

Norman County Genealogy Society  
Meeting Minutes  
June 17, 2006

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Norman County Genealogy Society was called to order by Roland Carpenter, President at 10:35 am on June 17, 2006 at the Norman County Historical Society's Log Museum in Ada, MN.

Present:

Roland Carpenter, Deb Jacobson, Shirley Rockstad, Pat Thompson and Marijo Vik.

Approval of Minutes

Roland asked for any corrections to last month's minutes as sent by e-mail. There were none and the minutes stand approved as sent.

Treasurer's Report

Ardis Horn, Treasurer, stated that the opening balance in the checking account was \$950.32 in April.

We received a total of \$10.00 in membership dues from Mavis Miller, Lakeville, MN and Patricia Sikes, Pensacola, FL. Marijo received a check for \$20.00 from Barb Raaen which was given to Ardis during the meeting.

Deb purchased plastic sheet protectors and she presented the bill to the treasurer.

The treasurer's report is approved as read.

Correspondence and Queries

Marijo read the letter received from Barb Raaen. The last paragraph asked about information of the burial sites of Edward Halvorson and his three children, Henry, Gilbert, and Clarence who died within days of each other in March, 1886. Marijo will write to Grace Lutheran Church to see if they have anything in their records.

Deb received a query regarding the Johan Kuvaas family. She did research and responded with much information.

Roland has responded to queries regarding Civil War veterans in Norman County.

Ongoing Projects

Pat Thompson is still working on the "Skaurud Funeral Books." The information recorded to date has been posted on our website. *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. *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. *This item is still open.*

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. *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. *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. JUNE UPDATE: 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 81<sup>st</sup> Tournament of Roses (1970), Norman County Plat Books for 1950 and 1952. *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. JUNE UPDATE: 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. *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! *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. JUNE UPDATE: Deb purchased the sheet protectors and the books will be assembled after the meeting is adjourned.

Shirley will take Volume 12 to Twin Valley. *This item is closed.*

Marijo included a list in the March newsletter indicating the dates that the Log Museum will be open this summer. The hope is that volunteers will respond with the dates they are able to work. Shirley will attend the Historical Society meeting on the first Friday in May to make sure the dates on the list are correct. The calendar of volunteers for June is posted. *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. *This item is still open.*

#### New Business:

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. *This item is still open.*

Roland Carpenter suggested that we offer cash prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25 to 7<sup>th</sup> 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.*

#### Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am by Roland Carpenter, President. The next meeting is scheduled for 10:30 am on July 17, 2006 at the Log Museum.

Minutes submitted by: *Marijo Vik, Secretary*