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SEARCHING FOR A TOWN THAT ISN'T

BY BERT BUDD

Aunt Helen was born in McKinney, North Dakota 31 August 1902. I took out my trusty Delorme Atlas & Gazetteer, but couldn't find it. At the Library Evelyn showed me the book Origins of North Dakota Place Names. I learned that a post office had been established there in 1883 and a town platted there in 1902. That in 1904 the Mouse River had flooded and the proposed railroad by-passed it. The post office was discontinued in 1916.

The discovery of the **United States Newspaper Program** set my mind in motion and it moved me into action. Ma had always told us stories about Uncle Peter, Grandpa Bertelson's brother, who was a merchant and was later killed in some kind of accident, and about Kenmare, North Dakota. Looking into North Dakota newspapers I discovered a *Mouse River Journal* published in McKinney and also Tolley later as the *Tolley Journal*. Peter as a merchant should have an ad in the McKinney paper I reasoned. Ordering them through Inter Library Loan was easy.

Reading newspapers not only from North Dakota but also from the Ortonville, Minnesota area, from which Peter and his brother Bert, my grandfather and Helen's father, left to venture west we found this in the *Big Stone County Journal* on April 18, 1902, "Peter Bertelson arrived home Saturday with a case of well developed North Dakota fever. He has purchased [a] 160 acre tract of land on the Mouse River in Ward County at McKinney post office and will plat a part of it for a town site. He will start a store and expects to build a town, the future metropolis of Ward County. Although twenty miles from a railroad the goods will be transported from Kenmare the nearest town. Bert Bertelson left Wednesday for Kenmare where he will assist Peter in the management of the new enterprise. The families will move about the middle of May. We hope Mr. Bertelson will be successful in his new enterprise and no doubt he will."

This report comes from the Renville County History 1901-1975. "Peter Bertelson purchased the remains of an old ranch on SW1/4 of Section 13-161-86 and had a town site platted. Just east of the plank bridge built in 1890, he built a general store and handled everything from tooth picks to steam threshing outfits. His store was called the Mouse River Trading Company. William Grinnell, who had homesteaded at the site of the Mouse River Park, two miles north, built a store. The third store was the Carl Swenson store. Within a year, these businesses were joined by many others. There were two hardware stores, one run by F.O. Johnson, and the other by Louis Christen. McKinney also had one hotel, a restaurant, a drug store, a butcher shop, a barbershop, confectionery, a pool hall, blind pig, a doctor's office, a newspaper office (*Mouse River Journal* operated by Frank Makee), two livery stables, a small lumber yard, a bank in the Woodman Hall and a flour mill which started operations on November 5, 1903." There was also a school and a church. Did you wonder about that "blind pig?" Well, the Dakotas were dry, but not really, they had their bottle clubs or speakeasies.

It turned out that Peter was a master advertiser, with a full quarter page ad. Not only was he an advertiser but a great promoter. Fourth of July celebrations were a great time for him. The *Mouse River Park* celebration of 1905, "McKinney will celebrate on the 4th of July and the program will be one of the best ever presented in the state of North Dakota. Hon. E.V. Debs will be one of the star attractions. La Crosse between St. Paul, Minn., Regina, Canada, both champion teams. High diver. Special singing by best talent, etc. See program for details later, but plan to be at no other place on the Fourth as this will be a treat. **P. Bertelson, Manager.**" The *Mouse River Journal* devoted over a third of a column to the announcement in their June 2nd issue and did a fine two column follow-up story on July 7th in its first publication since moving to Tolley, and they didn't miss a week. E.V. Debs had been the Socialist candidate for President the year before and was a great orator. You can check out Eugene V. Debs on GOOGLE. He had no desire to speak to an audience from a town of 250 and dwindling, but came on a \$500.00 guarantee, which Pete had put up himself with a Cashier's Check which

was affirmed in the small print in a half page ad in the Kenmare Journal on June 29th. The La Cross champions canceled and were replaced by a softball game between Mohall and Kenmare for a \$75.00 pot. Oh, they had about 2000 show up for the day, so reported in the two column newspaper story previously mentioned that was now publishing in Tolley.

The railroad was expected to come to McKinney, but in the spring of 1904 there was a flood of a proportion that the native Indians had never seen. This sent the railroad on to higher ground and town of Tolley was platted, about four miles away, two west and two south, many of the businesses moved there. These two events meant the demise of McKinney. Pete still kept his store open under the management of William "Billie" Throgstead, and the mill under W.J. Paff still turned out some of the finest flour in the region, even after pleading guilty and paying a \$400.00 fine for soliciting wheat from Canada and rebuilding after a total loss by fire in 1906.

August 1905 saw Peter take over the Big Store in Kenmare supplying not only the McKinney store, but stores in Norma, Patterson, Edson, and Green. Along with McKinney, Patterson and Edson have disappeared.

In the fall of 1906 there was some excitement that McKinney might be rejuvenated. The Great Northern Railroad had purchased the town site from Mr. Bertelson for the reported sum of \$10,000.00. Surveyors laid out the line from Antler to McKinney and on to Kenmare, putting in the stakes, but it got no further.

Peter also owned farm land and on May 10, 1912 he was crushed by the wheel of a tractor as he was adjusting a headlight of a moving tractor. Seventy-five Years of Kenmare and the Gooseneck Area reports that he "so became the first power farming casualty." With his death his business slowly faded away. The mill also saw its demise running until 1928. The Mouse or Souris River flows north into Canada, with its waters finally finding Hudson Bay. Traveling highway 5 east you cross the Souris River nothing remains where McKinney once was as the valley was purchased by the Bureau of Biological Survey in 1935, and all remaining buildings torn down by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Only a historic cemetery is to be found. Renville County Park is flourishing about two miles north beside the Souris River National Wildlife Refuge which now runs along it and Lake Darling for over 30 miles. Much of this paragraph was gleaned from 1897-1997 Kenmare Centennial History Volume a 9 section paper of 102 pages published by the Kenmare News.

As one researches, remember that many times a community has more than one newspaper and that all must be consulted to get a complete picture. McKinney was in Ward County most of its existence but the area is now in Renville County. Memories of old timers need to be compared with your discoveries and checked against one another. Time sequence is more accurate with a newspaper than with memory.

Helen died 15 September 2004 in San Diego, California, which still exists.



HISTORICAL TIDBITS

The Daily Perspective - Newspaper Archive.com

1933: Prohibition ends

Hotels and restaurants in 19 states made preparations to legally serve alcohol today as the 21st Amendment, which terminates the federal prohibition of alcohol, was expected to be formally ratified by conventions in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Utah. The last ratification, by Utah delegates, would immediately end nearly 14 years of prohibition.

"At Salt Lake City, delegates to the Utah convention decided to hold off the vote until about 9 p.m. EST. It had been scheduled for mid-afternoon, immediately after the 34th and 35th states – Pennsylvania and Ohio – voted," reported *The Daily Times-News* on December 5, 1933. "The reason for the delay was said to be two-fold: A desire to make sure that Utah was the 36th state and a desire to have speeches at the convention broadcast at what was said to be a good hour of the evening for radio listeners. Never before had an important governmental schedule been influenced by such considerations."

NOTE: While the Twenty-first Amendment removed the federal ban on alcohol, states still regulated the local sale and distribution. Therefore, when the amendment went into effect, only businesses in 19 states could legally sell alcohol.

1942: U.S. rations coffee

U.S. grocery stores were able to sell coffee today after a week-long sales freeze, although sales were rationed by the U.S. government in order to ensure a fair distribution of the limited supply during World War II.

"Stamp No. 27 in the 'Sugar Book' (lower left-hand corner) is good for one pound of coffee through Sunday, January 3, 1943, if the age shown at time of registration was 15 years or over. Any person not having a 'Sugar Book' may still obtain one by registering (prior to December 15, 1942) with his local War Price and Ration Board, and subject to age limit, the stamps will be good for coffee, too," explained an ad in *The Modesto Bee and News-Herald* on November 30, 1942.

NOTE: While each person 15 years or older was entitled to one pound of coffee every five weeks (which equals about one cup a day), Americans were encouraged not to use all of their family's coupons at once. "Just buy what you need – don't be a drip and dry up your neighbor's dripolator," the *The Delta Democrat-Times* reported on November 29, 1942.



WEBSITES THAT MAY BE HELPFUL IN YOUR RESEARCH

These web addresses can be copied and pasted into your browser to access these web sites.

New Interactive World War II Collection on Footnote.com

In commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day, Footnote.com together with the National Archives held a press conference Friday, Dec. 5 in Washington DC to announce the new Interactive World War II Collection on Footnote. Within this collection you will find:

- **Interactive USS Arizona Memorial** - In remembrance of those killed on the USS Arizona during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Footnote.com has digitized the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii to create an interactive experience.
- **World War II Hero Pages** - To help preserve and share the stories of World War II veterans, Footnote has created Hero Pages. In addition, Footnote.com has already created 9 million Hero Pages generated from the Army Enlistment index from the National Archives.
- **World War II Documents and Photos** - From Air Force Photos to Submarine Patrol Reports, this content reveals details about the war that few have seen before. These documents will be available free to the public for the month of December.

Footnote will continue to add to this World War II collection and invites all to come to the site at <http://www.footnote.com> and add their own personal contributions

FamilySearch

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH—Thousands of publications that capture the diverse histories of Gulf Coast states will be accessible for free online. FamilySearch and the Houston Public Library announced a joint project today to digitally preserve and publish the library's vast collection of county and local histories, registers of individuals, directories of Texas Rangers, church histories, and biographical dictionaries. The digital records will be available for free online at FamilySearch.org and HoustonLibrary.org.



Sangamon County, Illinois Genealogical Society to Shut Down Next Month

After 40 years in existence, the Sangamon County Genealogical Society is shutting down next month. Declining membership and dues revenue, as well as the abundance of genealogical information available on the Internet, all contributed to the group's demise, its leaders said this week.

Want a quick guide to marriages in Sangamon County from 1821 to 1840? No problem. How about an index of estate records in the county from 1821 to 1907? Easy. Who was buried in the Sangamon County Poor Farm Cemetery in Buffalo? Only the SCGS can tell you.

Over the years, the society has created about 70 such indexes, bringing to light long-forgotten residents whose identities might provide that vital clue to a family history — or history itself.

Sadly, the Sangamon County Genealogical Society will not publish any more such indexes.

Further information may be found in the State Journal-Register web site at <http://www.sjr.com/homepage/x776463003/Genealogical-society-to-shut-down-next-month>.

1875 Norway Census Is Coming & Other Status Reports

The following announcement was written by FamilySearch. Please notice the words "FamilySearch's Historical Family Reconstitution unit." That is a project that has not yet created much publicity but could be the basis for something very exciting: linking existing records in such a manner as to define, or "reconstitute," families, neighborhoods and villages.

In the first week of December, we will start indexing the 1875 Norway Census. This will be a large segment of the census for rural areas of Norway, but not the entire census. FamilySearch's Historical Family Reconstitution unit has joined forces with the University of Tromsø in Norway to complete this project. The university is indexing the census records for the urban areas of Norway.

The Niobrara County Library in Lusk has a very nice link to their local obituaries at:

<http://www.niobraraountylibrary.org/obituaries/>



The Wyoming Companion - Wyoming's Online Magazine & Visitor's Guide

This is an interesting site for all types of information about Wyoming.

<http://www.wyomingcompanion.com/>

After you click 'Enter Here' on the home page you can go to '*Wyoming Heritage & History*' for some interesting historical articles.

Lessons for Genealogists

The Family History Library has been providing classes to patrons for many years. In the past, a patron would have to travel to the Library to take advantage of these classes, but no longer. The Library will begin testing different methods of exporting these classes to patrons who reside outside of the Salt Lake City area. The first method to be tested is a set of five lessons in a classroom setting in a video format. These lessons are now available online and cover the basics of getting started with family history research in England.

The five lessons are called:

- Lesson 1: Research Overview
- Lesson 2: Census Records
- Lesson 3: Civil Registration
- Lesson 4: Church Records
- Lesson 5: Find Your Ancestors

Simply click

<http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/education/frame_set_education.asp?PAGE=education_research_series_online.asp%3FActiveTab=2> to view the Family History Research Series Online.

We invite you to visit familysearch.org, view these lessons, and then give us your feedback by using the feedback link found on the online classes' page.

Sue Seniawski provided this article

COMPANY RELEASES THE WORLD NAMES PROFILER ONLINE SITE

A team of geographical researchers from University College London have created a website (Public Profiler) that provides an interactive map displaying the modern locations of surnames around the world. The site displays information involving 300 million individuals located in 26 countries, including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, India, Argentina, and a large number of countries on the European continent. The site allows a researcher to compare the relative frequency of a surname among countries, states, and counties. To visit the site and use its free World Names Profiler service, go to www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames/

Leslie Vosler provided this article Family Maps

by Melissa Shimkus

Searching for land patents issued by the United States government is easy thanks to the General Land Office of the Bureau of Land Management website (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>).

An additional valuable source is the series of books produced by Arphax Publishing and Gregory Alan Boyd titled "Family Maps of..." Each volume in this ongoing series focuses on an individual county. Although not yet complete, the series already features 363 titles for the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin. All are available in the Genealogy Center.

Each book begins with a useful introduction and general maps showing the county's location within the state and in the context of neighboring counties, as well as maps depicting townships, cities and towns, and cemeteries. A general surname index leads you to a "map group" for the township of interest, where you will find details on each land patent in that township as well a map outlining the location of each patent. Once you locate your ancestor on the patent map, it is easy to see which individuals obtained patents on neighboring parcels of land. The map group for each township also includes a road map and an historical map showing waterways, cemeteries, and railroads.

The surname/township index in "Family Maps of Holmes County, Florida" (call number 975.901 H73BO), for example, references two parcels of land for the Moore family in Township 4-N Range 14-W or map group 22. The index to land patents in the section for map group 22 provides details. Elizabeth and John E. Moore had a patent issued on February 21, 1893 for the southwest quarter of section 10, with a portion located in Washington County. The patent map shows that the property of Elizabeth and John is bounded to the north by that of George W. Moore, who received his land patent on the same date. Based on the information gleaned from this book, we now have a specific location for the family's land, another individual to research, and a legal description to extend our property records search.

The "Family Maps" series by Gregory Alan Boyd is an excellent source for land patents in the United States. It provides easy to use indexes and visuals that make researching land patents simple. Genealogists will garner valuable family property information as well as leads for additional research.



From the *Clay County MOsaic* newsletter

The Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative www.sos.mo.gov/mdh is a collaborative effort that dramatically expands the amount of information available online about Missouri's past. It contains records of enduring historical value from institutions throughout the state of Missouri, including documents, photographs, maps and other materials of interest. Some topics covered are:

- Archives and Manuscript Collection guides
- Books, Pamphlets and Monographs
- County and Municipal Records
- Cultures and Communities
- Exploration and Settlement
- Family and Faith
- Government and Political Records
- Maps
- Military Records and Resources
- Newspapers
- Photographs and Images
- Women

From Sue Seniawski

The Library of Congress – Search Newspaper Directory

I just learned of a great tool on the Library of Congress site. It's the Chronicling of America project. I've used this to search some digitized papers, but the following link http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/search_directory_advanced.html allows you to enter a state, county, or other combination of information and pull up a comprehensive list of what papers were in circulation. In addition by clicking on the holdings link it will show you where these newspapers are held in original and microfilm versions.

(Sue also send this posting on the same topic)

I used to catalog newspapers for the U.S. Newspaper Project in Arizona and know that newspapers are an excellent source for genealogical and historical information about our ancestors and their hometown. Once you have identified the exact newspaper you need, you can order the microfilms through Interlibrary Loan at any public or academic library for free. This project was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (our tax money) and one of the stipulations was that the films are to be loaned for free. One of the problems one might encounter is that some newspapers were filmed before the NEH Newspaper Program started in the 1980s and the library has the right not to loan the older films for free; this would be a small percentage. I had a hard time getting the New York Public Library to loan films for free since they had microfilmed many of their papers before the NEH project started even though New York received \$6,000,000 in NEH funding to film the rest of their newspapers.

The other problem is that there are sometimes only scattered issues for some years of a newspaper. The cataloging record that you see on the link you gave just gives a year range but doesn't tell you if the day and month you want have been filmed. You can go to <http://www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html> to read more about the project. On the opening page is a map, click on the state you are interested in. There is a description of the Newspaper Project in that state with a link to the states' Newspaper Project homepage. Some states have excellent information about exactly which issues of a newspaper title were filmed; this way you can tell if they have the exact paper you need before ordering.

Daniela Moneta, CG (SM)
Phoenix, Arizona



THINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER

COPYRIGHT LAWS

Genealogists often republish materials from old books as well as from archives, courthouses Web sites, and other sources. Sadly, many modern day genealogists simply ignore copyright laws. Doing so can result in an unpleasant notice from a law firm appearing in your mailbox. The laws that limit someone's right to copy a work have changed in recent years. Your awareness of the current laws can protect you from land mines of liability as you prepare your research for publication.

From the *Clay County MOsaic* newsletter

Five Tips for Making the Most of Online Genealogy Databases:

- Keep a log. It can be difficult to keep track of where you have searched, who you have searched for and what you found where. Keep a research log to record the sites you have visited, the searches you tried and the results of those searches. Date your research, because web sites are constantly being updated. You may want to go back and recheck them periodically.
- Use advanced search options. Become familiar with the advanced search features for each database you use, and try every possible search alternative before giving up.
- Cite your sources. Record the full citation of the source where you found the information. For online sites, include the name of the database, the name of the web site, and the URL of the site where you found the data, as well as the original source of the data.

Albany County Genealogical Society

January 13- Rex Reese, retired Air Force Lt. Col. who will speak on his search for a B-24 pilot who was killed when his plane went down over Germany in WWII. Here is a quote:

'What I'm going to discuss is the research I did to uncover what happened to my father-in-law's brother, 2nd Lt Milton A. "Buck" Patterson. He was a B-24 pilot that was killed along with all his crewmembers on a bombing mission over Germany in December 1943. The family knew almost nothing about what happened to him after he left for Europe and died in combat a short time later. I started my research in the late 1990s and am still occasionally looking for additional information. What I have gathered I've compiled in a document and placed copies in the American Heritage Center archives here in Laramie and the American Battle Monuments Commission archives in Washington DC'.

February 10- Bob Nelson will discuss *Albany County Ranch Tours*, a program that was initially scheduled last fall.

Larimer County Genealogical Society (LCGS)

Meetings will be held at Harmony Public Library, 4616 Shields at Harmony, Community Meeting Room.

January 15 Program: Our annual meeting includes the election of new officers, President's annual message to members, special video presentations of our 2008 society highlights, the recent colorful Beijing Olympics pictorial highlights, our famous dessert social event, Volunteer of the Year award, and a raffle drawing for several great prizes.

February 19 Program: Sharon Greenlee will present "How to Pull Together a Family History in a Narrative Form." She will discuss various stories to include in your family story to make it both interesting and entertaining. If you're planning on writing any family history, this will be a great learning experience for you!

Sharon is a Fort Collins Counselor and an author of two books. She has conducted workshops on "Writing to Capture Happy Childhood Memories," writing for self-understanding and piece of mind plus several for children and teens. She is an elementary school teacher and counselor and does special classes at University levels.

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If you have suggestions for newsletter or areas of interest you would like to share please contact me at WADE_27043@msn.com or 307-638-3877.

