

Newsletter for the Minnesota Genealogical Society

MN Families

Volume 39, No. 1

Online at: <http://mngs.org>; Phone: 651-455-9057

February 2008

MGS in Rochester March 29

When: Saturday March 29

Where: Rochester Community & Technical College
851 30th Ave. SE, Rochester, MN

Agenda for the Day

- 8:00 Registration & coffee
- 9:00 Business meeting
- 9:30 Break-out session #1
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Break-out session #2
- 11:45 Lunch
- 12:45 Stump the Experts Panel
- 1:30 Break-out session #3
- 2:30 Meeting concludes



A short business meeting will be followed by a series of concurrent sessions with a variety of presentations. Vendors will provide a good selection of books and other materials for sale, as well as answers to questions!

BREAK-OUT SESSION 1

- A) Beginning Genealogy (Lois Mackin)
- B) Genealogical Resources at the Minnesota Historical Society (Duane Swanson)
- C) Using Indirect Evidence to Solve Genealogy Puzzles (Jay Fonkert)

BREAK-OUT SESSION 2

- A) Making the Most of Your PC for Genealogy (Mary Wickersham and Sheila Northrop)
- B) Researching Southeast Minnesota Ancestors (Sandy Thalman)
- C) Hidden Resources: Ways Around Genealogical Brick Walls (Joanne Sher)



Co-Sponsored by the Olmsted County Genealogy Society

The Olmsted County Genealogical Society is located in the History Center of Olmsted County, 1195 West Circle Drive SW, Rochester.

LUNCH, EXHIBITS, & GENEALOGY HELP DESK

Got a problem? Just want to talk through something? Bring it along and talk to the experts!

STUMP THE EXPERTS PANEL

A panel of Certified Genealogists (CGs) will answer your questions

BREAK-OUT SESSION 3

- A) Minnesota Cemetery Research (Rosalie Shack)
- B) GEO in GenEalOgy: Maps and Geography in Family History (Jay Fonkert)

VENDORS

Tables will be available for historical or genealogically-related vendors who wish to have displays at the meeting. Requests for tables must be received by the **March 22**. Cost of tables is \$10 each; non-profit groups get one table free. Contact Jay Fonkert at 651-735-8630 or <jfonkert@aol.com>.

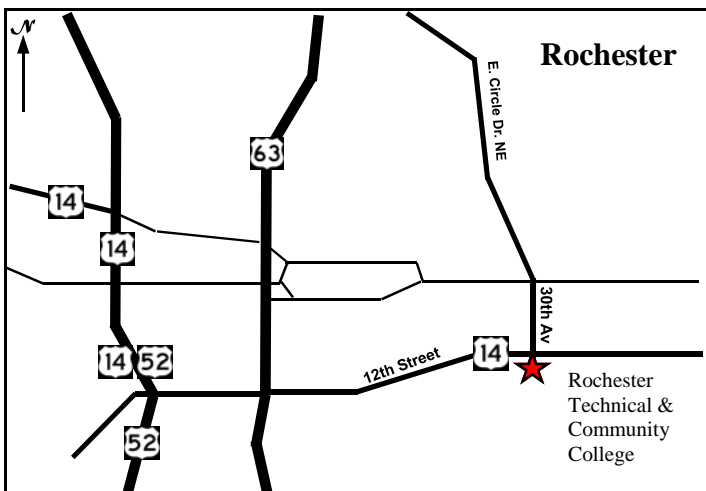
BOX LUNCHES

For your convenience we will provide an optional box lunch. This can give you more time to visit and browse the vendor tables. **Payment for the box lunch must be received in advance**, no later than **March 22**. Send your name, address, and a check for \$10.00 for each box lunch to: Program Committee, Minnesota Genealogical Society, 1185 Concord St. N., Ste. 218, South Saint Paul MN 55075.

The box lunch will include gourmet deli sandwich, fresh baked cookie, chips and choice of bottled water or canned soda. You are welcome to bring a bag lunch or go to a local restaurant if you prefer.

REGISTRATION

The cost for this meeting is \$25 MGS/OCGS members; \$30 for non-members. Advanced online registration is encouraged at <<http://mngs.org>> where PayPal is accepted, or mail in your registration (see registration form on the next page). You may also register at the door on the day of the meeting.



For written directions, see the MGS website: <http://mngs.org>.

For detailed maps of the campus: <http://www.rctc.edu/campustour/>

Nominations Sought

It's never too soon to start thinking about nominations for MGS officers and directors. Before you know it the elections will be here—and we don't want our elections getting lost in all the hubbub that will surround the Republican National Convention being held in Minnesota!

So plan now to nominate yourself—or your genealogy BFF! Positions that will be available are: president, 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, secretary, and directors.

Put those thinking caps on and watch for more details in the next newsletter.

News, Notes, & Tidbits

Military Files Released

In early November, 2007, the National Personnel Records Center in Overland, Missouri, released more than six million military personnel files for those who served before 1946. Making the documents public is the second phase of a program to open 57 million individual military files. Under an agreement with the Pentagon, the National Archives may release the files 62 years after a service member leaves the armed forces. While most records are from World War II, some date back to 1885. Not all records are available, however, as a 1973 fire destroyed 80% of records for some Army and Air Force personnel.

ARMA International
Information Management Newswire, November 2007

Software Program Available Free

Matt Combs from Lewisville, North Carolina, has written a genealogy program that he claims will make it easier to search the internet for a particular surname and other surnames which sound like that surname.

The web page for the software is located at <<http://home.triad.rr.com/combsfamily/sslmain.html>>.

Feel free to download the program and give it a try. Be sure to use the additional search terms and the wider search option for better results. And let him know how it works for you.

Matt Combs, <MattCombs@triad.rr.com>



President's Message



- The Minnesota Genealogical Society means to be around and grow in the next five years. MGS has said goodbye to its early stages of growth, operating out of store fronts and other tiny digs. It has even been able to improve on it's "ideal" Golden Valley location, with its library and research center now located on one continuous floor space and grouped together. Our new headquarters shows our strength. We are now located in South Saint Paul, just across the Ramsey-Dakota county border. Our library has almost 25,000 volumes, our research center has all new computers (and access to major genealogical websites), we have meeting rooms that vary in size, and we welcome to MGS a new addition—the Ostfriesland Genealogical Society.
- Watch for our next three lectures of 2008 in our **Genealogy "Spotlight" lectures**. February 23 Paula Stuart-Warren will focus on "Researching American Indian Ancestors," April. 12 Tom Rice will speak on "Finding Printed Sources Using the Internet," May 10 Harold Hinds speaks on "The Solider Who Wasn't There: Reconstructing a WWI Soldier's Services."
- **OPEN HOUSES** — Two open houses have been scheduled in April that will give you an opportunity to come and visit our new headquarters, library and research center. A near blizzard hit on December 1, 2007, which

Continued on page 6

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 Greater MN Meeting — March 29, 2008

Registration Fee: \$25 for MGS/OCGS members; \$30 for non-members
Optional box lunch: \$10.00 per person

MGS/OCGS member Not a member

Name: _____

Amount enclosed

Address: _____

Registration \$ _____
(\$30/25 ea.)

City/State/Zip _____

Box lunch \$ _____
(\$10.00 ea.)

Phone: _____

Total \$ _____

Return by **March 22** to Program Committee, MGS, 1185 Concord St. N., Ste. 218, South Saint 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:

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: Sharon Arends
E-mail: ogsa@ogsa.us
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

MGS Library and Research Center

Minnesota Genealogical Society Library

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

New Phone: 651-455-9057

Same old web address: <http://mngs.org>

New Library hours (see the calendar for closed dates)

Tues.: 6:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m.

Wed.: 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Thurs.: 10 a.m.—4 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m.

Sat.: 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

There is a \$5 fee for non-MGS or non-branch members to use the library.

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



Photo by Paul Sernberg



Photo by Kathie Olio



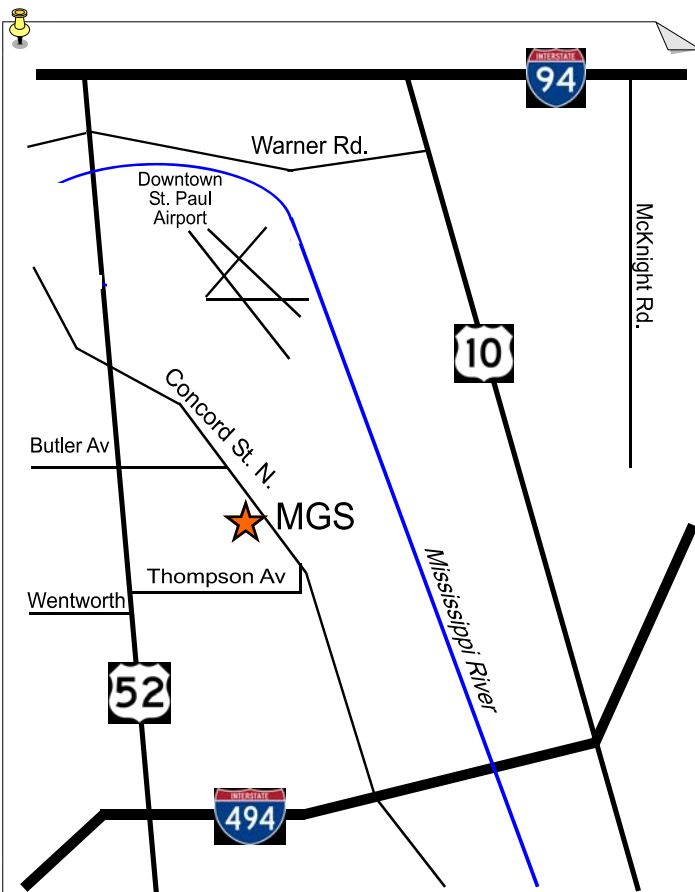
Photo by Kathie Olio

Using the computers in the library



Photo by Paul Sernberg

4th floor board room/conference room/meeting room



President's Message *cont.*

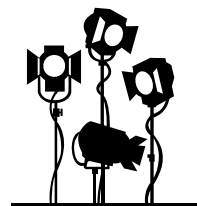
resulted in a very low turnout. We've been asked to repeat the Open House, and we have scheduled it for TWO Saturdays: April 19 and April 26. Come and get a tour of our facility, see our new meeting rooms, and work with our library.

- **March Program** — MGS, in cooperation with the Olmsted County Genealogical Society, is hosting the MGS Genealogy Roadshow in Rochester March 29. The conference will feature nine breakout sessions with talks geared to all levels of genealogists and family historians, including beginners. There will be something for everyone, so don't miss it.
- **June Program** — Our June MGS quarterly meeting will be held at our new headquarters in So. St. Paul. This is our annual "Branching Out" meeting, drawing on the talents and resources of our branch groups. This will also be a great chance to scope out our new library and research center, which is getting rave reviews.
- **September Program** — Our Annual Meeting and program will be a TWO-DAY affair, featuring Christine Rose, Paula Stuart-Warren, and dinner speaker Annette Adkins. Starting on Friday at NOON, the program will feature speakers and presentations, and then our Annual Awards Banquet will be held in the evening. All events will take place at the Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., Saint Paul.
- **Two new committees** are being formed: A Long-Range Planning Committee will look at every aspect of MGS, examine how it functions, how to improve it and make it modern so that it fits into our new century. And a Board in Advisors is being formed with members from the following possible organizations: MHS, University of Minnesota, Hennepin County Library, Ramsey County Library, 3M's genealogical group, and Dakota County Historical Society. This group will meet twice a year, and provide advice and suggestions to the MGS board and its committees.
- **Our kitchen needs** a refrigerator and a microwave. Do you have one that is not being used? You can donate it and receive a tax-deduction. Please contact MGS if you have any of these to help us furnish our kitchen. We already have running hot and cold water, an electric counter-top oven, and a large kitchen area with cupboards. Your donation will allow us to prepare and keep special ethnic foods for our open house and various ethnic celebrations.

Spotlight Lecture Series

Special topics of interest to family historians and genealogists

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.
MGS Library and Research Center
1185 Concord St. N., South St. Paul



February 23: Researching American Indian Ancestors – Paula Stuart-Warren

Paula Stuart-Warren will share the basics of ancestral research for those with American Indian ancestry, including introductions to Indian censuses and annuity rolls, oral history, legal records tribal records, and BIA and National Archives collections. She will help researchers understand the historical context of the records and the lives they reflect. Paula Stuart-Warren lectures widely throughout the United States, and is a Certified Genealogist. This is a 2-hour presentation.

April 12: Finding Printed Sources Using the Internet – Tom K. Rice

In this lecture, Tom Rice will take you beyond the standard genealogical sources to a cornucopia of printed material that can be found through library search services such as Worldcat, NUCMC, and MnLink. Tom Rice is a Certified Genealogist and Managing Editor of *Septs*, the journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International.

May 10: The Soldier Who Wasn't There: Reconstructing a World War I Soldiers' Service – Harold Hinds

Dr. Harold Hinds will demonstrate using state and federal military records to document a soldier who may have fought in the War's most famous unit, "The Lost Battalion." Dr. Hinds is Distinguished Research Professor of History at the University of Minnesota-Morris, Associate Editor of the *Minnesota Genealogist* and a columnist for the *NGS NewsMagazine*.

MGS members \$12; non-members \$15
Advanced registration recommended
Registration information at:
<http://www.mngs.org/lecturepaypal.shtml>
or call:
651-455-9057 or 651-735-8630

PR Helper Needed

The world runs on information. There is plenty of information about MGS programs, but we need to get it “out there.” So, we are looking for someone, or a group, to help publicize our programs and events. We have begun several programs, most recently the Genealogical Spotlight Lectures, which are special topics of interest to family historians and genealogists.

We need help to get the word out. This involves sending some press releases to various newspapers, about a dozen, and to the libraries around the area (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, McLeod, Ramsey, Scott, Washington, and Wright counties), and of course the city libraries. We have all the addresses you will need. We need someone to send the information out.

If you can write a newsrelease, we would appreciate that as well. MGS is a totally volunteer organization and relies heavily on its members to help provide services. We are more than happy to carefully train you, and help get you going, and you will be more than pleased to work beside our genealogists, librarians, research specialists and other very interesting volunteers. Please call MGS at 651-445-9057 Tuesday evenings, Wednesdays, and Thursdays after 10:00, and Saturdays. Or call Robin PanLener at 651-222-8660. Thank you.

Meet Your Board Members

Valerie Morrison
MGS Director



Valerie first joined MGS because she'd taken an officer position in the branch group Irish Genealogical Society International (IGSI) in 2002. After moving to Minneapolis in 1999, she began researching her father's Canadian-born ancestors of Irish, Scottish, English and French background, with occasional exploration of her mother's Norwegian ancestors. In 2004, she traveled to Ireland with others in IGSI, visiting major archives in Dublin and Belfast. She has also visited Perth County, Ontario, for genealogy research.

Val volunteers at the MGS library several times a year, with a particular interest in helping those whose research touches on her native North Dakota. Valerie served on the IGSI board for five years, but as of August 2007 is serving only on the MGS board.

A commercial real estate appraiser for 20+ years, Val is currently a review appraiser with Wells Fargo.

MGS member Mary E. Leonard passed away very unexpectedly on December 20, 2006. She was born February 11, 1930, and was interred in the family plot in Pierre, SD, on January 20, 2007.

Correction to Article in Autumn *Minnesota Genealogist*

The last line of Deane Dierksen's wonderful article on her great grandparents in the autumn 2007 issue of the *Minnesota Genealogist* is missing! On page 20, the missing last line should read: “restrooms, and a water fountain.²⁹” The ²⁹ is the last footnote.

Newsletter Sent Electronically—Do We Know Your Address?

MN Families is now 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://mngs.org/change.shtml>> or send changes to our Membership Committee e-mail address at <mbrshp@mngs.org>.



Minnesota Genealogical Society
1185 Concord St. N., Ste. 218
South Saint Paul, Minnesota 55075

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2008 Calendar

Feb. 1 *Minnesota Genealogist*.....deadline
Feb. 2 Ostfriesland Group*10:00 a.m.
Feb. 2 Polish Gen. Soc. meeting10:00 a.m.
Feb. 2 Pommern Regional Group of MN1:00 p.m.
Feb. 9 MGS classes at MN History Center*10:30 a.m.
Feb. 9 Writing Group1:00 p.m.
Feb. 10 Canadian Gen. & Heritage Soc.1:00 p.m.
Feb. 12 Czech. Gen. Soc. bd. mtg.6:30 p.m.
Feb. 13 Germanic Gen. Soc. library com. meeting.....7:00 p.m.
Feb. 16 Irish Gen. Soc. quarterly meeting.....8:00 a.m.
Feb. 16 Germanic Gen. Soc.12:30 p.m.
Feb. 16 Oakdale FHC class*9:00 a.m.
Feb. 18 Irish Gen. Soc. bd. meeting7:00 p.m.
Feb. 19 MGS Exec. Committee meeting*4:30 p.m.
Feb. 19 MN Newspapers class at MHS*6:00 p.m.
Feb. 21 MGS Long-Range Planning Com. meeting* ...6:00 p.m.
Feb. 23 MGS Spotlight Lecture.....10:00 a.m.
Feb. 23 Germanic Gen. Soc. class12:30 p.m.
Feb. 23 Yankee Gen. Soc.1:00 p.m.
Feb. 23 Germanic Gen. Soc. Class12:30 p.m.
Feb. 25 Danish-American Gen. Soc.*7:00 p.m.
Feb. 26 Branch Council meeting.....7:00 p.m.
Feb. 27 Norwegian-American Gen. Soc.....6:00 p.m.
Mar. 1 Polish Gen. Soc. meeting10:00 a.m.
Mar. 1 Pommern Regional Group of MN1:00 p.m.
Mar. 8 Germanic Gen. Soc.8:00 a.m.
Mar. 8 Ostfriesland Group*8:30 a.m.
Mar. 8 Writing Group1:00 p.m.
Mar. 8 Genealogy software class at MHS*10:00 a.m.
Mar. 11 Czech. Gen. Society board meeting.....6:30 p.m.
Mar. 13 Germanic Gen. Soc. Meeting.....6:30 p.m.
Mar. 15 MGS Board meeting1:00 p.m.
Mar. 15 Czech. Gen. Soc. meeting8:00 a.m.
Mar. 15 Swedish Gen. Soc. All Day Research mtg.*...9:00 a.m.
Mar. 15 Germanic Gen. Soc. meeting*1:00 p.m.
Mar. 17 Irish Gen. Soc. board meeting7:00 p.m.
Mar. 17-22 MGS Library Easter breakCLOSED
Mar. 20 Germanic Gen. Soc. board meeting.....6:30 p.m.
Mar. 26 Norwegian-American Gen. Assoc.6:00 p.m.

Mar. 29 MGS quarterly meeting in Rochester* 9:00 a.m.
Mar. 29 MGS Library CLOSED
Mar. 29 Blue Hills Gen. Soc. (Barron, WI) seminar* ... 9:00 a.m.
Apr. 1 *MN Families* deadline
Apr. 1 MGS Branch Council meeting 7:00
Apr. 5 Polish Gen. Soc. of MN* 10:00 a.m.
Apr. 5 Pommern Regional Group of MN 1:00 p.m.
Apr. 8 Czech. Gen. Soc. board meeting..... 6:30 p.m.
Apr. 12 MGS Spotlight Lecture 10:00 a.m.
Apr. 12 Writing Group 1:00 p.m.
Apr. 15 MGS Executive Com. meeting* 4:30 p.m.
Apr. 15 Organizing Your Family Papers class at MHS 6:00 p.m.
Apr. 21 Irish Gen. Soc. board meeting 7:00 p.m.
Apr. 30 Norwegian-American Gen. Assoc. 6:00 p.m.
June 14 MGS quarterly meeting TBA
Sept. 19-20 MGS Annual Seminar & Awards TBA
Dec. 6 MGS quarterly meeting TBA

*Meeting not held at the MGS Library

On March 15th, the Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota will again hold their Annual All-Day Research Meeting at the American Swedish Institute auditorium from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. It will include a full day of Swedish genealogy research, with added help from Gonline, and our computer gurus with their many Swedish CDs and database subscriptions.

There will be over two dozen research/help/travel tables to help guide and answer your research questions, including Gonline North America, the Minnesota Genealogical Society, the Minnesota Historical Society, the Bloomington Family History Center, a table for public library resources and interlibrary loan assistance, as well as the SGSM library and translation help table.

They have also reserved the Viking room for different lectures, by Peter Wallenskog, David Fogelberg, and Jan Eurenus from Sweden who will update us on Gonline today and its future; Linda Coffin on "Turning Your Heirlooms into Stories," and Ray Kleinow on genealogy and technology questions and answers.