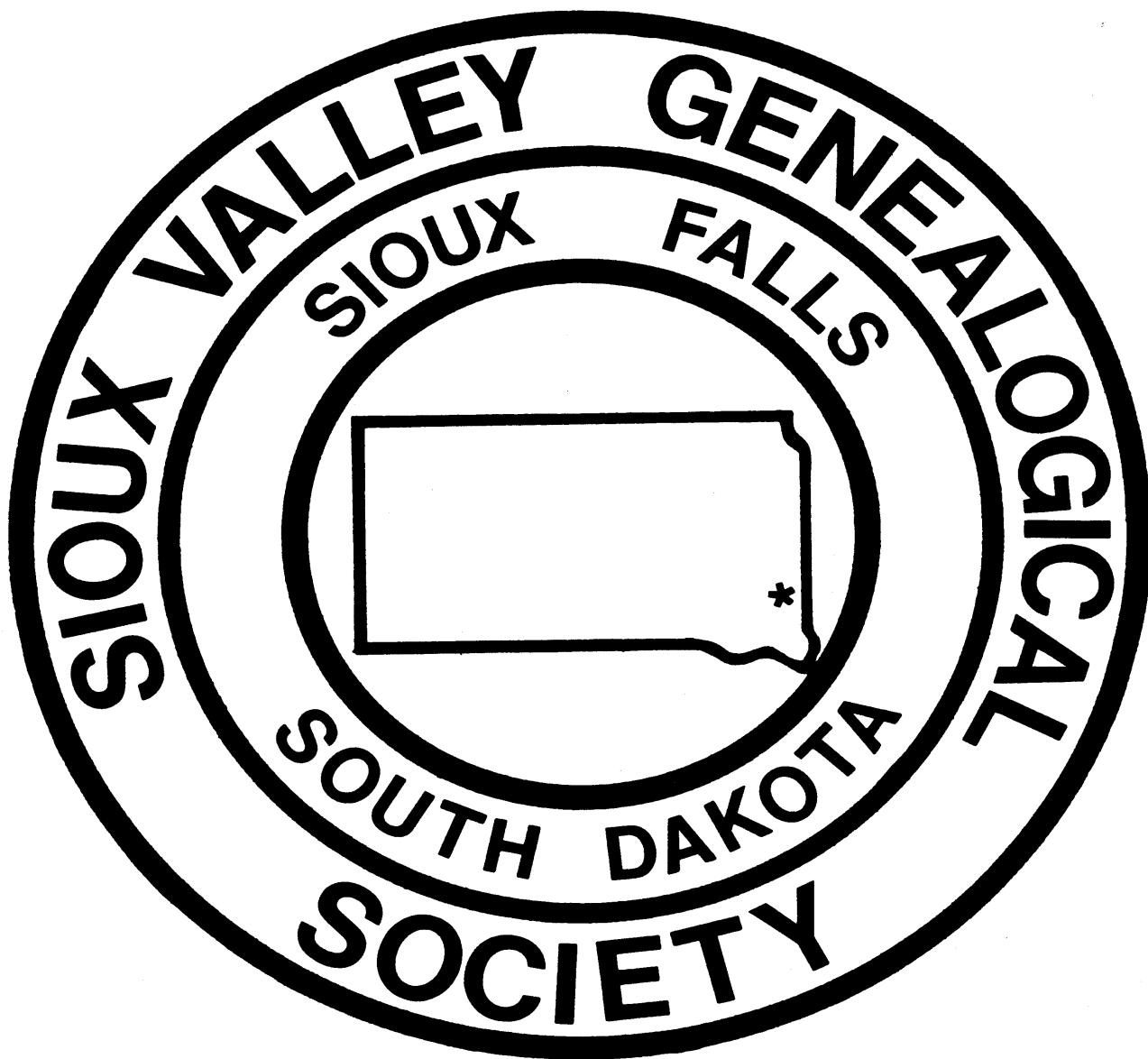


Volume 51

Issue 2

Spring/Summer 2025

# 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 continue projects of a genealogical nature; including the publication of *The Pioneer Pathfinder*; the instruction of interested persons and to provide a means of conducting 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: 605-991-0256 (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!!!**

**July 31, 2025** – End of Siouxland Libraries' access to Ancestry, HeritageQuest and Fold3

**August 27-September 1, 2025** - State Fair time in Huron, SD. If you can help at the SDGS Genealogy Booth, please message Suzanne at [suzanneflk@gmail.com](mailto:suzanneflk@gmail.com). The booth will be open from 9am - 8pm. Theme this year is Small Town Memories. Submit any memories of growing up in/near a small town, or any town histories. These will be assembled into a 12x12 scrapbook page to be shown on the wall. **Send duplicates only!**

**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

Recently I have been reading the author Ole Rolvaag's "**Giants in the Earth**" for my history book group. The novel realistically describes the lives and trials of Norwegian pioneers in Dakota Territory emphasizing their battles with the elements. The book also portrays the trials of loneliness, separation from family, longing for the old country, and the difficulty of fitting into a new culture. It left me thinking about my pioneer Norwegian and German relatives and how I would love to discover family historical letters that might address some of the emotional aspects of immigration that Rolvaag wrote about in his trilogy of Norwegian immigrants' lives in Dakota Territory.

I would be interested in learning about methods for locating and preserving such correspondence, and techniques for analyzing these documents to enhance my genealogical research. I do know that contextual analysis is necessary to understand the broader historical and social context in which any letters were written. This would include considering the time period, local events, and social norms that could have influenced the content of the letters.

Understanding context helps to interpret the letters more accurately and situate them within the larger historical narrative.

Evidently handwriting analysis can also provide valuable insights. The style of handwriting can help date letters, and any changes in handwriting over time can indicate different phases in the writer's life. Comparing the handwriting in different letters can also confirm whether they were written by the same person.

In addition, it is necessary to pay attention to the tone and style of the letters. The choice of words, expressions of emotion, and the way relationships are described can all offer clues about the writer's personality and the nature of their relationships.

Now, I am looking forward to the September meeting - Kevn Gansz from the Minnehaha county Siouxland Museum will be giving a tour of Woodlawn Cemetery on Thursday, September 4th. All SVGS members are invited but additional family or friends cost \$5 per person as the county charges SVGS \$5 per person.

## SVGS LIBRARY NOTES

by Lynette Trainer

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer vacation. Most days our library has been busy with 4 to 6 families stopping by. These visitors include visitors from Texas, Iowa, Wisconsin, and even one family from India. It is fun learning about their family histories.

If you are looking to become a volunteer, please consider helping in the library. It is great fun working and learning about the books that we had donated to the library. There have been over 500 books donated and are heading to the shelves in the near future.

Think about what skills you might have. Do you like working on the computer? There is a great job for you! The books that have been donated need to be put into the inventory, index cards made for the card catalog, and of course filing the books on the shelf.

Do you have an idea for a database that we could add to our databases already in our collection?

Don't like to work on the computer? There are projects that might be of interest. One project that needs to be done is checking the card catalog against the Year Books on the shelf. This job is taking the card catalog cards and comparing them again the yearbooks on the shelf. If you are interested, please contact Lynette at the library or call **605-991-0256**. If you only have an hour to spare or 4 hours a day or anything in between please consider volunteering.

## SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

December Member Business Meeting

**Thursday 5 December 2024**

Old Courthouse Museum

Member Business Meeting Called to order 6:35 pm by Kim McKeon

October 2024 Member Business Meeting Minutes were emailed to members. No corrections or additions. Minutes approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Kim McKeon. Report held for audit in SVGS offices.

Officer Reports:

- Pathfinder: Luci Feenstra: The next issue will be prepared end of January. Please submit articles.
- Library: Lynette Trainer:
- Due to no Vice President, Kim McKeon reported on upcoming meetings:
  - Next meeting would normally be scheduled for 2 January 2025. Discussion. Those present agreed to move January meeting one week later to 9 January 2025. No change to other dates as a result.
  - **January** meeting (Remote via Zoom). Speaker: Madeline Yanov. Topic "Migration from the East Coast to the Mississippi River: Part 1"
  - **February** (Remote via Zoom). Speaker: Lisa Gorrell. Topic "Finding Records to Help Document Your Farming Ancestors"
  - **March** (back in person): Speaker: Sarah Busse Spencer, PhD. Topic "Digging Up German Roots." Emphasis will be on getting them across the pond. Bring names to look up and discuss.
  - **April** Annual Meeting & Member Dinner. Speaker: Arley Fadness, KKK in South Dakota. Ryan Tucker, SVGS member, will discuss his research into his great grandfather's involvement in the KKK.
  - **May** Meeting: Joint meeting with Minnehaha County Historical Society and Mary Chilton Chapter, DAR
  - **June 6-7:** SVGS hosts a DNA Conference together with Mary Chilton Chapter, DAR featuring Patti Lee Hobbs, genealogist with DNA speciality.

New Business:

- Approval of 2025 Budget. BOD meeting 5 December 2024 to consider 2025 budget, which was delayed due to illness. Budget will be sent to members for approval before 1 January 2025 and will be discussed at the January meeting.
- Reminder the FamilySearch Center (3900 Fairhall Ave) is open Wednesdays 5 - 8 pm and Sundays 2-4 pm, except the two weeks of Christmas and New Years.

Business meeting adjourned about 6:45.

Member social followed, with sharing of family heritage holiday treats and white elephant gifts.

Minutes submitted by Sarah Busse Spencer

## SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

January Member Business Meeting

No meeting in January. Speaker unavailable.

## SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

February Member Business Meeting

**Thursday 6 February 2025**

Via Zoom

Talk 6 February 2025 7 - 8 pm Via Zoom

Speaker: Lisa Gorell, "Finding Records to Help Document Your Farming Ancestor."

Lisa described and demonstrated various record types specific to farmers and land owning in the region to learn more about farming ancestors. Q&A followed presentation.

Member Business Meeting Called to order 8:06 pm by Kim McKeon

Officer Reports:

- Kim McKeon reported on Nominations received to date. Voting will be in March.
  - Lori Mohr for Research and Corresponding Secretary
  - Luci Feenstra, for Pathfinder
  - Lynette Trainer, for Librarian
  - Colleen Hennessey, for Treasurer
  - Luann Schultz, for second year of Vice President term
  - Phyllis Magelky, for Registrar
- Kim McKeon reported on upcoming meetings:
  - The cancelled **January** meeting (via Zoom), will be rescheduled for July 2025. Speaker: Madeline Yanov. Topic "Migration from the East Coast to the Mississippi River: Part 1"
  - **March** (in person): Speaker: Sarah Busse Spencer, PhD. Topic "Digging Up German Roots." Bring names to look up and discuss.
  - **April** 3 Annual Meeting & Dessert. Speaker: Arley Fadness, KKK in South Dakota. Ryan Tucker, SVGS member, will also discuss his research into his great grandfather's involvement in the KKK.
  - **May** Meeting: Joint meeting with Minnehaha County Historical Society and Mary Chilton Chapter, DAR. Speaker, Kevin Gansz, will discuss research into historic commercial and residential buildings in Sioux Falls.
  - **June 6-7:** SVGS hosts a DNA Conference together with Mary Chilton Chapter, DAR featuring Patti Lee Hobbs, CG. (<https://bcgcertification.org/welcome-patricia-lee-hobbs-cg/>)
  - Of interest to members: SD State Genealogical Society meeting 26 April 2025, speaker Amber Oldenburg (<https://www.apgen.org/users/amber-oldenburg>)

- Reminder the FamilySearch Center (3900 Fairhall Ave) is open Wednesdays 5 - 8 pm and Sundays 3:30-5:00 pm, other times by appointment. Contact Sarah Spencer ([sarah@sbs-research.com](mailto:sarah@sbs-research.com)).

Business meeting adjourned 20:13

Minutes submitted by Sarah Busse Spencer

## SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### March Member Business Meeting

**Thursday 6 March 2025**

In person / Old Courthouse

Talk 6 March 2025 from 7 - 8 pm In Person

Speaker: Sarah Busse Spencer "Digging Up German Roots"

Sarah demonstrated some maps and other things to keep in mind when looking for German ancestors. Q&A followed presentation. 12 in attendance (three were visitors)

Member Business Meeting Called to order 8:15 pm by Lynette Trainer for Kim McKeon.

Minutes from January were approved as written.

Librarian Report: Luci will be putting out a "Book of the Week".

Pathfinder: Luci is accepting news, articles for the next issue of Pathfinder

Lynette Trainer presented the nominations for the open positions of the Board of Directors

- Lori Mohr for Research and Corresponding Secretary
- Luci Feenstra, for Pathfinder
- Lynette Trainer, for Librarian
- Colleen Hennessey, for Treasurer
- Luann Schultz, to fill second year of Vice President term
- Phyllis Magelky, for Registrar

Motion carried to accept the candidates as presented. New Board members will be installed in April.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **3 April** Thursday. Annual Meeting & Desert. Speaker: Arley Fadness, KKK in South Dakota. Ryan Tucker, SVGS member, will also discuss his research into his great grandfather's involvement in the KKK. Desserts will be provided. No charge for members to attend.
- **15 May** Third Thursday: Joint meeting with Minnehaha County Historical Society and Mary Chilton Chapter, DAR. Speaker: Kevin Gansz will discuss research into historic commercial and residential buildings in Sioux Falls.
- **26 April** South Dakota [State] Genealogical Society Meeting in Pierre, speaker Amber Oldenburg (<https://www.apgen.org/users/amber-oldenburg>). See Pathfinder for details
- **June 6-7:** SVGS hosts a DNA Conference together with Mary Chilton Chapter, DAR. Held at Faith Lutheran Church, 601 N Cliff, Sioux Falls  
Speaker Patti Lee Hobbs, CG. <https://bcgcertification.org/welcome-patricia-lee-hobbs-cg/>

Reminder: FamilySearch Center (3900 Fairhall Ave) is open Wednesdays 5 - 8 pm and Sundays 3:30-5:00 pm, other times by appointment, contact Sarah Spencer ([sarah@sbs-research.com](mailto:sarah@sbs-research.com)).

Business meeting adjourned 20:25

Minutes submitted by Sarah Busse Spencer

## ANNUAL MEETING AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

April Member Business Meeting

**Thursday 3 April 2025**

Talk: 3 April 2025 7 - 8 pm

SVGS members enjoyed special desserts for the Annual Meeting. Arley Fadness was the guest speaker who spoke about the KKK in South Dakota. Ryan Tucker, a SVGS member, also discussed his research into his great grandfather's involvement in the KKK.

Q&A followed the presentation.

Member Business Meeting Called to order 8:15 pm by Kim McKeon

- Kim McKeon conducted the induction of the following nominees to the Board of Directors who were approved by the membership in the March meeting. All nominees were approved by the membership attending the meeting by voice voting.
  - Luci Feenstra, for Pathfinder
  - Lynette Trainer, for Librarian
  - Luann Schultz, for second year of Vice President term
  - Phyllis Magelky, for Registrar
  - Lori Mohr was appointed Treasurer replacing Colleen Hennessey as she is unable to fulfill duties of the office. Lori will be installed in the fall.
- Kim McKeon indicated that the Research and Corresponding Secretary position remains open
- Kim McKeon reported on upcoming meetings:
  - **May** Meeting: Joint meeting with Minnehaha County Historical Society and Mary Chilton Chapter, DAR. Speaker: Kevin Gansz will discuss research into historic commercial and residential buildings in Sioux Falls.
  - **June 6-7:** SVGS hosts a DNA Conference together with Mary Chilton Chapter, DAR, featuring Patti Lee Hobbs, CG. (<https://bcgcertification.org/welcome-patricia-lee-hobbs-cg/>).
  - Of interest to members: SD State Genealogical Society meeting 26 April 2025, speaker Amber Oldenburg (<https://www.apgen.org/users/amber-oldenburg>)

Business meeting adjourned 20:30

Minutes submitted by Kim McKeon, President

## SIOUX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL Society

May Member Business Meeting

In May, SVGS held a joint presentation with the Minnehaha County Historical Society and Mary Chilton Chapter, DAR with Kevin Gansz presenting on how downtown Sioux Falls has changed through the years from 1880 through urban renewal in the 1970s. Kevin discussed specific buildings and how ownership changes and city priorities influenced the fate of those buildings--whether the buildings were razed or preserved. The Siouxland Museum system has many photographs and information on historical buildings in Sioux Falls.

## JUNE 2025 SEMINAR DNA AND GENEALOGY

Presented by Patti Lee Hobbs



Opening Remarks by Kim McKeon SVGS  
President

Sioux Valley Genealogical Society and Mary Chilton Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution together hosted a seminar on DNA and Genealogy as presented by Patti Lee Hobbs, CG, an instructor and professional genealogist specializing in several geographical regions as well as in identifying distant ancestry with DNA and documentary sources. All classes were held June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at Faith Lutheran Church, 601 N. Cliff Ave., Sioux Falls, SD.

On Friday evening, we held a free "Meet and Greet" for anyone interested in knowing more

about DNA. Patti's presentation that evening was on "DNA Triage".

Saturday saw attendees joining us for a full day of DNA. Patti shared how she uses genealogy and DNA together. Her beginning lecture was on "*DNA Illuminates A Woman Hidden in the Shadows of her Father and Husbands?*

Patti presented three more talks during the day, "*Problem Solving with DNA: Case Studies*" (examples included three case studies), "*Using Y-DNA to Reach Back in Time for your Male Ancestors*" and her final presentation, "*Problem Solving with DNA: Pathways and Roadblocks to Success*".

Breaks between sessions allowed for networking and visiting with representatives from Daughters of the American Revolution, Jamestown Pioneers, The Mayflower Society, *National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century*, and Sioux Valley Genealogical Society. Nineteen door prizes



Patti Lee Hobbs during one of her presentations



Attendees on break



Food committee members: Julie Holmes,  
Sue Eckert, and Luci Feenstra.  
Not pictured Brenda Dahlin and Ellen Speck

were awarded. It was a lucky day for a couple of attendees, who each won several prizes! Early arrivals enjoyed a pick-up breakfast. For lunch, sandwiches were served with sides and desserts; for breaks we had member-provided goodies. Assorted beverages were available all day.

## IN THE SVGS MAILBOX

Surprises found in our mailbox.... Submitted by Lynette Trainer



March 2025:

There was a box waiting for Lori Mohr. When she opened it, there was a letter and a beautiful gift from a member. David Van Middendorp had sent SVGS a wonderful wood engraved plaque! It reads "Only the best trees grow in this place". I am sure David put a lot of work and love into making this for our Society. It has found a home on the filing cabinet next to the library desk.

Thank you, David, for your beautiful gift. We really appreciate it.

June 2025:

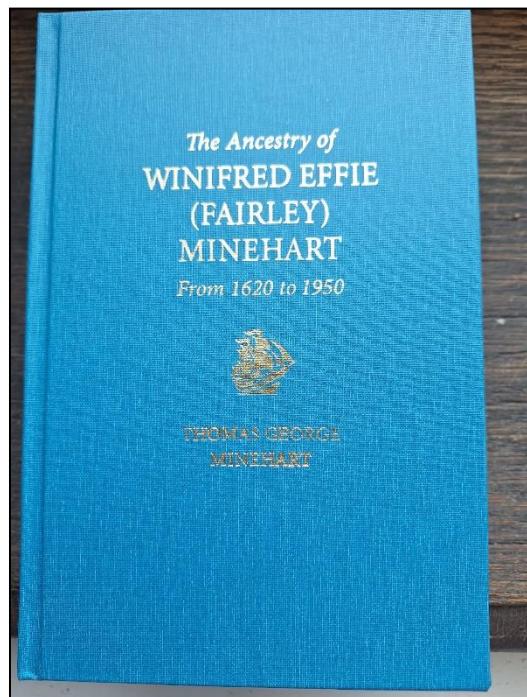
While Lori was on vacation, a large package was sitting in the mailbox. I opened it up and found a book donation by Tom Minehart titled *The Ancestry of Winifred Effie (Fairley) Minehart from 1620 to 1950*.

This book covers areas of Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Nova Scotia, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota and Virginia.

It includes family pictures, pedigree charts, maps, an index, footnotes and is packed full of information for a grand total of 910 pages.

Did not find any names of my family, but looking at the pictures, I know I will enjoy reading about his family.

Thank you, Tom, for this wonderful addition to our library collection.



## THE IRISH SLAVE TRADE

Author Unknown

The Irish slave trade began when 30,000 Irish prisoners were sold as slaves to the New World. The King James I Proclamation of 1625 required Irish political prisoners be sent overseas and sold to English settlers in the West Indies. By the mid-1600's, the Irish were the main slaves sold to Antigua and Montserrat. At that time, 70% of the total population of Montserrat were Irish slaves.

Ireland quickly became the biggest source of human livestock for English merchants. The majority of the early slaves to the New World were actually white.

From 1641 to 1652, over 500,000 Irish were killed by the English and another 300,000 were sold as slaves. Ireland's population fell from about 1,500,000 to 600,000 in one single decade.

Families were ripped apart as the British did not allow Irish dads to take their wives and children with them across the Atlantic. This led to a helpless population of homeless women and children. Britain's solution was to auction them off as well.

During the 1650's, over 100,000 Irish children between the ages of 10 and 14 were taken from their parents and sold as slaves in the West Indies, Virginia, and New England. In this decade, 52,000 Irish (mostly women and children) were sold to Barbados and Virginia. Another 30,000 Irish men and women were also transported and sold to the highest bidder. In 1656, Cromwell ordered that 2,000 Irish children be taken to Jamaica and sold as slaves to English settlers.

Many people today will avoid calling the Irish slaves what they truly were: Slaves. They will produce terms like "Indentured Servants" to describe what occurred to the Irish. However, in most cases from the 17th and 18th centuries, Irish slaves were nothing more than human cattle.

As an example, the African trade was just beginning during this same period. It is well recorded that African slaves, not tainted with the stain of the hated Catholic theology and more expensive to purchase, were often treated far better than their Irish counterparts.

African slaves were extremely expensive during the late 1600's (50 Sterling). Irish slaves were cheap (no more than 5 Sterling). If a planter whipped, branded or beat an Irish slave to death, it was never a crime. To English masters a death was a monetary setback, far cheaper than killing a more expensive African. English masters quickly began breeding the Irish women for both their own personal pleasure and for greater profit. Children of slaves were themselves slaves, which increased the size of the master's free workforce. Even if an Irish mother somehow obtained her freedom, her children would remain slaves of her master. Thus Irish moms, even with this new found emancipation, would seldom abandon their kids and would remain in servitude.

In time, the English thought of a better way to use these women (in many cases, girls as young as 12) to increase their market share: The settlers began to breed Irish women and girls with African men to produce slaves with a distinct complexion. These new "mulatto" slaves brought a higher price than Irish livestock and, likewise, enabled the settlers to save money rather than purchase new African slaves. This practice of interbreeding Irish females with African men went on for several decades and was so widespread that, eventually, legislation was passed "forbidding the practice of mating Irish slave women to African slave men for the purpose of producing slaves for sale." In short, it was stopped only because it interfered with the profits of a large slave transport company.

England continued to ship tens of thousands of Irish slaves for more than a century. Records state that, after the 1798 Irish Rebellion, thousands of Irish slaves were sold to both America and Australia. There were horrible abuses of both African and Irish captives. One British ship even dumped 1,302 slaves into the Atlantic Ocean so that the crew would have plenty of food to eat.

There is little question that the Irish experienced the horrors of slavery as much if not more as the Africans did. There is, also, little question that those brown, tanned faces you witness in your travels to the West Indies are highly likely a combination of African and Irish ancestry. In 1839, Britain finally decided on its own to end its participation in "Satan's Highway to Hell" and stopped transporting slaves. While their decision did not stop pirates from doing what they desired, the new law *slowly* concluded THIS chapter of nightmarish Irish misery.

But, if anyone, black or white, believes that slavery was only an African experience, then they have got it completely wrong. Irish slavery is a subject worth remembering, not erasing from our memories.

Found in: (Des Moines County Genealogical Society)  
DMCGS Inc. Vol. 48, Issue 3, Page12

## DEATH OF LONGTIME SVGS MEMBER, CHAPLAIN JAMES H. OAKLAND



James Henry Oakland, age 80, of Lennox SD died Sunday May 4, 2025. A celebration of the life of a Chaplain was held Friday May 9, 2025 following a visitation prior to the service.

Jim was born November 1, 1944 to Henry and Phyllis (Riesetter) Oakland at Iowa Falls IA. His family lived on farms near several Iowa communities until moving to WI where Jim began developing his love of nature, fishing and the Green Bay Packers. After high school, he attended the University of WI at River Falls before attending Luther Seminary at St. Paul MN where he fell in love with Sherry Lyon. They married May 30, 1966. While Jim served the Lord in the states of Washington, North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota, their family grew with births of Carren and Hons before they opened their hearts to adopt Jared and Joy Anna. After moving to Sioux Falls, Jim served as Chaplain at Sioux Valley Hospital for over 20 years. before moving to their home in Lennox SD in 2013.

Although Jim's genealogy research began with his looking into his wife's ancestry, it grew to include his own Norwegian ancestry, and not just the people, but their histories, customs and ancient origins. Always interested in helping others, Jim joined several Bygdelags, including Hardangerlag and Rogalandslag, where he held multiple Lag's offices throughout the years and aided other people with their own family research. In addition to his long membership in the Lags, Jim spent 30 years as a member of Sioux Valley Genealogical Society in Sioux Falls. His most recent contribution to SVGS and the Lags was a substantial portion of his personal genealogy library. Jim's contributions to these groups are appreciated. He will be missed. RIP, Jim.

Grateful for having shared his life are his four children, Carren (Brian) Hanson, Urbandale, IA, Hons (Melody Roberts) Oakland, Sioux Falls, SD, Jared (April) Oakland, Sinai, SD and JoyAnna (Ivo) Chabaka, Sioux Falls, SD; nine grandchildren, Emily Hanson, George (Abby) Roberts Oakland, Ella Roberts Oakland, Grayson Oakland, Athena Oakland, Sage Oakland, Jaela (Kyle) Cullison, Timothy Martin and Tristan Oakland; three great grandchildren, Justin, Wesley and Savannah; three brothers, Merle (Kathy) Oakland, Cedar Falls, IA, Roger (Lois) Oakland, Story City, IA and Arlen (Lurene) Oakland, Altoona, IA; numerous other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Phyllis Oakland; and grandson, Lars Henry Roberts Oakland.

## LOST AND FOUND AT THE DNA SEMINAR

Submitted by Lynette Trainer



At the end of the June, 2025 DNA Seminar and almost all attendees had gone home, we found this cool Coffee Cup!

Is it yours? If so, we have it at the SVGS Library.

Yes, it is one cup, one side is red, the other is white



## LIBRARY BOOKS FOR SALE

Submitted by Lynette Trainer

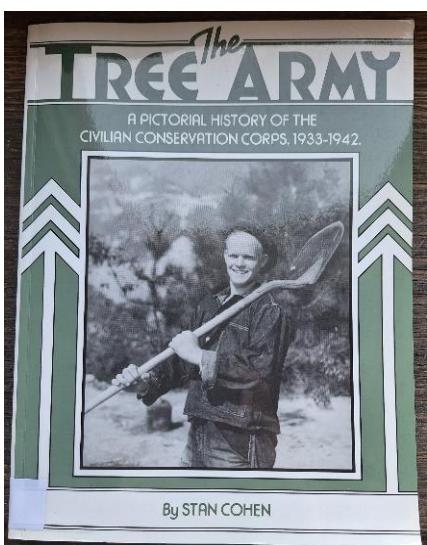
The following surplus books are available for you to purchase.

Interested? Contact Lynette at the SVGS Library or call **605-991-0256** for more information

Pioneer History - Minnehaha County's Norwegian Pioneers History from the year 1866 to 1896	Editors: Iver I Oien, H. A Ustrud, M. G. Opsahl, J. O Asen	\$85.00
Du vakre bygd blant fjelle gjemt, du likest er for meg...	Anton Pynten	\$ 25.00
Poland - Land of Freedom Fighters	Christine Pfeiffer	\$ 0.25
1988 Directory - Our Savior's Lutheran Church 909 West 33rd St, Sioux Falls, SD 57105		\$ 0.50
The Archives - A Guide to the National Archives Field Branches	Loretto Dennis Szucs & Sandra Hargreaves Luebking	\$ 4.50
The Handy Book for Genealogist (6th Edition)	George B Everton, Sr	\$ 1.00
The Handy Book for Genealogist (7th Edition)	George B Everton, Sr	\$ 3.00
UFF Da	Emily Lunde	\$ 2.50
Skottetoget 1612 The Scottish Expedition 1612	Vertshuser Sinclair	\$ 1.00
Verdalsraet 1893		\$ 10.00
The Source (1984)	Arlene Eakle & Johni Cerny	\$ 3.00
The Source Revised (1997)	Loretto Dennis Szucs & Sandra Hargreaves Luebking	\$ 5.00
Ancestry's Red Book	Alice Eichholz, PhD, CG	\$ 3.00
Nidaros Kirkes Spital 700 AR Trondhjems Hospital 1277-1977		\$ 6.00

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

by Lynette Trainer



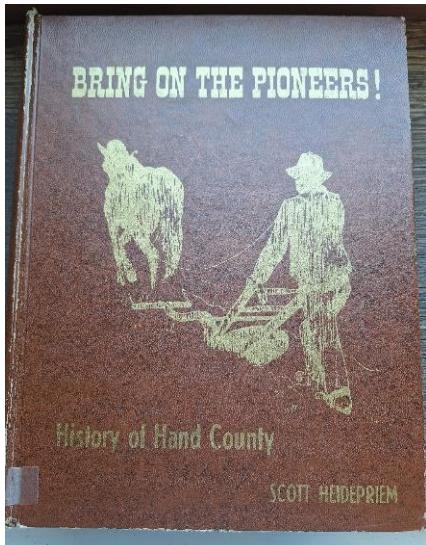
Earlier this spring, while working on book spine labels, Luci was intrigued by a book titled ***The Tree Army*** by Stan Cohen. It discusses the CCC "Civilian Conservation Corps" from 1933-1942 and contains many pictures, talks about the camps, and stories of camp life.

Thus, the "Book of the Day" soon to be "Book of the Month" was born!

Luci's second pick was ***Uniquely South Dakota*** by Bob Karolevitz and Bernie Hunhoff. This book is divided into 3 parts, the Mighty Missouri, East River Country, and West River Country. It includes a map of South Dakota.

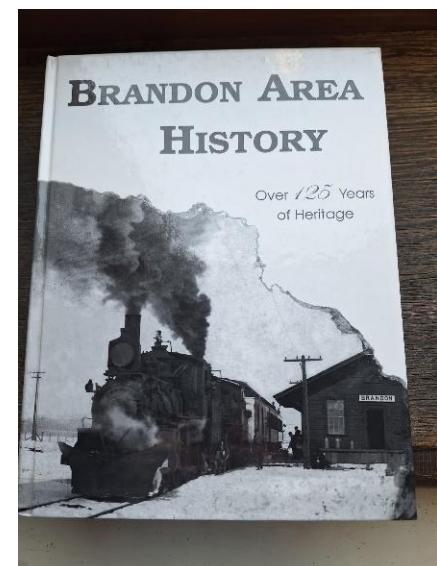
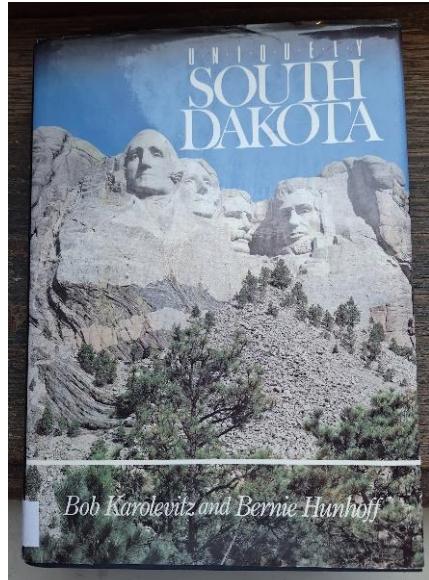
There are lots of historical pictures.

Lynette chose ***Bring on the Pioneers History of Hand County*** by Scott Heidepriem. Within this book you will find area politics, education, religion, homicides, agriculture, World War I information, and many local family histories.



There are many historical pictures including families, the towns of Hand County and various buildings.

Last month's pick was ***Brandon Area History over 125 years of Heritage*** by the Brandon Historical Society, 2003. It covers the early history of Brandon and family histories. It has an index, lots of pictures, and ads for various businesses in Brandon.



Enjoy our latest Book Of The Month at:

**SVGS Library  
The Old Courthouse Museum  
200 W. 6th St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104**

# THE GHOST IN YOUR DNA: WHY YOU FEEL CONNECTED TO ANCESTORS YOU'VE NEVER MET

By [Marc McDermott](https://www.genealogyexplained.com/) <https://www.genealogyexplained.com/>

First Published: January 28, 2025 | Edited: June 2025

It's 2 AM. Again. You're hunched over your laptop, squinting at a baptism record from 1847. Your eyes are wet. Your throat is tight. Your coffee went cold hours ago.

And you're wondering what the heck is wrong with you.

Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

Here's the raw truth about genealogy that nobody talks about: It will emotionally wreck you.

Not in the superficial way that makes you shed a quick tear and move on. No. This hits deeper. This rewrites your brain. This changes how you see yourself in the grand tapestry of time.

Let me show you exactly why this happens, and why it's one of the most profound experiences you'll ever have.

## Paper Trail That Changes Everything

Documents have power. Real power. Not the kind they teach you about in history class. Something far more visceral.

First, it starts innocently enough. Just names and dates. Clinical. Historical. Safe. You're detached. Objective. Just gathering facts like some kind of family history scientist.

Then you see their handwriting.

That's when everything shifts.

When that looping signature from 1847 hits your screen, your brain short-circuits. Because suddenly, this isn't just data.

This is a human being, moving a pen across paper, having no idea their great-great-grandchild would be studying their handwriting centuries later.

Every form they filled out. Every occupation they listed. Every address they called home. These weren't just entries in a dusty ledger. These were real moments in real lives that led to yours.

Think about the marriage certificate where your great-great-grandparents signed their names. They were young. Nervous. Excited. Had no idea their union would create a lineage leading to you.

That document you're staring at? They touched it. Their hands were there. Their hopes were fresh. Their future – your past – was unwritten.

Then there are the census records. Each one a snapshot frozen in time. Your ancestors gathered in their home, telling a government worker who they were, what they did, how they lived.

Maybe it was winter. Maybe they were tired from work. Maybe the kids were running around while the census taker tried to write.

These aren't just documents anymore. They're windows. Portals. Time machines.

And each discovery hits harder than the last.

## **Village That Built You**

Here's what happens next: The obsession starts. The deep dive into places you've never been but somehow feel like home.

That village in Italy where your great-grandmother lived? It still exists. Those streets she walked? They're still there. That church where she got married? Still standing. Still holding services. Still echoing with centuries of prayers, including hers.

You find yourself down a rabbit hole at midnight, street-viewing ancient churches.

Staring at fields they might have worked. Looking at buildings they definitely saw. Your heart races when you spot a house that's been standing since their time.

Did they walk past it? Did they know the people who lived there?

Your ancestors walked these streets. Lived in these buildings. Worked these fields. Breathed this air. The stones they touched are still there. The paths they took still wind through towns that remember them only in old record books.

You start learning about the local history. What happened when they lived there? What challenges did they face? What made them leave? What made them stay? Every detail you uncover adds color to the black-and-white sketch of their lives.

And something profound happens: Time collapses.

That two-century gap between you and them? It starts feeling paper-thin. Like you could reach through the screen and touch their world.

Because in a way, you can. Through maps that show their migration patterns. Through old photographs of their villages. Through the very landscape that shaped their lives and decisions.

You're not just researching places anymore. You're walking in their footsteps across time.

## **Mirror in Your DNA**

This is where it gets wild. Where science meets soul in a way that will shake your understanding of who you are.

You carry their DNA. This isn't metaphorical. This is biological fact. The shape of your nose, the color of your eyes, the way you laugh – parts of them live in you.

Literally. Their genetic code, passed down through generations, shaped the very face you see in the mirror.

But it goes deeper than genetics. Way deeper.

When you discover your great-great-grandfather was a blacksmith who worked 18-hour days to feed his family, your own work ethic suddenly makes sense. When you learn your ancestor left everything behind to cross an ocean for a better life, your own resilience takes on new meaning.

That weird thing you do that nobody else in your immediate family does? Maybe it's not so weird. Maybe it's a trace from five generations back, when your ancestor did the same thing in a village across the ocean.

Your inexplicable love of baking, even though nobody taught you? There's that great-grandmother who ran a bakery. Your fascination with the sea? There's that great-great-grandfather who was a merchant sailor.

These aren't just coincidences. They're inheritances. Ripples through time. Whispers in your DNA.

You're not just finding facts. You're finding pieces of yourself scattered through time.

### **Time Collapse**

Two hundred years isn't that long. Not really. We think it is because our brains struggle to grasp historical time. But let me show you how close you really are to history.

It's just three or four lifetimes. A handful of heartbeats in human history. The distance between you and the Civil War is shorter than you think.

When you really grasp this, everything changes. Those centuries compress. Those generations connect. Those strangers become family in a way that defies logic but feel absolutely true in your bones.

Think about it: Your great-grandmother held your grandmother. Your grandmother held your mother. Your mother held you.

That's how close you are to history. Three embraces. Three sets of arms linking you directly to people who lived through events you read about in history books.

Three embraces connecting you to people who survived plagues. Who witnessed revolutions? Who built the world you inherited. Who made decisions that would travel through time to shape your very existence.

The dates on documents stop being abstract numbers. 1847 isn't just a year anymore. It's a living, breathing moment when your ancestor stood in front of a clerk, heart pounding, to register their child's birth. It's a real Tuesday morning when someone who shares your DNA went about their life, not knowing they were creating history.

That ship manifest from 1892? That's not just a record. That's the exact moment your great-grandfather first saw America. Imagine the mix of terror and hope he felt, standing on that deck, everything he owned in one small bag.

That moment existed. It was as real as your morning coffee.

When you start thinking this way, the past stops being past. It becomes a series of present moments, each one leading inevitably to you.

### **Echoes Through Time**

Let's talk about the moment that breaks most people: The realization that they never knew you would exist.

Your ancestors lived their lives, made their choices, fought their battles – never knowing they were also fighting for you. Never knowing their decisions would ripple through time to shape your existence. Never knowing that centuries later, someone carrying their DNA would be searching for traces of them.

That young woman in the 1875 marriage record? She had no idea that her choice of husband would create a lineage leading to you. She was just a girl in love, or maybe making a practical decision, or maybe following her family's wishes. But that choice? It shaped the entire future.

That man who decided to leave his homeland in 1850? He couldn't have known that his courage would extend through generations. That his decision to get on that ship would create a whole

new branch of possibilities. That his descendant would one day stare at his passenger list with tears in their eyes.

But here's the kicker: You know about them.

You're the one who gets to connect the dots. You're the one who gets to see how their story led to yours. You're the one who gets to understand the weight of their choices and the ripple effect of their decisions.

And that understanding changes everything. Because suddenly, you're not just living your life. You're living the culmination of hundreds of lives, hundreds of choices, hundreds of moments of courage and resilience.

### **Beyond Names and Dates**

Each document tells a story of survival. Not just personal survival, but the survival of an entire future – your future.

Because let's be real: If any one of your ancestors had given up, you wouldn't be here. If any link in that chain had broken, your entire existence would have vanished like smoke.

If that fourth great-grandmother had died in childbirth before having your third great-grandmother, if that great-grandfather had been killed in the war, if that ancestor had taken a different path one crucial day – you wouldn't exist.

Think about that next time you're feeling defeated.

You come from an unbroken line of survivors. Warriors. People who faced impossible odds and kept going. People who survived wars, plagues, famines, revolutions. People who watched their world change and adapted. People who lost everything and started again.

Every birth certificate you find is proof of victory. Every marriage record is proof of hope. Every census entry is proof of endurance.

Their strength lives in you. Not metaphorically. Literally. You are the product of thousands of survivors. You are the culmination of countless victories over death, disease, poverty, and despair.

### **Keepers of Memory**

Here's what nobody tells you about genealogy: It's not a hobby. It's not a pastime. It's a sacred trust.

Every time you uncover a story, you become its guardian. Every time you learn a name, you carry the duty of remembering it. Every time you discover a document, you become responsible for its preservation.

These aren't just facts to be filed away in a family tree. These are lives to be honored. Stories to be preserved. Legacies to be protected. Truths to be passed down.

When you find that newspaper clipping about your great-grandfather's store burning down, you're not just finding a fact. You're recovering a crucial moment that shaped your family's destiny.

When you discover the orphanage records of your grandmother, you're not just filling in a blank. You're reclaiming a piece of your heritage that almost slipped away forever.

Think about it: How many stories have already been lost? How many names have been forgotten? How many lives have faded into the mist of time because no one was there to remember them?

You're not just a researcher. You're a time traveler. A storyteller. A keeper of flames that would otherwise go out.

Because if not you, then who?

## **Connection Chain**

People will tell you it's weird to feel so connected to long-dead ancestors.

Those people don't get it.

They don't understand the transformative, almost mystical experience of discovering your place in a long chain of human experience.

When you find out your fourth-great-grandmother lost three children in one winter but kept going, then had a daughter who would become your third-great-grandmother, it hits different. When you discover your ancestor was the only one in their family to survive a plague, their survival becomes personal.

Because it was personal. Every choice they made, every hardship they endured, every victory they celebrated – it all led to you. You are the living proof of their resilience. The physical manifestation of their hopes.

That immigrant ancestor who arrived with nothing? They built a foundation you stand on today. That grandmother who worked three jobs to send her kids to school. Her sacrifice echoes in your opportunities.

You are their legacy. Their victory. Their future.

And every time you find another piece of their story, that connection grows stronger. More real. More profound.

## **Tomorrow's Ancestors**

Here's the most mind-bending part of all: One day, you will be the ancestor.

One day, someone will look back at you the same way you look back at your ancestors. They'll Google your old neighborhood. Study your signature. Wonder about your life. Marvel at the world you lived in.

They'll feel that same connection. That same pull through time. That same profound understanding that they exist because you existed.

Because that's how legacy works. That's how memory persists. That's how the human story continues. You're not just a researcher of the past. You're a crucial link between past and future. A bridge between what was and what will be.

That's the real power of genealogy. It's not just about discovering where you came from. It's about understanding your place in the grand sweep of time.

Remember: They lived their lives never knowing about you.

But you live yours knowing about them. And that makes all the difference.

Own it. Honor it. Keep it alive. You're not just discovering your ancestors. You are discovering yourself.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAST NAMES

(Printed off a webpage at [www.infokey.com](http://www.infokey.com) in 2003. In 2025 the web address was not functioning and was listed for sale at GoDaddy) (Original author unknown) No corrections or edits were made during transcription.

Submitted by Sue Eckert

Soon after the Crusades in Europe, many people began to feel the need for family names which would identify them more distinctly than the names they then bore, The nobles who had joined them for the Crusades were aware of the value of surnames and were first to adopt them, usually from the names of the lands they owned. The people who remained behind soon did the same. These were not hereditary surnames as yet, but more of an identification by which one could be recorded and differentiated from his fellow workers and neighbors.

In addition, clerks and clergy, the educated class among the people when registering deeds, payments of fines, or other transactions, might identify one vassal from another by recording some descriptive word, nickname or personal characteristic. The vassal didn't know that the clerk had given him this name, nor did he much care. And if another occasion arose whereby the same vassal might be entered onto record by another clerk, he more than likely would receive an altogether different descriptive name. And he probably wouldn't know about that either, nor for that matter would any of his fellows.

A name in those formative years was generally a Christian name. This was sufficient to identify most of the people in a town or village because they existed in what was essentially a close knit tribal

relationship. A man either gave service by training and fighting for his lord, or performed the every day function of his trade for the benefit of the master of the land.

In return for this, he was given a small dwelling and was sustained by the lord of the land. There was little knowledge of any world beyond the few acres the person worked upon. Travel to and from villages was unnecessary, and most people never left the manorial confines except to do battle. A single name was certainly sufficient to one who never met few others and didn't have occasion to encounter strangers.

As the population increased, however, the need of some form of descriptive word became necessary to identify one John from another. In recording the inhabitants of a village, the clerk might add his interpretation of the individual, derogatory or otherwise. For example, one John tended the task of preparing the flour into bread and cakes he might have been entered into records as John le Baker. Another John would be better recognized as living near the hunting grounds so he may have been entered as John Attewood which later could have mutated to Atwood. Some had the names of the manor or village where they resided because they were lords of that place and owned it. Most however, would bear the name not because they owned the manor but because they descended from vassals or freemen who had once lived in that village.

### The Meaning of Surnames usually falls into 5 Categories

**Occupation- crafts and trades common in medieval times (Miller, Smith, Sawyer)**

**Place- based on where one lived or hailed from (Walsh, Hill, Norris)**

**Nickname- physical features, dispositions (Long, Stern, Wise)**

**Acquired ornamental- Names invented out of need, often a combination of words (Stockton)**

**Patronymic- names that identify the father (Olson, Johnson, Jacobsen)**

## **ARE FUNERAL FOLDERS AND MEMORIAL BOOKLETS USEFUL TO GENEALOGISTS?**

In my experience the answer is 'Yes', sometimes much more useful than a person might expect.

For starters, most often these contain the name of the deceased, perhaps with the middle name, sometimes with a woman's maiden name.

Most times a person should find dates and locations for both birth and death, maybe even the person's age written as years, months and days.

If known, you can find the names and birth-places of both parents and sometimes, the grand-parents, siblings, children, cousins

and other members of the extended family may be listed too.

If the obituary is found, it should have the officiant's name and location of services in addition to the date and location of interment. Cards included with floral arrangements and the guest book from a visitation and funeral will have names of extended family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, friends of the children. Researching those persons will help you fill in the life story of the deceased with the details that make them so much more than just names, dates and locations written on paper.

SVGS Member Submission

## **~~ WE HONOR THE LIVES OF AREA CENTENARIANS ~~**

### **Georgia (Meeks) Browning**

September 18, 1924 - February 2, 2025

Georgia (Meeks) Browning passed away on February 2, 2025 with graveside services held at the Newkirk, Oklahoma Cemetery on February 8, 2025.

Georgia was born on September 18, 1924 in Newkirk, Oklahoma to Orra and Ethel (Browning) Meeks.

In 1946, Georgia married Leon Wenda in Arkansas City, Kansas. They were blessed with twin daughters—Jan (Wenda) Boop and June (Wenda) Staggers. Georgia and Leon later divorced. She and the girls returned to Newkirk, Oklahoma.

Georgia's work history included working at Newkirk's Albright's Abstract and Title Company, as a bookkeeper. In 1964, Georgia married Arthur Browning and moved to Idaho where he served as a forester, and Georgia became a comptroller at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Oregon. When Arthur became ill, they moved to Yuma, Arizona where Georgia worked at a local public library and received recognition for innovative ideas from then Arizona Governor Babbitt. In 1995, Georgia and Arthur moved to Sioux Falls to be closer to family. Arthur died in 1998.

Grateful for sharing her life are her children Jan (Donald) Boop and June (the late Kermit) Staggers, and grandchildren, Ayn (Aaron) Bird, Kyle Staggers, Donna (Mike) Belfy, Tanya (Chris) Best; and great grandchildren, Elijah Bird, Matthew Bird, Emily Belfy, Ben Belfy, and Everly Best.

## Norma Burrell

April 21, 1923 - August 5, 2024



**Norma Burrell, age 101**, died Monday, August 5, 2024 at Good Samaritan Society Canton. .

Norma was born on April 21, 1923 in Bone Lake, WI to Gustf A. and Jane (Olsen) Nyman. She graduated from Luck High School in 1941. Norma worked for Northwest Bell Telephone Company as an operator from 1940 to 1948. She married Gene Junior Burrell on March 6, 1948. The couple was blessed with three children: Timothy, Dann and Carole. Through the years, Norma has lived in Golden Valley, MN, Duluth, MN, Edina, MN, Bloomington, MN, Sioux Falls, SD and in 2017, she moved to Canton, SD.

Norma is survived by her children, Dann Lee Burrell and Carole (David) Jeanne Day; 8 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren with another on the way; along with numerous extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Gene; son, Timothy Nyman Burrell; great-grandson, Brexton Day; and brothers, Russell, Marvin and Gordan Nyman.

## Gertrude Gapp

April 22, 1919 - December 1, 2024



**Gertrude Gapp, age 105**, of Huron, passed away Sunday, December 1, 2024, at Avantara Nursing Home. A graveside service was held at Restlawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery on her birthday, April 22, 2025.

Gertrude Ione Allgier was born April 22, 1919, to Jack and Esther (Carlson) Allgier, at Aberdeen, South Dakota. She attended grade school at Roscoe and Aberdeen. In 1936, she graduated from Aberdeen Central. Gertrude continued her education at South Dakota State University where she graduated with a degree in Home Economics in 1940.

On January 11, 1941, Gertrude married Harvey Gapp at Webster, South Dakota. They moved to Huron in 1947.

Gertrude was a Home Economics teacher at Barnard, and a substitute teacher at Aberdeen and Huron.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harvey in 2008; her parents; one sister, Gladys in infancy; one brother, John and his wife, Marcene; and one nephew, Jack.

Grateful for having shared in her life are her one daughter, Lynda Homa of Carthage, Missouri; Lynda's children, Colene Homa of Lenexa, Kansas and son, Josh of Overland Park, Kansas, her daughter, Amy (John) Ralston and sons, Joseph and Thomas of Weirton, West Virginia, her son, Michael Homa of Las Vegas, Nevada, and her daughter, Susan Homa and children, Cole and Elle of Saranac Lake, New York; one son, Dr. Thomas Gapp and his wife, Linda of Lincoln, Nebraska; Tom's children, Charlotte (Jessie) Newman and son, Maceo, of Hastings on the Hudson, New York, Laura (Jonny) Aten and sons, Gavin, Myles and Landon, all of Lincoln, Nebraska and Jon (Jayce) Gapp of Lincoln, Nebraska; one niece, Lori Gonzalas of La Mirada, California; and faithful friends, Renada and Bill Cahill; and their children, Marissa (Adam) Cahill-Schelske and their children, Holden, Hayes and Henley Schelske, and Bryan Cahill.

## Rozella Glanzer

March 15, 1923 - February 8, 2025

**Rozella Glanzer, age 101**, of Huron, passed away on Saturday, February 8, 2025, at Avantara in Huron. Rozella was born at home in Beadle County on March 15, 1923, to Math P. and Kate (Gross) Glanzer. She grew up on a farm near Carpenter and graduated from Willow Lake High School in 1941. In 1942, she completed a one-year certification to teach rural one-room school from General Beadle College (now Dakota State University) in Madi-

son, SD. By attending night classes and summer school, she earned a BA in Education from Huron College in 1957 and nearly completed a master's degree.

Miss Glanzer's (or Miss G, as she was known in later years) teaching career spanned 73 years. She began her forty-six years as a regular classroom teacher in Wheeler and Bunker Hill one-room schools near the family farm in Beadle County. She taught first and second grade in Bryant, Willow Lake and Clark, before moving to Huron in 1955 where she taught first grade for 33 years at Jefferson School. After retirement, Rozella was a long- and short-term substitute for fifteen years, often subbing for teachers who had been her students and teaching students whose parents she had taught. She had long assignments at Pearl Creek and Riverside Colonies, which brought new friendships with families. Rozella substituted in special education for five years, and volunteered in classrooms until age 93 in 2016.

## Madeline Geneva Hatlestad

May 10, 1922 - November 29, 2024



**Madeline Geneva (Quissell) Hatlestad, 102 years**, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on November 29, 2024, at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls. Graveside services were held May 9, 2025, at the Norway Lutheran Cemetery in rural Garretson.

Madeline Geneva Quissell Hatlestad was born May 10, 1922 at her home in Moody County, South Dakota. She gently slipped away from her earthly home with loving family at her side on November 29, 2024.

Madeline attended Quissell School District #20 in Moody County, South Dakota and then attended Jasper Minnesota High School. She completed three years at University of Minnesota School of Nursing in Minneapolis, Minnesota. After earning her degree in Nursing, she worked two years at Ashton Memorial Hospital in Pipestone, Minn.

On March 28, 1945, she married Paul Olin Hatlestad and moved with him to the Hatlestad family farm at Garretson, S.D. where they raised five children.

After 16 years on the farm, she returned to her nursing career and worked 29 years at McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls in the Maternal Child Care Dept. Upon her retirement, she continued to serve the hospital as a McKennan Hospital Ambassador where she attended fundraising and public relations events proudly wearing her evergreen Ambassador blazer. In addition, she served as the secretary on the Garretson Nursing Home Board for 10 years.

In 2000, she and Paul moved to Sioux Falls to a condominium where they lived for 15 years before moving to Dow Rummel due to Paul's failing health.

Madeline's parents were John J Quissell and Ingeborg K Shefte Quissell, both of whom were immigrants from Valdres, Norway. Being a first generation Norwegian American, she was proud of her heritage and she was able to travel to Norway on three occasions.

She is survived by her children, Cheryl (Jerry) Larson, Brandon, SD, Karen Fernengel, Leavenworth, KS, David Hatlestad, Savage, Minn, and Peter (Brenda) Hatlestad, Garretson, SD; daughter-in-law, Sharyl Hatlestad of Garretson; along with 10 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; and one great-great grandson.

Preceding her in death were her parents; husband, Paul; her son, Steven; son-in-law, Frederick; and her siblings and their spouses, Julian and Lucille Quissell, Berniece and Morris Lerdal, Curtis and Elaine Quissell, and Avis and Dean Aanestad; along with brothers and sisters-in-law, Carolyn and Bud Wooten and Merlin and Evelyn Hatlestad.

## Nadine Jones

August 10, 1921 - January 1, 2025



**Nadine Jones, 103**, formerly of Aurora, SD passed away surrounded by family on January 1, 2025. Funeral Services were held on January 6, 2025 at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD.

Agnes Nadine DeMint was born on August 10, 1921, in Lincoln County, South Dakota. She was the daughter of Robert J. and Blanche (Edmondson) DeMint.

Nadine received her education in rural school in Moody County, SD. She was united in marriage to Billy B. Jones on December 15, 1948 in Brookings, SD. After their marriage, Nadine dedicated her life to raising her family. In her later years she was employed at the United Retirement Center and at SDSU Food Service for several years. Billy and Nadine farmed near Aurora from 1952 until their retirement in 1997.

Nadine is survived by her 7 children: David Jones, Dennis (Terri) Jones, Laura Mills, Robert (Kim) Jones, James (Tami) Jones, Lisa George, and Bradley (Julie) Jones; 17 grandchildren; 28 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandson.

Nadine is preceded in death by her husband, Billy in 2020, her parents, her brother (Ray), and her grandson (Geoffrey).

## Margaret Leone Konechne

April 5, 1917- June 22, 2022



**Margaret Leone Konechne, 105**, of Kimball, SD passed away June 22, 2022. Funeral Mass was held on June 27, 2022 at St. Margaret's Catholic Church in Kimball.

Margaret Leone (Jones) Konechne was born on April 5, 1917 to Sheridan and Katherene (Pierce) Jones in Kimball, SD, the older of two children. She attended Pleasant View Country School, Kimball through the eighth grade, then attended Kimball High School graduating in 1934.

Her mother passed away in 1932 therefore after graduation she stayed home until her brother, Evan joined the Navy. She then worked for NYA (National Youth of America) in White Lake, SD for three years where her job included cooking and sewing. Margaret was united in marriage to Harry Konechne in 1940 at St. Margaret's Catholic Church in Kimball. They began their life together farming north of Kimball and raising their four children: Gelene, Jerry, Cleo and Barbara.

They lived there for 15 years, then quit farming and moved to Belvidere, SD where they operated a motel, café and gas station. They later moved back to Kimball where she boarded high school students during the school year. She worked at St. Joseph's Indian School, then retired.

Grateful for having shared in Margaret's life are: one son, Jerry (JoAnn) Konechne of Kimball, SD; two daughters: Gelene Moke of Belle Fourche, SD and Barb (Lee) Engel of Kimball, SD; 13 grandchildren; 36 great grandchildren; along with numerous great-great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Margaret was preceded in death by: her parents, Sheridan and Kate Jones; one brother, Evan Jones; one daughter, Cleo Quintana; one daughter-in-law, Judy Konechne; one son-in-law, Wes Moke; and one granddaughter, Angela Moke.

## Darlene "Dottie" Mae (nee Dorothy) Paulson

April 23, 1922- December 3, 2024

**Darlene "Dottie" Mae (nee Dorothy) Paulson**, went to be with Jesus on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, surrounded by her loving family and caring staff at Sanford Health - Ava's House in Sioux Falls. Dottie was **102 years old**. A memorial service was held December 9, 2024, at First Lutheran Church, 327 S. Dakota Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104.

Dottie was born on April 23, 1922, on a farm in Worthing, South Dakota, to Edwin and Etta (nee French) Dorothy. Her father passed away when she was 18 months old, and she spent much of her childhood with her mother, grandparents, and aunt. Dottie graduated from All Saints School and continued her education at Augustana University for one year before attending St. Barnabas Hospital nursing school in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dottie married the love of her life, Dr. Monroe "Min" Burton Paulson, in 1944. Min attended dental school at the University of Iowa while Dottie worked as a registered nurse. They were blessed with their first child, David. After graduating, they returned to Sioux Falls, where Dr. Min practiced dentistry for 41 years. Over the years, their family grew to include five more children: Karen, John, Mark, Mary, and Julie.

Dottie was a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution Society and enjoyed participating in the service projects, such as assisting with the swearing-in ceremony for new citizens.



Nursing was always close to Dottie's heart, and continued that passion by establishing a scholarship for nursing students at Augustana University. She concluded her nursing career by working 10 years at a Good Samaritan nursing home.

Dottie is survived by children, David (Elaine) Paulson of Rapid City, Karen (Rev. Arthur) Bolstad of St. Louis, MO, John (Jane) Paulson of Sioux Falls, Mary Berdahl of Sioux Falls, Julie (Rev. John) Roberts of St. Louis, MO; 21 grandchildren, Rolph (Cindy) Bolstad, Ann (Scott) Peterson, Hans (Maria) Bolstad, Susan (Chinh) Hoang, Amie (Josh Myers), Seth (Charla) Bolstad, Ingrid (Nic) Timm, Solveig Bolstad, Sonja (Chris) Weber, Karis (Jason) Duley, Matthew Bolstad, Emily (Joe) Quinn, Caleb (Tamara) Berdahl, Gideon Berdahl, Johanna (Phillip) Artz, Samuel (Jessica) Roberts, Marta Roberts, Noah (Abigail) Roberts; 50 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren.

Dottie was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Dr. Min Paulson, her son, Mark Paulson, her grandson, Nathan Berdahl, and her grandson-in-law, Joe Quinn.

## Lucille Reck

November 1, 1924 - November 18, 2024



**Lucille Reck, 100**, of Miller, passed away Monday, November 18, 2024, at the Good Samaritan Society in Miller. Graveside services will be at G.A.R. Cemetery, Miller, at a later date.

Lucille was born November 1, 1924, to Andrew and Bertha (Clark) Back in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was raised and attended school in Cincinnati, Ohio. She worked at AT&T as a lead operator. She passed nurse's aide training by the Red Cross at a large hospital in Cincinnati. She moved to Tampa, Florida to continue working for AT&T.

She met John M "Jack" Reck while he was serving in the U.S. Air Force, marrying on November 23, 1944, in Tampa, Florida. Together they lived in Alexandria, Louisiana, and later Miller, South Dakota. They were blessed with four children: John, Jr., Barbara Jo, Linda, and Ernest. She worked alongside her husband, Jack, at the Reck Funeral Home until it was sold.

Her memory will be cherished by her daughter, Linda Aalbers; eight grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren; and 16 great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack; parents; daughter, Barbara Jo; two sons, Mike and Ernie; five sisters; and one brother.

## Hilka Soderberg

September 18, 1924 - January 25, 2025



**Hilka Soderberg, 101**, of Sioux Falls, SD passed away on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at Good Samaritan Village, Sioux Falls, SD.

Funeral Service were held January 30, at Miller Funeral Home Downtown, 507 S. Main Ave., Sioux Falls, SD with burial at Hills of Rest Cemetery.

Hilka Wildeboer, daughter of Claus and Effie (Bartels) Wildeboer, was born January 8, 1924 in Lennox, SD where she had 10 siblings. She lived in Lennox from 1924 to 1942 before moving to Sioux Falls, SD.

She was united in marriage with Robert E. Soderberg on June 21, 1951 at the Church of the Open Bible. They were blessed with three children, Sheila, Debra and Duane.

Hilka began working as a nurse's assistant at Sioux Valley Hospital. She worked for 37 years and really enjoyed working in the nursery where she cared for newborns.

Grateful for having shared her life are her three children, Sheila Osborne, of Lake Geneva, WI, Deb (Bill) Perkins, Sioux Falls, SD, Duane Soderberg, rural Lennox, SD; four grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren; and her special friend, Jeanie Carda, Sioux Falls, SD; several nieces, nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and 10 siblings.

## Bernice Arline Sweeter

November 18, 1922 - May 18, 2024



**Bernice Arline Sweeter, age 100**, died Saturday, May 18, 2024 surrounded by her family at Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls, SD. Funeral services were held Sunday, May 26, 2024 at West Prairie Lutheran Church, Lennox, SD.

Bernice Larson was born on November 18, 1922 to Odin and Maggie (Hagemeyer) Larson in Lincoln County, SD. She lived with her parents in the Lennox and Davis areas until 1935 when they moved to the Hurley vicinity. She graduated from Hurley High School.

Bernice was united in marriage to Elmer Sweeter on April 17, 1943. She lived in Oregon and Washington while Elmer was in the service stateside but came back to Hurley while he was deployed overseas during WWII. When Elmer returned, they farmed south of Worthing and then moved to a farm east of Worthing. In 1984 they moved to Canton.

In addition to raising her family, Bernice was employed at the Lincoln County Courthouse for several years before retiring in 1989.

Bernice is survived by her 3 daughters, Barb (Woody) Schroder, Sherrlyn Garrow, and Karla Hill; 11 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; 10 great-great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Helen Sweeter and Dorothy Van Bockern; along with several very special nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Elmer; parents, Odin and Maggie Larson; sisters, Orella Anderson and Alta Jensen; son, Garland Sweeter; son-in-law, Lowell Garrow; and grandson, Chad Garrow.

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT ...

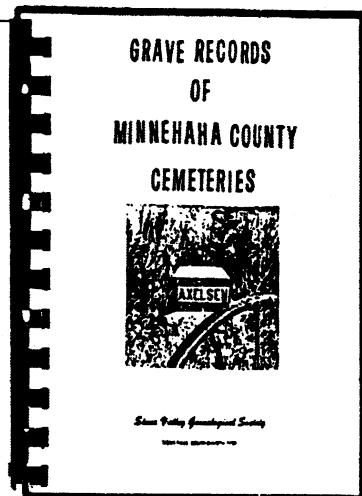
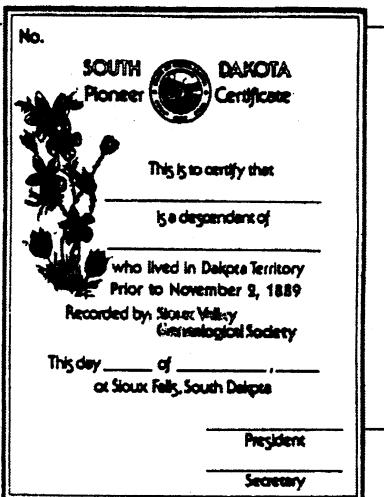
Those who research their ancestors are funnier, better looking and more charming than those who don't, according to a study we just made up. PASS IT ON!

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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

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