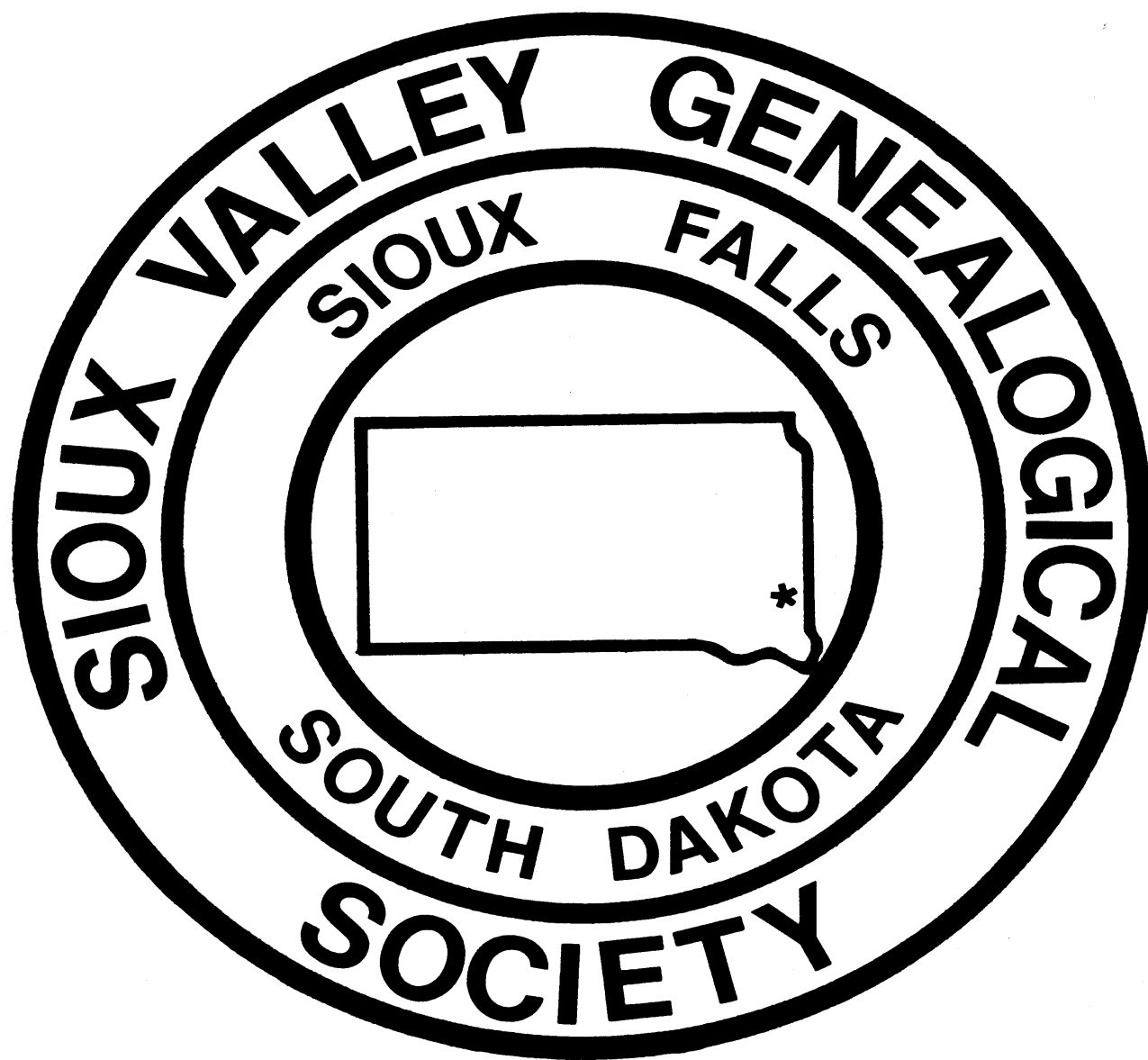


Volume 49

Issue 4

Fall 2023

PIONEER



PATHFINDER

The Pioneer Pathfinder

Published three times yearly by the *Sioux Valley Genealogical Society*

200 West 6th Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104-6001

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

Pioneer Pathfinder issue dates are: Winter (January), Spring (April-May) 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; the publication of *The Pioneer Pathfinder* three times per year; the instruction of interested persons and to provide a means of carrying out the above objectives.

Meeting Date/Time: First Thursday of the month at 7pm. No meetings 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. *Call The Old Courthouse Museum to confirm.*

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. We are a member of the Federation of Genealogical Society and an Affiliate Member of the South Dakota Genealogical Society.

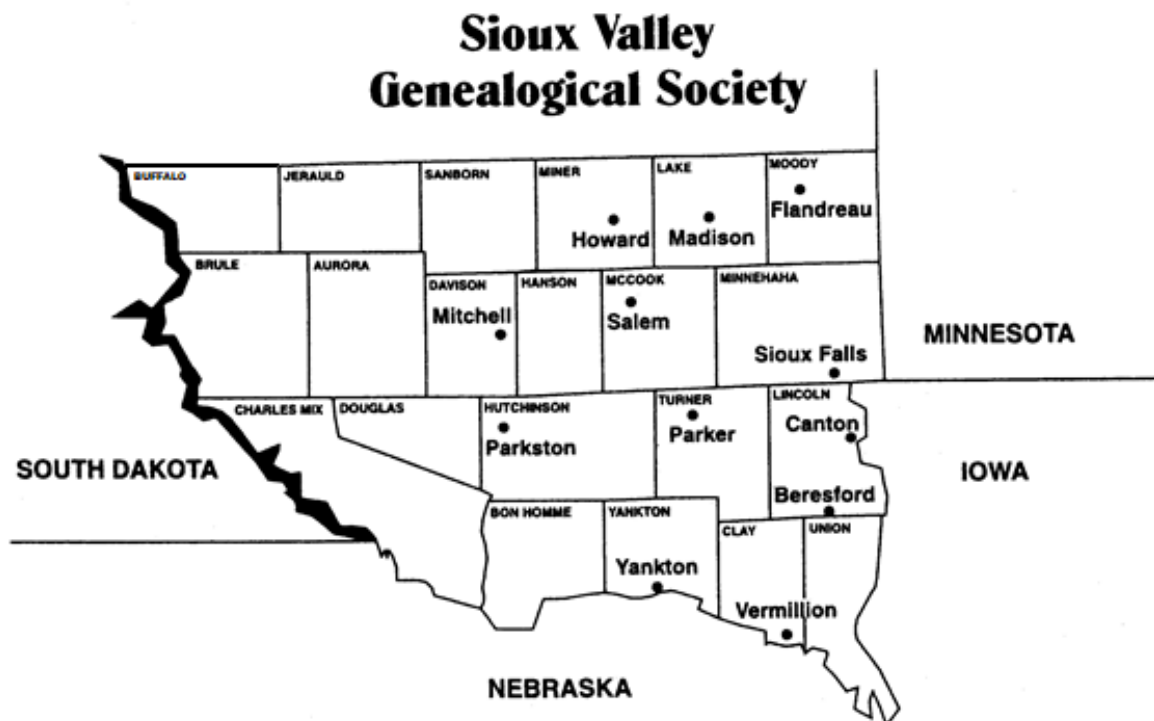
Membership Dues:

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.



OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Wendy Stubbs

president@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org**VICE PRESIDENT**

Kim McKeon

vicepresident@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Suzanne Folk

recordingsecretary@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

Phyllis Knutson

corresponding@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org**RESEARCH SECRETARY**

Lynette Trainer

research@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org**SVGS PATHFINDER EDITOR**

Luci Feenstra

pathfinder@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org**REGISTRAR**

Brenda Dahlin

registrar@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org**TREASURER**

Robert E Black

treasurer@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org**LIBRARIAN**

Sue Eckert

librarian@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org**CONTENTS**

President's Message	4
Library News	4 -5
SVGS General Meeting Minutes	5 -6
SDGS 2023 State Fair Booth a Success	7
Longtime Member, Glenn Gulbranson Passes	8
Articles from 40 Years Ago	
Origin Of Name "Pioneer Pathfinder"	9
Springfield Area Ghost Towns	9 -11
In Search Of "The Final Resting Place"	11-12
A Soldier's Journey	13
Finally Home!	14
Have You	15
Genealogy Resources Found At Library	16
Your Cemetery	16-17
OLLI Genealogy Classes	17
Family History Books On Our Library Shelves	18
Book Sales	18
RootsTech 2024 Registration is now Open	19
Roots From Norway	20-22
2024 Virtual Family History Conference	23
We Salute the Lives of Area Centenarians	
Edna Ann Bragstad	24
Arlene Bernice Granum	24-25
Berneice M Johnson	25
Tamar Read	25-26
Marjorie Sakry	26

SAVE THE DATES!!!**ROOTSTECH 2024**

29 February–2 March 2024

In person in Salt Lake City or Online Worldwide

The **NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2023 Family History Conference, Virginia**: The Deep Roots of a Nation, will be held in Richmond, Virginia, 31 May - 3 June 2024

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 has been discontinued.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Throughout my serving this organization, I have discovered that so many people actually are doing genealogy research or would like to get started. Part of our work involves helping others with genealogy research and inviting them into our society as members, hopefully ones who get actively involved. Lately we have been reaching out to DAR, OLLI and the downtown library for sharing workshops and speakers. We even gave a workshop in a brewery! These efforts are helping our outreach to members as we are gaining a few new members from it.

Before COVID happened, I think many of us thought of SVGS as an in-person meeting society. Now, after COVID, we have come to realize that perhaps our online meetings and outreach are a better way to reach outside the Sioux Falls metro area. We are gaining some members from a distance but have a genealogy connection to our area. We need to continue to learn how to reach out to those people by offering some online resources and meetings. So many genealogy societies today have a very active online presence in their website and social media programs, especially offering online workshops or meetings.

Wendy Stubbs, President

president@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org

What can you do to help market our society?

1. Share our Facebook posts you think others may like.
2. Offer speaker ideas and names of folks - let our Vice-President, Kim McKeon, know your ideas.
3. If you belong to other societies, look at their speakers and see if their ideas might work for us.
4. Invite others to join SVGS.
5. Offer to teach a class at OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute - usd.edu/olli) as there is a great opportunity to reach others through OLLI.
6. Ask how you can get involved by either volunteering, offering a workshop or serving as an officer.

I appreciate all the folks who help make this society a success. So many of you have worked hard through the years to positively impact the group. Let's keep up the synergy and get excited about this research and story sharing we do!

LIBRARY NEWS

Researchers visiting the library in recent months have used our microfilm, city directories and multiple books and files referenced in our multiple name indexes. Most visitors were able to learn new information about their individuals of interest. Unfortunately, not all found answers to their specific questions, but most left our library with suggestions of websites and other repositories to contact.

The most recent volunteer for our Library continues compiling the name index of the

South Dakota Historical Society publication. Although the library is missing a few of the 4 times yearly issues, we are working on a year or two at a time, with the plan to have searchable files, organized by each of the five decades worth of issues we have. Could your ancestor or family member be the subject of or mentioned in one or more of these stories? You'll want to check out the new and growing name index on our library computer.

We continue to issue Pioneer Certificates. The latest Certificate was mailed to a woman in

Canada whose ancestors were Dakota Territory Pioneers. Do you have ancestors who were DT Pioneers? The Certificates are issued to descendants after we receive the application and copies of supporting documentation. These make great holiday gifts and are available to non-members for \$15 USD and \$10 USD to members. Please allow plenty of time for us to fulfill your request ahead of your specific occasion. All applications and related items will be retained in our library, available to future researchers after they find a name of interest in our growing Pioneer Certificate name file.

Even if visits to South Dakota County Courthouses aren't in your near future, you may want to have a Research Card. By showing your valid ID and paying \$5, you can obtain the very useful card that never expires. The Cards prove you are a Research Associate of the South Dakota Genealogy Society and give you access to vital records in *all* South Dakota County Courthouses, unless access is prohibited by law.

Our Society and its library could not continue to be the stellar organization it is without the contribution of our volunteers in their various positions. Do you think you might be interested

in becoming a volunteer? There are multiple on-going projects and I would like to visit with you to learn more about your interests, skills and availability. Several volunteers work on a project or portion of a project while at home. In other words, not all volunteering requires your presence in the workroom or book room (library) of our organization. Training would be available and help is a phone call or text away. If you have a few hours to help our Society, contact me: (Sue Eckert, SVGS Librarian)

PS: A recent donation of many of the South Dakota Historical Society publications was utilized by our organization in several ways. First: we used specific issues in the donation to help fill some gaps in our library collection. *Did you read how we're working with this collection in the second paragraph of this article?* Second: remaining issues were made available to attendees at the October SVGS meeting. Quite a few were taken home after the new owners made volunteer donations. Third: The leftovers were delivered to Active Generations for their book sale or for addition to their own library. Our thanks and appreciation to the donor who thought of SVGS while down-sizing and began this multi-step benefit.

SIoux VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

General Meeting Minutes for May 4, 2023
Old Courthouse Museum, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Virginia Hanson gave a presentation on Early Dakota Territory Genealogical Research.

17 people attended the presentation.

Suzanne Folk read the minutes of the April 2023 meeting. Lynette Trainer motioned to accept the minutes, Joy seconded it. Passed.

Bob Black read the treasurer's report.
Beginning balance: \$1716.48, ending balance: \$1610.34. Savings balance: \$6086.29. Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation Fund: Spendable: \$11,490.00. The report is held for audit.

Officer's reports:

Corresponding secretary. Lynette read the report for Phyllis Knutson who couldn't attend the meeting.

Norwegian gig: Sue Eckert. Gave up leading the gig. If anyone wants to lead it, they can start up in the fall. If anyone is interested, they can contact Sue Eckert.

Obituary committee: Still plugging along.

Report on speakers: Kim McKeon. Going to send out email to meet to discuss what topics members want.

Library: Sue Eckert. Still plugging along.

Old Business: Keep in mind any genealogy road trips or places to attend. Ideas are welcome.

New Business: The new registrar, Brenda Dahlin, was installed by vice-president, Kim McKeon.

Next meeting will be in September after the summer break.

Bob Black motioned to adjourn the meeting. Margaret Straley seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

SIoux VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

General Meeting Minutes for September 27, 2023
Old Courthouse Museum, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Speaker: Lynette Trainer – WPA in South Dakota

Members in attendance: 17

Guests: 1

Meeting was called to order by President Wendy Stubbs.

Suzanne Folk read the secretary's report. There were no corrections. Kim McKeon motioned to approve the minutes. Bob Black seconded. Passed.

Treasurer's report was given by Bob Black. Balance of Checking Account as of June 1: \$1610.34, Balance as of August 31, 2023: \$1197.67. Savings Account balance as of August 31, 2023: Approximately \$6087.14. Sioux Falls Area Community Fund Balance as of June 30, 2023: \$71,432.31. Available assets as of August 31, 2023: \$18,789.51. Report held for audit.

Pathfinder report was given by Luci Feenstra. Reminded members that it is their magazine. If they want something published, submit it. Can be anything with names, stories, research. The Pathfinder will be going down to three issues, January, April, and October.

Library report was given by Sue Eckert. Got a new volunteer. The hours that the library is open are Monday through Friday from 12 to 4pm, depending on the availability of the volunteers and the museum hours. Reminded members that the library has WPA records for

some cemeteries in Minnehaha County, and there are also family history books available.

Membership report was given by Wendy Stubbs. The rolls are being updated.

Norwegian GIG: Sue Eckert gave the report. The GIG was discontinued. There were too many difficulties in getting speakers and getting people to attend.

Vice President, Kim McKeon, gave the report on speakers. Cheri O'Dell from the Danish Museum in Viborg is supposed to be the speaker in October. Amanda Halsey, the Registrar of Deeds, is to be the speaker in November. We will have a social in December. January and February are to be by Zoom and the speakers are yet to be determined.

New Business:

Recruiting new members. Need to get younger members. Ollie is to help advertise.

Volunteers: Need volunteers. It is not just sitting, waiting for someone to come in and ask questions. Can help enter obituaries, update inventory, or some other project at the library.

Still have books for sale on the website from Jim Olson.

At 8:15 pm, Cheryl Finney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sue Eckert seconded it. Passed.

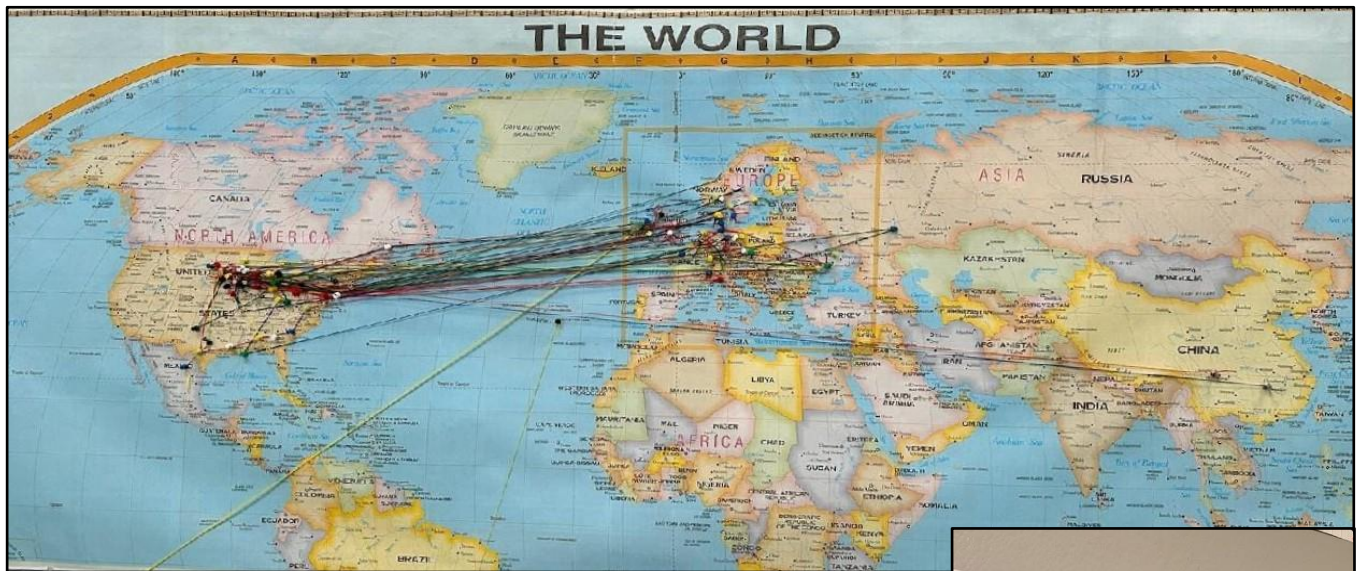
Meeting Adjourned.

Suzanne Folk

THE SOUTH DAKOTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (SDGS) 2023 STATE FAIR BOOTH A SUCCESS!

Contributed by Suzanne Folk

The South Dakota State Fair theme for the 2023 SDGS booth was "Trails of our Ancestors". We asked visitors to add their ancestor trails to a huge map. This large map included much of the world. Thank you to all of those who contributed to the wall. We had many people stop and look at them. We also had many people stop to look at our map and then contribute their ancestor's trails. Most had roots from Europe, but we did have some that came from Mexico, Australia, South America (Rio) and Asia (Thailand and China). We thank everyone who participated.



Now onto planning for the booth for 2024. Next year's theme will be **Farm Life**. Many of our ancestors (or even us or our children) farmed or supported farming in one way or another. This would be a good topic to show off our rural culture. We are including century farms, current farms, homesteads, farm occupations, farming equipment, how farming has changed over the years. But it can also include the daily life of the family, how the family supported the farm, what the children did.

Now remember, we are going to be putting these on 12x12 scrapbook pages which will be kept and put in a scrapbook for fairs and SDGS outings. If you want to contribute some pages already done, that will be great. We will put them up. You can email photos and write-ups to Suzanne Folk at SuzanneFlk@gmail.com So go through your research and photos and help our booth next year.



Oh, almost forgot to mention, if you are going to be at the fair next year, August 29-September 2, 2024, consider volunteering at the booth. It is a great way to help spread our interest in history and genealogy.

LONGTIME SVGS MEMBER, GLENN GULBRANSON PASSES

December 22, 1936 - September 29, 2022



Glenn was born in Sioux Falls, SD on Dec. 22, 1936, and died peacefully on Sept. 29, 2022.

Glenn grew up in Sioux Falls, the oldest of 2 siblings. He had one brother Russell (Brenda) Gulbranson.

Glenn attended Washington HS graduating in 1954. After high school, Glenn attended Central Technical Institute in Kansas City where he received a certification as an Electronic Technician. Glenn accepted a job with General Electric in Utica, NY, checking out radar and missile guidance systems.

Glenn loved to work with electronics but also wanted to do design; he returned to school in SD in 1959, pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering. Glenn attended SDSU in Brookings, SD where he received a BSEE degree in 1963.

Glenn accepted a job as an Electrical Engineer in Manufacturing Test & Checkout in the Government Systems Division of the Control Data Corporation (CDC) in Minneapolis, MN. The project at the time was to build and checkout the computer systems for NASA'S APOLLO (Man on the Moon) program. This was where and when Glenn met and teamed up with Larry Werlinger also an Electrical Engineer. After four years of gaining valuable information of problem solving and checkout on computers, memories, interfaces, and peripherals, Glenn transferred to Engineering and became an Analog Designer.

As an Analog designer, Glenn designed Analog to Digital and Digital to Analog Converters, Power Supplies, Transmission line transmitters and receivers, power and ground distribution systems, and solutions to high speed signal noise problems. Glenn was involved with many designs on many projects with the main customers being the Navy, Air Force, Army, and Marines.

Glenn retired after 36.5 years with the same Military Product Division given different names over the years and ending up a division of General Dynamics.

Glenn loved fishing, water skiing, car racing, and trouble shooting and fixing things that were broke or not working properly or could be made to work better.

Glenn was preceded in death by his mother Elvera (Roggkamp) Gulbranson and father Hans Gulbranson. Survivors include his lifelong friend, Larry Werlinger, brother, Russell (Brenda) Gulbranson, nephew, Chad (Amy) Gulbranson; nieces, Angi (Lonnie) Heibult, Alison (Andy) Pulford; and a host of other relatives and friends.

CHANGE IN LIBRARY SCHEDULE!!

Open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
afternoons for Walk-ins

***UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE: Open Monday
and Friday afternoons by
appointment only***

Call the Old Courthouse Museum at
605-367-4210 for more information.

THE FOLLOWING THREE ARTICLES ARE RECYCLED BITS AND PIECES FROM 40 YEARS AGO AND FOUND AT THE SVGS LIBRARY, IN OUR BOUND PIONEER PATHFINDERS, VOLUME 9, 1983

ORIGIN OF THE NAME "PIONEER PATHFINDER"

The name of this publication developed one hot day in August 1975 when several members were sitting in (Ray) Novak's dining room working out details for the publication. The question of title other than "newsletter" came up. After a discussion of funny titles, catchy titles, descriptive titles, poetic titles and alliterating titles, it was decided to combine the last three, PIONEER PATHFINDER was the result.

The 'pioneer' was rather obvious since it was during the pioneer era that South Dakota was

largely settled. Webster defines a 'pathfinder' as one who discovers a way, one who explores untraversed regions to make out a new route. It was felt that this definition fit both the early people of the area and the aims of the publication. Thus the Pioneer Pathfinder was born.

Editor's note: This is from the bound issues of the Pioneer Pathfinder, Volume 9- May 1983, page 83, and can be found in the SVGS Library. Some wording has been changed for clarity.

SPRINGFIELD AREA GHOST TOWNS

While researching Bon Homme County history, Kevin Casey came across this story, submitting it to SVGS for publication. The article was found at the Bon Homme County Courthouse, the author is unknown. *Editor: Story found in our Bound Pioneer Pathfinders, Vol. 9, May 1983 Issue Page 80.*

Editor's note: This article was likely from the book, "Springfield South Dakota Centennial July 1970"

Many ghost towns in the Springfield area mark the passing pioneer scene near Lewis and Clark Lake. Most of these locations were post offices or early settlements with little or nothing remaining of them. The largest of course, was probably Old Bon Homme. But many others once were also well-known communities.

Editor's note: Additional information on Bon Homme was found at:

<http://files.usgwarchives.net/sd/bonhomme/history/spghost.txt>

The oldest community of all was Bon Homme, which was settled in 1858 by George T. Rounds and others and the next year the first school house in Dakota Territory was erected there.

Bon Homme was 20 miles west of Yankton, the capital of the Territory and a first-class line of four-horse coaches ran regularly from Sioux City to Fort Randall via Yankton and Bon Homme. Bon Homme was situated on a level plateau 30 feet above the Missouri river where there was a steamboat landing.

In 1861, when Dakota Territory was established, Bon Homme was on the way to becoming quite a metropolis. In 1862, the county seat was located at Bon Homme. The town had been advertised throughout the East. Hugh Fraley and his son, Benton, arrived and built the famous Fraley Hotel. The year 1864 was a crucial one. The rains did not come, but the grasshoppers arrived in hordes and cleared the country of all vegetation; many families left the village, among those who remained were the Bradfords, Rounds and Fraleys, who really took over the fatherhood of Bon Homme and began to prepare

for the new type of settler who would make his way west after the war was over. They were rewarded in 1865 with a bumper crop; there were 25 pupils in school that year and \$36 was paid out for the services of a teacher.

New settlers came both by stage and by steamboat. Pilots often brought back from the upper Missouri over a million dollars' worth of gold dust. In 1870, anticipating the Bon Homme boom, the townsite was replatted. New stores were added to the old ones; a public hall, church and blacksmith shop, and other business places were added. In the late 70's, a Methodist Church, a small Catholic Church, located about four miles north of town and served by a priest from Yankton and a Congregational Church were organized.

The railroads became both a blessing and a menace to Bon Homme. In 1873, the Dakota Southern steamed into Yankton and stopped. This was a boom for Bon Homme, for people could come by rail to within 20 miles of town. The people of Bon Homme were certain that in a short time the railroad would be extended to their village; but when the branch road was built from Marion Junction to Running Water, passing through Scotland and Tyndall, Bon Homme was left out, and changes began to occur. Business places moved to the railroad towns, and the exodus became greater. In 1885 when the county seat was moved to Tyndall, the downfall of the town marked the beginning of a country community.

Andrus was located on Choteau Creek about 18 miles west of Springfield. Joseph Krejci managed a large flour mill there until it burned in 1894. There was also a general merchandise store. George Trumbo was postmaster at Choteau Creek near Andrus, and this was also a stopping place for the stage and other travelers on their way to Fort Randall.

Dalystown was a post office in the late 1870's that was located at Egbert Hornstra's place west of Springfield.

Kingsburg, located five miles north of Springfield, was first called Brownsville, but was renamed after founder Mike King. There were several businesses at times including stores, a bank, restaurant, and lumber yard. The last business was a grain elevator.

Loretta was a small settlement northwest of Springfield where there were several stores, post office and blacksmith shop.

Running Water, still a settlement known for its connection with the last ferry on the upper Missouri, dates back to 1860. Henry Brooks, once a member of the territorial legislature, was convinced that this settlement of 'Mineral Springs' would be a major rail crossing point across the Missouri. The town was platted as Running Water in 1880. There was a hotel, store, blacksmith, and the headquarters for Missouri River Transportation Company, a steamboat operation. But since the rail idea never became reality, a boat crossing was established. The town boomed and at one time had about 1,800 people in the area. In early 1880, a newspaper was printed in the town. But, by the early 1900's the town was down to a store, hotel, post office, depot, two elevators, and school.

Today, several families live in the area, the ferry 'Sally Ann' docks there, but there are no business places remaining in the village.

Editor Note: Running Water was famous for having a ferry boat operating during spring and fall seasons, off and on, from 1874 to 1984. This boat would haul people and vehicles back and forth across the Missouri River, between Running Water SD and Niobrara NE. The need for such a service was reduced or eliminated by the construction of the modern Chief Standing Bear Bridge over the river for SD Highway 37 and NE Highway 14. The population of Running Water was down to 47 at the 2020 census. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Running_Water,_South_Dakota

Perkins was founded by Capt. Joseph Leach of Running Water. There was a general store, post office, church, blacksmith shop and dance

hall. The community, five miles west of Springfield, no longer has an operating business.

Wanari Post Office, established 4 March 1874, re-established 27 May 1891. Wanari post office was located on E1/2 of SW1/4-23-93-61;

postmaster was Jouke Boschma. Boschma had a small store and traded with the Indians. Wanari post office was changed to Perkins on 17 September 1897, and discontinued 2 January 1907. A Mr. A. Perkins was postmaster.

IN SEARCH OF "THE FINAL RESTING PLACE"

By Cathy Walker

From Bound Pathfinders, Volume 9, November 1983, Pages 172-3

In July our society was contacted for help in locating the original spot for a tombstone found at Elmwood Golf Course several years ago.

Bill Pattison, a patrolman with the Sioux Falls Police Department, told us that the Detective Bureau would dispose of it if they didn't hear anything. We thanked Bill for his concern that this family record should not be destroyed.

It was a white standing stone about 1 ½ feet tall and a foot wide engraved as follows:

Johnie

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Feldman

Born Dec. 17, 1888

Died June 26, 1902

With this information in hand, Henrietta "Hank" Floren and I were determined to find out where it belonged. The Sioux Falls area was checked first. There was no death record for Johnie, but we did obtain a small clue from those death records. The only recorded Feldman deaths in Minnehaha County were that of Frank L. and Elizabeth M., husband and wife. They were both taken to the Madison area for burial in the Franklin Cemetery.

We felt certain that our Johnie was probably related and buried in this area also. After checking with the record holder of the Franklin Cemetery, Lake County death records, several funeral homes in the area, and the Feldman's still living; we were

unsuccessful and again back on "square one."

Our thoughts now turned to the 1900 federal census. If we could find out where the Feldman family was living in 1900, maybe when 13-year-old Johnie died two years later, he was buried nearby. But what county do we start with? I did not relish the idea of sitting at a microfilm reader for hours looking down each page for the name "Feldman."

We learned some valuable information in the September meeting of our genealogy society. Mr. Hibschan, our state archivist, was the speaker that night. From him we learned that there were indexes in Pierre for the South Dakota federal and state censuses.

I wrote to Laura Glum at the South Dakota State Historical Society seeking some help. Within a week we received a reply which told us all we needed to know. The Feldman family lived in Canton during the 1900 census. Johnie Feldman was buried in the Forest Hill Cemetery west of there according to the WPA cemetery records.

We were overjoyed that our search was ended. Plans were made for a trip to Canton. We had known from a telephone call made a couple weeks prior to this that there were Feldman's still living in Canton. Ida (Feldman) Edwards was in the Good Samaritan Home. We would now find out if she was related to Johnie.

We called Bill Pattison, our friend at the Police Department, and informed him of our

good news. He was as excited as we were and wanted to go to Canton with us. He was going to write a story of this unusual occurrence for a police magazine.

When Hank, Bill and I arrived in Canton with our tombstone, we first made arrangements with the Anderson's, who were in charge of the Forest Hill Cemetery, to reset the stone. Next, we set out for a visit with Ida Edwards in the nursing home: Her daughter, Mrs. Bea Glenn, just happened to be there visiting her also.

Ida had just turned 93 on September 1. Johnie was her brother. She had a 6-year-old sister named Susie who died in 1886 and was in the Forest Hill Cemetery also. Ida proceeded to tell us that she remembered the day her brother died. He and a companion had gone swimming. After arriving home, he did not feel well and went to his upstairs bedroom to lie down. Johnie later went into convulsions and died without the family knowing the cause.

Mrs. Glenn stated that she and her mother had been to the cemetery every Memorial Day for the past several years and had not noticed that Johnie's tombstone was gone. They were very appreciative of our efforts and wanted us to make sure the bill for resetting the stone was sent to Mrs. Glenn.

On our way home we decided to stop at the cemetery to view the site where the tombstone belonged. The Feldman lots were found easily, but we couldn't see where a tombstone was missing. There were four identical gray-colored markers in a row. I started reading them aloud. There was John Feldman, the father; Vienna Feldman, the

mother; next was Johnie Feldman. The dates matched ours. I said, "There's Johnie Feldman." We just stood there in dead silence for a few seconds. The next comment came from Bill, who said, "I never thought the story would end like this."

Back, in Canton we embarrassingly explained the situation to the people who were contacted. We showed the stone to Mrs. Glenn for the first time. She had never seen that stone before and didn't know when it had been replaced. "She called her brother. What should they do with it? Because of our determination to locate "the final resting place", we had created a problem for them. They decided to keep it because Bea's daughter in Mitchell was interested in family history. With mixed emotions, Bill and I lifted the stone from the back of my Blazer and left it beside the apartment house.

After the wounds healed about halfway home, we started to joke about it. Bill said he had another tombstone he wanted us to find where it belonged. It says MOTHER.

We assume all four Feldman tombstones were set at the same time, probably when the mother died in 1942. Elderly people in Sioux Falls have told us that Elmwood Golf Course was a dumping ground in the World War II era. Johnie Feldman's tombstone was maybe disposed of there and resurfaced with excavation in the golf course a few years ago.

In any case, there are three people who won't volunteer to look for "the final resting place" of any more tombstones found at Elmwood Golf Course.

**If you don't know history, you don't know anything.
You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree.
- Michael Crichton**

A SOLDIER'S JOURNEY

A story about my dad. Submitted by Brenda Dahlin

Arnold Francis Girard was born on 1 Oct 1929 on the family farm located on Greenfield Road, northeast of Vermillion, South Dakota. Arnold is the son of Albert and Ida Girard. He has a younger brother and sister. He grew up and worked on the family farm. He attended the Saginaw country school.

Arnold was 22 years old when he was drafted into the Army during the Korean War, he entered the service on October 17, 1951. His rank was Private First Class and was sent to Pin Point Ridge, South Korea. He was a Scout with the 45th Reconnaissance Company.

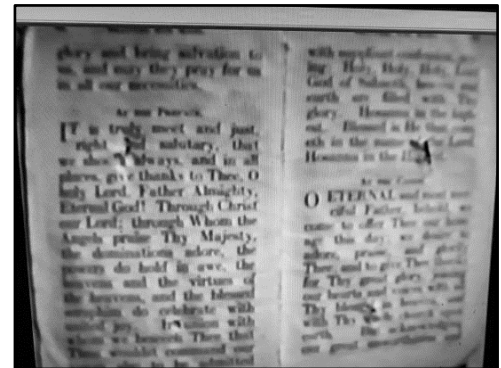
Like most of the soldiers, he kept his prayer book for soldiers and sailors, plus letters from home stuffed inside of his shirt on the left side for safe keeping. Arnold served 21 months in Korea. He would tell stories of how cold and rainy it was at night and how cold the winters were. They laid in trenches or "fox holes" keeping watch for the enemy in the area. With tension between the North and the South escalating, the soldiers were always on continuous lookout.

On November 25, 1952, while in the northern Korean Sector, the 45th Reconnaissance Company was attacked. Arnold and three of his army buddies were in a 'fox hole' when they were attacked by the enemy, missiles and bullets flying. Arnold was wounded and pretended to be dead until the enemy left. His buddies did not make it. Arnold was taken to the camp medics and prepared to go to the Japan barrack's hospital. He sustained a wound to the buttocks, shrapnel in the thigh of one leg and the elbow area was grazed by a bullet on the left arm.



This prayer book and letters from home saved his life by keeping the shrapnel from entering his body. He was hospitalized for three weeks.

Notice the holes.



After leaving Japan, he was sent to Cape Carson, Colorado to receive his new orders and sent to the Army camp closest to his home, Ft. Sheridan, Illinois. At the Ft. Sheridan, Illinois camp, he was part of the Army Guard at funeral services for Soldiers. Then he was assigned to Military Patrol. No longer a Private, he is now classified as a Corporal. He controlled the Military Soldiers around town and worked with the City Police to keep the peace.

He did this for about three weeks, until being reassigned to the military prison, his duty was watching over the prisoners (troublemakers and AWOL). While stationed in Illinois, he saw doctors at the VA Hospital in Chicago. On January 30, 1953, when Arnold was to be honorably discharged, he is called back by the doctors and informed that he had developed diabetes due to being wounded, it was a shock to his body. Arnold stayed another three weeks at the VA Hospital in Chicago, IL for treatment.

FINALLY HOME!

Arnold finally returns home to the family farm near Vermillion and is welcomed by family and friends. During this time he continues to help on the family farm. With regular visits to the VA Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, he often had shrapnel removed from the back of his thigh.



Arnold Girard at home. He received the Purple Heart for his bravery and injuries.

In 1954, he met a lovely lady, my mom. They were married on 15 April 1955 and were the parents of four children. They built a home in the city of Vermillion and Dad continued helping his Father on the farm until it was sold. He then worked at the Austin Dairy in town. When the Dairy business changed, he started working at the University of South Dakota in the Facilities Management Department on campus. He retired about 1982 due to difficulties with his amputated leg. The diabetes was hard on him, contributing to his poor circulation and other complications. In 1992, Arnold developed an inoperable cancer of the pancreas and died on September 17 of that year.

Arnold worked hard his entire his life. He believed in God, Loved his Country and Honored the Flag. Not a day went by that he did not display the Flag with pride.

His favorite holiday was Christmas. He loved his family and grandchildren and would do anything for them. His favorite past-times were fishing, gardening (loved those onions), and playing cards. His favorite snack food was popcorn!

Arnold wrote a poem sometime during his service or after, and I want to share it with you. It is posted on page 15 of this issue. This poem was included in the South Dakota Korean War Memorial, Book of Heroes. My Mother had asked if they would want it and they published it.

In 2000, after Arnold's death, the Department of Defense held a Korean War 50th Anniversary Commemoration ceremony and gave out certificates in recognition to those Veterans that had already received a pin. In Arnold's case this was his second pin.

In 2016 the Ambassador for Peace proclamation was given to Veterans with two pins.

HAVE YOU

By Arnold Girard, CPL

Have you ever tramped with men in the rain
with an aching back and feet in pain for hours
on end with no rest in sight in this dismal soak
and fury of night?

Have you watched as a plane made it's strike?
Felt what the trembling, exploding ground was like
as a rocket and napalm plunged through space
carrying destruction at a furious pace?

Have you ever seen men charging a hill. They move
ever upward through to the kill. Their objective to take
regardless of the cost with thoughts victory to be won—
not lost.

Have you lain in a foxhole in the dead of night watching
and waiting and shaking with fright?

The darkness is grim, it holds many fears for you and
your buddies. The hours seem like years. If you haven't
seen strife as the cannons thundered, bodies piled high
because someone blundered. If you haven't stood on the
steps of hell's door.

Then give thanks to your God, because you haven't known
war.



FYI:

Remember, beginning in 2024, members will receive three Pioneer Pathfinder issues per year.

**Expected publishing dates will be January, April / May and October.
There will be no issue in the Summer.**

**You will receive the issues either as a printed copy mailed to you or as
an electronic download, depending on your membership.**

Thanks

GENEALOGY RESOURCES FOUND AT SF LIBRARY

Did you know, the Sioux Falls downtown library has an excellent genealogy library, many of which items are on loan from the local DAR group.

They are located on the east side of the library as well as some in the Caille room. In the Caille room, many of these artifacts are behind locked glass display cases. If you wish to look at an item closer, you must ask a librarian for assistance as these items are older and priceless.

The DAR materials feature numerous New England research materials.

Submitted by Wendy Stubbs



YOUR CEMETERY

By Sharon Kringen

Published in the Garretson Gazette- October 19, 2023

Have you ever gone Cemetery hopping? I had not until I married Grant Kringen. Before Memorial Day, Grant and his sisters would gather at the Norway Cemetery to place flowers on the family graves. Lots of stories were shared as flowers were placed on the family graves. There were many memories shared about who was buried there. It was fun to see other people doing the same thing. Reminded you of a church family gathering.

Then off they would go to two more cemeteries carrying flowers to their other loved ones. This was done every year and I'm guessing, the day would always end with lunch.

I think there was a certain symbolism for flowers being at cemeteries or funerals. Flowers are a symbol of life. This began in the days of the ancient Greek times. Bringing flowers was to honor the fallen warriors. The fallen had found peace.

Before there were funeral homes, flowers were brought to take away any odd smells. Nowadays, flowers are sent to the funeral home from family or close friends to offer sympathy. Flowers brought to the cemetery are a symbol of life. The flowers are organic, die, decompose, and contribute to future life. Life goes on in a world still affected by death.

The colors of flowers also signify certain things. For instance, flowers that mean peace and innocence are white flowers. White is also the most popular color. A red color expresses strength, respect, devotion and love. Blue represents sadness, sympathy, and peace. Orange expresses enthusiasm, joy, warmth. Purple represents sorrow, sympathy and admiration. Yellow expresses friendship, warmth and hope. Last, but not least is Pink, which represents gentleness and sympathy. The next time you buy flowers for a funeral or to place them on the grave, you will know by the color what you want to express.

And what about trees? As settlers came to this area, the first thing they likely noticed was a lack of trees. Just imagine being on a wagon train from Minnesota to the plains of South Dakota. You are thrilled to have found the perfect spot to farm and raise your family. The first thing is to set up a temporary home for the family. Once that is done the permanent housing is built along with a barn.

Church was conducted in homes until the church was built. A cemetery was usually by the church. A line of trees went around the cemetery for wind, protection, and beauty.

Did you know that planting a tree in the cemetery has a meaning? According to ancient times, there are certain trees planted so the soul of the deceased could reach peace. Another kind of tree represents eternity, humanity, and powerful source. In early Bible times a tree meant both life and knowledge. I believe trees in pioneer times were planted by the grave so one could sit in the shade, listen to the birds and meditate by their love ones.

As the years go by, the beautiful trees have been hit with diseases that take their life. When you are traveling, look around. You will likely see a lot of trees dying. Have you checked at your family cemetery? Norway Cemetery board examined theirs and found they had a few trees that need to come out now. Due to the windy storms, they do not want the trees falling and damaging the upright Stones.

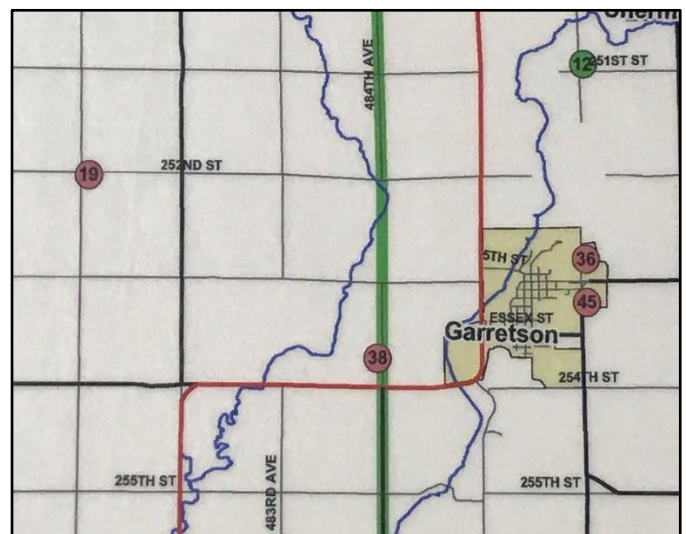
I hope this article helps you understand the importance of trees and flowers at the cemetery. If you have not checked your loved ones cemetery, now is the time to do it. However, tree removal is very costly and the Cemetery Boards could use your support. It's time, check now.

May you feel peace with the live trees, flowers and birds as you visit your loved ones.

Reprinted with permission

Edited by Luci Feenstra

Note: The Norway Cemetery discussed in this article, is in Minnehaha County, Edison Township, Section 15. It is located Northwest of Garretson, South Dakota or when driving from Garretson, go North on Highway 11 and turn left or West on 252nd Street. The cemetery is about 4 miles further. The church is no longer standing. On the photo, it is labeled #19.



OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE GENEALOGY CLASSES

OLLI in Sioux Falls is looking for instructors willing to teach courses on genealogy related topics. OLLI is the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and is managed in Sioux Falls by USD. You may find more information about them here: <https://www.usd.edu/olli>

Submitted by Wendy Stubbs

FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS ON OUR LIBRARY SHELVES.

Submitted by Luci Feenstra

I am the Thursday afternoon Library volunteer. It's fun and so interesting to occasionally go through the many Family History books friends have donated. One such book is "Buffalo Commons Memoirs" by Lawrence Brown. He has a unique look at the Northwest corner of South Dakota, Harding County to be exact, and a little way into North Dakota. He was born in North Dakota.

If you have ancestors that are living or lived in that area, it's a good resource as he included many names and stories. He writes of the ranch he lived on for many years, neighbors, friends, and acquaintances in the area, dropping many names.

The book contains many pictures, sketches, maps, drawings and stories of those living in the area. It is not indexed but a few, though not all the names connected to some of these stories are: Frank Popper, Francie Berg, Bill Turbiville, Virginia and Bill Hamilton, Theodore Roosevelt, Roland and Sarah Cole, Alec Connell, the Haivala family, and the many Browns. He writes of buffalo, cows, horses, sheep and explains the interesting "jackalope story". He also writes about transportation, politics and religion.

Stop in at the library sometime and look at this book or even choose your own. There are more than 250 Family History Books found in our SVGS Library.

BOOK SALES

Reprinted and edited with permission from the SVGS web page

In 2021 SVGS lost our long-time member and friend, Jim Olson. For those of you who knew him, you will remember Jim as a book and antique dealer with a huge interest in his own family history, plus a willingness to share his vast knowledge of genealogy, history and religion with many others through the years.

SVGS was fortunate to receive a donation of books from his estate to be sold as a fundraiser for our Society. This donation came to us after the many organizations Jim belonged to had the opportunity to retrieve and purchase items and books of interest to that particular organization.

Most items are of Norwegian subjects and, yes, some are written in Norwegian. Other books may contain subjects relating to Sweden, Finland, Denmark & Germany. These differences in language or subject should be

noted in the listing. To all who've asked, there are very few bygdebøker, *but there are a few*.

Unfortunately SVGS did not have the time, space or personnel to inventory and thoroughly organize these items, so you may find multiple copies of the same book listed in several different locations in the database and, possibly, with varying prices. We gave the volunteers guidelines, not absolutes, for how to list and price the items they helped with.

Items are listed at *extremely low prices*. Additional expense for packaging and shipping may be avoided by in-person pickup at our library.

You can find this book listing on our website at <https://www.siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org/book-sales/>

**ROOTSTECH 2024 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN.
'REMEMBER' IS THE THEME FOR 2024 EVENT HAPPENING FEBRUARY
29 THROUGH MARCH 2, 2024**

RootsTech, the world's largest genealogy conference and celebration of family, has announced "Registration for RootsTech 2024 is now open". This global event will be held on February 29 to March 2, and enjoyed either in-person at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, or online at RootsTech.org.



The theme of the 2024 event will be "Remember." Families, friends, genealogists, historians and family history enthusiasts from around the world will gather online and in person to discover, share, connect and remember. The in-person experience is \$99 before November 17, 2023. Although the online event is free, registration is still encouraged to maximize the experience.

RootsTech 2024 offers something for everyone, from beginners to advanced researchers with over 300 class sessions, keynote speakers, interactive workshops, and hundreds of exhibitors who will showcase their latest innovative products and features.

"We're excited to open registration for RootsTech 2024, focusing on the theme of remembering," said Jen Allen, RootsTech event director. "After the success of RootsTech 2023, we're looking forward to another incredible experience in 2024 offering the thrill of discovery, meeting cousins, making new connections with others, amazing entertainment, and learning about exciting new products. We also have an amazing lineup of keynote speakers, plus sessions delivered by some of the most respected names in the genealogy and family history community. We're confident that RootsTech 2024 will be an unforgettable experience for all who attend."

ROOTS FROM NORWAY

by Gertrude Berg

INTRODUCTION

My mother and I were enjoying dinner one evening in my Milwaukee apartment, when she happened to mention an incident from her girlhood days. As the conversation continued, I prodded her to tell of other experiences from her past. Meanwhile, I reached for a note pad, as I didn't trust my memory about all the details. Over a period of times, other conversations supplied bits of happenings, she loved to reminisce despite the hardships of early years. Eventually, I had a wealth of interesting information. This was the nucleus for what, to my surprise became "Roots From Norway." My sister, Myrtle Berg Johnson, supplied the title and a good deal of the information which spans a period from 1830 to 1982.

Conversations concerning "the good old days" usually dealt with a variety of unrelated topics and happenings. Therefore, I chose to write most of these pages in an unstudied manner. The genealogies for all four grandparents dating back as far as the year 1585, are included in this account. There is no family member beyond my generation to continue my family's history. In our early years, we certainly were disadvantaged by today's standards, but we didn't realize it until quite recently.

Gertrude Berg
June 21, 1982

Perhaps you read a newspaper story about a mysterious Russian submarine that made a hasty exit from the deep and mighty Sognefjord river in southern Norway, during the fall of 1973. The first person to see it, was a man who lived on the south shore of that river in a rural settlement named Vangsnes.

This is where my grandfather, Ole Nelson (Nilsson) Vangsnes, spent his early years. He was born on the Seim farm in the Vik parish. His parents were Nels Marcusson Varge and Alis Hansdatter Haalen. His father died of small pox when my grandfather was only three years old, he was an only child. His parents were tenant farmers. Therefore, life was very difficult for my grandmother and her little boy. At the tender age of eleven, for instance, he had to butcher a sheep for his mother.

Grandpa Ole Nelson (Nilsson) was born Nov 15, 1830, baptized Dec 2, 1830 and confirmed Oct 4, 1846. He married Anne Johannesdatter Fitji (Fedkje) Refshal on May 30, 1858. She was born Jan 20, 1829. At the time of their

marriage, grandpa was a resident at the farm Vangsnes in Balestrand. They moved in the spring of 1861 with two small children to the Borlaug farm in Leikauger where he was a tenant farmer (called a "husman" in Norway, and sometimes referred to as a cottager.) In my search for information, this implies that he had a small home of his own on the farm and that he worked for the farmer who owned the land. The tenant farmer might have a bit of land on such a farm for a garden or perhaps for a sheep or goat, depending on the owners compassion.

Names can be both puzzling and fascinating. We knew that grandpa had been named "Sag Ola." For years, we thought that name might be due to the fact that he had worked at a saw mill. The norwegian word for "saw" is "sag." However, later I learned that he acquired that name because he had worked on a farm named Sagen.

Grandpa's two oldest children, Hans and Sigrid, were born on the Vangsnes farm; Johannes

(John) was born in 1863 at the Borlang farm.

At the age of thirty-seven, Grandpa managed somehow to take his family, including three children under ten years of age, to America in 1867. It was a six weeks' voyage on a sailing ship which probably left from Bergen, Norway. The first steamship across the Atlantic ocean came to America in 1869. According to a handwritten note by a ship officer, the ship was perhaps named Bradens. The oldest son, Hans, became ill and was buried at sea near New Foundland on May 20, 1867.

At the time of their departure, Norway was experiencing tremendous problems which helped speed mass migrations to America. For these immigrants, it was a blessing in disguise. In later years, these brave people, and other foreigners proved their potential and their worth, by helping to build our nation into one of world leadership, in record time.

After arriving in America, the trip to Decorah, Iowa was probably just as wearisome as the sea voyage. They finally arrived there on a midsummer night. Grandpa walked to the farm of relatives about 15 miles north, where grandma's sister, Martha (Mrs. Jorgen Hanson) lived, to alert the relatives of the family's arrival. Meanwhile, they waited patiently for transportation to the farm.

I have wished many times that I had asked grandpa what food they brought from Norway for that long, long journey. It was a common practice at that time to allow nobody to board a ship to America without at least 6 weeks provisions for each person. I can only guess that they probably brought, dried and /or smoked fish and dried mutton, also cheese and crisp flat bread. Perhaps they might also have brought apples, rice, coarse flour and some grain to ground in the coffee mill. Perhaps a few kitchen utensils were also brought including wooden bowls. Grandpa may have brought an axe, hammer, saw and scythe.

Grandma worked for a whole year in Norway in

order to own a very large copper kettle; it is about 18 inches high and 36 inches wide, with two very sturdy handles. I wish I knew what she did to earn the money for it. Needless to say, it may have served well as a "trunk" of sorts, for food taken on the voyage. In the early 1900's Uncle John used it to feed his calves; he sold it at an auction. The buyer was one of our nearly neighbors in South Dakota, from whom my mother bought it.

Preparing a poor family for an early trip to America often kept families preoccupied for the major part of a year. Sheep were raised to provide both food and clothing for the journey, the wool for weaving required long and tedious hours. We still have a very well worn coverlet which was made before the departure. Butchering sheep and preserving the meat, making cheese and also baking heaps of flat bread would surely have been time consuming. Strong, warm homemade clothes had to last until others were available and affordable. Sheep skins were probably brought for bedding.

It takes a lot of imagination to understand how the Iowa relatives could have been of much help to my grandparents in getting established as farmers. Those relatives had only recently been immigrants. Frankly there was one year when those relatives hadn't seen even one coin. The barter system held full sway. Nevertheless, before 1870 Grandpa owned a crude "kublerule (a handmade wagon with thick solid clumsy wood wheels.) By that time, he also had a small stove, a team of oxen and a cow. He headed westward with his family, in search of land near water and trees. He found a farm two miles south of Windom, Minnesota, in a predominately norwegian neighborhood. They had traveled via Estherville, Iowa where another of grandma's sisters lived; she was Mrs. Brita (Johannesdatter Fadkje) Thompson. Grandpa and his family arrived there in midsummer when travel was easiest. They chose to do so despite the fact that procuring the family's food supply until the next growing season would be a major problem. I have often

wondered how they found their way in that early period of establishing a home. There were few settlers in Cottonwood County, Minnesota before 1862. On June 1, 1871. from, 9:00 AM until noon, 30 immigrant wagons passed through Jackson, Minnesota, with a total of 156 head of livestock.

Because grandpa's family moved from farm to farm in Norway, I have often wondered about what kind of homes were provided for the growing family. Were they dugouts? With the abundance of trees there, were they small log huts?

Dugouts required some knowledge, in addition to hard work. The preferable site was on a hillside with a southern exposure. It had to be low enough on a slope to avoid as much wind as possible and high enough to avoid floods. After the desired space was shaped, as desired, the front was "bricked" with sod. The home was supplied with light from home made candles or perhaps from a piece of cloth in a small dish of tallow. Locusts, blizzards, prairie fires and "Indian scares" haunted and harassed the settlers during their early years in that region of Minnesota.

A well was dug near the dugout. Water was carried to livestock, when necessary, by means of a "vassol" (a yoke or harness); it fell over one's shoulders so that two pails could easily be carried at one time.

At times, keeping the simple home warm, was an all-day job as the fire needed a constant supply of twisted log. After raising a little flax, my mother said that job became somewhat easier as flax seemed to burn longer and give a more intense heat. The family's strong and warm clothes brought from Norway, helped considerably through the early and difficult years.

Grandpa gave up one- half of his original acres when he learned that those who homesteaded close to the railroad could claim only 80 acres.

About the year 1878, he bought 80 acres from Aaron G. Chatfield, a neighbor, for about \$10.00 per acre. Grandpa bought Chatfields house of two stories and two rooms. The house was built of very heavy timber, mother said. The sides of the upper room were only one foot high. Grandpa moved the house to a hillside and added a room at each side. This was shortly before Aunt Sarah's first child, Augusta, was born. One of the new rooms was for Aunt Sarah's family; the other new room was used as a summer kitchen. The original house had only two windows on the first floor, at the north and south ends.

In 1892, after a 25 year struggle in America, Grandpa arranged to have a 4-bedroom frame house built west of the dugout. The carpenter, Esten Johnson, aided by my uncles, John and Hans, started the building in May. It was finished and ready for occupancy in August. The first well was filled in, due to being in the center of the cellar of the new home. Not even with my wildest imagination am I able to understand how my poor relatives made their way so successfully in what seems to be a remarkably short time.

A straw barn was used until a barn was built in the 1890's. The very first barn on the farm was a dugout. Mother recalled that grandpa had no horses until about 1882. Eventually, he owned 200 acres of land in Minnesota and 160 acres in South Dakota. The Minnesota properties were sold after grandpa left the farm. The heirs still own the land in South Dakota. Until considerable progress had been made in building the house, the men slept in the barn; grandma and my mother slept in the summer kitchen at one side of the "Chatfield house." Grandpa eventually became known as Ole Nelson.

*Article continued in the January 2024
Issue of the Pioneer Pathfinder. Editor*



2024 VIRTUAL FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

EXPANDING POSSIBILITIES

16-18 MAY

NATIONAL
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY®**Join us Online at Home**

The National Genealogical Society 2024 Virtual Family History Conference gives genealogists and family historians of all levels the insights necessary to take their research and writing to new heights and make exciting new discoveries.

Learn the latest from the best speakers in the genealogy community. Discover what genealogy companies are bringing to market. Gain insights from genealogy societies and organizations throughout the United States. Attend your choice of more than 40 lectures and workshops. Watch great ideas from the SLAM! Idea Showcase and visit sponsors and exhibitors in the virtual Expo Hall opening. Expand Your Possibilities!

Designed for family history researchers at all levels the conference lectures feature innovative discussions on

- artificial intelligence (AI)
- records and repositories
- local and federal government records including military, tax, and land records
- the use of DNA to help determine relationships
- methods to analyze and evaluate evidence
- and much more.

Keep checking our website <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/> for updates and new information as it becomes available.


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

**Edna Ann Bragstad**

June 22, 1920 - August 3, 2023

**Edna Ann Franz Bragstad, age 103**, of Garretson, passed away on Thursday, August 3, 2023, at her home. Interment will be in the Union Cemetery, Flandreau.

Edna was born on June 22, 1920, to Louie and Marie (Tollgaard) Hammer at the family farm near Flandreau, South Dakota. She attended Parnell Country School through the eighth grade and graduated from Flandreau High School in 1939. Throughout her career, Edna worked at the Flandreau Hospital as a nurses aid, at Central Supply and Surgery and spent nineteen and a half years as a nurses aid and activity assistant at the Palisade Manor in Garretson. Edna enjoyed going to dances with friends. It was at a dance that she met Alvin Franz. In 1941 (WWII), she moved to California to work on planes at the Douglas Aircraft Defense Plant as a "butter."



On January 19, 1944, she and Alvin Franz were married at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Flandreau where they lived and raised their five children until Alvin's death in 1956. Edna and the kids continued to live in Flandreau where she worked at the hospital. She later met Joe Bragstad and they were married on July 3, 1966. They moved to a farm east of Sherman and farmed there until 1975. After retiring from the farm, they enjoyed fishing (especially in Canada with Edna's sister

Gladys and her husband Fritz). Edna was active at the Highland Lutheran Church, where she was secretary and deacon for the WELCA. She held positions as officer for the Garretson Senior Citizens, Echo Club, and was also on the council for R.S.V.P and H.E.L.P. Edna enjoyed traveling, playing cards, and spending time with family and friends.

Grateful for having shared her life are her children: Dennis (Kathie) Franz, Garretson, Charles (Sue) Franz, Pipestone, MN, Joan (Lee) York, Lake Wilson, MN, and Bette Olson, St. Cloud, MN; 11 grandchildren; and 23 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Louie and Marie Hammer; husbands, Alvin Franz and Joe Bragstad; sister, Gladys Kreber; brother, Donald Hammer; daughter, Jean Franz; son-in-law, Dave Olson; grandson, Terry York; and great granddaughter, Megan Muyres.

**Arlene Bernice Granum**

September 12, 1922 - April 2, 2023



**Arlene Granum, age 100**, of Volga, passed away at home on Sunday, April 2, 2023. Arlene Bernice Granum was born on September 12, 1922, in Volga, SD, to Erwin and Elida Nelson. The family moved to Minnesota for a short time before returning to Volga. Arlene was united in marriage to Sylvan L. Granum on October 12, 1940, in Pipestone, MN. After raising her family, Arlene went to work as a cook at the Sioux Valley School System and later as a cook for Parkview Assisted Living. Sylvan died on May 24, 1986.

Arlene was a member of First Lutheran Church in Volga; where she was involved with Ladies Aid. She was also a member of the Lake Campbell Lake Association. Arlene enjoyed spending time at the cabin on Lake Campbell, making quilts, and especially loved spending time with her family.

Survivors include her children, Gerald Granum, Ronald Granum, Rick (Dorothy) Granum, and Judy (Warren) Stokes; one brother, Wayne Nelson; 14 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; and 12 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughter, Sally, daughters-in-law, Kathi and Pam; brothers, Eldon, Leonard, and Wilmer, sisters, Delores and Eldora, and one granddaughter, Melissa Granum.

## Berneice M. Johnson

July 11, 1915 - June 22, 2023



**Berneice M. (Reid) Johnson, 107**, of Sioux Falls, SD passed away on Thursday, June 22, 2023 at Avera Prince of Peace, Sioux Falls, SD.

Burial was at Eastside Estherville Cemetery, Estherville, IA.

Berneice M. (Reid) Johnson was born on July 11, 1915 at Gruver Iowa to William and Luella (Quast) Reid. She was a volunteer at the Children' Care, Veterans and Sanford hospitals for over 11,000 hours.

Growing up she was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Estherville, IA and later at First Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, SD. Her faith was strong. The time she spent daily with the Lord and His Word was very precious to her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Andy, and her sister, Everine.

She is survived by many nieces and nephews and special friends. Her niece, Dolores "Dee" Sommervold and her friend, Barb Buchanan were special to her.

## Tamar Read

1922 - April 10, 2023



**Tamar Clothylde Read, 101**, of Ruston, formerly of Farmerville, Louisiana and of Grand Forks, North Dakota, passed away Monday, April 10, 2023 in Ruston, Louisiana.

Tamar (or, Cloty to family) was born in Olla, Louisiana, the daughter of Paul L. Read and Willow Roane Read, both public school system educators and administrators. They moved to Farmerville when Tamar was a young child, where she graduated from high school in 1938. She received a bachelor's degree in music from LSU in 1942 and a master's degree from the University

of Michigan in 1945.

After a few years in New York studying violin and choral music, **she taught at South Dakota State University** before moving to a position at the University of North Dakota in 1959. She obtained her doctorate in musical arts from the University of Southern California in 1969 then returned to the University of North Dakota where she remained until her retirement in 1988. While there she founded the Collegium Musicum, whose members study and perform medieval, baroque, and renaissance music. She was instrumental in bringing music of many ethnic cultures to include in the music program at UND. She also supported music education with numerous endowments and scholarships and started the Lotus Meditation Center in Grand Forks.

In 2021 she relocated back to her home state of Louisiana to be near family. She is survived by her nieces Frances Read Grafton (Lloyd) of Ruston, Louisiana, Rebecca Read Burton (Kevin) of Oregon, Wisconsin, and Mary Willow Read Veazey of Metairie, Louisiana and her nephew Cecil Stanley Read, Jr. (Judy) of Farmerville, Louisiana. A graveside service for family and friends was held on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at 3 P.M. at the Farmerville Cemetery, under the direction of Kilpatrick Funeral Homes – Ruston.

## Marjorie Sakry

March 6, 1923 — July 14, 2023



**Marjorie Louise Sakry** was born on March 6, 1923 to Charles and Elva (Vandersnick) Bonte in Geneseo, Illinois. She was raised on a farm near Annawan and moved near Sherman, South Dakota when she was two years old. She walked cross country to a country school in Rock County, Minnesota near their home and graduated from Garretson High School in 1941. Marjorie met George Sakry while taking lunches to the threshing crew that he was on and began dating. They married on Tuesday, October 31, 1944, while George was on leave from the United States Navy. They traveled by train to St. Paul for their honeymoon, staying at the home of George's sister, Irene Hoyer. After the honeymoon, George and Marjorie moved to San Diego, California where George finished his tour of duty while Marjorie worked as a

waitress. After George's discharge they returned to the Sherman area and farmed until 1968. Marjorie was a dedicated farm wife and remained on the farm until 2019 when she entered the care of the Good Samaritan Communities of Pipestone. She passed away peacefully there on Friday, July 14, 2023 at the **age of 100**.

Marjorie will be remembered for her love of God, family, and farm, as well as her exceptional embroidery and crocheting skills. She was ever inviting visitors to "not be a stranger" and always had delicious baked goods at the ready to welcome them. Grandchildren knew they could always depend on Grandma's cookie jar and she helped teach many of them to play Kings in the Corners. Marjorie was a faithful fishing companion to George on their many trips and prepared countless meals and desserts for those who joined them. She also loved to garden and canned many jars of food throughout her life.

Marjorie was a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Garretson, South Dakota where she was a member of the Circle (Ladies Aid), taught CCD, and cleaned the church.

She is lovingly remembered by her five children, Gary Sakry of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, Duane (Sandy) Sakry of Dell Rapids, South Dakota, Joyce (Greg) Renneberg of Reedsburg, Wisconsin, Jim (Janice) Sakry of Mesa, Arizona, and Paul (Lynn) Sakry of Crooks, South Dakota; 12 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; and many loving nieces, nephews, family members, and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, George; parents, Elva and Charles Bonte, Sr.; brother, Charles Bonte, Jr.; and one great-granddaughter, Ariel Sakry.

*The thing that interests me most about family history  
is the gap between the things we think we know about our families  
and the realities. – Jeremy Hardy*

## These Items Are For Sale

### Pioneer Certificate

The Sioux Valley Genealogical Society has been issuing PIONEER CERTIFICATES to the descendants of the pioneers who lived in Dakota Territory prior to statehood in November 1889. These beautiful, authentic certificates are suitable for framing. Our Society is attempting to collect information on every one of the pioneers in order to preserve our past history. If you would like to have your pioneer ancestor included, send a self-addressed stamped envelope along with the order form below. You will receive the application along with instructions.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

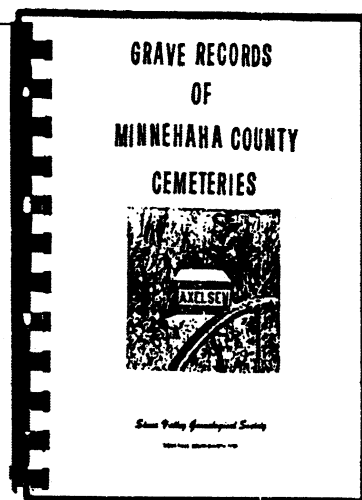
**SOUTH DAKOTA**  
Pioneer Certificate

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_  
is a descendant of \_\_\_\_\_  
who lived in Dakota Territory  
Prior to November 9, 1889  
Recorded by: Sioux Valley  
Genealogical Society

This day \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
at Sioux Falls, South Dakota

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary



### Grave Records of Minnehaha Cty Cemeteries

This book was compiled in 1982 and reprinted in 1999. Over 14,000 names were taken from headstone inscriptions and records from cemeteries in rural Minnehaha County. Sioux Falls cemeteries are **NOT** included.

### Order Form

Clip or Copy this Order Form

I wish to order the following:

( ) Pioneer Certificate

Applications for Dakota Pioneer descendants – please include self-addressed stamped envelope.

( ) Grave Records of Minnehaha County Spiral Bound Book- \$22 for SVGS members, \$25 for non-members

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send your check today to:**

Sioux Valley Genealogical  
Society  
200 West 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-6001

### MEMORIALS/DONATIONS

Gifts may be given to the SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY in memory or in honor of loved ones. Donations to assist in maintaining SVGS are also accepted. Donations of any amount are appreciated and are tax-deductible within IRS regulations.

My gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (SVGS) is enclosed. I would like my gift to be:

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgment (for memorial gifts) to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks to: Sioux Valley Genealogical Society (SVGS)

Address: 200 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Sioux Valley Genealogical Society  
200 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St. Sioux Falls, SD 57104 - 6001  
<http://www.siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org/>

Address service requested  
**\*First Class Postage PAID\***

Affix (2)  
1<sup>st</sup> class  
postage

**Please enroll me as a member of the Sioux Valley Genealogical Society. I will be entitled to:**

1. Receive 3 issues of the Pioneer Pathfinder - Your choice paper or electronic. 2. Notification of meetings and special events in the area. 3. Discounted rates on registration fees for seminars and classes sponsored by SVGS. 4. Voting privileges at society meetings. 5. Support the organized study, research and preservation of historical and genealogically significant material. 6. Discounted prices on purchases from SVGS. 7. Access to "Members Only" page on the SVGS website. 8. Opportunity to network with others interested in Family History.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print all information)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APT/BOX \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Surnames Researching: \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Research / Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationalities \_\_\_\_\_

Countries \_\_\_\_\_ States \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE: - 1 YEAR  
(January 1 to December 31)**

- ☐ \$25 Single Membership with  
PATHFINDER printed and mailed to you
- ☐ \$20 Single Membership with Electronic  
Download of PATHFINDER
- ☐ \$30 Family Membership with  
PATHFINDER printed and mailed to you
- ☐ \$25 Family Membership with Electronic  
Download of PATHFINDER
- ☐ \$30 International with Electronic only  
Download of PATHFINDER