



A Newsletter of the Norman County Genealogy Society

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Paying Your Dues

Every family in America has played a role in our nation's history. The Norman County Genealogy Society is a small group of dedicated volunteers that care deeply about preserving that family history.

A surge of interest in genealogy is helping refocus our attention on the past. In addition to researching and creating a family tree, we can save our own family history by interviewing older family

members, recording family stories, protecting family heirlooms, saving family letters, diaries, Bibles and other papers. Stories that have been handed down from generation to generation are invaluable because they not only connect us to our families, but also to our nation.

Genealogy is fascinating work and the Norman County Genealogy Society asks anyone to join who has an interest in our history.

Membership dues are \$10.00 a year for county residents and \$5.00 a year for non-county members. Memberships are available. Just send your dues to the Society's Treasurer:

**Ardis Horn,
100 1st St. E. Apt. 202,
Ada, MN 56510.**

Please note:** If dues are not paid by the end of January, 2006, your name will be removed from our mailing and e-mail lists. **Thank you for your support.

Good Old Day in Norman County - 1885

Week of December 4, 1885:

- Henry Holst was building a new residence in Ada just east of Mr. Dawley's.
- J. E. C. Volland was managing a new butcher shop which had started in the John Sauer building.
- The next meeting of the Norman County Agricultural Society was to be held shortly after January 1.
- Arthur W. Clyde of Logan, Iowa became

associated with Judge Bjornson in Ada in the practice of law.

- A meeting of the Ada Fire Department was held that week to consider the incorporation of the department.
- The new church recently built in the town of Halstad was one of the finest in the county, costing about \$2,000.
- An increased number of scholars in the local school caused the

school board to consider hiring a fourth teacher.

- The village council appointed a committee to confer with W. W. Campbell regarding the village purchasing the cemetery grounds.

Week of December 12, 1885:

- Chas. Kloety had started in the harness business in Barnesville.

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Good Old Days... (continued from page 1)

Week of December 12, 1885 (continued):

- Mrs. B. F. Ashelman had returned from a trip to Aberdeen.
- Miss Belle Bradford had accepted a position as teacher of the fourth grade in the Ada school.
- Dr. F. H. Stuart of Ada plead guilty that week to a charge of manslaughter in the fourth degree for the death of Dr. E. L. Narum of Ada and was fined \$500.
- A number of ladies of the Congregational church met at the home of Mrs. Waterbury for the purpose of organizing a Ladies Aid Society. Officers elected were: Mrs. C. E. Cragin, president; Mrs. E. L. Matthews, vice-president; Mrs. C. S. Putnam, secretary; Mrs. W. B. Sheffield, treasurer; Mrs. C. E. Page, Mrs. S. D. Dawley, and Mrs. E. N. Waterbury, directors.

Week of December 19, 1885:

- Jesse Barnes was visiting his relatives in Milwaukee.
- The Union Hotel in Ada has been closed on an attachment.
- George Herschleb and Eva Holden were married in Ada that week by Rev. Page.
- The craze for women cutting off their hair had apparently

subsided, stated an article in the Index that week.

- At a meeting of the village council it was decided to purchase a cemetery from W. W. Campbell, 5 ¼ acres at a price of \$600.
- Rev. P.O. Stromme, county superintendent, had handed in his resignation for that office as he had accepted a call as pastor of a church in Alma, Wisconsin.
- A children's carnival was held at the rink that week and prizes were awarded as follows: Phoebe Wheelock for the finest girls' costume, Fred Ward for the finest boys' costume, and George Natwick and Bryon Woodbury for the comic costumes.

Week of December 25, 1885:

- There were 77 scholars enrolled in the Congregational Sunday school.
- Willie Folkedahl, three-year-old son of Theodore Folkedahl, died that week of lung fever.
- Whist was threatening to drive out progressive euchre as a form of entertainment at parties in Ada.
- Messrs. Gilmour and Fisk were preparing to erect an office building for their law,

loan and collection business.

- An election was scheduled to be held in Fertile to decide the question of bonding the town for \$2,500 to aid in the Duluth and Manitoba.
- A G.A.R post was organized in Ada that week, Asst. Adj. Gen. Norton of Minneapolis being here to muster the veterans in. Those present and the officers elected were: E. S. Bills, commander; J. B. Ashelman, first assistant; T. Torgerson, second assistant; H. M. Hunting, officer of the day; John Burkhard, quartermaster; Ole E. Olson, officer of the guard; A. H. Baker, chaplain, John Pfund, John Spreiter, Nels Nelson, Henry Downs and Thad Bradley. The Ada post was numbered 62.

Note: The Grand Army of the Republic or GAR was formed in Decatur, Illinois shortly after the Civil War. It was the largest organization of Union veterans of the Civil War. By 1890, when the GAR reached its peak, more than 400,000 members were reported. The organization promoted comradeship among veterans, worked to increase pensions and assist war widows and orphans, and maintained homes for old soldiers. The last member died in 1956, and the GAR was discontinued that year.

"The craze for the women cutting off their hair had apparently subsided, stated an article in the Index that week."

Reprinted from the Norman County Index, 1940. Thanks to Roger Niebeling for this "Good Old Days in Norman County" project.

Information about the GAR was reprinted from: The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition. 2001-05.

Genealogy News

CREATIVE PHOTOCOPYING

By Arnold Chamove in Palmerston North, New Zealand

When I was stuck in Poland without a photocopier or the language to ask for one, I discovered that a digital camera works very well as a digital copier for documents. I use the "macro" setting, which allows you to get very close to the document. Then when you are home, you can enlarge and see in great detail.

SALT LAKE CITY RESEARCH TRIP

February 12-17, 2006
Enjoy the ideal genealogy vacation -- spend a whole week at the Family History Library, accessing the world's largest collection of genealogical records with help and advice from accredited genealogist professionals. Opening social, theater trip, and more!

Call toll free at 877-896-0974 (9-6 MST) or visit <http://www.ancestorseeker.com/rwr/>

CROTCHETS WITH ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS

By Ed Maul

1. Redundant e-mail -- a thank-you to the entire [mailing] list and not to the person.
2. Using all small letters instead of proper English - just lazy and sloppy.
3. Subject of no use as to what is in the message, Bah!
4. Writing too much instead of carefully crafting your message to get a response. Think of the audience -- you have the blink of an eye for someone to read your verbiage. Delete is very quick.

Creative Photocopying and Salt Lake City Research Trip *Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 16 November 2005, Vol. 8, No. 46.*

Crotchets with Online Communications *Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 12 October 2005, Vol. 8, No. 41.*

Social Security Death Index Updated

RootsWeb offers access to the Social Security Death Index (SSDI), which includes records through September 2005.

This free database contains several important bits of information on the more than 76,057,145 persons whose deaths are on file with the U.S.'s Social Security Administration (SSA), including:

- social security number,
- date of issuance,
- state of issuance,
- date of birth,
- date of death, and
- last address of record.

The SSDI is created from the SSA's Death Master File. It is a database of people whose deaths were reported to the SSA beginning about 1962.

The SSA Death Master File and SSDI are used by leading U.S. government, financial, investigative, credit-reporting organization, medical research, and other industries to verify identity as well as to prevent fraud -- and to comply with the U.S. Patriot Act.

<http://ssdi.rootsweb.com/>

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Attach Address Label Here

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.rootsweb.com/~mnnorman

About Our Organization...

The Norman County Genealogy Society was formed on February 27, 1997 in Ada, MN for the purpose of assisting persons interested in research family histories and sharing information.

Charter members of the society were Roland Carpenter, Iris Duklet, Colleen Goltz, Ardis Horn, Sharon Larson, Roger Niebeling, Gladys Prussia, Ronald Rasmusson, Christine Roesch, Ronald Roesch, DeFloren Rude, Edna Rude and Kathleen Skaurud.

A few resources available include:

- Obituaries taken from area newspapers.
- Cemetery records
- Marriage records
- Death records from 1871 to 1981
- Census records
- Civil War Veterans
- 1883 Pensioners on the Roll
- Churches and Towns

Much of this information is posted on our website.

The Society meets on the third Saturday of the month at 10:30 am in the Dekko Center or Norman County Museum, Ada, MN.

Annual Dues are \$10.00 for a family membership (local) and \$5.00 for an associate membership (out of area.) Dues should be sent to the Treasurer in January:

Ardis Horn
101 1st Street East
Ada, MN 56510