



MN Families

Newsletter for the Minnesota Genealogical Society

Vol. 40, No. 1

Online at: www.mngs.org; Phone: (651) 455-9057

February 2009

Members' Morning March 7

Join your fellow MGS Members March 7 at our first special Members' Morning – FREE to MGS members. Members' Morning is a light mix of genealogical socializing and informal learning.

Get your "genealogy fix" and be home in time for Saturday afternoon lunch and errands and – or stay for the day and use the library, including [free access](#) to Ancestry.com on our library's computers.

9:00 - 9:20 a.m. Members Info Meeting

9:30 - 10:45 a.m. - Writing Group, OR

Beginning Genealogical Workshop

10:45-11:00 a.m.

Light Refreshments: Get-to-Know
Your Fellow Genealogists

11:00-12:15 p.m. - Research Study Group

- **Writing Group** (Kathy Lund)
- **Research Study Group** (Tom Rice and Jay Fonkert, coordinators)
- **Beginning Genealogy**

The Writing and Research Study groups are informal learning groups that share questions and answers. Both groups are open to any MGS member.

To get the most out of the Research Study Group, participants should have some experience is using basic genealogy sources.

Maybe you'd like to participate in an interest group focused on preserving photos or family heirlooms, or perhaps using the internet for genealogy. Let us know, and we will help you organize a group for future Members' Mornings.

Family History Fair April 18

The second annual **Minnesota Family History Fair** will feature DNA Research, Ethnic Resources, and Research Tools for both beginning and advanced genealogists. The April 18 program is co-sponsored by MGS and its ethnic and national Branches and Affiliates. One program track will be completely devoted to DNA, with talks on family medical history, the use of DNA in genealogy, and how to handle privacy issues in DNA projects. Another program track will appeal to beginners and others who want to upgrade their genealogy skills. Other presentations will feature the University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center, Swedish genealogy and how to use small business records to fill in your family history. Over the noon hour, a special panel of experienced genealogists will take questions from the audience. This "Ask a Genealogist" program will be preceded by a short MGS member's information meeting. A light lunch is available for \$5.

	<i>Track 1 - Auditorium</i>	<i>Track 2 - Board Room</i>	<i>Track 3 - Library Classroom</i>
09:00 - 9:30 a.m.	REGISTRATION		
09:30 - 10:30 a.m. "A"	"DNA/Family Medical History" Mary Ahrens, MS, CGS Genetic Counselor UM Medical Center, Fairview Familial Cancer Clinic	"Immigration History Research Center" E. Haven Hawley Ph.D. IHRC - Program Director University of Minnesota	Workshop for Beginning Genealogy
10:45 - 11:45 "B"	"DNA Testing" John Rys, Polish Genealogy Society of Minnesota	Basics of Swedish Genealogy Carie Herfindahl, Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota	Strategies for Searching the Family History Library Catalog" Tom Rice, CG
11:45 - 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH and EXHIBITS		
	11:45 - 12:00 "What's going on at MGS?"		
	12:00 - 12:45. . . . "Ask a Genealogist" (bring your lunch) - Jay Fonkert, Tom Rice, Sheila Northrop. . . .		
01:00 - 02:00 p.m. "C"	"DNA Tests- Legal/Privacy Issues" Hennepin County Bar Association	"Reconstructing a Family's Small US Business: Accessible Records" Dr. Harold E. Hinds, Jr., "Distinguished Research Professor, University of Minnesota-Morris"	"Improving Your Genealogy Detective Skills: Following Clues from the Census" Jay Fonkert, CG

WHEN: Saturday April 18, 2009 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm **WHERE:** MGS Library, 1185 N. Concord St., South St. Paul, MN 55075-1150. In order to better assign speaker rooms, we encourage those who pre-register to designate their choices of speakers/topics. Please include with your check, or designate via the MGS website. (**SEE: PAGE 7 - TO REGISTER**)

From the President...

It's very exciting to write my first message to MGS members as President. I have much more I'd like to visit with you about than I can possibly do in this space, so I will limit my comments to a handful of things.

First, in my first four months, I have learned one very important thing: the President can do very little alone. It takes dozens of volunteers, many who work quietly out of sight, to keep MGS working. Think of all the ways MGS touches you – this newsletter, the website, the MGS Library and Research Center, conferences, classes, our journal – and you start to realize how many people it takes to get everything done!

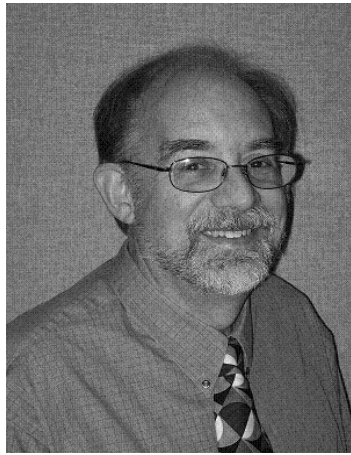
MGS is evolving. It must. We are trying some new things. We will have our first "Members" Morning" March 7. Members Mornings will include a short MGS membership meeting, informal seminars and light refreshments. Of course, admission to the Library is always

What really excites me is MGS's future.

free to MGS members. But, we want to make these mornings a special opportunity for members to meet their fellow family history researchers and learn from each other. The MGS Writing Group and the MGS Research Study Group will meet on Members' Mornings. All MGS members are invited to participate in these informal groups to enrich their writing and research experiences.

Also, be watching for our 2nd Annual Minnesota Family History Fair April 18 at MGS. This conference-style event features our ethnic and nationality branches. Full information is found elsewhere in this newsletter.

What really excites me is MGS's future. I think interest in family history and genealogy is going to surge over the next decade. At the same time, I see that volunteer nonprofit organizations like MGS face tough financial and volunteer-recruitment challenges. Our principal mission is to help people do genealogy, but we are not the only game in town. We need to find new ways to offer value to our
2 - Minnesota Families



MGS President Jay Fonkert

members and more aggressively market ourselves.

Your elected Board of Directors – all dedicated volunteers – is working on several fronts to make MGS even more vital. I want to tell you about two important initiatives.

Our immediate past-Treasurer, Mary Wickersham, is energetically chairing a new Marketing Committee that is developing a marketing strategy. The committee will coordinate publicity of MGS events, but also make plans to raise the visibility of MGS as a genealogical service organization in the wider community.

The other important initiative is a special MGS-Branch Futures Committee. This group will take the fine work of the 2008 Long Range Planning Committee as a springboard. I am asking this Committee to focus specifically on organizational options to preserve the viability of both our large and small ethnic and nationality branches. They will evaluate the current

Our principal mission is to help people do genealogy, but we are not the only game in town.

MGS-branch arrangements in our bylaws, and consider some options to simplify arrangements in a way that both the branches and MGS come out stronger. The Committee will make its first report to the Board in May.

Minnesota Genealogical Society

Now for the fun part. First, I gratefully thank all of you who made contributions to our recent fundraising drive. Membership dues cover less than half of our costs of doing business, and your contributions are vitally important to MGS.

Second, I extend a huge thanks to Kathie Otto, who has managed and edited the *Minnesota Families* newsletter for several years. She asked to step down after 2008 to devote more time to her professional duties at the Minnesota Historical Society (she still does editing and layout work for our journal!). Her work on this newsletter made us proud, and we thank her. Robin Panlener is our new managing editor.



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terrykita@earthlink.net; (612) 927-0719

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vacant

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MN Families editor, Robin PanLener
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Submissions: Send articles, announcements, and advertisements to the Newsletter Editor, Minnesota Genealogical Society, 1185 Concord Street North, South St. Paul, MN 55075.

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. Contact Robin at (651) 297-7963 or: robin.panlener@state.mn.us

Newsletter Publishing Dates:

May 1, 2009 - Summer Program
August 1, 2009 - Featuring your ADS for Genealogy Services. \$20.00 per business card size ad. Due in by July 24, 2009.
November 1, 2009 - Research Fair
February 1, 2010 - Committees, Family Reunions

February 2009

FAMILY REUNIONS:

The **BECKER Family Reunion** will be held at Holland, MN on Sunday, June 28, 2009. It will be a potluck. They were originally from the Netherlands. Contact: duncana@iw.net

The **BLOOMQUIST, HALDEN, LAVANDER, PETERSON, STANIUS** Families from Bradford and Spencer Brook areas, Isanti County. Sat. 1 August 2009 at 10:00am. Lavander Century Farm, Spencer Brook Township, Isanti County, MN. Nancy Lavander Seeger at: seelav5351@comcast.net, OR Peter Halden at: pchalden@comcast.net

The **CALKINS Family Association** is sponsoring its 5th tri-annual Internat'l Calkins Family re-union to be held in Syracuse, NY, April 30-May 2, 2009. Contact Minnie Frese 509 Rusagonis Rd., Rusagonis, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 8Z3; phone: (506) 357-3841; e-mail: minmin@nbnet.nb.ca

The **GRISWOLD Family Association of America** annual reunion Aug 6-8, 2010 at the Park Plaza Hotel in Bloomington, MN. Interested members of the **Edmund Rice (1638) Association** and anyone with Griswold ancestors are invited. Contact hostess, Bergetta Monroe (952) 894-9538; e-mail: Bergetta@aol.com

The **HARMS BROTHERS** of Highland, WI, and St. Paul, MN, will hold a Reunion on August 9th, 2009 at Muscoda, WI. Contact: Merle Houdek, (507) 282-9595; e-mail: mehoudek@charter.net

The **KEHN Extended Family** will hold a family reunion on Saturday, August 1st 2009 at Settler's Park in Hanover, MN (in conjunction with the Hanover Harvest Day Festival). Contact: Michael J. Kehn, (763) 269-3064 Cell: (440) 415-5668; e-mail: peachiekehr@aol.com

The **WHITTY FAMILY REUNION (HORTON and related Families)** will hold its 83rd Annual Reunion on Saturday 25 July 2009 in northeastern Florida. For final location and other details, contact Kinfolk@mercerWorks.com

MGS Family History Harvest - Nov. 21, 2009

The MGS Family History Harvest Workshop will be held November 7 at the MGS Library and Research Center.

New Board member Sandy Stadtherr is the program chair. This, like all MGS events, depends on volunteers. Sandy needs volunteers to help with various tasks, including registration, set-up and take-down, vendor relations and catering. If you can help, contact Sandy at jimstadt@earthlink.net.

The November event replaces the Winter meeting that was held at Fort Snelling for many years. The move to November is geared to avoid December snows and avoid the busy December holiday season. Last November's program was chaired by Bergetta Monroe, and featured many MGS branches, affiliates and interest groups. The program included seminars, library tours and a delicious lunch. We anticipate more of the same in 2009!

Swedish Researcher Alert

Swedish researchers can now view Swedish church records online at the MGS Library. With financial assistance from the Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, MGS now has a computer subscription to Genline. SGSM will be hosting Genline representatives at the MGS Library Monday, May 11. See the SGSM website.

Newsletter Seeks Editor

MGS is looking for a newsletter editor for its quarterly newsletter, "*Minnesota Families*."

If you are interested, or wish to help by contributing pieces about genealogy and our society, please contact Robin PanLener, (651) 296-6973 or (651) 222-8660, or: panlener@mac.com

New Award: Family History Writing

With the sponsorship of the Yankee Genealogical Society, a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, MGS will award the first Michael Clark Family History Writing Award competition at the Star of the North Genealogy Conference in September. The award will honor an outstanding achievement in family history writing.

The award honors the memory of Michael Clark, past president of the Yankee Genealogical Society, who by his example as a writer encouraged all to share family history.

The competition is open to all.

Entries must 3000 words or less and must not have been previously published. Possible forms include family or local history, memoir, or character sketches. Entries will be judged on the basis of writing quality, choice of topic, originality, clarity, form (grammar, spelling, punctuation), and the inclusion of sources.

Entries must be postmarked by July 15, 2009. Fiction will not be accepted. Entries need not relate to Minnesota.

The decision of judges is final. The winning entry will be published in *Minnesota Genealogist*, the journal of MGS.

For full contest rules, send a long SASE to:

MGS Family History Writing Competition
1185 Concord St. North, Suite 218
South St. Paul MN 55075
or find the rules at www.mnngs.org

MGS Library features 3,000 Family Histories

By John Schade, MGS Librarian

With almost 30,000 books, maps and journals, the MGS Library and Research Center is a must-visit location for every Upper Midwest genealogist and family historian.

The library is located on 2nd floor of the "Rubik's Cube" building at 1185 North Concord St. in South St. Paul. The Library is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, as well as Tuesday and Thursday evening. Check the MGS website (www.mnsgs.org) for up-to-date opening hours.

Ranking just behind the ever popular city directories collection, the more than 3,000-volume Family History Collection is the second most heavily used section of the MGS Library.

The Family History collection includes more than 3,000 volumes – 15 percent of the library's holdings. Filling 220 linear feet of shelf space, it is also the fastest growing section of the MGS Library. Every volume is catalogued for easy finding. You can even check the holdings from home via the online catalog. Click on the Library section on the front page, where you will find a link to the catalog.

If you haven't visited the new library in South St. Paul, you're in for a treat. At our old location in Golden Valley, these family history books were housed in a small, cramped room at the back of the library. At our new location, the collection is out in plain site along the well-lit south wall of the main library room, just behind the reception desk.

The collection includes many kinds of family history books. Some are published in book form and others in loose leaf format. Some are old, rare or fragile – many of these are stored in closed cabinets for protection, but a library volunteer will help you retrieve them. In addition to the standard family history books, the Library has a collection of journals and newsletters devoted to various family names. These are located against the north wall of the Library.

Some family histories in the collection are large multi-volume works. One three-volume set details the genealogy of Charlemagne and his proven descendants. Others are "Chautauqua on the Banks of the Red Cedar," "From Mjelle to Minnesota," "The Story of a Dozen Generations," "Mille Lacs: Thirty Years on the Big Lake," and "Dames and Daughters of the Colonial Age."



(*Minnesota Genealogist*, Vol 33, #3, Autumn 2002 - Erv Chorn, editor)

Regardless of their style or size, every family history is a valuable record of family relationships and family stories. Some researchers have taken their families back several centuries, discovering coats-of-arms, heraldic marks and family crests. However, most family histories are about ordinary people. Just because they aren't royal or rich, they have stories to tell. The common man (or woman) was an integral part of his or her community, and each made their contribution to make the world go round.

If you have a fairly common surname, you might find several books treating your family name. They might not be related to your "Smith" or "Johnson," but then, again, there might be a connection. The books in our collection include information about hundreds of thousands of ethnic origins.

It is fascinating to just sit and wander through this extraordinary collection at your leisure. Individual family history

books will give you ideas and inspiration to write your own family history, get in bound, and added to our library.

Our wonderful library volunteers and I hope that this description of our Family History Collection will peek your interest and prompt you to pay us a visit. The Library is a fun place to spend a little of your genealogy time, and you'll find interesting people and family treasures awaiting you. Your use of the Library helps keep our Society strong and growing stronger each year.

MGS BOOKSTORE

SAMPLES OF BOOKS FOR SALE.

Sales of books at *Library only*, not online or via mail order at this time.

Genealogical Dictionary of New England, vols. 1-4. James Savage, 1986, \$150 per set.

Men of Minnesota, 1902, by MHS \$70.00

Old Paths and legends of the New England Border by Katherine Abbott, 1907, \$30.00.

A Guide to Pre-Federal Records in the Nat'l Archives, 1989, \$20.00.

Gateway to the West, Ruth Bowers and Anita Short, 2-book set, 1989, \$100.00.

Ships of Our Ancestors, Michael J. Anuta, 1983, \$20.00.

Canadian:

Our French Canadian Ancestors - \$300 for the 30-vol. set.

History of the Acadians - \$120 for 6-vol. set

French Canadian Families of the North Central States - \$100 for set of 8 volumes

Polish:

Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings, William F. Hoffman, \$25.00

Going Home: A Guide to Polish American Family Research, Jonathan D. Shea, 2008, for \$35.00 + 2.37 tax = total \$37.37

German:

Germanic Genealogy: A Guide to Worldwide Sources and Migration Patterns, Brandt, Bellingham, Cutkomp, Frye, Lowe and Sternberg (\$44 members/ \$49 non-members)

Pommern:

German Genealogy, Culture and History, Paul Sternberg and Jan and Jerry Savage, \$20.00

Get Involved at MGS

Joining a committee or helping in the Library is a great way to get to know other people interested in family history and genealogy. We have immediate openings for members interested in serving on the following committees:

Education	Marketing (and publicity)
Finance	Awards
Membership	Library
Publications (editors, proofreaders, writers)	
Research (contact: research@mngs.org)	

If your special talents or interests may one of these committees attractive, contact President Jay Fonkert at 651-735-8630 or jfonkert@aol.com.

MGS is also always on the look-out for presenters, lecturers and instructors. Contact Lois Mackin at loismackin@aol.com.

The Library is a fun place to spend a few hours helping others dig up their family history. Contact Kathy Lund at mlund8307@yahoo.com.

Get Your Article in Print!

Minnesota Genealogist Editor John Whitty Mercer reminds readers that your family history story is worth sharing. If you're not quite sure where to start, consider these possibilities:

- **Who were my great grand parents** and the lives they lived?
- **Speaking of grandparents, what about my great, great grandparents** and the lives they created for themselves?
- **What happened to this aunt of ours** who loved to cut the rug and outraged our elders with her outrageous flapper wardrobe or the rich uncle who dressed and behaved like Diamond Jim Brady?
- **What are the tales told** of Minnesotan's proud heritage of family members who served in the American Civil War, the 150th anniversary of its beginning we commemorate in 2011?
- **What are the supposedly little**, but interesting, and sometimes important, things I learned and have come to understand about my family history that castes my lineage in a whole new light?
- **What makes you persist as a family historian?** Tell us about your adventures and misadventures? What have you learned in the process to share with others regarding what to do and not to do—as well as when to do?

Contributors to *Minnesota Genealogist* are not limited to these themes. They are offered simply to nudge you to tell your family stories and present your genealogy. (kinfolk@mercercworks.com)

Nomination Time for 2009 Awards

The Minnesota Genealogical Society will honor outstanding service and achievement of Minnesota family historians and genealogists at its 2008 Minnesota Genealogy Awards Banquet in September. MGS invites nominations in seven award categories:

Pat and Dorothy Chandler Award for exceptional and prolonged volunteer service to MGS.

Unsung Hero Award for behind-the-scenes work that contributes to the efficient management and operation of MGS.

MGS Founder's Award for visionary organizational leadership that sustains MGS as an organization and advances its mission.

Pioneer Explorer Award for contributions to the development of Minnesota resources for genealogy and family history research.

Michael Clark Family History Writing Award for excellence in family history writing.

Star of the North Award for outstanding genealogical reSearch, writing or education.

Ambassador Award for representing Minnesota on the national genealogy scene and bringing honor to Minnesota genealogy.

The Chandler, Unsung Hero and Founder awards will be made to members of MGS. Nominees for the Star of the North, Pioneer, Ambassador and Clark Family History Writing awards need not belong to MGS.

Nominations may be made in writing by July 1, 2009, to the MGS Awards Committee, Minnesota Genealogical Society, 1185 Concord St. N., South St. Paul, MN 55075-1187. Nominations should include the name of the nominee, the name of the award, and a short statement of the of why the nominee is deserving of the award.

Star of the North Genealogy Conference

Nationally renowned genealogist Clair Bettag will headline the second annual Star of the North Genealogy Conference September 18-19 at the MGS Library and Research Center in South St. Paul.

Bettag is an expert in federal land records, French and Arcadian-Cajun genealogy. A certified genealogist and genealogical lecturer, Bettag is a popular speaker at national genealogy conferences, institutes and seminars. Her articles have appeared in *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, the *APG Quarterly*, and other journals.

The one-and-a-half day conference will include other local and regional speakers, providing a variety of learning opportunities for Upper Midwest genealogists and family historians.

MGS will honor its Stars of the North at the third annual MGS Awards Banquet will be held Friday evening September 18 in conjunction with the conference. Information on the awards is found elsewhere in this issue of *Minnesota Families*. Watch the MGS website (www.mngs.org) for further details. Registration will open July 1.

Groups or vendors interested in exhibit or sales space should contact Jay Fonkert at jfonkert@aol.com.

Branches, Affiliates, Interest & Working Groups

BRANCHES:

Canadian Genealogical & Heritage Society of Minnesota

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

Danish-American Genealogical Society

Contact: Jack Porter
Phone: (763) 544-5315
E-mail: jackaporter@att.net
Web: www.danishgenealogy.org

Germanic Genealogy Society

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

Irish Genealogical Society International

Contact: Linda Miller
Phone: (952) 831-8286
E-mail: president@irishgenealogical.org
Web: www.irishgenealogical.org

Norwegian-American Genealogical Assn

Contact: Bob O'Neill
Phone: (651) 777-8881
E-mail: irviking@aol.com
Web: www.norwegianamerican.org

Polish Genealogical Society of MN

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

Pommern Regional Group of MN

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

Swedish Genealogical Society of MN

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

Yankee Genealogical Society

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

AFFILIATES:

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International

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

Osriesen Genealogical Society of America

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

INTEREST GROUPS:

African-American / Peoples of Color

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

Eastern Europe

(Calling NEW Members)
Contact: Ed Brandt
Phone: (612) 388-2001 (2-10 p.m.)
E-mail: erbrandt@gwmail.gwu.edu

Iceland (Calling NEW Members)

Contact: Patricia Allred
Phone: (612) 729-0456

Luxembourg

(Calling NEW Members)
Contact: Karen Whitmer
Phone: (612) 869-1759
E-mail: witmerj@aol.com

Netherlands and Belgium

(Calling NEW Members)
Contact: Jay Fonkert
E-mail: jfonkert@aol.com

Scotland (Calling NEW Members)

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

LEARNING GROUPS:

MGS Research Study Group

Contact: Jay Fonkert
E-mail: jfonkert@aol.com

MGS Writing Group

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

COMMITTEES:

Branch Council - Meetings for '09:

- February 14
- April 4
- June 20
- August 8
- October 24 (to be confirmed; this is a switch from Nov 7)
- December 5 (maybe a little bit of festivity?)

Education Lois Mackin,

Tom Rice, Myrtice Orr, David Suddarth, Dick Thill

Finance Jerry Maher,

Jay Fonkert, Terry Kita, Val Morrisison, Robin PanLener, Jerry Savage

Fundraising Robin Panlener,

Jerry Savage, Mary Wickersham

Library John Schade

NEED VOLUNTEERS. Please contact John Schade at MGS. Training is FREE and FUN

Library Operations Kathy Lund

Library Technology Bob Rowe,

John Schade, Jim LaValle, Mary Wickersham

Marketing Mary Wickersham,

Thad Carlson, Erv Chorn, Diane Lovrencevic, Robin PanLener, John Schade

Membership Arlene Fenning,

Margie Deutsch, Fran Hillier, Rick Rusinak

Publications John Mercer,

Kathie Otto, Paula Goblirsch, Dixie Hansen, Mary Kathleen Lund, Rosemary Ruffenbach, Carl and Beth Baumeister, Beverly Ophoven Ewing, Frances P. Hillier

Research Mary Wickersham,

Cindy Lindau, Anita J. Lee Palmquist, Linda Rosedahl, Linda Reverchon

Technology Bob Rowe,

Peter C. Halden, David Inman, Jim LaValle, Diane Lovrencevic, Warren Mitchell, Robin PanLener, Patrick Rafferty, Rick Rusinak, Bob Zimmerman

Website Jim Robasse

Minnesota Genealogical Society - FAMILY HISTORY FAIR - April 18, 2009 - Registration Form

Questions? Please contact Terry Kita at (612) 927-0719; e-mail: terrykita@earthlink.net

	Pre-register	at the door	+ lunch	= total
MGS, Branch, Affiliate member	\$20	\$25	\$5	_____
Non-member	\$25	\$30	\$5	_____

- Payment method:
1. PayPal - See MGS website for information at: www.mnsgs.org
 2. Check (to MGS) - mail to: MGS, 1185 N. Concord St., South St. Paul, 55075-1150
 3. Pre-registration payment must be received by April 17, 2009
 4. Non-members may want to consider a membership

Name: _____ Member? Y _____ N _____

Address: _____

Track	A-1	A-2	A-3
Interest:	B-1	B-2	B-3
	C-1	C-2	C-3

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ E-mail: _____

Return by April 13, 2009 to Program Committee, MGS 1185 Concord St. N., South St. Paul, MN 55075-1150

CALENDAR

February 1	MN Genealogist.....deadline	April 1	Minnesota Families (newsletter).....deadline
7	Ostfriesland.....10:00-2:00 p.m.	4	MGS Branch Council.....9:30-11:00 a.m.
	Pommern Group.....1:00-4:00 p.m.		Polish Gen. Soc.....9:30-12:30 p.m.
10	MGS Executive Committee at MHS.....4:30 p.m.		Pommern Group.....1:00-4:00 p.m.
	CGSI.....7:00 p.m.	8	IGSI Board Meeting.....4:00-6:00 p.m.
11	Irish Genealogical Society Intn'l Board Mtg.....4:00 p.m.	11	IGSI.....10:00-11:30 a.m.
14	Branch Council.....9:30-11:00 a.m.	14	CGSI Board Meeting.....6:30 p.m.
	IGSI class.....10:00-11:30 a.m.	18	MGS Intermediate Genealogy at MHS.....9:00-12 Noon
	MGS Writing Group.....1:00- 2:30 p.m.	25	CGSI.....12:30-4:00 p.m.
15	Canadian Group.....1:00- 4:00 p.m.	29	N-AGA Monthly Meeting.....6:30 p.m.
21	Irish Group.....8:00 a.m.-Noon		
	Intermediate Genealogy.....9:00 a.m.-Noon	May 1	Minnesota Genealogist (Journal).....deadline
22	NW Area GGS.....2:00-5:00 p.m.	2	Polish Genealogical Society.....:00-12:30 p.m.
25	N-AGA monthly meeting.....6:30-9:30 p.m.		Pommern Group.....1:00-4:00 p.m.
		9	Intermediate Genealogy Class at MHS.....9:00-12 Noon
March 7	MGS Members Day.....9:00-12:30 p.m.		IGSI Class.....10:00-11:30 a.m.
	Pommern Group.....1:00-4:00 p.m.		MGS Board of Directors.....1:00-4:00 p.m.
	MGS Writing Group.....morning		MGS Writing Group.....1:00-2:30 p.m.
	Yankee Group.....1:00-3:00p.m.	12	CGSI Board Meeting.....6:30 p.m.
10	CGSI Board Meeting.....6:30 p.m.	13	IGSI Board Meeting.....4:00-6:00 p.m.
11	Irish Genealogical Society Intn'l Bd Mtg....4:00-6:00 p.m.	16	IGSI.....9:00-12 Noon
14	Irish Gen. Soc. Intn'l.....10:00-11:30 a.m.		Swedish Genealogical Society.....12:00-4:00 p.m.
	Intermediate Genealogy Class - MHS.....9:00-Noon	17	Canadian Gen Soc.....1:00-4:00p.m.
	MGS Board Meeting.....1:00-4:00p.m.	20	Germanic Genealogical Soc.....7:00 p.m.
	German Genealogical Society.....8:00-4:00p.m.	23	MGS Library Closed
	Polish Genealogical Society.....9:00-12:30 p.m.	25	Memorial Day
21	Swedish Genealogical Society.....12:00-4:00 p.m.	27	Norwegian-American Gen. Soc.....6:30-9:30 p.m.
25	Norwegian-Amer. Gen. Soc.....6:30 p.m.	30	Ostfriesland Genealogical Society.....10:00-2:00 p.m.
28	N-AGA Monthly Meeting.....9:00-3:00 p.m.		
	CGSI.....12:30-4:00p.m.	June 1	MGS Member Morning.....9:00-12:00p.m.
30	Ostfriesland Gen Soc.....7:00-9:30 p.m.		Pommern Reg. Group of MN.....1:00-4:00 p.m.
			MGS Writers' Study Group.....morning



Minnesota Genealogical Society
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MGS is 40 Years Old

by Patricia C. Harpole, from "MGS:
The First Five Years Remembered"
Minnesota Genealogist, Vol 15, No. 3.

"Too bad we don't have a genealogical society."

"Wish I could find others around here who are working on the same family I am."

"Other states have them."

Typical of the kind of statements heard by the staff in the Reference Room of the Minnesota Historical Society as the patrons discussed their research projects. I had already been teaching classes in family research for several years, but really had not given much thought about an organization. Remember, this was pre [U.S.] Bicentennial and *Roots*, and while there always had been people working on genealogy, it was not with the dedication and desire that researchers currently exhibit.

On a pure whim one day, I mentioned to the then Chief Librarian James Taylor Dunn that I wanted to see if there really was any interest in formally organizing a state genealogical society and with his encouragement, I placed a notice in the St. Paul and Minneapolis newspapers announcing an organizational meeting to
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be held at the Minnesota Historical Society on Sunday afternoon, April 20, 1969. Another co-worker, Edward Swanson, offered to write up a proposed constitution and dues structure (just in case anything actually happened to create such an organization.)

Expecting perhaps twenty to thirty people, you can imagine the surprise when seventy-five people showed up. Mr. Dunn opened the discussion with a warm welcoming statement and I explained how the meeting came about and what possible opportunities might be available by organizing a society. It was decided by the group that there was a desire for a formal organization and thus it was "born."

Before the second meeting was held, forty individuals and one county historical society became members. A far cry from today's membership figures but a good sound group to begin activities. By the end of the charter year, 1969, there were 141 members, many of whom have been and still are active and involved members of MGS.

The first issue of the Newsletter was published in June 1969 and for the rest of the 1969 contained both news items and articles. March 1970 saw the first issue of the *Minnesota Genealogist*

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designed for major research articles while the Newsletter continued as the vehicle for meeting information and small news pieces. I had the pleasure of editing these publications during the first five years of their existence, a task I found challenging (to convince, beg, badger and threaten people to send in articles), frustrating (when they didn't send in articles), and rewarding (I had been a journalism minor in college so this at least let me pretend.) A belated thank you to all the writers and helpers -- you were great.

The Minnesota Historical Society allowed MGS to hold their meetings in either the Library or the Weyerhaeuser Room at no expense, which was a thoughtful gesture on the part of the Administration of the Historical Society and much appreciated. Over the years, in turn, MGS has been a contributor to the Historical Society of books, microfilm, and money for purchase of needed items. Both organizations profited by the association.

The first elected officers were announced for 1970: myself as president; Robert Aurandt, first vice-president; Jack Dexter, second vice-president, Betty Erickson, secretary; Edward Swanson, treasurer; and executive board members: Evelyn Burlingame, Archie Cloud, Dorothy Batcheller, Paul D. Johnson, Harry Sleeth, Catherine Cavanaugh, John Erickson and George Klein.

(Continued next issue . . .)

February 2009