



A Newsletter of the Norman County Genealogy Society

Posting Good Queries

Here are some hints about posting a useful query that will prompt someone to answer:

- 1) The best headings have a name, a spouse and some sort of date; birth, marriage or death.
- 2) The more common a name your individual has, the more important it is to list other identifying facts.
- 3) Most people use their legal names on legal documents, so their birth certificates, marriage licenses, death certificates

and census entries will probably not have their nicknames. If the person used a nickname consistently, put it in parenthesis.

- 3) Maiden names help.
- 4) List the place as town, county, state, country. Spell out the state or province rather than use abbreviations. If you have just the county, make that clear; "Logan County, Illinois" instead of "Logan, Illinois."

- 5) Tell people what you already have and what

you are looking for.

- 6) Don't correspond privately. A reply on the query board serves three functions; it gives you the information, it shares the information with the world, and it tells the world your question has been answered.

Other tips for beginners can be found at <http://www.tedpack.org/go/odpost.html>

Excerpted from RootsWeb Review: Vol. 7, No. 20, 19 May 2004.

"Connecting U.S. Presidential Candidates"

In a recent New York Times article Gary Boyd Roberts, New England Historic Genealogical Society's senior research scholar, provides some interesting family connections between presidential candidates John Kerry and incumbent George W. Bush

Roberts found that Bush and Kerry are related through at least eight Massachusetts and English ancestors who lived in the 16th and 17th centuries. Their closest relationship is that of

ninth cousins twice removed (9C2R) with the common ancestor being Edmund READE (1563-1623) of Wickford (Essex County) England.

Among their shared ancestors are: Henry HERRICK, of Salem, Massachusetts; Thomas RICHARDS of Weymouth, Massachusetts; John DWIGHT of Dedham, Massachusetts; the Rev. Edward BULKELEY of Odell, Bedfordshire; Richard CLAPP of Sidbury, Devon; Henry SHERMAN of Dedham,

Essex; and John MANNING of Downe, Kent.

If you think you may be connected to either Kerry or Bush, you can search information on the New England Historic Genealogical Society's website at: <http://www.nehgs.org/>

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 6 October 2004, Vol. 7, No. 40.

Also In This Issue:

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Plagiarism or Copyright Infringement ?

"..the majority of information in any genealogical work is in the public domain by virtue of being facts or presumed facts."

Plagiarism and copyright infringement are two things that are often confused and many family historians are misinformed about them, often wrongly accusing their cousins of one or the other. While the courteous and careful genealogist cites her or his sources of facts and gives credit where due, this is a learned skill. Most new family historians are not even aware that they should record and cite

their sources. See George G. Morgan's "Citation Corner Index Page" for several excellent articles pertaining to this subject. <http://www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=4696>

Keep in mind that the majority of information in any genealogical work is in the public domain by virtue of being facts or presumed facts. "The facts contained in existing

compilations, which is what most genealogical works are, 'may be freely copied because copyright protects only the elements that owe their origin to the compiler -- the selection, coordination, and arrangements of facts.'"] Thanks to Michael Goad and his website on the subject at: http://stellar-one.com/copyrightgenealogy/not_everything.htm

*Previously published in
RootsWeb Review: 6 October
2004, Vol. 7, No. 40.*

Firsts in Norman County

The first white child born in Norman County was Melissa Houske, daughter of Lauris and Olena Houske.

On August 13, 1872, an eager group gathered at the Engel Lausness home to organize a Lutheran congregation under the direction of Reverend H. Hagboe. He was hired to deliver fifteen sermons a year with a salary of one dollar a year from each voting member.

Two months later a burial ground was secured in Section 31 about four miles northeast of where Halstad is today. Here rest many of these early settlers. An infant born to the Engel Lausness' became ill and died; this was the first known death among the pioneers. Since no burial ground

had been secured at that time, the child was laid to rest near the home of the parents.

The new congregation was named Marsh River. Their church burned down in 1952. They merged with Shelly in 1953 and formed what is now known as the Shelly-Marsh congregation.

The first school in Norman County was a private-subscription one, taught in a log cabin southeast of the present village of Halstad, 1874. The first school districts were the independent district 8 of Ada, organized October 9, 1876, and District 9 located north of Halstad which was organized on January 2, 1877. Both were organized by action of the Polk County Commissioners as

Norman County was then a part of Polk County. The first officers of District 8 were H. M. Hunting, John Wright and Henry Downs. They arranged for a school in temporary quarters in a claim shanty, and hired Mrs. Benjamin to teach it. The officers of District 9 were chosen at a school meeting held in the farm home of E. Lausness on February 26, 1877. There were: Jacob Hesby, director; L. B. Larson, treasurer; and A. O. Serum, clerk. By law a three months' term of school was required. A. O. Serum became the first teacher at twelve dollars a month. The school was held alternately in the farm homes of Serum, Hesby, and Houske. This school operated as a rural school until it consolidated with the Halstad School District in 1942. (*Cont. page 3*)

Excerpts from: **A History of the People of Norman County, Minnesota** by *The Norman County Heritage Commission and the Norman County Historical Society*, 1976, Taylor Publishing

Firsts in Norman County (continued from page 2)

The first post office was established in 1872 in the rural home of Ole Halstad. After the town had come into being by the extension of the railroad in 1883, it took the name of Halstad, the name of the farm where the mail had been distributed. The post office was moved into Halstad in 1844.

Norman County's oldest general store was known as the Aabye Store, which was established in 1880 near the Red River four miles south of Perley. It was moved to Perley when the first railroad came through. It was sold in

1964, thus ending a business of 84 years in the Aabye-Erickson family, passing through three generations.

The first banking house in Norman County was started in Ada in 1881 by W. H. Matthews, and was called the Bank of Ada. Later, the name was changed to the First State Bank. It was a private bank at first, but changed to a state bank in 1890.

The first newspaper in Norman County was the Ada Alert, started by Fred Puhler in 1880. He sold it to Lightbourn and Foote in

1883, who changed the name to the Norman County Index. Puhler also started the first Democratic paper, Puhler's Journal, in this part of the state.

"After the town had come into being by the extension of the railroad in 1883, it took the name of Halstad, the name of the (Ole Halstad) farm where the mail had been distributed."

Note from the Editor:

We'll publish more articles in upcoming newsletters relating to the people and happenings of Norman County in the 1880's.

Research Helps and Hints

In the past few weeks, members of the Norman County Genealogy Society have seen sent scanned photographs, asking if anyone here can identify the people in these long-ago pictures. Unfortunately, there is no one old enough in our group who can identify anyone from the late 1800's or early 1900's. In fact, in a recent discussion, it was noted that we don't even know who some of the people are in our OWN family photos, let alone another's family. That led me to

think about how future generations will look at my boxes of family picture. Read the following article by Angie Telepenko, published in Rootsweb Review 6 October 2004, Vol. 7, No. 40. It's a reminder that we need to get busy labeling our family photos while we still remember who they were!

Label, Label, Label
By Angie Telepenko

The best thing you can do for future generations is to clearly label photos with the date, place (if

relevant) and, most importantly, the names of the people in the photo.

My grandmother has a large box of photos that are all more than 100 years old, and we know they were my great-grandmother's relatives, but very few have names on them, and there is nobody now alive who could identify these people. It is frustrating because most of them are in very good condition and they could be a wonderful resource, but nobody knows who they are!.

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Marijo Vik, Secretary
2230 – 160th Ave
Ada, MN 56510

HOME PHONE:
(218) 784-3794

E-MAIL
mvik@loretel.net

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:

Ardis Horn
101 1st Street East
Ada, MN 56510