

Welcome to the New Year! 1988 puts us one year closer to the release date of 1992 for the 1920 federal census. Reports are that this census is well filmed which is good news to those who were disappointed in the film of the 1910 census. There is also an index for the 1920 census which will be an additional help to those who do not know the address of the individual they are seeking.

This year our newsletter will carry a series describing research materials that are available in neighboring states. In this issue we begin the series with an account of materials that are found in Minnesota.

COMING UP

Our first meeting in 1988 will be held January 19 at Rawlins Library at 7:30 P.M. Eldon Russell of Pierre will describe his experiences in doing research in Ohio. Chris Diercks, a member of our Society, will explain the system she has set up to index the many Norwegian names she has found using the IGI to trace her line.

January is dues paying month so remember to bring your check book. Yearly membership for individuals is \$10.00. The cost for a family membership is \$12.00. If you are unable to attend the meeting, mail your dues to the Society's postoffice box. (Box 925, Pierre, SD 57501.)

February 17 is the date of the next meeting. Election of officers will be the main business. The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. at Rawlins Library with time for research problems following the election.

CAN YOU HELP?

Dale D. White of Moorhead, Minnesota is looking for genealogical information about an ancestor, George Peterson who was living in McLaughlin, South Dakota in 1942. Anyone who can assist White in obtaining information about his ancestor may contact him by writing:

Dale D. White
2011 S. 18th Street
Moorhead, MN 56560

RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION

Catalogs

Received from the National Archives:

- National Archives Microfilm Resources for Research
- Diplomatic Records
- American Indians

The Preservation Emporium--a catalog of acid free, lignin free archival quality products for conservation, preservation, and restoration

General Research

From the Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research Seminar of 1987:
Notes on South Dakota's Religious History
Dutch in America and the Reformed Church

From Marlynrae Mathews:

- McCarty Cousins Newsletter
- 1957 WYO--Yearbook of the University of Wyoming
- Jackrabbit 1972--Yearbook of South Dakota State University
- Ken-netic 1946--Yearbook of Kennebec, South Dakota High School
- Descendants of Exzelia Elizabeth Boudreau's Paternal and Maternal Grandparents--a family history by Betty Lou Madden

From Joanne Fix:

- Alumni and Former Student Supplemental Directory 1965-1967--Northern State College
- Fiftieth Anniversary Program, Gypsy Day 1965--Northern State College

South Dakota County Maps

From Joanne Fix:

- Bennett County 1958
- Dewey County 1963
- Shannon County 1966
- North Half Stanley County 1963
- East Half Pennington County 1964
- South Half Ziebach County 1965
- Corson County 1963
- Haakon County 1958
- Washabaugh County 1958

A name that is a good name should be carried through. What else do we know of immortality? A name is all the good things stood for over the years. People wish to leave it untarnished. If you cannot stay, then leave your name and in good repair.

AFTER THE REVOLUTION

In our newsletter of 1987 we ran a series of articles describing life in Colonial America before the separation of the Colonies from the Mother Country of England. Now one wonders, what was life like in the new nation of the United States of America. According to the census of 1800, there were 5,308,483 people living in the United States, one-fifth of whom were Negro slaves. Two-thirds of the people lived within 50 miles of the tidewater. The center of population was located within 18 miles of Baltimore, Maryland.

The new capital city of Washington D.C. was unfinished. The White House, overlooking the Potomac River, was 1½ miles from the unfinished Capitol, separated by a swamp. Government workers lived in boarding houses. There was only one good tavern. One road, full of ruts and puddles in wet weather, connected the cluster of buildings around the Capitol to those around the President's home. On his inaugural day in 1800, Thomas Jefferson walked from a boarding house to the Capitol to be sworn into office as president of the United States in a new century.

The main city of this new country was Philadelphia which had been the seat of government until July of 1800. Writers and artists were attracted to Philadelphia which was considered to be the intellectual and cultural capital of the country. Foreign travelers commented upon the luxurious life style of the wealthy Philadelphians. Yet Pennsylvania was the only truly democratic state in the Union. Twenty different religions existed within its boundaries. There were no great political families who fought among themselves as there were in New York nor was there the concentration upon business that was found in New York and Boston.

In New England the clergy continued to watch over their parishes but they saw their authority weakened as the longing for amusement grew among the people. Despite warning sermons, the people travelled on Sunday, breaking a law still in effect in Massachusetts and Connecticut, forbidding such travel, but the people mainly held to a conservative way of life. Men dressed in figured waistcoats and knee breeches and sent their wigs to the barber every week to be made ready for church on Sunday. The minuet, considered old-fashioned in other places, was danced there. Political discussions were held in which the conservative Federalists won over the opposing liberal Democrats. The Long Wharf extending one-third of a mile into Boston harbor was a symbol of that city's trading superiority. Most of the country's exports were of agricultural products, especially wheat which was in great demand in Europe where Napoleon kept the countries in a state of conflict.

Virginia of all the Colonies had held the closest ties to England. The plantation system formed the life of the country gentleman, generous, well-mannered and aristocratic. After the Revolution, the law giving the right of inheritance to the first-born was removed from the books

as was that of a state church causing the death of the Anglican Church to which all Virginians belonged. Freedom of religion worked well in Pennsylvania but not in Virginia where each plantation was attached to a parish. Religious freedom worked well, too, in New England where the people and the hierarchy were equally strong but in Virginia with its divisions of aristocratic planters, common men and slaves the Church suffered a loss of membership.

South Carolina also was a state of definite class division. The planters were the travelers, the readers and genial hosts who depended upon slave labor to perform the hard work necessary to cultivate the crops of rice, indigo, and cotton that formed the state's economy. South Carolina had more slaves than any other state. The laws governing the lives of the slaves contributed to the general uneasiness that caused the city of Charleston, although described as the most sophisticated city in the United States, to maintain a 10:00 P.M. curfew. The city's inhabitants locked their doors and retired for the night, leaving the streets deserted. In the mountains the descendants of the Scottish and Irish immigrants led more democratic lives while adhering to their strict Presbyterian beliefs and dislike of any change.

North Carolina had perhaps the best environment of all the Southern states for tolerance. There was no great aristocratic class as there was in Virginia and South Carolina nor a troubled minority of white settlers as there was in partially settled Georgia. Travelers described the country as dreary but when the almost simultaneous invention of the cotton gin and steam engine brought about a demand for cotton, North Carolina became prosperous.

The Colonies had claimed land far beyond their borders taking them all the way to the Mississippi River. During the Revolution land had been promised to the soldiers as payment for their services. The amount of land was distributed according to the soldier's rank. Extra land became federal domain, ceded to the new country by its states.

The ceded country was a wilderness inhabited by Indians, a few French families, and fur traders. To govern and divide this large area the Ordinance of 1787 was drawn up which set the policy for all the western lands to come. Land was divided into townships 6 miles square. Each township was divided into 36 sections. This made a simple permanent record compared to the former method of surveying land in which the description of a parcel of land depended upon the location of trees or streams of water.

Two wagon roads crossing the Allegheny Mountains in Pennsylvania led into this wilderness. Travelers planning to settle in the new land bought wagons and horses to haul their families over the mountains after which they built or purchased broad-bottomed boats to float down the Ohio River, following the example of a group of New Englanders who in 1790 had floated down the Ohio River on a floatboat called the Mayflower. These New Englanders had founded the first white settlement in Ohio and called it Marietta. By 1800 there were 45,000 people living in Ohio.

Farther south, frontiersmen from Virginia had crossed into the new territory through the Cumberland Gap. They were followed by families on pack horses. The Indians fought them, trying to keep the white men out of their hunting grounds, but still the settlers came. These settlers were not immigrants, fleeing from European hardships. They were native born Americans looking for a better plot of land and hoping for an easier life.

They came into a land full of game. Herds of buffalo roamed the prairies. Many varieties of squirrels filled the forests from which the little creatures raced into the newcomers' corn fields to destroy the grain. Wild turkeys dined on newly seeded fields. Still the settlers came so that in the year 1800 the last buffalo was recorded as being seen east of the Mississippi River. By then Kentucky had a population of 180,000 whites and 40,000 Negro slaves. About 40,000 whites and 14,000 slaves lived in Tennessee.

The western settlements were far removed from the eastern, separated by mountains, but travel was no easier back east. A trip to Europe by ship was more regular and comfortable than a trip on water between cities in the United States. Three times a week stagecoaches carried passengers and mail between Boston and New York. A trip from New York to Philadelphia took two days. Four miles an hour was the average speed for a stagecoach traveling from Bangor, Maine to Baltimore.

The farther south the travelers journeyed, the worse the roads became. In the three southernmost states only one stagecoach made the trip from Savannah, Georgia to Charleston, South Carolina. President Jefferson who frequently made the one hundred mile trip from his home at Monticello to Washington D.C. complained that of the eight rivers between the two places, five had neither bridges nor boats.

In the inland areas, as the country 50 or 100 miles from the seacoast was described, more than half the people lived in log cabins without glass windows. They wore homespun clothing, used clumsy ploughs and ancient sickles and flails, and let their livestock run loose. They planted the same crops on the same ground until the soil wore out. From these people came those who yearned for a better life. For them, the new land west was always a goal.

Every ten years the census showed the center of population to be one hundred miles farther west until 1900 when the population advance slowed. By then European immigrants had joined the restless Americans in settling this new country. Today descendants trace their ancestors back through the pages of history, following the old trails east to find their heritage in the seacoast settlements of the new country of the United States of America.

CHECKLIST OF PRINCIPAL SOURCES
DIVISION OF ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1500 Mississippi St., St. Paul, MN 55101

1. CENSUS RECORDS: Minnesota census records, 1850 to 1910 are available on microfilm.
2. CHURCH RECORDS: Check manuscripts card catalog under the name of the town and then the name of the church. Also see "Missing Links for Church Records and Churches," Research Reports I.
3. NATURALIZATION RECORDS: Look in State Archives notebooks under county name-district court-naturalization records and supreme court-naturalization records.
4. MILITARY RECORDS: Check listing under Adjutant General in State Archives notebooks for muster rolls, military service records, and roster listings. Look for the name of the unit in the manuscripts card catalog.
5. WORKS PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION, MINNESOTA, PAPERS: See inventory BC8.1/.W956. Information on churches, settlements, and cemeteries is included.
- 6.* PERSONAL PAPERS: Use manuscripts card catalog to find the name of the person. Read collection inventory to learn what materials are included.
- 7.* RECORDS OF BUSINESSES, PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS, VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS, CIVIC GROUPS: Check in the manuscripts card catalog for the name of the business or organization. For veterans groups, also look in the State Archives notebooks under the name of the organization.
8. ALIEN REGISTRATION RECORDS: Check in the State Archives notebooks under Public Safety Commission. An index of the 1918 listing of Minnesota's aliens is available.
9. LAND RECORDS: Check in the State Archives notebooks under U.S. General Land Office. Determine the appropriate land district, then search the records for the name of the person. Also look under "Auditor" in the State Archives notebooks.
10. TAX AND ASSESSMENT RECORDS: Check in the State Archives notebooks under county name-auditor's office.
- 11.* TOWNSHIP RECORDS: Check in the State Archives notebooks under county name-auditor's office. Township records include financial and election records, birth and death records, bounties paid for elimination of pesky animals, road and highway tax records, and records of chattel mortgages. Many residents worked on the roads instead of paying cash for their property tax obligations. Another item of interest is the collateral that residents used to borrow money.

- 12.* SCHOOL RECORDS: Check in the State Archives notebooks under county name followed by the name and number of the school district.
- 13.* NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY RECORDS: "Index to Personnel Files" (microfilm M380) gives employee name and number of the file for most employees from 1909 to the 1960's.
14. MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY: An extensive collection of published family histories, county and local histories, church histories, genealogy publications and Minnesota newspapers are held at the Minnesota Historical Library which is located at 690 Cedar Street in St. Paul.
15. RECENT ACQUISITIONS: Registers of county poor farms.
Permits for the transportation of dead bodies within Minnesota or outside the state.
County welfare payments to widows with dependent children.
Case files for applications to the state Board of Pardons between 1960 and 1980.
Stillwater State Prison documents including parole record books from 1907 to 1937, a general index to inmates ca.1900 to 1930s, and photographs of inmates ca.1900 to 1954.

*Starred items may contain materials that are restricted under donor contracts or may be closed to public use because of privacy status under Minnesota or Federal law. Ask the reference staff for assistance.

Many of Minnesota's county historical museums hold materials of genealogical value. Some of these local resources include the following:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| county newspapers | plat books and maps |
| family papers | biography files |
| diaries | photographs |
| school yearbooks | city directories |
| business records | out-of-print local histories |
| recent local histories | oral history tapes |
| organization records | census microfilm |

School records and township records that have not been turned over to the Minnesota Historical Society can also be found in county museums.

A series of guides to genealogical searching in Minnesota has been published by Wiley Pope. Each volume deals with one section of the state. Of the 11 volumes, 4 are still in the process of being completed. For more information about the series, write to:

Minnesota Family Trees
718 Sims Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

HOW TO ORDER MICROFILM FROM THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A maximum of six rolls may be ordered on inter-library loan for three weeks. A general listing of microfilm follows. For more information write to the address given in the next column.

Minnesota newspapers	Newspaper Library, MHS 690 Cedar Street St. Paul, MN 55101
Minnesota plat books, county histories, books, periodicals	Reference Library, MHS 690 Cedar Street St. Paul, MN 55101
Minnesota census (1857, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905) MN census indexes (1857, 1860, 1870), Minnesota non-population census (1860, 1870, 1880) Manuscript collections Naturalization records	Reference Division of Archives and Manuscripts, MHS 1500 Mississippi Street St. Paul, MN 55101

Minnesota census for 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890 Veterans, 1900, 1910 and the Soundex for 1880 and 1900 can be borrowed from the Census Microfilm Rental Program at Hyattsville, Maryland through inter-library loan.

CENTENNIAL PROJECT

The South Dakota Genealogical Society has a centennial project of extracting vital records from South Dakota newspapers printed before 1920. Information to be extracted and recorded on 3 x 5 cards will include the event, names of the individuals, date and place where the event occurred, name and date of the newspaper, page and column. Microfilmed newspapers can be borrowed from the South Dakota Archives at no charge through inter-library loan for one month with the privilege of renewal. Contact Laura Glum at the Archives for more information about the project.

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR GENEALOGISTS

1. Thou art a genealogist. Thou shalt have no other hobbies before genealogy.
2. Thou shalt never accept word-of-mouth, hearsay, or old wives tales as acceptable evidence in genealogy even if it supporteth thine own particular bias.
3. Remember to include a SASE in all thy genealogical correspondence.
4. Honor thy family. Thou shalt not adopt someone else's pedigree because it looketh better than thine or goeth back to Adam.
5. Thou shalt not destroy the evidence when it hints of criminality, illegitimacy, or insanity.
6. Thou shalt not misplace library books nor remove pages from genealogical materials.
7. Thou shalt not steal data, books, or materials from archives, libraries, or private collections.
8. Thou shalt not bear false witness by doctoring up the data, regardless of how much better it maketh thy pedigree look.
9. Thou shalt not make notations in genealogical books or documents when the data do not agree with thy hypothesis.
10. Thou shalt not whine, whimper, nor wail aloud when thee runneth into a dead end and cannot find anything about an ancestor in the library or archives nor shalt thou shed tears on the documents for thy tear drops will stain the page.

-----adapted and revised.

January, 1988

JC

THE PIERRE-FT. PIERRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Box 925, Pierre, SD 57501

YEAR 1988, VOLUME 13, NUMBER 2

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A new slate of officers was chosen to head the Society for 1988. Elected to serve during the coming year are the following:

President--Joanne Fix Secretary--Chris Diercks
Vice President--Edna Cooper Treasurer--June Oestreich

Richard Phillips and Cheryl Stoesser will serve on the Executive Board along with Past President Stan Oestreich.

This is the last issue of the newsletter you will receive unless you have paid your dues for 1988. If your name does not appear on the list below, send your dues to Box 925, Pierre or bring them to the March 15 meeting.

Linda Osberg	Gerri Spargur
Richard Phillips	Christine Diercks
Starlene Mitchell	Genny Ziegler
Cheryl Stoesser	Maggie Dafoe
Marcy Fifield	Laura Glum
Joanne Fix	Edna Cooper
Stan Oestreich	June Oestreich
Roger Ruark	Ardys Ruark
Marlynrae Mathews	Adrienne Stepanek

COMING UP

The March 15 meeting will be held at Rawlins Library at 7:30 P.M. The film, "Slow Fires," will be shown. This film shows the damage and destruction suffered by library materials that have been printed on acidic substances.

The guest speaker at the April 19 meeting will discuss some of the plans for the Pierre Main Street Development Program.

NEW MEMBERS

Marcy Fifield--114 South Tyler, Pierre, SD 57501 224-6736
Adrienne Stepanek--402 12th Avenue West, Williston, ND 58801

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Marlynrae Mathews--312 Pawnee #5, Pierre, SD 57501

FROM HERE AND THERE

The January 1988 issue of FAMILY RECORDS TODAY, the quarterly magazine published by American Family Records Association, has an interesting article describing the saving of the ships lists that held the names of the Irish immigrants who left Ireland during the famine. The names have been published in seven volumes with the overall title of THE FAMINE IMMIGRANTS: LISTS OF IRISH IMMIGRANTS ARRIVING AT THE PORT OF NEW YORK, 1846-1851.

Johni Cerny has compiled the first of three volumes that will serve as a guide to the German parish registers at the LDS library in Salt Lake City. The library has microfilmed the parish registers from Baden, Bavaria, and Wuerttemberg. The Family History Catalog (FHLC) is arranged by locality and lists only the parish that kept the records. Cerny has listed the villages mentioned under the parish listing alphabetically. Following the name of the parish are the types of records available. The first volume is available from Genealogical Publishing Company, 1001 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. Cost of the first volume is \$30.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling.

On October 16, 1786 the Virginia General Assembly passed a tax law providing for the 1787 taxes. Three of the columns are of value to the genealogist:

Date of receiving list from individuals. This meant that the Commissioner called on every person and collected from them on the same day. This is helpful in establishing neighborhoods.

Names of white males above 21. Every white male over 21 years is listed by name, not just the head of the household.

Number of white males above 16 and under 21. This is actually a census of this age group.

All of these tax lists have survived and have been put on a computer. Printouts showing all persons of any surname who were living in what is now Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky are available. The cost for each surname is \$5.00 plus a long SASE. The \$5.00 can be used as credit memo toward the purchase of the county booklet. The prices of the booklets varies. For more information, contact Genealogical Books in Print, 6818 Lois Drive, Springfield, VA 22150.

The Reconstructed 1790 Census of Delaware by Leon de Valinger, Jr. is available from the National Genealogical Society. Constructed from tax lists, the names of property owners are a suggested source for the missing 1790 census of Delaware. Cost of the book is \$8.50. Order from NGS Special Publications, 4527 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2363.

The South Dakota State Historical Society will be holding their annual meeting April 29 and 30 in Pierre at the Kings Inn. More information about the meeting will be arriving later this month and will be available at our April meeting.

CHECKLIST OF PRINCIPAL SOURCES

Nebraska State Historical Society
1500 R Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68501

1. **CENSUS RECORDS:** Federal census enumerations are available on microfilm for 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910. A special enumeration for 1885 and the 1890 census of Civil War veterans and widows are also available. The Soundex for the families with children under 10 years of age in the 1880 census and the complete Soundex for the 1900 census are available. The Society has prepared an index to the 1860 census. An alphabetical list of all farmers and businessmen in Nebraska in 1886 serves as a partial index to the 1885 census. County enumerations for 15 counties in eastern Nebraska, primarily during the years of 1854 to 1857, were published in the NEBRASKA AND MIDWEST GENEALOGICAL RECORD from 1932 to 1942. An index to these census enumerations was published in the second volume of Donald Lines Jacobus' INDEX TO GENEALOGICAL PERIODICALS.
2. **LAND RECORDS:** The U.S. General Land Office Tract Books for Nebraska are available on microfilm. Since there is not an index, location of an individual in the records requires an approximate legal description of the land, although in some cases the post office address may be sufficient. Information from the tract books can be sent to the National Archives to obtain homestead papers.
3. **NATURALIZATION RECORDS:** An index to pre-September 1906 naturalization records of Nebraska is available on microfilm. Some Iowa counties are included in the index.
4. **MILITARY RECORDS:** Membership files of the Nebraska Department of the Grand Army of the Republic has been microfilmed with a surname index. Also on microfilm is an index of Civil War Veterans buried in Nebraska. This card file lists the military unit, date of death, place of burial, and often includes the place and date of birth. State service records of Spanish-American War and World War I veterans are also held.
5. **NEWSPAPERS:** The Society has nearly 20,000 rolls of Nebraska newspapers on microfilm dating from the territorial period to the present. Most of the newspapers have not been indexed. Since 1950 items from the LINCOLN JOURNAL, LINCOLN STAR, and the Sunday edition of the OMAHA-WORLD HERALD have been indexed. (Our Society has a listing of Nebraska newspapers at the Historical Society.)

6. **VITAL RECORDS:** A few vital records for early eastern Nebraska can be found in book form in the Library, **THE NEBRASKA AND MID-WEST GENEALOGICAL RECORD**, and on file in the Archives. For other early Nebraska marriage records contact the office of County Judge in the county where the marriage took place or search church records. After 1867 these records list the parents of the contracting parties. Marriage records after 1909 can be obtained from the Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Department of Health, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509. The fee is \$5.00 for each record. Divorce records are on file with the Bureau and also with the Clerk of the District Court where the divorce was granted. Birth and death records were generally not recorded before 1904. A few records for these early years may be obtained from the Bureau of Vital Statistics.
7. **LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORIES:** The Society Library has an extensive collection of Nebraska state and local histories. Many Nebraska family histories and biographical accounts are also on file.
8. **NEBRASKA STATE AND LOCAL RECORDS AND MANUSCRIPTS:** Examples of these records are tax lists, church and school records, letters and diaries. These materials are seldom indexed.
9. **OTHER REFERENCE MATERIALS:** Nebraska maps, atlases, directories of all types, photographs, and other special collections of valuable reference materials are available. A large genealogical reference collection for other states is available to those who visit the Library. Included in this collection are state census, census indexes, local and state histories, biographical albums, family histories, cemetery records, and historical society quarterlies.
10. **NEBRASKA HISTORY:** The Society publishes **NEBRASKA HISTORY**, a quarterly magazine that contains articles about Nebraska's history. One section describes new arrivals in genealogy. An annual subscription to the magazine is available for \$8.00. Back issues still in print can be purchased for \$3.00 a copy. An **INDEX-GUIDE TO THE PUBLICATIONS 1885-1956 AND THE MAGAZINE 1918-1958 OF THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY** is available for \$4.00. An **INDEX-GUIDE NEBRASKA HISTORY MAGAZINE 1959-1979** is also available.

STAFF REFERENCE SERVICES

The Nebraska State Historical Society Staff will check its Nebraska name indexes and will copy information cited in these indexes. Specific requests for copies of information and obituaries from the newspaper collection will be copied when name, place, and date are indicated. Send no money until it is requested by the Society. The Society does not send its materials on inter-library loan. A listing of pamphlets describing materials held by the Society follows. The Society will send the pamphlets upon request.

- Reference Leaflet No. 1--Historical Resources for Genealogists
- Reference Leaflet No. 2--List of Counties Indexed in 1854-1857 Enumeration
- Reference Leaflet No. 3--Nebraska Naturalization Records
- Reference Leaflet No. 4--Nebraska Newspapers That Have Been Indexed
- Reference Leaflet No. 5--General References to Nebraska State History
- Reference Leaflet No. 6--Bibliography of Histories Written from 1967-1979
- Reference Leaflet No. 7--General Genealogical Reference Items
- Reference Leaflet No. 8--Bibliography of Genealogical Materials in the Nebraska State Historical Society Library
- Reference Leaflet No. 9--Genealogical Researchers For Hire
- Reference Leaflet No. 10--Genealogical Societies in Nebraska
- Reference Leaflet No. 11--Special Indexes to Reference Materials on Microfilm
- Reference Leaflet No. 12--Nebraska Church Records at the Archives
- Reference Leaflet No. 13--Military Records
- Reference Leaflet No. 14--Nebraska Land Records
- Reference Leaflet No. 15--Local Historical Societies in Nebraska

SPEAKING OF NEBRASKA, we thought you might enjoy this article from a Nebraska Tourism Publication datelined Ogallala:

Some of the victims of the rough, tough Texas Trail Days found the end of the trail in Ogallala. They rest peacefully on the brow of a ridge overlooking Ogallala and the Platte River Valley. Boot Hill Cemetery is now a city park, maintained by the Cowboy Capitol as recognition of its early history.

Resting on the peaceful hillside under a cluster of pine trees are victims of gunfights, Indian ambushes, and cholera. They include "Rattlesnake Ed" Worley, killed over a \$9 bet in the Cowboy's Rest Saloon. Also reburied in Boot Hill, after their unmarked graves were accidentally disturbed, were three nameless young men dressed in \$20 suits. It has been surmised that they were cowhands, paid off at the end of a drive, who never made it home to Texas.

The old cemetery was the original burial site for a number of soldiers from an infantry post just west of Ogallala. The "boys in blue" were later reburied at Ft. McPherson National Cemetery. However, the Chinese track-layers who were buried on the hill by the Union Pacific Railroad remain at rest in the prairie, thousands of miles from their native land. Of about 30 graves that have been relocated, many are occupied by unknown victims of life in the Wild West. It is believed that bodies remain undiscovered for wooden crosses rotted and illicit burials covered evidence of lonely murders. That is why the cemetery is known as Boot Hill. They died with their boots on.

THE 1990 CENSUS

Preparations are underway for the 1990 census of the United States. The Census Bureau anticipates counting 250 million people. A questionnaire will be sent to every residential unit in the nation to count the number of people in every occupied house and apartment and to obtain information about their income, race, fertility patterns, marital status, housing including the number of rooms, plumbing, and value. The census is the only source of direct, detailed information for geographic units, whatever their size, throughout the country.

The Census Bureau, which has 5,000 regular employees, will hire at least 300,000 more temporary employees in 1990 to conduct the interviews and process the answers.

The Census Bureau will mail or deliver questionnaires to 106 million housing units in this country on or before April 1, 1990, requesting that all be filled out promptly and mailed back except for 5 million sent to sparsely settled areas which will be filled out by enumerators who will visit the homes. The Bureau estimates that 30 million forms will not be returned by mail. Enumerators will be sent to these residences to see whether they are occupied and to have the forms filled out.

A dress rehearsal for 1990 will be held on March 20 of this year in St. Louis and rural Missouri and some remote counties of Washington state. Two forms will be used; a short form with 17 basic questions that will go to five-sixths of all housing units and a long form that contains the same 17 questions plus numerous others will go to one-sixth of all households as a sample. The long form will contain about 70 questions.

The biggest problem for the census takers is obtaining an accurate count. The Bureau estimates an overall undercount of 1 to 2 percent in the 1980 census. The state and city of New York sued the Census Bureau after the 1980 count, claiming that the black and Hispanic population was undercounted. Census figures are important because they are used to determine the number of seats in the House of Representatives and to decide the boundaries of congressional districts and local electoral districts.

The Bureau is aware that it's unable to count everyone in the country. In 1980 the Bureau estimated an undercount of 1 to 2 percent. The undercount was higher for blacks and Hispanics. Illegal aliens avoid being counted although the information collected is confidential for 72 years and cannot be used for prosecution or shown to other agencies. Some residents hide because they live in residences from which they can be evicted. With all these problems to consider, it is clear that the Census Bureau has a great task ahead of it in carrying out the mandate of the Constitution to count the people of the United States every 10 years.

A VISIT TO ALEX HALEY'S MUSEUM

Henning, Tennessee

Fred Montgomery probably never thought of himself as a poet. The town's first black alderman, yes. The interpreter for the Alex Haley Museum, yes. Lifelong friend of the famous author, the one who made roots mean something more than rutabagas, yes. But Fred Montgomery, a poet?

A group of us is standing in the neat bungalow where Alex Haley first heard stories of Kunta Kinte and Chicken George. We are in the bedroom where Haley saw his grandfather, Will Palmer, die.

"Alex ran wild and they had to catch him," says Montgomery.

A picture of Jesus as shepherd sitting on a stone and holding a lamb in his lap hangs behind our guide. White voile curtains outline the windows on either side.

Montgomery prefaces each story like this: "In 1920, around Henning, if you were black...

"You posted at least two women to watch the undertaker as he handled a female corpse.

"You blessed the hands that prepared the food.

"You were lucky to learn to read. Usually daughters got the chance before sons."

Montgomery tells how his wife, Ernestine, was the first to learn to read and figure in her family. She wrote her mother's name on a tablet. "It was the first time in her life that woman had ever had a chance to look at her name and then spell it. It was the dawning of a new day. It was hope unfolding."

In 1987, around Henning, if you are black, you know why Alex Haley's roots were worth digging up.

The tour wanders round the large, old house, past the living room book shelves stocked with the Christian Legacy and First Year Latin. Past the music room where sheet music titled "Snow Queen" and "Six Easy Pieces" is propped on a stand. Past the telephone, one of only about eight in Henning in 1920.

Montgomery tells of Haley's mother, Bertha, the only black person in Henning who could read and play music. "On Sunday afternoons we'd gather outside the window to hear her. Imagine, 50 or 60 people singing 'Lord, I Want To Be A Christian.'" That was a time when people put their knees to the floor before they went to bed. "If you happened into a room where your mother or grandmother was praying, you were quiet. I mean quiet. If you thought your eyelid would make some noise, you held it."

Montgomery talks about the slave, Chicken George, a Haley relative, who fought to gain his freedom. "He wasn't a Christian, and he was good at proving he wasn't." Chicken George had to persuade his family, Haley's ancestors, to leave North Carolina for Tennessee. "He'd make up stories: 'The possums are so fat you can track 'em by the grease running out of their mouths. The watermelons were so ripe you can hear them busting at night.' That kind of thing."

Fred Montgomery explains it, oh so poetically, to the rest of us.

--This story was written by Rheta Grimsley Johnson and released by the Scripps Howard News Service.

ELLIS ISLAND WALL OF HONOR

The American Immigrant Wall of Honor, a permanent exhibit of individual or family names, is being planned at Ellis Island in New York Harbor. The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation was established in 1982 when President Reagan asked Lee Iacocca to raise private funds for the restoration of the Statue of Liberty, but, with the completion of the statue's renovation in 1986, the foundation's full attention now is being directed to Ellis Island.

Among the highlights of Ellis Island where some 12 million immigrants arrived in the U.S. between 1892 and its closing in 1954, will be the museum with its American Immigrant Wall of Honor. The foundation is seeking financial donors to the wall to qualify them to place a name of their choice on the American Wall of Honor as a permanent tribute either to themselves or their ancestors.

Further information may be obtained from Norman Solomon or Harriet Katz, Fundraising Department, Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

--VFW January 1988

CAN YOU HELP?

Polly Rago is looking for relatives of Teodor Olai and Petra F. Pedersen OLESEN who came to the USA ca:1915 and were killed in a car accident in the Midwest soon after, leaving 5 children one of whom was named Jarle, 1905-1985. If you know of this family, write Polly Rago, 1925 Melrose, Apt. #14, Walla Walla, Washington 99362. The family is of Norwegian ancestry.

GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCES

St. Cloud, Minnesota area genealogists and local historical societies are sponsoring a workshop March 19 at the Stearns County Heritage Center. Keynote speakers will be Wiley Pope of the Minnesota Historical Society who will speak on Minnesota State Resources and Arthur L. Finnell, professional genealogist, will use as his topic "Migrating to Minnesota." There will be no registration at the door so that anyone interested in the workshop should call Annette Towler at 251-1075, St. Cloud in the evening.

The Minnesota Genealogical Society is holding a spring conference for those interested in German research. Arta F. Johnson, author of many works on German research, will be the speaker. The conference will be held on April 23 with a reservation deadline of April 16. For more information, call Carl or Marcy Obermeier at (612) 425-8156.

The 1988 Conference of the National Genealogical Society will be held at Biloxi, Mississippi from April 27 to 30. Special emphasis will be placed upon research in the southern United States.

The National Institute on Genealogical Research will be held in Washington D.C. from July 11 to July 16. Emphasis of the Institute is on records in the National Archives and is intended for the advanced genealogist. Enrollment is limited.

More information about any of these conferences can be obtained at our Society's March meeting.

MORE NEBRASKA

Our Society recently received a listing of publications for sale by the Nebraska State Genealogical Society. Membership in the Nebraska Society is \$12.00 yearly. Members receive a newsletter and quarterly magazine. Mailing address of the Society is:

Nebraska State Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 5608
Lincoln, NE 68505

One of the important functions of our Society is to assist others in their genealogical searching. One way in which we have accomplished this is by sharing great genealogical finds with all the Society's members. Sometimes a success story provides the spark needed to fire up a discouraged searcher or it may provide a clue to solving a problem that has baffled another. It may reinforce another's determination not to give up or give the courage to some one to try a less conventional approach to ancestor searching. Our column "Shaking the Branches" has been written with this in mind, but sometimes we at the news-letter don't hear about your great discoveries. Sometimes you don't get around to writing them down. So our May meeting has been planned with you in mind. It will be "Show and Tell." Come prepared to tell us about your genealogical finds. What worked for you? Share it with us. If you feel you don't have any successes to share, then bring your problems. We might have an answer for you.

Although we have no cemeteries to visit this summer, we thought we still needed to get out and about for our warm weather meetings. Our June meeting will be a driving tour in which we will visit some of the sites in the area that are connected with the missionary Riggs family. We'll meet at the Congregational United Church of Christ at 123 North Highland in Pierre where there is a collection of Riggs memorabilia. From there we will drive to other locations of interest. Meeting time will be 7:30 P.M. on June 21.

Our May meeting will be held at our regular meeting place, Rawlins Library, on May 17 at 7:30 P.M.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Christine Diercks--1212 East Church, Pierre, SD 57501

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

The February 1988 issue of BLACK HILLS NUGGETS, the quarterly magazine of the Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research, lists the poll books from the Black Hills area that are on microfilm at the Rapid City Public Library. The dates of the poll books are from 1879 to 1890, a time period in which census records are spotty in South Dakota. If you think an ancestor might have been in the Black Hills in that time period, a search of the poll books may help to prove his presence in the area.

Are you searching in Wisconsin? The Anoka County Genealogical Society of Anoka, Minnesota has a map of Wisconsin that shows the state's research areas in its March-April 1988 newsletter. Addresses of the research centers for each area are included.

The April issue of FAMILY RECORDS TODAY brings the unsettling news that since Social Security applications are being computerized, the originals are being destroyed. In computerizing the records, the signature of the applicant is being lost along with other data. Requests for records will be answered with copies of the computerized records. Many cities and states are computerizing their records, too, and destroying the originals. How much valuable data is being lost? The records in a computer are only as good as the person who fed the data into the machine.

The same issue of FAMILY RECORDS TODAY offers a valuable service to anyone who traces his ancestry to Derbyshire, England. An association known as "Ages Ago of England" has extracted the names of individuals living in Derbyshire in 1851 but born in other places. The same association will help locate ancestral English homes and provide a drawing of same.

TIMBER TRAILS, the quarterly magazine published by Yamhill County Genealogical Society of Oregon reports that Hudson's Bay Company Archives at Provincial Archives of Manitoba are now available on microfilm through inter-library loan. Information includes journals and correspondence from 1703 to 1904, minute books and correspondence of the London headquarters from 1671 to 1904, lists of officers, servants and contracts from 1774 to 1904, and pre-1870 records of the Governors of Rupert's Land. A finding aid for the inter-library loan program is available from Canadian University Libraries.

If your heritage is German-Russian, you will be interested in learning about the many research materials available at the Alexander Mitchell Library in Aberdeen, South Dakota. The February 1988 issue of THE TREE CLIMBER, newsletter of the Aberdeen Area Genealogical Society, lists recent additions to the Library's collection. Look them over before attending the Germans from Russia Heritage Society's convention in Aberdeen this summer.

BOOK CORNER

The latest edition of America letters entitled **THEIR OWN SAGA. LETTERS FROM THE NORWEGIAN MIGRATION** might be labeled "Not only for Norwegians." Frederick Hale in editing this collection has chosen an assortment of letters that are interesting to anyone who enjoys a first-hand accounting of a particular period of time. The serious researcher will find nuggets of useful information tucked into the introductions that precede each section of letters.

A description of the conditions that led to Norwegian emigration in the 19th century opens the section of letters describing the Atlantic voyages to America. The immigrants life in the United States, both rural and city, is the topic of the next group of letters. A discussion of the dissension in religious life that caused the formation of the many synods of the Lutheran Church precedes another section. The immigrants concern about politics, both in Norway and the United States, is another topic.

The Norwegian migration extended to all parts of the world. There are letters from the Norwegians who went to Hawaii as contract workers on the sugar plantations. Another group went to South Africa, first as missionaries, then as land seekers, and then as gold seekers. All found themselves drawn into the conflict that is labeled the Boer War.

The last group of letters comes from Australia, South America, and Mexico. Typical of the letters is one from Vera Cruz, Mexico in which the writer describes the Norwegian club which meets at 'Valhalla,' allows no language to be spoken but Norwegian, and welcomes the captains of Norwegian ships in port who contribute herring and aquavit to the festivities. The hosts make pancakes as well as they can. The Norwegian flag is flown, the old songs are sung, and the natives down the street stand staring in amazement.

One hundred eighty-three pages make up this slim volume. Each page holds more useful and entertaining information than many twice its size. The book is available at Rawlins Library.

JF

THEIR OWN SAGA. Letters From the Norwegian Migration.
Frederick Hale, editor.
973.04
H12

A NEW MAYFLOWER ANCESTOR

Twenty-five of the male passengers who came to Plymouth, Massachusetts on the Mayflower survived the first winter and left descendants according to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Now a twenty-sixth name is being added to the list. The name is that of Moses Fletcher whose descendants living in the Netherlands have applied for membership in the Mayflower Society. Moses Fletcher, born in Sandwich, England, was a member of the Pilgrim group who lived in Leiden and sailed on board the Mayflower, leaving a wife and children in Holland. He signed the Mayflower Compact but did not survive the first winter in the Colony. His descendants have searched their lineage using records in the Leiden Municipal Archives in the Netherlands to document their claim to membership in the Mayflower Society.

The twenty-five male passengers from whom descent has been proved are the following:

John Alden	Edward Doty	Richard More
Isaac Allerton	Francis Eaton	William Mullins
John Billington	John Tilley	Degory Priest
William Bradford	William White	Thomas Rogers
William Brewster	Edward Fuller	Henry Samson
Peter Brown	Samuel Fuller	George Soule
James Chilton	Stephen Hopkins	Myles Standish
Francis Cooke	John Howland	Richard Warren
		Edward Winslow

EVERTON WORKSHOP AT WINNER.

May 26 is the date for an Everton Workshop to be held at the Galaxy Inn in Winner. The workshop which begins at 8:00 A.M. will be a working session. Topics include--

UNDERSTANDING AND USING GENEALOGICAL RECORDS EFFECTIVELY.

UNDERSTANDING THE "FOUR DIMENSIONS" OF A SEARCH. THE SECRET OF IDENTIFYING YOUR PROBLEM AND OUTLINING STEPS FOR SOLVING IT.

UNDERSTANDING THE "AXIOMS" FOR SUCCESSFUL GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH.

EFFECTIVE STEP BY STEP APPROACH TO SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

INTRODUCTION TO RECORDS USUALLY MISSED.

Everton's Root Cellar and Family File will also be available for research. Registration of \$18.00 includes a year's subscription to the Genealogical Helper. The Family Tree Society of Winner is the sponsoring organization.

CHECKLIST OF PRINCIPAL SOURCES

North Dakota State Archives and Historical Research Library
State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0179

1. **CENSUS RECORDS:** Census schedules for North Dakota begin with Pembina County which is found on the 1850 Minnesota census. The 1857 Minnesota census also includes Pembina County. Dakota Territory schedules begin with 1860 and all are indexed except for 1885. The 1900 census has the Soundex but the 1910, 1915, and 1925 schedules are not indexed. The 1890 Civil War veterans and widows listing is available. Indian census schedules for North Dakota Reservations are available from 1885 to 1939. Census request forms are available for a fee.
2. **NEWSPAPERS:** Microfilmed newspapers are available on inter-library loan. Newspapers not microfilmed may be used in the Reading Room. A list of newspapers arranged by city name and by county name is available at the Main Desk. A Newspaper Index File, though not complete, may be helpful in searching. Necrology of North Dakota, a series of scrapbooks of obituaries from newspapers dating from 24 February 1920 through 23 April 1926 can also be used.
3. **DIRECTORIES:** City directories from the larger cities of the state, business directories and gazetteers dating from 1884, and telephone directories are available for research use.
4. **LAND RECORDS:** County plat books and atlases dating from 1884 show land ownership by township. The map catalog lists the collection of individual maps.
5. **LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY:** Historical Data Project Biography Files gathered in the 1930's through personal interviews are indexed by surname and county and include territorial records. The Pioneer Mothers Project done by the North Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs in the 1930's holds family histories, biographical material, obituaries, and a few lineage charts. Portraits and family pictures may be found in the photo collection. An Oral History Collection of taped interviews from 1974 through 1977 is indexed. A legislators file of personal information, party affiliations, and dates of service for all individuals in the legislature is available on cards. A governor's file which contains biographical information on all people who served in that office can also be used. Local history books and NORTH DAKOTA HISTORY contain biographical material. Family genealogies have been cataloged in the main card catalog.

6. INDEX: A number of indexes are available. They include, in addition to those mentioned before, Passenger and Immigration List index, cemetery lists for several counties which were compiled by local historical societies, NORTH DAKOTA HISTORY index, DAR and other lineage books index, and NORWEGIANS IN AMERICA by Martin Ulvestad which lists many of the people who immigrated from Norway and indicates where they settled in America.
7. VITAL RECORDS: The Archives do not have the vital records of the state. To obtain a record, write to the Health Department, Vital Records, State Capitol, Bismarck, ND 58505.

STAFF REFERENCE SERVICES

The staff will answer specific requests for information. Because of the small staff, time spent in filling a request is limited to 20 minutes. Provide exact names, dates, and locations. Birth, death, and marriage announcements from newspapers can be searched only if the month, day, year, and location are included in the request.

The Reading Room is open from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday except on holidays. A bibliography of genealogical material in the library has been compiled. Many items in the collection provide data from other states as well as North Dakota. Individuals are welcome to do their own research in the Archives.

...On a typical Saturday morning recently, the reading room (at the Newberry Library) was nearly filled to its capacity of 92 people. The genealogists among them now have their own reference desk and convenient access to more than 100,000 books that contain the kind of information they need. In the course of an average year they alone will log some 9,000 reader days.

When Bill Towner became librarian, he found the genealogists squirreled away in a small room by themselves. "There was a fear that they'd contaminate the scholars," he recalls. At first, Towner shared the commonly held belief among academics that genealogists were nothing more than headhunters. But he changed his view shortly after coming to the Newberry. "I came to realize that this was a kind of a populist use of history, and that these people had a right to try to recover for themselves a usable past, particularly in the society we live in now."...

From "A Private Library That Keeps Its Eye on the Public," an article by Jerry Reedy about the Chicago Newberry Library in the March 1988 issue of the Smithsonian Magazine.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

From Edna Cooper:

South Dakota Historical Society Collections, 1974, 1982
South Dakota History--Summer 1979--Winter 1986
Faulk-Potter-Sully Counties Farm Directory 1969
American Genealogical Research Staff--HOW TO TRACE YOUR FAMILY TREE
Westin, Jeane Eddy--FINDING YOUR ROOTS
Doane, Gilbert--SEARCHING FOR YOUR ANCESTORS, 3rd Edition
Ashton, Sinko, Wolf--THE GENEALOGY BEGINNERS MANUAL
Adams, Douglas--THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL
Bonfanti, Leo--A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE USS CONSTITUTION "OLD IRONSIDES"
A GUIDE AT A GLANCE OF HISTORIC BOSTON
NEWSWEEK HIGHLIGHTS--40's, 50's, 60's, 70's

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

Cambridge, Massachusetts
Tucson, Arizona
Pierre, South Dakota (assorted years)
Sully Buttes, South Dakota--1969, 1974

From Edna we also received the shelving to house these additions to our collection.

From Eldon Russell:

The Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly and Newsletter for 1987
June 1987 Quarterly of the National Genealogical Society
MAYFLOWER FAMILIES THROUGH FIVE GENERATIONS, Volume 1 (Francis Eaton, Samuel Fuller, William White)

From Genny Ziegler:

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Pierre, SD Pictorial Directory

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ST. LOUIS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WORKSHOP

The St. Louis Genealogical Society will hold its 19th Annual Fair on Saturday, June 18th, 1988, at the Viking Lodge and Restaurant in Sunset Hills, Missouri. The theme, "Ancestral Routes to Missouri" will feature speakers on Germany, Czechoslovakia, Pennsylvania, and migration from the Southeastern United States to Missouri and on west.

Pre-registration in the amount of \$18.50 which includes lunch, will be accepted until June 1. Registration forms and a copy of the program are available from Joanne Fix.

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May, 1988

JS

Is the summer heat getting you down?

Does the refrigerator get emptied as fast as you fill it?

Is another car of summer guests signaling a turn into your driveway as you wave farewell to those backing out?

Is there sand in the carpet and kool-aid on the floor?

Do you fight your way through a mountain of beach towels everyday in the laundry?

Do you think your work is never finished?

Then consider the epitaph of Mary Weary, Housewife:

DERE FRIENDS I AM GOING

WHERE WASHING AIN'T DONE

OR COOKING OR SEWING

DON'T MOURN FOR ME NOW

OR WEEP FOR ME NEVER

FOR I GO TO DO NOTHING

FOREVER AND EVER

Throughout this issue of the newsletter are scattered unusual epitaphs. You may find them curious, humorous, or appropriate. It is our contribution to light summer reading.

COMING UP

The Society's next meeting will be held on July 19 at the branch of the South Dakota Archives located in Robinson Museum. Laura Glum will acquaint members with new research materials held in the Archives. Come prepared to work on your own research. South Dakota census, cemetery records, veteran records, and newspapers are available. There is also a good representation of research materials from other states that may be helpful to those whose ancestors did not live in South Dakota. The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. Use the entrance from the parking lot. Executive Board members will meet at 6:30 P.M. preceding the regular meeting.

The August 16 meeting will be at Rawlins Library at 7:30 P.M. This will be an informal session with all members contributing by sharing their summer travel experiences. Tell us about the family reunion, the trip to the old hometown, or a research trip to a genealogical library. How did you prepare for the family reunion? What discoveries did you make while touring the area where your ancestor lived? What resource materials did the library hold? Come share with us.

RECENT GENEALOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

A second printing of OUR BOONE FAMILIES is now available for purchase. This monumental collection lists all the descendants of George Boone and his wife Mary Maugridge who arrived at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on October 10, 1717 from England. Among their children was Squire Boone, father of the famous Daniel Boone. Approximately one-half of the book is Boone genealogy, the remainder being stories and general information about the family. The cost is \$50.00 with an additional \$3.00 for shipping. Order from:

Sarah Ridge Rockenfield
Route #1, Box 8
Sullivan, IN 47882

The Mercer County, Pennsylvania Genealogy Society announces the re-printing of the 1908 HISTORY OF MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. This is an exact duplication of the rare, original edition with a surname index to the hundreds of biographies and borough and township history. The purchase price of the two volumes is \$59.50 which includes mailing costs. Order from:

Mercer County Genealogy Society
407 W. Main Street
West Middlesex, PA 16159

A REFERENCE TO TEXAS CEMETERY RECORDS is a comprehensive work that contains both recorded and unrecorded cemeteries and their locations for every county in Texas. Over 10,000 cemeteries are listed with the information as to where the records can be found. The cost of the book is \$23.95 if prepaid and the book can be ordered from:

Texas Cemeteries
Kim Parsons
P.O. Box 2342
Humble, TX 77347-2342

From 1893 to 1923, Miss Allie Abernathy clipped items of interest from the Chambers County, Alabama newspapers and pasted them into large books. Many of the obituaries were for people who were born in the early 1800's and many were death notices of Civil War soldiers. The scrapbooks have been photocopied and are now available in one volume for \$50.00 with \$3.00 additional for postage. The book is indexed and can be ordered from:

Frank Abernathy
242 Government Street
Roanoke, AL 36274

Clark County, Washington has a large assortment of books available for purchase covering the Vancouver area. The books contain cemetery and census records, marriages and death notices. Diaries, indexes, parish records, and bibliographies are also included. For a list of their publications, write to:

Clark County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 2728
Vancouver, WA 98668

VITAL RECORDS

When did the formal registration of information about births, deaths, and marriages begin?

In 1538 King Henry VIII of England required that the churches enter the vital records of their parishes in books. This practice spread to other countries so that by the 18th century legal registration of vital data was entered in books throughout Protestant and Catholic parishes.

During the French Revolution in 1789, this responsibility was transferred from the church officials to town halls. In the next century other countries of Europe followed this practice.

In England a registration law was passed in 1836 that created a register officer with the responsibility for births, deaths, and marriages. This was the pattern to be used in certain of the American states, notably Massachusetts which passed the first registration law in 1842.

By the middle of the 19th century a number of American states passed laws requiring that public records of births, marriages, and deaths be made and copies sent to a central bureau of vital statistics in the capital city of the state. By 1919 every state had a central registry of vital statistics.

In 1975 the South Dakota legislature transferred the birth and death records to the Register of Deeds in each county. Marriage records were kept by the County Treasurer. As of July 1 of this year, marriage licenses will be obtained from the Register of Deeds. Certified copies can be issued by both the county and the state Department of Health in Pierre. The fee for the records is \$5.00.

Birth records for children born out of wedlock are recorded only at the State Department of Health because of the Right of Privacy Act. Adoptions are sealed and new birth certificates are issued in adoptive parents name.

To obtain records from the state of South Dakota, address requests to the Department of Health, Vital Statistics, Joe Foss Building, Pierre, SD 57501. The \$5.00 charge must accompany each request and can be considered a search fee because the money will not be returned if the record is not found.

HERE LIES A FATHER OF 29
THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE
BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME

ARE YOUR ROOTS IN WEST VIRGINIA?

In 1866 the state of West Virginia minted 26,099 medals to honor the West Virginia military units who helped establish the state. Many of the medals were never claimed so that 5200 of them remain at the Department of Culture and History Archives Library. Anyone who can prove line of descent from the veteran can claim the medal. All claims must be submitted in writing and be accompanied by the Union veteran's name, rank, company, and branch of service. Supporting documents of proof can be military, census, birth, death, and marriage records. Those who are uncertain if their Union West Virginia Civil War ancestor might qualify for the medal can send \$1.00 and a SASE to Lena Harper Highland who will search the list of 5,000 names. Highland's address is:

2173 W. Warren Avenue
Englewood, CO 80110

Membership in the Society of Descendants of the West Virginia Pioneers is open to any person who can prove descent from an individual who settled in the territory included in what now is the state of West Virginia before 1820. Applicants must complete an application form showing their West Virginia Pioneer Ancestor and their descent from the pioneer. The application must be accompanied by photocopy of all documents necessary to prove the pioneer's settlement in West Virginia before 1820 and to prove each step of descent from the pioneer to the applicant. Applications are to be submitted to the Office of the Secretary for processing along with a \$10.00 processing fee. All approved applicants will receive a certificate of membership. Each year a lineage book will be published showing the lines of descent of those members accepted in the previous year. These books will be available to members and all genealogical libraries across the nation. The Society's address is:

P.O. Box 76
Sylvester, WV
25193

Plans are underway for a second printing of A HANDBOOK FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN WEST VIRGINIA by Helen S. Stinson. The book contains more than 320 pages of resources detailing locations of West Virginia's genealogical records, how to get them, and how to use them, and also includes information on the major out-of-state repositories. A second volume by Stinson will contain in-depth information on all the counties of West Virginia and should be used in conjunction with the first volume. Anyone interested in learning more about these volumes should contact Stinson at the following address:

11521 Poppyglen Court
Moorpark, CA 93201.

POKER JIM WILKINS
HIS LAST FULL HOUSE

USING THE HAMBURG SHIPS LISTS

Between 1850 and 1934, approximately 5½ million Europeans sailed from Hamburg, Germany. They came from all over Europe--Germany, Russia, Poland, Austria--and their motives for leaving their homeland were as varied as their nationalities. LeHavre, Antwerp, Rotterdam, and Bremen were also overflowing with travelers bound for America but Hamburg distinguished itself by making an effort to protect the emigrants.

In 1850 the city of Hamburg established the Hamburg Association for the Protection of Emigrants. They provided counseling, medical care and housing. Each ship's agent was to give the Hamburg authorities a list of all passengers with names, sex, age, occupation and home city. This list has survived both world wars unlike Bremen's which was lost during the second World War. It is the only complete historical record of Northern European emigration.

In 1984 Hamburg's Historic Emigration Office opened its doors to the public. The Office is located in the Museum of Hamburg History which has displays showing the city's history as a harbor town and exhibits dedicated to the emigrants. Visitors to the museum can get information about their ancestors within one or two hours but written requests take about six months to answer because there is a large backlog of requests. To successfully find your ancestor, the staff needs the year of emigration. Cost of the search is \$30.00 for each year, whether or not the search is successful. Payment can be made by personal check, cashier's check, or German marks. The LDS church has filmed the lists and has an index that can be used in any of their libraries.

From the ship's roster one can learn the ancestor's family name and surname which was sometimes changed upon arrival in the United States. The list also contains the names of all the family members who were traveling together, place of birth, marital status, profession, age, sex, and the name of the ship and the date it left Hamburg. If the year of emigration is not known, the staff can sometimes find it by using other archives in Germany that have emigration information. The Hamburg records do not exist for the war years from 1914 to 1920 and from 1926 to 1934.

After obtaining the birthplace of an ancestor, the visitor can travel to that location where the church records can be checked. Both Protestant and Catholic churches began recording baptisms, marriages, and burials in the 1500's; however, most researchers are unable to trace their families farther back than 1648 because the records were destroyed during the Thirty Years War. If the researcher is uncertain about his ancestor's religion, it is good to remember that Northern Germany was mostly Protestant while the southern area was Catholic. State registry offices called "Standesamt" did not register births, marriages, and deaths until 1875.

Baptism entries usually provide such information as the name of the child, his parents and godparents. Marriage entries give the names of the couple including the bride's maiden name and the occupation of the groom. Other useful information can be gained by "reading between the lines." For example, if an individual was buried on the day of his death, it is very likely that he died during an epidemic and had to be buried quickly. Marriages usually took place in the bride's hometown. The names of illegitimate children were sometimes written upside down in the church registry.

The church might also have a list of its members who were soldiers. There may be lists of individuals who received charity. Written eulogies may be found there as well as accounts written by the clergy describing wars, fires, weather, harvests, and plagues.

The address of the Historic Emigration office is:

Historic Emigration Office
Museum fuer Hamburgische Gesichte
Holstenwall 24
2000 Hamburg 36, West Germany.

The Historic Emigration Office is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. and from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M.

...Material used in this article was taken from an article by Beth Reiber in the Minneapolis Tribune.

BENEATH THESE STONES

DO LIE

BACK TO BACK

MY WIFE AND I:

WHEN THE LAST LOUD TRUMP

SHALL BLOW

IF SHE GETS UP

I'LL JUST LIE LOW

HE CALLED

BILL SMITH

A LIAR

TEARS CANNOT

RESTORE HER:

THEREFORE I WEEP

CHECKLIST OF PRINCIPAL SOURCES
Montana Historical Society Library
225 North Roberts St.
Helena, Montana 59620-9990

1. **CENSUS RECORDS:** The earliest census schedule for Montana is 1860 at which time Montana was a part of Nebraska Territory. The extreme northwest part of the state was part of Oregon Territory from 1846-1853, Washington Territory from 1853-1863, and Idaho Territory from 1863-1864. The Library does not lend the federal census records.
2. **NEWSPAPERS:** The Library holds 95% of newspapers published in Montana, territory and state. Newspapers on microfilm can be borrowed on inter-library loan for 2 weeks with a 2 week renewal. There is a charge of \$2.00 for each shipment sent out-of-state. A maximum of 5 reels is allowed on one order.
3. **LAND RECORDS:** Land records are found in the counties but the Library does have a large map collection with over 4,000 holdings.
4. **LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY:** The Archives holds private manuscripts, mainly diaries, correspondence and business records. They also hold photographs and oral history tapes and transcripts. The official proceedings of state boards and agencies are found at the Archives. The Library holds the Teakle collection of the cattle industry, the Stewart collection of Custeriana, and extensive material on the Lewis and Clark expedition. The Library does not lend non-film material unless it is a duplicate copy valued at less than \$100. Non-Montana family histories from the genealogical collection will be lent unless they are in poor condition. The loan period is 4 weeks with a 2 week renewal. Periodicals are not available for loan. The Library will photocopy 50 pages or less at a charge of 15¢ for each exposure with a minimum charge of \$1.00.
5. **VITAL STATISTICS:** Montana began gathering records in 1907. Before that time some records were kept by the county clerk at Bozeman, Great Falls, and Helena. Butte and Missoula have some records in the city health department. Marriage information before 1943 is found at the office of the clerk of the district court where the license was issued. Divorces granted before 1943 are also found there. The present address for vital records is:

Bureau of Records and Statistics
State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences
Helena, MT 59601

The county clerk also keeps wills, probates, and land records.

ARE YOU SEARCHING IN NORWAY?

A Norwegian Emigration Center is now located at Stavanger, Norway. Charges are \$30.00 for a three hour search which is a minimum request. Each succeeding hour costs \$20.00. Inquiries may be sent to:

Dr. Hans-Eyvind Neess, Director
The Norwegian Emigration Center
Bergelandsgaten 30
4000 Stavanger, Norway

DID YOU KNOW?

One out of ten Americans claims Germany as his primary ancestral home. This does not include many more Americans who have at least one ancestor who was German. Reading the German script is a real problem for those seeking their German ancestors. The July issue of FAMILY RECORDS TODAY in our collection at Rawlins Library has a helpful article that shows examples of both handwritten and printed German script. Another aid to those who are researching Germans is the ten volume series of Germans to America by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. The authors have extracted the names of German passengers who arrived at American ports from 1850 to 1855, an active period of German emigration. Two volumes have been completed with two more expected this year. Approximately three volumes will appear each year until the series is completed. Each volume will hold 70,000 names of passengers from many European ports.

DO LAND RECORDS HAVE YOU CONFUSED?

The March 1988 issue of the GENEALOGICAL COMPENDIUM OF BOOKS AND ARTICLES IN PRINT has an article on research in land records that may answer many research questions. The author presents a history of the disposal of land in the United States and describes the type of records available and tells where they can be found.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

From Chris Diercks:

Breidenbach, Pat Jacobsen--THE BREIDENBACH FAMILY

Nelson, Selmer--WHEN THE BELL TOLLED 1883-1983. Bloomington Lutheran Church and Cemetery, Bovee, South Dakota

LaSalle County, Illinois Historical Society--PASTFINDER

SOVIET RECORDS MAY BE OPENED

American genealogists met with the head of the Foreign Relations Office of the Main Archival Administration of the USSR Council of Ministers (Glavarkhiv) in Washington D.C. in April to discuss the possibility of opening the archives of the USSR for genealogical inquiries. The following proposals were drawn up:

1. A delegation of archivists from the USSR would be invited to the United States to observe how genealogical inquiries are handled by archival institutions in this country.
2. A small group of Americans with experience in working in Archives and handling genealogical inquiries would visit the Soviet Union for lectures and training.
3. Consideration would be given to establishing a national service in the United States to collect inquiries and fees and channel them to Glavarkhiv in Moscow.

The USA-USSR Commission on Archival Cooperation will meet in Moscow in early 1989. If there is agreement on the proposals, an exchange of visits could occur next year. One of the main concerns of Glavarkhiv is that it not be inundated with requests. At the present time it is impossible to obtain genealogical information from the Soviet Union.

SACRED TO THE REMAINS OF
JONATHAN THOMPSON
A PIOUS CHRISTIAN AND
AFFECTIONATE HUSBAND

....

HIS DISCONSOLATE WIDOW
CONTINUES TO CARRY ON
HIS GROCERY BUSINESS
AT THE OLD STAND ON
MAIN STREET: CHEAPEST
AND BEST PRICES IN TOWN

HERE LIES JANE SMITH
WIFE OF THOMAS SMITH
MARBLE CUTTER

THIS MONUMENT ERECTED
AS A TRIBUTE
TO HER MEMORY

....

MONUMENTS OF THIS STYLE
ARE 250 DOLLARS

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PIERRE-FT. PIERRE
MAY 20

July 1988

JF

THE PIERRE-FT. PIERRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Box 925, Pierre, S.D. 57501

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September is Back to School month. Our Society will be following the trend during the fall meetings.

At our September meeting Joanne Fix will present a program on using the Soundex. She will point out errors she has discovered in the 1900 Soundex and offer suggestions to assist the researcher in its use. Members will have an opportunity to practice coding surnames.

Discussion will be held on the possibility of offering beginner lessons in October. Your program chairman would like to hear from you about topics that you feel would be helpful to you in your individual research so that these topics can be incorporated in the lessons.

20 SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL BE HELD AT ROBINSON MUSEUM.

IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The neighboring state upon which we focus our attention in this issue of the newsletter is Iowa. In connection with Iowa we bring to your attention the annual conference of the Iowa Genealogical Society which will be held October 7 and 8 at Scheman Continuing Education Center at Iowa State University in Ames. The theme of this year's conference is British research but other areas will also be covered. For more information write to the Iowa Genealogical Society at P.O. Box 7735, Des Moines, Iowa.

MILITARY MEDICAL RECORDS FOUND

The National Archives has discovered ten million military records that are duplicates of those destroyed in a fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri on July 12, 1973. Eighteen million records were lost at that time. The lost records were from 1912 through 1959 for Army personnel and 1947 through 1963 for Air Force personnel with surnames of Hubbard and through the letter Z. The newly-found records cover the years 1942 to 1945 and 1950 to 1954 for those who served in the Army or the Army Air Corps in World War II and/or the Korean Conflict.

NEW MEMBER

Jerry Graves--308 West Fifth, Pierre, SD 57501 224-1030

FROM HERE AND THERE

DAKOTA FRONTIER DAYS, newsletter of the Brookings Genealogical Society has a page of research helps in its July 1988 issue. Addresses to obtain a wide variety of information ranging from burial locations of Civil War veterans to Czechoslovakian records are listed.

If you have ever had difficulty in obtaining a federal record, you will be interested in an article in the July-August National Genealogical Society Newsletter which explains the individual's rights under the Freedom of Information Act and the steps to be taken to receive the information. The individual's rights under the Privacy Act are also clarified. Although these laws apply to federal records, most states have their own Freedom of Information Act. A letter requesting information about a particular state's laws in this matter may be sent to the attorney general of the state. The same issue holds a listing of the topics covered at the national meeting of the National Genealogical Society in 1988. Tapes of the lectures may be purchased for \$6.00 each.

The 188C Illinois soundex code for O-200 to O-240 were missed when the Illinois soundex code was microfilmed. This section includes surnames beginning Oc, O s, Ok, Og, Oj, Oq, Ox, and Oz. Nancy Grubb Frederick has copied the missing cards and has them bound into a book which is now available for purchase from the Decatur, Illinois Genealogical Society for \$15.00, postpaid. Order from:
Decatur Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 2205
Decatur, IL 62526.

The Minnesota Historical Society has extended its hours to include Monday evenings until 8:30 P.M. The reference, newspaper, map, and audio-visual libraries will be open as will the exhibits in the main building on 690 Cedar Street in St. Paul. During the rest of the week the building will be open from 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. except on Sunday when only the exhibits and gift shop will be open. Sunday hours are from 1 to 4 P.M.

Black Hills National Cemetery at Sturgis, South Dakota is planning to commemorate its forty years of service on October 2. The ceremony will include a fly-over by the South Dakota Air National Guard and a performance by the Hill City Fife and Drum Corps. There will be an Avenue of Flags erected by the Sturgis veterans who will also furnish the firing squad for the occasion.

THE ORPHAN TRAIN HERITAGE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Our Society recently began an exchange of newsletters with the newly-formed Orphan Train Heritage Society of America. Mary Ellen Johnson of Springdale, Arkansas is the founder and executive director of an organization that wishes to locate and preserve the history of America's Orphan Trains.

The Orphan Train was developed as a solution to the problem of abandoned, orphaned, and neglected children in New York City. The parents of many of these children were European immigrants who had left their homes and arrived in New York City where there was inadequate housing, no employment, poor medical care and no family to turn to for help. Many women died because of childbirth complications leaving fathers with not only a newborn infant but many times several other small children to care for. Many children lived on the streets.

Charles Loring Brace, a minister turned social worker, saw the distress of the young children and took matters into his own hands. He helped form the New York Children's Aid Society in 1853. In the first year of its organization, the Society placed 207 children in New York, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. The first boy placed was in Connecticut. Many were relocated in New York City. Children were placed on upstate farms in the state of New York during all the years of placing-out.

The first actual Orphan Train went to Dowagiac, Michigan in 1854. It carried 47 boys from 7 to 15 years of age.

In the first 12 years of the program Indiana received the largest number of children sent to a single state. The number of children sent to Indiana in this time period was 1,326. New York was second in the number placed. Indiana continued to receive children and during the next 10 years received an additional 1,484 children.

Over 3,000 children were placed each year for the first 20 years. The peak year was 1875 when over 4,000 children, adolescents, and a handful of adults were placed. At an 1875 National Conference of Charities and Corrections there was sharp criticism of the New York Children's Aid Society. After that time, almost no children were sent to the states that had expressed criticism. These were the New England states, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Increasing numbers were sent to the states that had not been critical. These states were Iowa, Virginia, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.

In Minnesota 340 children were placed from 1882-1884 in seven counties in the southern part of the state. The seven counties were Cottonwood, Freeborn, Fillmore, Martin, Nobles, Rock, and Watonwan.

By 1885 substantial numbers of children were being sent as far south as Florida and as far west as Texas. By 1892 the children who were placed in Kansas numbered 960 and 129 of them were girls.

In New York City, however, despite the care being given to the abandoned children, the problem still existed. In the same year of 1892 records showed that 200 children and 100 dead infants were found in the streets. The New York Foundling Hospital had been started in 1869 with the intention of devoting itself exclusively to the care of abandoned or neglected infants regardless of race or creed. The Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul staffed the hospital.

The first hospital quarters soon were inadequate to handle the number of infants admitted. In 1870 the hospital was moved to a larger building. The Sisters devoted themselves to caring for the infants who suffered from contagious diseases and intestinal disorders if they survived the exposure on the streets. In the first year of existence 61% of the infants were dying when they were admitted. Over-crowding contributed to the nursing problems so the Sisters placed the infants in foster homes where they could receive personal care.

The Sisters, too, looked west to find homes for the children. They found homes for the children in California, the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and other Midwest states. Two sisters traveled with groups of 50 children. Contact and supervision of these children was maintained by the Sisters on subsequent trips, by local priests, and by prominent citizens.

In 1929 the last Orphan Train trip was made. Its destination was Missouri.

The children who were placed from these Orphan Trains would be best described as indentured to the people who took them. Adoption came later. Some of the children were greatly loved and given good homes. Others were treated less kindly and used as servants in the home and as farm laborers. A reunion of Orphan Train riders, their friends and families, will be held in Springdale, Arkansas October 7, 8, 9. On November 2, the television program "Unsolved Mysteries" will air a segment pertaining to Orphan Trains.

For more information and a newsletter, enclose a SASE and send to OTHSA, Rte. 4, Box 565, Springdale, AR 72764.

CHECKLIST OF PRINCIPAL SOURCES
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA LIBRARY
402 IOWA AVENUE
IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240

1. **CENSUS RECORDS:** The State Historical Society has an extensive collection of census records including many of the Eastern states from which people came to Iowa. Iowa materials include the federal schedules from 1840 to 1910 and state schedules from 1856 to 1925. The Wisconsin Territorial Census which includes the original counties of Dubuque and Des Moines in 1836 is available. Many of these census schedules have been indexed. A listing of census records is available upon request.
2. **NEWSPAPERS:** The newspaper collection begins with 1836. There are 10,000 bound volumes and 12,000 rolls of microfilm. The microfilmed newspaper collection is available on inter-library loan. There is a limit of two items per loan for a two week period with renewal privileges. The BIBLIOGRAPHY OF IOWA NEWSPAPERS, 1836-1976 lists all the Society's holdings as well as newspaper holdings in other depositories around the state. This bibliography can be purchased from the Society for \$9.25, postpaid.
3. **LAND RECORDS:** The Society's map collection includes those showing land ownership, railroad routes, roads and highways, and bird's-eye views of various towns and cities. There is a large fire insurance map collection of over 700 Iowa cities and towns from 1874 to 1970. Many of the fire insurance maps are on microfiche from which copies can be made. Land ownership maps are also on microfiche. A publication, FIRE INSURANCE MAPS OF IOWA CITIES AND TOWNS: A LIST OF HOLDINGS, can be purchased for \$3.25, postpaid. The Society also has a list of abandoned towns in Iowa and a Post Office file. Plat books to 1940 are on microfilm.
5. **LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY:** The Society's manuscript collection holds personal papers such as diaries, account books, letters, reminiscences, and other unpublished materials from Iowa citizens. Oral history recordings and transcripts are also located in the manuscript collection. Some county records, church records, club and business records are also available. City directories and county histories can be used. A photograph collection of over 100,000 images contains portraits that are filed alphabetically. Reproductions or photocopies can be obtained by patrons. Genealogical files of materials not in book form can be easily used by consulting a separate card catalog in which the entries are arranged by surname. An index of biographical sketches in county histories has been compiled for research ease.

6. **BOOK COLLECTION:** The library contains more than 120,000 books and bound periodicals. Many of these volumes are on open shelves. They include histories for every county in Iowa, a large genealogy collection, many historic journals, and a general reference collection. Rare and fragile books on Iowa, Midwestern, and American history are kept in closed stacks. Specialized bibliographies of materials from the collections relating to immigrant groups, blacks, women, and other Iowa topics are available. The library must hold two copies of an item before it can be sent to another institution on inter-library loan. All borrowed material must be used in the institution to which it is sent. Researchers will find that the card catalog has been set up to assist genealogists.

The library collections are open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. and from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. on the last Tuesday of each month. The building is closed on all state holidays. When a state holiday falls on a Friday or a Monday, the library is closed on Saturday. The manuscript, photograph and map collections are closed on Saturdays. However, if advance arrangements are made, materials from these collections may be used on Saturdays in the first floor reading room.

The State Historical Society of Iowa also maintains a smaller collection in the Capitol Complex in Des Moines with duplicate holdings of some of the research materials.

The state of Iowa did not collect vital records before 1880. Marriage records before that time can be obtained from the county in which the marriage was performed. Statewide indexes have been compiled for births from 1 July 1880, marriages from 1 July 1916, and deaths from January 1891. Deaths that occurred prior to 1891 can not be searched without the date or place of death. Parentage was not entered on death certificates until July, 1904. Although the state began collecting vital records in 1880, a mandatory registration law was not enacted until July, 1921.

Correspondence to obtain vital records may be addressed to the following location:

Division of Vital Records
Iowa State Department of Health
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

KEEPING TIME

When doing research in early records and recording dates, the searcher should be aware of calendar changes. The calendar which we use today was designed to correct the errors of the Julian calendar.

The Julian calendar had been in use for 1500 years. It was developed under Julius Caesar and provided for a year that lasted 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days but was shorter by 11 minutes 14 seconds than a solar year. This led to a gradual change in seasons so that by 1580 the spring equinox fell on March 11 which was 10 days early.

Pope Gregory XIII consulted astronomers for advice as to how to correct the difference. He was advised to drop 10 days from October so that October 5 became October 15. This returned the spring equinox to its correct date. To prevent the error from occurring again the Pope decreed that every fourth year should be a leap year, adding an extra day to February. Years marking the century would not be leap years unless they were divisible by 400 so that the year 1900 was not a leap year but the year 2000 will be. The average Gregorian year is 26.3 seconds longer than the solar year. By the year 4316 it will have gained 1 day on the sun.

Most Catholic countries immediately accepted the new calendar. It was introduced in Spain in October, 1582. France, the Netherlands, and other Catholic countries adopted it in December. Various German states kept the Julian calendar until 1700. In England where Elizabeth I ruled, feeling against a calendar approved by the Pope was so strong that, although Elizabeth was in favor of the change, she did not introduce it. It was 1752 before the new calendar was adopted in England. Russia did not begin to use the new calendar until 1918 and Turkey made the change in 1928.

Countries using the Julian calendar began the New Year on different days. In France and the Netherlands, Easter Day was the first day of the New Year. In Spain, Italy, and parts of Germany it began on January 1. In England and Scotland March 25, Lady Day as the feast of the Annunciation was called, was the beginning of the New Year. This leads to a problem in recognizing that an event which is recorded as happening in one year actually occurred a year later. For example, two christening dates in the same family such as April 1, 1720 followed by March 22, 1720 are bewildering until the researcher remembers that the new year began on March 25.

In the English colonies the Gregorian calendar came into use in 1752, the same time as it was adopted in the mother country. However, the Dutch in New Netherlands had been using the Gregorian calendar before England gained control of their colony. To add to the confusion the Quakers, who did use the Julian calendar, did not start

their New Year on March 25. They preferred January 1 as the opening date of the New Year.

The English Parliament had made January 1 the legal New Year's Day in 1752. Birthdays after that were expressed as Old Style or New Style. This also could occur before 1752 because individuals began using the new system before it was officially in force. A date might be written 14 February 1727/8 meaning the birthday took place in 1727 if the year was thought to have begun on March 25 but 1728 if the reckoning was from January 1. Since March 25 is the turning point, only dates from January 1 to March 24 need to be indicated in this manner. Thus the christening date confusion mentioned previously might be clarified by writing March 1720/1.

When the new year began in March, that month was referred to as the first month. The months were numbered in sequence thereafter with April as the second month. If the registrar had written 7ber and 8ber, he meant September and October, not July and August. In Latin September and October mean the seventh and eighth months. November and December mean the ninth and tenth months.

This variation in dates may make a difference in your research. An error of a year or even a month may not seem like much until you have conducted a fruitless, time-consuming search in the wrong area because of mis-dating a record.

Ed. note: When I was researching this article, I came across conflicting information for the time when the Scandinavian countries adopted the Gregorian calendar. One source gave the year at 1582 in December; another claimed that the Swedes argued long over the change, switching back to the Julian calendar at times and not making the change to the Gregorian calendar permanent until 1753. Does anyone have permanent dates for the Scandinavian countries that are definite?

Marian Starr of Frankfort, South Dakota has been working at the Mount Hope Cemetery in that town, identifying unmarked graves. Marian has used old records from the cemetery and courthouse, researched newspapers, and contacted relatives of individuals believed to be buried in that cemetery. Through these contacts she has been able to mark 78 graves. Anyone interested in learning more about this cemetery project may contact Marian at RR Box 42, Frankfort, South Dakota 57440.

UNREADABLE CENSUS RECORDS

If you have suffered the frustration of being unable to read a census record because the microfilm copy was poor, this response to a question in the July-August issue of THE GENEALOGICAL HELPER may solve your problem.

"Unless the National Archives has recently changed their policy, use of original census records is permitted under rigidly controlled conditions. Of course, the use of original records must be at the main archives in Washington, D.C. When it is impossible to read the microfilm in the genealogical research room, the duty librarian/attendant will fill out an authorization slip which the individual takes to the main research room on the 4th floor. The attendant there will obtain the requested census book from the stacks and have it available at the desk in about 30 minutes. Rules for use of original records are very strict. The researcher cannot take any material into the research room except a pencil and pad of paper to make notes on. All other items must be deposited in the lockers outside the research room. Using original census records explains why many do not microfilm well. They were written in very pale blue ink which is perfectly legible and readable in the original document, but almost impossible to microfilm without special processes. If an individual is unable to visit the National Archives, he can obtain a list of professional qualified researchers who will search the original census records. Request the list from the National Archives and include a SASE with the request."

ROOTS CELLAR NOW AVAILABLE IN PIERRE

Laura Glum reports that the first Everton Root Cellar listing of 300,000 names is now available on microfiche at the Pierre LDS Library. Entries are by submitted names and by the name and address of the individual submitting the names. The LDS Library is open for research from 7 to 9 on Wednesday evenings and from 10 to 12 on Saturday mornings.

Join us at Robinson Museum on September 20 at 7:30 P.M. for hands-on practice in using the Soundex.

Bells rang in Pierre on November 2 to signal the start of a year-long celebration of one hundred years of South Dakota statehood. In keeping with that theme we will be looking back to earlier days in this area. In this issue we have published the names of residents of Hughes and Stanley County who lived in South Dakota when it was a territory. These names come from a list compiled for the souvenir program of the 1961 celebration marking one hundred years since the formation of Dakota Territory.

COMING UP

Research Your Family Roots is the Centennial theme that has been adopted by our Society. As a first step in that effort we are asking that you contribute to our next meeting by telling us how you happen to be living in South Dakota. When did you arrive here? Are you first generation or were your grandparents pioneers in our state? What caused them to come to South Dakota? Come prepared to share and listen on November 15. The meeting will be held at Rawlins Library at 7:30 P.M. There will be no meeting in December.

NEW MEMBER

Matthew Foster--812 North LaBarge, Pierre, SD 57501

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Thelma Aasby--810 North LaBarge, Pierre, SD 57501

HUGHES AND STANLEY COUNTY 1961 PIONEER ROLL

Mr.&Mrs. Albert Alleman	Ansker Hauge	Henry Pfothenhauer
Lawrence Alleman	Tony Hengel	Louie Pfothenhauer
Peter Alleman	Grace Heron	Mrs. Frank Pigney
John Auch	Warren Hickey	Mrs. Harry Piner
Edward J. Arzbecker	Jay Hilmer	Kathryn M. Poler
Mr.&Mrs. Robert Bagby	Kathryn Hinsey	Mrs. Archie Potter
George Becker	Mrs. J. M. Hiett	Mr.&Mrs. William Powell
Mr.&Mrs. George Beckley	Al Hildebrandt	Lewis Richardson
Adele Bianchi	J. F. Hines	Mabel Ricketts
Anna Bloom	Ruth Hipple	Lawrence Riggs
Matilda Borst	Willis T. Hoard	Robert Riggs
William M. Bowar	Ernest G. Hoffman	Dr. Theodore Riggs
Allen Boyles	Angie Holst	C. Gain Robinson
Lyle Branch	Mrs. Leon Howard	Harvey Robinson
Florence Brown	Emma Hoyt	Fred H. Root
John Bruce	Anna Joy	Earl Russell
Katie Bruce	Pearl W. Johnson	Kate Schomer
Guy Carey	J.W. Johnson	Anna Senechal
Henry Chamberlain	Mr.&Mrs. Milton Keyser	Mrs. J.C. Shanks
Mrs. Neils Christiansen	Frank Kirley	Dorr Small
Charles Cowan	Nellie Klink	Art Sommer
Laurence Cooper	Mrs. Jake Krell	Frankye Stark
Walter Cooper	May Laughlin	Carl Strutz
Fred Cooper	Henry Lindbloom	Mabel Stewart
Clair Curtis	Mr.&Mrs. Seward Leeper	Georgia Summerside
Hiram Davis	Clyde Logan	Ida May Sumner
Charles DeHart	Roy Long	Alta DeHart Thompson
Henry H. Doud	Ronald MacKay	Edith P. Tibbs
Bert Douglas	Jean Mallory	Mr.&Mrs. Severt Thorson
Ann Duncan	Glenn Martens	John C. Tjomsland
Mattie Eckert	Mary Frances Martin	Theresa Turner
J. Fay Eldridge	Mrs. Emanuel Matheis	William Van Camp
William Everetts	Lyman McKeen	Adelaide Vilas
Charles Fairbanks	Emanuel Mehrer	Mrs. John Weidman
Charles H. Fales	Solomon Mehrer	Maude West
Lorena Fackelman	John Millett	Ben Westlund
Mr.&Mrs. Joseph Friedel	Mr.&Mrs. David L. Moore	John Westlund
Joe Frieland	Harry F. Morse	Mr.&Mrs. O. K. Whitney
Frank G. French	Mrs. Alex McGannon	Bertha Wolbrink
Fanny Forsythe	James R. Morton	James Wright
Mr.&Mrs. Josh Giddings	Mr.&Mrs. Lyle Moulton	Margaret K. Yost
Lawrence Gosperich	Rose Nemece	Kate P. Young
Alice Gifford	Nina Norman	Ben Young
Emma Goglin	Martha Odemark	Mrs. Henry Zoller
Potter Hall	Mr.&Mrs. Oliver Olson	
Mr.&Mrs. L. H. Hanson	Mrs. William Peck	

TRAVELING THE OVERLAND TRAIL

In 1840 Americans wanting new land looked to the Far West. California was described as a country where the sun always shone. Oregon had rivers full of fish and rich valley lands for farming.

Back home the people had suffered through the depression following the Panic of 1837. Banks had been closed, wages were cut, and unemployment increased. Farmers received less and less for their crops. Under these conditions, it was only natural to look for a better way of life and the idea of a new land was appealing. There also were the individuals who felt crowded when the land about them became settled, even though the nearest neighbor was miles away.

Oregon societies were formed whose members pledged that they would make the trip west. They read journals of traders, missionary accounts, government reports, and guidebooks. Letters from new settlers described a disease free country with moderate climate and rich soil. The men were eager to go, certain that a better life awaited them. Often the women were less sure; however, they felt they had no choice but to follow their husbands to keep the family together.

The journey began along the Missouri River at places like Independence and St. Joseph, Missouri which were called Jumping-off Places. To reach this gathering point and finance the trip, the travelers sold their property holdings, household goods, and farm equipment.

Their first investment was for a wagon which had to be strong enough to withstand 2000 miles of hard travel and river crossings and carry a load of 2500 pounds. Four to six yoke of oxen were needed to pull it. It was covered with a double thickness of canvas that had been oiled to make it waterproof. Extra wagon parts were stowed under the bed of the wagon. Grease buckets, water barrels, heavy rope, and tar buckets for caulking before river crossings were necessary accessories. The cost of the wagon and oxen could be as much as \$400.00.

The next costly item was food. Published Emigrant Guides recommended basic foodstuffs of 200 pounds of flour, 150 pounds of bacon, 10 pounds of coffee, 20 pounds of sugar, and 10 pounds of salt. Other recommended supplies were rice, tea, dried beans, dried fruit, baking powder (or saleratus, as it was called), vinegar, pickles, mustard, and tallow. The food supplies cost from \$300.00 to \$600.00.

The emigrant had to be prepared to cook the food over open fires. Most travelers took long-handled frying pans, a kettle, and coffee pot. Pancakes, fried meat, and beans were standard fare. Bread was baked in Dutch ovens or skilletts. Kettles which hung from poles suspended on forked sticks often fell into the fire but the travelers became accustomed to eating burned food. They ate off tinware, sitting on the ground.

In addition to foodstuffs the travelers needed guns for hunting with a supply of powder, lead, and shot. Game was a welcome addition to their diet. Some medical remedies were added. They also needed cash to purchase replacements for injured animals, pay ferry and bridge crossing charges, and buy food for the first year in their new home.

The travelers began gathering at the jumping-off places in late March. As soon as the snow melted they were off to the Platte River which they followed through Nebraska. By the time they reached Fort Laramie in Wyoming they had traveled 635 miles in the best weather.

After Fort Laramie they began the climb to higher altitudes. They stopped at Independence Rock to carve their names and leave messages for late-comers. When they reached South Pass they realized they crossed the Continental Divide.

Fort Bridger in Wyoming and Fort Hall in Idaho were the next stops on their journey. When the emigrants arrived at Fort Hall, they had traveled 1200 miles from the Missouri River and were halfway to their destination with the hardest part of the journey ahead of them.

Those traveling to Oregon turned north, following the Snake River to Fort Boise, Idaho skirting a desert region to the Blue Mountains where they had to lift the wagons up the mountain sides with ropes and pulleys and then try to prevent the wagons from being broken up on the equally steep down side.

There were numerous river crossings on their trip, sometimes on a ferry but more often driving the wagons across which often meant unpacking the loads and rafting the supplies across. But when the emigrants reached the Columbia River, they found the river bordered by cliffs too high for crossing. Most loaded their possessions on ferries and floated the last miles to the Willamette Valley. Those who did not have enough money to hire a ferry used canoes and paid the Indian owners to paddle them. Those who had even less cash tied their possessions to pack mules and walked the rest of the way.

The emigrants going to California turned south at Fort Hall, traveling through desert-like land with no game until they came to the Humboldt River in northeastern Nevada. They were to discover that the Humboldt River ended in the Nevada sands. They faced 50 miles of desert in which they suffered greatly from a lack of water. After the desert came the steep Sierra Nevada Mountains where they had to hoist and lower the wagons with ropes and pulleys. At last they reached the Sacramento Valley of California.

The most arduous part of their journey came as the emigrants began to worry about arriving at their destination before winter set in.

No part of the journey had been easy. There were delays caused by accidents, illness, injuries, wrong turns, and bad weather. The fierce rain and hail storms soaked everyone and everything. The wagons had to be emptied as the emigrants attempted to dry bedding and clothing but often they were forced to sleep in the mud and wear wet clothing until the sun shone long enough to dry everything.

Children fell out of the wagons and were run over or wandered off and were lost. Animals were injured or grew lame and could no longer pull the wagons. Wagon axles broke and wheels needed repairs. Women gave birth but there was no time to rest on the trail. Often the newborn infants died and sometimes the mother died, too. Men drowned at river crossings trying to get the livestock and wagons across. Everyone was sick with mountain fever and dysentery.

Death was common. The family would agonize over whether to mark the grave so that their loved one would not be forgotten or obliterate all signs of a grave so that the body would not be disturbed. Many times the last request of a dying person was to be buried deep enough that the wild animals could not dig up the body. The Indians also were known to open the graves and remove the clothing from the victim.

Wagon trains that started with all members in full agreement, electing a leader, portioning out the work, and setting up a daily schedule, now quarreled as they faced the prospect of not getting through the mountains before winter arrived. Some went off by themselves, taking short cuts and leaving behind those who were not able to travel as quickly.

Life on the trail should have been easier in the 1850's. The jumping-off places were better equipped to outfit the emigrants as were the stations along the way. Large family units were traveling together, herding cattle and sheep as they went which caused a problem as the season progressed and the animals ate down the grass along the road. Worst of all was the cholera which ravaged the Mississippi Valley and moved west with the emigrants, causing one writer to describe the road from Independence to Fort Laramie as a graveyard. The emigrants thought they were escaping the disease, not realizing that they were spreading it as they traveled.

The lure of gold in California and the discovery of silver in Nevada drew them west as did the promise of land in Oregon Territory. In 1841 a pre-emption act was passed which allowed anyone who was the head of a family or over 21 years of age who was a United States citizen or who had declared his intention to become one to stake a claim on any tract of land up to 160 acres and then buy it from the government for \$1.25 an acre.

An added inducement in settling in Oregon Territory was the Donation Land Act of 1850. This act gave a donation of free land
Donation

consisting of 320 acres to a single man and 640 acres to a married man. Four years of continued residence on the land and cultivation of it were required but in 1853 the residency requirement was cut in half. In 1854 another act extended the same benefits to Washington Territory which had been separated from Oregon. Both acts expired in December of 1855. The Donation Entry Files are at the National Archives. They have been divided by completed and non-completed entries and have been indexed.

Late arrivals could obtain land under the Homestead Act of 1862. The land was free except for a small filing fee. Individuals had to meet the same requirements as the Pre-emption Act as to age and citizenship and had to live on the land for 5 years. Homestead records are also at the National Archives but are not indexed.

In later years, from 1856 to 1867, there were trading posts and stagecoach stations along the trail. Travel time had been shortened by a month. Salt Lake City was a well-established community where emigrant needs could be met. The telegraph now spanned the country so that messages could be sent from one coast to the other. However, the Indians now became a threat.

The Indians had been content to trade with the earlier wagon trains and occasionally helping themselves to unguarded items but they had seen the buffalo herds grow smaller and move out of the old hunting grounds as the wagon trains increased in number. Too, the Indians had suffered greatly from the diseases that the emigrants carried. Because of the Civil War the number of soldiers decreased on the frontier as they were sent back east to fight and the Indians grew bolder, attacking the smaller trains and lone travelers.

Fear of hostile Indians was no deterrent to the emigrants who continued to travel west suffering the same discomforts and losses as the earlier travelers exacerbated by the constant worry about unfriendly Indians.

Coastal migration did dwindle after 1868 when settlers began to move into the land between the mountains and the eastern settlements. By then railroads crossed the country, offering a more comfortable form of transportation to the land and fortune seekers of the late 1800's.

It is estimated that from 1841 to 1866 approximately 350,000 people traveled the Overland Trail. The majority of these travelers were young, married couples, many of whom were on their honeymoon. Families with small children were the most numerous travelers. Many arrived at their destination having buried a spouse or a child along the trail but none thought of returning. They had come to find a better life and they were determined to succeed in that endeavor in their new home in the west.

CHECKLIST OF PRINCIPAL SOURCES

WYOMING STATE ARCHIVES
BARRETT BUILDING
CHEYENNE, WY 82002-0130

LARAMIE COUNTY LIBRARY
2800 CENTRAL AVENUE
CHEYENNE, WY 82001

1. CENSUS: Wyoming did not become a territory until 1868. The first census that is available is the 1860 schedule of Nebraska Territory which included present-day Wyoming. The Wyoming Archives hold the census schedules for 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910. They also have the Soundex for 1880 and 1900. The 1890 Union veteran census is available at the Archives.
2. NEWSPAPERS: Most of the Wyoming newspapers are on microfilm at the Archives.
3. LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY: The Archives house a large collection of documents on Wyoming history. They have several county histories plus publications that have been written about specific areas and some families. The Wilkerson biographical collection is found there as are oral history interviews.
4. GENEALOGY COLLECTION: The genealogy collection is housed at the Laramie County Library. This collection was started in the 1920's when the State Librarian made the purchasing of genealogical books a priority. Over the years materials have been added until the collection now numbers approximately 9000 volumes. The majority of the materials deal with the United States with the eastern part of the country being most strongly represented. Included are state, county and town histories; vital, probate, land, cemetery, and church records. Of particular interest are the 245 volume ALABAMA RECORDS, the Works Projects Administration's HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY, the MASSACHUSETTS VITAL RECORDS, the WAR OF REBELLION series, the PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES, the RHODE ISLAND VITAL RECORDS, and most federal census indexes through 1850. Also available are family histories, military records, and publications of American historical societies. In 1970 the collection was moved to the Laramie County Library where it is available for public use. The genealogy area can accommodate about 20 people. The library is open on Monday through Thursday from 10 A.M. to 9 P.M., on Friday and Saturday from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. Sunday hours are from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. September 15 through May 15.
5. VITAL RECORDS: Wyoming Vital Records Service maintains birth and death records since July, 1909 and marriage records from May 1, 1941. Earlier marriage records and birth and death records can be found at County Clerks. The address for the Vital Records Service is Hatheway Building, 2300 Capitol Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002. The staff prefers to handle requests by mail.

USING THE SOUNDEX

The Soundex is an index that is based upon the sound of a name. The great advantage of the Soundex is that when a name can be spelled in a variety of ways, all the variations will be found in the same part of the index.

The plan behind the Soundex is to give each consonant, except H and W, a number. Vowels, including Y, are not coded nor is the first letter of a surname. The first letter of a surname will be followed by three numbers. If the name does not have three consonants, zeros are used to fill out the three spaces.

The guide to the code is as follows:

- 1 b, p, f, v
- 2 c, s, k, g, j, q, x, z
- 3 d, t
- 4 l
- 5 m, n
- 6 r

Using the code a name pronounced wise but with various spellings such as Weis, Weisz, Weise, Wyse, Weiss, Wiese, Wise will be coded W-200.

If two of the same consonants follow each other in a surname like Little, only one of the double consonants is coded. Little becomes L-340. If the double consonant occurs at the beginning of a surname like Lloyd, it becomes L-300.

In surnames beginning with Sch the ch is not coded because the sound of the S absorbs the ch that follows so that Schaeffer becomes S-160. In the same fashion, a ck blend is coded by the number 2 so that a surname like Buerck is coded B-260 and will be found with the rest of the surnames that are pronounced Burk.

After the surnames were coded, they were arranged in alphabetical order on cards by the given names and filmed. The Soundex card holds the pertinent information from the census to identify an individual, age and place of birth for the head of the house and inhabitants as well as relationship to the head of the house. The card gives the name of the county, the enumeration district, sheet and line number where the individual can be found in the census.

The first census to be indexed in this method is the 1880 schedule in which households with children under 10 years of age were coded. The 1900 census contains all households. Individuals with different surnames residing in a household are indexed separately.

The 1910 census is not completely indexed. The Miracode, which is similar to the Soundex, was done for the most heavily populated areas. These include Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

When using the Soundex the searcher should be aware that a name preceded by a prefix usually is not coded by the prefix. Vander-Meer is found under Meer, Van Zee under Zee, de Graff under Graff, te Beest under Beest.

Indian names made up of several words may be coded by the first word in the phrase or any of the other words. Kills in Water is coded under Water; His Roan Horse is coded under His. Any of the words that make up the name might be the one that is coded. If the name was written in the Indian language, it was usually coded as one continuous name. This also applies to Oriental names.

If searching for a woman in the religious life, be aware that all nuns are coded as if Sister were their surname. They will be found under S-236.

Since the people making up the Soundex were working with handwritten records, there is always the possibility of mis-reading the writing. Confusion may exist between U and V, T and F, T and L, U and N within a word, J and Z, L and S.

When using any index, the searcher should be aware of the possibility of error caused by the compiler mis-reading or skipping a name. If the name is not found on the index but the searcher knows the area in which an individual lived, a page by page search of that area in the census should be done before definitely deciding that an individual was not in the area at that time.

November, 1988

JF

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBER