



WESTERN MONTANA
 GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
 P. O. BOX 2714
 MISSOULA MT 59806

WMGS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1993

OFFICERS FOR 1992-1993

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Vice-President	Dorothea Berthoud	244-5684
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Recording Secretary	Enid Erie	251-3583
Corresponding Secretary	Paulette Parpart	728-8054
Librarian	Paulette Parpart	721-2665 @ Library
Newsletter Editor	Judith Field	728-1628

DUES *** Dues are \$10.00 a year for individuals or \$12.00 a year for a family. This year we are asking our members to please include an extra \$1.00 with their dues if they would also like to be a member of the Montana State Genealogical Society through the Western Montana Genealogical Society.

BITTERROOT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The program for Wed., Feb. 24th, will be presented by Betsy Douglas on "Military Records - Draft Board Records of WWI." The meeting will be at 1:00 pm in the Ravalli Co. Courthouse Council on Aging Room.

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held on the second Thursday of the month (Sept.-May) at 7:00 pm in the small meeting room of the Missoula Public Library.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

COMPUTER VIRUS WARNING *****
 An anti-virus program has been installed on the main computer which will check a 3 1/2 or 5 1/4 disc for 1200 different viruses, tell you what virus you had, and then clean up the disc without losing your data. It should only take a few minutes to check a disc. The librarians will now be asking anyone who brings in their own disc to check it first with the anti-virus program before using any of the Family Search programs on the computer.

Feb 1993

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FEBRUARY MEETING

Will be on Thursday, Feb 11th. As this is close to Valentines Day, the program will include a "Tale of How You Met Your Sweetheart."

***** NEW IGI FICHE for the European Countries, and a brand new section for Russia have arrived and have been filed. These join the new IGI fiche for the U.S., Canada, England and the Scandinavian countries.

PAF USERS' GROUP will meet on Friday, Feb. 19th at 7:00 pm in the Family History Library at the LDS Church, 3201 Bancroft, Missoula. Tami Mitchel will talk about "Match & Merge".

There are now 187 million names in the IGI!

***** What the IGI is *****

(The following history and description of the IGI was posted to the computer newsgroup soc.roots for the benefit of all researchers by Lt.C. Lawrence A. Reed. I hope you will find it as informative as I did.)

From the 1830s on, members of the LDS church have kept records of their ancestry. This was compiled by family members and was sometimes based on records, but in the early years was more often based on family histories, stories, etc.

Starting in the 1840s, members of the church began performing religious rites for the living and the Dead, which are called "Baptism", "Endowment", "Sealing of Spouses" and "Sealing of Children to Families". So far as their ancestors were concerned, members either went to the temples and provided the information on people for use in these rites and acted as proxies for the dead, or submitted information on a variety of forms used over the years to the church who apportioned the work to the various temples. Members who submitted information had the option of performing the rites (called "doing the work") themselves as proxies for the dead, or the church would provide proxies. (which is as far as I will take this discussion for purposes of explaining the IGI)

Initially, these rites were performed, but no records were kept. Shortly after they began, the LDS church instituted record keeping for these. At first, this simply meant writing down the name of the person for whom the rite (called an ordinance) was performed, along with whatever information about the person the individual who was requesting the work had, which often was no more than "friend" and perhaps a country of birth. This record keeping, while intended to be systematic and thorough, did not require any

specific proof of the information provided. This information was kept in "Temple Books".

By the early part of this century record keeping had become more thorough, and proof of a persons existence was required. This usually took the form of birth certification (personal, county, state, whatever could be found of an official nature). At the most extreme, a single official document with name, date and place of birth on the same document was required, or the work couldn't be submitted. This was buffered later with the option to find three documents that would substantiate the event for a submittal to be approved. The same requirements applied to marriages. Since 1989 the requirement has been to work with family members to find as much information as possible, but the data can be submitted to the church without Primary Source information when it is not available.

The collection a of materials kept by the LDS church fall roughly into four time periods: pre 1942, 1942-1970, 1970 - 1989, and post 1989. These are reflected by the type of records kept - books and 3X5 cards pre-1942; stricter standards, 3X5 cards and family group sheets for 1942-Oct 1969, individual submissions for computerized record keeping from 1970-1989, and family group sheets for computerized record keeping for 1989 and on.

Simultaneously with other record keeping, beginning in 1942 church members were asked to submit pedigree charts and family group sheets that, they prepared, to the church for collection in unofficial files. Various iterations of the "four-generation programs" were conducted with varied success. Additionally, the LDS church has systematically microfilmed records throughout the world, offering a free copy to whoever would let them film their records. Many accepted, many did not. For example, there are

parishes in England who have never allowed microfilming, though their records are deteriorating in basement stores in some places. In some cases, microfilms of the BTs substitute, but the microfilming project was entirely voluntary.

Some of these microfilmed records then had the data extracted into computer files which then had the ordinances done for the people recorded there.

So what does this mean to you and me and how does it tie into the IGI?

LDS church records reflect the record keeping practices above: 1) Books of handwritten temple records (the temple being where the rites described above were performed); 2) 3X5 index cards from the "Temple Index Bureau <TIB> (an attempt to index family group sheets as well as individual ordinances for whom no Family Groups existed from 1942 to 1970) approx. 38 Million; 3) "Archive Records" - family groups of temple work completed - several million (note - when these were microfilmed beginning in 1970, it was discovered that more than a million were missing - patrons had taken them); 4) "Patrons' Section" of four-generation submittals; 5) computerized records of temple work submitted by members after 1970, with varying degrees of proof; 6) computerized records of temple work done from records extracted from microfilms of selected parish/ church records around the world; and 7) microfilm of four-generation program submittals after 1970, which were not put into the Patron's Section.

Of the above, all are available on microfilm except the computerized records; why make a printout and then microfilm it when the computer record exists? Microfiche was determined to be the easiest medium to distribute in - not erasable and compact, and could be automatically created from

computer files. This computerized collection of temple work done from 1970 and on was the original IGI, which allowed for and formed the basis of Family History Centers (originally branch libraries of the Genealogical society of Utah, now the LDS Family History Center) and the Family History Libraries now available in more than 1500 locations worldwide.

Since the production of the original IGI, the LDS church has worked on incorporating the other records discussed above, except for the Patron's Section and Four Generation Program data. Work is on-going to get the data from written and typed temple record books, 3X5 cards and Family Group Records generated under the various record-keeping programs into computer format and include it in the IGI. This is why the IGI is growing rapidly. This task is projected for completion in June of 1993. I don't know yet when the final IGI for all the prior temple work will be available. The current IGI has about 175 Million names and takes up 55 CD-ROMs of 638 MegaBytes each.

After this effort is complete, IGI growth will slow to the 8 - 9 Million names processed each year by the LDS church.

It has always been the policy of the LDS church (at least in my lifetime) to offer free and open access to these records. Various methods of distribution and various levels of access (home copies, ward Family History Libraries, copies for genealogical and historical societies) are being considered. New retrieval software is being developed. At the same time, since the LDS church is a lay church (no one gets paid for anything), the Family History Libraries are staffed by volunteers with varied levels of genealogical training/ understanding. Volunteers are welcome. So - a long discussion, as accurate

as I can recall. - we all benefit by the amount and availability of information. And the price is right!

For more detailed information on the IGI, see International Genealogical Index Reference Guide (available on section Z of the IGI microfiche.) To find out how to find the original

source see "Finding an IGI Source."

Remember to check the Parish and Vital Records List (updated quarterly) to determine which records have been extracted and are listed in the IGI Index, or which records are currently being extracted.

	member list	STREET	STATE	Phone No.
1	Wanda L. Alsaker	1308 Jackson St.	Missoula, MT 59802	543-5388
2	James S. Benish	110 Kensington	Missoula, MT 59801	728-7650
3	Dorothy A. Berthoud	Star Rt. Box 312	Potomac, MT 59823	406-244-5684
4	Irene Berven	350 W. Central Ave.	Missoula, MT 59801	549-8898
5	John & Mary Bergum	2224 E. Summit	Missoula, MT 59803	251-5944
6	Roger D. Clark	14585 Hellgate Lane	Clinton, MT 59825	258-6995
7	Joan Cornman	319 E. Broadway, #204	Missoula, MT 59802	543-4903
8	Jack E. DeRyke	3212 S. 259th Lane	Kent, WA 98032-0709	206-941-3618
9	Phyllis Duncan	2622 Arcadia Dr.	Missoula, MT 59803	251-3177
10	Enid L. Erie	2742 Ancabide Ln.	Missoula, MT 59803	251-3583
11	Judith Field	317 Livingston	Missoula, MT 59801-8007	728-1628
12	Cherie & Harold Fisher	405 Agnes	Missoula, MT 59801	721-5333
13	Virginia Reilly Glore	323 Brooks	Missoula, MT 59801	549-9330
14	Joann Gonzalez	910 Elm St.	Missoula, MT 59802	543-7884
15	Dennis Gordon	1246 North Ave.	Missoula, MT 59801	549-6280
16	Hazel J. Harley	2360 Partridge	Missoula, MT 59802	549-1471
17	Maurice Helterline	1561 Alaskan Way S.	Seattle, WA 98134	-
18	Laura Gregory	614 Livingston Ave.	Missoula, MT 59801	543-7369
19	Carol Israel	3210 Hollis	Missoula, MT 59801	543-6185
20	Emma Job	1319 E. Broadway #203	Missoula, MT 59802	721-4167
21	Loren R. & Barbara F. Johnson	326 E. Kent	Missoula, MT 59801	549-9564
22	Joyce Kemmer	2233 S. 5th W	Missoula, MT 59801	543-6770
23	William R. McCormick	605 Speedway Ave.	Missoula, MT 59802-5561	543-6529
24	Carol McGuire	520 W. Kent	Missoula, MT 59801	549-0076
25	N. Bernadine McKinney	1000 Rollins, Apt 6	Missoula, MT 5901	-
26	Paulette Parpart	415 E. Main #1	Missoula, MT 59802	728-8054
27	"	Missoula Public Library	Missoula	721-2665
28	Jo Potter	5055 Evergreen Road	Missoula, MT 59801	251-3588
29	Sharon D. Rose	1925 Oriole	Missoula, MT 59802	728-6784
30	Gerald Schliebe	402 Augusta Drive	Missoula, MT 59801-1324	549-0687
31	Sarah & Mary Linn Snyder	P.O. Box 8854	Missoula, MT 59807	-
32	Cathryn J. Strombo	140 Mullan Road W	Superior, MT 59872	406-822-4626
33	Blanche L. Tate	317 Westview Drive	Missoula, MT 59803	549-2855
34	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-
36	-	-	-	-