



# The Carnegie Courier

Newsletter of

The Mitchell Area Historical Society (MAHS)  
& The Mitchell Area Genealogical Society (MAGS)

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[www.mitchellcarnegie.com](http://www.mitchellcarnegie.com)

Spring 2025

## Effects of the Expatriation Act of 1907

### Expatriation Act of 1907

**Gregory Rowe**

My Grandmother's ancestors came from England and settled in Connecticut in the mid-17th century.

Several fought in the Revolutionary War as well as the U.S. Civil War. Eight generations later her father homesteaded to eastern Nebraska, where she (Laura Camp) was born in 1893. Laura was a teacher in 1914 before marrying a Danish immigrant (Sophus Hassel) in 1915. They moved to South Dakota shortly after their marriage.

After receiving some documents from an aunt's estate, I was surprised to find an application for her to take an oath of allegiance in order to regain citizenship rights. I was unaware that an Act of Congress in 1907 mandated that a woman who married an unnaturalized man assumed his nationality and lose U.S. citizenship. If the laws of the country from which the husband immigrated did not have similar laws the wife could become stateless. Alien wives of men who were American citizens were granted automatic citizenship.

After nine generations, Laura was no longer an American citizen. As a result of her loss of citizenship, her constitutional rights were forfeited. Employment opportunities were restricted making her ineligible for any sort of government work and unable to continue working as a public-school teacher in Nebraska.

The Expatriation Act of 1907 (59th Congress, 2nd session, chapter 2534, enacted March 2, 1907) was an act of the 59th United States Congress

concerning retention and relinquishment of United States nationality by married women and Americans residing abroad. It effectively functioned as Congressional endorsement of the various ad hoc rulings on loss of United States nationality that had been made by the State Department since the enactment of the Expatriation Act of 1868. Some sections of it were repealed by other acts in the early 1920s; those sections which remained were codified at 8 U.S.C. §§ 6-17, but those too were repealed by the Nationality Act of 1940 when the question of dual citizenship arose. [1]

After women gained suffrage with the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, Congress enacted the Cable Act in 1922 in order to restore citizenship to U.S.-born women who had married non-citizen husbands and lost their citizenship under the Expatriation Act of 1907. This law addressed the discriminatory law that set married women's citizenship according to that of their husbands and enabled white women to retain their U.S. citizenship despite marriages to foreign men. This right did not, however, extend to women who married "aliens ineligible for citizenship," especially Asian immigrant men.

In May of 1943 my Sophus Hassel was naturalized. Laura applied for citizenship that same month in hopes of taking the oath of allegiance at the same time as Sophus. Unfortunately, her application was initially denied due to an improper affidavit reflecting her place of birth. The submitted affidavit was a small scrap of paper

containing a handwritten note stating her name, place, and date of birth and signed by her sister. She was instructed to fill out a Form N-401 and a notarized affidavit stating her place of birth along with a marriage certificate. This letter was dated 4 days prior to Sophus's naturalization. She was not able to take her oath of allegiance with him. I was unable to determine if she ever did take the oath of allegiance.

Notes:

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expatriation\\_Act\\_of\\_1907](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expatriation_Act_of_1907)
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cable\\_Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cable_Act)



Sophus and Laura Hassel

# Women and Naturalization

The following excerpt talks about why women lost, and how they could regain citizenship. It is no wonder that some got caught in the bureaucracy like Laura.

Women and Naturalization, ca. 1802-1940 - Summer 1998, Vol. 30, No. 2 | Genealogy Notes

Excerpts from an article by Marian L. Smith, senior historian for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D.C. She writes and speaks about the history of the agency.

"Unless a woman was single or

widowed, she had few reasons to naturalize prior to the twentieth century. Women, foreign-born or native, could not vote. Until the mid-nineteenth century, women typically did not hold property or appear as 'person's' before the law. Under these circumstances, only widows and spinsters would be expected to seek the protections U.S. citizenship might afford. One might also remember that naturalization involved the payment of court fees. Without any tangible benefit resulting from a woman's naturalization, it is doubtful that many

women or their husbands considered the fees to be money well spent.

While it appears foreign-born women did not complain about any remaining link between a woman's naturalization and her husband's, some Naturalization Bureau officials thought any remaining connection was unfair. Clear dissatisfaction was expressed by U.S.-born women who, in many cases, belatedly discovered they had lost their citizenship by marriage prior to September 1922 and now must petition for naturalization if they wished to regain it.

*Continued on page 3*

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
1014 NEW POST OFFICE BUILDING  
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA  
May 14, 1943

IN REPLYING PLEASE REFER TO THIS  
FILE NUMBER  
14 X 11834

Mrs. Laura Lucina Hassel,  
Letcher,  
South Dakota.

Dear Madam:

We are returning the application that you forwarded as it is on an obsolete form. Will you kindly fill out the enclosed Form N-401. We have typed in the name Laura Lucina Hassel as that is the correct name instead of Mrs. S. J. Hassel.

It is necessary that you submit a proper affidavit of your birth in Nebraska and also your marriage certificate. The two statements forwarded are not affidavits but simply statements signed by Mrs. George Olson. She should appear before a Notary Public and make a sworn statement as to the date and place of your birth and also state the date and place of her own birth. In signing that affidavit she should use her own given name instead of Mrs. George; then, when we receive the application with the affidavit, you will be notified when to take the Oath of Allegiance at Woonsocket. It will not be possible to do this, however, on May 18th.

Respectfully,  
FOR THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR  
BY: *Geo. N. Danielson*  
GEO. N. DANIELSON  
Senior Naturalization Examiner  
St. Paul District

Enc

Laura L. Hassel  
was born in  
Sherman county  
Near Loup city Nebr.  
April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1893.  
State of Nebraska.  
Signed by  
Mrs George Olsen  
Loup City  
Nebraska

Handwritten Affidavit



# Fred Brasse Tokens

*Dean Randall in the Palace City Coin and Stamp Club Newsletter*

Fred Brasse was born April 1, 1869, in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. He entered the U.S. in 1884, farmed in Schleswig, Iowa, married Emma Brinkmann in 1898 and moved to a farm near Mitchell, SD in 1911.

Fred's father was Henry Brasse, and his mother was Sophia. Fred and Emma had two daughters and one son: Bertha Backhaus, Edna Weller (wife of Sam Weller), and Otto Brasse.

Trying to research Fred's name, I wasn't finding much when I looked for the name Brasse. Looking at one of the tokens I noted the spelling was different – Brasse. Now, more information started coming up.

When Fred was farming in Schleswig, Iowa in 1906, he must have been doing quite well because he rode over to Denison and paid his subscription to the Denison Review (newspaper) clear up to January 1910!

Early in 1912 Fred decided to start a pool room in Mitchell. Running a pool room has its ups and downs. In November 1915, Fred was fined \$10 in municipal court for allowing a minor in his pool hall. The business was known as the Unique Pool Hall in

Obverse



Reverse



1913 & 1915 at 112 Main Street.

It's not certain he kept the pool hall going after prohibition. By 1927 he was farming up in the Plano district in Hanson County. An article in the Sioux City Journal of March 21, 1927, datelined Alexandria, SD, says he turned over \$300 to the clerk of courts. That was the fine and court costs when he pled guilty to dealing in liquor. Officers had searched his farm and found a few bottles of moonshine.

His grandson, Ordell (1932-2019), was a star athlete for Mitchell High School, the University of South Dakota and a pro football player for the Baltimore Colts from 1958-1968. Ordell was the son of Otto.



Note that this It is a widely-used religious symbol in Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. It is also a sign of spiritual purity, good luck or spirituality and had been used for thousands of years before Hitler decided to use it as a symbol of the Nazi Party.

## Women and Naturalization ...

After considering that other Americans who expatriated themselves by swearing allegiance to another nation during World War I needed only to take the oath of allegiance in court to restore their U.S. citizenship, U.S. Commissioner of Naturalization Raymond Crist suggested that Congress might create some similar provision for U.S.-born women: Some women feel that a certain stigma attaches to the need of 'naturalization' in the same manner as any lowly immigrant. Women of perhaps Mayflower ancestry, whose forbears fought through the Revolution, and whose family names bear honored and conspicuous places in our history, who are thoroughly American at heart, and who perhaps have never

left these shores, but whose act in choosing alien husbands has caused forfeiture of American citizenship, bemoan the stipulation that such as they must sue for naturalization by the ordinary means.

Not until 1936 did Congress comply with Crist's request, and then only for those women who lost U.S. citizenship by marriage between 1907 and 1922 and whose marriage had terminated through death or divorce. If she met this criteria, she could file an application with her local naturalization court and resume her citizenship upon taking the oath of allegiance. The application was typically made on Form N-415, Application to Take Oath of Allegiance to the United States, which should be filed in

## Continued from page 2

separate volumes from each court's other naturalization records. Some courts, however, interfiled these documents with other petitions. In 1940 Congress allowed all women who lost citizenship by marriage between 1907 and 1922 to repatriate, or resume their citizenship, regardless of their marital status. Since then, any woman who lost U.S. citizenship in those years by marriage to any alien, even if they remained happily married, could resume her citizenship by applying and taking the oath of allegiance."

<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1998/summer/women-and-naturalization-1.html>



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

July 2, 1914

MITCHELL DAILY REPUBLICAN

## OLD INDIAN FIGHTER HERE TOMORROW



History's pages would be uninteresting, in fact, non-existing, were it not for the accomplishments in every line of their makers, the men of deeds. Men, whose works illumine the eras recorded, and whose individualities therein add an intensity of interest that enlists the art of the historian, the painter, the sculptor, to preserve their personalities.

Therefore, the management grasped the opportunity when it occurred, of presenting in propria persona, one whose name the army historian, General Dodge says: "Will go down

to history as a plain celebrity, until time shall be no more," famed as a living figure, during the sanguinary days of the war path, to these days of the peace council, the old scout, Col. W. F. Cody, "Buffalo Bill".

His retirement from the more strenuous depletion of scenes, now gone forever; too active to be relegated to the shelf, stirred by the old spirit of "never-say-die" enables Sells-Floto to have now associated with their organization, "Buffalo Bill", as an attractive personality in their arenic program.

This last of his class and kind, is only too happy to appear at the opening exercises and give, as it were, an arenic reception to the little ones, to whom he will be an attractive central figure, surrounded by now friendly former Indian foes, giving the rising generation an incentive to the study of the story of the West. "Buffalo Bill" will emphasize his presence by leading the most beautiful and most interesting of street pageants ever presented the American public. See it at 10:30 and visit a circus greater than any.

## BUFFALO BILL COMING JULY 3

One man there is in the United States whose life has been so varied, so filled with adventure and with romance that everyone knows and loves him, Col. William F. Cody, Buffalo Bill, who is to appear in this city Friday, July 3, with the Sells-Floto Circus and Buffalo Bill (himself). However, although there is hardly a person in the whole country who does not know and revere the famous scout, separate features of his life are perhaps not so familiar. And so, in order, here are the things which have aided in giving him the title of America's best beloved citizen:

Born on the frontier.

Educated in the University of Nature.

A boy trapper.

Courier of overland wagon trains.

Pony express rider.

Stagecoach mail driver.

Hunter and guide to emigrants crossing the plains.

Wagon train-master.

Soldier in the Civil war.

Guide to government military expeditions and campaigns against Indians.

Chief of scouts of United States army and confidante of the most noted United States generals.

In charge of and guiding scientific expeditions, such as Prof. Marsh's.

Buffalo hunter and purveyor in the construction forces of Pacific railroad building.

Custodian of famous visitors from foreign lands on the greatest hunts on the plains.

Dramatic educator of Western life.

Returned to the army in 1876 (Custer campaign) under Generals Merritt, Crook, Carr and Miles—success.

Exhibitor, recording the passing period of Indian power and the white conquest of our continent.

Pioneer of the American invasion of Europe, showing rugged scenes of the American frontier.

Familiarizing of the story and personnel of the American Indian.

In 1890-91 he returned to the field of battle in the last Sioux (Ghost Dance) war, resulting in eternal peace between red and white.

Pioneer in irrigation plans under the Carey act.

Originator of the idea of preserving the War of Messiah in motion pictures.

Now kindergarten historian and anthropologist.

1914—Now with Sells-Floto Circus, visiting the boys and girls of this great U. S. A.

Mitchell Daily Republican  
July 2, 1914



## 1915 Edison Mystery

Some years ago someone donated this 1915 Edison phonograph to Lyle Swenson in very poor condition as it had been in a fire. The outer veneer was burned off and had considerable other damage. After two years of restoration work, it has been restored to nearly its original beauty save for needing a stylus that is so special it will cost the Carnegie \$150 to acquire. It does have one record with it so it certainly could make music again.

Lyle was asked a number of times who donated this phonograph, but he just could not remember and with Lyle no longer with us we are at a dead-end.

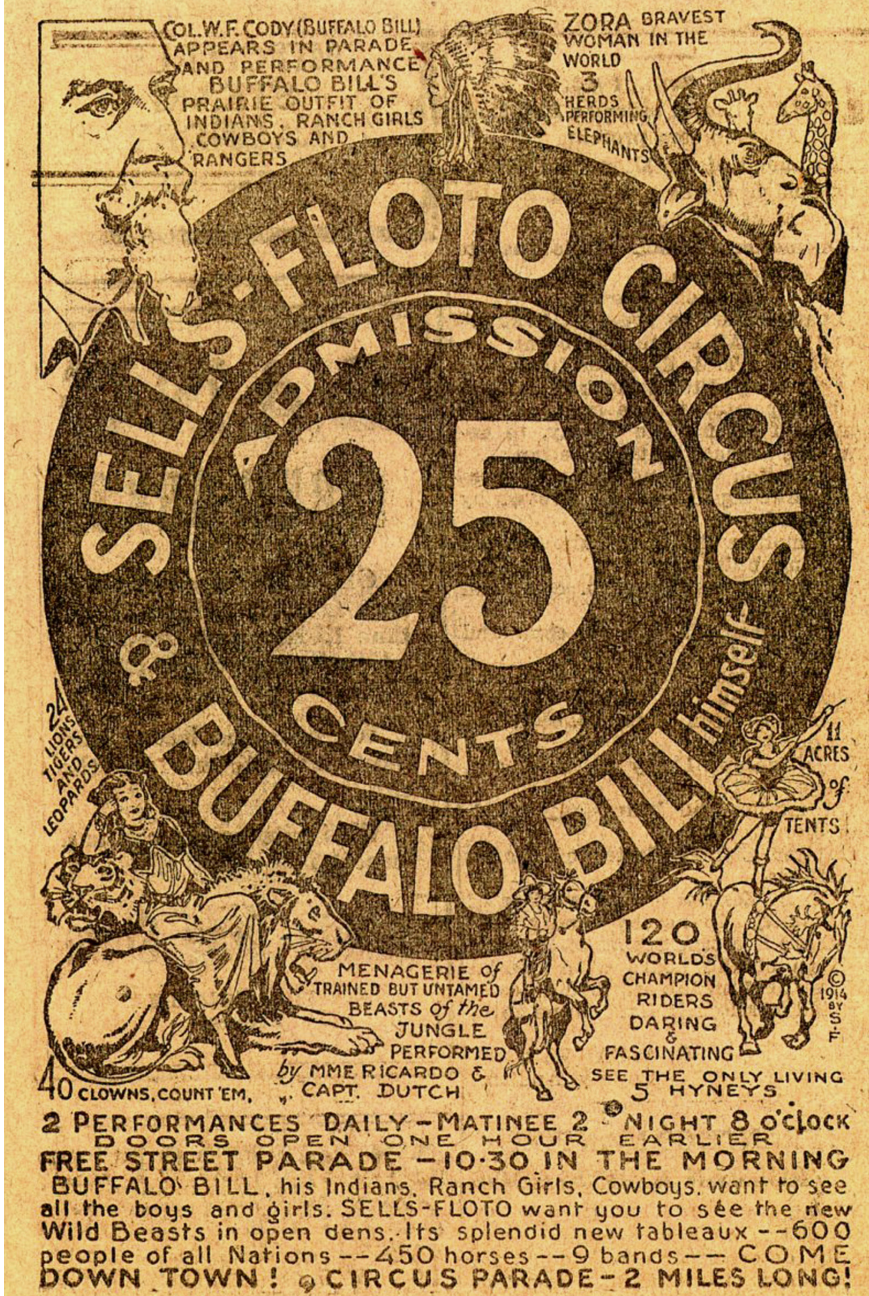
The Carnegie now has it on display and would very much like to record who donated this instrument. If anyone knows please email [info@mitchellcarnegie.com](mailto:info@mitchellcarnegie.com) or call 605-996-3209; it will be wonderful to know more about its source and history.



MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

MITCHELL FRIDAY  
JULY 3d

RESERVED SEATS ON SALE AT SCOTT & GORMLEY'S



Mitchell Daily Republican July 2, 1914



# City Homestead Palace

Photographer, Leeland Early  
Mitchell- archives at Carnegie Re-  
source Center Linda Oster - Re-  
searcher

The writing at the bottom of the picture says, "City homestead Palace Mitchell, SD." The photo is labeled "Homestead of Buddy Burns." This picture presented a mystery - Who was Buddy Burns, who is the lady pictured and were these really people and a place in Mitchell, South Dakota? City Directories gave no clue, but the obituary books yielded this information. Alonzo D. Burns, was known to the citizens of Mitchell as "Buddy." He was born in Syracuse, N.Y. on June 22, 1847, and was a resident of Mitchell for 40 years. He earned his living by doing odd jobs.

Buddy married Sally and they made their home in Mitchell. To the people of Mitchell, Buddy's wife was known as "Sally of the Alley." Sally and her husband of 33 years met at the Salvation Army where Sally and her mother were members. Her obituary in the Gazette of February 22, 1929, states that she had "short curls and hoop skirts died of vivid colors." Sally and her mother came to Mitchell in the 1880's and lived in a shack in the alley behind where Becker's Clothing was at 206-208 North Main. Sally's home was called "Sally's Dry Goods Box" where she stayed until the city condemned it so that the businesses



on main could expand to the alley. The city bought her a home on West First Street and there she lived with her mother and husband.

According to Sally's obit they were "county charges" all of their time in the area. Sally and her mother were "both eccentric characters and dressed in the styles of the early seventies." Poor health plagued her the last few years of her life and she had

become nearly blind. She died on the evening of St. Valentine's day at the age of 73.

Buddy outlived his wife and passed away on April 14, 1931, at the age of 84. In the last few years of his life he was blind. The Evening Republican obit says that he had no living relatives as far as anyone knew. Sally and Buddy are buried at Graceland Cemetery.

## Oscar Howe Birthday Celebration

**Help us celebrate  
Oscar Howe's 110th birthday  
on Tuesday, May 13, 2025.  
The program will begin  
at 7:00 p.m. at  
the Carnegie Resource Center.  
Birthday cake will be served.**

Howe was a Yanktonai Dakota artist who was one of the most innovative painters of his time. Come experience the Oscar Howe Dome Mural, "Sun and Rain Clouds Over the Hills" and several of his other works. Also on display are numerous photos of the Corn Palaces that had panels designed by Oscar Howe.

# We are excited to feature O.S. Leeland photos

The Mitchell Area Historical Society, housed at the Carnegie Resource Center, is very proud to announce that, with the collaboration of The Sons of Norway, we will be hosting an exhibition from June through October to highlight a local photographer, O.S. Leeland a Visual Storyteller of Early South Dakota. Leeland arrived in America in 1887 from Vest Agder in southern Norway. He spent some time in Michigan and North Dakota before settling in 1900 at Blaine Township, Jerauld County, South Dakota. He soon moved to the thriving town of Mitchell. Evidence shows that he was in Mitchell and had set up a studio by October 1902 and a corporation by 1904, the beginning of the Leeland Art and Manufacturing Company.

Leeland went on to produce many types of photography, including stereographs, also called stereoviews, panoramic photos, real photo postcards and studio portraits. He often added little descriptions to his work which help us identify his work. This exhibition will emphasize the region of Mitchell and will include examples from the MAHS, Oscar Thompson (relative) and Cynthia Elyce Rubin. It is scheduled to run from June 2025 -

October 11, 2025.

Along with this exhibit there will be information on the ship Restauration that set sail for America from Stavanger, Norway on July 4, 1825, bound for New York with 52 Norwegians aboard searching for religious freedom and land. Emigration affected every community in Norway and many in America, including South Dakota. This historic voyage was the first organized emigration from Norway to America. The "Sloopers" story of their 96-day journey will be celebrated in 2025, the 200th anniversary of the landing on October 11.

On July 12, 2025, the Carnegie Resource Center will host talks with Blaine Hedberg and Cynthia Rubin at 7:00 P.M. These talks are open to the public.

Hedberg is an expert in Norwegian emigration and genealogy, specializing in immigrants who came to America before 1851, including the first organized immigrants from Norway in 1825. Hedberg was honored by King Harald of Norway with the Medal of St. Olav for his years of work with Norwegian genealogy and advancing knowledge of Norway abroad and for strengthening the bonds between expatriate Nor-

wegians and their descendants. He was born in Lake Preston, SD and for the past forty years has been working on a biographical directory of the earliest Norwegian settlers in Union County, SD. In anticipation of the 200th anniversary of Norwegian immigration celebrated throughout 2025, Blaine Hedberg will speak on "The Sloopers of 1825, the first immigrants from Norway", and will discuss this group using primary genealogical records and personal letters written by these immigrants.

Cynthia Elyce Rubin is a writer, lecturer, curator, and visual culture specialist. Her articles have appeared in numerous magazines, and she has lectured on the photography of Norwegian-American O.S. Leeland. Cynthia will be helping set up the exhibit and supply many of the items to be on display.

We hope you plan to join us for the exhibition and bring your questions to the talks by Blaine and Cynthia. The exhibition will be open from 1-5p.m. - Monday-Saturday during the months of June, July, August, September and ending October 11, 2025. The June newsletter will have more detailed information about Leeland, Rubin and Hedberg.

Thank You seems like such a small phrase, but it holds such great meaning. We are so grateful for the support that we have had and continue to have.

This includes: those who come to the programs at the Carnegie and those who present the programs; those who donate money, articles, artifacts and time; those members who faithfully pay their dues; those who make it possible for successful collections at Christmas for other causes like: the food pantry with donations of 48 pounds of food and \$410; those who contributed to the Salvation Army on a tree sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution where many people contributed



over 100 items such as gloves, hats, mittens, scarves etc.; and last but not least, those volunteers who do the everyday tasks that keep the doors at the Carnegie open.

## THANK YOU!

# Upcoming Events

*Mitchell Area Genealogical Society (MAGS)*

*And Mitchell Area Historical Society (MAHS)*

*April 21 – 7:00 p.m. MAHS Meeting*

*April 26 – All day – SDGS Annual Meeting in Pierre*

*April 28 – 6:00 p.m. MAGS Meeting*

*7:00 p.m. MAGS Program: Beginning Ancestry Series  
4: Getting to Know Ancestry DNA*

*May 19 – 7:00 p.m. MAHS Meeting*

*May 26 – No MAGS MEETING – MEMORIAL DAY*

*May 13 – 7:00 p.m. Oscar Howe 110th Birthday Party*

*June 1 – Oct 11 Leland Exhibition*

*June 16 – 7:00 p.m. MAHS Meeting*

*June 23 – 6:00 p.m. MAGS Meeting*

*June 28 – 7:00 p.m. MAGS Program: Preserving Your  
Ancestor's Textiles and Handmade Treasures*

*July 4 – Independence Day!*

*July 12 at 8 & 7 p.m. Speakers on Leland Photography*

*July 21 – 7:00 p.m. MAHS Meeting*

*July 28 – 6:00 p.m. MAGS Meeting*

*28 – 7:00 p.m. MAGS Program:*

*10 Ways AI Can Help you  
Find Your Elusive Ancestors*

*August 18 – 7:00 p.m. MAHS Meeting*

*August 25 – 6:00 p.m. MAGS Meeting*

*25 – 7:00 p.m. MAGS Program:*

*The Picture Bride Era: The Gentlemen's Agreement of  
1907 between U.S. and Japan*

*August 27-Sept 1 – South Dakota State Fair –  
SD Genealogical Society has a booth and workshops*

*September 15 – 7:00 p.m. MAHS Meeting*

*22 – 6:00 p.m. MAGS Meeting*

*22 – 7:00 p.m. MAGS Program Fruit of the  
Earth: Using Deeds to Uncover Your Ancestors*

## Upcoming Projects

Just a quick update on what is going on at the Carnegie concerning major projects. We are always busy. The building and its grounds require constant vigilance to keep it in good shape. That brings us to several projects that are coming up: the roof needs some care again and probably a new roof to prevent leakage into the building; some landscaping to help with the flooding issue; replacement of the boiler as it stood in flood water last summer; interior repairs because we have had some leakage and damage in a couple of rooms; collaboration with the city to help find a solution to prevent flooding. It is going to be a busy year!

*Carnegie Resource  
Center  
119 West Third Avenue  
Mitchell, S.D. 57301*

