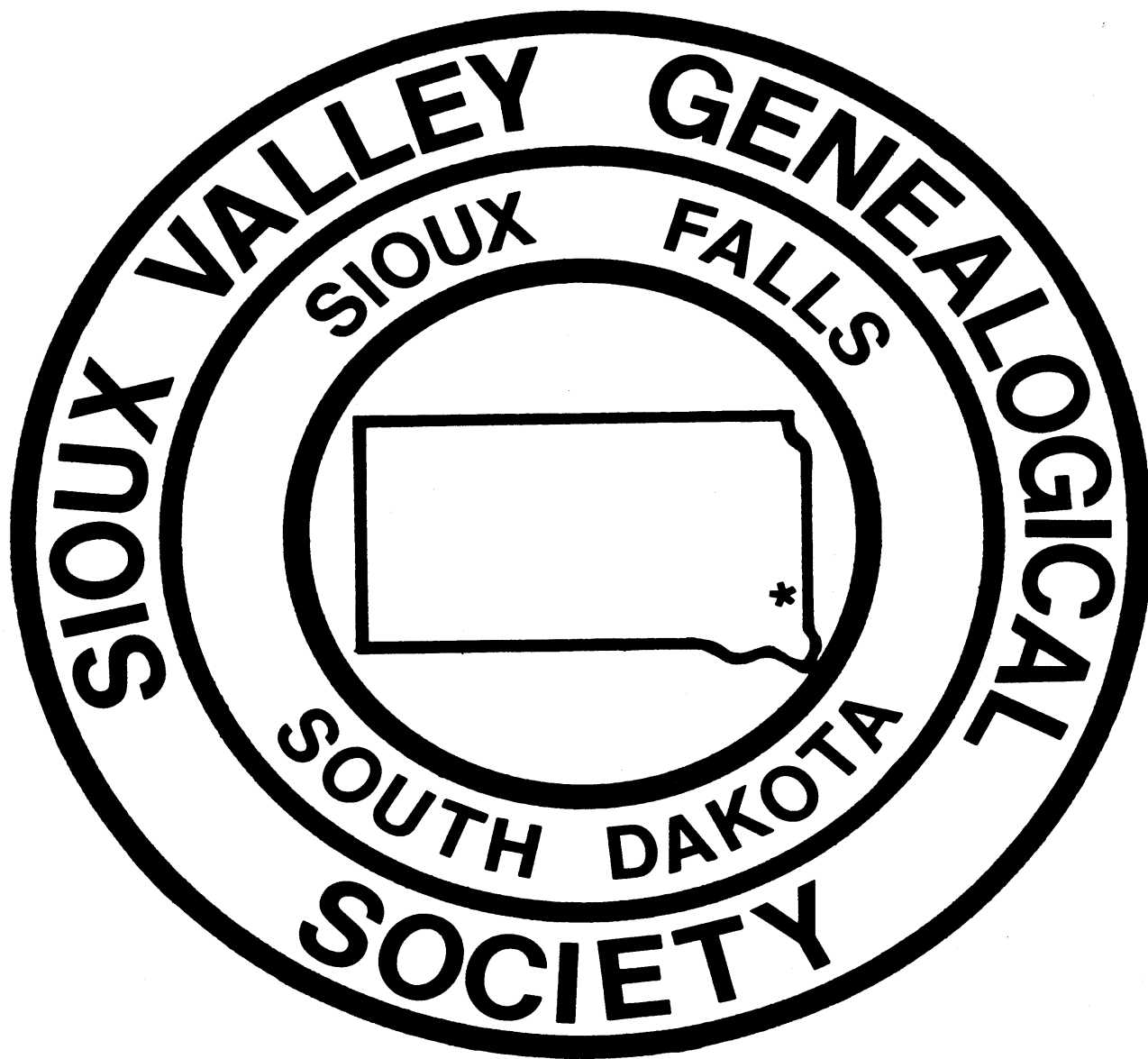


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PIONEER



PATHFINDER

The Pioneer Pathfinder

Published Quarterly by the *Sioux Valley Genealogical Society*

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Web Page: <https://siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org/>

Pioneer Pathfinder issue dates are approximately:

Winter (January), Spring (April), Summer (July) and Fall (October)

The Executive Board and Editor have made an effort to publish accurate information but are not responsible for errors or omissions.

The purpose or intent for which this Society has been organized are:

to assemble people who are interested in preserving family history; to carry on projects of a genealogical nature; including the publication of *The Pioneer Pathfinder*; the instruction of interested persons and to provide a means of carrying out the above objectives.

Meeting Date/Time: First Thursday monthly at 7pm. No meeting in June, July and August.

Meeting Place: Old Courthouse Museum, 6th & Main, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

The Society's Library is on second floor of the Old Courthouse Museum and is usually staffed by a member volunteer Monday through Friday from noon to 4pm.

The Old Courthouse Museum is open Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thursday 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. and is handicapped accessible.

The Sioux Valley Genealogical Society is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization.

Donations are welcomed and are tax deductible. It is a member of the Federation of Genealogical Society and an Affiliate Member of the South Dakota Genealogical Society.

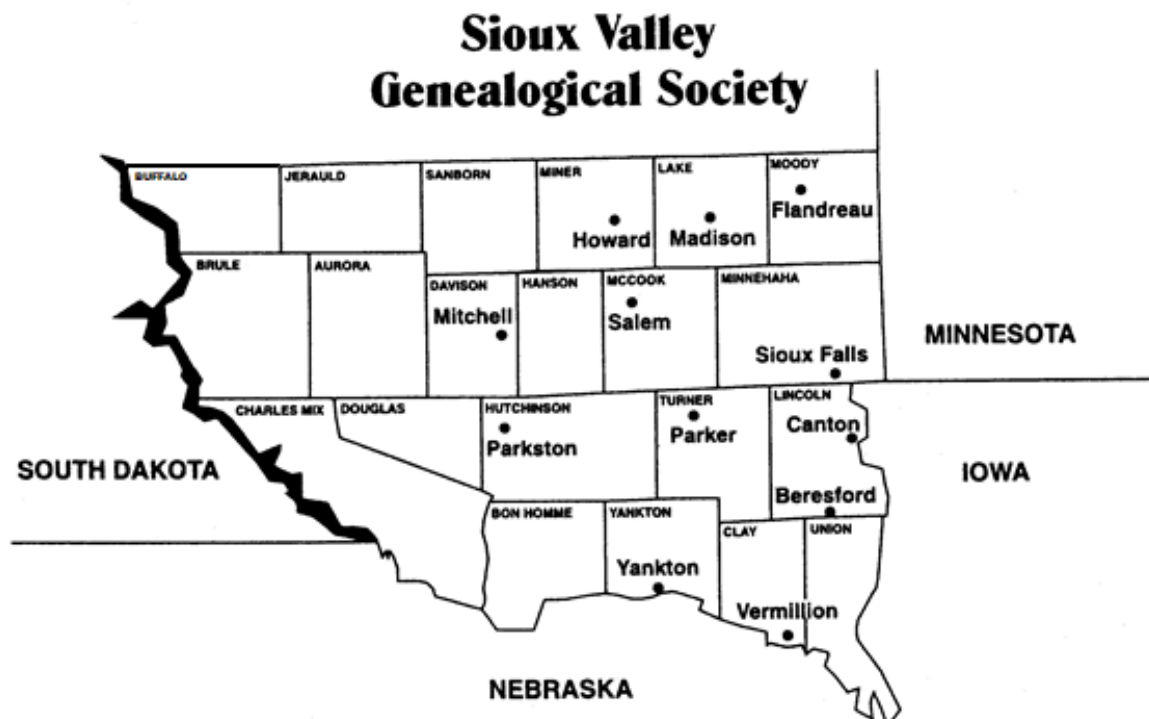
Membership Dues:

All Membership fees are due and payable on January 1st of each calendar year.

The *Pioneer Pathfinder* will be printed and mailed to you in hard copy for the cost of:

\$25 Single; \$30 Family (One Pathfinder, two votes); \$30 International (email only)

Electronic copies of The Pioneer Pathfinder cost \$5.00 less per membership.



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SAVE THE DATES!!!

August 30 to September 4, 2023 - South Dakota State Fair Time
Friday, September 1 is our day to man the Genealogy Booth

September 7, 2023, SVGS Meetings Resume –
Old Courthouse Museum, Downtown Sioux Falls at 7 pm

September 3-10, 2023
Dakota Genealogist Trip to Salt lake City

CALENDAR

SVGS Monthly Meetings are held on the first Thursday evening of each month excluding June, July and August and weather permitting. We meet at The Old Courthouse Museum, downtown Sioux Falls, South Dakota, beginning at 7:00 pm.

The Norway GIG meets on the last Tuesday evening of most months. Location and time varies. May Be discontinued in September. Contact Sue Eckert, at 605.336.0589 for details

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we take the summer off at SVGS, be aware that our library hours will be somewhat intermittent as people take vacations. Your best bet is to call the Old Courthouse Museum and find out if a volunteer is in that day - 605-367-4210.

Fall will bring around a new group of speakers. We always love ideas and suggestions so feel free to let Kim McKeon know your ideas! In person meetings will begin in September.

If you have NOT registered on the website, please do so here:

[REGISTER - Sioux Valley Genealogical Society.](#)

One item that gets asked a lot is using technology to live stream the meetings. We have tried this but it has not worked well as we do not have a strong hotspot signal there. Audio is often not very loud. Plus, some speakers do not allow us to record them.

We often share online webinars through Facebook and do post them on our SVGS

page so look for ideas there. If you have any other suggestions, let us know.

Plus, we encourage discussion, questions and sharing on our Facebook page. This can be a useful tool to reach out to others - even those who don't belong but follow us for ideas!

One of our main goals has been to increase membership so for this next year, we ask each of you to invite a person or two you know to join. We have and are reaching out to churches, OLLI, community education, schools, and the Center for Active Generations for educational opportunities so we can share our collective knowledge and hopefully gain more members. If you have ideas how you can reach out, let one of the officers know.

Good luck on your continued research and let us know how we can assist you! Thank you for your continued membership!

Wendy Stubbs, President

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

It's summer and genealogy road trip season in the Midwest. After being kept at home during too many months of inclement weather, researchers are hitting the road and heading to our library. But the number of travelers includes our volunteers too, so accept our apology in advance if the library won't be open when you might plan to visit. Multiple volunteers have travel plans on the same dates and no one is available to cover our shifts. I hope you will forgive any inconvenience to you, but remember your visit might be able to be scheduled outside our regular hours of 1-4, Monday-Friday. OR... you could let us do the research for

you. You could contact the Old Courthouse Museum (the location of our library) in the afternoon (605-367-4210) between 1 and 4 to learn if our library is open that day or check our Facebook page. But, again, my apology, as I can't guarantee the accuracy of the information for July and the first weeks of August.

If your ancestor was a resident of Dakota Territory prior to November 2, 1889, you could apply for a Pioneer Certificate. Make the application and submit proofs of the connection between the Pioneer and the person receiving the Certificate. The proofs

should be copies only, NOT original documents, as all applications and proofs are kept in our library. The names in the application are added to an index and referenced back to a Pioneer Certificate number. Future applicants and family researchers can use that information in their own applications and research. Note: there is much information available in the 6000+ applications submitted since the Pioneer Certificate Project began. Members pay \$10 per Certificate, non-members \$15. Additional amounts may be needed for applications received from other countries to cover the monetary exchange rate or additional postage for mailing the completed Certificate.

Are you planning a trip to any South Dakota County Courthouse? You might want to purchase a Research Card through our SVGS Library. These show you are a Research Associate of the South Dakota Genealogy Society and will give you access to records unavailable to others, except those whose access is prohibited by law. These cards never expire! Show us your valid ID and pay the fee of \$5 to get your card. Each county handles record access differently, but I've even shown mine at out-of-state libraries and archives to prove I am a serious, but sometimes inexperienced, researcher.

My gratitude to the SVGS Library volunteers who continue working on various projects, in addition to being available to help visitors to our library. We are nearing the end of entering one large group of items and, this fall, should be able to begin working on the enormous number of items purchased from the Jim Olson estate. (I wish the process were as simple as placing an item on a shelf or in a file, but it is a multi-step process that moves as fast, or slow, as time and volunteer availability allows).

I only remember the line, but not who used it but, was it KELO TV's Captain 11 or one of the announcers for Morrell's Treasure Chest, who used to sign off with, 'Keep those cards and letters coming, folks!?' Well, keep those requests for Research help, Research Cards and Pioneer Certificates coming, folks, whether in person, or by phone, email or text. *We'll do our best to fulfill your request!*

Sue Eckert, SVGS Librarian

sueeckert1@gmail.com

605-366-0589, text only please. No calls until August. Thank-you.

PS: *Read more detailed information about our library in this Pathfinder issue.*

FYI: NORWEGIAN GIG

Only paid members of SVGS were allowed to participate in the Society's virtual meetings, but Norwegian GIG (no Membership fee required) had in-person meetings in February, March and April with a grand total attendance of six people!!!! As a result of recent low attendance and other considerations, I made the decision to cancel the May meeting.

I also notified the SVGS Board members and GIG attendees of my decision to resign as leader of Norwegian GIG.

There are valid reasons for not making it to a meeting and other groups are dealing with similar issues, but low attendance is only one difficulty I faced as leader. In addition to the recent winter's horrid weather and its many travel problems, other issues include the early seasonal sundowns and the problem finding and booking new & interesting programs for our

group. Members themselves are dealing with changes in priorities post-pandemic, changes in their living and/or driving circumstances and/or their own or a family member's health issues. Each of us has to decide what works for us as individuals with no other person's choices being more valid than our own. How will Norwegian GIG face these issues?

Earlier this summer, I notified Grace Lutheran of my decision and handed in my key. At the same time, I thanked the Church for the many years of providing a meeting space for our group and gave them our 'pass the envelope' monetary thank-you.

A future for Norwegian GIG does not look promising. Although several who attended GIG expressed sadness and understanding of the situation, only one person contacted me with an offer to 'help when they were able to'. (That person has been on the GIG email list, but had never attended a meeting) If other arrangements are not made (new leader, etc) by end of this summer, the SVGS will discontinue its Norwegian GIG.

Although GIG has had a bit of a bumpy road due to Covid and the loss of our knowledgeable, capable and long-time leader Jim Olson, I appreciate both the things I've learned about the Norwegian half of my heritage and the opportunity to meet and interact with so many like-minded people through the years.

Mange takk alle sammen, Sue Eckert for Norwegian GIG

SIoux VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

General Meeting Minutes for March 2, 2023
Old Courthouse Museum, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

We need speaker topics. If there are any suggestions, bring to Kim McKeon.

Genealogy Road Trips were discussed. Gathering ideas on where to go if there was any interest.

Wendy read secretary report. Cindy Schultz made motion to approve, 2nd by Sue Eckert. Passed.

Sue Eckert gave the library report. Always need volunteers.

Sue Eckert gave a report on the Norwegian Gig.

Lynette Trainer gave the research report. One came in for the Morrells strike in 1934. Checking to see if can find photos.

Obituary: Need volunteers.

Bob Black gave treasurers report. Ending: 2039.25, Took in \$663. Savings: \$7583.60.

Held for audit.

Wendy gave a report for a Beginning Genealogy workshop at the Brewery. About 12 people with varied experience. Lots of questions. Wendy also talked to the Library about doing some sessions.

The genealogy contest with the schools was discussed. The teacher hasn't responded yet.

The Candidates for new officer positions:

Researcher: Lynette Trainer

Treasurer: Bob Black

Register: Brenda Dahlin

Librarian: Sue Eckert

Pathfinder: Luci Feenstra

We are still need a recording secretary to fill remainder of that term, about 1 year.

Sue Eckert made a motion made to accept candidates as nominated. Cheryl Finney 2nd. Passed.

Cheryl Finney and 2nd by Cindy Schultz. Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by

SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Regular Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2023
Old Courthouse Museum, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

The meeting was called to order at 7:18pm. Suzanne Folk gave the Secretary's report. Bob Black made a motion to accept, Art Wesman seconded. Passed.

Lynette Trainer: Researcher
Luci Feenstra: Pathfinder Editor
Bob Black: Treasurer

Bob Black read the treasurer's report: Started with \$1433.48, Ending balance: \$1716.48 Savings account balance: \$6085.44. Sioux Falls, Area Community Foundation: Available assets \$19,306.92 Held for audit.

(Brenda Dahlin, Registrar: will be installed in May)

Wendy Stubbs thanked all who volunteer for the organization.

Luci Feenstra gave a report on the Pathfinder: Expect soon.

There was a discussion of what local records were available.

Lynette Trainer gave the Research report: Recieved a new query on the Poor Farm.

At 7:50 pm, Sue Eckert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lynette Trainer seconded. Passed.

Sue Eckert gave a report on the library. Need volunteers.

Meeting adjourned.

Sue also gave a report on the Norwegian GIG. Attendance is down. Future of gig is to be discussed at the next gig meeting.

Speaker ideas were discussed. Genealogical road trips were discussed. Multiple destinations were suggested.

Outreach: The brewery and OLLI experiences were discussed.

Installation of officers: Wendy read the duties of each officer as they were sworn in. Sue Eckert: Librarian.



LOOKING BACK TO 1975

Way back on Tuesday, June 3, 1975, page 3, this notice was published in the Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, SD. I thought it would be interesting to look at the first certificate issued.

Society Offering Pioneer Certificates

The Sioux Valley Genealogical Society will issue a South Dakota Pioneer Certificate to any person showing direct descent from a person living in South Dakota before 1889.

The certificates are 8½ by 11 and are suitable for framing.

The society is interested in obtaining information about South Dakota Pioneer ancestors and their descendants.

Persons who have parents, grandparents or great-grandparents that were living in South Dakota before it became a state can obtain an application blank for a South Dakota Pioneer Certificate by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Sioux Valley Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 655, Sioux Falls.

On June 5th 1975, Melvin L. Manning, P.E. wrote:

Gentlemen,

In the June 3 issue of the Sioux Falls Argus Leader, I noticed you will issue a S. Dak Pioneer Certificate to any person showing direct descent from a person living in S. Dak before 1889. Also, you state if grandparents were living in S Dak before it became a state, one can obtain an application blank for a S Dak Pioneer Certificate. You will find three self addressed envelopes, stamped for obtaining the certificates. Lewis Smith, Jennie Bendel and I are first cousins. Our grandfather, Albert Augustus Manning was in the Union Army in the Civil War, 49th Indiana Regiment, Co. H. In 1882, he located at a homestead (160 acres) six miles south of Miller, S Dak.

In 1888, a disastrous prairie fire took most of the families possessions.

Recently, from a Manning Genealogy book, my father left for me, I compiled the whole list of our grandfathers and their activities back to 1592. We are decendents of William Manning who came

to this country from England to the Mass. Bay Colony (?) to the founding of Boston (1630). This is a very valuable historical book. Few can trace their heritage from 1592 to 1975 with a complete listing of their activies, births and deaths. I hope you will send the requested certificates in the self addressed envelopes. Let me know if I can help you further. Thank you.

Very truly yours, M L Manning

This ancestor was Albert Augustus Manning, born 25 October 1840 in Fort Ann, NY, passing away 16, November 1913 at Miller SD. According to the documents submitted, he arrived in Dakota Territory in 1880. His wife was Sarah Jane Geiger, born 19 January 1852 in Millersport, Ohio. She died 28 October 1920 at Miller SD. The "Manning family Genealogy" book should be found at the Miller SD Courthouse. His grave and Civil War marker is at the Miller GAR Cemetery.

Fast forward to 2023 and we have now issued more than 6000 certificates. Thank you all for contributing to our Pioneer Certificate database.

MEMO LETTER

MELVIN L. MANNING, P.E.

BROOKINGS, S. DAK. 57006

Tel. [REDACTED]

June 5, 1975

Sioux Valley Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 655

Sioux Falls, S.Dak

Gentlemen:

In the June 3 issue of the Sioux Falls Argus Leader, I notice you will issue a S. Dak. Pioneer Certificate to any person

showing direct descent from a person living in S. Dak. before 1889. Also, you state that if grandparents were living in S. Dak. before it became a state, one can obtain an application blank for a S. Dak. Pioneer Certificate. You will find three self-addressed envelopes stamped for obtaining these certificates. Lewis Smith, Jennie Bendel and I are first cousins. Our grandfather, Albert Augustus Manning was in the Union Army in the Civil War, 47th Indiana Regiment, Co. H. In 1882 he located the homestead (160 acres) six miles South of Miller, S. Dak. In 1888, a Christiana Manning purchased most of the family's possessions.

Recently from a Manning Genealogy Book, my father left for me I compiled the whole list of our Grandfathers, and then activities back to 1592. We are descendants of William Manning who came to this country from England to the Mass. Bay Colony prior to the founding of Boston (1630). This is a very valuable historical book. Few can trace their heritage from 1592 to 1975 with a complete listing of their activities, births and deaths. I hope you will send the requested certificates with the self-addressed envelopes. Let me know if you need any more. Very truly yours, Mel L. Manning

18001

SVGS LIBRARY RESEARCH INFORMATION

Old Courthouse Museum, 2nd floor
6th and Main, Sioux Falls SD 57104

Have you ever wondered what information Sioux Valley Genealogical Society has for all to use? Let us start with:

Research Cards

Available in the SVGS Library by showing your ID and paying a \$5 one-time fee. These give you access to records of Births over 100 years, Marriages and Deaths in *all* South Dakota counties by presenting your ID and the card in person.

Resources in our Library

More than 4000 various items help make our library one of the largest and best. Our library collection concentrates on Sioux Falls & Minnehaha County & South Dakota, but has items on many other areas. You might be surprised what you find.

Research Aids

Titles vary from beginning research, to researching in various locations, archives, ethnic groups, and heritage societies.

Organizations; DAR, Mayflower Society, National Society of Sons & Daughters of Pilgrims, Norwegian Lags

Countries: Scotland, Ireland, England, Germany, Austria, Russia, Scandinavia, Norway & Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, Czechoslovakia.

Areas & States: New England, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Washington.

City Directories

An extensive collection of Sioux Falls City Directories, the earliest is dated 1885. Additional directories of other South Dakota locations. Multiple directories from Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and Nebraska.

Atlases, Plat books, County & Farm Directories, Maps, Misc.

Minnehaha County -- 13 large, hard-cover atlases. Earliest year-1903. Each includes symbols showing locations of farm homes, schools, churches & cemeteries.

Atlases & Plat books of 30 additional South Dakota counties, 28 books of other states and counties.

Tax assessment books—8 books, various years of Minnehaha County & Lincoln County.

Farm directories--Many SD counties, some counties are covered with multiple years.

Family Histories

Approximately 850 individual family histories.

Information varies from items in a manila file to multiple books on a family or its branches.

Yearbooks

Approximately twenty feet of shelving holds the majority of our yearbook collection. Soft cover items are in a vertical file. Majority are middle schools, high schools and colleges in Sioux Falls & South Dakota. Our collection includes Sioux Falls High School, the predecessor to Washington High School.

Correspondence files

Communication with SVGS is kept in notebooks & the names added to our **Name Index**.

Quarterlies & Newsletters

Almost forty feet of shelving holds our Quarterly & Newsletter collection. Items are received from genealogy organizations in South Dakota and other states. Includes bound copies of our SVGS Pathfinder.

City, county, church and organization history books

Often written or compiled in conjunction with an important milestone, these can be a great source of pictures, names & stories. Check out the many histories on our shelves and in vertical files.

Cemetery records

Minnehaha County- WPA records book, Burial permits, Cemetery Records of many locations, including Minnehaha County abandoned cemeteries and the Minnehaha County Poor Farm Cemetery. The Poor Farm Cemetery is also known as Minnehaha Cemetery, one of two with that name in Minnehaha County. Lincoln County cemetery records. Transcribed records, indexes & microfilm.

Obituary Index

Over 170,000 entries in this index. View the index at our library or contact the library. Entries are coded for location of the obituary in our files. The obituaries may be purchased as a printed or digital copy.

Name index

Begun by members who went through unindexed books in our library. Almost 108 lateral FEET of filed index cards. Each has a name and code telling where to find that name in our library items. More names added often.

Pioneer Certificate Applications

Seventy, three-inch, 3-ring notebooks holding more than 6000 Pioneer Certificate Applications and supporting documents for each application. A **Pioneer Certificate name index** of *all* names in these applications is maintained, with each name referenced to a Pioneer Certificate. Apply for a Pioneer Certificate if your ancestor lived in Dakota Territory, prior to statehood Nov 2, 1889.

Microfilm

Use our digital film viewer and enhance images for best viewing & better printing. SVGS has microfilm of many church records, 10 rolls of Minnehaha County Vital Records, Funeral home records, 1900 & 1920 SD Federal Census, 8 rolls of Dakota Territory Census & Marriages, Revolutionary Soldiers & Pensions, Minnehaha County Probate Index 1873-1976, Index of Cherokee Roll 1835 (East of the Mississippi), Hawley family history and more. Newspapers include **Canton SD Sioux Valley News, Hartford Herald, McPherson County Herald, Evening Huronite, Ipswich Tribune, Leola Northwest Blade**. Inquire about using our digital viewer for viewing your own microfilm.

Computer files.

Calvary Episcopal Cathedral Parish Records. These records are as up-to-date as laws and Church Canons allow. Use of these files was acquired through mutual agreement in February 2020 and will be updated yearly. Other indexes and data files are found on our computers

Interested in visiting? We are usually open 12-4:, M-F. Volunteers are present to help with research. Additional times are available by prior arrangement. Library access may be affected by Museum activity. If coming from out of town, we suggest you contact us to confirm hours and availability of a volunteer. Contact the librarian: through the Old Courthouse Museum at 605-367-4210 or librarian@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org

SVGS MEMBER, RICH PHILLIPS PASSES



SVGS member, Richard (Rich) Allen Phillips age 76 of Sioux Falls and previously of Fort Pierre died July 3, 2023 at the Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Rich was born the first child of Alvah and Hattie (Birkeland) Phillips in Webster, SD on November 12, 1946 and grew up on the family farm. He attended North Webster School 104 through eighth grade and then Webster High School graduating in 1964. He then attended SDSU in Brookings, earning a BS Civil Engineering degree in 1968 and MS in 1970. Rich had worked summer jobs with the South Dakota Highway Department in Webster. Upon graduation, he started his career working for the South Dakota Dept. of Transportation in Redfield, SD and Aberdeen, SD before moving to Pierre in 1975.

In 2010, Rich retired and moved to Sioux Falls, SD engaging in many hobbies and entertainment activities. Among them were Sons of Norway, Genealogy, SD Historical Society, OLLI classes, Summit Basketball Tournament and many concerts. But most important to Rich was his dedication to the Sioux Valley Model Engineers Society and the Dakota South Eastern Division of the National Model Railroad Association. He assisted with setting up model railroad displays at various locations in Sioux Falls and southeastern South Dakota. Rich never met a person, but what he would ask them where they were from, where they went to school, who they were related to or who else they knew, and be able to repeat it months later.

Rich was preceded in death by his parents Alvah and Hattie, an infant brother and sister-in-law Janet Phillips. His surviving siblings are Pat Micko and husband Greg of Sioux Falls, Reuben Phillips and wife Joan of Crooks, Dave Phillips and wife Margaret of Bismarck, ND and nieces and nephews

**"Only a Genealogist regards a step backwards
as Progress"**

WHY YOUR FAMILY NAME WAS NOT CHANGED AT ELLIS ISLAND (AND ONE THAT WAS)

By Philip Sutton, Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy,

Stephen A. Schwarzman Building July 2, 2013

During the years 1892 and 1954, more than twelve million people entered the United States through the immigration inspection station at Ellis Island, a small island located in the upper bay off the New Jersey coast. There is an ongoing myth that persists in the field of genealogy, or more accurately, in family lore, that family names were changed there. They were not. Numerous blogs, essays, and books have proven this. Yet the myth persists; a story in a recent issue of *The New Yorker* suggests that it happened. This post will explore how and why names were not changed. It will then tell the story of Frank Woodhull, an almost unique example of someone whose name was changed, as proof that even if your name was changed at Ellis Island (it wasn't), it wouldn't have mattered.

Confused? Read on...

The legend goes that officials at Ellis Island, unfamiliar with the many languages and nationalities of the people arriving at Ellis Island, would change the names of those immigrants that sounded foreign, or unusual.

Vincent J. Cannato's excellent book "American Passage: The History of Ellis Island" explains why this did not happen: Nearly all [...] name change stories are false. Names were not changed at Ellis Island. The proof is found when one considers that inspectors never wrote down the names of incoming immigrants. The only list of names came from the manifests of steamships, filled out by ship officials in Europe. In the era

before visas, there was no official record of entering immigrants except those manifests. When immigrants reached the end of the line in the Great Hall, they stood before an immigration clerk with the huge manifest opened in front of him. The clerk then proceeded, usually through interpreters, to ask questions based on those found in the manifests. Their goal was to make sure that the answers matched.

Inspectors did not create records of immigration; rather they checked the names of the people moving through Ellis Island against those recorded in the ship's passenger list, or manifest. The ship's manifest was created by employees of the steamship companies that brought the immigrants to the United States, before the voyage took place, when the passenger bought their ticket. The manifest was presented to the officials at Ellis Island when the ship arrived. If anything, Ellis Island officials were known to correct mistakes in passenger lists.

The Encyclopedia of Ellis Island states: employees of the steamship companies, mostly ticket agents and pursers, required no special identification from passengers and simply accepted the names the immigrants gave them. Immigrant inspectors [at Ellis Island] accepted these names as recorded in the ship's manifests and never altered them unless persuaded that a mistake had been made in the spelling or rendering of the name. Nonetheless the original name was

never entirely scratched out and remained legible.

Although it is always possible that the names of passengers were spelled wrong, perhaps by the clerk when the ticket was bought, or when names were translated from one alphabet to another, it is more likely that immigrants were their own agents of change. Cannato, for instance, suggests that people often changed their name in advance of migration. More commonly, immigrants would change their names themselves when they had arrived in the United States, and for a number of reasons.

Someone might change their name in order to make it sound more American, to fit in with the local community, or simply because it was good for business. There is at least one instance of a small businessman arriving in the United States from Eastern Europe changing his name, at least his public name, to something that sounded Swedish, because he had settled in a Swedish neighborhood in New York City. Immigrants would sometimes officially record their name change, when naturalizing for instance, but often, as there was no law in New York State requiring it be done, no official record of a name change was made. People would just start using a different name.

John Colletta, in his book "They Came in Ships", describes the immigration process at Ellis Island in more detail: [The] Inspector [in the immigration receiving center] had in his hands a written record of the immigrant he was inspecting and, asking the same questions over again, could compare the oral statements with it. The inspectors therefore, read the names already written down on the lists, and they had at their service a large staff of translators who worked along side

them in the Great Hall of the Ellis Island facility.

Contemporary descriptions of Ellis Island do not mention name changes at Ellis Island. A search of historical newspapers using the ProQuest Historical Database produces only one story about name changes written during the time that Ellis Island was in operation.

Leonard Lyons' entertainment column Broadway Potpourri, in the Washington Post of April 10th, 1944, states that Harry Zarief, "the assistant concert master for Morton Gould," and famously a father of quadruplets, had recently changed his name back from Friedman.

Friedman. His name originally was Zarief, but when his family arrived at Ellis Island the immigration inspector told him that Zarief was too complicated, and recorded his name as "Friedman." Many years later the "Friedman" was changed back to the original Zarief.

There are hundreds of stories about the immigration inspection station in the newspapers of the time that do not mention names being changed. In a 1922 article in the New York Times, titled "To Be or Not to Be American", journalist Elizabeth Heath describes a visit to Ellis Island, and the Great Hall where immigrants were processed.

Upstairs, in the great main hall of the building, the straggling crowd is skillfully split into a dozen long lines, each leading to the desk of an inspector. Before him is spread the manifest of the steamship company, giving the required information about each steerage passenger - religion, relatives in America, amount of money, source of passage money, literacy, occupation, and the

positive statement that the candidate for admission does not believe or practice polygamy or anarchy. It is a seeming miscellany of information, but each item has a direct bearing on the legality of admission.

A letter to the Chicago Tribune advice column "The Legal Friend of the People", dated September 16, 1912 discusses name changes and an application for citizenship, and mentions Ellis Island.

After having lived in the United States for five years I changed the spelling of my name. When I made my declaration to become a citizen of the United States, about a year and a half ago, I gave my name as I now spell it. Will this cause any hitch in my taking out final citizenship papers six months hence? [...] I understand that all declarations of intention to become a citizen are forwarded to New York and verified by the records at Ellis Island. When it is discovered that my name, as I spelled it when I took out my first papers, is not on the books [the ships manifests] there, will this interfere with my taking out my final naturalization papers?

The advice given in reply:

On making the application for final papers, you should spell your name as in the original application. You have the right to change the spelling without a court process.

The idea that names were changed at Ellis Island raises lots of questions. For instance, if names were changed, what happened to the paperwork? And if inspectors were charged with changing names, why are there no records of this? Where are the lists of approved names? Where are the first hand accounts, of inspectors and immigrants? If immigrants had name changes forced upon

them, why did they not simply change their name back when they entered the country? Or, if they could not, where is paperwork describing the roles of Federal officials charged with making sure that names were not changed back?

All rather silly, perhaps. Yet the still myth persists, almost exclusively in family lore. One explanation might be that we live in more enlightened times. Although people still change their names, especially when naturalizing, many people immigrating to the United States no longer feel that they have to change their name to fit in, and so it seems strange that people would voluntarily change their name generations ago.

Marian L. Smith, in her essay "American Names: Declaring Independence", suggests that another interpretation of the Ellis Island myth might be: *That an immigrant is remembering his initial confrontation with American culture. Ellis Island was not only immigrant processing, it was finding one's way around the city, learning to speak English, getting one's first job or apartment, going to school, and adjusting one's name to a new spelling or pronunciation. All these experiences, for the first few years, were the "Ellis Island experience." When recalling their immigration decades before, many immigrants referred to the entire experience as "Ellis Island."*

There is always the exception to the rule. In a passenger list for the steamship S.S. New York, which arrived at the Port of New York, from Southampton, England on October 4th, 1908, shows that a passenger's name has been crossed out and replaced with another, that of Mary Johnson. The United Kingdom Outward Passenger Lists confirms that the passenger described himself as Frank

Woodhull, a clerk, and alien in the United States.

The S.S. New York's passenger list includes an addendum, a page titled Record of Aliens Held for Special Inquiry. This was a list of the names of passengers disembarking from the S.S. New York, who were detained at Ellis Island. The reason given for "Mary Johnson" being held for further inspection is that "she" was travelling as Frank Woodhull "in male attire." Mr. Woodhull proved that he would not be a financial burden on the United States, and was allowed to continue his journey to New Orleans.

The incident generated newspaper headlines all over the country, and Frank Woodhull gave a number of interviews, telling his story, a story that tells us much about the times. Here it is as told to the New York Times, October 5th and 6th, 1908.

My life has always been a struggle. I come of an English-Canadian family, and I have most of my (life struggled) to make all alone. Thirty years ago, when I was 20, my father died and I was thrown entirely on my own resources. I came to this country a young girl and went west to make my way. For fifteen years I struggled on. The hair on my face was a misfortune. It was often the subject of rude jest and caused me endless embarrassment. The struggle was awful, but I had to live somehow, and so I went on. God knows that life has been hard, but of the hardness of those years I cannot speak.

Then came a time fifteen years ago when I got desperate. I had been told that I looked like a man, and I knew that in Canada some women have put on men's clothes (to) do men's work. So the thought took shape in my mind. If these women had done it why could

not I, who looked like a man? I was in California at the time. I bought men's clothes and began to wear them. Then things changed. I had prospects. My occupation I have given here as canvasser, but I have done many things. I have sold books, lightning rods, and worked in stores. Never once was I suspected that I was other than Frank Woodhull. I have lived my life, and I tried to live it well. Most of the time I have been in California, but now I am going to New Orleans, where there are chances of employment. I have never attempted to take citizenship papers. I knew to do so would be either to reveal my sex or else become a law breaker. I have never been the latter. I did not know that there was a law against women wearing male attire in this State or I would have sailed to another port. My folks come originally from England and it had long been my wish to go there and take a look about. So with a measure of success the longing grew and I began to save up for my holiday. I went over in the steerage two months ago and returned the same way.

On October 8th, 1908, Woodhull returned from Europe, and passing through Ellis Island, as an alien, despite having lived in the United States for a number of years, was pulled to one side by an official who thought that he might have Tuberculosis. Erica Rand, in her book "The Ellis Island Snow Globe", quotes an article that appeared in the New-York Tribune, describing "what happened when Woodhull was called for further examination:

[...] Woodhull told the surgeon "Oh, please don't examine me!" She pleaded. "I might as well tell you all. I am a woman, and have traveled in male attire for fifteen years."

Woodhull was brought before a Board of Special Inquiry at Ellis Island, who according to the New York Times, October 6th, declared him a "desirable immigrant [who] should be allowed to win her livelihood as she saw fit."

Woodhull talked about how women were expected to behave, dress, and of the types of work open to them. *Women have a hard time in this world. They are walking advertisements for the milliner, the dry goods stores, the jewelers, and other shops. They live in the main only for their clothes, and now and then when a woman comes to the front who does not care for dress she is looked upon as a freak and a crank. With me how different. See this hat? I have worn that hat for three years, and it cost me \$3. What woman could have worn a hat so long? Bah! They are the slaves to whim and fashion. What could I do when fifteen years ago I faced the crisis in my life? There was only housework to which I could turn.[...] Men can work at many unskilled callings, but to a woman only a few are open, and they are the grinding, death-dealing kinds of work. Well, for me, I prefer to live a life of independence and freedom.*

The New York Times goes on to add that the individual identified at Ellis Island as Mary Johnson, was freed, to "face the world as Frank Woodhull."

A thorough search of Ancestry Library Edition provides no clues as to Frank Woodhull's whereabouts after leaving Ellis Island, though the internet does include references to his settling in New Orleans, becoming an American citizen, and dying in 1939: citations are missing. Perhaps, after the furor, Frank decided to change his name, to avoid further publicity. This story illustrates one thing. Once Woodhull left Ellis Island, he was no longer obliged to be known as Mary Johnson, but was free to resume his life, complete with the name and identity of his choosing. Ellis Island could not impose a name upon him.

Further reading:

Copies of ship's manifests, or passenger lists, are available at New York Public Library, via the database Ancestry Library Edition.

If you would like to read more about Ellis Island, try searching for materials in the Library's catalog. You can use the following subject terms:

Ellis Island Immigration Station (N.Y. and N.J.)

Ellis Island Immigration Station (N.Y. and N.J.) -- History.

The Library's Digital Gallery includes many images of Ellis Island.

Editor's note: I found the article about Ellis Island shortly after I visited Ellis Island and The Statue of Liberty this past November. It was awe inspiring as well as humbling. To think, this was where my maternal grandfather first stepped on US soil.

CEMETERIES IN SIOUX FALLS

Submitted by Margaret Straley

Late in May, 2023, I was privileged to attend a lecture about the "Cemeteries in Sioux Falls" sponsored by the Old Courthouse Museum. Presenter Kevin Ganz has researched the cemeteries within the city limits since the beginning of Sioux Falls' history. Much of the information came from very old reels of microfilm which were difficult to read at times.

One part of the presentation included how loved ones would visit graves and leave a small stone on the grave, indicating to the next visitor that someone who knew the deceased had been to the grave. My family unknowingly uses the "stones" as a communication device as well.

There are 16 children in my family, all currently living. Yearly, there are only six or seven who attend the annual family reunion and picnic in North Dakota. After the picnic, cousins disperse to other locations, namely the "bar" or the cemetery. Along the edge of my mother's grave marker is a narrow slab of cement. On that slab is a neatly placed row of 16 stones. (My mother was known to carry pretty stones in her pocket all the time.)

The "family rebellion" (aka reunion to most others) has just been completed. As I walked toward her grave site, I could see that someone had been to the cemetery already and moved certain stones out of the line up, indicating the 'naughty ones'. I hope my mother is not rolling over in her grave, as the saying goes.

Submitted by Margaret Straley

DID YOU KNOW...

Submitted by Lynette Trainer

That the Sioux Valley Genealogical Society has a database called, "Funeral Homes Records." I didn't until I was backing up the computers. They are copies from George Boom Funeral Home. The books begin in 1925, ending 30 June 1991.

Wanting to know if all the information in the obit was the same as the book, I picked a record from the book and pulled the obit. I compared the funeral home record, to the obit and I was surprised that was not included in the obit. **Be aware: not all the records found at the funeral home are filled out completely.**

The obit stated:
his name, date and place of the funeral
where he was buried
where he resided
where he died and cause of death
funeral home in charge.

On the funeral home record:
his full name
place and date of death
his residence
place and date of birth
occupation
wife's name and maiden name
where and when they got married
attending physician
branch of the service, enlistment and discharge dates, service number.
Military rights
other organizations: NRA, DAV, Moose lodge.
a biographical sketch
Family members wife, son, parents, 3 brothers, 3 sisters, grandmother along with residence.
funeral date, place, minister, organist, vocalist, songs, pallbearers, and where lunch was held

SAVE THE DATE!!!
Join the Dakota Genealogist for a trip to Salt Lake City
September 3 – 10, 2023

Please join the "Dakota Genealogist" group next September as we are once again planning a road trip once again to SLC. Here is some information you will find helpful in planning your trip with the group! This is a fun trip and provides a great opportunity to network with others about genealogy as well as research and learn specific information about your ancestor at the world's best research library. Researching at the library is free. Copies and printing costs are minimal. Classes offered at the Library are free. Consultants are available to help you transcribe foreign languages or help you to break through your brick wall. Research, go out to eat, shop, have fun, network...join us!

June Beason has acted as coordinator in the past and has volunteered to do so in 2023. We do need a reasonable number of those to go to continue this adventure! If you are interested in going and you have any questions that aren't answered below, call June at (605)342-3764 or email June at treehunter@rap.midco.net or write to me at 5172 Ridgeview Rd., Rapid City, SD 57701.

Going by Car:

If anyone wishes to caravan down with those of us from Rapid City, we coordinate a phone contact list to stay in touch during our travel. Individuals determine how gas expenses are split among those riding in the car. Mileage from Rapid City to SLC is about 650 miles.

Hotel: Salt Lake Plaza Hotel – right next door to the Library

Everyone will make their own reservations. At this time the hotel will reserve a block of 5 rooms under the name of **Dakota Genealogists**. **Reservations need to be made by August 3, 2023. After that date they will release the rooms that are not reserved. You can still make a reservation after that date but you will no longer get the group rate. You will have to pay the regular rate.** They are holding 5 rooms for us this year, 3 standard rooms and 2 deluxe. **A deluxe room means you get a room on the front side of the hotel with 2 sinks, one in the bathroom and one outside of the bathroom and a table in the room.** All rooms have 2 queen size beds in them.

The group rates for these rooms are:

	<u>Standard</u>	<u>Deluxe</u>
Single and double	\$98 per room per night	\$108.00 per room per night

If you need to cancel your reservation, for a full refund it must be by 3pm *3 days before you check in*.

You will pay the hotel yourself. Prices above do not include taxes or tips. **You can make these reservations at 1-800-366-3684.** If there is a problem making your reservation, ask to speak to Rich Williams. When you make your reservations be sure and mention that you are with the **Dakota Genealogist Group** and be sure that you request either a Standard room or a Deluxe. We have 5 rooms for this year.

Parking at the Hotel: It now costs \$10 per day to park a car. You will need to work out the gas and parking cost with those who are riding with you.

If you fly: At this point, checking online, the cost of a round trip ticket from Rapid City to Salt Lake City is about \$250.-\$600, booking at least 3 weeks in advance. The hotel no longer has a shuttle for airport runs. You can go to the hotel by taxi, Uber, Lyft or light rail (tram). The tram has a stop directly in front of the hotel. Apps are used for Uber and Lyft. Find the light rail schedule at rideuta.com. Click on schedules and then follow the green line from the airport to the Temple Square stop.

As of 2022, the Family History Library is open M-Sa 9-5 with 3 nights a week open until 8pm. We will try to keep you informed of more info as available.

MEET OUR 2023 OFFICERS

I thought it would be nice to be able to put a face on our the SVGS current officers.



President Wendy Stubbs

I am originally from Alcester, SD. I am a former teacher and Career Counselor. Currently I am working part time at Hope Lutheran Church. I became interested in genealogy after hearing the many stories from my Norwegian great aunts and my grandmother. I also enjoyed my Dad's shared stories of his youth in Spink County.

I have been a member of SVGS for 8 years now, I think. I am interested in hearing family stories and challenges in research and have one year left as President.

Vice President, Kim McKeon

After a career in international development and having lived overseas in Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Armenia, our Vice President, Kim McKeon, is now in Sioux Falls as she wanted to spend more time with her family in the Midwest.

Kim is interested in genealogy because it provides a link from the past to the present giving her a better understanding of why her family history is relevant to the person she is today. Kim has a particular interest in Norwegian, German, and Irish ancestry.



Corresponding Secretary Phyllis Knutson

Phyllis Knutson, our current Correspondence Secretary, has over the years, held several different jobs in the society. Phyllis is the second oldest of eight children born to G. Adolph and Lucile Teller Quail in Lake Sinai Township, Brookings County, SD. She was born on the farm that her grandfather, Ole Anderson Quail homesteaded in 1879.

Phyllis married Allan F. Knutson in the Sinai Lutheran Church. They have two children, Laura and Michael.

Genealogy became a favorite pastime as Phyllis' parents were very interested in family and local history and passed the interest to her.

"Dad" told many stories about his father as well as his own experiences growing up as the youngest of 10 children.

Her mother was born and grew up in Hand County near Burdette, SD and later moved to Brookings County. Lucile encouraged her daughter in genealogy and family history by also sharing her family history. In 1989, Phyllis and a cousin, Carol Quail, edited a family history book called *The Ole A. Quail Family in America*.

A very interesting research finding occurred when analyzing the 1850 Iowa Census. Phyllis found that her great-grandmother had an older brother that no one knew about. He was three months old then and was no longer found in the 1860 census.

Family history is very important to Phyllis. She likes to learn about events in ancestors' lives and what was important to them. For instance, when reading a will written in 1848 by her great-great-great-grandfather, David Ferree, Phyllis realized how important his family was to him. It led her to believe that he was sick when he wrote that will but recovered, as he and his wife and a grown son died from cholera in 1854.

Phyllis hopes her children will continue her interest in Genealogy and Family History as they grow older.

Research Secretary Lynette Trainer

I have been the SVGS Researcher for the past 2 years and am now in my second term.

I grew up in Sioux Falls, lived in California for 45 years, and then moved back to Sioux Falls in August 2018 to help with my mother's care. She turned 91 this year!

I still belong to several societies in California and have served on their boards in various positions.

Losing my dad when I was 10, I always wanted to know what his life was like growing up. I started reading newspapers. The articles consisted of movies he saw, going to the dentist, visiting relatives, who they spent holidays with, just to name a few.

One interesting remembrance was when my grandfathers' brother was visiting him, they talked about their ancestor having signed the Declaration of Independence. It turns out he is my 5th great-grandfather, John Hart of New Jersey!

John Hart's wife is also interesting. Her ancestry leads back to Penelope Stout who came over from Holland with her first husband when they came to New Amsterdam. As he was sick and could not travel with the passengers on the ship, they left him and Penelope saying they would come back for them. Her husband died, leaving her to face hostile Indians. They cut her stomach open, made a large dash on her arm, and scalped her, leaving her for dead. She did survive and when she passed away at the age of 102, she left more than 530 living descendants.

I love doing research on my family, but I also find great pleasure in helping others with their research and seeing the joy in their eyes when we find something new.



Recording Secretary Suzanne Folk

My name is Suzanne Folk. I have been a member of SVGS for about 8-10 years. I am taking over the job of Recording Secretary until the end of that term. I became the researcher not long after I joined SVGS and then was the registrar for 3 terms. (I encourage you to run for an office. You learn a lot and can make a difference.)

I got into genealogy because I like history and I also like learning and researching. And that is something that is plentiful in genealogy. There are always records to explore, whether they relate to my ancestors or not.



Pathfinder Editor Luci Feenstra

After a hiatus of about 4 years, Luci is back editing the Pioneer Pathfinder. She's busy with that as well as proving then issuing Pioneer Certificates to descendants of Dakota Territory pioneers.

Research has always been fun for Luci whether going through records, walking cemeteries, or just helping others with their investigations. One very interesting find in her family research was when ordering, receiving and looking through the military packets of her dad's great grandparents. Great grandfather Cain had been wounded at "The Battle of Resaca", a part of the Atlanta Campaign during the American Civil War and Great grandfather O'Donnell contracted Malaria in that same War while in Louisiana. They both had health problems from then on.



Treasurer Robert E. Black

A few years ago, I started life in Cody, Wyoming. I grew up there and in Billings, Montana. After college, I spent 29+ years in the U.S. Air Force as a weather officer.

After that, I worked in the environmental field, moving to Sioux Falls in 1998 to work as a process engineer at EROS,

After retiring from EROS in 2006, I joined the Sioux Valley Genealogical Society. I had been working on documenting my ancestors and my wife's family. I researched, wrote, and published three sets of genealogical and historical books about the four families plus a couple of ancillary supporting documents. I have served terms

as recording secretary and treasurer for the society.

Librarian Sue Eckert

In 1999, my Dad had the idea for a family reunion and I decided to put together a family tree for Dad for the reunion. That project began with an online search for phone numbers of people with my maiden name, but resulted in less than 100 listings found in the US. So, I began calling each listing, introducing myself and inviting them to the family reunion while exchanging family information. For years I'd asked both my Dad and Grampa about my Great-grampa Adam and his three brothers who came from Germany. With the phone calls and family who attended that reunion, I learned it wasn't just the four brothers, but that it was *all* the brothers, *all* their sisters, their parents and Grama, too, who had come through New Orleans from Darmstadt, Hesse (Germany) to Illinois, then Minnesota (some brothers and sisters) and South Dakota (my branch) while the surname dropped a few letters as the family moved West.

When I had the brilliant idea for that family tree, I was totally naive, never thinking I would enjoy genealogy and family history (my own and others' too) as much as I do. Here it is 2023. I get goosebumps walking the same land that my ancestors homesteaded. I just returned from a family



heritage trip to Norway where I visited areas the other half of my heritage had lived. Two of my children did their DNA and we learned the bio- parents of my children's father and met one of his half-siblings. My children and grand-children have visited family graves with me, the names and stories of family buried there unknown to them until the visits. I learned my mother's paternal great-grandfather was a Union soldier in the Civil War and have visited his grave in Minnesota. Using a name of a survivor in one family member's obituary as a hint, I learned a maternal great-grandfather married a second time after great-grama died. In addition to being the SVGS Librarian, I am genealogist for two geographic-specific areas of Norway, helping people throughout the year and at yearly conventions. Helping others learn about their families is as enjoyable to me as making discoveries in my own family.

Speaking of families, I am an only child but Dad, who outlived four wives, had 6 children with adoptions and additional marriages and births after my Mother died. Most of my life has been spent in South Dakota, but includes time in Minnesota and Wyoming, too. While married, I had three children who gave me a total of seven grand-children and three great-grand children. My education and work history did not include anything leading up to my involvement in genealogy and being the SVGS Librarian, unless it counts that I belonged to Future Librarians in high school. But I don't like housework and I'm grateful for this experience so I hope to continue as Librarian as long as I'm able and as long as you'll have me. Sue



Registrar Brenda Dahlin

My name is Brenda Dahlin. I was born and raised in Vermillion, SD. We moved our family to Sioux Falls in the fall of 1994 when my husband was promoted to Building Manager of the USD School of Medicine Health Science Center in Sioux Falls. We have two sons, a lovely daughter in-law and two grandchildren. I retired this last November after 45 years in accounting. My husband retired a year ago in May after 46 years at USD and we are hanging out at home now.

I became interested in genealogy when I was 16 years old. I was fascinated with the research and finding out where they all come from and how they got here. I did a lot of leg work back in the 1980's and I still like to stop at cemeteries. My Aunt got me into the Daughters of the American Revolution and I have now proven four Patriots! I am a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in Plymouth, MA and a member of the SD Chapter of Mayflower Descendants. All the English settlers are on my Mother's side and the French Canadians and Germans are on my Father's side. I have traced both of my in-laws' ancestors (full Swede's) and my parent's ancestors and printed books on nine families.

I belong to: Daughters of the American Revolution, General Society of Mayflower Descendants and the SD Chapter of Mayflower Descendants, Colonial Dames of the 17th century, Great Plains Chapter and The Association of Fortin's in America, in addition to The Clay County Historical Society, Vermillion, SD, Dalesburg Association, Dalesburg, SD, and SVGS, Sioux Falls, SD.

I am currently working on my lineage to the Filles Du Roi (Kings Daughters).

IT'S TIME FOR THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR

by Suzanne Folk



Pictured; A Buggy at the Buggy Museum at Stockholm, SD.

It is that time of the year again for the South Dakota State Fair. The South Dakota Genealogical Society (SDGS) will be having the booth again this year. Our theme this year is **Trails of our Ancestors**. If you have any photos or stories of your ancestors immigrating or moving about, send them in. Copies only. We are showcasing how our ancestors got around and how they got from their country of origin

to South Dakota. We will be putting the photos on 12x12 scrapbook pages and putting them on the wall. After the Fair, we will be putting those pages in a scrapbook. If you would like to put them on a 12x12 page and send that in, we will put them up. You can also put them on an 8.5x11 scrapbook page and I can put it on a 12x12 page. Either way will work. Or you can send in the photo and story for me to put on a page. **Please do not submit any originals, since you will not get them back.** You can email them to me at suzannefolk@gmail.com or mail them to me at **3909 S. Cathy #11, Sioux Falls, SD 57106 by August 15, 2023.**

We will also be having a large map and stringing a pathway from the place of origin to South Dakota and any stops on the way. This will show the many different ways our ancestors got to South Dakota. For example, one of my ancestor branches goes from Ireland to Ontario to Iowa to Minnesota to South Dakota. We will put a pin in Ireland, Ontario, Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota and connect them to show the trail that branch took for me to get to South Dakota. Not all trails are a straight line to here. Another branch of mine goes from France to the Ukraine to North Dakota then South Dakota. Other trails may weave back and forth until they arrive in our state. **So please email or mail (see addresses above) by August 15, 2023**, the places your ancestors settled (in the order that they came) so we can show the Trails of our Ancestors.

Greetings from SVGS Vice-President Kim McKeon

Fellow SVGS members, I'd like to extend an invitation to you to work with me in developing topics of genealogical interest regarding speakers for our monthly meetings from September to May as well as to identify potential speakers. This would involve meeting twice a year, once in June to plan for the fall and winter meetings through January and in September to plan for the February through May meetings.

This is your opportunity to help ensure that SVGS members will have an interest in the topics that our speakers present! Please email me if you have an interest in working with me at:

vicepresident@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org

~~~~~ **We salute the Lives of Area Centenarians** ~~~~~  
**"When an older person dies ... another library has burned to the ground."**

## Orrin C. Korth

September 1921- March 2023



**Orrin C. Korth, age 101**, of Watertown, SD, passed away on Thursday, March 8, 2023, at Avantara Watertown.

Burial will be at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Watertown. Honorary pallbearers will be Kay Woods, Tanya Bjerke, and Jill Moes. Active pallbearers will be Kyle Lagodinski, Corey Korth, Jeremy Korth, Paul Kranz, Mark Kranz, Jason Woods, Jason Bjerke, Dan Feltch, David Feltch III and Mark Smith.

Orrin was born on September 2, 1921, on a farm north of Watertown, SD to Otto and Bertha (Beskow) Korth. He would later purchase the farm from his parents and continue to live there for most of his first 100 years. He was later joined on the farm by brothers Rollo and Otto and sisters Eleanor and Ramona. Orrin grew up on the farm and learned to love the farm life. Even at 100 years of age he checked in daily on how the planting and harvest was going. He enjoyed rides around to check on the crops.

Orrin married the love of his life Lorraine J. Kettenbeil on January 9, 1950. They were married for 58 years when she passed away in October of 2008. Together they raised five children. His two sons remain on the farm today. Education was very important to Orrin and it was understood that high school graduation was not the end of education for his children. In his younger years Orrin enjoyed flying his plane and hunting trips to the Black Hills and Canada.

On the farm sits the iconic orange barn. It was built in 1934 and was refurbished by Orrin and his sons. The family has hosted community barn dances yearly since 2013. Orrin was happy to share this history of his orange barn with anyone willing to listen. In his later years he enjoyed coin collecting and freely gave his quarter and coin collections to family and friend.

Orrin is survived by three daughters; Kathryn (David) Feltch Jr., Watertown, SD, Karla (Joe) Moes, Watertown, SD, Kristie (Bret) Lagodinski, Summit, SD, two sons; Kelvin Korth, Watertown, SD, Kim (Brenda) Korth, Watertown, SD, ten grandchildren; Kay (Jason) Woods, Paul (Siera) Kranz, Mark (Sally) Kranz, David (Lisa) Feltch, Daniel (Katie Moes) Feltch, Tanya (Jason) Bjerke, Jill Moes (Mark Smith), Corey Korth, Jeremy Korth, Kyle Lagodinski (Kayla Preston), fifteen great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; one brother, Otto Harlon (Nancy) Korth, La Grange, GA, one sister; Ramona Krista, Denver, CO.

Orrin was preceded in death by his wife Lorraine and parents Otto and Bertha, sister Eleanor and her husband Hartney Andrisen, and brother Rollo and his wife Elizabeth Korth; brother-in-law, Richard Krista and nephews: Dan Korth and Steve Andrisen.

Crawford-Osthus Funeral Chapel [www.crawfordosthus.com](http://www.crawfordosthus.com) Watertown, Hayti, De Smet, Bryant

## Marion Rosenwald

October 1922- March 2023



**Marion Hvistendahl age 100**, English professor at South Dakota State, Grand View University in Des Moines and the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium who also performed shows as notable women in history, passed away at the at Cottage on Forest in Northfield on March 20, 2023.

Marion Rosenwald was born on Oct. 31, 1922, to Benjamin and Elisabeth (Perbix) Rosenwald in Anoka County, Minn., the middle of seven children. She grew up in Ortonville, Minn., and graduated from high school at the age of 16, during which time she held three jobs, ushering at the movie theater and working for the telephone company and the county welfare office. Achieving the highest score on a Civil Service exam, she was offered a job in employment services in Minneapolis and moved to that city at the age of 18.

Marion had met Joyce Kilmer (Jake) Hvistendahl of Sioux Falls, S. D., at a roller-skating rink in Ortonville. He was drafted into the Army and they corresponded for one and a half years, having their first date when he was on leave. Serving as a decoder in the Aleutian Islands during World War II, he decided to write her every day and finally asked her to marry him. They married during a leave on Dec. 22, 1943, and she returned to finish her first year at the University of Minnesota. They were reunited in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, when Jake was stationed there and she completed her second year of college at the University of Alberta. **After the war, daughter Susan was born in Jake's hometown of Sioux Falls, S.D.** Son David was born in Hood River and son Bradley in Klamath Falls.

When Jake returned to his home state to teach at SDSC (now University) in Brookings, Marion completed her education, earning both a Bachelor's and Master's degree at South Dakota State, teaching English there as both a teaching assistant and professor. She later taught English at Grand View College (now University) in Des Moines for 21 years after Jake became a professor at Iowa State University in Ames. After retirement, they spent a year teaching at Hebei Educational College in China and in 1990, moved to Northfield where their son David lived.

In Northfield, Marion was soon active in Northfield Arts Guild productions, both onstage and behind stage, including a lead in "Steel Magnolias" her first year in town. She returned to teaching when the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium was established in 1997. She also began writing and performing one-woman shows throughout the Midwest in costume, highlighting distinguished women in history such as Mary Todd Lincoln, Ann North (wife of Northfield's founder, John North), Katie Luther, Lydia Pinkham, Hildegard von Bingen and others. In addition, she performed several times as Lena with Brad Ness as Ole in popular Ole and Lena Joke Night benefits at Froggy Bottoms, the Rueb and the Grand Event Center. A joke sample: Ole passed away and Lena wrote a very short obituary for him: "Ole died." She was told she could add three more words for the same price. So she added: "Ole died. Boat for sale."

Marion was preceded in death by her husband, Jake, in 2002. Her sister, Ann Lundberg of Ortonville, Minn., preceded her in death on March 13. Survivors include Marion's daughter Susan Hvistendahl of Northfield, sons David Hvistendahl (Joyce Krall) of Northfield and Bradley Sondahl (Althea Sondahl) of Spirit Lake, Idaho, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, and friends. [www.biermanfuneralhome.com](http://www.biermanfuneralhome.com)

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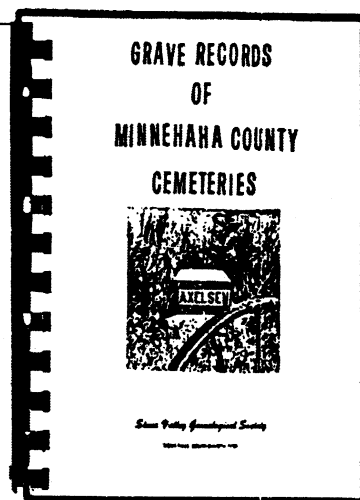
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### Grave Records of Minnehaha Cty Cemeteries

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