www.slcl.org/content/lookup-other-services#ill>. The Library also has a History and Genealogy Virtual Classroom with free videos on beginning genealogy, census research, military veteran records, church records, etc. See the full listing at <https://www.slcl.org/genealogy/virtual-classroom>



## National Archives Allocates \$600,000 to Transfer Digitized Veterans' Records from the VA

This article originally appeared in Richard *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* at <http://www.eogn.com>.

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration has allocated \$600,000 to transfer digitized veterans' records from the Department of Veterans Affairs as it continues to work through a backlog of document requests, according to details set out in a strategic plan.

The funding will be used to move files to NARA's cloud workspace from the VA, which the Archives says will allow staff to access images and conduct day-to-day processing of veteran requests.

Details of the funding were included in a strategic plan, revealed through a Freedom of Information Act Request, and follow sustained scrutiny of the backlog by lawmakers.

NARA last May received a \$9.1 million loan from the Technology Modernization Fund to update two systems that are key for furnishing veterans with documents.

According to plan documents, as of Feb. 13, the backlog of unanswered requests had fallen to 404,000 down from a peak of 604,000 at the

height of the pandemic.

"NARA has allocated funding for several initiatives that will transform paper-based processes for fulfilling customer requests for paper records into fully electronic processes that rapidly deliver digitized copies to customers through secure, accessible web portals," the agency said in the plan.

The strategic plan also allocates \$400,000 to support the electronic processing of record requests, which includes the purchase of laptop computers and other technology to allow NARA staff to fulfill requests electronically.

During fiscal 2023, NARA has allocated \$7.1 million to the modernization of its Case Management Reporting System (CMRS), one of the two systems at the center of the agency's plan for furnishing veterans with documents.

NARA added also that it will allocate "additional funds" to implement secure user authentication for the public using the governmentwide authentication service Login.gov.



Did you miss RootsTech 2023, or do you want to view a session again? You are in luck as you can access their free on demand sessions at <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/home>. There are sessions on DNA, basics, *FamilySearch*, research methods and more.

Genealogical Publishing Company now has a subscription service to access nearly 800 titles with a global search engine. Work can be conducted online or remotely, with the ability to bookmark,

make notes, and find citations in every book. Learn more at <https://genealogical.com/subscriptions/>.

## 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:

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#### 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

**14 April 2023. North Dakota State Genealogical Society meeting. Bismarck.**

22 April 2023. Minnesota Genealogical Society Conference. Mendota Heights. <https://mngs.org/Spring-Conference-2023>

29 April 2023. Genetic Genealogy Workshop. Bismarck.

31 May—3 June 2023. National Genealogical Society Conference. Richmond, Virginia. <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

**7 July 2023. North Dakota State Genealogical Society meeting. Bismarck.**

21-23 Sept. 2023. Montana State Genealogy Conference. Bozeman. <http://montanamsgs.org/conferences.html>