

MN Families

Newsletter for the Minnesota Genealogical Society

Vol. 40, No. 2

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

May 2009

Saturday, June 13 -- Get Acquainted Picnic

Who would ever think of combining genealogy and bratwurst? Well, MGS and Dakota County did! **Ancestry in the Park** is sponsored by the Minnesota Genealogical Society, its Branches, Affiliates, & Interest Groups, with the Dakota County Historical and Genealogical Societies -- our first-ever "get acquainted" picnic.

Other groups are also invited, whether French, Romanians, Greeks, African-American, or Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Goodhue, Lake of the Woods, Scott, St. Louis, Stearns, or Washington Counties. We'll welcome you, and see that you enjoy yourself, besides meeting many new friends of similar interests.

Come and renew old friendships - and make new ones - June 13 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Thompson Park. There is no charge, but donations are welcome to defray expenses. Bring a dish to share and pass around. There will be brats and beans and other foods. **Bring your favorite beverage (wine or beer is allowed) and perhaps a folding chair. Wear your ethnic clothes if you like. Please help by contributing chips, potato salad, cole slaw, salads, cookies, cakes, or deserts. Free parking, water and toilets are available. Come early if you like; we have it reserved all day.**

A casual program with Chad Roberts, Dakota County, will entertain us at 5:00 p.m. with stories about the Kaposia Indian Village, the site of our MGS headquarters building. The main thing is food and fun. We'll eat at 6:00 p.m. Families and children are welcome. The MGS picnic will be a great chance to sit around on a beautiful June day, renew friendships and make new friends with people who share your crazy genealogy hobby. A few lucky winners will go home with door prizes. There will be games: Hillbilly Golf, Cornhole Toss, and Bocce Ball. Bring one if you can.

Thompson County Park

This charming 57-acre park provides a quiet get-a-way in the midst of the West St. Paul, Minnesota area. The park features a large picnic area that overlooks Thompson Lake and miles of wooded trails that connect to the North Urban Regional Trail—a trail system that links Thompson County Park to Kaposia Park in South St. Paul and to the Mississippi River Regional Trail.



North Picnic Shelter

This open-air shelter is conveniently located near the Dakota Lodge and is a great gathering spot with a view of the lake. The shelter and rest room are handicap accessible.

Stats- Capacity: 150 people (100 under roof) ; **Amenities-** Electric; Drinking fountain/jug filler; Oversized charcoal grills; Picnic tables; Tobacco free facility; Restrooms (outside the Dakota Lodge); and Free parking.



Directions & Map

Park Address

360 Butler Avenue East
West St Paul MN 55118

Driving directions for the park

From North: I-94 to State Hwy 52. Then take State Hwy 52 south to Butler Avenue exit in West St Paul, MN. Then West on Butler Avenue East 0.2 miles to Stassen Lane. Go south on Stassen Lane.

From South: I-494 to State Hwy 52. Take State Hwy 52 north to Butler Avenue exit in West St Paul, MN. Then West on Butler Avenue East 0.2 miles to Stassen Lane. South on Stassen Lane

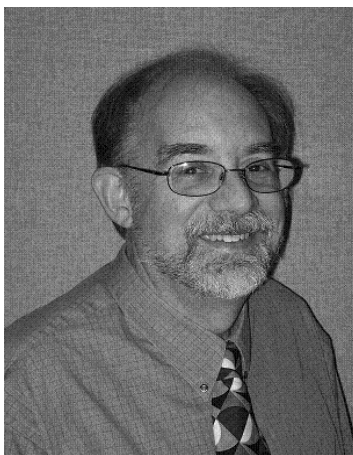
Presidential Ravings. . . .

A favorite classical music program of mine on public radio always closes with the reminder that "all music was once new." I'm reminded that all genealogists were once beginners.

Indeed, the first step to doing your family history is to dare to begin. If you're a member of MGS reading this newsletter, you have probably already begun. So, why am I talking about beginners? Because tomorrow's beginners are the future of MGS!

For this reason, I want to tell you about some new things brewing at MGS. Our Education Committee, expertly led by Lois Mackin, is working toward creating new learning opportunities for beginners. We've had a very successful Intermediate Genealogy Course the past few years, and we'll keep that going, but we've realized that we need to do more to help people who are still close to the starting line.

We've already taken steps toward our goal. Our new "Members' Mornings" include a free, no-risk, informal learning group for beginners. About a dozen people participated in our first beginners' group in March. Some were complete beginners, just wondering how to get



MGS President Jay Fonkert

started. Others were people who had been working on their family history for some time, but still felt like beginners.

We are offering the beginners' group again at our June Members' Morning (see article in this issue).

The Education Committee is also exploring some more formal offerings, including regular help for beginners at the MGS Library and Research Center, and possibly also more formal classes. I think this is very exciting!

Genealogical education is at the core of MGS' mission. I always tell people that the main goal of MGS is simply to help people do their family history. This

is why we offer workshops, classes and conferences. They are all geared to help you advance your research skills.

While I have your attention, I also want to remind you of our quarterly journal, *Minnesota Genealogist*. The journal is one of the most important benefits we offer to members. It includes articles about Minnesota records, articles about how to do research and just plain interesting research success stories. You probably won't find an article about *your* ancestors, but you can learn from reading about other people's research.

Our journal team, under the leadership of Editor John Mercer, has worked hard to get the journal back on a regular schedule. We will be sending you four issues in 2009. At the same time, we have a special committee looking at the journal's future, with an eye out for ways we can make the journal even more useful to our members. If you have ideas or suggestions for the journal, let me or John Mercer know. And, of course, if you want to write an article, don't be afraid to submit something to John.

Well, that's it for now. I look forward to seeing all of you at our Members' Morning, June 6, and at our first-ever picnic June 13.



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

Second Vice President: Jennifer de Fiebre
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JdeFGene@gmail.com (651) 224-4819
(Jennifer de Fiebre will be nominated as 2nd Vice President at next Board Meeting in May.)

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Board of Directors: Bergetta Monroe, Myrtice Orr, Sandy Stadther, Sandy Mochal Thalman, Richard "Dick" Thill

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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.

Deadline: July 24, 2009. Send camera-ready business card.

November 1, 2009 - Research Fair

February 1, 2010 - Committees, Family Reunions

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 make 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.

MGS is 40 Years Old

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

"Presidents for the following years were: 1971 - Robert Aundraundt; 1972 - Archie Cloud; 1973 - Evelyn Burlingame - all of whom brought their own special touch to the organization. Bob, tall and lean, with a twinkle in his eyes, led very business-like meetings; Archie, with a marvelous voice that made you want to listen (as many of his listeners on Radio Talking Books also would agree), and Evelyn, whose vast genealogical research knowledge helped many, many people find their "roots."

Each meeting of the society was educational and fun. Workshops on specific topics were held. Outings were sometimes planned such as a trip to Rochester in June of 1971 to meet with the Olmsted County Historical Society's genealogy group, to the State Center Library on several occasions, and to the fur trade post in Pine City in 1973 for a talk on the French-Canadian voyageur. The programs were always creative, informative, and well attended.

The first annual meeting was held on December 10, 1969 with the speaker for the evening being Virginia Brainerd Kunz, executive director of the Ramsey County Historical Society, whose topic was Minnesota men and their involvement in war from the Civil War period to the Vietnam conflict. Helen McCann White was the dinner speaker at the second annual meeting on December 11, 1970 discussing her research tactics in National Archives and other government agencies tracing the people who went on the gold trains to Montana. Swedes who were early immigrants to America was the topic of Nils William Olssen, then director of the American Swedish Institute, at the third annual meeting, December 3, 1971.

Annual Meeting at St. John's University

The fourth annual meeting brought a change of pace as we met on October 1, 1972, at the Monastic Manuscript Microfilm Library at St. John's University, Collegeville, complete with tours of the library, the Abbey and the University campus, and a delightful lunch with the Monks.

James Walker, then director of the Genealogy and Local History Department, National Archives, gave a lively walk-through of Archives resources, as guest speaker for the fifth annual meeting on October 6, 1973.

Each year the MGS membership grew, the members themselves taking hold to create a lively, interesting and ever expanding program, developing workshops and dividing into specialized sub-groups as well. It was

time for me to bow out and sever the apron strings, thus I resigned my editorship and became a passive member, no longer the promoter. MGS honored me with a LIFE membership, for which I say thank you to all. It was a great five years, a time I shall always remember with fondness.

"MGS: The Years 1974 Through 1984"
by Wiley R. Pope and Ginger Hamer
from *Minnesota Genealogist*, Vol. 15 #3.

1974: Donal Nelson, President

One of the events of 1974 of which Donal Nelson is most proud is a joint meeting with the Wisconsin Genealogical Society in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Another important project that year was the gathering of information and the publishing of the first *Surname Index*.

In some ways, according to Donal, 1974 was a traumatic year, but MGS survived a large turnover on the board and other problems, and Donal was able to begin making the needed improvements. He gave special attention to more accurate bookkeeping. He also began the movement to revise the by-laws so that MGS could obtain non-profit status. He chose the Wisconsin Genealogical Society by-laws as a model to work from. He also restructured the committee assignments somewhat to involve more people.

Semi-automated procedures begun

By 1974 the society had outgrown simple manual procedures for keeping track of the mailing list, and many memberships had been lost. Some semi-automated procedures were begun. Specifically, the mailing list was typed up in such a way that it could be updated and reproduced without re-typing. New labels could be produced on a thermofax Secretary. Great care was taken this year to make the mailing list accurate. The new editor, Wiley R. Pope, found that virtually all of the material for the *Minnesota Genealogist* had been used up, and, since little additional material was submitted, issues 2-4 were a compilation of forms that the editor had prepared for another project. Changes in the *Genealogist* format included typing the addresses of the entire board and the telephone number of the officers inside the cover and adding the name of the magazine, volume, number, and date to the bottom of each page. MGS got a new address, P.O. Box 16006, when the old post office was torn down.

Since finishing his term, Donal has continued to be active in the interest groups. He often lectures and regularly conducts classes in genealogy.

(Continued next issue . . .)

Minnesota Genealogical Society

THANK YOU

The Minnesota Genealogical Society expresses its heartfelt thanks to the following Benefactors, Patrons, and Supporting members. Their thoughtful and generous contributions help further the work of MGS and the special craft of genealogy.

Provided by Rick Rusinak:

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Romens, Thomas L. - Saint Paul, MN

Watne, Joel A. - Circle Pines, MN

MGS BOOKSTORE

Books for sale are offered at reduced prices. No on-line sales. Mail orders add \$5.00 for postage and handling. Books go book rate.

Scottish Irish Pioneers in Ulster and America, Charles Knowles Bolton, 1998 (1910) \$30.

Genealogical Register of Plymouth Families, William Davis, 1994 (1899) \$30.

The New Brunswick Militia Commissioned Officers' Lists 1787-1867, David R. Facey-Crowther, 1984, \$30.

Pre-Federal Records in the National Archives, compiled by Howard H. Wehmann; revised by Benjamin L. DeWhitt, 1989, \$20.

Index to Marriages and Deaths in the New York Herald, Vol. I: 1835-1855, compiled by James P. Maher, 2004 (1987), \$50.

German:

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

MGS Pommeran Group NEW BOOK:

Kreis Regenwalde, paperback, compiled, translated and edited by Paul Sternberg, Janice Savage, Jerry Savage, Lana Larsen, and Joyce Gardner, 2009, \$49 (includes tax).

52 Linear Feet of Yearbooks at MGS Library

By John Schade, MGS Librarian

You've found your grandfather, and you know the high school, and college, from which he graduated. Can you use a photo of him as you gather your information?

The Minnesota Genealogical Society Library and Research Center has a little over 52 linear feet of yearbooks dealing with colleges, high schools, junior high schools and elementary schools in its library collection.

The yearbook collection is a good source to check for those elusive photographs of our ancestors and relatives from a time when they were attending school. In many instances we find out that the individual we knew as an adult in their later years looked quite handsome/good-looking as a young adult or child. In other cases they may look completely different now than how we remember them. Finding an individual in a yearbook places them in a certain location and specific time. This helps to narrow your search as you look for the family and the records of the county, or state, that provide the "proof" you need.

The Minnesota Genealogical Society Library and Research Center has many volumes of yearbooks on colleges and universities. Housed within the collection are yearbooks on the:

- University of Minnesota (1903-1960's),
- Mankato State University (1952-1972),
- St Olaf College (1909-1978),
- Hamline University (1951-1990),
- Augsburg College (1935-1978),
- Carleton College (1894-1997),
- St Thomas University (1939-1999),
- St John's University (1939-1968),
- College of St Theresa (1964-1984), and
- St Cloud State University (1923-1978).

The Library has a couple of books on

- Bemidji State University (1966),
- Macalester College (1948), and
- Concordia College.

There are many colleges and Universities where the library has only a single yearbook covering that school in the libraries current collection.

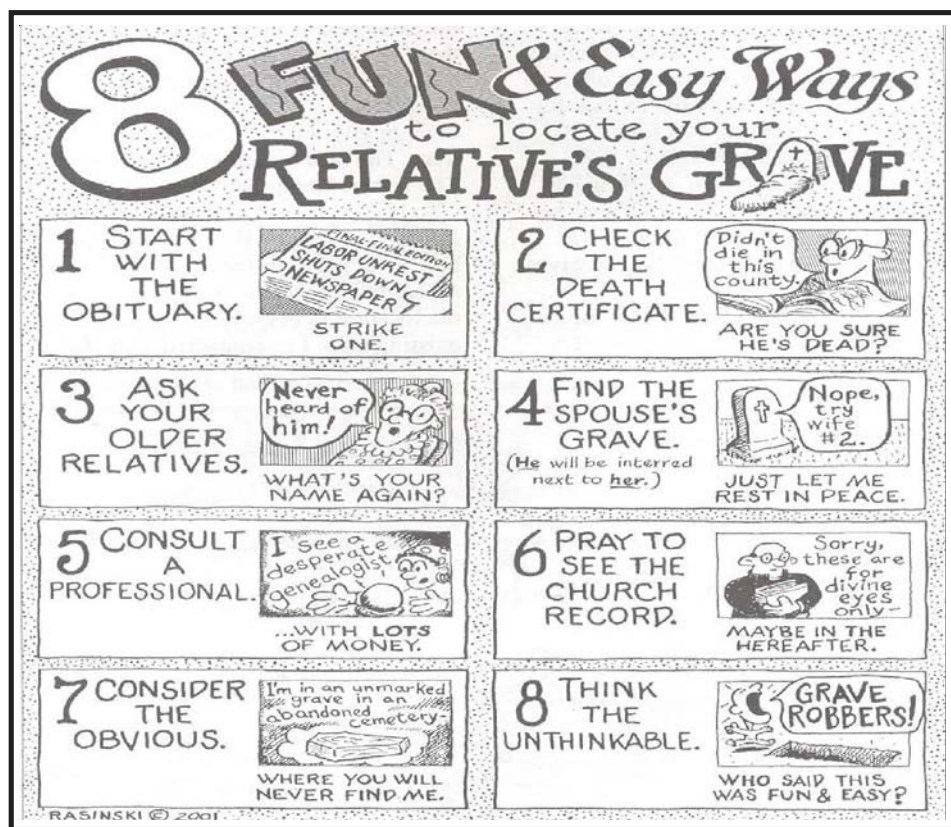
The Minnesota Genealogical Society Library and Research Center has many volumes of yearbooks on the library

shelves dealing with high schools within the state of Minnesota. The majority of those yearbooks are from the Twins Cities metropolitan area. Examples on the shelves are:

- Minnehaha High School (1953-1990),
- Edison High School (1929-1962),
- Central High School (1914-1971),
- Verdi High School (1948-1976),
- Johnson High School (1932-1983),
- Cretin High School (1941-1990),
- South High School (1923-1992),
- St Thomas Academy (1922-1985),

recently catalogued into the collection. For example we have Hazel Middle School (1990-1991) and Anwatin Junior High School (1987-1988). An example of an elementary school yearbook on the library shelves would be Jefferson Elementary School (1982-1985).

The current library collection does not contain a lot of out-of-state yearbooks; however, you may want to look in the Minnesota Genealogical Society card catalog to see if we have a yearbook



- Hill Murray High School (1979-1995),
- Blake High School (1925-1973),
- Pine Needles High School (1933-1943), and
- Technical High School (1922-1947).

These are just a few of those high school yearbooks we have on the library shelves currently. In many instances we may have only one copy of a yearbook from an individual school. The library collection is still worth a special look, as you find something you will find no other place.

The Minnesota Genealogical Society Library and Research Center also has a couple of middle schools which were

which may be of interest or of help to you. The Minnesota Genealogical Society website is www.mnsgs.org. You should be able to search the card catalog for the library holdings from the library 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

June Members' Morning

MGS Members' Morning, a new benefit for members, returns Saturday, June 6. Members' morning includes a short "What's going on at MGS" meeting, followed by meetings of three MGS "learning groups."

9:00-9:20 "What's Going on at MGS?"

9:30-10:45 BEGINNING GENEALOGY

Where to Start?

MGS Writing Group

11:00-12:15 MGS Research Study

Group

Members' Morning programs are held at the MGS Library and Research Center and are free to MGS members. The learning groups are informal groups where members can learn from their genealogist colleagues. Light refreshments will be available.

A large crowd turned out for the first Members' Morning in March, and we're looking forward to another lively morning in June.

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 be 3,000 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.mnsgs.org

2nd Annual Minnesota North Star Genealogy Conference

It's not too early to mark your calendar for the 2009 North Star Genealogy Conference, featuring nationally renowned genealogist Claire Bettag. The Conference is September 18-19 at the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library and Research Center, 1185 N. Concord Ave., South St. Paul.

Friday afternoon and Saturday seminars and workshops will sandwich the 2009 MGS Awards Banquet, to be held Friday evening at the South St. Paul Hotel.

A polished and entertaining speaker, Bettag will give illustrated talks on federal land records, government documents, the National Archives and genealogy research methodology. Washington, D.C.-based Bettag is a Certified Genealogist and Genealogical Lecturer specializing in federal records and Acadian genealogy.

In addition to Bettag's offerings, attendees will be able to choose from more than a half dozen break-out sessions on Minnesota records, family history writing and technology tools for genealogists. Speakers will include Certified Genealogists Tom Rice and Jay Fonkert, as well as Professor Harold Hinds, Mary Wickersham, Dixie Hansen and Minnesota Historical Society librarians Pat Coleman and Kathie Otto.

Online registration will be available at the MGS website beginning in June.

REMEMBER: Special awards are given out: **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.

MGS Family History Harvest - Nov. 7, 2009

The MGS Family History Harvest Workshop will be held on Nov. 7. Its theme will be *Midwest Research*.

The presenters at this program will be **Don Litzer**, formerly of Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana (now in Merrill, Wisconsin) and MGS's own **Darlene Joyce**, CG and former MGS 1st Vice President.

This will be the last MGS quarterly meeting of the year. We are still making plans whether to hold it at the MGS Library and Research Center, or at another facility. We are working with the Polish Genealogy Society which has a program scheduled on that same date at the MGS headquarters. Please stay tuned to learn more as to where it will take place.

Don Litzer will cover the Allen County Library and PERSI, and Darlene Joyce will cover other libraries in the Midwest, Minnesota, and other areas.

New board member Sandy Stadtherr is the program chair, working with Bergetta Monroe. 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 Member Alert

SGSM will be hosting Genline representatives at the MGS Library Monday, May 11. See the SGSM website.

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: jackporter@att.net
Web: www.danishgenealogy.org

Germanic Genealogy Society

Contact: Fred Sauer
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E-mail: kd0co1@embarqmail.com
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

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Web: www.norwegianamerican.org

Polish Genealogical Society of MN

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Web: www.rootsweb.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn

Pommern Regional Group of MN

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

Swedish Genealogical Society of MN

Contact: Dee Kleinow
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Web: www.rootsweb.com/~mngsgsm

Yankee Genealogical Society

Contact: Sue Kratsch
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Web: www.mngs.org/yankee

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Web: www.cgsi.org

Osfriesen Genealogical Society of America

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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
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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,
Richard "Dick" Thill

Finance Jerry Maher,

Jay Fonkert, Terry Kita, Val Morrison, 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

Profiles of Board Members:



Sandy Mochal Thalmann

My interest in genealogy began at the age of nine years (as soon as I could read and write letters). I believe my interest in genealogy stems from the fact that I am an adoptee. I began by tracing my adoptive family

(particularly the orphaned great-grandfather) and later was able to find my biological roots. My personal experience gave me the passion to help other people find their origins. I have been researching professionally since 1997. My client work has allowed me to research many different ethnicities and locations. I also enjoy the continuous education aspect of genealogy—there is always something new to learn and try.

My current project in my own family is collecting fifty years worth of articles written by my great-great grandmother for a Czech farming magazine called the *Hospodář*. With the help of a wonderful translator, I am learning all about my family through the stories written and published by this Czech immigrant farmwife from Iowa. Her words are a priceless link to the past revealing details about family life that no other record contains. She died 16 years before I was born so her articles are a legacy as well as an example for me to follow in the importance of preserving my own stories.

I am a member of: Olmsted County Genealogical Society, Minnesota Genealogical Society, Iowa Genealogical Society, Wisconsin Genealogical Society, National Genealogical Society, Association of Professional Genealogists and serve as a delegate to the Federation of Genealogical Societies. I enjoy attending conferences and take advantage of as many opportunities as possible.

I live in Rochester and as an out-state member, I am interested in extending the reach of MGS into all parts of the state. I believe in the mission of MGS and want to do my part to contribute to a strong state organization. I was honored to be asked to serve on the MGS Board and I look forward to the opportunity.

CALENDAR

| | | |
|-------------|----|--|
| June | 6 | MGS Member Morning.....9:00-12:00p.m. Pommern Reg. Group of MN.....1:00-4:00 p.m. MGS Writers' Study Group.....morning |
| | 9 | Czech Gen. Soc. Intn'l. Bd. Mtg.....6:30 p.m. |
| | 10 | Irish Gen. Soc. Bd Mtg.....4-6 p.m. |
| | 13 | Irish Gen. Soc. Class.....9:00a.m.-12:00 p.m. Intermediate Genealogy Class at MHS.....9:00-12:00 p.m. |
| | 20 | MGS Branch Council.....9:30-11:00a.m. Ostfriesen Gen. Soc. of Amer.....9:00a.m.-4:00 p.m. Yankee Gen. Soc.....1:00-3:00 p.m. |
| July | 24 | Norwegian-Amer. Gen. Assn.....6:30-9:30 p.m. |
| | 27 | Branches' Training.....8:30a.m.-3:00 p.m. |
| | 29 | Ostfriesen Gen. Soc. of Amer.....7:00-9:30p.m. |
| | 1 | Minnesota Families (NEWSLETTER).....deadline |
| | 4 | MGS Library CLOSED |
| | 8 | Irish Gen. Soc. Bd. Mtg.....4:00-6:00 p.m. |
| | 11 | Irish Gen. Soc. Class.....10:00-11:30 a.m. |
| | 11 | MGS Board Mtg.....1:00-4:00 p.m. MGS Writing Study Group.....1:00-4:00 p.m. |
| | 14 | Czech Gen. Soc. Intn'l. Bd. Mtg.....6:30 p.m. |
| | 15 | Germanic Gen. Soc. Library Committee.....7:00 p.m. |
| | 25 | Norwegian-Amer. Gen. Assn.....8:00a.m.-3:30p.m. |
| | 29 | Norwegian-Amer. Gen. Assn.....6:30-9:30p.m. |



Richard E. Thill

After attending Macalester College, interrupted by military service, I completed Bachelor and Masters degrees at the University of Minnesota in Geology and Geophysics. I then embarked on a fascinating career with the U.S. Bureau of Mines doing health and safety, oil

shale/sands, environmental and rock mechanics research.

In the late 90's my career as supervisor of the Mining Geophysics Group came to an abrupt end when a Washington political decision closed the ten Bureau of Mines research centers across the nation. I decided to retire and pursue personal interests, which led, among other things, to another two-year, AAS degree from Inver Hills College.

I have long had an interest in family history from early days of family reunions, but it wasn't until the late 80's or so, when the first Apple genealogy program arrived, that I really started to organize my findings.

To learn more, I became active in clubs, and in 2000 became President of the Dakota County Genealogy Society. I also participated on the Board of our affiliate, the Dakota County Historical Society; and recently, when MGS moved to our area, joined with them as a Director. I have been a member of several Luxembourg Groups, Canadian Societies, and historical groups; and remain a member of the Dakota Co., Little Canada, MGS, German and Czech Societies.

After many years of research and several brick-walls, I've come to appreciate those educators and helpers who help us with that complex puzzle of reconstructing our web of ancestors. After all, we are all cousins of mankind.

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| August | 1 | Minnesota Genealogist (JOURNAL).....deadline Pommern Regional Group of MN.....1:00-4:00p.m. | |
| | 8 | Irish Gen. Soc. Class.....10:00-11:30a.m. MGS Branch Council Mtg.....9:30a.m.-11:00a.m. | |
| | 11 | Czech. Gen. Soc. Intn'l. Bd. Mtg.....6:30p.m. | |
| | 12 | Irish Gen. Soc. Bd. Mtg.....4:00-6:00p.m. | |
| | 15 | Irish Gen. Soc. Quarterly Mtg.....8:00a.m.-12:00p.m. | |
| | 16 | Canadian Gen. & Heritage Soc.(CGHSM)...1:00-4:00p.m. | |
| | 26 | Norwegian-Amer. Gen. Assn.....6:30-9:30p.m. | |
| | 29 | MGS Member Morning.....9:00a.m.-12:00p.m. MGS Writers Study Group.....morning MGS Library Volunteers Meeting.....1:00-3:00p.m. | |
| | 31 | Ostfriesen Gen. Soc. of Amer.....7:00-9:00p.m. | |
| | September | 5 | MGS Library CLOSED Pommern Regional Group.....1:00-4:00p.m. |
| 8 | | Czech Gen. Soc. Intn'l. Bd. Mtg.....6:30p.m. | |
| 9 | | Irish Gen. Soc Bd. Mtg.....4:00-6:00p.m. | |
| 12 | | Irish Gen. Soc. of MN & Pommern Reg. Group of MN 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m. Ostfriesen Gen. Soc. of Amer.....10:00a.m.-2:00p.m. Irish Gen. Soc. Class.....9:00a.m.-3:00p.m. Intermediate Genealogy Class - MHS.....9:00a.m.-12:00p.m. MGS Bd Mtg.....1:00-4:00p.m. | |
| 16 | | Germanic Genealogy Soc. Bd. Mtg.....7:00p.m. | |
| 18 | | NORTH STAR GENEALOGY CONFERENCE & AWARDS.....Noon - 9:00p.m. | |
| 19 | | NORTH STAR GENEALOGY CONFERENCE.....9:00a.m.-4:00p.m. | |
| 30 | | Norwegian-Amer. Genealogy Assn.....6:30-9:30p.m. | |
| October | | 1 | Minnesota Families (NEWSLETTER).....deadline |
| | | 3 | Pommern Regional Group of MN.....1:00-4:00p.m. Polish Gen. Society of MN.....9:00a.m.-12:30p.m. |



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MGS Cookbook

When did people start cooking? The answer is 250,000 years ago when cooking fires, ancient hearths, earth ovens, burnt animal bones, and flint started to appear across Europe and the Middle East. It seems it had to do with flavor and spices, and more to do with making meat easier to chew through.

Thanks to the MGS new Cookbook, "Recipes of Our Ancestors," prepared by **Paul Sternberg**, GGS, PGSM, and the Pommern Group, the world's cooks will be enlightened.

Often cooks like mom and grandma threw in a handful of this and a pinch of that without any written recipe. It can be difficult to describe certain phrases like "add enough flour until it feels right." Though sometimes, if you just reword it to say "add enough flour so that you can knead it without it sticking to the counter and your hands," that will get your point across.

The cookbook is being created as a fundraiser for MGS. The introduction describes cooking at the dawn of human writing . . . when people had the means to record recipes. Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome used the ingredients at hand and through trade to create their own taste and style. The philosopher Chrysippus said, "The best meal is a free one." Did you know that ancient Romans stuffed and cooked door mice as an appetizer. Mmmm, tasty.

The book features photos of a long list of European countries, their famous buildings, and many recipes native to the country.

At this time no more recipes are being solicited, but cooks are being sought to test the recipes (contact paulsternberg@msn.com) then the food needs to be photographed for the cookbook. It is expected to be ready for a Christmas publication.

This cookbook is different in that some history of the country is given, as well as the country's contribution to international cuisine.

Did you know Weiner Schnitzel is breaded veal in the Vienna style? Bangers and mash are sausages and mashed potatoes in England (often served with an onion gravy). Paprika, important in Hungarian cooking, is ground, dried, sweet, red, bell pepper.

The back of the book has great explanations of sauces, a cooking glossary, and explanation of cuts of beef and pork.

See working copies of the book at MGS.

Departures:

Willis H. Miller, member since 1986 of Hudson, Wisconsin, passed away November 16, 2008.

William Earl "Bill" Stuart, age 89, of Arden Hills, father of Paula Stuart Warren, passed away in April. He worked at various Twin Cities auto dealers and at Superior Ford for 32 of his 70 years in that industry. Services were held on April 27, 2009.

Paula, one of five children, was married to Jim Warren, who was the 19th president of MGS (1987-1988). Jim Warren was a strong advocate for establishing the MGS Library.

Paula and Jim Warren received the MGS "Honored Worthy Fellow" award in 1984 and the MGS "Distinguished Service Award" in 2001.

In 2008 Paula Stuart Warren was awarded the **Ambassador Award** for representing Minnesota on the national genealogy scene and bringing honor to Minnesota genealogy.

Paula, a certified genealogist, is on the board of directors of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

Boy Scouts Visit MGS

This past winter, the St. Paul Boy Scouts came to MGS for an all-day Saturday tour and presentation. They visited the Library, worked on MGS's computers, used its research materials in the library, and even did a

genealogy exercise on President Barack Obama's lineage.

The boy scouts were accompanied by their adult leaders, some of whom became members of MGS.

The Girl Scouts are planning a visit to MGS soon as well. A small group will visit first, and then later this summer as a larger group, shepherded by former MGS Secretary **Sheila Northrop**, who has a family of scouts.

Bar Codes Coming

The MGS Library will soon embark on a project to place bar codes on all of its books.

"The great thing about the bar code is that it will list the title, author, publisher and publish date, and other things about each book," says MGS Librarian **John Schade**. This will save time and make it easier for you and others to access the data stored at MGS. The project is the idea of **Jim LaValle** with support from John Schade and **Bob Rowe**.

Consider a Gift

MGS is a totally volunteer organization. To provide programs, a library, computer services, a journal, a newsletter, and more, we need your support, and we heartily thank you for what you have given. If you are able, we ask for an additional gift. Recall the week after Christmas when you frantically started writing checks for charitable contributions. Please keep MGS in mind, even now, though cash is tight, MGS needs that extra special donation. We ask you to please give what you can to MGS.

New 2nd Vice President

MGS is going to name **Jennifer de Fiebre** to fill the vacant position of 2nd Vice President at its next Board Meeting. Jennifer is a member of MGS and GGS.