



MN Families

Newsletter for the Minnesota Genealogical Society

Vol. 41, No. 1

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

February 2010

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST PAPER ISSUE

We are switching to E-mail format with the next issue. This E-newsletter will be E-mailed to all members. If you do not have a computer, try using a relative's, friend's or even a neighbor's computer. You can also get a free E-mail account and use a computer at your public library.

The new E-newsletter is planned to go to monthly publication. This will mean more timely, accurate, and useful information on events and classes.

Send your E-mail address, if we don't already have one for you, to robin.panlener@state.mn.us, or sign up for the E-newsletter on our website.

The **MINNESOTA GENEALOGIST** (The MGS Journal) will continue to come, four times a year, in hard copy format.

Send thoughts to Jay Fonkert at: jfonkert@aol.com, or to Sandy Stadtherr at: jimstadt@earthlink.net

in Minnesota and Washington, D.C., at the turn of the century, he is best-known for his work with education and the immigration of the Irish to the Midwest. The first archbishop of St. Paul, MN (1888), Ireland held liberal views on church-state relations and conservative views on alcohol and political corruption.

GGS - SPRING MEETING

The Germanic Genealogy Society Spring Meeting - March 13. Meeting - \$8.00 at door (No pre-registration) 9:00-10:15am - **Planning Your Family History Trip to Europe** includes travel to Germany, Austria, Switzerland as well as other former Germanic areas. Topics include:

- Ancestral villages
- Churches and archives
- Transportation, food and lodging
- Language and culture
- Research help in Europe

10:30-NOON **"Genealogical Research Trips within the U.S."**

Sites include: Family History Library in Salt Lake City
National Archives
Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana
Cemetery and Courthouse Research

Two panels of experienced GGS researchers and travelers will share their preparation suggestions and what to expect as you track your Germanic ancestors. Each panel will present key aspects of the trip and answer questions from the audience.

The Spring Meeting of the Germanic Genealogy Society will be held at MGS, 1185 Concord Street North, South St. Paul, MN. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. and the first session begins at 9:00am.

MGS Quarterly Program - April 17

Featuring guest speaker Anduin Wilhide, Project Coordinator, University of Minnesota Immigration History Research Center. He will discuss 19th century immigration from Europe to America. This will be followed by 9 genealogical speakers - 3 tracks with 3 speakers covering African-American, Bavarian, Danish, Dutch, English, Irish, Italian, Scottish and Yankee.

Runs from 9:00am - 3:30pm. Cost is \$25, with \$7-bag lunch.

Outstate Quarterly Meeting - June 26 MGS & Twin Ports Gen. Society

9:00am - 4:00pm at the College of St. Scholastica:
Science Auditorium, 1200 Kenwood Avenue, Duluth, MN 55611
Program is \$25; pre-ordered bag lunch \$8.00

Speakers: Tony Dierckins, Carrie Herfindahl, Mary Bakeman, Greg Kishel, Jay Fonkert, Mary Lou Voelk, Joanne Sher.
Pre-register with PayPal or by check. See www.mnsgs.org for more details and registration forms.

MGS Awarded "Legacy" Grant

MGS has been awarded a Minnesota "Legacy" grant to purchase microfilm of all available Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth city directories from 1860 to 1930.

The Minnesota Historical Society announced the award of a \$6,971 grant from the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Program. The MGS Library, under the direction of John Schade, will catalog the films and assist researchers in their use.

City directories are a rich resource for tracking families between census years. Directories provide information about occupation, employers and residential addresses. MGS hopes to have the films available for use by late Spring.

"This purchase will fill gaps in our current hard copy collection, and permit us to retire numerous old hard copies that crumble further every time they are handled," said Jay Fonkert, President of MGS. He congratulated board members who helped put together the application, including Sandy Stadtherr, John Schade, Jennifer Sly and Jen de Fiebre.

MGS has applied for a second legacy grant to fund purchase of microfilms of all Hennepin and Ramsey County marriage records from 1850 to 1917. MGS expects to learn the application's fate in April.

Irish Genealogical Society International

February 20, 2010. Meeting at 9:00 (registration at 8:30am). Program at 10:00am. Charge: \$10 members; \$15 non-members. At MGS 1185 Concord Street North, South St. Paul.

Information at: <http://www.IrishGenealogical.org>
"The Life and Times of John Ireland" by Ann Klejment, history professor, University of St. Thomas. A religious and civic leader

Presidential Ravings. . . .

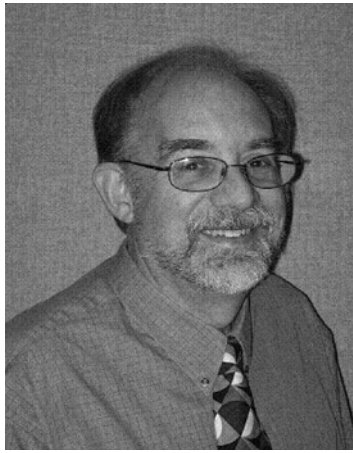
By Jay Fonkert

I'm mad about family history and genealogy! What about you?

It's 2010, and we're now only two years away from the release of the 1940 census. Can you wait? If you can't, you might want to stop by the MGS Library, where we have many post-1930 city directories. We also have free high-speed access to Ancestry.com, which recently added many 1940-1950 era city directories to its searchable online database.

This reminds me of more important news: MGS has received a grant to purchase microfilm copies of all Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth city directories from about 1860 to 1930. This will be a tremendous resource for our researchers. We have submitted a second application for \$7,000 to purchase microfilm of all 1850-1917 Hennepin and Ramsey County marriage records. The records will include original marriage applications, licenses and ministers' returns.

So, you say you are a little mad about family history and genealogy? MGS can



MGS President Jay Fonkert

help. Our Education Committee, under the leadership of Lois Mackin, has developed a full slate of learning opportunities for you in 2010. The first is our Members' Morning February, free to MGS members. We will have a short MGS Members Meeting, followed by our three exciting, informal "learning groups": **Beginning Genealogy, Writing Group, and Research Study Group.** It's a great way to meet people who share your hobby and learn in a risk-free setting.

Then, in April, we offer our 2nd Annual Family History Fair, featuring a variety of "how-to" workshops from our ethnic and nationality branches and affiliates.

In June, plan on a weekend trip to the Minnesota coast, where MGS and the Twin Ports Genealogical Society will co-host a conference June 26 in Duluth. Watch the MGS website and newsletter for details.

October is Family History Month, and we're going to kick it off with the Third Annual North Star Genealogy Conference October 1-2. Do you need a little method for your madness? Thomas W. Jones, one of the country's leading experts on genealogy research methods, will be the featured instructor. I promise, he will challenge you and motivate you.

If these conference-style programs aren't enough, MGS will also be offering classes on technology, family history writing, and publishing, as well as a repeat of our outstanding Beginning Genealogy Course. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for details, or visit www.mnsgs.org.

We're going to have a great year. You can help. We always need volunteers. Opportunities include helping with our library, newsletter, journal or website. We also have active committees working on marketing, finance, education, local society relations and other areas. Whatever your skills or interests, we have a place for you. It's a great way to meet people.



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Board of Directors: Kathryn ("Kathy") Deiss, Lois Mackin, John McKeen, Bergetta Monroe, John Schade, Jennifer Sly, Sandy Stadtherr, Sandy Mochal Thalmann, Richard "Dick" Thill, and Pam Videen - the MHS liaison to MGS.

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Robin PanLener, editor

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Submissions: Send articles, announcements, and advertisements to the Newsletter Editor, Minnesota Genealogical Society, 1185 Concord Street North, Suite 218, 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

ADVERTISE in MN Families

We are now open to advertising all year long. In the past, we only advertised in our August newsletter. We have changed that policy in order to offer the opportunity to many others who wish to advertise their services to members of MGS.

The rate schedule we will use will be:
business size card:

2" x 3-1/2 inches = \$20.00

4" x 3-1/2 inches = \$38.00

1/4 page = \$65.00

1/2 page = \$120.00

Full page = \$200.00

Give your genealogy services a chance with our ads. Information provided upon request.

Classes coming in 2010:

The Education Committee is excited about its winter/spring course offerings: **NOTE:** All classes are at MGS, 1185 Concord Street N., South St. Paul, MN unless otherwise noted.

• *Intermediate Genealogy*

Each session at the Minnesota Historical Society features two lectures, costs \$28 for MHS and MGS members and \$32 for non-members. To register, go to <http://events.mnhs.org/calendar/>

January 9-Instructor: Jay Fonkert, CG

10:00am Finding Ancestors in Probate and Guardianship Records

11:30am The Anatomy of a Genealogy Research Report.

February 6-Instructor: Duane Swanson

10:00am Court Records for Genealogists

11:30am Genealogy Research in Libraries and Archives

March 13 - Instructors: Tom K. Rice, CG, and Jay Fonkert, CG

10:00am "A Life-time in Records: How to discover your ancestor's life story from cradle to grave." This class takes you beyond birth, marriage and death records, showing you how to tell your ancestor's full life story through school, military, business and other records available to genealogists.

11:30am "Solving Family History Puzzles: Weaving together Evidence from Multiple Sources to Draw Genealogical Conclusions." Enhance your genealogy research skills by learning how to correlate evidence from multiple sources and present clear and accurate conclusions. The instructors will use short case studies drawing on a variety of genealogical sources to illustrate good problem-solving methods.

• *Technology for Genealogists*

This is a new four-session course on Wednesday evenings taught by Tom K. Rice, CG, and Mary Wickersham.

March 10 - 6-9pm Introduction, file organization, computer security, overview of freeware programs, backup and recovery, and note-taking programs.

March 24 - 6-9pm About genealogy databases: basic operations, demos of selected programs, exchanging data.

April 14 - 6-9pm Specialty programs for genealogy and using standard programs — applications you already use like word

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processors or spreadsheets—for genealogy

April 28 - 6-9pm Capturing, saving, manipulating, and cataloging images.

If you have basic genealogical and computer skills,* this course is for you! Participants will use the MGS library computers (or their own Wi-Fi-enabled laptops) during class sessions. The course costs \$80 for MGS members.

(Registration is not available for individual sessions.) Registration is limited to 16 participants. To get your space, sign up by mail or in person at the MGS library. Provide your address, phone number, and email, specify whether you will use a library computer or provide your own Wi-Fi enabled laptop, and include your check payable to MGS.

NOTE: Participants need to understand basic file manipulations—moving around the file system and copying, moving, deleting, renaming, and opening files. They should be able to download, save and find files, and know how to install a new program. If you need help with these skills, try the Computer Education Center at the Science Museum of Minnesota (comped.smm.org). Your local library and continuing education programs are also good learning sources.

• *Beginning Genealogy*

This is a six-session course on Sunday afternoons (March 7, 14, and 21, and April 11, 18, and 25) from 1:30-4:00pm. This is the course for friends and family members who want to start their family history, so help us let them know it's here!

This is a repeat of the Beginning Genealogy course taught last fall by Jay Fonkert; Lois Mackin; Sheila Northrup; John Schade; and David Suddarth.

Through lecture, small group work, and individual work in and outside of class, participants will learn to think like genealogists. Topics include inventorying existing family knowledge, organizing materials, learning from home sources, planning research, locating and learning from records (census, vital records, church and cemetery records, immigration records, and naturalization records), citing sources, analyzing and correlating genealogical evidence, and applying the genealogical proof standard. Textbook for the course is Christine Rose, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy*

(second edition). Participants will work on a project with the help of the course instructors and develop a plan for going forward from their project findings. The course costs \$70, plus the cost of the textbook (\$12.89 from MGS). To register, sign up online at mngs.org, by mail or in person at the MGS library. Provide your name, address, telephone, and email along with your check for tuition and textbook.

Special Workshops:

• *Techniques for Writing a Family History Narrative*

March 20, 2010 9am-11:30am

For genealogists who want to get their families more interested in the stories they've found. Linda Coffin's class will include lecture, discussion, and writing practice. Participants should bring laptop computers or notebooks and pens, along with genealogy data they wish to turn into a narrative. Participants will analyze prepared samples of family history data to learn how and when to include background and context in their family history writing and to identify the topics and contextual information that might enhance their stories. They will practice writing, using their own family history information, with individual consultation. \$25 MGS and branch members/ \$30 non-members. Sign up online at mngs.org

• *Publishing Your Family History*

Sundays, May 2, 16, and 26, from 1-3pm

Instructor Bergetta Monroe, who recently published her second book, will focus on book layout: setting margins; forward, copyright page, preface, acknowledgements, appendices and index; handling charts, maps, photos, sensitive information (babies without fathers), unconventional marriages, and more.

Learn how to get information from your genealogy program to your word processor, getting information from family members, proof-reading, indexing, sales, picking a publisher, choosing electronic or hard copy, and numbering systems. Learn how to create a timeline for your project, get things done on time, budget your project, and get your family to help pay the bill. Six hour-long sessions, \$50 members/\$55 non-members.

Ontario and Acadia Collections at the MGS Library

by John Schade, MGS Librarian

The single, largest collection at the MGS Library and Research Center is that of the Canadian Genealogical and Heritage Society (CG&HS).

Within this collection are about fourteen linear feet of books covering genealogical research in the province of Ontario.

Ontario

If you are unsure of the place your ancestor lived is located in the province, we have a three volume set of books called "Places in Ontario" which will help you locate the exact location.

There is a Directory of the province of Ontario for the year 1857, a book on the early pioneers of Upper Canada (Ontario) covering the years 1783 to 1839, a book on Ontario People covering the years 1796 to 1803, a book on Early Ontario Settlers (this is a source book) and the 1848 to 1850 Canada West (Ontario) Census Index.

There are also books covering the marriage notices, bonds, and death notices of the province of Ontario.

There are items covering the Loyalist settlers, the historic forts, the militia nominal rolls, 1828-1829 and land certificates from the province of Ontario. The remainder of the collection contains the books and items that can be placed within individual counties. Most of these are Repertoires which cover Birth, Burial, and Marriage records. The majority of these Repertoires are for marriages. However there are a few county or city histories.

Please check the library catalog at Mngs.org to locate the individual holdings.

Acadia

Also housed within the collections of the CG&HS are seven to eight linear feet of books covering the area called Acadia in the early years.

This includes the provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

Within this collection are the six volume set of books "Histoire et Genealogie Des Acadiens" by Bona Arsenaault and the three volume set "Dictionnaire Genealogique Des Familles Acadiennes" by Stephen A. White. We also have many of the publications of Janet John.

Other books within Nova Scotia which will help with you research are "Place-Names and Places of Nova Scotia", "Acadian Exiles in the Colonies", "Loyalists in Nova Scotia" and "The Hessians of Nova Scotia".

Many histories available, so get started now

There are also books covering the histories of some counties and cities within the province of Nova Scotia.

Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island have only a few books within the current collection of the Society. If you are interested in finding out if the library has a specific book to help with your research, please go to www.mngs.org and check the library catalog.

Boy Scouts Second Tour for Genealogy Merit Badges

by Sheila Northrop

MGS welcomed 57 Boy Scouts, accompanied by family and scout leaders, attending our MGS library tour on January 23rd. They learned about researching their families and on-site Counselors awarded Genealogy Merit Badge certification. It was a fun event sponsored by the Northern Star Boy Scout Council, the Minnesota Genealogical Society and the Irish Genealogical Society, International. Thank you to all our volunteers, who reported a rewarding and exciting day. At day's end we had made many new friends and signed up new Society members.



ABOVE: Boy Scouts working on their genealogies in the 4th Board Room at MGS. **BELOW LEFT:** A group of happy scouts getting their questions together. **BELOW RIGHT:** Involved in research, the scouts go to work digging into the computer programs of Genline, Ancestry.com, and the Irish genealogy access line. MGS provided valuable information to these youngsters for their research leading to their merit badges.

Branches, Affiliates, Interest & Learning Groups

BRANCHES:

Canadian Genealogical & Heritage Society of MN
Contact: Kathy Horan-Grambsch
Phone: (952) 949-2201
E-mail: cghsm@mngs.org
Web: <http://cghsm.net>

Danish-American Genealogical Society
Contact: Diane Greve; Phone: (612) 781-2197
E-mail: gweelo@aol.com
Web: www.danishgenealogy.org

Germanic Genealogy Society
Contact: Warren Mitchell; Phone: (651) 454-8211
E-mail: ggsqueries@hotmail.com
Web: ggsmn.org or
germanicgenealogysociety.org

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) 770-8881
E-mail: irviking@comcast.net
Web: www.norwegianamerican.org

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota
Contact: Jay Biedny; 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/~mnpgrm/PRG

Scottish American Interest Group
Contact: Bergetta Monroe, of John McKeen
Phone: (952) 894-9538; or (651) 228-0022
E-mail: bergetta@aol.com, or jemckeen@isd.net

Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota
Contact: Dee Kleinow
E-mail: deeswede@comcast.net
Web: www.rootsweb.com/~mnsngsm

Yankee Genealogical Society
Contact: Sue Kratsch; Phone: (651) 455-8989
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Web: www.mngs.org/yankee

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Web: www.cgsi.org

Osfriesen Genealogical Society of America
Contact: Ray Kleinow
E-mail: rayk29@comcast.net
Web: www.ogs.us

INTEREST GROUPS:

African-American / Peoples of Color
(Calling NEW Members)
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
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Netherlands and Belgium
(Calling NEW Members)
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E-mail: jfonkert@aol.com

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E-mail: jfonkert@aol.com

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

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

3 Germanic Genealogy Soc. Website Comm.....7-9:00 pm
6 Pommern staff MGS Library.....10:00 am - 1:00 pm
6 Czechs & Poles staff MGS Library.....1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
6 Intermediate Ed. Class at MHS.....9:00 am - 12:30 pm
6 Pommern Reg. Group in Bd Room.....1:00 - 4:00 pm
6 Ostfriesen Gen. Soc. of Amer.....10:00 am - 4:00 pm
9 Czech. Gen. Soc. Intn'l. Exec. Comm.....6:30 pm
10 Canadians staff MGS Library.....10:00 am - 4:00 pm
11 Czechs & Poles staff MGS Library.....6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
13 Irish staff MGS Library.....10:00 am - 4:00 pm
13 Irish Genealogical Society.....9:00 am - 4:00 pm
13 MGS Branch Council Meeting.....9:00 am - 11:00 pm
15 President's Birthday
18 Swedish staff MGS Library.....10:00 am - 4:00 pm
20 Ostfriesens staff MGS Library.....10:00 am - 4:00 pm
20 MGS Members' Morning.....9:00 am - 12:30 pm
20 Irish Genealogical Soc.....8:00 am - 12:30 pm
21 Intermediate Genealogy at MHS.....9:00 am - 12:30 pm
21 Canadian Gen. Society (CGHSM).....1:00 am - 4:00 pm
24 Norwegian-American Gen. Assn.....6:30 pm
27 Intermediate Genealogy at MHS.....9:00 am - 12:30 pm
27 Polish Genealogical Society.....9:00 am - 12:30 pm

MARCH

6 Pommern staff MGS Library.....10:00am-1:00pm
6 Czechs & Poles staff MGS Library.....1:00pm-4:00pm
6 Pommern Regional Group.....1:00pm-4:00pm
9 Czech Genealogical Soc. Intn'l Exec Comm.....6:30pm
10 Canadians staff MGS Library.....6:30pm-9:30pm
10 Computer Technology Class.....6:00pm-9:00pm
11 Czechs and Poles staff MGS Library.....6:30pm-9:30pm
13 Intermediate Education at MHS.....9:00am-11:30pm
13 Irish Gen Society Class.....10:00-11:30am
13 MGS "Writing Study Group".....1:00-2:30pm
13 MGS Board Meeting.....1:00pm-4:00pm
13 Germanic Gen. Soc. Spring Meeting.....8:00am-4:00pm
13 Irish staff MGS Library.....10:00am-4:00 pm
13 Irish Gen Society.....9:00am-4:00pm
14 MGS "Beginning Genealogy".....1:30-4:00pm
18 Swedish staff Library.....10:00am-4:00pm
20 Ostfriesen staff Library.....10:00am-4:00pm
20 Swedish Gen. Soc. of MN.....12:00pm-5:00pm
20 MGS Education Committee.....9:00am-12:00pm
20 Scottish Group.....10:00am-1:00pm
20 "Writing a Family History Narrative".....9:00am-11:30am
21 MGS "Beginning Genealogy".....1:30pm-4:00pm
24 Germanic Gen. Society Board Mtg.....7:00pm-9:00pm
24 MGS "Technology for Genealogists".....6:00pm-9:00pm
27 Czech Gen Soc Intn'l Conference.....12:30-4:00pm
27 Norwegian-Amer Gen. Assn.....9:00am-4:00pm
31 Norwegian-Amer Gen. Assn.....6:30pm

APRIL

3 MGS Library Closed
3 Pommern Regional Group of MN.....1:00-4:00pm
7 Germanic Gen. Society - Website Comte.....7:00-9:00pm
8 Czechs and Poles staff MGS Library.....6:00pm-9:00pm
10 MGS "Writing Study Group".....10:00am-11:30am
10 Irish staff MGS Library.....10:00am-4:00 pm
10 Irish Gen Society.....9:00am-4:00pm
10 Irish Gen Society Class.....10:00-11:30am
10 Polish Genealogical Society of MN.....9:00am-12:30pm
10 Branch Council Meeting.....9am-11am
11 MGS "Beginning Genealogy".....1:30-4pm
13 Czech Gen. Society Intn'l Exec.Comte.....6:30pm
14 Canadian Gen. & Herit. Soc staffs Library.....10am-4pm
14 MGS "Technology for Genealogists".....6-9pm
15 Swedish Gen Soc. of MN staffs Library.....10am-4pm
17 Ostfriesen Gen Soc.of America staffs Library..10am-4pm
17 MGS Spring Program.....9am-3pm
18 MGS "Beginning Genealogy".....1:30pm-4pm
25 MGS "Beginning Genealogy".....1:30pm-4pm
28 MGS "Technology for Genealogists".....6-9pm
28 Norwegian-Amer. Gen. Assn.....6:30pm

MAY

1 Pommern staff MGS Library.....10am-1pm
1 Czechs and Poles staff MGS Library.....1-4pm
1 Pommern Regional Group of MN.....1-4pm
1 Polish Genealogical Society of MN.....9am-12:30pm
1 Ostfriesen Genealogical Society of Amer.....10am-4pm
2 "Publishing Your Family History" class.....1-3pm
8 Irish staff MGS Library.....10am-4pm
8 Irish Genealogical Society.....9am-4pm
8 Irish Genealogical Society class.....1-2:30pm
8 MGS Board Meeting.....1-4pm
11 Czech Gen. Soc. Intn'l Executive Committee.....6:30pm
12 Canadian Gen. & Herit. Soc staffs Library.....10am-4pm
13 Czechs and Poles staff MGS Library.....6pm-9pm
15 Ostfriesen Gen Soc.of America staffs Library..10am-4pm
15 Swedish Genealogical Society of MN.....12-5pm
15 MGS "Members Morning".....9am-12:30pm
15 Irish Genealogical Society.....8am-12pm
16 "Publishing Your Family History" class.....1-3pm
19 Germanic Genealogy Society Board Meeting.....7-9pm
20 MGS Library Closed
23 Canadian Genealogical & Heritage Society (CGHSM)
23 "Publishing Your Family History" class.....1-3pm
26 Norwegian American Gen. Assn Bd Mtg.....6:30pm
31 Memorial Day

1985 MGS Begins Renting Space; 1987 MGS Opens Library; Sees Huge Growth

By Jay Fonkert, CG, and Robin PanLener

Long before the library was established, there was debate about whether to establish a library. This debate intensified when MGS began renting facilities, rather than living out of various station wagons. MGS began renting space in October 1985, at 678 Fort Road in St. Paul (1,412 sq. ft. at \$4.25 psf + \$75/month for parking. Annual cost: \$6,900)

The MGS Library has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1987, when MGS was only 18-years old. It opened at 965 Fort Road in a small space, with only four shelves, in 1,100 sq. ft. at \$6.00 psf, but after only 8 months it moved to 1101 Fort Road where it rented 1,320 sq. ft. at an annual cost of \$ 8,223 (\$6.23 psf).

The ambitions of MGS were big, aiming at hosting a national conference. To prepare, they held a "trial" conference the year before, called "The Great Ancestor Hunt." This was a smashing success, and the next year, in 1989 (when MGS was 20 years old), the National Genealogy Society "*Conference in the States*" was held with 1,625 worldwide genealogists registered.

In December 1991, under MGS President Wesley Waring (22nd president), the society moved once more, this time to 1650 Carroll Avenue where it rented 2,110 sq. ft. (\$7.50 sq. ft. - annual cost \$15,825). In September 1994, under President Jan North (24th president), MGS expanded to 2,750 sq. ft at \$7.75 at an annual cost of \$21,312. This space included a small meeting room, a very small microfiche room, and offered minimal storage space.

Huge growth in MGS

In 1994 more than 4,000 patrons signed our library registration book. They came to search family connections in the library, which in six years had grown to 6,800 book titles. The library was opened 1,150 hours each year, staffed entirely by volunteers. Attendance at the last four MGS quarterly meetings stood at 775. MGS classes in 1994 were attended by 535 individuals who participated in one or more of the dozens of interesting MGS educational classes presented by experienced genealogists. New book titles added each year came to approximately 500. There were 72 branch meetings each year, and the society owned one computer with software (purchased in 1994, funded through donations).

It was at this time, 1994, that the **MGS - 21st Century Campaign** was officially established. It was chaired by Bob Trudeau, past MGS treasurer, with fund raising directed by Dan Moriarty, past president of the Irish Branch.

The **21 Century Campaign** offered Branch involvement and support, as well as real estate and legal consultation. Their timing was focused on June 30, 1998 when the current MGS lease would expire, thus giving them 3 years to plan for their new home. Their goal: 7,500 square feet, and they were hoping to raise \$750,000 (\$100 per square foot).

Sizable problems with MGS

In the previous decade, MGS had moved from one location to another - four times. The first home was little more than a few bookshelves and a couple of tables packed into a month-by-month leased storefront in a low-rent district on Fort Road in St. Paul. With each of two subsequent moves, a wee bit more space was added for class and a profusion of books.

But the space needs continued to outgrow our facilities. With the most recent move in 1991 some big improvements were made, adding segregated areas for classes and storage, and more than doubling the overall floor space. In 1994 the crunch was felt again, and MGS's quarters were expanded, adding more shelf space and a larger classroom - bringing the facility to 2,750 sq. ft.

As genealogists, we know the importance of learning from our history. In 10 short years we grew well beyond the practical ability to respond to increasing space needs by packing our books in the back of a station wagon, moving up the street, and setting up a couple more card-tables. It was clear that it was time for something more permanent . . . a building sizable enough to meet our needs into the 21st century.

MGS appoints Building Committee

To that end, in 1994, the MGS Board appointed a Building Committee to determine our future facility needs, to balance those needs against expected costs, and to come up with a sound proposal that we could take to our members. The Board directed the Committee to look forward 10 years and to devise a plan that would meet projected requirements for bookshelf, meeting, class, study, storage, and computer-research space. In addition, they asked the Committee to develop a strategy for funding that would have minimal impact on membership dues.

The Building Committee was made up of a solid "all-volunteer" cross-section of MGS veterans. They consulted with outside real-estate and legal advisors and invited MGS Branch representatives to their meetings. After studying the alternatives, the Building Committee recommended that MGS launch a building fund campaign (which they named the **21st Century Campaign**) to raise the money needed to acquire a larger and more permanent home. It was the Committee's recommendation that the funds that were raised be used to purchase a building, or that the interest earnings from accumulated funds be used to cover the increased lease and operation costs of a larger facility. Final determination of building size was to be balanced against the capacity of the collected funds and earnings to offset the expense.

Space needs and projections

The preliminary space projections made by the Building Committee were for a facility of approximately 7,500 square feet. An expendable facility of this size would provide additional classrooms, a large meeting room, substantially more book space, a computer resource center, and increased storage. By taking future growth into consideration, this plan would slow down (or eliminate) the need for MGS to pick up and move every two or three years as was done in the past.

This estimated 7,500 square-foot space requirement was the basis for the **21st Century Campaign** goal of \$750,000. The Committee recognized that this goal would require both significant financial support from our members as well as the time to "bring it in." In order to allow contributors to budget their contributions over a period of time, a 3-year campaign was planned.

The Building Committee drafted some preliminary campaign materials and conducted a feasibility study to make sure they were on target with their plans. In May 1995, the draft materials were mailed to a sample of 40 MGS members for their review and comment. The Building Committee was pleased to find that there was overwhelming support for the **21st Century Campaign**. In addition, the Committee received a great deal of valuable feedback on the early campaign materials, which they incorporated into the final campaign blueprint.

Launching the 21st Century Campaign

The initial **21st Century Campaign** mailing went out to all of the members in September and October 1995. Each MGS member (as well as our Branch members) received a letter from the MGS president which solicited their support, a fact sheet about MGS, its building requirements, and a pledge card.

As the pledge cards were returned, the Building Committee continually reassessed the campaigns' status, and, when necessary, went back to the drawing board and modified the building plans to keep them in

balance with reasonable expectation of funding. The MGS Board of Directors showed their support by committing \$2,000 as seed-money to launch the campaign.

By February 16, 1998 the **21st Century Campaign** had raised \$132,000. This was a significantly large amount of money which allowed MGS Finance Committee to invest the many contributions, and use the interest earned on rents for a new facility in Golden Valley and later at 1185 Concord Street N., South St. Paul.

MGS moves again

In July 1998, MGS moved to Golden Valley at 5768 Olson Memorial Highway, and took possession of over 5,000 sq. ft. MGS stayed there for 10 years, until the building was sold to the Tennant Corp., and their lease was not renewed because of Tennant's plans for the building.

MGS formed a new Building Committee which visited over 15 sites

around the Twin Cities area, selecting the site at 1185 North Concord Street, South St. Paul. They moved into that building on November 2007.

By 2009, fifteen years after the fund drive, and 23 years since the establishment of the library, the MGS Library and Research Center had more than quadrupled in size from its 1994 size, to close to 30,000 books, maps, publications, journals, microfiche, microfilm, etc. Even members from distant states who couldn't come into the library received assistance by request. MGS rivals other states in their genealogical collections.

Visitors from across the country, and even from other countries, acclaim the MGS Library and Research Center. They say it is simply marvelous that so many nationalities have decided to group their holdings into one spot. MGS hopes to preserve, maintain and protect this wonderful resource for use by all.

New Scottish American Interest Group

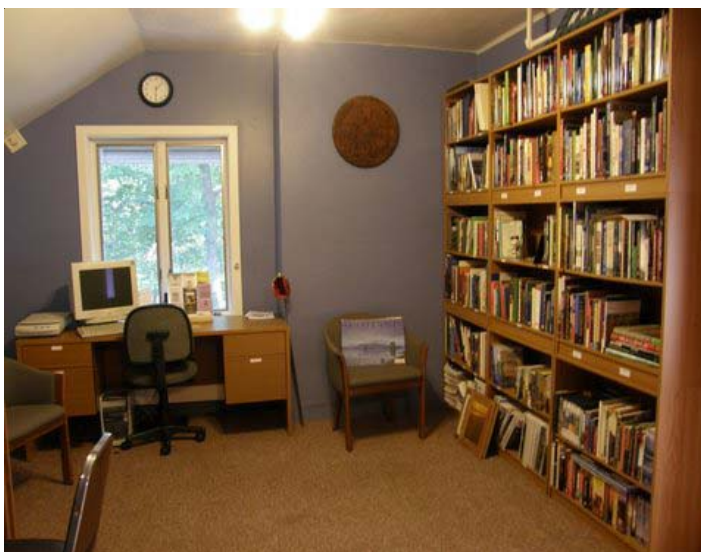
Newly established is the **Scottish Interest Group (SIG)**. We will meet quarterly throughout the year to assist and further your understanding on how to search your Scottish ancestry. The first meeting of the **SIG** will be on March 20th, 2010 at the **Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS)**.

This quarterly meeting of the **SIG** will provide a tour of the MGS facility, their Library, and their computer capabilities. We will also discuss tracing your Scottish genealogy by computer. The event will run from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at M.G.S. Please contact Bergetta Monroe (952) 894-9538, bergetta1@q.com or John McKeen (651) 228-0022, jemckeen@isd.net to reserve your space at the computer. If you have a laptop with Wi-Fi, bring it along. You can then save all your information and take it home with you. A \$10.00 fee will be requested unless you're a member of the Scottish American Center (SAC) or the Minnesota Genealogical Society. MGS welcomes the Scottish American Center into a temporary affiliation.

The **Scottish American Center** functions exclusively for charitable and educational purposes to be a public resource for all. Anyone who is interested in Scotland, or Scottish Heritage,

is encouraged to contact the S.A.C. and arrange for a tour of our facility. Typical hours are 6 to 8 pm, Wednesday and Thursday nights, as well as 1 to 4 pm on Saturday. Please call ahead, if possible, and set up an appointment.

There is the opportunity for a profound CONNECTION. Not only to those in the past, but to those in the here and now - in Minnesota and all over the world. There is a very long memory of connections among the Scots, and a strong tradition of belonging. We welcome you to come and share your Scottish heritage. Scottish American Center houses its office and library collection at "Danabo" the Danish-American Center - located at 3030 West River Parkway South, Minneapolis, MN 55406 - (612) 721-8885. You may also call John McKeen at (651) 228-0022 for further information



ABOVE: The Scottish American Center currently houses its growing library collection at Danabo, the Danish-American Genealogical Society - located at 3030 West River Parkway South, Minneapolis, MN 55406 - (612) 721-8885.

MHS Library Now Open on Sundays

The MHS Library is now open on Sundays (12 Noon-4:00pm). There may still be lots of people who are occasional visitors that may not know about the changes to their overall schedule.

Darlene C. Joyce, CG *sum*

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*Family history research;
Genealogy workshops/lectures*



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MN Families “Last Issue”

MGS is transforming its methods both to save money, and to prevent having to raise dues. Consequently, this will be your last *printed* issue of MN Families. As we switch to an E-mail newsletter, we apologize for any inconveniences that may occur.

Please send us your e-mail address.

Without it you will miss the important information listed in this newsletter.

Our plan is to send out a post-card to all that lists our calendar for the coming six months.

Future newsletters will be e-mailed to all members. If you do not have a computer, we suggest that you go to a library, or use one of a relative or friend.

New Interest Groups Forming

One of the best parts of the MGS experience is our vibrant ethnic and nationality groups. Organizational meetings are scheduled for two new groups.

- ♦ **Low Countries** (Netherlands, Friesland, Belgium, Luxembourg) – Saturday, March 6, 10 a.m., MGS Library.
- ♦ **Great Britain** (England, Scotland, Wales) – Saturday, March 6, 11 a.m., MGS Library.

This is your chance to be part of something new. These are free no-obligation meetings; if enough interested people show up, the groups will work out future plans. For more information, call Jay at 651-735-8630.

MGS currently has branches and affiliates devoted to Irish, Scottish Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, German, Pommern, Polish, Canadian, Yankee (New England), East Frisian and Czech/slovak family history and genealogy. If you are interested in something else (e.g., French, Italian, Russian, African-American, Native-American), let us know and we'll help you get started.

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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Preserving Photos

On Saturday, February 6, as part of Heart of Pommern, Bonnie Wilson will be in the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library from 10:00-1:00 to answer questions about researching your family photos. Find your photos that you have questions about. She will do her best to help you with dating and placing the photos. If you just want general information about organizing and saving photos, she can help with that too. Bonnie served as the photo archivist at the Minnesota Historical Society for over 30 years and is now an independent consultant.

Remember: April 3, 2010 is our *Translation Meeting* so bring *legible copies* of a photo or photocopy of your material February 6th or March 6th PRG monthly meeting and give it to Joyce Gardner or Jan Savage. Deadline is March 6. You may also scan or photocopy your material and e-mail it to Jan Savage: jltusa@comcast.net or mail it to Joyce Gardner 36104 436th Street, St. Peter, MN 56082 or Jan Savage 1132 Welcome Circle, Golden Valley, MN 55422.

Iowa Genealogical Catastrophe

The Iowa Genealogical Society (IGS) suffered severe damage to its building when the ceiling in one of the storage rooms, the office, and parts of the library fell in just before Christmas. IGS must raise \$60,000 to face this major challenge in 2010. They have no alternative but to replace the roof of their building as soon as weather permits in January. The MGS Board of Directors voted to send a donation of \$1,000 to the Iowa Genealogical Society to assist them in this effort.

Genealogy Friends

Want to meet other people who enjoy genealogy? Interested in learning from others and maybe sharing your own knowledge? Do you need a little push of motivation to work on your own research?

If you answered “YES” to any of these questions, have we got a group for you! MGS is considering the addition of a “friends” group. Members would have an opportunity to research in the company of others in a casual setting. All experience levels are encouraged to participate. There would be no cost for attending these get-togethers, but the rewards could be priceless.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Jen de Fiebre at:

JdeFGene@gmail.com

Bal Karnawalowy

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota Presents a Polish Formal Ball at the Saint Paul Hotel on Saturday, February 13, 2010 at 6pm. Dancing with the Retractions. \$55 per person; tables of eight \$400. Register at www.PACIM.org or call (612) 378-9291. Special overnight group rates available at the Saint Paul Hotel.