

MN Families

Newsletter for the Minnesota Genealogical Society

Volume 38, No. 4

Online at: www.mnsg.org; Phone: 651-455-9057

November 2007

Winter Seminar & Open House December 1

Seminar At Historic Fort Snelling

When: Saturday December 1

Where: Historic Fort Snelling, at Highways 5 & 55

Agenda for the Morning

8:00 Registration (\$20) & coffee
 9:00 Business meeting
 9:20 Session I
 10:30 Break
 11:00 Session II



Open House at MGS's new home

1:00-5:30 1185 Concord St. N., South Saint Paul

The Winter Seminar morning meeting will be at Historic Fort Snelling, followed by an Open House at our new location in South Saint Paul. Please plan to join us at both locations. See the President's Message on page 3 for more details on the Open House and page 5 for a map. As usual, the store at Historic Fort Snelling will be having discount days on December 1, and MGS members will get an additional 5% off (total of 25%)!

SESSION I: "Beginning Native American Research," by John Schade

This workshop helps individuals find the documentation on their Indian ancestors through state, federal (including Bureau of Indian Affairs), and tribal records. It will also touch on the fur trade, in which many Native peoples were involved in the early years of contact with white society. The presentation will be filled with examples.

John Schade is a former president of both MGS and the Canadian branch. He worked for the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community in the enrollment office helping to create the files to improve their family backgrounds. He is researching his own ancestry, which has a couple lines of Indians in North Carolina and Virginia in the 1600s and he helped a close friend get enrolled at White Earth Indian Community in Northern Minnesota. John has given presentations on how to do Native American/Indian research; beginning Canadian and French research; and how to start doing genealogical research.



Photo by Bergina Monroe

SESSION II: "African Americans in Minnesota," by Myrtice Orr

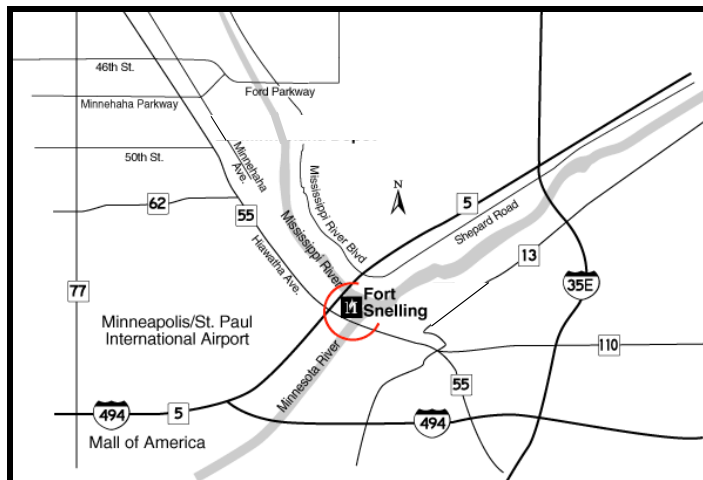


This session will be in story form covering several early African American families who settled in Minnesota. Myrtice will also talk about a new interest group she is forming about African American genealogy. Even if you think this might not cover your genealogy work today, families often find through interracial marriages or very early ancestry or interracial adoption that this help may be needed.

Myrtice Orr has been researching her own genealogy for the past ten years. She also provides assistance to others and does research for others. Myrtice first got involved with MGS when the organization was originally located in St. Paul and now she is a member of the MGS Board of Directors. She has reviewed books and is an active library volunteer.

DIRECTIONS

Follow the Historic Fort Snelling signs. Do not use the Fort Snelling National Cemetery or Fort Snelling State Park exits, but continue to the Historic Fort Snelling turnoff on Hwy. 55. Once you have turned off into the general Historic Site area, follow the brown historic site signs and you will soon be in the parking lot next to the Fort Snelling visitor center. The building isn't easy to see since it is built into the bank and the roof is basically at ground level. The building is handicapped accessible.



Annual Meeting

MGS Annual Membership Meeting Saturday, September 29, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. Wes Waring introduced Kathy Lund. Kathy reported the election results. She also requested volunteers for Library staffing at our new location and for Program Committee volunteers.

Wes then introduced our president, Robin PanLener. Robin introduced the Board members present. He also reported the most recent membership details. He described the current work of the Fund Raising and Awards committees. He noted details on our upcoming Library move. Robin then provided individual details on three amendments to the MGS bylaws. These amendments were moved upon, seconded, and each passed. —————>

Robin introduced JoEllen Haugo of the Minneapolis Public Library. She had three announcements about their genealogical collection at the downtown library:

- The library is interested in donations of MGS newsletters for their collection;
- The library is offering tours of the genealogical collection;
- The library is looking for volunteers to work in the genealogical collection.

Wes then introduced Jay Fonkert. Jay made two announcements on behalf of the Program committee:

- The committee is looking for speakers for the Special Topics lecture series and for the quarterly meetings in 2008;
- The committee circulated an opinion survey and requested everyone to fill it out and return it.

Sheila Northrop, Secretary

Meeting Ideas Wanted!

The MGS Program Committee is making plans for quarterly programs in 2008. The spring and summer MGS meetings are usually full-day conferences with multiple speakers. The fall meeting features a speaker of national stature.

Why not take some time to think a bout the kinds of meetings and speakers that you'd like to see. Do you have favorite topics or speakers you'd like to suggest?

The Program Committee is also looking for volunteers to help with various aspects of meeting arrangements. We need people to help with site arrangements, publicity, registration, exhibitors, and other things.

To make suggestions for our quarterly meetings or to volunteer to help, contact Bergetta Monroe at 952-894-9538 or <Bergetta@aol.com>, or Jay Fonkert at 651-735-8630 or <jfonkert@aol.com>.

Amendments Passed

Amendments voted on at the Membership Meeting, September 29, 2007, at Luther Seminary, St. Paul

1. To amend the Minnesota Genealogical Society Constitution, Article IV., B. Office

from:

The location of the principal office of the Society is 5768 Olson Memorial Highway, Golden Valley, Minnesota 55422, or as directed by the Board.

to:

The location of the principal office of the Society shall be determined by the Board.

2. To amend the Minnesota Genealogical Society Constitution, Article IV., D., 1., Board of Directors, Board membership,

from:

The Board shall consist of the Officers and the twelve Directors elected by the Society, and the immediate Past President.

to:

The Board shall consist of the Officers and the nine Directors elected by the Society, and the immediate Past President.

3. To amend the Minnesota Genealogical Society Constitution, Article IV., E., 1., Executive Committee Membership

from:

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Society Officers, the immediate Past President, and two members-at-large. The President shall chair the committee and recommend two members-at-large for approval by the Board.

to:

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Society Officers, the immediate Past President, and one member-at-large. The President shall chair the committee and recommend a member-at-large for approval by the Board.

FGS News

MGS members may subscribe to FORUM, the quarterly magazine of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) for a discounted price of \$15 per year. The discount is available to MGS members because MGS is an institutional member of FGS.

Each issue contains more than 40 pages of articles about sources, repositories, and research strategies, plus reviews of new books and CDs. If subscribing by mail, note that you are a member of the Minnesota Genealogical Society. More information is available at <www.fgs.org> or by writing the FGS Business Office, FORUM Subscription Department, P.O. Box 200940, Austin TX 78720-0940.

Jay Fonkert, FGS Contact



President's Message



By the time you read this, the Minnesota Genealogical Society will be located at a new headquarters building in South Saint Paul—1185 Concord Street N., Suite 218.

All those who gave of their time and muscles to accomplish this move deserve a huge THANK YOU. Wherever this wonderful service comes from, we are most grateful to each of you for your volunteer efforts. MGS is ALL VOLUNTEER, and we are so very proud of each of our member volunteers.

On November 10, a Saturday, the library will re-open and we will have a “dry run” open house to celebrate. Please come, starting at 9:00 a.m., and see our new headquarters.

Then on Saturday, **December 1**, we will have our official **Open House**, starting after our annual half-day program at Historic Fort Snelling. It will go from **1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** and you are invited to attend. It is free, open to the public, and there will be hors d'oeuvres and other things available.

This is our first move in 10 years, and comes after renting at the following places:

Continued on page 7

President: Robin PanLener

714 Holly Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55102
robin.panlener@state.mn.us; 651-222-8660

1st Vice President: J.H. (Jay) Fonkert

2003 Fremont Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55119-4013
jfonkert@aol.com; 651-735-8630

2nd Vice President:

vacant

Past President:

vacant

Secretary: Sheila Northrop

7754 Kentucky Circle, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445
sheila.northrop@comcast.net; 763-424-5699

Treasurer: Mary Wickersham

9125 Westmoreland Lane, St. Louis Park, MN 55426
mary@wickershamsites.com; 952-541-7800

Exec. Committee at Large: Kathryn Otto

345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55106
kathryn.otto@mnhs.org; 651-259-3310

MN Families Editor: Kathryn Otto

Submissions: Send articles, announcements, and advertisements to the Newsletter Editor, Minnesota Genealogical Society, 1185 Concord St. N., South Saint Paul, MN 55075 or to <kathryn.otto@mnhs.org> (please use MGS in the subject line).

Deadlines: Information and advertisements must be received by January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 for the February, May, August, and November issues respectively.

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1185 Concord St. N., Ste. 218, South St. Paul, MN 55075

MGS Winter Seminar — Dec. 1, 2007 Registration Form

Registration Fee: \$20.00 for MGS members and non-members

MGS member # _____ (from upper left corner of mailing label)

Not an MGS member

Name: _____

Amount enclosed

Address: _____

Registration \$ _____
(\$20 ea.)

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____

Total \$ _____

Return by Nov. 24 to Program Committee, MGS, 1185 Concord St. N., Suite 218, South St. Paul, MN 55075

Branches, Affiliates, and Interest Groups

Interested in African-American/Peoples of Color?

Contact: Myrtice Orr, Phone: 612-823-9134
E-mail: ecitrym@yahoo.com

Canadian Genealogical & Heritage Society of MN

Contact: Kathy Horan-Grambsch, Phone: 952-949-2201
E-mail: cghsm@mngs.org
Web: www.rootsweb.com/~mncghs

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International

Contact: Ruth Chovancek, Phone: 763-553-1085
E-mail: mchov@comcast.net
Web: www.cgsi.org

Danish-American Genealogical Society

Contact: Jack Porter, Phone: 763-544-5315
E-mail: jackporter@att.net
Web: www.danishgenealogy.org

Interested in Eastern Europe?

Contact: Ed Brandt, Phone: 612-338-2001 (2-10 p.m.)
E-mail: brandtfam@prodigy.net

Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota

Contact: Joan Dwyer, Phone: 612-822-0743
E-mail: dwyers@ties2.net or fggmninfo@aol.com
Web: www.minnesotafinnish.org/

Germanic Genealogy Society

Contact: Kent Cutkomp, Phone: 612-920-8118
E-mail: GermanicGenSociety@comcast.net
Web: www.rootsweb.com/~mnggs/GGS.html

Interested in Iceland?

Contact: Patricia Allred, Phone: 612-729-0456

Irish Genealogical Society International

Contact: Laurie Hanover, Phone: 763-784-9488
E-mail: Laurie.Hanover@comcast.net
Web: www.irishgenealogical.org

Interested in Luxembourg?

Contact: Karen Whitmer, Phone: 612-869-1759
E-mail: witmerj@aol.com

Norwegian-American Genealogical Association

Contact: Bob O'Neill, Phone: 651-770-8881
E-mail: irviking@aol.com
Web: www.norwegianamerican.org

Ostfriesen Genealogical Society of America

Contact: Ray Kleinow
E-mail: raykz9@comcast.net
Web: www.ogsa.us

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

Contact: Terry Kita, Phone: 612-927-0719
E-mail: terrykita@earthlink.net
Web: www.rootsweb.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn

Pommern Regional Group of Minnesota

Contact: Jerry & Jan Savage, Phone: 763-544-7469
E-mail: foxklein@comcast.net
Web: www.rootsweb.com/~mnprgm/PRG

Research Study Group

Contact: Paul vonFange
E-mail: paul@vonfange.com

Interested in Scotland?

Contact: Bergetta Monroe, Phone: 952-894-9538
E-mail: bergetta@aol.com

Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

Contact: Dee Kleinow
E-mail: deeswede@comcast.net
Web: www.rootsweb.com/~mmsgsm

Writing Group

Contact: Kathy Lund
E-mail: miscmute@aol.com

Yankee Genealogical Society

Contact: Sue Kratsch, Phone: 651-455-8989
E-mail: skratsch@backpack.net
Web: www.mngs.org/yankee

Where is the New Library & How Do I Get There?

Minnesota Genealogical Society Library

New Address: 1185 Concord St. N., South St. Paul

New Phone: 651-455-9057

Same old web address: www.mnsgs.org

Library hours (see the calendar for closed dates)

Wed., Thurs., Sat.: 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

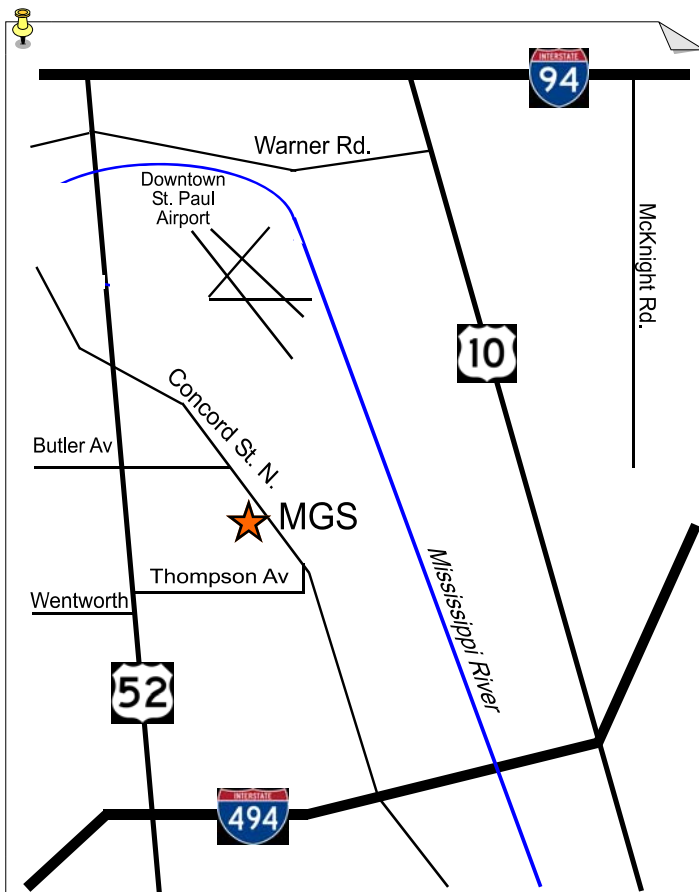
Tues., Thurs.: 6:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m.

There is a \$5 fee for non-MGS or non-branch members to use the library. The fee may be applied to membership in MGS or any of the branches within 30 days.

Remember, the library now has access to both Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest. Also, there is free WiFi for your laptop.



Photo by Paul Sternberg



Meet Your New MGS Board Members

The following officers and directors began their terms at the MGS Board meeting on September 15. We will be profiling new members in the newsletter as there is room.

Officers

President: Robin PanLener

1st Vice President: Jay Fonkert

Secretary: Sheila Northrop

Treasurer: Mary Wickersham

New and Re-elected Directors

David Suddarth (new to the board)

Valerie Morrison (re-elected)

Kathryn Otto (re-elected)

Jay Fonkert

1st Vice President



Jay Fonkert caught the incurable genealogy bug after he stumbled upon his 9th great-grandfather's house in The Netherlands in 1993. Alas, it was being used as a garage! He has researched his daughters' Dutch, German, Swedish, Norwegian, English, and Irish ancestors, but specializes in Dutch immigration and 19th-century Midwest genealogy. He has dragged his wife (who seems to enjoy it) through numerous Midwest courthouses and cemeteries.

Jay likes genealogy teaching and writing. He teaches a variety of classes in the Twin Cities, and recently lectured at a Dutch genealogy workshop in Toronto. He loves to write, and has published articles in *Minnesota Genealogist* and *The Septs* (journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International), and has an article scheduled to appear in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly in 2008. He is known to some as the "Wooden Shoe Genealogist," because he has been known to appear in Dutch costume and *klompen* at his Dutch genealogy classes. He volunteers on the Genealogy Help Desk at the Minnesota Historical Society Library and enjoys his duties as First Vice-President of MGS.

Newsletter Sent Electronically—Do We Know Your Address?

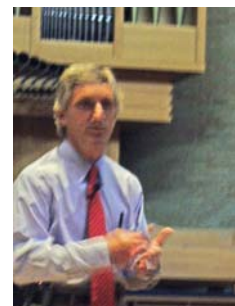
With the November 2007 issue, *MN Families* is being delivered to you via our website. **Do we have your current contact information?** MGS needs to know how to contact you! Increasingly we are using e-mail as the primary means of contacting our members. Please notify MGS of changes to your mailing address, e-mail address, or telephone number. Use the form on our web site at <<http://www.mngs.org/change.shtml>> or send changes to our Membership Committee e-mail address at <mbrshp@mngs.org>.

Fall Seminar a huge success!

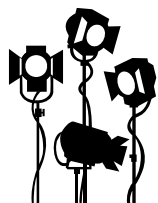
With a larger turnout than we've seen in awhile, this year's Fall Seminar can truly be called a success.



John Philip Colletta talked about “Naturalization Records: Colonial Times to Early Twentieth Century,” “Lesser-Used Federal Records,” and “Assembling and Writing a Narrative Family History.”



New Lecture Series



The Minnesota Genealogical Society will offer a new lecture series beginning in January at its new South Saint Paul location. The Genealogy Spotlight series will feature talks by Minnesota genealogists on a variety of topics.

The series kicks-off with:

- January 19, 10:00 a.m.: “Midwest Historical Geography for Family Historians,” by Jay Fonkert.
- February 23, 10:00 a.m.: “Researching Your American Indian Ancestors,” by Paula Stuart-Warren.

Jay Fonkert specializes in 19th century Midwest and Dutch genealogy. Jay has been an instructor in MGS's Intermediate Genealogy Certificate Series. Since the early 1980s, Paula Stuart-Warren has worked in the professional area of genealogical and historical research, lecturing, consulting, and writing. Both speakers are Certified Genealogists.

The class fee is \$12 for MGS members, \$15 for non-members. Make checks payable to “Minnesota Genealogical Society.”

MGS plans to offer six Genealogy Spotlight lectures in 2008: January 19, February 23, April 12, May 10, October 11, and November 8. Watch *MN Families* and the MGS website <<http://www.mngs.org>> for further information.

Genealogist Articles Wanted

Ready to celebrate Minnesota's 150th birthday in 2008? What were your ancestors doing in 1858?—regardless of where they were living at the time! We want to tell your family story in the *Minnesota Genealogist* during 2008.

Questions to consider: Where did they live? Prague, Italy, Vermont, Minnesota Territory, Chicago? Were they on the move? How did they make a living? What is the family lore about them and what are the things you know to be the case? What do their diaries, letters, and notes in family Bibles say? Who were their friends and neighbors? Where did they worship? Go to school? Sell their crops and wares? What were the major events of their lives and the world? What did they brag about: adventures, accomplishments, lineage, luck? What heirloom did they leave and what is its story? What family recipes come from the 1850s that are still used today? Are there other family traditions going back to that time?

Please include an ancestry chart and TIFF images of any photographs to illustrate your story. E-mail all materials to <publications@gmail.com>. Otherwise send to *Minnesota Genealogist*, 1185 Concord St. N., Suite 218, South Saint Paul MN 55075. Mark your envelope “Article for publication!” Questions, or if you plan to write but are not yet finished, call John Mercer at 651-493-2240.

Continued from page 3

October 1985	678 Ford Road	1,412 sq. ft.	Annual rent \$6,900
April 1988	965 Fort Road	1,100 sq. ft.	\$6/sq. ft. for 8 mos.
Dec. 1988	1101 Fort Road	1,320 sq. ft.	Annual rent \$8,223
Dec. 1991	1650 Carroll Ave.	2,110 sq. ft.	Annual rent \$15,825
Sept. 1994	1650 Carroll Ave.	2,750 sq. ft.	Annual rent \$21,312
July 1998	5768 Olson Memorial Hwy.	5,000 sq. ft.	Annual rent \$77,000
Nov. 2007	1185 Concord St. N.	6,000 sq. ft.	Annual rent \$66,000



As you can see, we have grown, and so has our rent. We will now be renting about 6,000 sq. ft. with a rental charge that will continue to grow, but will start out at about \$66,000 per year.

In addition, we have significantly modernized our computers, data access, subscriptions to Ancestry.com and HeritageQuest, giving Internet access and wireless access to members at the library, and many more services.

We have drawn down our interest and dividend income, and have been drawing down funds from our investment account to help keep membership costs down in the past. But membership continues to grow, with each membership actually costing close to \$80.

Consequently, the MGS Board of Directors has voted to increase the dues. Starting in January 2008 dues will be adjusted in the following manner: Individual dues will go up \$5, from \$30 to \$35 or \$95 for three years; in 2009 it will rise again to \$40. Family dues will rise \$10, from \$35 to \$45, and in 2009 it will go up to \$50.

The special categories will rise as well: Supporting Members dues will rise from \$50 to \$75; Patron Member dues will rise from \$100 to \$150; and Benefactor Member dues will rise from \$150 to \$250.

In addition, a small group is working on fund raising proposals to submit to government agencies, corporations, and foundations. If you have any ideas in this area, or would like to help, please contact me <robin.panlener@state.mn.us>. Thank you.

ASI Library Closes

Effective September 1, 2007, the American Swedish Institute closed its library and archives.

They have suspended their services to patrons, as well as all collecting of printed and archival material, except for material specifically related to the Turnblads, the ASI, and its affiliated groups.

Marita Karlisch's appointment as librarian/archivist ended as of September 3.

The decision was driven by both mission and budget considerations. The formal mission includes preserving "a collection of Swedish-American heritage artifacts," but it does not include providing comprehen-

sive reference services on all questions related to Sweden and Swedish America.

In addition, the Board of Trustees charged the director, Bruce Karstadt, with managing a balanced budget that best serves the mission. In consultation with the Board and the management team, it was reluctantly determined that closing the library and archives was the best course to ensure a balanced budget.

ASI's library and archives was founded when few institutions were preserving Swedish-American materials or answering genealogical and other inquiries. Now there are several institutions collecting Swedish-American materials, including the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center in Illinois.



Minnesota Genealogical Society
 1185 Concord Street N., Suite 218
 South Saint Paul, MN 55075

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MPR Wants Your Stories

As a lover of history with a passion for telling the stories about where Minnesotans came from, I thought you might want to know about a project that is being undertaken by the newsroom at Minnesota Public Radio.

MPR News is collecting the personal stories of Minnesotans—where their families came from, how their families came to be here. We believe these stories of arriving to our state can tell us much more about who we are as a larger community. We began this by sending an email to a random group of people who are part of Minnesota Public Radio's Public Insight Network—a group of some 30,000 Minnesotans who help inform our news coverage.

But, as a part of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, I'll bet you might have a real interest in telling us about your family's history and contributing to our storehouse of personal stories.

If you would be willing to share your family history, please copy and paste the link below. This will lead you to an MPR news survey that will help guide you in the telling of your tale.
 <http://www.publicradio.org/public_insight_network/forms/cij/form_display.php?form_code=66f3dd89a83c>.

Our newsroom values the idea of communicating who we are by telling about the current issues that face us. But we also value telling the stories of our history, because where we came from also tells us plenty about who we are.

Help us as we embark on a project to tell the oral histories of Minnesotans. If you have any questions (or prefer to send your stories directly to me) you can find my email below. Thanks for your consideration.

Michael Caputo, Analyst, Public Insight Journalism
 Minnesota Public Radio News
 651-290-1081 mcaputo@mpr.org

2007-8 Calendar

2007

- Nov. 1-9 MGS Library CLOSEDMOVING!
- Nov. 3 Ostfriesen Gen. Soc. annual tea* 10:00 a.m.
- Nov. 3 Polish Gen. Soc.* 10:00 a.m.
- Nov. 9 ASI/SGSM genealogy workshop*9:00 a.m.
- Nov. 10 Irish Grand Opening Day at new MGS home.9:00 a.m.
- Nov. 10 MGS Intermediate classes at MHS* 10:30 a.m.
- Nov. 10 German Gen. Soc. annual mtg.; program* at.1:30 p.m.
- Nov. 15 Czech. Gen. Soc. Night at new MGS home...6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 17 MGS board meeting 1:00 p.m.
- Nov. 17 Irish Gen. Soc. quarterly meeting9:00 a.m.
- Nov. 17 Pommern Group potluck*6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 18-24 MGS Library CLOSED for Thanksgiving
- Nov. 18 Canadian Gen./Heritage Soc. annual mtg. 1:00 p.m.
- Nov. 19 Irish Gen. Soc. board meeting9:00 a.m.
- Nov. 24 Finnish Gen. Group9:30 a.m.
- Nov. 26 Danish-American Gen. Soc.7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 28 Norwegian-American Gen. Soc.6:00 p.m.

- Dec. 1 MGS Quarterly Meeting*9:00 a.m.
- Dec. 1 MGS Open House 1:00 p.m.
- Dec. 1 Pommern Regional Group 1:00 p.m.
- Dec. 11 Czech. Gen. Soc. board meeting7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 16-31 MGS Library CLOSED
- Dec. 17 Irish Gen. Soc. board meeting7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 23 Finnish Gen. Group9:30 a.m.
- Dec. 26 Norwegian-American Gen. Soc.6:00 p.m.

2008

- Jan. 1 *MN Families*deadline
- Jan. 1 MGS Library CLOSED
- Jan. 8 Czech. Gen. Soc. board meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 12 Writing Study Group 1:00 p.m.
- Jan. 19 MGS Genealogy Spotlight Lecture 10:00 a.m.
- Jan. 19 MGS board meeting 1:00 p.m.
- Jan. 19 Swedish Gen. Soc. quarterly meeting* 1:00 p.m.
- Jan. 21 Irish Gen. Soc. board meeting7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 28 Danish-American Gen. Soc.7:00 p.m.

*Meeting not held at the MGS Library