

Western Montana Genealogical Society

WMGS NEWSLETTER

Western
Montana
Genealogical
Society

September 2003

1870 Census on Ancestry – An Every Name Index

Since the Missoula Family History Center has a full subscription to *Ancestry.com*, the Newsletter will have periodic articles to keep you informed on new additions to the *Ancestry.com* databases. The following is taken from the *Ancestry.com* website, but I wanted to point out that “those persons” mentioned below includes every man, woman and child enumerated in the 1870 census. This index thus pushes back by a decade the ability to search for

children in census indexes (from the recent release of the every name 1880 Census Index available on the FamilySearch.org site.)

“This database details those persons enumerated in the 1870 United States Federal Census, the Nineteenth Census of the United States. In addition, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to the actual images of the 1870

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WMGS SEPTEMBER MEETING

The next meeting of the WMGS will be on Tuesday, Sept. 9th, at 7:00 PM in the Large Meeting Room of the Missoula Public Library. After the business meeting we The WMGS September meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 9th at 7:00 pm in the large meeting room of the Missoula Public Library.

We are pleased to have Erin Brown of Missoula based Brown Research Associates, Inc. as our first speaker of the 2003 - 04 season. Erin, who specializes in Irish Genealogy and teaches

two genealogy courses through Dickinson Lifelong Learning Center, will present the program "TRACING YOUR IMMIGRANT ORIGINS." The program will present record types, reference tools and principles that can be applied to almost any country as well as highlighting those unique to Irish Genealogy.

Need a ride or want to car pool? Call Judith Field at 728-1628 if you need a ride or can volunteer to pick up people who need a ride.

**WMGS Meeting,
Tuesday, Sep. 9th,
7:00 pm, at the
Missoula Public
Library Large
Meeting Room.**

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In The Mail



BEAVER HEAD HUNTERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, 15 S. Montana Ave., Dillon, MT 59725; www.rootsweb.com/~mtbhhs; June 2003. This issue contains a listing of "MT Cemeteries, Vital Records and Other [Montana] Genealogical Data at the MT Historical Society," and "Schools of Beaverhead County Through History." "WPA Index" contains a list of names indexed from WPA files found in the museum which contain either biographies or obituaries of early Beaverhead County settlers.

BIG SKY ROUNDUP, Montana State Genealogical Society, Betty L. Marshall, P.O. Box 476, Chester, MT 59522; www.rootsweb.com/~mtmsgs; July 2003. This issue contains the minutes of the July 12, 2003 meeting with info on the MT State Death Indexing Project which is being offered to Ancestry.com with MSGS retaining ownership of the indexes.

CENTRAL MONTANA WAGON TRAILS, Lewiston Genealogy Society, 701 W. Main St., Lewiston, Mt 59457-2501; November 2003. They have completed the 1930 Census Index for Fergus County and this is available for \$15.

DAWSON COUNTY TREE BRANCHES, Dawson Co. Montana, P.O. Box 1275, Glendive, MT 59330-1275; www.cheyenneancestors.com/dawson;

FADED GENES, Lewis & Clark Co. Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 5313, Helena, MT 59604; lccgen@mtlib.org; June 2003. Whether you're a quilt maker or not, enjoy the reprint of "Quilting Folklore: Omens, Portents, and Superstitions" by Barbara Brackman, *Quilter's Newsletter Magazine*, Nov. 1995. Also, see "You Know You're From Montana If..."

FAMILY HISTORY MAGAZINE, May/June 2003. This issue focuses on cemetery/death records with "47 Simple Solutions to Help You Locate Your Ancestor's Grave," "Technology Brings to Life the Stories Represented by the Dash Between Birth and Death Dates on Headstones," "Cemetery Research Can Take You to Unexpected Places," "Mortuary Records: A Valuable Resource Often Overlooked," and "Artistic Messages Breathe Life into Headstones of Love,

Laughter, and Sacrifice."

July/August 2003—Includes "Get on Board the Orphan Train," "Get Your DNA Tested Quick and Easy—Find Out Who You're Related To," "19 Ways to Cut the Red Tape of Adoption Records," "A 19th Century Urban Neighborhood," "Researching Polish Civil Census Record," "Old Newspaper Clippings Weave a Family's History and Leave Behind a Mystery."

September/October 2003—This issue has a pull-out section "Directory of Professional Researchers." Articles include "By the Sweat of Their Brows: 3 Easy Steps for Using U.S. Occupational Records," "A Fighter is Born: The Importance of Recording History as it Happens," "Shaking Down the Family Tree: The Art of Collecting Oral Histories in 11 Simple Steps," and "You Can Write Historical Fiction Based on Fact."

GEN-BUG NEWS, Yellowstone Genealogy Forum, % Parmley Billings Library, 510 N. Broadway, Billings MT 59101; July 2003.

"Weddings—Tradition or Superstition" has some interesting tidbits on weddings, such as "*If in October you do marry, love will come but riches tarry.*"

FAMILY CHRONICLE; July/August 2003. The main article, "Ellis Island: What's Myth, What's Reality," by John Phillip Colletta, describes the history of immigration through New York. Also see "Agricultural Census Records," "A Genealogical Strategy Based on Photographs," "Genealogy on a Shoestring," "The 1930 Census Records," "The Current State of Genealogy Software" which presents an overview of changes over the last two years, "Brickwall Solutions," and "Guardians of the Gates" the story of Canada's quarantine stations.

HERITAGE QUEST; July/August 2003. Articles in this issue include "New Orleans Travel and Research," "Gold Star Mothers and WWII," "Germanic and Jewish Research," and "Surveying: What the Genealogist Needs to Know."

NGS NEWSMAGAZINE, Vol. 29, No. 3, May/June 2003. Read the article "NARA's New Access to Archival Databases (AAD)" and then go check it out at www.archives.gov/aad/. [If you

search the subject *Immigrants*, you will find the *Famine Irish Data Files* an electronic version of *The Famine Immigrants: Lists of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York 1846-1851* (7 vols.)

Vol. 29, No. 4, July/August 2003—Articles include "Wright Brothers Family History," "Recessive Diseases in America," "Using the Internet to Find Hard-to-Find Books," "Looking Locally For Military Records," and "Finding Soldiers."

NGS QUARTERLY, Vol. 91, No. 2, June 2003. Feature articles are "Lessons in Using Indirect Evidence...." and Sarah Songster Everett: Disproving a Knitted Name. "Merchant Seamen Records: Genealogical Uses and Availability" is a short article on an interesting records source beginning in 1789.

TALES & TRAILS, Columbia Gorge Genealogical Society, % The Dalles Public Library, 722 Court St., The Dalles, OR 97058-2270; July 2003. This issue has a list of the Current Titles in the Oregon Newspaper Project, with how to order information.

TREASURE STATE LINES, Great Falls Genealogy Society, High Plains Heritage Center. 422 2nd St. South, Great Falls, MT 59405-1816; Vol. 28, No. 2, 2003. This issue has the "Cascade County Death Index 1901-1902 J-Z," "Using the Massachusetts and Maine Direct Tax Index of 1798," and a listing of the current Clerk of Court Fees effective 1 July 2003 (see box below.)

**Montana Clerk of District Court Fees
Effective 1 July 2003**

General Copies: \$1.00 per page for the first 10 pages
\$.50 per page for each additional page

Certified Copies: \$2.00 per document certified
(unchanged)

Copy of Marriage License: \$5.00

Copy of Dissolution Decree: \$10.00

Searches: \$2.00 per name, per year up to 7 years
\$1.00 per name for each additional year

Bits & Bytes

Montana GenWeb site provides info on the following at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mtgenweb/>

Index to 1899 "Society of Montana Pioneers" Volume 1.

Tom Graham created this name index for the above-mentioned publication!

Index to 1921 "Montana Its Story and Biography" 3 Volumes., by Tom Stout.

Gayle Collins created this name index for the above-mentioned publication! Lookups available as well!

Battle of the Little Big Horn Casualties

This link brings you to the main Montana files page with links to histories, military and miscellaneous records.

Montana Native American History & Genealogy

Great links to Native American resources and websites.

Family History Library

COMPUTER RESERVATIONS

Call 543-6148 during library hours.

FHL HOURS

Mon. 12:00 - 4:00 PM
Tue. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM & 7:00 - 9:30 PM
Wed. 7:00 - 9:30 PM
Thurs. 12:00 - 4:00 PM & 7:00 - 9:30 PM.
Sat 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Missoula Family History Center Online

The Missoula Family History Center's online computer is still available on an hourly basis. As yet, there is no charge to use the Internet, but there may be a small fee in the future.

Please try to call ahead or come into the library and sign up to insure you will be able to use a computer when you visit.

Sometimes the Bumps Are Good for You – Juliana Smith

Last week I took my daughter out with her new roller-skates for her first skating lesson. As we were going along our rather uneven sidewalk, I kept cautioning her to watch out for the bumps so she wouldn't get hurt. When we got to a particularly big bump, she began to lose her balance. I reached out to catch her just as her skate hit the bump, but instead of falling, the bump caught her skate and helped her to regain her balance. She told me, "See Mommy, sometimes the bumps are good for you."

I began to ponder this particular piece of wisdom. The truth of that simple statement goes well beyond that the bump saved her from falling. It could easily apply to our family history research where we run into many "bumps" in the form of conflicting information. Like the bump in the sidewalk, conflicting information can cause us to fall onto the wrong path where we can waste precious time and money chasing the wrong ancestor. Or it can serve to help us regain our balance and move forward onto more solid ground.

I don't know about you, but my time and money is precious! So how do we make sure that a bump doesn't lead us down the wrong road in our research? Let's look at some steps we should take when we run into conflicting information.

Just the Facts, Ma'am

First you will want to lay out the all facts you have collected that relate to the conflict. Make sure you're not including any assumptions that could lead you astray. I like to write or type them out in a timeline or some other format. If writing this column has taught me anything, it's that whenever I try to put one of my theories in writing, the holes in my research magically appear-- usually five minutes before my deadline!

Include all of the sources for each fact so you can analyze them. If you've been chasing down ancestors for any length of time, you've probably heard the terms primary source and secondary source bandied about. Primary sources are those records that were created at or very near the time of the event, by someone who attended the event or had first-hand knowledge of the event. (For example, a birth certificate, filed at or near the time of birth, by the physician who attended the birth.) Secondary sources are records that are more removed from the event. An index to birth records would be considered a secondary source.

Some primary sources will also contain secondary information too and that's where things can get a little fuzzy. For example, a death record would be a primary source for the death information, but birth date information found on that same record would be considered secondary.

An example of two conflicting secondary sources is with my great-grandfather's date of birth. On his death certificate, which has his son listed as the informant, it says he was born in 1879. His alien registration, containing information that he personally gave when he registered says 1869. Since he would probably know better than his son, the alien registration is more likely to be correct. Bottom line, the further removed the information is from the event and actual participants in the event, the more possibility there is for errors.

Rethink Your Thinking

Sometimes we see a record with our ancestor's name and just latch onto it. When we start seeing conflicts though, it

may be time to reevaluate our findings and make sure we have the right person and not some other individual with the same name. Even with uncommon names, it's possible that we are dealing with a cousin or someone else who was named after the same person, or just coincidentally has the same name.

If your problem is with a date and you had to do math to come up with it, you might want to double-check that as well. I'm notorious for forgetting to carry over the extra year when calculating birth dates from the age at death. Check the Original

While I'm at it, I like to check out the actual record. Sometimes, there really isn't a conflict at all, but rather I have jumped to conclusions without really reading the record. Transcribing the record helps to avoid this problem, but even though I have transcribed a lot of the records I have found into my genealogy database, I also like to browse through the actual records and read the fine print.

Ask questions like:

Was I looking at the right line or column?
Is the field labeled 'Place of birth' or 'Last residence?'
'Birth date' or 'Baptism date?'
'Date of marriage' or 'Marriage bond?'
'Date of death' or 'Burial date?'
'How long in this country?' or "How long in this state?"
Did I interpret any and all abbreviations correctly?

With all the screaming and happy dancing that goes on when I make a new find, it's easy to make a mistake!

Take A Different Path

There will be times, even with close analysis and scrutiny of the records involved, where you just can't make a sound determination as to what is correct. Yes, these are the times that try men's (and women's) souls. In these cases, it can help to approach the problem from a different angle. Look for other records that will corroborate the information (and hopefully not contradict both!)

In some cases, you might also want to focus on a collateral relative. By tracing a sibling's origins, you may locate your direct ancestor's origins, and you may even find records like probates that directly reference your ancestor.

Best Two Out of Three Doesn't Work Here

One thing to keep in mind is that, particularly in this day and age, wrong information can appear in more than one place—and with amazing speed. So if you find a birth date on one cousin's Web site, and another cousin says they have the same thing, don't take the best two out of three. It could be that once sources are checked, they both got their information from the same source and that source could be wrong. Dig down to the bottom of all the sources and then analyze what you have.

A Final Note

If you happen to have a sieve-like memory similar to mine, once you finally figure out your problem, you'll want to make sure you write down how you came to your conclusion. Otherwise, next time around you'll be scratching your head and have to deal with the bumps all over again.

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(April 2002 Ancestry.com Archives, from Ancestry Daily News)

14th ANNUAL MONTANA STATE

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Hosted by the Chester, Chinook, Havre and Cut Bank Societies

Duck Inn, 1300 First Street South, Havre MT 59501

Motel room reservations available at BW Great Northern Inn
1345 First Street South, Havre MT 59501

SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2003

Registration Form

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Number Attending _____
Friday & Saturday Pre-Registration @ \$70.00 _____

Friday only (includes Lunch & Banquet) @ \$53.00 _____

Extra Lunch Tickets Friday How Many _____ @ \$ 9.00 _____

Extra Banquet Tickets Friday How Many _____ @ \$18.35 _____

Saturday only (includes Lunch) @ \$34.50 _____

Saturday lunch, extra plate How Many _____ @ \$ 9.00 _____

Total Enclosed _____

Send fee with this form to:

MSGS c/o Betty Marshall
P O Box 476, Chester MT 59522

Pre-registration must be postmarked by September 15, 2003 and will qualify for "Early Bird" drawing for refund of registration fee.

Special MT State Genealogical Conference hotel room rates at the BW Great Northern Inn are \$59 single, \$67 - 2 People plus tax
Phone 406- - for hotel reservations and state you are with the Genealogical Conference. Deadline for rooms is Aug 25th

There are no rooms at the Duck Inn which is just across the street.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2003

Pre-Conference Activities

4:00 – 7:00 P.M. Registration

6:30 – 9:00 MSGS Executive Board Meeting
BW Great Northern Inn

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2003 – Duck Inn Olympic Grand Ballroom

7:30 – 9:30 Registration
9:00 A.M. Welcome and Announcements
9:15 – 10:30 “Federal Land Records” – Christine Rose
10:30 – 11:00 Vendors and Break
11:00 – 12:00 “Women of the West” – Sylvia Murray
12:30 – 2:00 Lunch and Vendors
Entertainment by Dena Fritz, a humorous Cowboy Poet
2:15 – 3:30 “Successful Courthouse Research” – Christine Rose
Vendors
4:00 – 5:30 “Photographs & Scrapbooks” – Joyce Kops
“Havre Beneath the Streets” Tour (Optional) Fee Charged
6:30 Banquet – Chester Anniversary
Entertainment by Bluepaw- Beargrass Musical Group

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2003

7:30 – 9:30 Registration
7:30 – 8:45 MT State Gen. Soc. Business Meeting
9:00 A.M. Announcements
9:15 – 10:30 “Using Little Known & Neglected Sources: A Potpourri” –
Christine Rose
10:45 – 11:00 Vendors
10:45 – 12:15 “Havre Beneath the Streets” Tour (Optional) Fee Charged
11:00 – 12:00 “Immigrant Trains” – Sylvia Murray
12:15 – 1:45 Lunch
Vendors and Book Frolic (Book Frolic closes at 2 p.m.)
2:00 – 3:30 “Military Records for Problem Solving” – Christine Rose
3:30 – 4:00 Pick up books. Vendors will remain open until 4 p.m.

Bookworm Frolic – MSGS Fun Fund Raiser will be held again this year. Check your bookcases for annuals, city directories, family histories, genealogy books, tapes or videos. Bring them to the conference for a silent auction. The Bookworm Frolic will be set up in the Duck Inn Ballroom near the vendor area. Bidding closes at 2 p.m. Saturday.

(Continued from page 1)

Federal Census, copied from the National Archives and Records Administration microfilm, M593, 1761 rolls; part of Minnesota T132. (If you do not initially find the name on the page that you are linked to, try a few pages forward or backward, as sometimes different pages had the same page number.)

Enumerators of the 1870 census were instructed to record the names of every person in the household. Added to this, enumerators were presented with printed instructions, which account for the greater degree of accuracy compared with earlier censuses. Enumerators were asked to include the following categories in the census: name; age at last birthday (if a child was under one year of age, months of age were to be stated as fractions, such as 1/12); sex; color; profession; occupation or trade of every male and female; value of real estate; place of birth; whether mother and father were of foreign birth; whether born or married within the year and the month; those who could not read; those who could not write; whether deaf, dumb, blind, or insane or "idiotic". No relationships were shown between members of a household. The categories allowed Congress to determine persons residing in the United States for collection of taxes and the appropriation of seats in the House of Representatives.

This census includes indexes from the following states: Alabama, Arizona Territory, California, Connecticut, Dakota Territory, Delaware, Georgia, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire and has been recently updated to include Arkansas, Colorado Territory, Florida and Pennsylvania."

WMGS 2003 ELECTIONS

The current officers, who are all in their first year in their current positions, have elected to run again in September. We thank these officers for their services in the past year and for their offer to continue in the next year if elected.

Nominations are open until the election at the Sept. 9th meeting if anyone else is interested in a position on the WMGS board.

Wisconsin Historical Society

We received a flyer from the Wisconsin Historical Society with new information about the genealogy resources on their website at: www.wisconsinhistory.org.

Wisconsin Name Index—is a new addition to the site at www.wisconsinhistory.org/wni. You can search the online Wisconsin Name Index for your Wisconsin Ancestors who lived and/or died in Wisconsin before 1970.

What is the Wisconsin Name Index?

Starting in 1870, their staff made a catalog card for every biographical sketch in each new Wisconsin county history. They made a similar card for each obituary added to the scrapbooks they called the "Wisconsin Necrology," and frequently added cards for magazine and newspaper articles about Wisconsin residents. After more than a century of such work, the data on the original cards was typed into a database that you can search online today.

How to use the Wisconsin Name Index

This online database leads to more than 100,000 obituaries, personal sketches, and other short biographies of Wisconsin people. You can search the database with a last name, first name, maiden name, time frame and various other details. Once you locate your ancestor's biographical sketch, article, or obituary, order a copy of the text through their online genealogical research service. Fees apply. For details go to www.wisconsinhistory.org/wni.

Vital Records before October 1907/ Civil War Service Records—these records can be searched for and ordered online at wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy/orgs.

Wisconsin Local History and Biography Articles (Free) www.wisconsinhistory.org/wlhba/

Wisconsin Historical Images (Free) www.wisconsinhistory.org/whi/

Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers, 1861-1865 (Free) www.wisconsinhistory.org/roster/

Western Montana
Genealogical Society

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Dues & Queries

Dues are \$11 a year for individuals and \$13 for families, which includes a Newsletter (Sep, Nov, Jan, Apr, & May) and membership in the Montana State Genealogical Society. Queries are published free for members, \$2 for non-members.

We appreciate any submissions of articles on genealogy for the Newsletter including *How You Solved It*, local pedigrees, book reviews of local history/genealogy books, and any genealogy news items.

Dues Due For 2003-2004?

Please check the mailing label on the Newsletter. An '03 after your name means dues are due for the new year; '04—you've paid!

Upcoming Conferences

14th Annual Montana State Genealogical Society Conference

This Conference, Sept. 26-27, 2003 will be at the Best Western Great Northern Inn, in Havre, Montana. The featured speaker will be Christina Rose, CG, CGL, FASG, who will present four lectures: Federal Land Records, Military Records for Problem Solving, and Using Little Known and Neglected Sources, a Potpourri. Local accredited genealogist, Sylvia Murray, will also be a presenter. Pre-registration (\$70) end Sept. 15th. See www.Rootsweb.com/~mtmsg or the enclosed flyer for registration, speaker, and banquet information.