

# Western Montana Genealogical Society

Western  
Montana  
Genealogical  
Society

January 2004

## Be Prepared

by Michael John Neill

The first of the year brings resolutions for many people, and I am no different. While I have done some dabbling my wife's Swedish and Belgian lines, I have decided to make a concerted effort to seriously work on these families. Like many genealogists, I start out the year with great visions. Hopefully, I'll stick to this resolution and have some success. While there are differences between the two areas that I will be researching, they do have two things in common: there are excellent records for both areas, and I have a minimal understanding of the languages spoken in both countries.

In order to maximize success

and minimize confusion, I need to be prepared before I continue work on these lines. With that in mind, this week we discuss what should be done before I have a foreign-language record staring me in the face. While past columns have discussed my initial attempts with these records, we will start in the beginning.

### Homework in the U.S.A.

I've already researched these families in the United States as much as possible. This is an extremely important first step. The comprehensive research on both these families conducted in the United States included the

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## WMGS JANUARY MEETING

The WMGS will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 13th, at 7:00 PM in the Large Meeting Room of the Missoula Public Library. After the business meeting, Rich Poitras will be the guest speaker for the January 13th meeting. Using one or more graphics programs, he will be demonstrating some of the techniques and steps used in restoring and ma-

nipulating photos. If time permits, he may also be demonstrating a program used for making an impressive presentation from a series of photos.

**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,  
THURSDAY, Jan.  
13th, 7:00 pm, at  
the Missoula Public  
Library Large  
Meeting Room.**

### WMGS Officers 2002/2003

**President**  
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## In The Mail



**BEAVER HEAD HUNTERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**, 15 S. Montana Ave., Dillon, MT 59725; <http://www.3rivers.net/~abcs/BHH/>; Dec. 2003, Issue 2003.04. A more complete **Index of Obituaries from the Dillon Tribune** is available online at their website listed above. You can also search for marriages in Beaverhead County on their site. These include some Idaho marriages as Montana had no waiting period and Idaho did. "Language is Constantly Changing" is a list of words whose meaning could be misleading. "Three Photo Albums and What I Did" by Pauline Benson has some tips for removing old glue/paper and tape from old photos. She used something called un-du adhesive remover on the tape (un-du Products, Inc., Dallas TX75228, 1-888-buy-undu) with great success.

**CENTRAL MONTANA WAGON TRAILS**, Lewiston Genealogy Society, 701 W. Main St., Lewiston, Mt 59457-250; November 2003, Vol. 25, No. 1. They have finished indexing the 1930 Census for Fergus, Petroleum, and Judith Basin Counties, and have copies available for sale. They have also copied the Patents at the courthouse and have finished a project on the Land Plats which have been alphabetized and printed for easy use.

**FADED GENES**, Lewis & Clark Co. Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 5313, Helena, MT 59604' [www.mth.mtlib.org/Local%20Information/L%20C20genealogy.htm](http://www.mth.mtlib.org/Local%20Information/L%20C20genealogy.htm); Dec. 2003, Vol. 20, No. 4. This issue continues the vital records abstraction of *The Mountaineer*, published at Marysville, Lewis & Clark Co., MT: Dec 1895-Feb 1896.

**FAMILY HISTORY MAGAZINE**, January / February 2004. There are several articles on marriage customs: "From This Day Forward" examines the evolution of Irish marriage laws and traditions, "Mazel Tov! ..." examines Jewish wedding customs, and "American Indian Marriage Customs" shows the symbolic nature of American Indian marriages as it follows a traditional Cherokee wedding. Other articles show you how to use Italian notary records, and explore the life of Cyndi Howells and the ever growing *Cyndi's List*.

**FAMILY CHRONICLE**; February 2004. "The Immigration-Naturalization Cycle" reviews why we want these records, the discusses the latest methods for finding them. There are also "Ten Resources for Pennsylvania German Roots" "French Connections" 21 Homes for Franco-American Heritage," "Why is My Record Not There," "Clues From Funeral Homes," "Making the Most of Resources in Your Ancestor's Home Town" and lots more good stuff.

**HERITAGE QUEST**; November / December 2003. This issue focuses on *Involving Children in Genealogy* with "Full of Possibilities: Genealogy and Kids," "Teaching Genealogy in the Classroom," "Hooking Children on Genealogy," "Genealogy, Technology, and the Classroom," and "Our Class Genealogy Project."

**NGS NEWS MAGAZINE**; November / December 2003, Vol. 29, No. 6. This issue is loaded with good articles including "Overcoming the Language Barrier," "Digging Deep Into the Ordinance Survey of Ireland," "Transmigration From Europe to America Via England," and "Collecting Family Papers."

**NGS QUARTERLY**, Dec. 2003, Vol. 91, No. 4. This is the Centennial Edition and includes "The National Genealogical Society: A Look At It's First One Hundred Years," "Genealogy in the 'Information Age': History's New Frontier?" and "2003 Winner: Family History Writing Contest" and "Using Relationships To Establish Origins: Caspar and Catherine Hoove of Pennsylvania and Maryland."

**National Genealogical Society 2004 Bookstore & Online Catalog**

**TALES & TRAILS**, Columbia Gorge Genealogical Society, % The Dalles Public Library, 722 Court St., The Dalles, OR 97058-2270, Jan. 2004. This issue contains the story of William Hardy "Doc" Hill, born 15 June 1890 in Buncomb Co., NC who moved his family to Northern Idaho in 1891-1892, a listing of those buried in the Eyman Cemetery. Also, from the OREGON-L maillist, "The Oregon Trail: Deaths in 1852" as reported 18 Dec. 1852 by the *Oregon Statesman* contains the names and residences of the deceased.



## WESTERN MONTANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LIST

8 JANUARY 2004

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Bits & Bytes   **Online Searchable Military Records and Databases—A Guide for Genealogists and Other Researchers**

This site has two separate lists—one of free databases and another of databases that require payment. Both lists are chronological from the Revolutionary War to the Wars of the Twentieth Century.

**Under the Free Databases—General : Medals & Awards:**

- US Army Medal of Honor Recipients (Civil War to present)
- Purple Heart Recipients (incomplete)

**Under the Pay Databases** (Ancestry.com, available free at the FHL):

**American Soldiers of WWI Death Index**—in three volumes. This work is arranged alphabetically by state, and says it includes a picture, name, rank, and means of death. (I did not find the picture of the soldier that I was looking for, although he was included in the printed list, and I estimated about 50% of the pictures may be included in an un-alphabetical file called “illustrations” found just before each printed list of soldiers by state.)

<http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/military.html>

A general list of Genealogy Indexes, Records, and Databases available on the Internet is available from the main page at:

<http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/databases.html>

**Helpful Site For Dating Old Photographs**

A fellow researcher/distant cousin recently e-mailed me a bunch of scanned pictures from an old photo album. Some had names on them, none were dated. I found a site with descriptive charts for dating old Cabinet Card and the smaller Carte de Visite photo cards by the color and edge style of the stock cards that they are pasted on. To see these charts and other useful photo information visit the Old Photo Guide website at:

<http://www.city-gallery.com/guide>

## Missoula Public Library New Books

**500 Brickwall Solutions to Genealogy Problems**, from the publishers of *Family Chronicle Magazine*, 929.1072 FIVEHUN. These solutions “shows how genealogists and family historians have found ways around their research problems using the latest technology or tries and true research techniques, combined with logic and perseverance...”

**World War II Military Records: A Family Historian's Guide**, by Debra Johnson Knox, GenColl R 940.5467 KNOX. This book “is a comprehensive guide for the novice or professional researcher that provides the keys to discovering informative personnel records, casualty reports, WWII draft registrations, burial sites, awards and medals, and unit and ship histories.”

**Identifying & Dating Your Photographs**, with Maureen Taylor. This is a video by 123 Genealogy which teaches you “how to examine your pictures and discover more about your family history by uncovering the stories and time periods relating to those precious family treasures.” VID 929.2 IDENTIF.

**Heritage Album Tips & Techniques**, with Maureen Taylor. This is also a 123 Genealogy video which offers “tips and techniques for building historically accurate and visually appealing heritage albums.” VID929.2 HERITAG.

**Finding Family History in the Attic**, with Tony Burroughs. This video from 123 Genealogy which shows “where to look for clues about your family history, how to authenticate your finds, how to uncover important information, and how to preserve the family history you locate.” VID 929.2 FINDING

**Preserving Your Family History With Multimedia**, is a 123 Genealogy video which focuses on “common image software and image devices used to digitally preserve and enhance your family information and photos. VID 929.2 PRESERV

**The Canaday / McCormick Families and Their Ancestors**, compiled by Lois Canaday Hupfer. GenColl R 929.2097 HUPFER

**Cryptic Clues in the Bone Yard**, with Sharon



DeBartolo Carmack. This presentation was shot on-location in the cemetery and discusses identifying the type of cemetery, looking at grave decorations, analyzing the composition of the stone to date it, and interpreting the art and symbols on the tombstone. It also shows how to take great photos of headstones and how to make tombstone rubbings. VID 929.5 CRYPTIC

**Gravestone Chronicles I: Some Eighteenth-Century New England Carvers and Their Work** by Theodore Chase and Laurel K. Gabel. 736.5097 CHASE V.1.

**Your English Ancestry: A Guide For North Americans**, by Sherry Irvine. 929.1072 IRVINE. This book is aimed at the researcher on this continent trying to do research on English ancestry.

**The 1930 Census: A Reference and Research Guide**, by Thomas Jay Kemp. 929.373 NINE-TEE. This book is packed with research strategies and background information on the 1930 Census with over 90 maps.

**German Maps & Facts For Genealogy**, 2nd ed., by Wendy K. Uncapher and Linda M. Herrick. 912.43 UNCAPHE.

**Norwegian Research Guide**, by Linda M. Herrick and Wendy K. Uncapher. 929.1 HERRICK.

**Military Pension Laws 1776-1858**, by Christine Rose. GenColl R 343.0112 ROSE.

**Final Resting Place: Cemetery Research**, by Linda M. Herrick. GenColl R 929.1 HERRICK.

**Paper Trees: Genealogical Clip-Art**, by Tony Matthews. 929.1 MATTHEW. This is a unique collection of hand-drawn family trees and charts which you can fill in and color by yourself, then photo copy, reduce or enlarge to suit your needs.

**The Genealogist's Computer Companion**, by Rhonda A. McClure. 929.2028 MCCLURE. This book will show you how to get the most from the Internet, maximize your genealogy software, blend online research with physical sources, and preserve documents and photos electronically.

**Genealogical Evidence: A Guide to the Standard of Proof Relating to Pedigrees, Ancestry, Heirship and Family History**, by Noel C. Stevenson. 929.1 STEVENS. This book is the first full-length "authoritative source" for legal,

genealogical and historical knowledge.

**A To ZAX: A comprehensive Dictionary for Genealogists & Historians**, by Barbara Jean Evans. GenColl R 929.103 EVANS. This book is a compilation of thousands of little-used or old-fashioned words and abbreviations that you might encounter in the course of your research. It also includes a quick list of nicknames and of Dutch given names.

**The Sourcebook to Public Record Information**, 5th ed. ReadyRef R 352.387 SOURCEB 2003. This book is an aid for background investigations, legal research, locating people/assets and pre-employment screening.

**Locating Lost Family Members & Friends**, by Kathleen W. Hinckley. 929.1072 HINCKLE. The author combines her skills as a professional private investigator and certified genealogical record specialist to lead you to the people you're looking for with help in how to overcome 20th century obstacles as privacy acts, record destruction and more.

**Mallet & Chisel: Gravestone Carvers of Newport, Rhode Island in the 18th Century**, by Vincent F. Luti. 236.5097 LUTI. This book illuminates an otherwise hidden aspect of the history, art, and culture of early New England.

**Scandinavian-American Genealogical Resources**, by Dr. Charles Dickson. GenColl R 929.1089 DICKSON. This book identifies numerous sources for each of the five distinct Nordic groups, the Danes, Finns, Icelanders, Norwegians, and Swedes.

**DNA For Family Historians**, by Alan Savin. 572.86 SAVIN.

**Irish Libraries, Archives, Museums & Genealogical Centres**, by Robert K. O'Neill. GenColl R 027.0415 ONEILL. This book will acquaint the user with the valuable and accessible collections in Irish repositories, with information on operating hours, contact information—including names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and website addresses. It also includes a brief description of the Irish Genealogical Project, and vital reference details for each parish in Ireland for the tithe and valuation records from c.1830 in the record offices in Belfast and Dublin.



eath) were used to determine places of birth where possible.

— Census records (federal and state) were used to estimate dates of immigration and birth dates and places when necessary.

— Tombstones and cemetery records were used because these sources sometimes provide places of birth.

— Church records were used because sometimes these records (particularly in immigrant Lutheran or Catholic congregations) provide clues regarding European origins.

— Naturalization records were used because naturalizations after 1906 are fairly detailed. Even pre-1906 naturalizations can help estimate years of immigration.

— Immigration records were used because some passenger lists provide information on the last residence in the home country.

— Anything else I can find—we don't want to leave out any possible source!

As we've seen from other columns, possible siblings and neighbors of our ancestors may also provide clues as to our own family's origins. From these records, I had the places of origin for my wife's Swedish and Belgian ancestors. Taking the time to get that information was crucial—this was not a five-minute process.

### Homework in the Homeland

It is also crucial that I learn about the country from which the ancestors emigrated and the records that will have to be used. I've already done some initial work in records from both countries, so I have a limited knowledge of the records I'll be using. However, there is still a great deal to learn. For my Swedish work, I'm using *Cradled in Sweden*, by Carl-Erik Johansson, as my guide. For my Belgian work, I'm using a small book published by the Genealogical Society of Flemish Americans that includes translations of typical Belgian vital records in French, Dutch, and Latin. These translations of typical records have been extremely helpful in reading the few records I have already located.

### Getting Organized

Getting organized is the most important part of any research in foreign materials. The different language and culture will probably be confusing enough, so it's best not compound the issue by re-

searching in a haphazard fashion. The following are things you'll want to have on hand and in your research notebook before you even order microfilm from the Family History Library:

— *Words*. Have a basic genealogical word list in the languages you need (if you don't know the language in which the records are written, the Family History Library Card Catalog citation for the records you will be using will indicate this). The word list will reduce confusion and help you when you're ordering the records on film and when I'm actually using the records. The Family History Library website has genealogical word lists for most languages genealogists will encounter. Click here for a direct link to the first page of these research guides. It is organized alphabetically.

— *Charts*. Blank family group charts and pedigree charts with wide lines are another must. While you will probably not extract complete records on these charts, constantly updating the family structure as you research is essential to keep you from becoming confused. These are working charts, so you'll complete them in pencil.

- *Maps*. Having detailed geographic information convenient is crucial. I prefer to have maps at several different scales so I have multiple perspectives of the area, from the small nearby villages to the larger, perhaps more distant cities. MapQuest ([www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com)) is a great place to obtain some modern maps, particularly showing villages in the immediate vicinity of the ancestral village. Local Family History Centers may have maps in their permanent collections and additional gazetteers are available on loan. The previously mentioned research guides from the Family History Library will include bibliographic information to assist the researching in locating these maps. I always make two copies of maps, one that I can write all over in pencil and another one from which I make additional copies.

### Getting Ready to Take Notes

Scribbling research results in a notebook is not a good practice. Many previous articles, have discussed some note taking styles for researching foreign records. Organization before the research starts will make note taking easier while you are

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n using LDS microfilm, I have a list of what I would like to look for in each record. The list is headed by a complete citation for each source I'll be using. This way I can quickly note on my list if I found the entry or not. Plenty of room is left between each item on my sheet so that notes can be taken directly on the list itself. I photocopy located records if at all possible.

### Preprinted Forms?

More recent records may be on preprinted forms. These records are much easier to use, especially when the researcher is unfamiliar with the handwriting and the language. If I'm using this type of record, I create a note taking template by making my own blank copy of the "form." The best way to do this is to copy one entry from the records and create your own blank form. If I have access to a scanner, I'll scan the headings and make the form that way. If I don't have access to a computer, I'll cut the headings apart and, using some tape, create my own homemade template from which copies can be made. Self-made extraction forms are extremely helpful if you'll be copying a significant number of entries.

### Handwriting

The script in which the records are written can compound language difficulties. Genealogical word lists can help, as can guides to the various types of script that might be encountered. Included below are links to a few sites with old European handwriting samples. Cyndi's List also has links to numerous sites about reading old penmanship.

German Script—<http://www.genealogienetz.de/misc/scripts.html>

Swedish Script— 18th century

Swedish Script—19th century

Swedish Script—20th century—<http://user.tninet.se/%7EYke628p/english/abc1800.htm>

### In Summary

The Boy Scout motto is appropriate here: Be Prepared. Preparing in the area where the ancestor settled by comprehensively researching the ancestor, preparing in the homeland by learning research techniques and a little about the area and languages in question, and preparing to research by obtaining adequate forms and supplies will increase your chances for success in foreign lan-

guage records. In future columns, we will expand on previous columns that touched on these Swedish and Belgian families.

Michael John Neill is the Course I Coordinator at the Genealogical Institute of Mid America (GIMA) held annually in Springfield, Illinois, and is also on the faculty of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois. Michael is the Web columnist for the FGS FORUM and is on the editorial board of the *Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly*. He conducts seminars and lectures on a wide variety of genealogical and computer topics and contributes to several genealogical publications, including *Ancestry Magazine* and *Genealogical Computing*. You can e-mail him at: [mjnrootdig@myfamily.com](mailto:mjnrootdig@myfamily.com) or visit his website at: [www.rootdig.com/](http://www.rootdig.com/), but he regrets that he is unable to assist with personal research. Copyright 2004, MyFamily.com. All rights reserved.

## Recording Cemeteries with a Tape Recorder and Camera

While preparing to visit the Catholic cemetery in my hometown of Freedom, Wisconsin, I was concerned that it would be difficult to write down the information from each headstone because of tendonitis in my right wrist (no doubt from too much mousing). My sister wisely suggested, "Use your hand recorder."

Now why didn't I think of that! Such an easy solution. As I photographed each headstone with my digital camera, I read off into my recorder everything that was inscribed on the stone. I will now transcribe all the information and match it up with the headstone. It was much easier than trying to write down everything and then trying to read my writing later. I think I will eventually go back to some of the other cemeteries in the Lawrence Twp./Wrightstown/Hollandtown area of Wisconsin and do the same.

Gloria School Farrell

*Ancestry.com Quick Tip, 23 December 2003*



## ANCESTRY.COM UPDATE

**1860 Census Index**

Currently indexed and linked only for Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, and Florida.

**1870 Census Index**

The most recent update to the 1870 Census Index includes the index to the 1870 Montana Territory. The only states **NOT YET INDEXED** for 1870 are Indiana and Iowa.

**New York Passenger Index**

Current years indexed are: 1850-1870; 1888-1891 (1884-1887 coming soon.) The indexes are linked to views of the actual passenger lists.

**Filby Immigration Lists**

The "Passenger and Immigration Lists Index" was compiled by P. William Filby and published by Gale Research. This resource includes individuals included in the "Index" and all supplements through the year 2003.

## NEWS FROM SANDERS COUNTY

Maurice Helterline send word that he is still indexing the Sanders County Independent Ledger (Thompson Falls Newspaper.) He is currently to 1951 and should have 1926-1960 indexed by this spring.

## OFFICERS FOR 2004

At the November meeting the following officers were elected for 2004:

President: Jennifer Driscoll  
Vice-President: Paulette K. Parpart  
Treasurer: Marcia Porter  
Secretary: Terry Denny

## FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

**COMPUTER RESERVATIONS**

Call 543-6148 during library hours.

**FHL HOURS \*\*\*\*\* NOTE NEW HOURS**

**Mon. CLOSED**  
**Tue. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM & 7:00 - 9:30 PM**  
**Wed. CLOSED**  
**Thurs. 9:00 AM - 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 will be networked to another new computer so that both computers will be able to be online at the same time. There is currently only one computer on the Internet.

**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.**

## FAMILY TREE LEGENDS

We recently received a trial copy of the Family Tree Legends genealogy software. This trial CD version of the program may be installed on as many computers as we wish, but, as a trial program, it will only run on any one computer for 30 days. If you like it, you can order a copy at a special discount price of \$24.95 from their website at:

<http://www.familytreelegends.com/society>

This software also uses an online data matching service called *SmartMatch* which Dick Eastman (of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter) said "I have never seen that degree of accuracy on any other online data matching service" (it will automatically search for missing ancestors in your genealogy files in their online databases.)

They also say that they have recently created a free search engine of the Social Security Death Index accessible at:

<http://www.familytreelegends.com/society>



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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.

## Note May Meeting Date

The Large meeting room of the Missoula Public Library was booked for another large meeting on Tuesday, May 11th, so we will meet on **Thursday, May 13th.**

## Upcoming Conferences

### 15th Annual Montana State Genealogical Society Conference

This Conference, Sept. 23-25, 2004 in Helena. This conference will be hosted by the Lewis & Clark and the Jefferson County Societies. Guest speaker will be Hank Jones of San Diego, CA, the author of "Psychic Roots" and "More Psychic Roots."

### Clark County Genealogical Society Spring Seminar 2004

This seminar will present Dr. John Phillip Colletta on Saturday, March 20, 2004, at the Washington State School for the Deaf, in Vancouver, WA from 9 am to 4:30 pm. The cost is \$45 for non-members (includes lunch.)