

Norman County Genealogy Society
Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2006

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Norman County Genealogy Society was called to order by Shirley Rock, Vice-President at 10:30 am on September 16, 2006 at the Norman County Historical Society's Log Museum in Ada, MN.

Present:

Ardis Horn, Shirley Rockstad, Pat Thompson and Marijo Vik.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting were read. There were no corrections and the minutes stand approved as read.

Treasurer's Report

Ardis Horn, Treasurer, stated that the balance in the checking account is \$946.57 and all bills have been paid.

The treasurer's report is approved as read.

Correspondence and Queries

August 20, 2006 – an e-mail from Deb saying that she had forwarded the e-mail from Becker County Historical Society e-mail to Solveig Kitchell.

August 23, 2006 – an e-mail query from Tom Hughes regarding John Tox m. Elizabeth Bakke July 15, 1891 in Shelley, MN.

August 23, 2006 – three e-mails from Margit in response to John Hughes' query.

August 24, 2006 – an e-mail from Colleen in response to John Hughes.

August 25, 2006 – an e-mail from Jackie Marler stating that because of her health, she would not be able make a presentation at our planned workshop in October.

September 1, 2006 – an e-mail from Colleen asking for information pertaining to a query from Anne Hendrickson concerning Olaf H. and Anna Hendrickson. Shirley has contacted Katherine Larson, a member of Sundal Lutheran Church, who will look for photos in their church books.

September 14, 2006 – an e-mail from Margit saying she had Volumes 9 and 10 to deliver to Twin Valley.

September 14, 2006 – an e-mail stating that mail was undeliverable to teri.smith@vcsu.edu

Pat received a visit from a woman from Clearbrook searching for information on the Herberg family. Pat took them to the family farm.

Pat helped with research on the Shirley Lee Meshefski and Alfred Lee families.

Ardis Horn received a query regarding Fred Bucher last month. She was able to find an obituary, and in a plat book she located where he had lived. She will respond to him that a copy of the death certificate must be obtained from Norman County.

The family history received from Barb Raaen for the Halvorson/Waller family will be filed at the Log Museum in the family history drawers.

Ongoing Projects

- . Pat Thompson is still working on the “Skaurud Funeral Books.” The information recorded to date has been posted on our website. Pat brought the Skaurud Funeral Books to the Log Museum. She states that everything is not on the computer/website except 1940-1948. Pat’s computer “crashed” but she has hard copies of these pages. *This item is still open.*
- . Pat and Deb are working on the cemetery book for Augustana. This is a long-term project which may take several years for completion. *This item is still open.*
- . Roger is still working on compiling “Good Old Days” from the Twin Valley Times newspaper, similar to the work he just completed from the Norman County Index. **SEPTEMBER UPDATE:** Marijo will check with Roger to see what the progress is on this project. *This item is still open.*
- . Roger has permission to make copies of the obituaries in the 1999 issues of the Twin Valley Times (we had very few of these obits.) They may charge for each copy. **SEPTEMBER UPDATE:** Marijo will check with Roger to see what the progress is on this project. *This item is still open.*
- . Marie Orvik obtained a copy of the Ada Cemetery plot map from Ada City Hall. These show the grave sites and the names on each. Audrey

Thomas, Librarian, laminated the sheets, which will be kept in our records at the Log Museum. Marijo volunteered to make an index of names for easy look-up. Rather than “starting from scratch,” it was suggested that Marijo contact Fredrikson Funeral Home to see if they have a listing of all those buried in the Ada Cemetery. Marijo called Fredrickson Funeral Home, spoke to Mike Ganje and learned that the funeral home has no record of who is buried in the Ada Cemetery. He said we’ll have to go the City of Ada and type from their index card records. Of course, this will have to be done during the business hours when the city offices are open. Deb said she could take her laptop there, but it would have to wait until school year is done and summer vacation begins. Colleen Goltz spoke to Shirley to tell her that Colleen and Warren are ready to get started on reading the gravestones. Shirley directed Colleen to Roland for the laminated maps of the cemetery. Shirley gave Roland an envelope of obits cut from the newspapers. These are to be used by the people who will be working on “reading” the Ada Cemetery stones. Roland will keep until we know who will be on this project. We still don’t know who will be working on this project. The envelope was given to Roger and he will check it against obits that he currently has. Marijo received an e-mail from Colleen Goltz dated July 9, 2006 which states: “I won’t be able to attend however you can report that Warren and I have started on the Ada Cemetery project. After we get more names I will need people to help do some research on the people or if they know the family, provide the information about the family.” *This item is still open.*

- . Roland is working on a project to gather genealogical information on all Civil War veterans in Norman County. He showed photocopies of original documents that he’s received from the National Archives Trust Fund, Washington, D.C. He went online and printed Form 86 which is used to order the information. The cost is \$17 per individual ordered, no matter how much information is sent. To assist Roland, Roger will send a list of individuals that he has in his database so that Roland can check it against the list he is using. *This item is still open.*
- . Roland suggested that we advertise to get donations of old phone books. It was suggested that we ask our own members if they have old phone books from the 20’s, 30’s, 40’s and 50’s (or later up to the current day.) Marijo will make mention of this in the March newsletter. Betty Lou Peterson made a donation of several items for our research collection, including: 1975 Halstad telephone directory, a church bulletin created for the United States Bicentennial; an old

Halstad city map, a program for the 81st Tournament of Roses (1970), Norman County Plat Books for 1950 and 1952.

SEPTEMBER UPDATE: Marijo will place an ad in the Index requesting funeral folders, obituaries, church books or anything else of genealogical value which might be thrown in a house-cleaning.

This item is still open.

Old Business

- . The discussion continued about obtaining additional bookshelf or storage space at the Log Museum. Could we have more space for a bookshelf near our current bookshelf? Or should we put a bookshelf upstairs? Or in back? Or do we want a bookshelf at all? Do we merely want the plastic storage boxes? It was suggested that we should ask members of the Historical Society about the space we are allowed to use. Not much will be done on this until we can get back into the Log Museum in May. The piece of furniture that was in the area next to the current bookshelf has been moved and it might now be possible to place a bookshelf there. It was discussed but nothing was decided at this meeting. Shirley spoke to Aldon Anderson, President of the Norman County Historical Society, about placing another bookshelf next to the current one. Aldon said he saw no problem with this. Rollie volunteered to duplicate the current bookshelf, but it would not be done until later year. Shirley moved and Ardis seconded that we reimburse Rollie for any materials purchased for the bookshelf and that we pay Solveig Kitchell for do the rosemaking. Approved. Rollie will consult with Solveig regarding colors and doing the rosemaking. *This item is still open.*
- . Roland feels we need to find a way to get more attendance at our meetings. Perhaps advertising that we'll have coffee and cookies! Rollie suggested that perhaps we could organize a genealogy workshop to bring people to a meeting and generate interest in genealogy. The discussion revolved around teaching people how to use the internet and other resources for research. It was suggested there might be three break-out sessions: One at the library showing them resources on the internet through the library system and the hard copies contained in our local library; Another at the high school computer lab, which might be an opportunity to bring in students; Another at the Log Museum to demonstrate all the resources we currently have available. The sessions could be conducted in 1 hour increments conducted three times so participants could attend one, then move to the next and to the next. Refreshments could be served. Marijo volunteered to contact Jackie Marler of Fargo who is

the genealogist for the Hallinglag. Another suggestion is someone from the Church of the Latter Day Saints. We could also have Lyle and Kay Nelson show and talk about their bunads/regional clothing. Perhaps we could tie this event to the suggestion about students competing in a genealogy research project and written report. The date suggested for the event is October 21st, which would be our regular October meeting. We could advertise heavily in all the local newspapers. More planning will be reported at the August meeting. Jackie Marler responded and has agreed to conduct a one-hour workshop. Her e-mail of July 18th stated: *"I would be interested in talking about the resources of the Hallinglag and Red River Valley Genealogical Society and I think I could easily do one hour. I am not a truly technical computer person, so I don't know if I am your best choice for your chosen theme or not. I use my computers a lot but I'm no wizard. Would the computers for the attendees be internet capable? How many people attend your workshop typically? I am willing if you would be happy with my capabilities."* Marijo made a motion and Ardis seconded that we pay Jackie Marler a \$50 stipend for her workshop presentation. Motion carried. We will call the one-hour workshop "Introduction to Genealogy" and it will be held at the Log Museum on Saturday, October 21st from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. We will serve coffee (in Styrofoam cups) and members will provide home-made cookies. We will have a sign-up sheet for a workshop on genealogy using computer research. We will also have a drawing with the winner getting help on research back 5 generations. Marijo will write up an article and get it to Rollie for publication in the Norman County Index, Twin Valley Times and the Valley Journal. **SEPTEMBER UPDATE:** Because Jackie Marler is now unable to present at our planned workshop (see correspondence) we discussed who else might be found on such short notice. Ardis had a mailing from Minnesota State University – Moorhead for the 31st Annual Family History Workshop being presented October 7, 2006. She suggested that we might contact someone on that program who might be interested in helping us with our workshop. Shirley also mentioned that in her e-mail, Jackie Marler offered to help find someone else. Marijo will contact Jackie to see if she can suggest any one else who could help. If we can't get anyone for October, we will try to hold the workshop at our meeting on May 19, 2007. There was a discussion about paying mileage in addition to the agreed upon stipend. Marijo will contact Duane Stordahl regarding getting the heat turned on in the Log Museum for our October meeting/workshop. She will also ask about tables and chairs. Ardis will bring coffee and will purchase

Styrofoam cups and napkins. Cookies will be supplied by Pat, Shirley and Roland. *This item is still open.*

- . Deb said that the 2005 obituaries have been “pasted up” and delivered to Roger last week. He has created an index of all names and continues to work on getting a new binder created. Per Deb Jacobson, a master index has been printed. 200+ pages have been scanned to CD – Deb has four binders from Roland – We may be able to put the pages in plastic protector sheets and put in binder after our June meeting. Roger has printed the 2005 obits and Deb was creating a book for Shelley. However, she ran out of sheet protectors. She’ll purchase more and we can work in June to complete books for the Ada Library, Twin Valley, and the Log Museum. Deb purchased the sheet protectors and the books will be assembled after the meeting is adjourned. Shirley will take Volume 12 to Twin Valley. Shirley went to Twin Valley to deliver the pages for Volume 1A, and discovered that Volumes 1A, 9 and 10 are missing. Several phone calls were made, but no one there knew what had happened to the missing volumes. The question is, who is responsible to replace this information for Twin Valley? Them or the Norman County Genealogy Society? Deb suggested that Shirley talk to Roger to see if Volumes 9 and 10 had actually been delivered to Twin Valley -- They had not. However, Volume 1A is still missing. Pat moved and Shirley seconded that the first obituary binder would be provided free of charge. Any replacements would be charged at a rate of \$0.10 per photocopy and the plastic sheet protectors and binder would be an extra cost. An explanation of this decision would be provided to the receiving organization either orally or by a note in the binder when it is delivered. Motion passed. *This item is still open.*
- . Deb has put CDs for the obituaries at the Log Museum. However, they are in PDF format (from Adobe) and the computer does not have the software to read the files. The software cannot be downloaded to that computer because we don’t have an internet connection. Marijo will write to Colleen Goltz to see if she has a copy of the software that could be loaded on this computer. Marijo will also check to see if there is any other way to obtain this software, i.e. downloading and copying to a CD. Marijo copied a download to a CD, but when she tried to copy it to the computer at the Log Museum, it would not download. *This item is still open.*
- . People representing the Ada-Borup High School met to discuss landscaping to be done around the school buildings. It was suggested by our members that when the landscaping plans are

- finalized, the Society make a monetary donation to help with the costs of plantings. All agreed. **SEPTEMBER UPDATE:** Shirley questioned this discussion and decision. She feels we need clarification on this item. *This item is still open.*
- . Roland Carpenter suggested that we offer cash prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25 to 7th Grade students who would work to research and compile local genealogy. We could work with History or English teachers to set this project up in the local schools. Several teacher's names were mentioned. Shirley Rockstad moved and Pat Thompson seconded that we table the suggestion. All agreed. *This item is still open.*
 - . Shirley Rockstad has compared Obit Vol. 3.1 and 3.2 to those same volumes in the Library and they are not the same. She will check further. **SEPTEMBER UPDATE:** Shirley found which pages were missing at the Log Museum and they have been copied and replaced. *This item is closed.*
 - . Roland explained that there is a ceremony performed by the American Legion for the last Civil War veteran in a county. Evan Larson, the last Civil War veteran in Norman County died May 19, 1939 and is interred in the Halstad South Cemetery. Roland will contact the American Legion and complete the necessary forms. A copy will be sent to Deb as she may know family members who could be notified of the date and time for the ceremony. Pat will check to make sure Evan Larson's grave is found and marked. *This item is still open.*

New Business:

- . Shirley will schedule a meeting room at the Dekko for our winter meetings (November, January, February, March and April). We do not meet in December.

Adjournment:

- . The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am by Shirley Rockstad, Vice-President. The next meeting is scheduled for 10:30 am on October 21, 2006 at the Log Museum.

Minutes submitted by: *Marijo Vik*, Secretary