

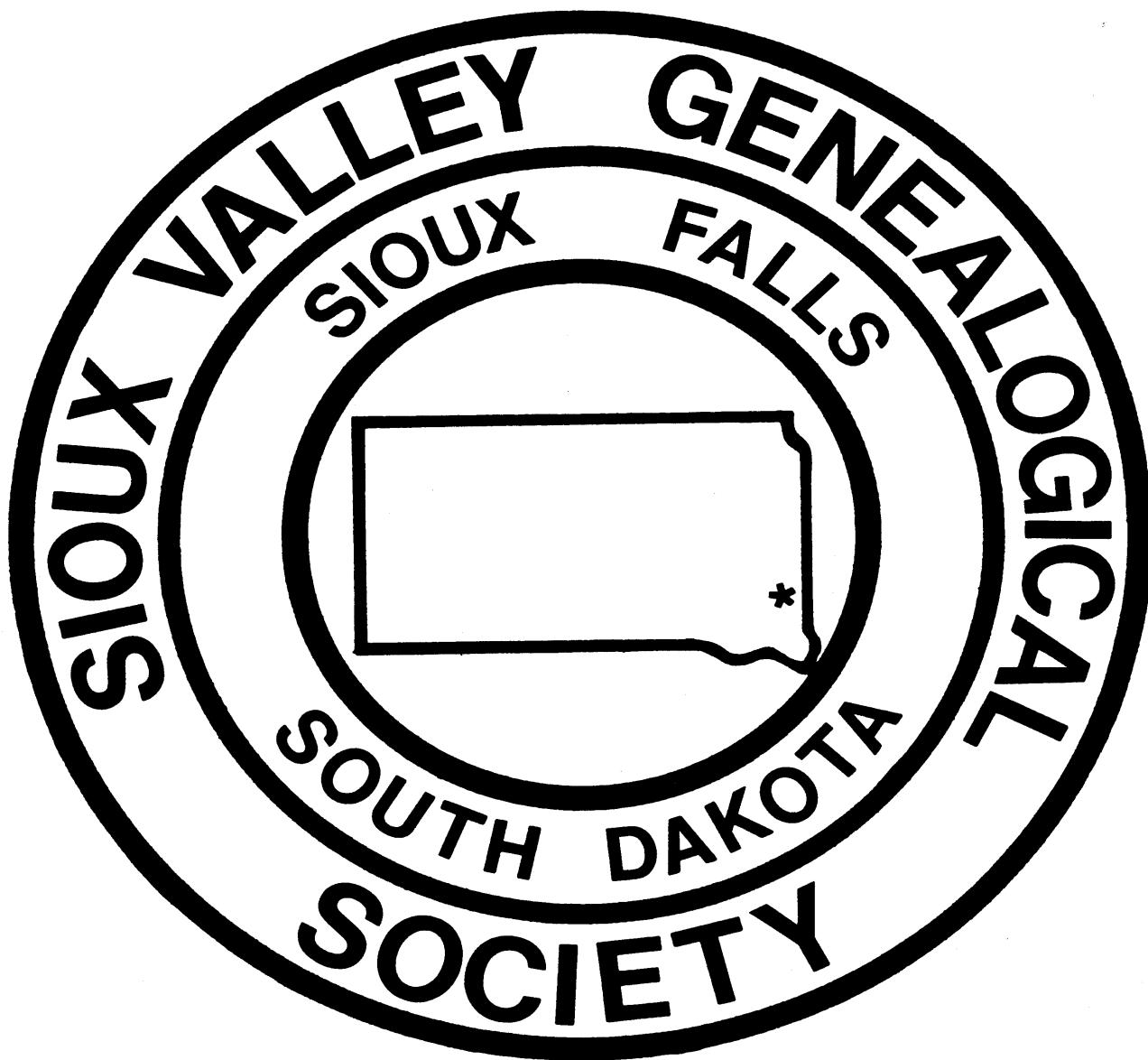
Volume 50

Issue 1

Winter 2024

Includes Names Index for 2023 - Volume 49

# PIONEER



# PATHFINDER

# The Pioneer Pathfinder

Published Quarterly by the *Sioux Valley Genealogical Society*

200 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104-6001

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

Pioneer Pathfinder three issue dates are: Winter, Spring/Summer and Fall  
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, 6<sup>th</sup> & Main, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

**The Society's Library** is on second floor of the Old Courthouse Museum and staffed by a volunteer on Tuesday through Thursday afternoons. Monday, Friday and other times by appointment only.

**Call The Old Courthouse Museum to confirm a volunteer will be there to help you.**

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 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year.

If you wish to have *The Pioneer Pathfinder* **printed and mailed to you**, the membership fee is:  
\$30 Single or \$35 Family (One Pathfinder, two votes)

**If you choose to receive *The Pioneer Pathfinder* electronically, the cost is \$5.00 less per membership.**

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**CONTENTS**

President's Message	4
What's Happening at the Library	4 -5
SVGS General Meeting Minutes	5 -6
April 4, 2024 Banquet Flyer	7
NOTICE: SVGS Board Members propose changes to ByLaws	8
Your Culinary Heritage	9-10
Rules For Approximating Years of Birth, Marriage and Death...	11
New Members of SVGS	11
Searching Iowa Census Records	12-13
Epidemics In The U.S.	13-14
Keynote Speaker, Henry Cho, at RootsTech 2024	15
Roots From Norway – Part 2	16-20
Sarah Busse Spencer is SVGS March Meeting Presenter	20
Expanding Possibilities- Virtual Family History Conference	21
Did you know there is a Family Search Center Branch in Sioux Falls?	22
Where is the 1890 Census?	22
We Salute the Lives of Area Centenarians	
Mildred Aldinger	22-23
Matilda "Tillie" Fanning	23
Gladys Mollet	23-24
Lyle Pence	24-25
Jeanne Roers	25
Faith Tunge	25
Alene Wiebesiek	26
Names Index Year 2023-Volume 49	26

**SAVE THE DATE!!!****March 21. 2024. The Orphan Trains**

DAR is sponsoring a program for Minnehaha County Historical Society at the Old Courthouse Museum. Orphan Trains ran over a 70 year period transporting thousands of children from East Coast cities to new, and not always better, lives.

Beginning at 6 PM you will have a chance to talk with members of **SVGS**, the DAR Geni-Gals and OLLI.

The program begins at 6:30 with a short movie, then a presentation by Virginia Hanson with time for a Q & A before ending prior to 9PM.

**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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The harshness of our current cold wintry conditions always make me wonder how our ancestors tolerated the Midwest winters and challenging weather happenings. However, it does provide us time inside to research that hard to find ancestor so that is a benefit of being home.

We all have come to the genealogy field for various reasons. There is something satisfying in learning where we come from, what is in our DNA or discovering our ancestral roots. The officers of the SVGS strive to make your experience the best it can be either in the library or in the monthly speakers. We always appreciate feedback and ideas. In essence, we can not manage the society without volunteers and input from our membership. We love it when new folks join and get involved.

Currently, folks have an opportunity to join the board by becoming an officer. This is how I learned a great deal about the society and made some good friends in the process. If you want to get more involved, let me know!

Sincerely,

Wendy Stubbs, President

[president@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org](mailto:president@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org)

605-929-3282 cell phone

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY

Volunteers continue working on their various projects even though our library's open hours are somewhat reduced. Until further notice, we continue to be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons as in the past, but Monday and Friday afternoons are now open by appointment only. (Other days and hours may be possible, too, but by prior arrangement only) We'll do our best to have someone available to help you any time the Old Courthouse Museum is open, but we need you to let us know beforehand.

One of our volunteers has been compiling a name file of the South Dakota Historical Society publications. There is a searchable file of the titles and authors of the articles on the His Soc website, but I hope researchers are able to find more about their ancestors using our searchable name file. Although we are missing a couple of issues, we hope to have the file as complete as possible for four issues each year, from 1970 thru today. Two decades of issues have been indexed and are searchable on our library computer. We can search the indexed names for you if you let us know which names you are interested in.

Do you know if your ancestor lived in Dakota Territory? They could have lived in DT for a short while before moving on or maybe your family is still in this area. If you know they were here prior to statehood November 2, 1889, you are eligible to apply for a Pioneer Certificate.

Members pay \$10 each and non-members \$15. In addition to the application and payment, submit proof of the connection between the pioneer ancestor and the person who will receive the certificate. Please submit copies of documents and articles, NOT the originals, as these will NOT be returned to you. All applications and supporting items will be indexed and added to our files for use of future researchers and Pioneer Certificate applicants. Ask how you might be able to use information submitted in the past when you apply for your Certificates.

Yes, I know it's only the beginning of the year, but it's not too early to begin planning your in-person research trips. One thing of great help when doing research in records at all South Dakota county courthouses, is having your Research Card. This card proves you are a Research Associate of our State Genealogy

Society and will give you access to records, except when prohibited by law. Cards never need renewal, but will need to be replaced with a new card, if lost. Get your card at our library by showing us your valid ID and paying \$5. (I've learned a person can get a card without a visit to our library. Send your request to: [sueeckert1@gmail.com](mailto:sueeckert1@gmail.com))

If you have wondered how you could help at our library, let's talk. There are on-going projects that could be worked on during or outside library hours, depending on your availability and interest. We would train, but also answer any questions that may arise.

Are you like me, both loving and being frustrated by all the possibilities of the technology these

## SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

General Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2023  
Old Courthouse Museum, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Speaker: Cheri O'Dell of the Daneville Museum in Viborg, SD. Seventeen people attended.

The meeting was called to order at 7:52 pm by Wendy Stubbs.

Suzanne Folk read the minutes of the last meeting. Corrections were made for next year's Pathfinder issues. Donna Harr moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Brenda Dahlin seconded. Motion passed.

Bob Black read the treasurer's report. Balance at the beginning of September was \$994.75. Expenses were \$272.00 and income was \$160.00. For a balance at the end of September of \$882.75. Savings account balance at the end of September was approximately \$6087.99. Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation balance as of the end of September was \$71,432.31. Petty Cash: \$30.00. Available assets as of the end of September was \$18,475.74. The report will be held for audit.

Officer reports:

Library: Sue Eckert gave the report on the library. New volunteer but would like more. We have over 250 family histories and resources on how to do research.

days? A couple months ago my cell phone died completely. I'd only had it a couple of years and was still learning how to use certain features. How can some people still be using the original version of the flip phone?

As of now, I have not been able to figure out how to get into my Librarian and BookSales email accounts. **PLEASE! Until I get this figured out, send email to me at this address: [sueeckert1@gmail.com](mailto:sueeckert1@gmail.com)** or call the Old Courthouse Museum at 605-367-4210 and ask for my phone number. (I'll let you know when I get this email thing figured out.)

Thinking positive. Sue Eckert, SVGS Librarian

Brenda Dahlin gave the Membership report.

Obituary Committee. There are over 170,000 names. Lynette Trainer says that Phyllis still looking for people to help with obituaries.

Lynette Trainer gave the research report.

Margaret Straley is looking for wooden shingles for WPA outhouse.

### Old Business:

Marketing handout flyer passed around about sessions at the public library. Sessions to include, Beginning Genealogy, Ancestry.com - Library Edition, genealogy resources at the public library and finding genealogy using Facebook.

### New Business:

Recruiting new members: encourage members to bring in new members, especially if younger.

Volunteers: There is always a need for volunteers.

Thank you to Wendy Stubbs for keeping up Facebook page.

Bob Black is working on a budget for next year.

Memberships are due January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Next meeting is November 2, 2023 at 7 pm.

At 8:13 pm, Bob Black made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Brenda Dahlin seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Suzanne Folk  
Recording Secretary

## SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

General Meeting Minutes for Thursday, November 2, 2023  
Old Courthouse Museum, Sioux Falls, SD

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by President Wendy Stubbs. Speaker Amanda O. presented on the Register of Deeds records at Minnehaha County.

### Business Meeting

**Secretary's report** – Minutes of the last meeting were read by President Wendy Stubbs. They were approved.

**Treasurer's Report given by** Robert Black. The report will be held for audit.

**Officer reports were given by those underlined:**

Pathfinder: Luci Feenstra

Library: Sue Eckert

Rec. Sec.: Suzanne Folk – no report given

Membership: Brenda Dahlin

Corr. Secretary:– report given by Lynette Trainer for Phyllis Knutson

Obituary Committee: Phyllis Knutson – no report given

Research: Lynette Trainer

VP Report on Speakers: Kim McKeon

### Old Business:

1. Pathfinder report by Luci. She needs more submissions.
2. Upcoming meeting speakers report given by Kim McKeon.

### New Business:

1. School contest information given by Bob Black. He will continue to follow up. A committee probably needs to set up to help him. Sarah Spencer offered to help with this.
2. Nominating committee volunteers needed – open positions next spring are: Election of President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary shall be at the annual meeting in even numbered years. Voted on in March and installed in April.

Next meeting is: December 7<sup>th</sup> - social meeting - bring your favorite ethnic food and a recipe. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Wendy Stubbs  
Acting Recording Secretary

I'm going to attempt to spend less time with my ancestors and more time cleaning and organizing my household...pfft...bwahaha

Sorry, even I can't say that with a straight face.



Twisted Twigs  
on gnarled branches



## April 4, 2024 Banquet Speaker for SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, Sioux Falls, SD

Banquet - 5:30 PM in The Courtroom, Old Courthouse Museum  
200 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Sioux Falls, SD.

Paula is speaking virtually from MN - 7:30 PM in the Law Library.

**Paula Stuart-Warren**

**Certified Genealogist®, FMGS, FUGA**

**Presentation topic:  
“Railroad Records and Railroad History:  
Methods for Tracking”**



Paula is a long-time and internationally recognized genealogical educator, researcher, and consultant focusing on unusual resources, manuscripts, methodology, and analyzing records. She also specializes in Native American research, the WPA, and railroad records.

She is currently a coordinator and instructor for the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh. She has presented courses for (GRIP), Ancestry Academy, Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), and Family Tree University. As the instructor in those as well as the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research (TIGR), she also presents virtual seminars and webinars across the U.S. and Canada. Paula has been a Board-Certified Genealogist since 1988. She currently has her own educational website and blog at <http://genealogybypaula.com> and is enthusiastic about sharing knowledge and continuing education.

### **Railroad Records and Railroad History: Methods for Tracking**

Did great-grandpa or another family member traverse this nation as he worked for the railroad? For which railroad did they work? Where did it run? Are there railroad records which may provide personal details? Visuals and references demonstrate the wealth of historical materials available across the U.S. The railroads helped to develop places and other businesses. When this lecture is over you will know where to turn to find out more about the railroad, its records, and where to find them. An extensive handout accompanies the presentation.

**Registration: \$25.00 - Includes banquet meal and speaker.**

**Payment must be received by March 29<sup>th</sup>.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Payment is by \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ by PayPal on our website or \_\_\_\_\_ in person @ Library

#### **Mail check and form to:**

Sioux Valley Genealogical Society, 200 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Old Courthouse Museum, Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Questions? Email [vicepresident@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org](mailto:vicepresident@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org)

Website: [svgssd.org](http://svgssd.org) Click on Banquet 2024 link to pay via PayPal.

Door Prizes will be given!

## NOTICE: SVGS BOARD MEMBERS PROPOSE CHANGES TO BYLAWS

Members can vote on these changes via a link sent to you or at the March 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 meeting

### Current Bylaw:

#### ARTICLE V OFFICERS

~~Section 1. The officers of the society shall be President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Researcher, Librarian, and Editor/Publisher of PIONEER PATHFINDER.~~

~~Section 2. Election of President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary shall be at the annual meeting in even numbered years.~~

~~Section 3. Election of Researcher, Treasurer, Registrar, Librarian, Editor/Publisher of PIONEER PATHFINDER shall be at the annual meeting in odd numbered years.~~

~~Section 4. Term of Office. The officers shall be elected for a two-year term. All elected officers other than the Librarian and Editor/ Publisher of PIONEER PATHFINDER may not serve more than two consecutive terms.~~

#### PROPOSED CHANGE:

*Section 1. The officers of the society shall be President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Librarian, **Researcher/Correspondence Secretary, Technology & Webmaster** and Editor/Publisher of PIONEER PATHFINDER.*

*Section 2. Election of President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, **Researcher/ Correspondence Secretary and Technology & Webmaster** shall be at the annual meeting in even numbered years.*

*Section 3. Election of Treasurer, Registrar, Librarian, Editor/Publisher of PIONEER PATHFINDER shall be at the annual meeting in odd numbered years.*

*Section 4. Term of Office. The officers shall be elected for a two-year term. All elected officers other than the Librarian, **Researcher/ Correspondence Secretary** and Editor/ Publisher of PIONEER PATHFINDER may not serve more than two consecutive terms.*

### Current Bylaw:

#### ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS

~~Section 3. Corresponding Secretary. The Corresponding Secretary will be responsible for:~~

- ~~A. Opening the mail and distributing it to the officers in a timely manner.~~
- ~~B. Attend to all incoming and outgoing correspondence as directed by the Executive Board.~~
- ~~C. Keep a file of such correspondence and report correspondence of interest to the members at Society meetings.~~

~~Section 6. Researcher. The Researcher shall answer letters pertaining to genealogical requests in the following manner:~~

- ~~A. Fill in the information available on the approved form. This form includes the names of several society members who are willing to do research on their own and be paid by the inquirer. This will not be part of the Researcher's responsibility.~~
- ~~B. A copy of the forms that the Researcher sends to the inquirer will be kept on file.~~

~~C. The Researcher will be the backup for the Correspondence Secretary.~~

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

*(Combine the Corresponding Secretary and the Research position. This position will hereafter be called Research/Correspondence Secretary. This person shall be elected in even numbered years.)*

**ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**Section 3. Researcher/Correspondence Secretary.** *The Researcher/Correspondence Secretary will be responsible for:*

- A. *Handling incoming mail as required, in a timely manner.*
- B. *Attend to all incoming and outgoing correspondence as directed by the Executive Board.*
- C. *Maintain a file of incoming and outgoing correspondence.*
- D. *Report correspondence of interest to the members at Society meetings.*
- E. *Answer inquiries received. Keep copies of all correspondence and requests.*

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

*(Add a Technology & Webmaster position. This person shall be elected in the even numbered years. This person is NOT term limited.)*

**Section 6. Technology & Webmaster.** *The Technology & Webmaster position will be responsible for:*

- A. *Managing the technological needs of the society.*
- B. *Overseeing, managing or updating the website and social media as needed or required.*

## YOUR CULINARY HERITAGE

Submitted by Kim McKeon

This past October as I was visiting my German ancestral home of Spellen in the state of North Rhine Westphalia in Germany, I started thinking culinary genealogy and why my German ancestors' love of sausages, sauerkraut and potatoes survived in their descendants but their language did not. I found myself continuing my adventures into German family history by wondering what else they ate and how their culinary traditions shaped their culture and influenced their lives after they emigrated to the United States.

Traditional genealogy has given me a wealth of information on the names, dates, and locations of my German family. Historical documents and books have also helped me to imagine their lives as well. But culinary genealogy takes that information and has moved me from an

observer to being a participant in my travels. I learned why pork dishes and pickles became a mainstay of German cuisine as well as beer. I reluctantly left Germany knowing that American bakeries would never match the wunderbar kuchen (cake) that I so happily consumed at every opportunity in Germany. I also visited Torun Poland, located in the area of former German Pomerania, where another German ancestor had also lived. Torun has a world renowned gingerbread making history. There I sampled at least ten kinds of gingerbread and even toured a gingerbread museum. Maybe my lifelong love of gingerbread came from these Pomeranian German ancestors.

Prior to my German trip, a book that started me thinking about culinary genealogy was "97 Orchard: An Edible History of Five Immigrant

Families in One New York Tenement" written by writer Jane Ziegelman. In the mid-1850s, hundreds of tenement buildings went up around Manhattan's Lower East Side. One of them is at 97 Orchard Street, and it houses the Tenement Museum. Ninety-seven Orchard was built by an immigrant for immigrants and is still around today. It was built in 1863 by a German immigrant named Lucas Glockner. Its earliest tenants were Germans, then Irishmen, then European Jews and finally, Italians. And one of the ways those new Americans preserved the traditions from the old country was through food.

One of the jobs that Ziegelman describes in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century New York was somebody who was called a cabbage cutter and these men numbered in the hundreds. In German, this person was called a krauthobler. His job was to go door to door in the tenements with a special cutting device. It resembled a French mandolin, which is a slicing instrument, and for the German homemakers who were making their own sauerkraut, he was sort of the human Cuisinart machine. He would shave their cabbage into the thin shreds that are ideal for sauerkraut-making. The fact that this individual could exist tells us something about the quantities of sauerkraut that were consumed on the Lower East Side. To this day sauerkraut is an important mainstay of German American cuisine although we no longer have to rely on krauthoblers to shave our cabbage!

Another German family Ziegelmann mentions was a Jewish family that lived in the 97 Orchard tenement building in the 1870s. This was the Gumpertz family who operated a geese farms in these tenements. Old reports from the New York Board of Health described tenement goose farms that were in fact large-scale commercial

operations. They shared the same buildings that people lived in - and sometimes the same apartments - and which supplied East Side homemakers with ducks and chickens and turkeys and, most importantly, with geese. Of all the different birds geese provide the best fat—known by German Jews as schmaltz. And fattened livers from geese, the food that we know as foie gras, were actually a delicacy among Jewish immigrants on the Lower East Side in the mid-19th century. Jewish immigrants would use goose fat for their cooking rather than lard, which may have been used by non-Jewish immigrants. But Crisco was actually the demise of the geese farms. Crisco was actually intended as a soap. It was not intended to be consumed by people. However, the Procter & Gamble Company, in their infinite marketing genius, discovered that this was a food that could come in handy in the Jewish kitchen because it was parve, meaning it was neither a meat nor a dairy and could be used as a neutral form of cooking fat. And the advent of Crisco did very seriously impact the need for schmaltz. Now you know why Crisco became such a popular fat.

So now when you come across a family member's recipe cards, you may find that the measurements don't make sense or maybe some of the ingredients don't get used much any more like goose liver. You may have culinary genealogy clues then as to where your ancestors came from and you can use this as an opportunity to take dated recipes, update them, and publish them into a new family cookbook or pass them out during your next family reunion. And you can do as I did and visit your ancestors' homelands and use culinary genealogy to learn more about your ancestors.

*You are invited to the upcoming Sioux Valley Genealogical Society Annual Banquet.  
Join us Thursday April 4, 2024, downtown Sioux Falls, at the Old Courthouse  
Museum, beginning at 5:30 pm.*

*Refer to the flyer on page 7 of this issue of the Pathfinder for additional information.  
Luci*

THE FOLLOWING TWO ARTICLES ARE RECYCLED FROM 40 YEARS AGO.  
 THEY CAN BE FOUND AT THE SVGS LIBRARY,  
 IN THE **BOUNDED PIONEER PATHFINDERS, VOLUME X, 1983**

\*\*\*\*\*

**RULES FOR APPROXIMATING YEARS OF BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH  
 FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES**

Recycled from the Library Bound Pioneer Pathfinders, April 1984 Vol. X No 2, Pgs 42,65-6 - Edited

**I. BIRTH**

**A. From age at a known event date.**

Subtract age from dated event, bracket this date with 5 years on each side for search purposes.

EXAMPLE: person found in 1850 Census - age 29

$$1850 - 29 = 1821 \text{ (the year born)}$$

SEARCH 5 years on either side of dates between 1821 or between 1816 and 1826

**B. From a known marriage date.**

1. Allow individuals age to have been between 15 and 40. Subtract these from known marriage date.

EXAMPLE: married 1743

$$1743 - 15 = 1728$$

$$1743 - 40 = 1703$$

SEARCH between dates of 1703 to 1728

**C. Dates of birth or christening of children known.**

1. For the Wife, allow that she could have been 15 at the birth of her first child, and 50 at the birth of her last child.

EXAMPLE: Children born between 1653 - 1669

$$1653 - 15 = 1638$$

$$1639 - 50 = 1619$$

SEARCH between 1619-1638

2. For the husband, allow that he could have been 15 at the birth of his first child and 70 at the birth of his last child,

EXAMPLE: Children born between 1653 - 1669

$$1653 - 15 = 1638$$

$$1660 - 70 = 1599$$

SEARCH between dates of 1599 – 1638

**II. – MARRIAGE**

**A. Dates of birth or christening of known children.**

1. Subtract 35 from birth date of last child, and subtract 1 from birth date of first child.

EXAMPLE: Children born between 1653 - 1669

$$1669 - 35 = 1634$$

$$1653 - 1 = 1652$$

SEARCH from 1634 to 1652

**B. Date of birth or age at dated event known.**

1. Allow ages of both husband and wife to be between 15 and 40 at time of marriage.

EXAMPLE: Husband born 1813 (found to be age 37 at 1850 Census)

$$1813 + 15 = 1828$$

$$1813 + 40 = 1853$$

SEARCH dates between 1828 to 1853

2. If birth date of child is known, allow them to have been married one year later.

EXAMPLE: Husband born 1813

Child born 1833

$$1813 + 15 = 1828$$

$$1833 + 1 = 1834$$

SEARCH dates between 1828 to 1834

**III. DEATH**

Allow individual to have lived to age 99. Search from last known record to age 99.

EXAMPLE: Husband age 45 in 1860 Census, latest record found.

$$1860 - 45 = 1813$$

$$1815 + 99 = 1914$$

SEARCH from 1860 (year husband found in census) to 1914

**"Genealogy"  
 Tracing yourself back to people  
 better than you are."**

John Garland Pollard

## SEARCHING IOWA CENSUS RECORDS

By Margaret Foster, C.G.R.S.

Information found in Bound Pioneer Pathfinder Volume X, No. 2 April 1984. Pages 67-8. Edited

Genealogists engaged in research involving Iowans are fortunate to have available not only federal census records, with the exception of 1890, for every 10-year period from 1850 through 1910, but also six special state census. These state census began during 1856 and, although 1865 and 1875 were skipped, continued every 10 years until 1925 when discontinued.

If you have not been aware of or used these census records, you are indeed missing marvelous sources of information about your Iowa ancestors.

The following is a list of the various census records available, both state and federal, and a description of the information included in each. The census division of the Iowa Department of History and Archives has a complete collection of these census records. They are also online at either Ancestry.com or FamilySearch.

Less complete collections are available at the State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City and the Iowa Genealogical Society library in Des Moines, Iowa. The IGS library has none of the state census records and an incomplete collection of federal records.

1850 - Includes name of each member of the family, boarders and servants, their ages, sex, marital status, birthplace and occupation.

1856 - Includes name of each member of the household, age, sex, race, marital status, birthplace, occupation, if a native voter, if subject to militia, whether owner of land and number of years a resident of the state of Iowa.

1860 - Includes name of each member of household, age, sex, race, occupation, birthplace, value of real and personal property, if deaf, dumb, blind.

1870 - Includes name of each member of household, age, sex, occupation, whether father and mother are of foreign or native birth, value of personal and real property, if male citizen is over age 21, if deaf, dumb or blind.

1880 - Includes name of each member of household, age, sex, marital status, occupation, birthplace, birthplace of mother and father, relationship of all members of household to head of household.

1885 - Includes name of each member of household, age, race, marital status, occupation, address if in town or rural township (range and section), if born in Iowa (including county), whether parents native or foreign born.

1895 - Includes name of each member of household, age, sex, occupation, birthplace, religious denomination, if served in military (including company and regiment), if subject to military service, whether or not entitled to vote.

1900 - Includes name of each member of household, address if in town, race, sex, age, marital status, number of years married, number of children born to wife and how many are now living, place of birth, place of birth of mother and father, number of years in United States, year of immigration, if naturalized, occupation, number of months unemployed, if able to read and write, if able to speak English, if home is owned or rented.

1905 - Includes name of each member of household, address, occupation, birthplace, ownership of home or farm and its value, schooling, marital status, number of years a resident of

Iowa. Each person entered on separate five-by-seven inch card and also in a register which lists each person as interviewed by census taker.

1910 - Contains essentially the same information as the 1900 census, but does not list month and year of birth. This census was released during the spring of 1982 and is available at the National Archives. There are Soundex/Mira code systems for 21 of the states. Iowa, unfortunately, is not one of them.

1915 - Entries listed alphabetically within each county, each person enumerated a three-by-five-inch card. Each card has a number and family relationship' can be determined by finding the cards in sequence. Entries contain name, age, sex, address, occupation, birthplace, church affiliation, parents' birthplaces, marital status, years of residence in Iowa and United States;

1925 - The most descriptive of all. Includes name, age, sex, marital status, relationship of all persons in the household to head of household, ownership of home or farm, if foreign-born, whether naturalized, number of years in Iowa and United States, highest grade completed in school, place of birth, name of father, his age and place of birth, name of mother, her age and place of birth, where parents were married, if served in military (including unit), occupation as per five classifications and religious affiliation.

Also available is an invaluable tool, the Soundex coding system, for both the 1880 and the 1900 federal census. The 1880 Soundex is only of families which have children 10 years old and under in the household. It is therefore somewhat limited. But many times we can be lucky and find children living with grandparents, who then do appear in the Soundex. The 1900 Soundex includes all families enumerated in that census; and the coding system does an excellent job of taking into consideration possible spelling mistakes census takers may have made. These two Soundex indexes are unsurpassed in their value to persons certain that their ancestors lived in state, but unsure exactly where.

In Iowa, the Soundex indexes may be found in at least four locations: Iowa Genealogical Society Library, which has both the 1880 and 1900 Soundex; Iowa Department of History and Archives, East 12th and Grand, Des Moines, also both; State Historical Society of Iowa, 402 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City, both; and Iowa State University Library, Ames, 1900 Soundex only.

## \*EPIDEMICS IN THE U.S.

Found online at Jefferson County Illinois rootsweb site; <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~iljeffer/epidemics.html>

\*We have a similar handout at our library. Stop and pick one up for your research. Editor

An epidemic is defined by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a sudden increase in the number of cases of an infectious disease within a community or geographic area during a specific time period. A spike in the number of cases of the same illness in an area beyond what health officials expect to see is an outbreak. The terms are often used interchangeably, though epidemics are usually considered more widespread.

As a genealogist, have you wondered why some of your ancestors have seemed to disappear during a certain period in history, perhaps it is due to an epidemic. Epidemics have always had a great influence on people and those trying to trace them.

Many people that have disappeared from records can be attributed to those ancestors either dying during an epidemic or moving away from the affected area and not found again.

Over the years, many outbreaks of infectious diseases have occurred and spread across the United States. Dates of some major United States epidemics and the areas most effected are listed below;

1657 - Boston: Measles	1832 - New York & other major cities: Cholera
1687 - Boston: Measles	1837 - Philadelphia: Typhus
1690 - New York: Yellow Fever	1841 - Nationwide: Yellow Fever (especially severe in South)
1713 - Boston: Measles	1847 - New Orleans: Yellow Fever
1729 - Boston: Measles	1847-48 - Worldwide: Influenza
1732-33 - Worldwide: Influenza	1848-49 - North America: Cholera
1738 - South Carolina: Smallpox	1850 - Nationwide: Yellow Fever
1739-40 - Boston: Measles	1850-51 - North America: Influenza
1747 - Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania & South Carolina: Measles	1852 - Nationwide: Yellow Fever (New Orleans: 8,000 die in summer)
1759 - North America (areas inhabited by white people): Measles	1855 - Nationwide (many parts): Yellow Fever
1761-61 - North America & West Indies: Influenza	1857-59 - Worldwide: Influenza (one of disease's greatest epidemics)
1772 - North America: Measles	1860-61 - Pennsylvania: Smallpox
1775 - North America (especially hard in New England): Epidemic (unknown)	1865-73 - Philadelphia, New York, Boston, New Orleans, Baltimore, Memphis, & Washington D.C.: a series of recurring epidemics of Smallpox, Cholera, Typhus, Typhoid, Scarlet Fever & Yellow Fever
1775-76 - Worldwide: Influenza	1873-75 - North America & Europe: Influenza
1781-82 - Worldwide: Influenza (one of worst flu epidemics)	1885 - Plymouth, PA: Typhoid
1788 - Philadelphia & New York: Measles	1878 - New Orleans: Yellow Fever (last great epidemic of disease)
1793 - Vermont: Influenza and a "putrid fever"	1886 - Jacksonville, FL: Yellow Fever
1793 - Virginia: Influenza (kills 500 people in 5 counties in 4 weeks)	1918 - Worldwide: Influenza (high point year) More people hospitalized in World War I. More died from Influenza than wounds. US Army training camps became death camps --with 80 percent death rate in some camps.
1793 - Philadelphia: Yellow fever (one of worst)	Finally, these specific instances of cholera were mentioned:
1783 - Delaware (Dover): "extremely fatal" bilious disorder	1833 - Columbus, Ohio
1793 - Pennsylvania (Harrisburg & Middletown): many unexplained deaths	1834 - New York City
1794 - Philadelphia: Yellow fever	1849 - New York
1796-97 - Philadelphia: Yellow Fever	1851 - Coles Co., Illinois
1798 - Philadelphia: Yellow Fever (one of worst)	1851 - The Great Plains
1803 - New York: Yellow Fever	1851 - Missouri
1820-23 - Nationwide: "fever" (starts on Schuylkill River, PA & spreads)	
1831-32 - Nationwide: Asiatic Cholera (brought by English emigrants)	

Other epidemics in the US and found mostly in larger east coast cities were:

- 1813: "spotted fever" which we know as cerebral spinal meningitis--6,000 died.
- 1813 to ?: tuberculosis also called "consumption" was on the rise.
- 1842-43: erysipelas (strep infection of skin and mucous membrane)

Keynote Speaker

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## ROOTS FROM NORWAY

by Gertrude Berg - Part 2

### INTRODUCTION – (Also included in part 1)

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

### **Part 1 of this story was published in the 2023 Fall Pioneer Pathfinder.**

Actual clock time didn't make much difference to these hard working pioneers. In my mother's earliest years, there was no clock in the home. Later, when grandpa supervised road building, he borrowed Uncle John's watch. They "kept track" of the days, weeks, months and years as best they could. Later, almanacs became available. No wonder that dates were sometimes puzzling.

Grandpa sold one of the first animals bought by Windoms first butcher, Mr. Clark. Grandpa lead the animal and Aunt Sarah walked behind them to help keep the animal in motion. One day Uncle John carried a rooster to town to sell, so that he could buy sugar for grandma's baking purposes. There was no buyer! In those days it was difficult to buy or sell chickens. There were only 50 to 60 chickens on the farm in 1903, at the time of my parents' marriage.

Once when matches were sorely needed, one

of my uncles walked to St. James or Worthington to buy some, it was a very, very long and tiresome journey of about 50 miles. In those days, spring floods, as well as lack of bridges caused difficulties on securing much needed provisions. Deep snow, of course, brought somewhat similar problems. To add to the problem, ox teams traveled slowly.

Children had to be resourceful in many ways; including recreation activities. Uncle Hans enjoyed hunting, fishing and trapping near the Des Moines river. He enticed my mother to join in his sports. He asked her to jump on the muskrat "homes" while he stood ready to shoot as they appeared! The results were very good and also lucrative.

Some time before departing for America, grandpa broke a leg while working alone in a forest. There was nothing he could do but crawl through the forest and over the ice covered river.

When he reached home, he "set" the broken limb, there was no doctor in the area. Needless to say, it was set imperfectly, but he kept active nevertheless, and lived to be a few days shy of being 97 years old. We called him our barometer, in his later years when he lived with us, because his leg ached and warned us when bad weather was approaching. He kept walking with aid of his well-worn cane, until just a few days prior to his death in 1927.

When the grocery store was established in Windom, Grandma developed quite a reputation as a butter maker, for the store's patrons. She separated the cream from the milk by hand; cream separators had not yet been developed. Of course the laborious churning took considerably more of her time and effort. The "store keeper" liked the butter so well that he sent a 75 pound barrel of it to California. Fortunately, Grandma had a dug-out cellar to keep food very cold, especially during summers when milk production was at its peak. At that time butter sold for about 10 to 12 cents per pound in Windom.

My mother recalled that meat was rarely ever served in her girlhood home during the family's earliest years in America. These were depression years in Delafield township. There were such fowls as ducks, geese, curlew, pelicans and prairie chickens, but Grandpa seldom killed them for food. The nearby Des Moines river was an ever ready source of fresh fish. Fortunately, the entire family liked milk and milk products which were generally in good supply.

Despite no newspapers, telephone, mail, radio or television, the pioneers kept reasonably up to date on local happenings. Neighbors depended on each other for both news and help. In those days, it was not only important to remember family dates, but also to couple them, when possible, with a current event, for easy recall. As an example, mother made it very clear to us that she was born while U.S. Grant was the president of the United States. This prompted me to find out that Theodore Roosevelt was our

president when I was born.

Grandpa hauled wheat to a mill near Jackson, Minnesota for the family's flour, the by-products were brought home for cattle feed. "Yeast starter" always had to be saved from one batch of bread, for the next one, because "store yeast" was unknown to the settlers in that early period. They roasted parched corn for "coffee", and they ground the corn in the coffee grinder for corn meal.

For a while, Grandpa worked on a farm near Estherville, Iowa for a widow, Mrs. Brita Brujedl. She married a widower with several young children, in Norway. Her husband died a short time after they settled on the Iowa farm. Grandpa must have walked from his home to here, a distance of about 40 miles. This was probably during the depression years, when heads of families had to seek work away from home, to keep their families alive.

During the time that Grandpa was working in Iowa, he made arrangements to have some of his wheat hauled to a miller, to be ground for flour. He also gave orders to have the flour brought promptly to Grandma. Communication went amiss! Grandma's flour supply was so low that she had to ration the bread for the children. The eventual arrival of the flour was indeed a most welcome sight to her.

There was no rural church or school, as such, for several years, near my grandparent's home. Consequently, the children met at homes for their early and meager education. These homes also served as churches, if and when an itinerant pastor arrived from Stoughton, Wisconsin. Such pastors officiated at baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals all along the way, despite the fact that any and perhaps all events were long over due. Usually, these pastors traveled by walking; only a few rode horseback. Regardless of cramped conditions, teachers and traveling pastors lived with the families in each community. At times, these traveling men had to sleep in barns, due to the small and crowded homes.

My mother's education began in the home of a bachelor, Lars Bergson, with his housekeeper as the "teacher." The walls of the home were "one-board thick"! Being comfortably warm, was a major problem, around the stove. Their faces sometimes hurt from the intense heat, while their backs shivered. My Mother recalled having had only one pair overshoes during her school years, which took her through the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, with a 7<sup>th</sup> year reader.

The longest term of school during her school days, was four months. School was not in session during the worst part of winters. Eventually, a school house was built half a mile away, and a Lutheran church was built about two miles from Grandpa's farm. He walked to the Delafield Lutheran Church to do the maintenance work there.

He was listed in the Jackson county records as owning land in Delafield township in 1870. That year, land titles were also given eleven other families who became Grandpa's close friends and neighbors. Names of the families in that area were very familiar to me because of Mother's subscription to the weekly newspaper, "The Windom Reporter", which I read with considerable interest. Some of the familiar family names were Anders Suevli, Ole Fredrickson, Ole H. Hofland, Ole Nestrud, Hans Elstad, Jens J. Johnson, John Fredrickson, Lars Frondson and Talle. The Talle twin girls were two of mother's dearest friends.

In 1870, Jackson county had 18 school districts; 455 persons between 5 and 21 years of age, attended the schools. Seventy- four pupils were enrolled in the winter school terms, and there were two teachers at that time, there were two frame and five log houses for a total of \$867.00. A total of \$711.68 was paid that year to teachers.

In 1871, the Sioux City and St. Paul railroad came through Jackson county in April. It was extended to Worthington, Minnesota and Sioux City, Iowa in 1872.

Winter storms were very treacherous. In 1872, five people were victims of such storms in Delafield township. Blind snow storms came fast and furiously, without previous warnings. As a result, some people suffered from lack of clothes when caught away from their homes; others couldn't find shelter due to the blinding fury. The worst winter was during 1872-1873, when a 3-day blizzard came early in November.

The next major problem was grasshoppers that plagued the poor settlers for several years, beginning in 1873. Many families sold various belongings for paltry sums, just to get enough money to get out of the area. Others were determined to stay or had insufficient means to leave. The governor of Minnesota set up a system of state aid. Flour, barrels of pork, beans and corn meal were rationed for the desperate and destitute farmers. Seed wheat was also available for planting purposes. Fortunately, those very lean years were followed by prosperity from 1878-1894. During the lean years, the county went bankrupt, immigration ceased and the migration of settlers began.

In 1876, there was trouble with Indians. Some white settlers who lived about 12 miles from Grandpa's farm, were killed. For protection, several families in Grandpa's neighborhood sought refuge at the Chatfield farm, because he had horses. Fortunately, they were spared from having to make a hasty departure.

On October 15, 1880, the fall day started very sunny and bright. Grandma spent the morning doing the family washing. There were no clothes lines and no fence, so the clothes were laid on the grass to dry. Suddenly, a fierce and blinding snow storm was raging. As a result some of the clothes were not found until the next spring.

The nearby Des Moines river was ideal for winter sports. On one especially beautiful moonlit evening, skating was so enjoyable that the neighborhood youngsters were unaware of both time and distance. Skating about 5 miles back to their homes, the older ones used tree

branches by which they pulled the smaller ones homeward. On another evening, they were again enjoying themselves on the ice. Quite suddenly, darkness quieted their fun; they wondered how they would get home without mishaps. Then the moon suddenly reappeared. Days later, they learned that they had witnessed an eclipse.

Quite frequently aunt Sarah (Sigrid) watched her brother, John, slide down a hill near their home, on a crude sled which he had made. She pleaded with him to let her use the sled, too, but to no avail. Being well accustomed to makeshift conditions, she sneaked in to the dugout for grandma's huge and precious wooden bowl from Norway. Sliding down the hillside would have been a great sport, if the bowl could have withstood the jolt at the foot of the hill. Poor Grandma never really knew what became of her precious butter bowl until the next spring. Then, the pieces came into view after the ice on the river thawed.

Hide the button and dominoes were two popular games, as was singing songs learned at school, home and church. My grandparents could neither read nor write. They taught their youngsters the catechism and bible stories from memory.

My mother herded cattle, sometimes on horseback, aided by the trusty dog. At times, the grass was so tall that the dog had to be held up high, in order to see where to go to bring the strays back to the herd. Perhaps such long and lonely hours spurred my mother on, to learn to sew and knit. There surely wasn't much available reading material in those days to tempt her. She pieced a beautiful quilt top before she was ten years old; her sister quilted it. I have that quilt and I also have a stirrup from my mother's saddle.

Sheep were raised on the farm for several years. My mother was their herder and shearer. Some of the wool was sold. She cleaned and washed the wool gently, and then carded it. Some was used for quilts and the rest was spun

for knitting and weaving purposes. Extra thick hand knitted wool socks, caps and mittens were a necessity for the entire family. This surely kept my mother, grandmother and great grandmother from wondering what to do in their spare time. Aunt Sarah became an expert seamstress. She made her own confirmation dress fairly soon after the family came to America. It must have been made completely by hand. On the day of her confirmation, she was a sponsor for John Hofland's baptism.

Grandma Nelson brought her spinning wheel from Norway. My mother had one made in Windom; it was damaged when she moved to South Dakota, as a bride. Therefore, it was kept in our granary. Her children wore it out just playing with it. A very large loom which belonged to a neighbor, was very much in use in grandma's home. On that loom, my mother wove rag runners which were sewed together to cover the living room floor of her new home in South Dakota in 1903, after her marriage.

One of the artifacts from Norway that I have in my possession is an extremely long and very, very narrow woven red and white wool band. Until recently, I had no idea that it served a very special purpose. Then I found out that such a string was used in Norway to hold wraps in place especially on children, this was before the advent of safety pins.

My mothers earliest Christmases were indeed simple, no tree, no presents and no cards. The family celebrated with apples and popcorn, when available. She told me that paper of any kind was rarely seen when she was very young. When a few sheets of tissue paper came into her possession, she was really delighted. She carefully traced her foot print on some of it, and gave it to a friend with the written message "Merry Christmas from the bottom of my sole."

Mother and her friends looked forward to enjoyable evenings of square dancing especially on July 4<sup>th</sup>, wearing their new dresses. My sister, Myrtle, jokingly said that it was no wonder that pioneer parents were poor,

because it took yards and yards of cloth for floor length dresses with 5 yard hemlines. Furthermore, such dresses also required very full ruffled petticoats. Mother's full skirt "snared" an extra partner once, in a square dance, a man from the dance square behind her.

*The Mrs. Jorgen Hanson that was mentioned is her husband, Bruce Christiansen's, great grandmother. Gertrude's mother, Alleta Nelson*

*Berg passed away Nov 9, 1966. Ole and Anna had a second son named Hans in 1870.*

*Please excuse any misspellings of the Norwegian names as I am English and German. ... Gertrude Berg*

This story is from a handwritten account that grew into the book ROOTS FROM NORWAY by Gertrude Berg. *Editor*

## SARAH BUSSE SPENCER IS SVGS MARCH MEETING PRESENTER

Join us on March 7, 2024, 7:00 pm for an inperson program at the Sioux Valley Genealogical Society, Old Courthouse Museum, Sioux Falls, SD.

The topic for the evening is "Tracing Your Family History Using FamilySearch" by Sarah Busse Spencer, PhD.

Sarah will describe the pros and cons of using FamilySearch and how to get the most out of this free website. FamilySearch is particularly useful for conducting family history research, accessing record collections and even connecting to the world's largest family tree. If you want to follow along during the session, bring your laptop or mobile device.

Sarah Busse Spencer has a PhD in Sociology from the University of Chicago and has taught and researched in universities across the United States and in Russia. She was raised by a genealogist and has been an avid FamilySearch user for six years. She helps clients trace their ancestors particularly in 18-20th century Germany and France (she reads German, French, Russian and Latin). She is also available for seminars and lectures on family history related topics. In June 2024 she will finish a year-long professional certificate in Family History Research from Brigham Young University-Idaho. Contact: [sarah@sbs-research.com](mailto:sarah@sbs-research.com).

She and her husband Aron Spencer, PhD are also starting a tutoring business- Spencer Tutoring- with a focus on helping high school and middle school students with all school subjects, music and test preparation.

Contact: [sarah@spencertutoring.com](mailto:sarah@spencertutoring.com) or [aron@spencertutoring.com](mailto:aron@spencertutoring.com),  
website: [www.spencertutoring.com](http://www.spencertutoring.com)





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- 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.

## DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A FAMILYSEARCH CENTER, BRANCH LOCATION IN SIOUX FALLS?

Submitted by Sarah Busse Spencer

FamilySearch Center has a branch location at Sioux Falls, located at **3900 Fairhall Ave.** It is situated in the back of the local building of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Parking is available in the lot behind the building, the center is just inside the rightmost of the three doors facing the parking lot.

The center is a small room of 5 computers, a printer and wifi, but has access to some digital record collections not available through the regular FamilySearch website. When the center is open, there is someone to help with FamilySearch. Sarah Busse Spencer is at that location 3900 Fairhall Ave on SUNDAYS from 2 - 4 pm, and Marge Robertson and Sarah are available WEDNESDAYS 5-8 pm. No appointment is necessary during these times. Other times by appointment. Sarah's phone number is 605-202-9066. Stop in! Perhaps a tour?

## WHERE IS THE 1890 CENSUS?

It was a horrible day for genealogists... What day is it you are talking about? One hundred three years ago, on 10 January 1921, a fire broke out in the basement of the Department of Commerce building in Washington, D.C. and destroyed more than 99% of the 1890 US Census. For unknown reasons, the 1890 census records had been stacked outside the supposedly waterproof records storage vault.

The fireman did their jobs, saving the building by confining the fire to only the lower levels of the building. Surprise, water is hard on paper! The records were soaked! It is unknown if any restoration efforts were used but we do know, sometime between 1933 and 1935, the 1890 Census along with other records considered unneeded were destroyed.

If your ancestors were a part of the 1% remaining (a total of 6,160 names), you are one of the few lucky ones. Editor

## ~~~~ WE SALUTE THE LIVES OF AREA CENTENARIANS~~~~

**"When an older person dies ... another library has burned to the ground."**

### **Mildred Aldinger**

July 22, 1922 - July 27, 2023

**Mildred Aldinger, 101** of Sioux Falls, SD, died July 27, 2023, at Avera Prince of Peace Retirement Community.

A Graveside Committal service was held on Saturday, August 19, 2023 at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Bowdle, South Dakota.

Mildred Bitz was born on July 22, 1922, at Eureka, SD to Jacob G. and Emelia Schick. As a small child the family moved to Bowdle where she attended school. She graduated from Bowdle High School in 1940.

She married Aaron Aldinger in Bowdle on December 17, 1940, where they made their home. She worked during World War II at the Selective Service office. She began working at the Bowdle Hospital in the office and when she retired, she was acting administrator. Following her retirement, she and Aaron lived in Bowdle until moving to Spearfish in 2001. In 2018 she moved to Avera Prince of Peace in Sioux Falls, SD.

She was a former member of the American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul Lutheran Church and WELCA at Bowdle for many years. While in Spearfish she was a member of the Ladies Knitting Group at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. She was a current member of First English Lutheran Church in Lennox, SD.



She is survived by, one daughter Rhonda (David) Roesler, Sioux Falls; three sons, Kendall (Bonnie) Aldinger, Aberdeen, Dean (Julie) Aldinger, Gilette, WY, and Dane (Carol) Aldinger, Sundance, WY; seven grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren; and one brother Keith Bitz, Tomah, WI.

She was preceded in death by her husband Aaron in 2002; an infant daughter; infant granddaughter; her parents; two brothers and one sister.

## Matilda "Tillie" Fanning

October 11, 1918 - August 12, 2023



**Matilda "Tillie" O. Fanning, age 104**, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota died Saturday, August 12 at Prince of Peace Care Center in Sioux Falls surrounded by her family. Funeral services were held August 16, 2023 at St. Lambert Catholic Church in Sioux Falls.

Matilda Opal Joan (Hanson) Fanning was born October 11, 1918, to Christopher and Mary (Gappa) Hanson in Lake Crystal, Minnesota. Tillie graduated as valedictorian of her high school class. She met the love of her life, Delmar Beebe Fanning and were married May 21, 1939. They moved from Madelia, Minnesota in 1955 to Sioux Falls, where Del was a general contractor and built homes. They had 5 children: Gerald, Larry, Janet, Mary Ann and Susan. Tillie has dedicated her life to the service of family, friends, and church.

Tillie is preceded in death by her husband Delmar in 1999, sons Gerald and Larry, daughter-in-law Sharon, grandson Lance, her parents, brothers, and sisters.

Overjoyed to have shared in her life are daughters, Jan Munson, Sturgis, Mary Ann Hanten, Sioux Falls, and Sue (Gary) Pekas, Brandon; thirteen grandchildren; thirty-two great-grandchildren; and two great great-grandchildren, along with several nieces and nephews.

## Gladys Mollet

July 15, 1920 - February 6, 2023

The heavenly gates opened for **Gladys Mollet**, on the day of her passing February 6, 2023. She lived a long life of **102 years, 6½ months**. Her life was full, filled to the brim with home, family, friends, community and teaching. She lived her life joyfully and busy doing good for others.



Gladys Louise Larson (Larsen) Mollet was born July 15, 1920, Geddes, SD, Charles Mix County. Her Mom and dad were Chris and Louise (Frohreich) Larson. When Gladys was 13 months old, she fought the fight of her life having Polio, paralyzing her right hand and arm. She worked hard milking cows and grazing them all day, every day. She attended Sunset Country School, graduated from Geddes High School. She enjoyed Home Ec., Band, Chorus, Declam, Geography and long-lasting friendships. She was confirmed at West Lake Lutheran Church, Lake Andes, SD. Because Gladys had polio, her parents thought she should have an education after HS. She graduated from Notre Dame, Mitchell, SD with a teaching certificate. She taught two years at Fairview Country School before moving with her parents to Union County, SD. The need to find land where it rained, became a necessity in 1941. Gladys' new position of teaching was at, Ludwig country school, Union County.

In 1942, Gladys' special fella, Vernon Otis Mollet, also of Geddes, went off to War while Gladys continued to teach. Her family then moved north of Alcester, Gladys taught at Miller Country School. Verne came home safely and two weeks later they were married on Oct, 30, 1946 at Nathanael Lutheran Church, Alcester, SD. Verne and Gladys farmed west of Alcester their entire married life. They were proud parents of 4 children. She was involved in their many school and church activities. Gladys went back to teaching country schools in 1964 while she took night and summer classes at the University of South Dakota, to obtain her BSE in teaching. Teaching in country schools; Elmwood, Dodd, Glenwood,

Newdale, Brule, and Beresford. Verne passed away June 13, 1983. Gladys remained on the farm, taking on many community leadership positions in the VFW, church, 4 H, Extension clubs, quilters.

In 2010, Gladys moved to Alcester, SD first to a home and later into an apartment where she so much enjoyed new and old friendships. Gladys lived at Hillcrest Care Center and later Colonial Manor in Randolph, NE where she has family nearby.

Gladys is survived by her four children, Janene (Curt) Abrahamson, Weatherby, MO, Janiece (Riley) Gall, Yankton, Murray (Neilla) Mollet, Whitewood, SD, Marlon (Pam) Mollet, Sioux Falls. She has ten grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren.

Gladys was preceded in death by her husband of 36 years, Vernon Otis, infant son John Ardel Mollet, great-grandson Dalton Benjamin Gall, mother Louise Frohreich Larson, father Chris Larson, beloved step-mother Ida DeHaven Larson, sister Viola Larson Biddle, brother-in-law Virgil Biddle, nieces; Verla Biddle, Glenda (Arnie) Jonson, and Virginia Biddle. Doris Carlson, devoted friend and cousin by marriage!

Funeral services were held on Monday, February 13, 2023 at Nathanael Lutheran Church in Alcester.

## Lyle Pence

November 12, 1920 - January 4, 2023



**Lyle Pence, 102**, of Mitchell (formerly of Letcher, SD) passed away Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at Avera Brady Health and Rehab in Mitchell. Funeral services were held on January 14, 2023 at Will Funeral Chapel. Burial was in Westlawn Cemetery in Letcher, SD.

Lyle Pence, son of Herman and Alta (Driggs) Pence, was born November 12, 1920 in Letcher, SD. He attended school in Letcher, graduating in 1938.

He had a love of music and learning new things. Lyle had a sharp mind and could remember people and events that happened in his life and the lives of those around him.

He served in the US Army during World War II and drove truck. Lyle served in Iran and Iraq bringing supplies from shipping ports to be trucked north through the mountains of Iraq and Iran, supporting the Russians fighting the Third Reich Forces. His accounts of Iraq and Iran were vivid.

At the close of World War II, he returned to farm in the Letcher area and was united in marriage with Darleen Johnson on September 30, 1947 in Mt. Vernon, SD.

He was a lover of music and always tried to be positive with his family. That love of music continues through his children.

Lyle loved to visit with people and see what they were interested in. He carried mail on the Letcher route for many years. He spoke often of Marvin Godber and Tommy Stach as he worked with them the most. The Post Office treated him well and he strived to do his best on the route.

Lyle was thankful for farming, the Post Office, the love of music and his neighbors.

He attended the Letcher Community Church for over 60 years and sang with Homer Parce and Lanning Edwards for church occasions.

Survivors include his children Clinton (Holly) Pence, Mitchell, SD, Murray (Jackie) Pence, Vancouver, WA, Ricky (Sue) Pence, Sioux Falls, SD; a son-in-law, Gary Fawbush, Madison, SD; 14 grandchildren; many great grandchildren and step grandchildren; a brother Delmar (Wanessa) Pence, Kingman, AZ; sisters-in-law Verna Feistner and Donna Johnson; nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Darleen; a daughter, Linda; a grandchild, Kassia Darleen; brothers Darrel and Arlan; a sister, Elaine; and his parents Herman and Alta Pence.

**Jeanne Roers**

July 11, 1922 - August 24, 2023



**Jeanne F. Roers, age 101**, died Thursday, August 24, 2023 in Sioux Falls.

Memorial services were held on October 2, 2023 at the Halladay-Peterson Chapel at Dow Rummel Village in Sioux Falls, SD. Graveside services were at Riverside Memorial Cemetery in Aberdeen, SD on October 3, 2023.

Jeanne Francis Biegler was born in her family home in Aberdeen, SD on July 11, 1922 to Lester S. and Hilda (Zimmermann) Biegler. She was the granddaughter of the late Henry T. Zimmermann, an early Miner County pioneer.

She attended Plainview Demonstration School in Brown County for five years and was graduated from Aberdeen High School in 1940. Jeanne went on to graduate with a degree in education and political science from Northern University in 1945.

She was united in marriage with Lt. Roy E. Gleason in Aberdeen in 1943. He was killed in 1945 in a bombing mission over Germany during WW II.

In 1946 she married Howard S. Roers of Aberdeen. The couple moved to Denver, CO so that Howard could attend Denver University. Following his education, Howard was employed at Shell Oil Company. The couple lived in Midland, TX, Denver, CO, New York City, NY, New Jersey, and Houston, TX before retiring to Tucson, AZ in 1987. Howard died in 1994.

During those years Jeanne was active in civic and charity affairs. She was employed at Gates Rubber Company, Greyhound, and Avis Rent-A-Car in Denver before retiring in 1958. Jeanne was a student of history and politics. She collected antiques, knitted, enjoyed classical music, travel, and had a special love of animals, especially Pug dogs. She enjoyed the experience of living in different places and meeting new friends.

Jeanne moved to Dow Rummel Village in 2003. She was a longtime volunteer of the Dow Rummel Library where she had donated over 300 titles. She was member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sioux Falls.

In addition to her parents and husbands, Jeanne was preceded in death by her baby brother William and her sister, Mary Lou Biegler. She is survived by extended family and friends.

**Faith Tunge**

1922 - June 30, 2023

**Faith L. Tunge 101**, of Peoria, AZ, passed away on June 30, 2023. A private family service will be held, with interment taking place at St. Michaels Cemetery, Sioux Falls, SD.

Faith was a constant joy to her family and friends, and on her 101st birthday said, "I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved, but what a lovely and loving life I've lived." Faith was born in Cylinder, Iowa to John and Mamie (nee Randa) Finnestad. She married Harry Tunge on December 27, 1941. They called Sioux Falls home while Harry served in the Air National Guard until 1990's, when they retired to Sun City, AZ. Faith was a generous soul who volunteered with many organizations throughout the years including McKennan Hospice, Sioux Vocational School and the Pink Ladies. Faith's found true joy and happiness in being a member of the Christian Women's Club. She was a member and a bible study leader for 40 years, retiring from the group at 90 years young.



**Check your 😊 sources**

**"The trouble with QUOTES on the INTERNET  
is that it's difficult to determine whether  
or not they are genuine.  
Abraham Lincoln"**

Faith is survived by her sons, David (Diane), Yankton, SD, Brian (Jill), Murrells Inlet, SC and their children Jaime (Kingson), Brandon (Rachael), and Jack (Allison) and their grandchildren Estelle, Juliet (Kok), Chaz, and Charlie; daughter-in-law Patrice, Hazen, ND, seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, brother, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and the many friends she made along her path of life.

She was preceded in death by husband Harry and son John.

**Alene Wiebesiek**

May 14, 1923 - May 17, 2023

**Alene Wiebesiek, age 100**, of Davis, SD, passed away Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at the Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Viborg, SD.

Alene Ruth Bunger was born to Henry H. and Tetta (DeVries) Bunker, on May 14, 1923, on a farm near Davis. She attended Middleton District #23 rural school, graduating from Davis High School in 1941. She received her teaching certificate from Northwestern Junior College in Orange City, IA and then earned extra credits from various colleges in South Dakota. Alene taught in rural schools and at the Davis Primary Grade School before her marriage. She also directed the Davis High School Girls Choir. After her children were grown, she returned to teaching in rural schools in Turner and Lincoln counties. After school consolidation, Alene taught language arts and science at the Worthing Middle School, grades 5 to 8 for 9 years, retiring in 1979.



On January 27, 1948 she married Lester L. Wiebesiek, at her mother's home. Three children were born to this union. The couple lived and farmed on the same place she and her father were born and where her grandparents had homesteaded in Middleton Township, near Davis. Alene grew up as a member of Turner County First Presbyterian Church, where she taught Sunday school and played piano. After her marriage she transferred to Bethel Reformed Church. There she served as a Sunday school teacher, officer and in the Reformed Church Women. She was the church organist since 1959 and sang with various groups. Alene also belonged to the Davis American Legion Auxiliary, Sioux Falls Area Retired Teacher's Association and the Lennox Senior Citizens.

Besides her parents, Alene was preceded in death by her loving husband, Lester, on May 25, 2001; son, Darwin on October 4, 2009; one granddaughter; brothers: Ernest, Carl, Henry and Walter Bunker.

Grateful for having shared her life are her children: Laurie, Mankato, MN, Harlan (Fae), Davis and daughter-in-law, Susan, Hurley; her grandchildren; great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter, as well as a host of other relatives and friends. Services were held on Saturday, May 20, at Bethel Reformed Church, Davis, SD, with burial following at the Davis Bethel Cemetery.

## **NAMES INDEX    Year 2023    Volume 49**

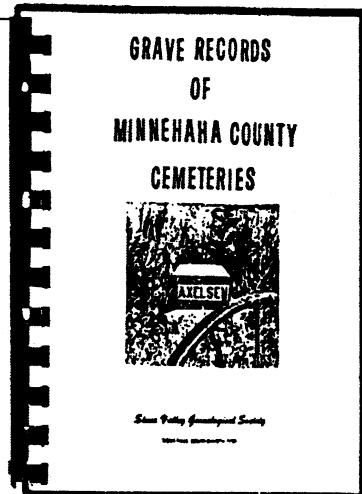
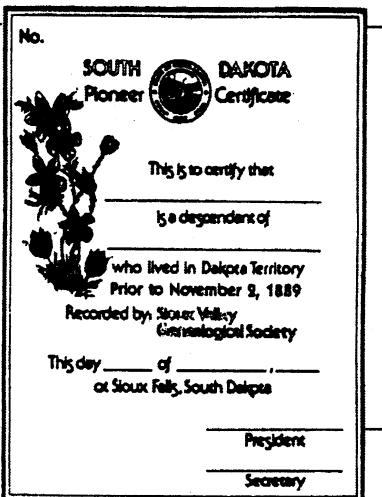
Compiled by Donna Harr

<p>Bartels, Doris Elnora- Issue 2,p22          Berg, Gertrude- Issue 4,p20          Bosler, Berdyne Jeanette- Issue 1,p20          Bragstad, Edna Ann- Issue 4,p24          Eiesland, Arlis- Issue 1,p20</p> <p>Fausch, Guinevere S- Issue 2,p23          Feldman, J.W.- Issue 4,p11          Girard, Arnold Francis- Issue 4,p13          Granum, Arlene Bernice- Issue 4,p24          Gulbranson, Glenn- Issue 4,p8</p> <p>Johnson, Berneice M.- Issue 4,p25          Keleher, Lucille Wynette- Issue 2,p26          Kersbergen, Christina- Issue 2,p24          Korth, Orrin C.- Issue 3,p25          Smith, Margaret M- Issue 2,p22          Solbue, Lillian Sophia- Issue 1,p24</p>	<p>McMillin, Wallace Duke- Issue 1,p 21          Mollet, Gladys Louise- Issue 2,p24          Mydland, Gordon- Issue 1,p 22          Olson, Edward Peter- Issue 2,p11-16          Olson, Edward Peter- Issue 1,p13-18          Phillips, Rich- Issue 3,p12</p> <p>Pralle, Irene Marie- Issue 1,p22          Read, Tamar Clothilde- Issue 4,p25          Rosenwald, Marion- Issue 3,p26          Sakry, Marjorie Louise- Issue 4,p26          Schmidt, Laura Adelaide- Issue 1,p23</p> <p>Scott, Howard Lloyd- Issue 1,p23          Shatter, Coral Kathryn- Issue 1,p24          Skillman, Harriet- Issue 2,p25          Soukup, Evelyn Christine- Issue 1,p25          Weiss, Clarice "Kay"- Issue 1,p2</p>
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