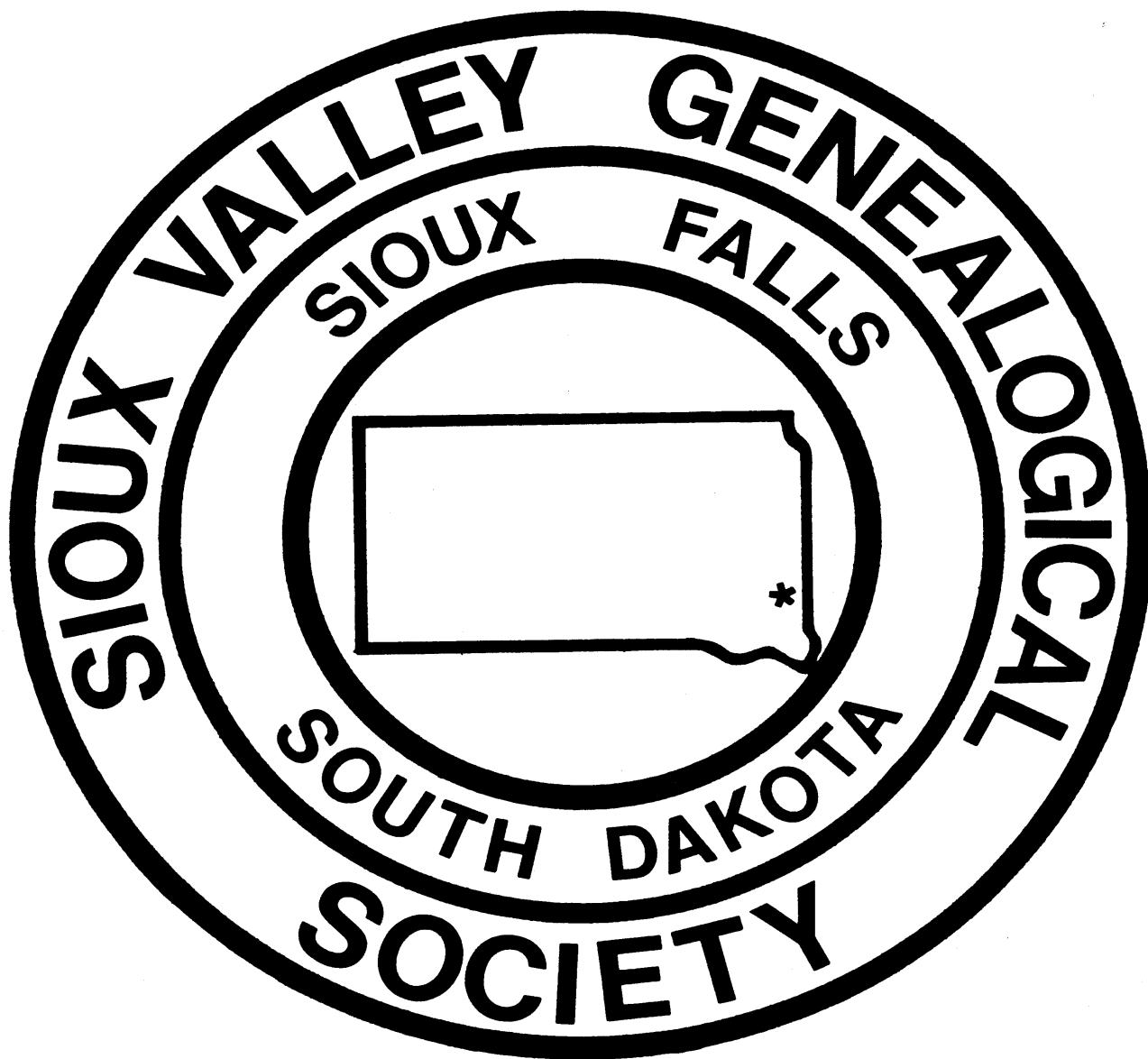


Volume 50

Issue 3

Fall 2024

# PIONEER



# PATHFINDER

# The Pioneer Pathfinder

Published Three Times Yearly by *The Sioux Valley Genealogical Society*

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

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

Pioneer Pathfinder issues will be published in: the Winter, the Spring/Summer and the 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 is staffed by member volunteers Tuesday through Thursday from noon to 4pm. Monday and Friday by appointment only.

**For more information, email us at:** [info@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org/](mailto:info@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org/)

**Or call: 605-991-0275 (can leave a message)**

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 welcome and tax deductible. SVGS is a member of the Federation of Genealogical Society and an Affiliate Member of the South Dakota Genealogical Society.

## **Membership:**

**All annual memberships are renewable one year after the member joins.**

*The Pioneer Pathfinder*, included in membership, can be either emailed or printed and mailed to you.

Dues are: \$25 Single emailed or \$30 Single mailed

\$30 Family emailed or \$35 Family mailed (Two persons, One Pathfinder)

## **Sioux Valley Genealogical Society**



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**SAVE THE DATES!!!**

**24,25,26 October 2024:** North Star Genealogy Conference. Eagan Community Center, 1501 Central Parkway, Eagan, MN. Featured Speakers: Judy G. Russell and Blaine Bettinger

**2-8 March 2025:** Genealogy week 2025. Omaha Public Library Genealogy and Local History Room, 84<sup>th</sup> & Frederick, Omaha, NE. More details forthcoming, so put the dates on your calendar now!

**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

By Kim McKeon

For me genealogy isn't just a hobby but an adventure into the past, uncovering hidden treasures and surprising connections. It amazes me how one conversation or discovery can completely transform one's understanding of family history. The discovery of how my Irish great grandfather was the sole surviving child out of eleven or that a coffin prepared for my Norwegian great grandmother who was born on the Atlantic Ocean was luckily never used, has led to an appreciation of the fragility of life and the complexity of family heritage. Every piece of information, no matter how small, contributes to a larger tapestry of family history.

SVGS monthly programs are held on the first Thursday, September through May. Members will have the opportunity to further explore their family heritage, and hopefully, to make new discoveries. In September, we had the opportunity to explore Mt. Pleasant, a local cemetery where many of Sioux Falls' earliest pioneers are buried. In October, a noted museum director will show us how to conduct good oral histories.

Perhaps an area of genealogy that has only recently become more accessible to genealogists is genetic genealogy. Genetic genealogy is a field of genealogy and family history research that combines genealogical DNA tests and additional genealogy methods to discover how individuals are related. For many genealogists interpreting DNA tests results can be a challenge. To assist in understanding genetic genealogy, SVGS and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are jointly hosting a DNA Genealogy conference June 6th and 7th that will address these challenges and hopefully provide some answers for attendees about their DNA test results. I am hoping many of you will be able to attend this conference

Finally, for those of you frustrated in your genealogical research, remember to reach out to SVGS for assistance, ask questions, and engage with the SVGS community.

## SVGS LIBRARY NOTES

by Luci Feenstra

Sioux Valley Genealogical Society maintains an impressive genealogy library located in the Old Courthouse museum, 200 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St. Sioux Falls, SD 57104 - 6001. Everyone welcome. Open from noon to 4pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Other times or days by appointment.

Our library is staffed and maintained only by volunteers, and is funded solely by books sales, membership dues, special projects, and grants. Monetary or research material donations are gladly accepted.

We can always use additional volunteers. Call 605-991-0275 (can leave message) or email us at: [info@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org](mailto:info@siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org) for more information or just stop in to talk.

## SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

General Meeting - 7 December 2023

Number of members and any guests present:

16

Speaker: Social

Meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by President Wendy Stubbs.

Secretary's report: Suzanne read the minutes of the November meeting. Lynette Trainer moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Kim McKeon Seconded. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Black read the report. The report will be held for audit.

No reports were given.

School contest update: Will be at East Middle School. 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies and 8<sup>th</sup> grade history expressed interest. Will check to see if meet standards.

Nominating committee update - open positions next spring are: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary. To be voted on in March and installed in April.

New Business: Sara Spencer from the Family Search Center will be available for help on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday nights for help.

Dues are due in January.

Luci Feenstra and Ellen Speck: Flowers for Lynette Trainer in remembrance of her mother.

Kim McKeon: next 2 meetings are to be on zoom.

At 7:59 pm, Suzanne Folk moved to adjourn meeting. Bob Black seconded. Meeting adjourned.

## SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

General Meeting - 4 January 2024 - online

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm. Speaker Amber Oldenburg spoke on land records.

There were 15 people who attended the speaker's session online.

### Business Meeting

**The Secretary's report** was not read due to illness.

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

### Officer reports given were:

✓ Pathfinder: Luci Feenstra

✓ Library: Sue Eckert

Rec. Sec.: Suzanne Folk

✓ Membership: Brenda Dahlin

Corr. Secretary: Phyllis Knutson

Obituary Committee: Phyllis Knutson

✓ Research: Lynette Trainer

✓ VP Report on Speakers: Kim McKeon

### Old Business:

1. School contest update was given by Bob Black.

2. Wendy gave Nominating committee update - open positions next spring are: Election of President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary.

ponding Secretary shall be at the annual meeting in even numbered years. Voted on in March and installed in April. There are no volunteers yet to run.

#### New Business:

1. A New officer position was discussed by Wendy by combining the Corresponding Secretary position with the Research position. We do not get much mail at all anymore. Instead, we want to add a Technology/Webmaster position which would not be limited by

terms. Officers approved it after seeing a job description. It then must be published in the Pathfinder and then a voting poll of the members will be sent out.

2. Wendy made note that the dues are due and up \$5 across the board.
3. A motion to adjourn by Kim and seconded by Bob. Motion passed at 8:34 pm.
4. Next meeting is Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> online

## SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

General Meeting - 1 February 2024 - online

No. of members and any guests present?

**Speaker –Madeline Yanov** focuses on the exploration of westward migration, starting with the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. She traces routes and trails from the Midwest originating in the 1820s, extending westward to the Pacific Coast and southwest to regions like Texas, New Mexico, and southern California, spanning the West until the late 1860s. She covers famous trails such as the Oregon/California Trails, Mormon Trail, Santa Fe Trail, and some lesser-known routes such as the Bozeman, Central Overland Trail, and the Butterfield Overland Trail. This presentation also sheds light on the transforming role played by the transcontinental railroad in the settlement of the West.

#### Business Meeting

##### Secretary's report - Minutes:

Are there any corrections or additions to the minutes? Can I have a motion to approve the minutes? Second? All in favor "AYE", opposed NAY".

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

##### Officer reports:

Pathfinder: Luci Feenstra

Library: Sue Eckert

Rec. Sec.: Suzanne Folk Membership:

Brenda Dahlin

Corr. Secretary: Phyllis Knutson

Obituary Committee: Phyllis Knutson

Research: Lynette Trainer

VP Report on Speakers: Kim McKeon

#### Old Business:

School contest update

Nominating committee update - 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.

#### New Business:

New officer position

Next meeting is: Mar 7, 2024

## SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

General Meeting - March 7, 2024  
17 people present

Program Presenter: Sarah Spencer

Topic: How to use Family Search

The general meeting of the Sioux Valley Genealogical Society was called to order at 8:16 pm.

No secretary minutes were read.

Bob Black read the treasurer's report. Checking ending balance was \$1484.37. Savings account ending balance was \$6097.71. The Sioux Falls Community Foundation spendable was \$12,772.00. Total available assets were \$20,389.08.

Luci Feenstra gave the Pathfinder report. Next issue to be ready in May. Submit if you want to contribute. Send Photos of Banquet if you want it put in.

Sue Eckert gave the Library report. Library is open. Monday and Friday by appointment only. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday open usually in the afternoon. There will be a presentation on the Orphan Trains at the Courthouse Museum.

Phyllis Knutson gave the Obituary Report. They are back to entering and can always use help. They are finishing up with 2018. Obituaries to contribute should have a South Dakota connection. Older ones are appreciated. Make sure a copy is submitted and not an original.

Lynnette Trainer said that there was nothing new coming in for research.

Kim McKeon gave a report on the upcoming Banquet. Supper is to start at 5:30 pm at the

Courthouse Museum. Speaker, Paula Stuart-Warren, is to begin her presentation on how to access Railroad Records at 7:30 via Zoom.

Bob Black gave a report on the school contest. The principal suggested to table so they can talk to all three middle schools in the school district. All three schools need to be teaching the same thing.

Officers on the ballot are President – Kim McKeon, Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_; Recording Secretary – Sarah Spencer Busse; Registrar – Ryan Tucker; Technology and Webmaster – Wendy Stubbs. Sue Eckert moved to accept the slate, Lynette Trainer seconded. Motion passed. Installation will be at the meeting in April.

Bob Black motioned to adjourn the meeting and Cheryl Finney seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

**FYI: SVGS IS ON  
FACEBOOK AND THE WEB  
Check us out!**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/svgsdssd>

<http://www.siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org/>

# SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING AND ANNUAL DINNER

4 April 2024

Old Courthouse Museum, Sioux Falls, SD

Dinner 5:30 - 6:30 in Courtroom

Business Meeting called to order 6:30 pm in Courtroom

20 Members and guests present

Wendy Stubbs welcomed members and guests. She gave final remarks as president, stepping down after 4 years. She mentioned she has been a member since 2015, and was involved with changes in the meeting formats since Covid. She reminded those present of the 50th anniversary of the society in 2022, with Josh Taylor special guest.

Wendy Stubbs oversaw the installation of the new officers for 2024-2025. The Vice President role has not yet been filled for the new term. Wendy encouraged members to consider stepping forward.

Kim McKeon was installed as the incoming President.

Sarah Spencer was installed as the new Recording Secretary.

Wendy Stubbs was installed as the Technology Specialist / Webmaster.

Wendy expressed her thanks to Phyllis Knutson, Cindy Schultz and Suzanne Folk for their services to the Society.

Previous minutes were not read.

Treasurer, Librarian, Researcher and other reports were not given.

Business meeting was adjourned by 6:50 pm.

Members and guests adjourned to the Law Library for the speaker, joining via Zoom.

Paula Stuart Warren spoke via Zoom, "Railroad Records and Railroad History: Methods for Tracking." Handouts were printed for those in attendance and will be available via email after the meeting for members and interested guests. Talk was recorded and recording sent to members. Paula emphasized the importance of beginning with historical records to find out when the railroad first opened in the location where ancestors lived and which railroad company operated there. Her handout includes many other helpful hints for using railroad records to find out more about our ancestors

Next Board meeting April 25, 2024, 7 pm, SVGS Library

Next Member meeting May 2, 2024, 7 pm, Old Courthouse Museum, Law Library, 2nd Floor

Minutes submitted by Sarah Busse Spencer

The family tree is worth bragging about if it has consistently produced good timber and not just nuts. Unknown

## SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY RESEARCHER

Submitted by Lynette Trainer

The Sioux Valley Genealogical Society Researcher conducts research using the collection located in the Sioux Valley Genealogical Library, including the local courthouse. The collection includes South Dakota city directories, Sioux Falls marriage index, obituary index, obituaries, high school and college year books, and church records.

As a benefit of being a member of the society you can get a free appointment with the Society Researcher to help you try and answer your question.

If you want extensive research done, fees will apply.

Send your research question to:

Sioux Valley Genealogical Society  
Attention: Researcher  
200 W. 6th St.  
Old Courthouse Museum  
Sioux Falls, SD, USA 57104

Or send an email to:

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

## CITY DIRECTORIES IN THE SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

Submitted by Lynette Trainer, Edited by L Feenstra

Looking for an ancestor? Check the City Directories. Directories were created for salespeople, merchants, as well as those interested in contacting residents of an area. The names and addresses of residents are arranged alphabetically and often list the adult residents of a city or given area.

The most helpful directories for genealogical research are city and county directories of local residents and businesses. These are generally published annually and may include an individual's address, occupation, spouse's name, and other helpful facts. An individual's address can be extremely helpful when searching an unindexed census of a large city. (Family Search)

Our SVGS Library contains the following City Directories:

Sioux Falls, SD –

1885, 1887, 1889-9, 1889-90, 1892-93, 1898-99, 1915, 1917, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1944, 1945, 1947, 1948, 1950, 1951, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964-65, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971,

1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 1999 Supplement, 2000, 2003, 2005

Note: 1943, 1946, 1949, and 1952 - no directories were printed for Sioux Falls, SD

Indiana – Terre Haute 1969

Iowa – Cedar Rapids 1975, Clinton 1969-70, Council Bluffs 1976, Des Moines

1975, 1976, Fort Dodge 1976, Sioux City  
1975, 1976

Minnesota – Austin 1975, 1976,  
Fairmont 1975, 1976, 1986, Mankato 1976,  
Faribault & Northfield 1976, Rochester  
1974, 1975, St. Paul 1975, Winona 1976,  
1977, Worthington 1976

Nebraska – Lincoln 1975, Norfolk  
1975, Omaha 1975, South Sioux City 1975,  
1976, 1977

North Dakota – Grand Forks 1976,  
1977, Jamestown 1973, 1976, Minot 1975,  
1976 1977, 1981, Williston 1976

North Dakota – Minnesota  
Wahpeton & Breckinridge 1974, 1976

South Dakota – Aberdeen 1975, 1976,  
Huron 1945, 1975, 1976, Lead, Spearfish,  
Deadwood 1975, 1976, Mitchell 1976,  
Pierre 1975, Watertown 1973, 1974, 1988,  
Yankton 1949, 1975

## 2024 SDGS STATE FAIR GENEALOGY BOOTH

Submitted by SVGS Member, Suzanne Folk – Photos from SDGS Facebook page

The 2024 South Dakota State Fair has passed. Our theme this year was The Farm Life. We had many submissions for the scrapbook this year.

The Fair opened on Wednesday this year. Very few people visited the booth that day. Not a lot of people were at the fair. We had 17 people visit the booth. Suzanne Folk, Pam Reilly, and Dawn Meyers worked at the booth.

Thursday was a bit busier. Virginia Hanson talked about Breaking Brick Walls and Cemetery Mysteries. Suzanne Folk, Sarah Busse Spencer, Dawn Meyers and Pam Reilly were at the booth.



Pictured- Sarah Busse Spencer

Friday and Saturday were busy days at the fair. Beth Walz talked about Enhancing Research with Newspapers and Beginning Genealogy on Friday and Yvonne Haefner talked about Iron Crosses and Germans from Russia on Saturday. Pam Reilly and Beth Walz were at the booth on Friday, Vanessa Hoyer on Saturday and Yvonne Haefner, Mary Kost and Suzanne Folk were there for both days.

Sunday brought cooler weather and more people. Suzanne Folk gave the genie break talks about Beginning Genealogy and Internet Genealogy. Beth Simonson, Dawn Meyers, and Suzanne Folk worked at the booth.

Monday, the last day of the fair, brought a few people in. Beth Walz, Pam Reilly and Suzanne Folk worked at the booth. Thanks to everyone who sent in photos and stories. And a big Thank You to all who helped at the booth.



Pictured: Dawn Meyers, Suzanne Folk. and Beth Simonsen

**PREMIUMS AWARDED  
AT THE  
Twenty-First Annual Fair  
OF THE  
TRUMBULL COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,  
HELD AT  
W A R E N ,**

**September 19, 20 and 21, 1866.**

**Class 1.—Horses.**

**FIRST DIVISION.**

*Breed Mares.*

First Premium	Peter Fulk, Warren	\$6 00
Second do	Reuben Williams, Howland	4 00
	<i>Suckling Colts</i>	
First Premium	Peter Fulk, Warren	3 00
Second do	Maxwell Kennedy, Howland	2 00
	<i>Geldings 1 Year Old</i>	
First premiums	James Taylor, Warren	3 00
Second do	J. F. Porter, Newton	2 00
	<i>Geldings 2 Years Old</i>	
First premium	Jacob Ewalt, Bazetta	4 00
Second do	J. F. Porter, Newton	3 00
	<i>Mares 2 Years Old</i>	
First premium	Wyatt McKay, Brookfield	4 00
Second do	W P Downing, Bazetta	2 00
	<i>Mares 3 Years Old</i>	
First premium	A P Taft, Braceville	5 00
Second do	Henry Freer, Bazetta	4 00
	<i>Geldings 3 Years Old</i>	
First premium	R R Miner, Brookfield	5 00
Second do	G R Millikin, Johnson	4 00
	<i>Mares 4 and Over</i>	
First premium	D W Camp, Warren	6 00
Second do	N A Bebee, Johnson	4 00
	<i>Geldings 4 and Over</i>	
First premium	Ezra Haskill Warren	6 00
Second do	G S Bracken, Kinsman	4 00
	<i>Geldings, Matched, 3 Years Old</i>	
First premium	G R Millikin, Johnson	4 00
	<i>Mares Matched, 4 and Over</i>	
First premium	H P Bassett, Warren	5 00
Second do	N A Bebee, Johnson	3 00
	<i>Geldings, Matched 4 and Over</i>	
First premium	C A Harmon, Warren	5 00
Second do	Milton Oliver, Vienna	3 00
	<i>Stallions, 4 and Over</i>	
First premium	William Fee, Bazetta	8 00
Second do	C S Case, Kinsman	5 00
	<i>Stallions 3 Years Old</i>	
First premium	J C Thompson, Howland	5 00
Second do	George Hake, Howland	4 00
	<i>Stallions 2 Years Old</i>	
First Premium	Eli Hake Vienna	4 00
	<i>Stallions, Mares, or Geldings, best broke</i>	
First premium	N A Bebee, Johnson	5 00
Second do	M R Wilson, Howland	3 00
COMMITTEE	Nathan Bebee, Jacob Grove, W D Freer, C A Harmon, B H Fitch	
	<i>SECOND DIVISION.</i>	
	<i>Stallions Trotting in Harness</i>	
First premium	Wm Fee, Bazetta	\$50 00
Second do	Wm Fee, Bazetta	20 00
COMMITTEE	P S Rush, C M Wilson, B H Fitch	
	<i>SWEEPSTAKES TROTTING</i>	
	<i>Horse, Mare or Gelding Trotting in Harness</i>	
First Premium	Abner Rush Jr. Liberty	100 00
Second do	Wm Fee, Bazetta	40 00
COMMITTEE	Wm Rayne, E N Brown, R H Barnum, C A Harmon	

typically included the finalists' names, the amount of prize money awarded, and, at times, their township of residence.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR  
ANCESTORS THROUGH  
AGRICULTURAL FAIR  
LISTINGS IN THE PAPERS**

Found on **Fishwrap**, the official Blog of Newspapers.com  
June 12, 2024 by Edward Bradley

Do you have US ancestors who were farmers? Chances are, you do. The 1850 federal census documented over 2.3 million individuals who farmed as a profession, far exceeding other occupational categories at the time. From its inception, the United States was predominantly an agrarian society until it began transitioning towards manufacturing after the Civil War. With agricultural roots so deeply entrenched from the country's onset, the allure of agricultural fairs and their increased popularity was not surprising.

**Photo to left: Western Reserve Chronicle:  
October 3, 1866**

Agricultural fairs began in the United States in the early nineteenth century. The first was held in 1807 in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and was organized by Elkanah Watson. It was a simple affair consisting of sheep shearing demonstrations. Future events evolved into larger, more encompassing gatherings. By the middle of the nineteenth century, some of the fairs began to include demonstrations of farming technologies.

To entice local citizens to participate in events, prize money or premiums were awarded for top exhibits. Men's submissions were typically livestock, agricultural goods, and handcrafted works. Women submitted baked goods, floral arrangements, preserves, embroidery, and miscellaneous domestic fabrications that displayed their homemaking skills and talents. The winners in each event had their names published in local newspapers. Listings

These simple bits of information provide insights about your ancestor, including the area where they lived, the types of animals they owned, the produce they grew on their farm, and the talents or skills each possessed. That information can lead to other records, providing even deeper insights into your ancestors' lives. Their township of residence and the date they appeared in the newspaper provide the starting place for which record sets to search.

**Census Records:** Begin with the federal census closest to the date your ancestor appeared in the article. If the census was after 1840, the record should list your ancestor's occupation, which was likely farmer. Additional information in the census could include their age, place of birth, spouse, and children. Some states also took their own censuses every ten years, ending in "5" (1865, 1875, etc.). State censuses asked questions different from those in federal censuses and could provide additional insights.

If your ancestor's profession was listed as a farmer, search federal non-population census records, specifically agricultural schedules. These are available for the years 1850 through 1880 and contain valuable

information that could include:

- Name of owner or manager of the farm.
- Number of improved and unimproved acres on the farm.
- Number of livestock owned broken down by breed.
- Amount of agricultural goods produced during the preceding year (broken down by crop.)
- Cash value of the farm, farming machinery, livestock, animals slaughtered during the past years, and "homemade manufactures.

Entries may include information regarding orchard products, sugar produced (often from maple trees), apiaries, and other products grown or manufactured on the farm. Don't forget to check the second page of the schedules! Entries from this collection can reveal a glimpse of what daily life on the farm involved for your ancestors.

Below: 1870 Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules (Agriculture Schedules) for Wyatt McKay: Brookfield, Trumbull, Ohio, available on Ancestry®

State of Cal., enumerated by me on the 1st of January day of 1870,

YEAR ENDING JUNE 1, 1970.																	TOTAL VALUE.										
Crops.	POTATOES.		DAIRY PRODUCTS.						SEED.		SUGAR.				BEER.		Fruit products.	Value of Hops	Value of animals	Estimated value of							
	Yield	Wtd.	Yield and Root.	Root.	Stems.	Doll.	Gallons.	Doll.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Gallons.	Tons.	Doll.	Bush.	Lbs.	Tons.	Lbs.	Wtd.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Doll.	Doll.	Doll.	Structural and			
Balances (Lbs.)																											
Balances (Lbs.)	1bs.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Doll.		Doll.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Gallons.	Tons.	Doll.	Bush.	Bush.	Lbs.	Tons.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Doll.	Doll.	Doll.					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
500		12						154			36														500	2412	

**Plat Maps:** Look for your ancestor's township of residence in plat maps (also called cadastral maps). If they owned property in the area, it could be listed on a township map. These contain a wealth of information, including who your ancestor's neighbors were, the location of the closest church or school, and how far your ancestor lived from the local post office. If you locate your ancestor in plat books, search for deeds.

**Deeds:** Did your ancestor own or rent their farm? Check local deeds to see when the property was purchased and from whom. Sometimes, fathers sold or gifted land to

children, which could provide more information about your ancestor's family.

**Back to the Newspapers:** If your ancestor was awarded a premium in a fair, it is possible he or she may be listed in other news articles. Remember to search for variations of your ancestor's name, such as "Jas" for James or initials that your ancestor may have gone by. Begin with a broad search, then narrow the results using quotation marks for specific searches.

Head to Newspapers.com™ today and learn more about your ancestors' agricultural fair listings

## NORWEGIAN ANCESTORY?

Submitted by Sue Eckert

The best place to start is with yourself. Expand research with the who, when and where of each generation further back in time. You might be surprised at how much information you already have or might learn by asking family members about themselves. Gather as much information as you can on your family in this country before you try to do research on your ancestor's life in their country of origin, but don't forget to cite your sources of information.

Doing research on your Norwegian ancestors will be helped by learning a few of the basic Norwegian words used in bygdebøks, church records and documents. A person will become familiar with words like 'bygdebøk'. These books are great resources for research, containing hundreds of years of information on the communities, farms and families. (*Sadly, although there are hundreds, maybe thousands of bygdebøk, not all communities, farms and families have been written about.*) It also helps to remember spelling was much more fluid in the past and

different regions may use different spellings due to dialects and influence from other languages. To get started, here are a few words used in bygdebøks (area books) and their translations:

*unkarl = unmarried male/bachelor  
 pige or pike = unmarried girl/maiden  
 gift med = married with/to  
 døpte = baptized  
 heimdøpte = baptized at home by family member or midwife if child not expected to live  
 død = died  
 begravd = buried  
 enke = widow  
 enkemann = widower  
 druknet = drowned  
 gard/garde/gaard = farm  
 bruk = divided section of main farm  
 husman = house holder  
 prest = priest/minister  
 klokker = priest's assistant*

Where do you find bygdebøks? There are more than 60 at the SVGS library and many are owned by more than 20 individual lags. What is a lag? *A group of people with shared interest in a particular area of Norway.* Many of the lags held their first meetings more than one hundred years ago and continue holding their annual meetings, with programs, area tours and dedicated genealogists. The genealogists will help you do research during stevne (*gathering*) or do research for members throughout the year.

In addition to volunteering at the SVGS library, as genealogist for two lags, I have 60+ bygdebøk for Rogaland and 40 for the Hardanger/Sør-Fjord area of Hordaland at my home, in addition to maps, family histories, finding aids and more. Not sure what lag or lags might be of interest to you? Find information on individual lags at <http://www.fellesraad.com/index.htm> or email me at: [sueeckert1@gmail.com](mailto:sueeckert1@gmail.com)

Have you heard about the immigrant ship named *Restauration*? Often called the Norwegian Mayflower, its 53 passengers

were the first of what became a huge immigration wave to America. Yes, there were already Norwegian immigrants in America, but this small sloop carried the first immigrant group. Widely studied for articles and books published through the following years, these immigrants were the first of many who left Norway, a country second only to Ireland in the percentage of population choosing to emigrant. The Sloopers, as this group became known, arrived in New York harbor on October 9, 1825 and next year, 2025, marks the 200th anniversary of its arrival. Plans are being made in America and Norway for activities in observance of the anniversary. To learn more about events, check out Norwegian interest organizations like Vesterheim Museum at Decorah Iowa, Minnesota Genealogical Society at Mendota Heights, Son of Norway, Daughters of Norway and Fellesraad (the umbrella organization of the lags. Hip, hip, hurrah for our Norwegian immigrant ancestors and their being brave enough to make the journey to America.

## KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

Submitted by Douglas Perret Starr and Phyllis Knutson

Keyboard Shortcuts are brief ways of inserting or changing what you are writing, adding an accent mark on a letter (à, é ), a footnote number (³) on a name or a footnote ... that sort of thing.

In every computer, laptop and desktop, Mac and PC, more than 100 Keyboard Shortcuts are built in. To find a Shortcut, open Shortcuts and read through 10–15 pages to find the one you want.

To make Shortcuts easy to use, I searched a Mac and a PC, found the Shortcuts the average writer needed, and listed them on one page, Mac on one side, PC on the other.

That collection of most used Shortcuts makes writing on a computer much easier and much more accurate, as this: if when writing a “résumé,” you need to add two accents or you write “resume,” a totally different word.

And, of course, if you are writing in French, Spanish, or other foreign languages, you add lot of different accent marks.

Please give this list of Shortcuts to family, friends, colleagues, and particularly, high school and college students who need those Shortcuts in writing class essays.

Keep this Shortcuts list close to your computer so you can use it.

## DELL / PC KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS - MICROSOFT WORD

### Accent Marks

à ñ õ — shift Ctrl tilde letter (left of numeral '1' on keyboard)  
 á é í ó ú — Ctrl ' [open quote] letter  
 à è ì ò ù — Ctrl ~ letter (left of numeral '1' on keyboard)  
 â ê ï ô û — shift Ctrl ^ letter (on numeral '6' on top keys)  
 ä è ï ö û — shift Ctrl : letter  
 ç — Ctrl , c  
 ¿ — Shift Ctrl Alt ?  
 ¡ — Shift Ctrl Alt !

### Two hyphens do not make a dash

- hyphen — joins words
- en-dash — joins numerals
- em-dash — punctuation mark

Em-dash — Ctrl Fn Alt colon —

En-dash — Ctrl Fn colon –

... [ellipsis] — Ctrl Alt .

' [apostrophe] — Ctrl ' '

Class of '20 / rock 'n' roll

Ø [Zero] — Ctrl Shift o

° [Degree] — Ctrl Shift space

32° / -12°

© [Copyright] — Ctrl Alt c

™ [Trade Mark] — Ctrl Alt t

® [Registered] — Ctrl Alt r

<sup>12</sup> [footnote] — Shift Ctrl = numeral

12Starr / Starr<sup>12</sup> / a<sup>2</sup> + b<sup>b</sup> = c<sup>2</sup>

⁴ [subscript] — Ctrl = numeral

H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>

Single-Space lines — Ctrl 1

Double-Space lines — Ctrl 2

Space and One-Half lines — Ctrl 5

Center word, line — Ctrl e

Flush Left word, line — Ctrl l

Flush Right word, line — Ctrl r

Undo Last — Ctrl z

Redo Last — Ctrl y

Boldface — Ctrl b

Italics — Ctrl i

New Document — Ctrl n

Find and Change — Ctrl h

Copy Format — Shift Ctrl c

Paste Format — Shift Ctrl v

¼ — Ctrl Alt 6

½ — Ctrl Alt 7

Rename File or Folder — f2

Blue Paragraph Marks unprintable — Shift Ctrl 8

Page Break — Ctrl Enter

Quick Look at files in Trash or anywhere — highlight file and click Spacebar

Change Case — Shift f3

Increase Font Size 1 point — Ctrl ]

ALL CAPS — Shift Ctrl a

SMALL CAPS — Shift Ctrl k

Hanging Indent

Highlight Paragraph — Ctrl T

Unhang Indent — Shift Ctrl T

## APPLE / MAC KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS - MICROSOFT WORD

### Accent Marks

á ñ õ — Option **n** letter  
 á é í ó ú — Option **e** letter  
 à è ì ò ù — Option ~ letter  
 â ê ï ô û — Option **i** letter  
 ä ë ï ö ü ÿ — Option **u** letter  
 å — Option **a**  
 ç — Option **c**  
 ï — Option **1**  
 ¿ — Shift Option **?**

### Two hyphens do not make a dash

- hyphen — joins **words**
- en-dash — joins **numerals**
- em-dash — **punctuation** mark

— [em-dash] — Shift Option Hyphen  
 – [en-dash] — Option Hyphen

... [ellipsis] — Option ;  
 ' [apostrophe] — Shift Option ]  
 Class of '18 / rock 'n' roll  
 ° [degree] — Shift Option 8  
 32° / -12°

Ø [zero] — Shift Option **o**  
 ± [plus or minus] — Shift Option **+**  
 ¢ cent — Option **4**

© [copyright] — Option **g**  
 ™ [trade mark] — Option **2**  
 ® [registered] — Option **r**

**Superscript [footnotes]** —  
 Shift Command = numeral  
 $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$  / <sup>23</sup>Starr

**Single-Space lines** — Command **1**  
**Double-Space lines** — Command **2**  
**Space and One-Half lines** — Command **5**  
**Center Text Vertically** — on **Format**

click **Document**; click **Layout**;  
 click **Center**; click **OK**  
 Put blue, nonprintable paragraph mark on screen — Command **8**  
**Macros** — Alt **f8**

**Page Break** — Shift Command **Return**  
**New Folder** — Shift Command **n**

**Increase Font Size 1 point** — Command **]**  
**Decrease Font Size 1 point** — Command **[**

**Copy Sentence Format** — Shift Command **c**  
**Paste Sentence Format** — Shift Command **v**

### Change Case

Highlight word(s)  
 Top of Page, Click **Format**  
 Open **Change Case**  
 Select one, Click **OK**

### Hanging Indent

**Highlight Paragraph** — Command **T**  
**Unhang Indent** — Shift Command **T**

### Replace One or More Errors

Top of screen, open **Edit**  
 Open **Find**  
 Open **Replace**  
 Type error ( -- )  
 Type replacement ( — )  
 Click **Replace All**

### Select email Font, Size, Color

Top of Screen, open **Format**  
 Select **Font, Size, Color**  
 Click **Default**  
 Click **All Documents**  
 Click **OK**  
 Click **Default**

## IT'S FOUND IN THE SVGS LIBRARY!

By Luci Feenstra

I am the Thursday afternoon volunteer at the SVGS Library. A while back, I noticed an interesting looking book in need of repair. It was **The History of Jerauld County, South Dakota** by N.J. Dunham. I grew up just west of Jerauld County!

This book covers the years from about 1859 to January 1909. Since there are few official records from this earlier time, the author has collected the many legends, printing those that seem correct. He has included names of the many settlers as well as where they lived. He talks of how the county was organized. During Dakota Territory time, the part now known as Jerauld County was born out of the western part of Buffalo county, a huge area west of Minnehaha and north of Yankton. In 1873 the county of Wetmore was created. Wetmore included the west half of now Miner county, all of Sanborn, most of Jerauld and the northern part of Aurora county. Wetmore was never organized and in 1879 was cut up into smaller subdivisions and absorbed into the other counties.

Dunham has also written down various costs for food, fuel, building supplies, taxes....

In the book, Mr. Dunham included names of abandoned towns like Waterbury and Sulphur Springs, residents of those towns, the schools, the churches, the businesses, the horrible winters (including first person recounts of The Great Blizzards of 1887-1888) and not least of all, among others, mail carriers.

He also writes of the many area prairie fires saying, in particular, "1889 witnessed more destruction than any year in its (Jerauld County) history." Prairie fires rate their own chapter, Part Three, Chapter 21, pg 340. He noted, the fires started in March, burning property from Hand County southward. In April, the winds started, believed to be more than eighty mph. Then, in Hand county, near Ree Heights, a man lit his pipe and discarded the match unwisely. That fire raged through the western half of Jerauld County, destroying almost everything in its path. For that fire and others, Mr. Dunham has included names, property lost and locations.

What an interesting recount of the lives of many early Dakota settlers. If your family lived in this general area during this pioneer time you might find their names. So far, I have found none from my family, but I have lots more of the book to read.

## YOUR SOCIETY MIGHT BE DRIVING AWAY VISITORS

By Amy Johnson Crow on her blog: <https://www.nostorytoosmall.com/posts/10-ways-your-genealogy-society-might-be-driving-away-visitors>

There is a secret about attendance at genealogy society meetings. *It is not enough to get people in the door. You must get them to come back.*

I have attended many genealogy society meetings over the years. I mean A LOT of meetings. Large societies, small societies,

societies in the country and societies in the city. None of them have reported an overabundance of attendees at their regular meetings.

I will be honest. There have been times when I have sat in these meetings and thought, "You know, it is no wonder only a handful of

people come here regularly. Who would want to come back?"

Attendance is also a recurring issue with some churches. Thom S. Rainer noticed this and did a Twitter (now known as X) survey about why people did not make return visits to a church. The top ten list of responses sounded very familiar to me — and very applicable to genealogical societies. I have seen each of them happen in genealogy societies. I have adapted Dr. Rainer's language and added my own commentary.

### **1. Having a stand up and greet one another time**

Rainer reported that this response surprised him. It surprised me, too, until I thought about it. Think about a time when you were introduced to a new group of people, such as being the new kid in class. Suddenly, all eyes are on you, and you're put on the spot. Who enjoys being in that position? My takeaway: Make people feel welcome without making them feel singled out. People *really* do not like to be singled out. In my experience, genealogists tend to be introverts (with some notable exceptions). The key is to make them feel welcome without singling them out.

### **2. Unfriendly members**

Who wants to come back to a place where people ignore you or are rude to you?

### **3. Unsafe/inaccessible area**

Rainer reported this as "unsafe or unclean children's area," which was a turn-off for attracting families with young children. For genealogy societies, we should evaluate if the meeting places are easily accessible and safe. Are there lots of stairs? Is the parking lot well-lit? Accessibility could also be looked at in terms of meeting days and times. Is Monday at 3:00pm the most accessible time for people to attend?

### **4. No place to get information**

Do not assume that people know things like upcoming meetings, special events, or

member benefits. Have a clearly marked area where people can get this information.

### **5. Bad website**

Do not even get me started on this one. People might not even make it to your meeting if your society has a bad website. All the basic info should be there, including the address and time of your meetings. I wish I had a dollar for every website that said something like "We meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the firehouse." Uh, which firehouse? What time?

### **6. Poor signage**

You know that the meeting room is up on the second floor at the end of the hall, but new people might not. Make it as easy and painless as possible to find you.

### **7. Insider language**

Do not lose people with jargon. Rainer's favorite example was: "The WMU will meet in the CLC in the room where the GAs usually meets." I have heard similar examples at genealogy society meetings. "March 31 is the deadline for Sas for the CPF." Huh?

### **8. Boring or bad meetings**

Who wants to come back if the meeting is boring? Do you really need to have an hour-long business meeting every time or do you do it because you have always done it that way?

### **9. Members telling guests that they were in their seat**

Hard to believe this happens, but it does.

### **10. Dirty facilities**

I have been to meeting spaces where the carpet stains appeared to be a few decades old. It does not make for a welcoming experience.

We do not like to think of things like clean rooms or unclear signs as keeping people from returning. We certainly do not like to think of our members as being a source of

frustration for new people. However, all of it has an impact.

It is cliché to say that you don't get a second chance to make a first impression. But do you

know what? It is true. Take a good look around at your society. What first impression is it making?

## WONDERING ABOUT A PIONEER CERTIFICATE?

By Luci Feenstra

My sister, Ellen, found and sent me a clipping about a lady that had passed at age 101. However, the article was dated April 1994. That is a bit too far out to include in our Centurion notices but in reading it, I decided, **if this lady were my ancestor, I would probably qualify for a Pioneer Certificate!**

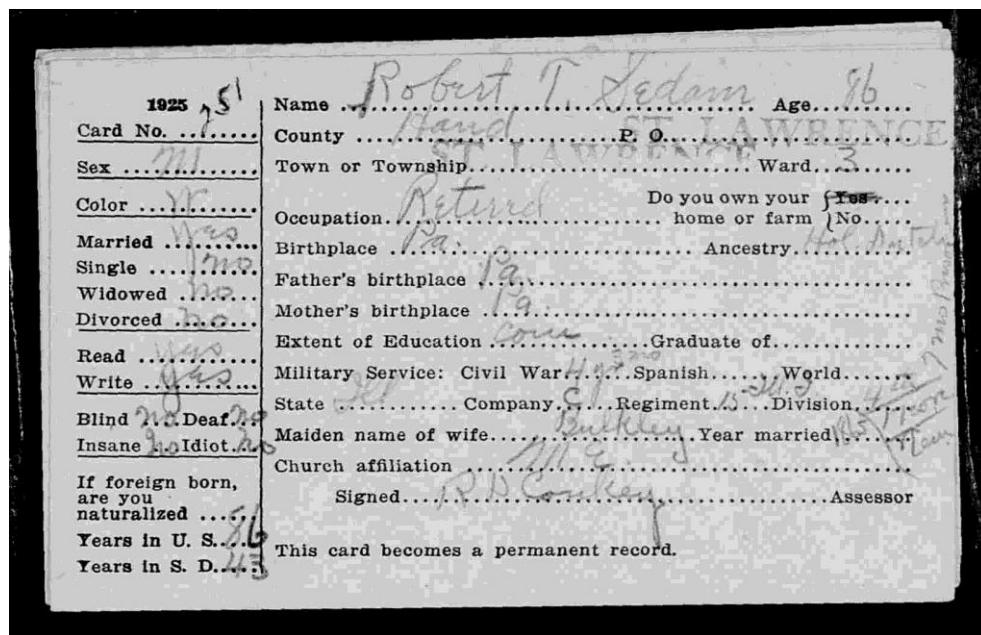
This is the notice:

### *The Miller Press*

*Miller, Hand, South Dakota*

*April 18, 1994*

**Eva M. Lanz, 101, died April 11, (1994). Eva M. Sedam was born in 1892 on the family homestead a mile south of St Lawrence. She was proud of her pioneer heritage. Her father was one of the founders of what is now the St. Lawrence Church, and Eva played piano for services as long as she can remember. Eva's mother was one of the first officers of the St. Lawrence Eastern Star, and Eva was one of the first officers and a member for more than 75 years. Upon her first husband's loss of health in 1933, she felt fortunate to get a job at the St. Lawrence Post Office for \$20 a month.**



I started my research on **Ancestry** and found Eva had at least ten siblings and her mother was 50 when she was born. Eva was married twice and had one child.

Next, I checked on **FamilySearch** for the 1925 SD State Census for her father, Robert Tate Sedam. This record, to the left, shows he had been in South Dakota for 43 years,

having arrived well before South Dakota became a state on 2 Nov 1889.

Yes. The extended families of Eva and her many siblings do qualify for Pioneer Certificates.

# Going strong at 100

## Eva Lanz reminiscесes about a century of Hand County life

By LINDA RENAUD  
Plainsman Correspondent

MILLER — South Dakota became a state only three years before Eva Lanz was born near St. Lawrence.

"My parents farmed," Lanz said. "They came out here from Illinois in 1882. They helped to build up the town of St. Lawrence. There wasn't much here."

Eva Lanz has built her life in Hand County. On Sunday, she celebrates her 100th birthday. St. Lawrence grew quickly, she said.

"Years ago, we didn't come to Miller. We had everything in St. Lawrence," Lanz said. "We might come to Miller once a month and buy a nickel's worth of candy. That was a big treat. We didn't have cars. We walked or went by horse-drawn cart."

But a slower pace isn't anything to regret. "I've had an exciting life," she remarked. "I've never had much money either. You don't have to have money to be happy."

The piano has been a major source of happiness for Lanz.

"My music has meant a lot to me," she said. "It really is a God-given gift, because I never had lessons."

Her talents took her to Boston, Washington, Denver and Minneapolis, where she played piano at national postal conventions.

Lanz began working at the St. Lawrence Post Office in the mid-1930s when her first husband, Sid Fritts, became ill.

Fae Thompson was the postmistress in St. Lawrence at that time. The two women went to the South Dakota postal convention in Armour.

"Mrs. Thompson led the singing and she was good at it," Lanz said. "I played the piano."

Their musical abilities earned them an invitation to the national gathering in Boston the following year.

"My sister wrote me and said, 'Imagine my baby sister in Boston playing a grand piano!'"

Lanz played piano for the St. Lawrence Community Church for most of her life.

"I played for the Christmas cantata 75 years ago," Lanz remembered. "I did play before then, but I can't remember when I started."

The residents at Miller Manor, where Lanz lives, get to hear her play now.

"I play downstairs at noon, just a piece or two," Lanz said.

Church members also appreciate Lanz's memory.

"If we want to know when something was done at the church, we always go ask Eva," one member said. "It might take her a day or two to get it all remembered but she does."

Several years after Lanz's first husband died, she married Louie Lanz and became stepmother to his three grown children.

The family gatherings that Lanz sponsored began almost immediately.

"I've had Christmas ever since Louie and I got married," Lanz commented. "We started in a five-room house. One year I was up at the nursing home with a broken arm, so we had Christmas there."

***"I've had an exciting life.  
I've never had much  
money... You don't have to  
have money to be happy."***

**Eva Lanz, 100 years old**

Relatives come from as far away as Arizona and California for the annual gathering.

Lanz frequently gives handmade gifts to family members at Christmas and will do the same on Sunday at her birthday open house, which will be held at the United Methodist Church from 2 to 4 p.m.

"I crocheted two hangers for each female relative coming to the party," Lanz said. "That's 60 hangers. I got them all done. Now I don't have anything to do!"

DISCHARGE

The clipping above was shared on Ancestry.

Now it is your turn. Can you prove how you are directly related to Eva's father Robert, by using printed sources and documentation? Use censuses, Glo records, Church records, birth and death announcements, wedding notices, etc. Whatever you need to trace "you" to Robert. Is anyone related to Eva?

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

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

### Lila Bailey

July 24, 1923 - January 26, 2024



**Lila M. Bailey**, of Sioux Falls, formerly of Spencer, SD, passed away on Friday, January 26, 2024 at her son's home in Sioux Falls, having reached the age of **100 years, 6 months, and 2 days**.

Lila M. Meek was born July 24, 1923 to Clyde and Minnie (Kunze) Meek in Walnut Grove, MN. She graduated from Balaton High School. Lila married Virgil Bailey on March 18, 1942 in Mitchell, SD. They lived in the Spencer area and upon retiring from farming in 1978, moved into Spencer. Virgil passed away on December 7, 1992. In 2002, Lila moved to Sioux Falls. She had worked at Raven's for 8 1/2 years.

Lila was a member of St. Mathew's Lutheran Church in Spencer and served on the church council until the Spencer tornado. Lila was also active in Ladies Aid, VFW Auxiliary, Legion Auxiliary, and DVA Auxiliary.

Lila is survived by: her children, Roger (Sharon) Bailey of Denison, IA, Randy (Judy) Bailey of McCook Lake, SD, Colleen (Craig) Schroeder of Fulton, SD and Donald (Vicki) Bailey of Sioux Falls, SD; 12 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; 5 great-great grandchildren; and many special nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Virgil, her parents, her sisters, Dorsie Lewis, infant sister, Evelyn Meek, Helen Weeks, and Lois Reynolds, brothers, Donald Meek, Eugene Meek (at age 6) and Carroll Meek and great-grandchildren, Lila Schelter and Dylan Dean Bailey.

### Eilene M. Benz

March 3, 1924 - July 28, 2024



**Eilene M. Benz, 100 years, 4 months and 25 days**, passed away peacefully under the loving care of Dougherty Hospice on July 28, 2024.

Eilene was born on March 3, 1924 to Vallata Weiss Betz and Nicholas Betz at Sutherland, Iowa. She attended school at Primghar, Iowa, graduating from high school in 1942. She worked as a secretary in Primghar, Iowa for the Farm Bureau for many years and then the First National Bank in Primghar, Iowa. Eilene married Donald Benz on September 6, 1949. They lived in Melvin, Iowa where she worked at the Melvin Savings Bank. Eventually, Don and Eilene started farming near Melvin, Iowa before moving to a farm near Round Lake, Minnesota in 1958. In 1972 they moved to Worthington, Minnesota where she worked as a cashier at Payless Cashway Lumber Company and U.B.C. Lumber Company before retiring in 1991.

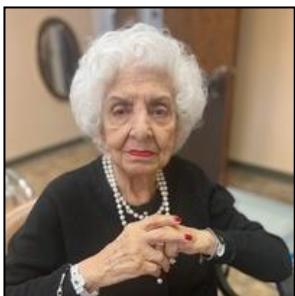
In 2000 they moved to Sioux Falls, SD. Eilene is survived by three sons, Alan (Michelle) Prior Lake, MN, Anthony (Brenda) Rock Rapids, Iowa, and Rex (Julie) Sioux Falls, SD; two daughters, Ann Heath (Lyle) Round Lake, MN and Joan Benz Sioux Falls, SD; 18 Grandchildren, 40 Great Grandchildren and her sister-in-law Marjie Betz Spencer, Iowa. She was preceded in death by her husband after almost 67 years of marriage, her parents Nick and Vallata Betz, siblings Dora, Maybelle, Robert, Evelyn, Richard, and her twin sister, Arlene, daughter-in-law Kathy Benz and Great grandchild Blake Benz.

### Georgia Christopoulos

May 6, 1922 - November 29, 2023

**Georgia Christopoulos, 101**, passed away under hospice care on November 29, 2023. She was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Georgia Christopoulos, 101, was born May 6, 1922 to Steve and Elaine Soteropoulos in Ottumwa, Iowa. Her two brothers, Gust and Paul preceded her in death. She loved them both dearly, their spouses Vivien and Sally and their children. Family was the center of Georgia's life, and she treasured her role as mother, wife, sister, yiayia and grandmother. Georgia is survived by her half-sister Beverly Murri.



The Soteropoulos family as well as Chris' sisters, Kay (John) Boosalis, Daisy (Jack) Till and Eva (George) Chandiles and their families enjoyed many good times vacationing together. Chris and Georgia also traveled to Europe and Greece with friends and members of Chris' family to reconnect with relatives in the old country.

On May 30, 1948 she was united in marriage with Chris Christopoulos of Sioux Falls. The couple lived in Sioux Falls where Chris (The Golden Greek) was self-employed in the restaurant business. They had two children, Stephanie (Gary Johnson) and George. Georgia appreciated the generous support and attention of both son-in-law Gary and former daughter-in-law Kate Christopoulos throughout her life.

Both Georgia and Chris were active in the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church. She was a member of the Daughters of Penelope and volunteered whenever needed for church-sponsored events and meals. One of her greatest joys was cooking. There were countless occasions where Chris invited people who were alone for the holidays to a celebratory dinner at their house and Georgia loved being the "hostess with the mostest"! Guests and friends marveled at the amazing meals Georgia and Chris served at their homes in Sioux Falls and California over many decades. Chris was a constant fixture on the patio grill at their Clarkway home.

Georgia relished spending time with her precious grandchildren: Holly, Damon and Theo Johnson and Chris, Alex and Nick Christopoulos. Whether it was coming to visit in Minneapolis or having them spend time at her home in Sioux Falls, there was always wonderful food in the fridge and lots of time being pampered by yiayia and papou. She was very proud of the fact that she could describe herself as part of four generations, enjoying many years with her great-grandchildren: Thea and Tula Larsen, Connor, Beckham and Avery Johnson all of whom lovingly referred to her as "JoJo".

She spent her final years living at the Good Samaritan Village on Marion Road in Sioux Falls. There she was tenderly cared for by an amazing staff who admired her feistiness to the end. Her most frequent visitors, Nettie Portner, Karen Bittner, Kate Christopoulos and Helen Belbas were the angels who offered her comfort and whatever help she needed. Nettie devoted much of her time and energy to lifting Georgia's spirits with flowers, clothes and true friendship. Before Helen passed away, she religiously called Georgia nightly at 7:00 PM sharp to say goodnight and talk with her in her beloved Greek language.

Georgia was feisty, gregarious and strong-willed to the end. She possessed a great sense of humor and was truly an "Unforgettable" personality for her friends and four generations of family members who cherish her memory.

### Donita Alice Evenson

February 26, 1923 - November 27, 2023



**Donita Alice Evenson age 100**, was born February 26, 1923 to Lacy and Amanda (Carson) Watkins in Mason City, Iowa. She died November 27, 2023 at the Alcester Care & Rehab Center at the age of 100 years, nine months and one day.

She and her husband, Everett, had two sons, Jim (Elaine) Evenson of Catonsville, Maryland and Ed (Sue) Evenson of Beresford, South Dakota.

The family lived for many years in Huron, SD where Ev was the manager of the J. J. Newberry store. In 1969 they moved to Willmar, Minnesota where Donita was the city hostess for the New Residents Welcome Center. After Ev died in 1981, Donita moved back to South Dakota.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, three sisters and a nephew.

In addition to her sons, Donita is survived by five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

### Guinevere S. Fausch

October 24, 1922 - February 4, 2023

**Guinevere S. Fausch, age 100**, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, died of natural causes on February 4, 2023, at Dow Rummel Village. No formal services will be held at this time.

Guinevere, the daughter of Ralph Clark and Freda (Ittner) Smythe, was born October 22, 1922, in Gilby, North Dakota. The younger of two sisters, she was raised in the many small towns across northern Minnesota in which her father was a station master for the Northern Pacific Railroad. She graduated from Fergus Falls High School in 1939, then entering Hamline University. She transferred to the University of Minnesota in 1941, graduating with high honors in food sciences and journalism in 1943. She worked for Kraft Foods and the well-known cook book author, Meta Given, in Chicago and San Francisco during the war years, until she and her husband Homer Fausch returned to Minnesota.



On Sept. 11, 1943, she married Homer in Minneapolis. They lived in Crookston and St. Paul, Minnesota while Homer completed college and graduate work. They moved to California for Homer's work at Cal Poly University, where they raised three children. With her sister Elaine, Guinevere developed a small business, *2 for 1 Household Account Service*, which organized financial and tax documents for their clients.

After Homer's retirement, they lived first in Mora, MN, before settling in Northfield from 1986 to 2014. Guin later moved to Sioux Falls to be near her son Mark. She is survived by three children, Dr. Deborah Fausch (R.D. Hunting) of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, Dr. Mark Fausch (Mary Kay) of Sioux Falls, SD, and Dr. Kurt Fausch (Deborah Eisenhauer) of Ft. Collins, CO; five grandchildren, Stefan, Emily, Andreas, Eric, and Benjamin Fausch; and three great grandchildren, Felix, Linnea, and Anna.

Guinevere was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph and Freda (Ittner) Smythe; her husband, Homer Fausch; and sister, Elaine Cressey Ohlin.

## Doris Gjervik

May 10, 1923 - January 20, 2024



**Doris Gjervik, age 100**, passed away Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Ecumen of Litchfield, MN.

Doris Mae Nelson was born on May 10, 1923, to Norman and Ruth (Lande) Nelson, on the family farm near Cylinder, Iowa. They raised Doris and her two siblings, Richard and Elizabeth, in a strong, loving family with their faith in God as the cornerstone of their lives. Doris's father, her husband Stanley, and brother and brother-in-law were all Lutheran pastors.

Doris graduated from Augustana Academy, Canton, SD, in 1940, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD (1940-42) and Fairview School of Nursing in Minneapolis, MN. She married Stanley Victor Gjervik on May 29, 1945, as he finished his degree at Luther Theological Seminary, Saint Paul, MN. Then she began the work of raising six children, managing a full household and contributing to the community. She played a vital role at home, and extended hospitality to others by opening their home to others, often for lengthy stays. While building a church and home in Hawaii, the contractor and wife lived in the home of Doris and Stan for a few years, and another time, a missionary family stayed for five years. When her mother-in-law lived with Stan & Doris in California for 12 years, Doris started a board and care home for five other women, and all six lived full-time with them. The Gjervik house was often bursting at the seams.

While active in parish life in the churches of Orfordville, WI; Lyle and Kenyon, MN; Honolulu, HI; Novato, Ventura and Joshua Tree, CA, Doris kept her nursing license for forty years and worked in numerous hospitals. As a pastor's wife she served as a teacher, Bible study leader, choir director, organist and other positions as needed. She was a Cub Scout leader and on the public-school board while they lived in Hawaii. In retirement years, Stan and Doris served congregations at Roseni and Emmanuel Lutheran Churches at Beresford, SD, and Grand Valley Lutheran Church at Canton, SD, among others in the Sioux Falls area. Doris also volunteered with the Sioux Valley Hospice program in Sioux Falls, SD, exemplifying a listening, patient and gracious woman. Vacations in Norway and Europe with Stan were highlights, and in later years Doris continued to travel alone or with her daughter-in-law, Janis.

After Stanley died in 2003, Doris moved to an apartment in Sioux Falls, SD, then to Litchfield, MN.

Doris had eight children: Melvin, Ruth, Philip, Grace, Lois, Bruce, David and Mary Ann. Preceding her in death were her parents; husband Stanley; infant daughters Ruth and Grace; son Melvin and his wife, Janis; son Bruce; David's wife, Billie; brother and sister-in-law Rev. Richard and Deloris Nelson.

Remembering a life well lived is her sister Elizabeth (Rev. J. David) Nelson, of Litchfield, MN; two sons, Philip (Laurie) Gjervik, Raymond, MN, and David Gjervik, Redding, CA; two daughters, Lois Gjervik Maertz, OR, and Mary Ann Gjervik, CA; and daughter-in-law Gail Gjervik, of Ventura, CA. Doris is also survived by four grandsons: Todd (Heather) Gjervik, Apple Valley, MN; Michael Gjervik and Brian Gjervik, Stewartville, MN; and Dylan Maertz, Brookings, OR. Great-grandchildren include Braden, Ethan, Noah and Ava Gjervik. Doris also has many nieces and nephews.

### June R. Helsper

July 15, 1920 - July 14, 2022



**June R. Helsper, age 102**, died peacefully in her home on her birthday, July 15, 2022.

June Ruth Catherine Grommersch was born July 15, 1920 in Brookings, SD to Henry and Lucy Grommersch. She grew up and attended public school in Brookings, graduating from Brookings High School in 1938.

Upon graduation, June started working as a bookkeeper and tax preparer for several local businesses. June's younger brother, James Grommersch, returned to Brookings after his service in the Army, and persuaded June to attend a dance to meet his Navy friend, Clyde. Six months later, June married Clyde G. Helsper on February 15, 1948 at

St. Thomas Moore Parish where she stayed a lifelong member.

In the early years of her marriage, June was home raising two children, Richard and Susan, while Clyde worked for the State of SD as a Dairy Inspector. Unexpectedly, Clyde passed away in January of 1975. After her husband's early passing, she resumed working outside the home. She was employed at Medary Acres Florist and Greenhouse until her retirement at age 90.

June was well known locally for her musical talent. She was the St. Thomas Moore organist for 17 years and enjoyed playing piano for the residents at United Retirement Center, The Neighborhoods, StoneyBrook and Park Place. (*Personal recollection: June played at my wedding... Editor*)

June is survived by her son, Richard (Mary) Helsper of Sioux Falls; daughter, Susan Helsper, Brookings; four grandchildren - Nicole (Steve) DeVoe, Dakota Dunes; Elizabeth (Clint Benge) Helsper, Sioux Falls; Kaylin Helsper, Harrisburg; and RJ Helsper, Minneapolis, MN; four great grandchildren - Theodore, Jackson and Charles DeVoe and Lucy June Benge; and sister, Donna (William) Rook, Fargo, ND; as well as many nieces and nephews.

June was preceded in death by her husband, Clyde Helsper; parents, Henry and Lucy Grommersch; three brothers - James (Kitty) Grommersch, Darrell (Delores) Grommersch, and infant brother, Richard Paul Grommersch.

### Marjorie Knutson

September 29, 1923 - December 15, 2023

**Marjorie P. Knutson age 100**, was born September 29, 1923 to Arthur and Pauline (Bleich) Engman in Vermillion, South Dakota. She passed away December 15, 2023 at Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home in Viborg, SD at the age of 100 years, two months and 16 days.

She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. Marjorie attended schools in the Dalesburg area and graduated from Vermillion High School. She married Clare Knutson on March 29, 1944 at Dalesburg Lutheran Church, rural Vermillion. They moved near Centerville and made their home on a farm in the Frog Creek community.

Marjorie was an active member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in rural Centerville where she taught Sunday School and was a member of the WMF.

She adored her great-granddaughters and enjoyed going to their activities. They spent a lot of time at her house.



Clare passed away in September 2009. Marjorie continued to live on the farm until she became a resident at Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home in June of 2021. She and her family were grateful for the wonderful care she received there.

Grateful for having shared her life are her son, Rodney (Beverly) Knutson; grandson, Jason (Alicia) Knutson; great-granddaughters, Jaclynn (Luke) Engen, Alison Knutson, Shania (Pierre) Lear and Kasandra Knutson and her special friend, Brady Tilly; and a great-great-granddaughter, Ellie Engen. She is also survived by two sisters, Arthadell Engman and Lois Christensen; several nieces, nephews and cousins. Marjorie was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Clare and three sisters, Phyllis, Betty and Alice. Blessed be her memory.

## Shirley Olson

January 9, 1921- January 22, 2024

Funeral services for **Shirley Olson, age 103**, were held Saturday, February 3, 2024 at Lake Whitewood Lutheran Church rural Arlington. Military honors were provided by Edgar L. Herrick American Legion Post #42 of Arlington.

Shirley was born on January 9, 1921 to Halvor and Olive (Hefte) Lee on a farm 6 miles NW of Arlington, South Dakota. She graduated from Arlington High School then went to work as a bookkeeper. In 1943 she joined the Women's Army Corp and served 33 months in Texas, Papua New Guinea and Manila Philippines. She was a Chief Clerk in the Post Engineers and reached the rank of Staff Sergeant.



On Feb. 7, 1948, she married Ray LeVern Olson, to this union 4 sons were born, Dale, Reid, Lyle and Dean.

They had a Grade A dairy farm outside of Arlington and farmed for 25 years. In 1973 they sold the farm and moved to Pierre, South Dakota for two years before moving to Boise Idaho.

Shirley worked at the Department of Health & Welfare for the State of Idaho as an Account Technician for 9 1/2 years until she retired in 1985. She was a member of The American Legion and VFW. Shirley was also a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church and enjoyed making quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Shirley passed away peacefully in her home on January 22, 2024. She is survived by her youngest sister, Norma (Verne) Hansen of Volga SD. Her sons, Dale (Linda) of Glenrock WY, Reid (Mary) of Chehalis WA, Dean (Jeanne) of Emmett ID. Her grandchildren, Daelynn, April, Josie, Jason, Amber, Jacob, Jordan and Joseph and her great-grandchildren, Cataleya, Gabriel, Gunnar, Olivia, Ella and Matthew. Shirley loved and was loved and admired by many nieces and nephews.

Family preceding Shirley in death were her husband, Ray, son, Lyle and grandson, Justin. Also, her parents, Halvor and Olive, brothers, Royce, Lloyd, Robert, Glen, and sisters, Frances, Mavis and Ruth.

A special thanks to Shirley's primary caretakers for her final years; her grandson Jordan, Elena Velazquez, Charla Dudley and Theresa Rogers. Shirley loved them all.

## FYI: IT'S ALMOST TAX TIME AGAIN.

### SVGS's MEMBERSHIP AND GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

**Membership Dues:** A way to help Sioux Valley Genealogical Society (SVGS) by providing, financially, toward events held throughout the year.

**Memorials:** Donating in memory of a loved one is a wonderful way to pay tribute to their life and memory. Memorial donations will help in preserving, protecting and promoting the cultural and genealogical heritage of the Sioux Valley area and its citizens. If you would like to receive a written personal acknowledgement of your gift, please include, with your memorial, the name and contact information of that individual or organization.

**Endowment Fund:** In the early 2000's, SVGS started a permanent fund based on donations. The Fund is entrusted to The Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity. Through them, SVGS receives annual distributions based on established criteria, such as the value of the fund and investment returns. Your donations can be designated to the SVGS Endowment Fund by verbal or written request.

**Donations:** Are you downsizing, moving, or cleaning out the home of a loved one? The Library is always looking for local written information to add to our extensive library holdings. This would include yearbooks, plat books, telephone directories, family histories and more. Please keep us in mind! We may have a spot for your printed materials. Monetary donations can also be noted for how you wish it to be used, library, education, computers, your choice.

**Charitable Bequest Upon Death:** In the estate planning process, you can choose a beneficiary to receive some part of your assets in your will, through retirement plans or life insurance. Your beneficiary could be SVGS.

Dear Ancestor,  
  
Your tombstone stands among the rest;  
    Neglected and alone.  
The name and date are chiselled out On polished, marbled stone.  
    It reaches out to all who care It is too late to mourn.  
        You did not know that I exist  
        You died and I was born.  
    Yet each of us are cells of you In flesh, in blood, in bone.  
    Our blood contracts and beats a pulse Entirely not our own.

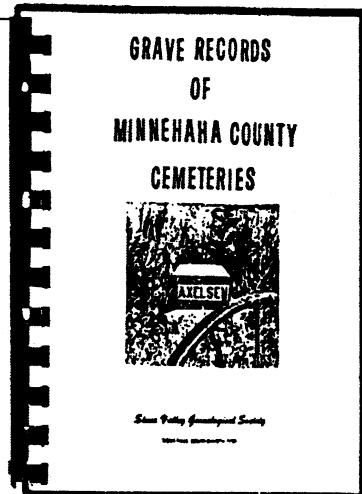
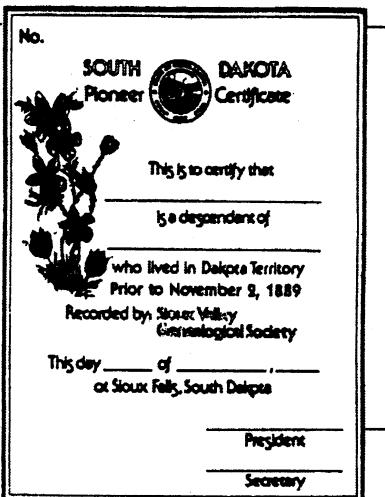
Dear Ancestor, the place you filled, One hundred years ago  
    Spreads out among the ones you left  
        Who would have loved you so.  
        I wonder if you lived and loved,  
        I wonder if you knew  
    That someday I would find this spot,  
        And come to visit you.

Author Unknown

# 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.



### 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.sioixvalleygenealogicalsociety.org/>

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1. Receive 3 issues of the Pioneer Pathfinder - Choose either 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.

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

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All annual memberships are renewable  
one year after the member joins

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