

**Norman County Genealogy Society**  
REVISED Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2007

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Norman County Genealogy Society was called to order by Roland Carpenter, President, at 10:40 am on November 17, 2007 at the Summerfield Apartments in Ada, MN.

**Present:**

Roland Carpenter, Ardis Horn, Deb Jacobson, Shirley Rockstad, DeFloren Rude, Edna Rude and Marijo Vik.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the October meeting were read. There were no corrections and the minutes stand approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ardis Horn, Treasurer, stated that the balance in the checking account remains at \$1,041.67 since there has been no activity in the account.

**Correspondence and Queries received since the last meeting**

10/22/07 e-mail sent to Colleen Goltz from Sandra Marie Stennes Weaver requesting information about Elizabeth and Theodore O. Stennes. She wants to purchase a copy of the "History of the Augustana Congregation." Deb esponded to Colleen on the availability of the History of the Augustana Congregation..suggested that someone make a copy of it since there is a copy at the Shelly Museum.

10/22/07 e-mail sent to Colleen Goltz from Lavone Erickson regarding Pleasant View Cemetery. Deb responded to Colleen about the Pleasant View Cemetery and suggested they contact Bob Poehler who is one of the people in charge there. She sent his address and phone number.

10/27/07 e-mail sent to Colleen Goltz from Sandra Marie Stennes Weaver regarding Sjur and Serina Stennes History book. Deb responded to Colleen about the Sjur Stennes History book and suggested they check at the library in Ada because at one time there had a copy there. But it may have been destroyed in the last flood.

11/03/07 e-mail sent to Marijo Vik from Jean Anderson regarding Martha Sandvold. Deb and Margit responded to the inquiry. In return, Ms. Anderson sent photos of a church as well as several photos of various people. The people could not be identified by anyone at the meeting. However, Deb identified the church in her photos as East Marsh River at Anthony.

11/03/07 e-mail from Connie Benson to Colleen Goltz regarding information about the M.E. Cemetery, Halstad where she had relatives buried. Pat Thompson has followed up on that request.

11/06/07 e-mail sent to Colleen Goltz from Joann Hagenston Porter regarding a newspaper article about Ida Hagenston, daughter of Peter Hagenston and wife of Christ Menge.

Edna has received two letters (one from Texas and one from Ohio) asking for genealogy help, to which she is responding.

### **Ongoing Projects**

The Ada Cemetery Project – no update available. Roland suggested that we might go as a group to help catalog various cemeteries.

The Augustana Lutheran Church Cemetery Project – Deb and Pat are still working on this. Deb mentioned that there are over 600 gravesites and they are still working on research.

Deb has started to gather information about schools throughout Norman County, including the rural districts, and has identified 105 schools. A question was raised about the records now that there is no longer a Superintendent of Schools. Roland to ask at the courthouse to see if they know where the records may have gone. Deb said that we need the District #, official name of the school, popular name of the school, list of teachers, and students (if possible.) Edna said she has some old photos of a few country schools. It was also mentioned that in the old plat maps show where schools were located. Everyone stressed that we need to move on this project while people are still alive who remember these schools.

### **Possible Future Projects**

Index the Norman County township books, which include births and deaths and other information for each township. We would need to ask someone from each township board if they still have the records and if so, would they loan them to us so they can be indexed. If they don't have the records, we might try the County Recorder.

Obtain and digitize the records from Grace Lutheran Church which are actually a combination of several churches. All of the early records were written in Norwegian. There are about five or six books kept in the safe, which probably would not be released to anyone. But perhaps we could make photocopies for our use. We might also be able to obtain microfilm records concerning area churches from the ELC in Chicago. There might also be such records at Concordia College in Moorhead. Also, every church has old photos of confirmation classes, usually displayed somewhere in the church, which we might be able to scan.

It was mentioned that our website is missing some information about confirmation classes and perhaps we could do some research and "fill in the blanks." Right now, we only have information up to 1930's. We would have to get this information from area churches.

### **Old Business:**

Marijo re-sent the minutes of the September meeting since not everyone

seems to have received them. Roland received them this time. Marijo saved the September newsletter as a .jpg file and re-sent it. Roland was able to open it this time.

Ardis contacted the Norman County Index to notify them of our new meeting place at Summerfield. The Index has changed the notice in the paper (now correct in the November 6 and November 13 editions.)

Roland checked about purchasing the 1930 U.S. Census on CD. He found that they no longer make the CDs. However, we can go online at the Lakes Areas Regional Library (LARL) in Ada or access the website using our LARL library card number to get this information free of charge.

Ardis received a letter from Sebastian Nelson, Sacramento, CA requesting a picture of the Civil War Veterans from Norman County. He has one, but would like a better scan or photocopy. Roland will respond but has not gotten to the museum in Shelly to get a good photocopy. It was suggested that he contact Mrs. Howard (Nancy) Nelson who is the museum curator.

#### **New Business:**

Edna mentioned that on November 14, 2007 a meeting was held with local organizations at the VFW to consider developing a "Sugarfest" celebration in Ada. The idea of sponsorship has been raised with American Crystal Sugar Company. Edna suggested that we should think about how the Norman County Genealogy Society could be involved.

Edna said that the bathroom facilities at the Log Museum could not handle the amount of use generated by many people, such as the Norman County Fair, because the holding tank is too small. We may need to consider other alternatives, such as a porta-potty, when we host such events.

Roland reminded us that election of officers should occur at our January meeting.

#### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am by Roland Carpenter, President. The next meeting is scheduled for 10:30 am on January 19, 2008 at the Summerfield apartments, 101 – 1<sup>st</sup> Street East, Ada, MN. There is no meeting in December.

Minutes submitted by: *Marijo Vik*, Secretary