



# *By Root and Branch*

*The Pierre-Fort Pierre Genealogical Society Newsletter*

*Volume 36, Number 1, February 2014*

## **South Dakota Facts**

Sometimes when doing researching, we need to know certain facts about the state in which we are searching. So in this issue there will be some interesting (and some just fun) facts for you to know about South Dakota. Here are a few to get started:

- South Dakota was the 40th state in the USA; it became a state on November 2, 1889.
- US territory status: part of Michigan Territory in 1834, Wisconsin Territory in 1836, Iowa Territory in 1838, Minnesota Territory in 1849 and Dakota Territory in 1861
- Territorial and State Censuses available: 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925, 1935, 1945
- First federal census: 1900
- Statewide birth, death and marriage records began: 1905
- Population (as of 2010): 814,180 [South Dakota is the 46th most populous state in the USA]
- Major Rivers: Cheyenne River, Missouri River, James River, White River
- Number of Counties: 66
- Bordering States: Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wyoming

Editor, Linda Lowe (pierregen@pie.midco.net)

***Need Help with a Membership Problem? Have a Suggestion for presentations?  
Contact a Society Officer!  
Society Officers for 2013***

Linda Lowe, President	pierregen@pie.midco.net
Tina Miller, Vice President	
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Nancy Friend, Treasurer	
Lori Sears, Past-President	
Carol Olson & Dan Peterson, Board Members	

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## *Pierre/Fort Pierre Society Meeting Schedule*

The Pierre/Fort Pierre Genealogical Society meets each month, except December, at 7pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday. Our meetings are usually held at the LDS Church at 506 N. Jefferson, Pierre, SD. If there is a change, the members will be notified via email or phone.

If you haven't been to the society's website lately, it is well worth a visit. It is located at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~sdfpgs/>. You'll find databases and up-coming events are planned.

## *South Dakota Counties*

County Vital Record information gathered from <http://vitalrec.com>

More county information at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sdfpgs/counties.html>

The Register of Deeds' Vital Records Department maintains birth, death, marriage, and burial record information. The Office works directly with the South Dakota Department of Health and Vital Records. Birth, death, and marriage records are also on file with the SD Dept. of Health.

The Register of Deeds' Office provides many services to the county and is the primary county record-keeping and archival office concerning vital statistics (marriage, birth and death records), land records (such as plats, deeds, mortgages, satisfactions, assignments, etc.), military discharge records, hospital liens, mechanics liens, county, state and federal tax liens, powers of attorney, fictitious name filings, UCC filings, etc.

**Aurora County** - established 1881

Register of Deeds; Plankinton  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1905  
Minimal records 1883 through 1904

**Beadle County** - established 1879

Register of Deeds; Huron  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1880  
Land since 1886

**Bennett County** - established 1909

Register of Deeds; Martin  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1912

**Bon Homme County** - established 1862

Register of Deeds; Tyndall  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1885

**Brookings County** - established 1862

Register of Deeds; Brookings  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1905  
Affidavits of marriage dating back to 1890  
Minimal marriage records December 1887 - July 1905

**Brown County** - established 1879

Register of Deeds; Aberdeen  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1905  
Minimal records 1892 - 1905

**Brule County** - established 1875

Register of Deeds; Chamberlain  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since June 1882  
Land since 1879

**Buffalo County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Gann Valley  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1887

**Butte County** - established 1883

Register of Deeds; Belle Fourche  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1890

**Campbell County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Mound City  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since May 31, 1888  
Land since 1884  
Probate and divorce records from the Clerk of Courts Office

**Charles Mix County** - established 1862

Register of Deeds; Lake Andes  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1883

**Clark County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Clark  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1883  
Probate & divorces at the Clerk of Court's office

**Clay County** - established 1862

Register of Deeds; Vermillion  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1905  
Transcribed marriages from 1860 – July 1905

**Codington County** - established 1877

Register of Deeds; Watertown  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1887

**Corson County** - established 1909

Register of Deeds; McIntosh  
Birth, Death, Marriage since December 16, 1909

**Custer County** - established 1875

Register of Deeds; Custer  
Birth, Death since 1905 Minimal records prior to 1905  
Marriage since 1890

**Davison County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Mitchell  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1887  
Divorce from Clerk of Court's Office

**Day County** - established 1879

Register of Deeds; Webster  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1882

**Deuel County** - established 1862

Register of Deeds; Clear Lake  
Birth since 1905 Minimal records dating back to 1880  
Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1879

**Dewey County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Timber Lake  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1910

**Douglas County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Armour  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1883

**Edmunds County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Ipswich  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since Sept 6, 1887  
Land since June 28, 1883

**Fall River County** - established 1883

Register of Deeds; Hot Springs  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1905  
Minimal records prior to 1905

**Faulk County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Faulkton  
Birth, Death 1905  
Marriage since 1890  
Minimal records listed from 1883-1887

**Grant County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Milbank  
Grant County Library has an index of marriage and death records from newspapers 1880-1905.  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1905

**Gregory County** - established 1862

Register of Deeds; Burke  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since November 21, 1898

**Haakon County** - established 1914

Register of Deeds; Philip  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1915

**Hamlin County Vital** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Hayti  
Birth, Death since 1905.  
Marriage since 1887

**Hand County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Miller  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1883  
Real estate records since November 1881  
Probate, divorces at Clerk of Courts

**Hanson County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Alexandria  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since October 1901

**Harding County** - established 1909

Register of Deeds; Buffalo  
Birth since 1909  
Death since 1909  
Marriage since 1909  
Homestead patent records from 1909

**Hughes County** - established 1880

Register of Deeds; Pierre  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1905  
Land since 1885

**Hutchinson County** - established 1862

Register of Deeds; Olivet  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since August 27, 1887

**Hyde County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Highmore  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since July 1890

**Jackson County** - established 1914

Register of Deeds; Kadoka  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1915

**Jerauld County** - established 1883

Register of Deeds; Wessington Springs  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1888  
minimal records from 1884 – 1887  
Land since 1882

**Jones County** - established 1916

Register of Deeds; Murdo  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1917

**Kingsbury County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; De Smet  
Probate, Divorce at Clerk of Courts  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1905  
Index filed by groom's name: 1887–July 1905

**Lake County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Madison  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1872  
Land since 1878

**Lawrence County** - established 1875

Register of Deeds; Deadwood  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Death records list from 1877 – July 1905  
Marriage since 1880  
Marriages back to 1877 in book-Justice of Peace

**Lincoln County** - established 1867

Register of Deeds; Canton  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1905  
Minimal marriage records from 1873–July 1905  
(records from 1877-1888 destroyed in a fire)

**Lyman County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Kennebec  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1893  
Land since 1893

**Marshall County** - established 1885

Register of Deeds; Britton  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1887

**McCook County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Salem  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since June 1887

**McPherson County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Leola  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1884

**Meade County** - established 1889

Register of Deeds; Sturgis  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1905  
Minimal records prior to 1905

**Mellette County** - established 1909

Register of Deeds; White River  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1912

**Miner County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Howard  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1887

**Minnehaha County** - established 1862

Register of Deeds; Sioux Falls  
Misc land records dating back to the late 1800's  
Birth since 1905 Transcripts from 1856–July 1905  
Death since 1905 Transcripts 1867–July 1905  
Marriage since 1872

**Moody County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Flandreau  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since August 27, 1887

**Pennington County** - established 1875

Register of Deeds; Rapid City  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since June 23, 1887  
Land since 1883

**Perkins County** - established 1909

Register of Deeds; Bison  
Transcripts of births, deaths, marriages to 1950's  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1908

**Potter County** - established 1875

Register of Deeds; Gettysburg  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1890

**Roberts County** - established 1883

Register of Deeds; Sisseton  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1905  
records from 1887–July 1905 by groom's name

**Sanborn County** - established 1883

Register of Deeds; Woonsocket  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1887

**Shannon County** - established 1875

Register of Deeds; Hot Springs  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1905  
Minimal records prior to 1905

**Spink County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Redfield  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1880  
Land since 1883

**Stanley County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Fort Pierre  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1892

**Sully County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Onida  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1883

**Todd County** - established 1909

Register of Deeds; Winner  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1905

**Tripp County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Winner  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1905

**Turner County** - established 1871

Register of Deeds; Parker  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1905 Minimal records from 1872  
– July 1905

**Union County** - established 1862

Register of Deeds; Elk Point  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1866

**Walworth County** - established 1873

Register of Deeds; Selby  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1890

**Yankton County** - established 1862

Register of Deeds; Yankton  
Birth, Death since 1905  
Marriage since 1889

**Ziebach County** - established 1911

Register of Deeds; Dupree  
Birth, Death, Marriage since 1911

## ***Internet Tips and Information***

### *South Dakota Research Helps*

- Andreas' Historical Atlas of Dakota – these are text files, just click on the file name and it will show the file: <http://files.usgwarchives.net/sd/andreas/>
- Births Over 100 Years Old:  
<http://apps.sd.gov/applications/PH14Over100BirthRec/index.asp>
- FamilySearch – Wiki information about South Dakota:  
[https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/South\\_Dakota](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/South_Dakota)
- FamilySearch – all Wiki articles about South Dakota Research:  
<https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/index.php?title=Special%3ASearch&redirs=1&search=South+Dakota+research&fulltext=Search&ns0=1&ns4=1&ns12=1&ns100=1&ns200=1>
- Guide to American Indian Research in South Dakota:  
<http://history.sd.gov/Archives/Data/Archives/default.aspx>
- Newspaper Surname Search: <http://history.sd.gov/forms/surname/SurnameArchive.aspx>
- South Dakota BLM Data – this is another index of text files, the “dt” is Dakota Territory and “sd” is South Dakota: <http://files.usgwarchives.net/sd/land/>
- South Dakota Naturalization Index:  
<http://history.sd.gov/Archives/Data/naturalization/default.aspx>

**To Join or Renew a Membership:**

Membership is for calendar year. If membership is paid anytime in the year up to November, it is for the current year. If paid in November or December, it is for the next calendar year.

Individual: \$10.00 per year.

Family Membership: \$12.00 per year.

Memberships include a subscription to the P/FP Quarterly.

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

City,

State,

Zip:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email address (to receive Quarterly in PDF format)**

My Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail request and check to:

Pierre/Ft. Pierre Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 925

Pierre, SD 57501

Questions or inquiries - [pierregen@pie.midco.net](mailto:pierregen@pie.midco.net)



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# *By Root and Branch*

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*Volume 36, Number 2, May 2014*

If you are trying to find histories about a certain town or county, try checking on eBay. It is amazing the treasures you can find.

Online auction sites such as eBay are one of today's most popular Internet pastimes. Sellers submit items for sale, accompanied by a short description and often a photo. Auctions last for a pre-determined period of time (several days on average), during which potential buyers can submit their bids for the item online. At the end of the auction the seller and the winning bidder contact each other to arrange payment and delivery.

How does this relate to genealogy? Just about anything related to family history can be found for sale on eBay and other online auction sites. Books, city directories, diaries, family bibles, genealogy software and CD-ROMs, maps, military memorabilia, old newspapers, photos, postcards, yearbooks and even family group sheets are all offered on a regular basis. You can add reference resources to your genealogy library or learn more about your family through visual representations of their time and place in history. You may even be lucky enough to find specific references to your ancestors, such as maps which document the family homestead, obituary notices or family photos.

Check out the section in this issue for hints to search for those treasures.

Editor, Linda Lowe (pierregen@pie.midco.net)

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In May we will be meeting at the Cultural Heritage Center.

The meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup> will be back at the LDS Church. The presentation will be "How to Date Those Old Photos"

If you haven't been to the society's website lately, it is well worth a visit. It is located at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~sdfpgs/>. You'll find databases and up-coming events which are planned.

## *Searching eBay for Genealogical Treasures*

If you're new to eBay and online auctions, then follow these simple guidelines to get started:

- Use the search engine to search for items related to your individual surnames or for items from a specific place or time period. Be sure to select the box which allows you to search both the titles and descriptions! You can also use the advanced search feature to exclude certain entries, which can be very important when you're searching for a common name (e.g. on a search for the surname RICE you could exclude such terms as cooker, anne, jerry, krispies, paper, etc.). Check eBay's search tips for even more search ideas.
- Be sure to search for common misspellings of your surnames, place names and terms such as genealogy (try searching for geneology or geneaology).
- As an alternative to search, try the browse feature to explore specific categories of items such as historical memorabilia, vintage clothing and accessories, maps and atlases, militaria, antique photos and more. There is even a section on eBay devoted specifically to genealogy.
- Check the seller's feedback rating before bidding on an item to be sure they don't have a history of complaints against them.
- Don't get carried away by the bidding! Set a limit and stick to it. eBay even offers a proxy bidding service. You enter your maximum amount and your bid will be automatically increased by the minimum required bid amount whenever someone outbids you - until you have reached your maximum amount. If the item is really important to you, then check in on it right before it is due to end so you can make a final decision and put in a last-minute bid if desired.

There are wonderful items to be discovered – but make sure you don't get carried away and bid more than you really wanted to spend! Also be aware of sellers' histories, if there are complaints, be cautious.



***SOME FAMILY TREES HAVE BEAUTIFUL LEAVES,  
AND SOME HAVE JUST A BUNCH OF NUTS.  
REMEMBER, IT IS THE NUTS THAT MAKE THE TREE WORTH SHAKING.***





## ***Internet Tips and Information***

### *Genealogy-type Blogs*

A fun blog that I have come across is Michael Neill's Genealogy Tip of the Day. It is found at <http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com/>.

I am putting some of his tips here, but for many, many more go to his blog.

#### List Your Assumptions

Posted: 05 April 2014

Assumptions serve purposes in research, but if not careful they can cross the line from being an assumption to becoming a fact. If you are stuck on an ancestor, write down everything you know about him from memory (place of birth, place of marriage, place of death, occupation, educational level, social class, religion, etc. etc.) without any references to anything.

Then go back and see what you have some documentation for. Statements for which you have no documentation may very well be assumptions about the ancestor that are incorrect.

#### Is the Name "Close Enough"

Posted: 29 Apr 2014

There is no hard and fast answer to when a name is "close enough" to be your ancestor. The variant spelling should sound like your actual ancestor's last name and differences in vowels usually are not as significant as one might think, depending upon how your ancestor pronounced his name.

Use other clues to determine if the "close enough" person is your ancestor. Is he:

- in the right location?
- acting in a way that is consistent with your ancestor?
- of a close enough age to be your ancestor?
- interacting with known associates of your ancestors?

Even answering all these questions with a "yes" is no guarantee, but it is a good start towards making certain that "close enough" name is really "close enough."

#### Ellis Island Name Changes

Posted: 16 May 2014

Contrary to popular belief, people did not "have their names changed" at Ellis Island. Immigration into Ellis Island required too much paperwork for that to happen and there were plenty of translators available when Ellis Island was in operation.

If your ancestor used a different name, it's more likely he chose it when he settled or when he naturalized. Some name changes were never officially recorded.

But the "name changes" at Ellis Island did not happen.

#### Do You Record the Why?

Posted: 07 May 2014

As you research through various materials, do you keep track (even briefly) of the reasons why specific records or materials were searched? That makes it easier to see your process should you need to re-evaluate and take your research in a different direction.

And those reasons get at your research assumptions, which sometimes can be incorrect.

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Questions or inquiries - [pierregen@pie.midco.net](mailto:pierregen@pie.midco.net)



Pierre, SD 57501

PO Box 925

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# By Root and Branch

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*Volume 36, Number 3, August 2014*

The past couple of our Society meetings have been very informative. Lorraine Kintz shared her knowledge of scrapbooking her family with us and also a special poem that helped to get us motivated in getting our pictures labeled and stored properly. It is called *Strangers in the Box* and one of the verses I particularly like is as follows:

I wish I knew the people,  
These strangers in the box,  
Their names and all their memories,  
Are lost among my socks.

This makes me laugh, but also makes me feel sad because I have pictures like that!

July's program was Virginia Hanson showing us how some old photos can be dated and therefore getting an idea of who might be in the pictures. Maybe we can put names to some of those people in the pictures who are "strangers in the box".

These presentations are not only enjoyable, but teach us valuable information. Please let your friends know about the Society. Hopefully we will be able to add new members and learn and share even more!

Another item which is worth checking out is the South Dakota Digital Archives. It is located at <http://sddigitalarchives.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm> and contains four collections: photos, manuscript, government and Government Land Office survey field notes.

Editor, Linda Lowe (pierregen@pie.midco.net)

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August is our annual potluck dinner. We will be meeting at the LDS Church at **6pm**. Bring a dish to share, and enjoy being together! Linda will be showing us what subscription websites have free access in the Family History Center.

September meeting will be a presentation about the Cloud: what it is and how to use it to your advantage.

October will be a program with SHRAB, the state historic records and archives board, which is sponsoring a speaker on the subject of church records and researching. Our Society members have decided to help fund this speaker who is George Morgan. He has been working on genealogy for 50 years, researching other people's families, teaching, and writing, and has spent a great deal of time working with church records. That includes records in both the United States and England. He mentions that many researchers don't take the time to understand what records may have been created by churches, particularly by specific congregations and sects. They may also fail to identify religious institutions that existed at the time their ancestors lived in a particular location. Some churches have closed operations or have merged with other congregations and tracing the records can depend on several factors. The date for this has not yet been set.

If you haven't been to the society's website lately, it is well worth a visit. It is located at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~sdfpgs/>. You'll find databases and up-coming events which are planned.

## ***Using the Internet – FamilySearch Indexing***

The following article is from FamilySearch. If you would like to be a part of this fantastic work, go to <https://familysearch.org/indexing/> to begin.

### **FamilySearch Volunteers Set Historic Record**

FamilySearch volunteers are amazing! On July 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 2014, FamilySearch indexers and arbitrators from around the world joined together to set an international record for the greatest number of indexing participants in a single day! *We hoped* to have an unprecedented 50,000 contributors in a 24 hour period. FamilySearch volunteers excelled, surpassing that goal by 16,511! That's right—66,511 participants in one day! Incredible! We are grateful for the patience and persistence of many volunteers who faced technical difficulties due to an overwhelming response. These generous indexers and arbitrators made a true difference. Each record and each name indexed and arbitrated matters. It only takes one to open the door to linking generations of families together. Without question, thousands of lives will be changed as a result of this day's effort. While the focus for this challenge was on the total number of participants, a tremendous amount of indexing and arbitration work was accomplished as well. Here are the results for the number of records indexed and arbitrated.

Indexed: 4,682,746

Arbitrated: 941,932

Total Records Processed: 5.7 million

## ***Internet Tips and Information***

### *Genealogy-type Blogs*

A fun blog that I have come across is Michael Neill's Genealogy Tip of the Day. It is found at <http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com/>.

I am including some of his tips here, but for many, many more go to his blog.

#### **Inst. Means the Current Month**

The abbreviation "inst.," as in "7th inst.," refers to a date in the present month. "Ult.," as in the "8th ult.," generally refers to the previous month

#### **Census Dates Matter**

While any census can contain incorrect information, keep in mind that census questions were to be answered as of the date of the census, commonly referred to as the "census date."

The 1910 census for your ancestor's residence may have been taken on 11 May 1910, but the questions were to have been answered as of 15 April 1910.

Some census-takers were more concerned about accuracy than others and some informants may have understood the "census date" versus "actual date" better than others.

#### **Cold Notes**

The longer you wait to type up or organize your onsite research, the colder it gets and the more likely you are to not completely remember what you wrote down.

Don't wait to write up that research. Cold notes are not as good as fresh ones.

#### **What Have You Written Lately?**

If you have been accumulating information and records, when was the last time you stopped gathering and wrote about what you have located? Don't forget to include where you obtained the information, a transcription or detailed summary of it, and a discussion of what you think it means.

You may be surprised what discoveries you make when you really get into writing up what you already have.

## ***South Dakota's Past***

### *From the pages of the Capital Journal, Pierre*

#### **February 2, 1892**

- Bob Stewart who returned last evening from Marion, Iowa, recently became the proud father of a ten pound boy.

#### **February 9, 1892**

- John Roy, of East Pierre, yesterday run a nail into his hand which made an ugly wound therein and which maybe quite serious.

No search is fruitless – you may not always find what you're looking for, but you will always find something worth finding. – Nancy Atherton

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Zip:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email address (to receive Quarterly in PDF format)**

My Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail request and check to:

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