

The Pierre-Fort Pierre Genealogical Society

Newsletter

January 1999

Volume 22, Number 1

EDITOR'S CORNER

The Pierre-Fort Pierre Genealogical Society is alive and well!

- The nominating committee comprised of Bev Huckins and Anita Zastrow will present a slate of officers at the February meeting.
- Members are encouraged to share a "romantic" anecdote from their family history at the February meeting.
- Rawlins Library has graciously allowed the Society to schedule the regular monthly meeting in the Norbeck-Wegner Room on the third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. unless a 'special' meeting location is secured due to program topic, speaker, etc.
- Have you paid your 1999 dues? (A list is provided on the next page.) Please do so as soon as possible. Also, please update your information by completing the coupon included in this issue. Thanks!
- The monthly meeting minutes will be included in the newsletter along with the treasurer's report beginning with the April quarterly issue.
- A Member Feature will be included in the newsletter. In order to obtain information in a uniform manner from Society members, a questionnaire has been developed.

A Genealogist is

A genealogist must have the patience of Job, the curiosity of a cat, the stubbornness of a mule, the eyesight of an eagle, be blessed with the luck of the Irish, and have the ability and stamina of a camel to go long hours without food or drink!(Source: THE HERALD, Vol. 18, No. 3/4, 1995)

ANNUAL MEETING IN APRIL

The South Dakota Genealogical Society and the South Dakota State Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held in Pierre on April 23-24, 1999, at the Ramkota RiverCentre. Activities will be centered around the theme *Discover The Past In Documents* with featured speakers to include Jimmy Parker of the Family History Library, Salt Lake City; Eric Bittner, National Archives, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver; and Joy Fisher, coordinator SDGENWEB genealogy home page. The complete program and registration forms will be available in March.

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY RECAP

Riverside Cemetery (Pierre) was operated by a cemetery association until 1934 when it became a municipal cemetery. The early records of the cemetery were only an accounts receivable record for billings and payments. The record book would show that a grave was opened and closed with the charge and payment with no mention of who was buried.

The City's early records were not much better. A page was started for each cemetery deed issued recording the owner and the description. These owner pages were in chronological order. As burials were done, the information was added to the owner's page. The pages were cross-referenced by an alphabetical card system.

The City purchased a special cemetery program, and all existing records are being recorded. The information obtained from the Pierre-Fort Pierre Genealogical Society has also been entered. The program allows for much more information to be included on the screens. Additional information is welcome, i.e., personal data from death certificates from the Register of Deeds office in the Courthouse.

UPDATE: The computer has been moved to the cemetery and all records are being kept by the Cemetery Director, Jim Fahey.

BROWSING IN THE LIBRARY

by Bev Huckins

Several genealogy periodicals are located in the Genealogy Section of Rawlins Library. Among them are numerous copies of *Heritage Quest* which is published bi-monthly. If you are not a subscriber to this magazine, take advantage of the Society's copies. There are outstanding features such as "Evangeline's Tragedy: The Acadian Deportation and Wanderings" and "Oh! What Surprises Await Us at the Court House" in the January/February 1998 issue. Regular sections can help you with such things as computer questions, world and US research insights, lists of researchers available in states, book reviews, adoption research, and lists of keepsakes people have found as they renovated or remodeled old buildings. The following explanation of "Cousins" was found in the **genealogistsnotebook** section entitled "Musings and Gleanings" (January/February 1998, pages 79-80).

COUSINS

Cousins are persons who share at least one set of common ancestors on either the paternal or maternal side. The term once referred to any degree of relationship by blood or marriage outside the immediate family or to a relationship by affinity. (continued on following page)

1998 OFFICERS—

President	Tina Manning
Vice President	Christine Dierks
Secretary	Virginia Hanson
Treasurer	Dale Wurts
Board Member	Laura Glum
Board Member	Richard Phillips
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[Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month (except December) at 7:30 p.m. at locations announced via newspaper articles or library postings.]

MEMBERSHIP LIST—

The persons listed below have paid Society dues for 1999!

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(continued from previous page)

Before 1750 it might refer to 1) a nephew or niece, 2) a wife or husband of a first cousin, 3) any other indirect relationship due to marriage (today called "in-laws"), or 4) any blood relationship except one's parents (which includes nephews and nieces).

Cousins of any order (1st, 2nd, 3rd) are an equal number of generations from a common ancestor. Descendants of a cousin are in the same order of relationship but are additionally designated as "removed" according to the number of generations they are from the cousin (and from yourself). First cousins share the same grandparents (e.g., they are the children of your aunt or uncle). A first cousin's child is not your second cousin but is your first cousin once removed (1c1r). In turn, a child of that person (e.g., the grandchild of a first cousin) is your first cousin twice removed (1c2r), and so on (1c3r, 1c4r). Your children and the children of your 1st cousins are 2nd cousins to each other but not to you. Second cousins share the same great-grandparents (e.g., the children of your parent's first cousin). A child of your second cousin is your second cousin once removed (2c1r), and his or her child is a second cousin twice removed (2c2r), and his or her child is a second cousin twice removed (2c2r). Therefore, children of 2nd cousins are 3rd cousins to each other. Third cousins share the same great great-grandparents. Therefore your 3rd cousins' children are 4th cousins to each other. Fourth cousins share the same 3rd great-grandparents. Fourth cousins are seldom encountered because the older members of your extended family who knew about them have usually died.

Double first cousins have both sets of grandparents in common. This relationship exists by virtue of siblings in one family having children with siblings of another family. (e.g., if the brothers Doe marry the sisters Roe their children are double cousins to each other). Double cousins share all lineal and collateral ancestors, unlike regular first cousins who have one set of common ancestors.

BLACK FARMERS MADE HISTORY

Sully County was home to enclave of black pioneers

—by the Associated Press

As a little girl, Maxine LeMay remembers her grandmother telling her a story about a land so bountiful that most farmers could only dream about it. It was a place, the old woman said, where potatoes grew large enough that people had to carry them in their arms like sticks of wood. "And the weather was so perfect that farmers got two crops a year." She was talking, LeMay says, about Sully County.

That's right—a stretch of landscape in the

center of South Dakota right along the Missouri River.

But the more compelling part of the tale is that numerous black families from Missouri bought into the notion and moved there to become farmers. LeMay's great-grandfather, John McGruder, was among those pioneers.

His land now has passed into the hands of LeMay's brother, Cecil McGruder. For the first two decades of the century, the families there represented one of the largest concentrations of black people in the state.

In fact, some history books still refer to it, politically incorrect thought it may be, as the Sully County Colored Colony. It began in 1882, when two brother, P.H. and B.P. Blair, claimed land northwest of Onida, ...

Their father, a former slave named Norval Blair, came in the spring of 1883 from Morris, IL.

That ushered a gradual migration of blacks to Sully County that old-timers say numbered as many as 200. ... In 1905, John McGruder bought 1,280 acres just miles from the river for \$37,000.

...

In 1925, members of the colony owned 27 quarters of land. But because of droughts ... many of them moved to Des Moines, St. Paul, Huron, and Pierre. By 1938, the group in Sully County was down to 48 members.

Two years later, there were 18 left. Ultimately, the McGruders were about the only ones to stay.

...

These are people who are proud of their roots.

LeMay, for example, notes that she was one of the first—if not the first—black educators in South Dakota. Great-grandfather John McGruder was an educator before coming to South Dakota, too.

However, the significance of this man is not that he taught history but that he made it.

—Rapid City Journal, February 13, 1999

"Tell me the landscape in which you live, and I will tell you who you are."

—Jose Ortega y Gasset

DALE'S TRAILS

by Dale Wurts

Genealogy itself is a fascinating hobby but to me just getting names and dates isn't enough. I like to follow the local history of the time and try to imagine how it must have affected my ancestors. When you can find an article written by the people affected and the circumstances were very similar to your ancestors', just substitute names and you can go back into time.

The area in and around Pierre-Fort Pierre abounds with history. The Missouri River itself could fill volumes. We hope with this column to get some of this history out to you, maybe open another avenue to search for your relatives or to just entertain. I hated history in school, but now I read history like a story book. Boy, do times change!

I recently read a book about Scotty Phillips and how he made living expenses to keep his ranch operating by hauling freight from Fort Pierre to Deadwood. Freight by wagon was a big business before the railroads managed to cross the Mighty Missouri

Each "Bull" train unit was made up of twenty oxen harnessed to three huge wagons with wide rimmed wheels and high canvas covers. The three wagons usually hauled about eighteen thousand pounds of merchandise. About twenty such units made up a train; sometimes several trains traveled together forming a train as long as one and one half miles. Each unit had a "bull whacker" so named because he walked beside his teams with a braided leather whip about 20 feet long "whacking" at his bulls to guide and control them.

Stations were set about every twelve miles, which was the usual distance a train covered in a day. It took twenty five to thirty days to make a round trip. The Fort Pierre to Deadwood trail was surveyed by a Deputy US Surveyor in 1877, although some freight had been hauled on other routes prior to the survey.

The diary of James McGarry who was operating a store in Fort Pierre contains the following item for October 29, 1876, which gives us an insight into the size of the trains and indicates the force of the attraction of gold. "The trains start for the Black Hills. The largest train that ever left here at once—over one hundred and fifty wagons, and about four

hundred men and two women. Fort Pierre is lonely tonight—only four white men here."

Fred T. Evans started the first "bull train" from Fort Pierre to the Black Hills in 1876 hauling some mail and freight. The pony express was started that same year from Fort Laramie and Sidney, Nebraska. A stage line was started in 1876 by John Dillion, a Fort Pierre merchant. Several other freight lines operated out of Fort Pierre, too.

There were many problems on the trail; weather seemed the worst. Rain and gumbo mud could almost stop a train, and they would have to unhook and pull each other through the bad spots. In the dry summers, the dust would be bad, and feed for the oxen became scarce. Other problems were with the Indians, who would run off the livestock that weren't properly tended. The trains themselves weren't usually bothered by the Indians.

The freight was brought up river by steamers to Fort Pierre. It was not unusual to see three or four large river steamers unloading at one of the docks of the Northwestern, The Merchants, or the Evans Transportation companies at Fort Pierre. These concerns also maintained warehouses at the western end of their lines.

It is estimated that in 1883 some ten million tons of freight were handled. The volume of freight justified the building of a rail line into the Hills from the south out of the Nebraska panhandle. The railroad had eliminated the ox trains from the Fort Pierre and Chamberlain routes by 1889.

Roy Norman of the Hayes area erected signs along the trail from Fort Pierre to the Pennington County line. The signs could use some repair since this was some years ago. A good project for a worthy group. There is one of these signs on the hill just west of Fort Pierre. Stop to admire it sometime and think about the people who traveled over that trail over one hundred years ago. Was one of them a relative of yours?

Some of this information was taken from Delwin Jensen's book, *Fort Pierre—Deadwood Trail* as well as from *Heroes and Hero Tales of South Dakota* by Barrett Lowe. There is more information available at the State Archives, The State Library, and Rawlins Library. See you next quarter!

This is the first in a quarterly feature entitled Dale's Trails.

HISTORICAL RECORDS—

HUGHES COUNTY

Register of Deeds
104 E. Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-7495
Hours: 8 am - 5 pm (M - F)

BIRTH	1900 to present
DEATH	1900 to present
MARRIAGE	1900 to present
LAND	1882 to present

STANLEY COUNTY

Register of Deeds
PO Box 596, Fort Pierre, SD 57532-0596
605-223-2610
Hours: 8 am - 12 noon; 1 pm - 5 pm (M - F)

BIRTH	1877 to present
DEATH	1905 to present
MARRIAGE	1892 to present
LAND	1891 to present

SULLY COUNTY

Register of Deeds
PO Box 265, Onida, SD 57564-0265
605-258-2331
Hours: 8 am - 12 noon; 1 pm - 5 pm (M - F)

BIRTH	1905 to present
DEATH	1905 to present
MARRIAGE	1905 to present
LAND	???????

Certified copies of Birth, Death, Marriage Records are available for \$7 each; certified copies of Land Records are available for \$2 each. [Additional limitations making birth records "harder to see"

have been imposed—see article on the next page.] Regular copies of land records are \$1 each or less if only partial records. [Check with each County office regarding any other fees/restrictions.]

WEBSITES



South Dakota GenWeb	http://www.rootsweb.com/~sdgenweb/
The Genealogy Home Page	http://www.genhomepage.com/
Ancestry	http://www.ancestry.com
Swiss Genealogy Project	http://www.mindspring.com/~philipp/che.html
Civil War Historic Places	http://www.cwc.lsu.edu/links/hist.htm#cemetaries
Cyndi's List of Genealogical Sites	http://www.cyndislist.com
Vital Records	http://www.inlink.com~nomi/vitalrec/sd.html [replace "sd" with another state's abbreviation]
American Historical Society of Germans From Russia	http://www.ahsgr.org

OFFICIALS MAKE BIRTH RECORDS HARDER TO SEE

by Dan Daly, Journal Staff Writer

[The following is an excerpt from the Friday, January 8, 1999, Rapid City Journal front page article by Dan Daly regarding the 1997 state law passed to combat fraud.]

Genealogists and others who want to comb through birth records on file at the Pennington (and other) County register of deeds office now have a more difficult—and more costly—search.

Under new guidelines from State Registrar Kathleen Mueller, anyone seeking birth certificate records in South Dakota must provide the name and date of birth on the certificate and the mother's maiden name. Also, they must pay a \$7 search fee.

Mueller said the access restrictions are required by a 1997 state law passed to combat fraud.

"It's part of a national effort to control birth records. You can be open to fraudulent use any time you have people browsing through the birth certificates," Mueller said.

The same law exempts any birth record more than 100 years old, Mueller said. At that point, the records are of value to historians and genealogists researching their family history but of no use to con artists.

A criminal can do a number of things with someone else's birth certificate, from credit card fraud to avoiding felony charges. The birth certificate is the first step in creating a new identity.

...

Birth certificates of people who died young are particularly vulnerable. Computerized birth certificate records maintained by the state are supposed to indicate when the person died, ...

The search fees might be trickier for the public to accept. Such fees have been on the books for some time, Mueller said, and many counties already have been charging them.

...

Now, you pay \$7 up front, and you get a certified copy or a letter from the state registrar

telling you the record is not on file in South Dakota. Since the start registrar's office now conducts a follow-up search, ... you do get more research for the \$7.

...

The register of deeds won't get any complaints from Audrey Balcom or Eka Parkison, veteran genealogists and members of the Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research.

Parkison, the society's research secretary, said there are other ways to get information, including records from the U.S. Census Bureau, which are opened to public inspection after 72 years. ...

Also, Parkison has painstakingly indexed a variety of news items from back issues of the Rapid City Journal, beginning with the first edition in 1878. ...

"There are very few states in the union where you can get the information without paying. ... A good many want at least \$10," said Balcom, ...

—Rapid City Journal, January 8, 1999

NOTES FROM RICHARD POPP—

- ⇒ A total of eight (8) cartons of "treasures" were transported to the Archives following the summer cleaning of the collections of the Pierre-Fort Pierre Genealogical Society. Over 160 telephone books were sorted through—70 were needed to "fill in the gaps" in the Archives' collection. Also, some 25 other volumes of books, directories, etc., were placed on the Archives' shelves.
- ⇒ Regarding the opening of the Archives on the first Saturday of each month, the staff notes a strong response from the Pierre area people. Plans are to continue with this new policy of the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.—even on July 3 and September 4. The staff is pleased that they are able to provide better service with less interruptions. Society members are encouraged to utilize the Archives for personal and Society work.

[Perhaps a Society monthly meeting could be scheduled there giving the members an update on new holdings or a topic of interest????]

LIBRARY HOURS—

RAWLINS LIBRARY

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 9 pm
Friday 9 am - 6 pm
Saturday 10 am - 6 pm
Sunday 1 pm - 5 pm

STATE LIBRARY

Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm
Saturday - Sunday Closed

STATE ARCHIVES

Monday - Friday 9 am - 4:30 pm
First Saturday of each month 9 am - 4:30 pm

PIERRE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

Tuesday 1 pm - 5 pm
Wednesday 1 pm - 9 pm
Thursday - Friday 7 pm - 9 pm
Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

[Closed on holidays—please check schedule.]

IRISH TRADITIONS FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Millions of Irish were forced to immigrate to North America, Australia, and New Zealand in the 18th and 19th centuries. If your ancestors were among them, you can start tracing your roots at IRISH FAMILY HISTORY FOUNDATION, [Use www.irish-roots.net], which has access to tens of millions of birth, death, and property records from both the Republic and Northern Ireland. An initial search can cost as little as £50 (approximately \$70 U.S.), with a comprehensive family report starting at £150 (\$210 U.S.). For American Irish-Catholics, the ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS [Use www.aoh.com] is also a good starting point for researching family heritage, with a list of genealogy sites and centers in both the U.S. and Ireland.

—YAHOO! Internet Life, March 1999

PIERRE-FORT PIERRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 925, PIERRE, SD 57501-0925

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ COUNTY _____ STATE _____ ZIP + 4 _____

TELEPHONE (HOME) _____ (WORK) _____

FAX _____ E-MAIL _____

Surnames Being Researched—

Brief Statement of Current Status and/or Focus of Research—

DUES _____ Individual (\$10)
_____ Family (\$12)

CALENDAR

January 19

MONTHLY MEETING!!!

LDS Church, 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

Black History Month

February 16

MONTHLY MEETING!!!

Rawlins Library, Norbeck-Wegner Room, 7:30 p.m.

Electing officers, planning for 1999, and sharing anecdotes!

MARCH

Women's History Month

March 16

MONTHLY MEETING!!!

7:30 p.m., Location TBA!

April 20

MONTHLY MEETING!!!

7:30 p.m., Location TBA!

April 23-24, 1999

1999 South Dakota Genealogical Society Annual Meeting

"Discover The Past In Documents," Ramkota RiverCentre, Pierre



"Genealogy is like love! It's best when shared with another."

Newsletter

July 1999

Volume 22, Number 3

EDITOR'S CORNER

- The Pierre-Fort Pierre Genealogical Society continues to grow! See the membership list elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Please update your membership information by completing the coupon included in this issue; the Board is interested in e-mail addresses and fax numbers.
- Plans are to include a Member Feature in the newsletter. In order to obtain information in a uniform manner from Society members, a questionnaire has been developed.
- The Rawlins Library in Pierre is closed until Friday, October 1, while an asbestos contractor works to remove ceiling acoustical material containing asbestos and to replace it with new acoustical material. Prior to its closing on August 5, area 'book lovers' stocked up for the long two-month period.

1999 OFFICERS

President	Beverly Huckins
Vice President	Charles Sisk
Secretary	Christine Dierks
Treasurer	Tina Manning
Board Member	Laura Glum
Board Member	Richard Phillips

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 605-224-7554 (W)

[Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month (except December) at 7 or 7:30 p.m. at locations announced via newspaper articles and/or library postings.]

CATCHING UP WITH THE PAST—

"Catching up with the past" was the headline of an interesting article by Jill Callison in the Argus Leader of Sunday, August 8, 1999. The article related the experiences of the two-year old Kingsbury County Genealogical Society.

The article stated, "As a hobby—ranked third in the nation in popularity—genealogy can be as time-consuming and expensive as you want to make it, ..." "But it can also be extremely satisfying, especially that 'A-ha!' moment when an oft-told morsel of family lore is verified or a missing link in the family chain completed."

The article included numerous websites as well as some tips for genealogists, as follows:

- ◆ Always note the source of information that you record or photocopy. Don't forget to date it. Also, note where you found the source.
- ◆ Make backups of your computer discs.
- ◆ Remember, just because information is in print, it isn't necessarily fact.
- ◆ Mail order promotions usually are little more than lists of names from phone directories.
- ◆ Modern meanings may be different. In the 17th century a stepchild often was called a "son- or daughter-in-law" and a "cousin" could refer to almost any relative except a sibling or a child.
- ◆ It's not unusual to find conflicting information. For example, a birthdate on a gravestone might be different from a birthdate told to you by a family member. In fact, both could be wrong.

Source: The British Columbia Genealogist

A Genealogist is

A genealogist must have the patience of Job, the curiosity of a cat, the stubbornness of a mule, the eyesight of an eagle, be blessed with the luck of the Irish, and have the ability and stamina of a camel to go long hours without food or drink!

(Source: THE HERALD, Vol. 18, No. 3/4, 1995)

USING LAND RECORDS FOR GENEALOGY RESEARCH

"You are more likely to find the names of your ancestors in land records than in census lists," according to Lorraine Kintz, a licensed abstractor since 1991. Lorraine explained, at the July meeting of the Pierre-Fort Pierre Genealogical Society, that our ancestor immigrants often owned land at times when there was no census taken. A family history can be completed by following the trail they left in the county courthouse records as they moved across the country. In many instances, land deeds may be the only source of a wife's name she explained. She provided copies of early Stanley County deeds which contained information about the grantor and grantee not found in modern land transfers.

Our ancestors usually came to America to own a piece of land, which was a symbol of wealth and prestige in their homelands. Homestead laws, railroad townsites, and other land schemes in the 1800s created an abundance of land transfers, all recorded at the register of deeds office. Opportunities and misfortune led to frequent changes in locations with corresponding land transfers.

Kintz explained that a knowledge of terms is important before beginning a search of the land records. She explained that land transfers in the original colonies used a method called "metes and bounds" which described the land by references to landmarks. Unfortunately, the "large oak tree" or "large gray boulder" or "the creek" used to define a boundary could be destroyed, moved, or changed.

To make land descriptions more permanent, the United States adopted the rectangular survey system in 1784. First used in Ohio, it describes land areas in 1-mile squares called "sections." Thirty-six sections make up a "township," which is generally six miles by six miles. Their location is referenced by the distance from baseline meridians. "Government lots" and "correction lines" are used to take into account the discrepancies caused by the curvature of the earth.

Ownership of land outside the original colonies begins with a "patent" issued by the U.S. government. The land is then transferred by "warranty" or "quit-claim deeds" from the seller to the buyer. The seller is referred to as the "grantor" and the purchaser as the "grantee." Rights to underlying minerals may be

transferred by a "mineral deed," which does not affect the right to use the surface. Other transfers may include "cemetery deeds," "right-of-way deeds," and "trust deeds." Land given as security for loans are recorded as "mortgages" and "deeds of trust."

Kintz recommended several Internet sites as sources for more detailed information on terms used in land records. The Bureau of Land Management maintains an Internet database with the homestead claims and Indian allotments. She advised that 1850 is the oldest land records for South Dakota which entered the Union as part of the Minnesota Territory. Kintz had obtained copies of the Charles Ingalls South Dakota homestead records from the National Archives website.

The register of deeds office maintains a "grantor/grantee" index. Because it is a chronological list of land transfers, indexed by last name, it will take some time because each line must be examined to determine name of the individuals involved. From the index, a volume number and page of the deed book can be obtained, and the deed book will contain the copy of the document.

Because the 'register' was not chosen for handwriting ability, the older records, which were hand-copied, may be difficult to decipher. Changes in county boundaries will sometimes necessitate a search in two or more county records. The LDS Family History Center has microfilmed many county land records and may be the resource necessary to find a specific land record.

Lorraine explained how she put her knowledge of land records to work when she began her genealogy research in 1996. Kintz urged the group not to overlook land records when doing genealogy research. Not only do the records provide valuable information, but they will often lead to other records, i.e., probate and court records, voter lists, tax lists, that may give additional family names and facts.

—reported by Lary Zastrow

Editor's Note: The timeliness of this speaker was most appropriate as the *Heritage Quest* May/June 1999 periodical cover articles were listed under the heading

Land & Property

Federal Military Bounty Lands

The Role of State Revolutionary Land Files in
Genealogical Research

Federal Land Records, Send Me the Case Files!

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The persons listed below have paid Society dues for 1999!

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Rick Lancaster
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Tina Manning
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Del Paulson
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Pierre, SD 57501

Richard Phillips
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Pierre, SD 57501-0032

Richard Popp
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Pierre, SD 57501

Roger and Ardis Ruark
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Pierre, SD 57501

Phyllis Schamens
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Pierre, SD 57501

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Genevieve P. Ziegler
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Pierre, SD 57501

**Please advise of any
corrections to addresses!**

LIBRARY HOURS

RAWLINS LIBRARY

Monday-Thursday 9 am - 9 pm
Friday 9 am - 6 pm
Saturday 10 am - 6 pm
Sunday 1 pm - 5 pm

STATE LIBRARY

Monday-Friday 8 am - 5 pm
Saturday-Sunday Closed

STATE ARCHIVES

Monday-Friday 9 am - 4:30 pm
First Sat./Month 9 am - 4:30 pm

FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

Tuesday 1 pm - 5 pm
Wednesday 1 pm - 9 pm
Thursday-Friday 7 pm - 9 pm
Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

[Closed on holidays—
please check schedule.]

Dale's Trails

Dakota Cowboys

by
Dale Wurts and Carol Jennings

Many, many great stories have been written about the cowboys of the past. Louis L'Amour is a popular, well known writer, as was Ned Buntline, in fact, Ned Buntline helped to make Wild Bill Hickock famous. Many movies have been made about the West, one of my favorite cowboy actors is John Wayne. Most of the writers of western stories make the cowboy out to be a romantic and daring individual. He could shoot, ride and cuss with the best, and was always a lady's man, although not always a gentleman. Some were good and some were bad, but all were cowboys. It is almost as if the whole west was won and settled with cowboys. There is an old saying "a cowboy's a man with guts and a horse"!

Our Grandpa Matt Ellerton was a cowboy, too, but he didn't receive much recognition for this. His claim to fame was riding for Scotty Philip on the last big roundup in 1904. This roundup was mainly along the Bad River and would reach down to the White River. He broke horses for Scotty some place "up the Bad River." It was during this time that he received a bad rope burn on his left hand, which developed blood poisoning. He had to ride his horse to the doctor in Pierre, and it left him with a stiff finger.

Most of the "cowboy" activity took place west of the Missouri River where the large cattle ranches were located. This area had Indians, cattle, wolves, coyotes, wildcats, beaver and rattlesnakes. Cowboy life was not at all glamorous. Most of the work was hard involving long days in the saddle, sleeping on the ground, and being out in all kinds of weather. Most of the time, the cowboy was alone but at times, several men would work together, except during the roundup, which could involve up to 25 men.

Cowboys were just like everyone else but there seems not to have been many fat ones. Maybe this was because cow horses didn't like fat cowboys. Cowboys were all shapes and sizes, short or tall, generous or stingy, handsome or ugly, smart or ignorant. Most carried a six-shooter, and the ones that

didn't carry a gun were probably good cowboys, too. The few who sported two six-shooters were show-offs. Many were good shots and some could not hit a barrel from inside. Most cowboys were at least fair riders, and some were very good. Some didn't dare let a horse buck; in fact, it was said that some couldn't ride a post. So some cowboys weren't good cowboys.

We like to imagine how our Grandfather lived when he was a working for Scotty Philip. So we have picked up several books from the State Library to get some idea about life as a cowboy.

It appears that the workday started about daylight and ended the same way—working every day of the week. If they were working at the ranch headquarters or on a roundup, they would probably get three meals a day. If they were out riding the edges of the ranch before there were fences, they probably only ate night and morning when they were at camp. One cowboy when asked if they served good food at the ranch, replied, "they served two suppers every night, one just before dark and one just before daylight."

Some of the men owned their own horse, but usually the horses were provided by the ranchers. Each cowboy had his favorite horse, depending on the work he was doing. A horse's disposition determined the work it would do. Some horses were good for roping, some better at cutting out a critter from a herd, some were just a natural at night riding, especially during roundups.

We wonder about some of the little things of life. What about laundry? We would think underwear would get pretty crusty after a few days; maybe they didn't wear underwear. Just think, no hot showers, no clean clothes every morning, no refrigerator, no electricity! They couldn't run to the store to get a few groceries; it would probably take several days just to get to town.

We would like to get a first-hand view of the life they lived. We are sure they were just as happy as we are now, and maybe even more content. But we will still take our life today, as we are sitting in Dale's well lighted, air conditioned office at his computer, listening to the radio, and enjoying a cup of coffee from his automatic coffee maker.

The information for this article was taken from the Wurts genealogy, *The Old Time Cowboy*, by Ramon Frederick Adams, *Dakota Cowboy* by Ike Blasingame, and *Scotty Philip* by Wayne C. Lee.

This is the third in a quarterly feature.

HISTORICAL RECORDS—

HUGHES COUNTY

Register of Deeds
104 E. Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-7495
Hours: 8 am - 5 pm (M - F)

STANLEY COUNTY

Register of Deeds
PO Box 596, Fort Pierre, SD 57532-0596
605-223-2610
Hours: 8 am - 12 noon; 1 pm - 5 pm (M - F)

SULLY COUNTY

Register of Deeds
PO Box 265, Onida, SD 57564-0265
605-258-2331
Hours: 8 am - 12 noon; 1 pm - 5 pm (M - F)

BIRTH	1900 to present
DEATH	1900 to present
MARRIAGE	1900 to present
LAND	1882 to present

BIRTH	1877 to present
DEATH	1905 to present
MARRIAGE	1892 to present
LAND	1891 to present

BIRTH	1905 to present
DEATH	1905 to present
MARRIAGE	1905 to present
LAND	???????

Certified copies of Birth, Death, Marriage Records are available for \$7 each; certified copies of Land Records are available for \$2 each. Regular copies of land records are \$1 each or less if only partial records. Remember, additional limitations making birth records "harder to see" have recently been imposed. Check with your County offices regarding these restrictions as well as any other fees.

WEBSITES



US GenWeb Project
South Dakota GenWeb
Rootsweb
The Genealogy Home Page
Ancestry
Swiss Genealogy Project
Civil War Historic Places
Cyndi's List
National Genealogical Society
Federation of Genealogical Societies
Switchboard
Broderbund
AHS of Germans From Russia
Church of Jesus Christ LDS
National Archives and Records Admin.
Birth Records (with birthdates
of over 100 years)

<http://www.usgenweb.org>
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~sdgenweb/>
<http://www.rootsweb.com>
<http://www.genhomepage.com/>
<http://www.ancestry.com>
<http://www.mindspring.com/~philipp/che.html>
<http://www.cwc.lsu.edu/links/hist.htm#cemetaries>
<http://www.cyndislist.com>
<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>
<http://www.fgs.org>
<http://www.switchboard.com>
<http://www.genealogy.com>
<http://www.ahsgr.org>
<http://www.familysearch.org>
<http://www.nara.gov>
[http://www.state.sd.us/doh/vitalrec/birthrecords/
index.cfm](http://www.state.sd.us/doh/vitalrec/birthrecords/index.cfm)

DATABASES OF THE DEAD

by Erik Davis

Twenty-two miles southeast of Salt Lake City, buried deep in the ragged rock of Utah's Wasatch Range, lies a catacomb of names. Behind 700 feet of granite lies the world's largest collection of genealogical material: more than 2 million microfilm reels of parish records, marriage indexes, necrologies, census reports, pilgrim registers, and piles of other documents—some dating back to the Middle Ages—around 2 billion names.

Copies of its holdings are available to all comers, no charge, at Salt Lake City's Family History Library. Amateur and professional genealogists, regardless of faith, are free to search the materials, including the Ancestral File, a computerized database of family trees and the International Genealogical Index (IGI), which includes a whopping 300 million names. Mormon missionaries bearing microfilm cameras began trawling the world for records in 1938. Thirty years later church technicians started plugging names into IBM mainframes. In 1969, the church's Genealogical Society automated the submission and clearing of names. These records eventually grew into the International Genealogical Index with the 300 million names. Volunteers have also been manually inputting documents, especially vital records related to births, christenings, and marriages. Extracting the 50 million names from the 1880 US Census, has involved more than 20,000 inputters.

Until recently none of this data was available online. That is, until the April 1, 1999, launch of a Web site called FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service. FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org) will provide full access to the catalog of the Family History Library, the Ancestral File, and most of the IGI. For now, users can't obtain copies of original documents. Genealogists assume that the church is gearing up to put primary records online.

FamilySearch comes at a time when general interest in genealogy is booming. Genealogy has quietly become a national compulsion. In a recent survey, nearly half those Americans interviewed expressed interest in their roots, and some 7 percent were hardcore researchers and genealogy has become one of the most popular online activities.

Computers have been vital in making genealogy more popular. PCs have helped organize and speed up much of the laborious paper work, CD-ROMs have given researchers access to huge holdings, and the Internet has vastly expanded the reach of individual

sleuths. The vast majority of the Net's data remains free. A prime example of this spirit is USGenWeb, a grassroots and very loosely organized effort to digitize genealogical data for every county in the US.

Online genealogy is a vast trove of give-it away operations mixed with increasingly visible for-profit enterprises. Commercial players are changing the ecology of Internet family history, generating a now familiar tug-of-war involving producers, consumers, and advocates for free and open information. At the same time, there's simply too much valuable stuff out there for any single company or organization to manage it all. With the Mormons throwing free data around, and with massive volunteer projects like USGenWeb continuing to grow, genealogy will probably retain its free spirit as commercial firms serve up juicy databases.

Ancestry, a commercial company, is also tapping the energies of the genealogical community with its free World Tree database. World Tree is a lineage-linked system that accepts family trees from whoever wants to upload them. Databases like World Tree are a great place to find distant cousins, which is not as trivial a feat as it may sound. The Internet creates the virtual reconnection of extended families, e.g., MyFamily.com, a site that provides space for virtual reunions. Internet technology may be able to mend some of the family ties that technology has otherwise torn apart in our highly mobile society.

The genealogical possibilities of the Internet seem limitless. The Net may eventually host a giant family tree linking all family trees, each maintained by individual researchers. However, online pedigree charts need to be permanently marked with source data. In online genealogy's next evolution, the scanned images of actual records will be available, along with the indexes and intelligent agents to search and organize those records. The Family History Technology lab at BYU is working on hand-printed-character recognition, digital document management, and homegrown algorithms capable of organizing the information on a wide variety of image files.

Technology will play a pivotal role in genealogy, to insure the information is properly tied together, is properly recognized, and that we have records of how it all fits together. One sure sign of the fullness of times, it seems, is the fullness of databases.

—abstracted by Lary Zastrow
from *WIRED* 7.07 Magazine, July 1999



**BROWSING
THE GENEALOGY LIBRARY**

by Bev Huckins

The books on Century pioneers and Century Farms provide interesting reading. We have the books from Iowa and Minnesota on CENTURY FARMS as well as the South Dakota publication.

In addition, we have copies of certificates presented to descendants of Pierre-area pioneers—those who lived in the Pierre area of South Dakota at some time before 1890. This book contains family pedigrees and a copy of the certificate for the following pioneers: Jacob Mathews, Frank W. Edson, John E. Williams, Frank W. Lillibridge, James W. Morse, Agnes M. Brown (maiden name Agnes M. Paradis), Willie A. King, Franklin W. Cilley, and Sarah A. Bradley.

“Tell me the landscape in which you live, and I will tell you who you are.” —Jose Ortega y Gasset

LOOSE ZIPS CAN SINK GENEALOGY SHIPS

Internet versions of the Social Security Death Master File (SSDMF) are very popular. Try this new site <<http://www.genealogy.com>>. One item included is the decedent's last residence. The SSDMF identifies residence by ZIP code. These codes were implemented 1 July 1963. Internet indexes usually convert the ZIP into a locality name. (The U.S. Postal Service provides a file of current ZIP codes and the locations they cover.) This conversion helps illustrate a basic genealogy rule: “know the context in which the record was created.”

What can be wrong with the ZIP code? (1) it may have been incorrectly recorded or invalid for the time of death—there have been no Social Security Administration validation efforts; (2) it may have been abandoned and later used for a different location; (3) its zone boundary may have been realigned; (4) it may encompass more than one town; (5) it may cross state boundaries (trivia—which ones do?); and (6) it may be one of approximately 1.5% SSDMF ZIP codes that can't be converted because it isn't in the U.S. Postal Service ZIP file.

A residence name in a Social Security Death Index is a conversion, at the time the index was created, of the ZIP code to a place name. It may not be the actual place. Think of it as a pointer to where you may find the original death record.

Written by **Brian Bonner Mavrogeorge**, mavrogeorge@genealogysf.com. Previously published by RootsWeb Genealogical Data Cooperative, RootsWeb Review, Vol. 2, No. 18, 5 May 1999. Please visit RootsWeb's main Web page at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/>>.

**PIERRE-FORT PIERRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 925, PIERRE, SD 57501-0925**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ COUNTY _____ STATE _____ ZIP + 4 _____

TELEPHONE (HOME) _____ (WORK) _____

FAX _____ E-MAIL _____

Surnames Being Researched—

Brief Statement of Current Status and/or Focus of Research—

DUES _____ Individual (\$10) _____ Family (\$12)

CALENDAR

Aug 17 **Monthly Meeting—PICNIC—6 p.m.—Steamboat Park**
“We’ll Talk About Reunions!”

Sep 2 **Board Meeting**

Sep 6 **Labor Day!**

Sep 17-18 **Fall Seminar 99 in Rapid City [See attached flyer!]**

Sep 21 **Monthly Meeting**
“At The Archives” with Richard Popp

Oct **Next newsletter publication (4th of the year)**

Oct 19 **Monthly Meeting**

Nov 16 **Monthly Meeting**

Happy Holidays! See you in January 2000!

“Genealogy is like love! It’s best when shared with another.”

PIERRE-FORT PIERRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 925
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