

Western Montana Genealogical Society



May 2004

Pick a Spouse, Any Spouse – Michael John Neill

Are your ancestors' marriages causing you problems? Is your lack of knowledge of your ancestor's marriages creating a brick wall? When family members have only one relationship that produces children and that relationship is documented by a marriage, the work is easy. Of course that is not always the case. This week we look at some general suggestions for tracking your ancestors through their multiple marriages.

Who Got Re-Hitched?

The remarriage of the mother after the death of the father is among most problematic of situations for the genealogist. The trouble stems from the last name change of the mother and the potential last name change of her children. Many stepchildren were never adopted, yet many times they are listed with their stepfather's last name in official records. If a family "disappears," is it because the

father died and the mother remarried?

The remarriage of the father does not present quite the same problem. The main difficulty may be in determining which wife is the mother of which children.

Clues to Remarriage

Some life situations and records may suggest that an ancestor was married more than once.

Think about your ancestor's life. Determine as best you can the age of all of your ancestor's children at the time the spouse died. Would the ancestor have had small children in the house after the death of the spouse? How old was the surviving spouse? Was the surviving spouse in a financial situation that would allow him or her to remain single, or would marriage have been an economic necessity? Are there

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

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WMGS MAY MEETING-THURSDAY

The WMGS will meet on Thursday, May 13th, at 7:00 PM in the Large Meeting Room of the Missoula Public Library.

The May program will be on "the

Flu Epidemic of 1918." Guest speaker will be local Missoula Historian, Wally Long, who will talk about "The history of the 1918 Flu Epidemic."

In The Mail



BIG SKY ROUNDUP, Montana State Genealogical Society, Betty L. Marshall, P.O. Box 476, Chester, MT 59522; www.rootsweb.com/~mtmsgs; March 2004

FADED GENES, Lewis & Clark Co. Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 5313, Helena, MT 59604' www.mth.mtlib.org/Local%20Information/L%20genealogy.htm; Vol. 21, No. 1, March 2004.

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

NGS NEWSMAGAZINE, Vol.30, No. 1, January 2004. Articles on Colonial Research, Digital Photographic Archives, and Military Medical Records.

NGS QUARTERLY, Vol. 92, No. 1, March 2004. The feature article is on Tracing Slave Ancestors.

TALES & TRAILS, Columbia Gorge Genealogical Society, % The Dalles Public Library, 722 Court St., The Dalles, OR 97058-2270; Apr 2004.

Missoula Public Library— New Books

A History of Greenbrier County, by Otis K. Rice. GebColl R 977.5488 RICE

America's Best Genealogy Resource Centers, by William Dollarhide and Ronald A. Bremer. GenColl R 929.1 DOLLARH

Analyzing a Family Group Sheet, by Nancy Ellen Carlberg. 929.1072 CARLBER

Before the Search: An Adoption Searcher's Primer, by Michele Heiderer. GenColl R 362.8298 HEIDERE

Creating Junior Genealogists: Tips and Activities for Family History Fun, by Karen Frisch. 929.1 FRISCH

Creativetree: Design Ideas for Family Trees, by Tony Matthews, who sets out the theories behind his thoroughly radical, yet relevant designs, and explains how both the artist and non-artist can simply create a decorative and individual tree. 929.1028 MATTHEW

Finding Your Roots Online, by Nancy Hendrickson helps you zero in on information that's both trustworthy and accurate as you find your way around the Internet. 025.0692 HENDRIC

Founders and Patriots of America Index. This is a compilation of Founders and Patriots listed in the thirty-four volumes of lineages of the members of the National Society of Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America. GebColl R 369.12 NATIONA

Grand Army of the Republic Department of Illinois: Transcriptions of the Death Rolls, 1879-1947, by Dennis Northcott and Thomas Brooks. This is an index to Illinois G.A. R. members including Civil War soldiers who enlisted in Illinois and those who settled there after the war, and gives death dates and the location of the member's post. GenColl R 973.76 NorthCo

Memory Trees: Family Trees for the Scrapbooker, by Tony Matthews, shows how to unite Family Trees and Scrapbookin. 929.1028 MATTHEW

More Psychic Roots: Further Adventured in Serendipity & Intuition in Genealogy, by Henry Z. Jones, Jr. This is the long awaited sequel to *Psychic Roots*, and both books are wonderfully entertaining and urge you on to follow your own genealogical intuition. 929.1 JONES [Hank Jones will be the speaker for the 2004 State Conference]

No Marriage Certificate? Now What?, by Nancy Ellen Carlberg. 929.1072 CARLBER

Norske I Montana: Volume 1 - Northeast Counties, Volume 2 - Central Core Counties, Volume 3 - Western/Southeastern Counties, compiled by Richard Fretheim. GebColl R 978.6 FRETHI

On-line Reference Tools For Genealogy, with Barbara Renick, who explains the types of reference tools available to genealogists on the Internet including educational, geographical, historical, language, locators, time, travel, and utilities. VID 929.1 ONLINE

Painless Organization For Genealogists, with Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, who advises on how to organize everything from files to research trips. VID 929.1 PAINLES

Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy, 2nd ed., by Brian Mitchell, who by a skillful blending of case studies, maps, charts, and his own mastery of the subject conveys the basics of Irish genealogical research in barely eighty pages.

Pomerania Place Name Indexes: Identifying

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Bits & Bytes

Godfrey Memorial Library

Online Resources: Available either at the library or from your home 24/7

US Census 1790-1930

Digital images of the entire U.S. census. There are census indexes for the following years: 1790 to 1820, 1860, 1870, 1890 to 1910, 1920 (35 states completed) and 1930 (4 states completed).

Digital Book Collection

Access ProQuest's HeritageQuest Online with nearly 8,000 family histories and more than 12,000 local histories, every word searchable.

African American Biographical Database

Chadwyck-Healey's *African American Biographical Database* is a resource of first resort for biographical information, including photographs and illustrations, for African Americans. From the famous to the everyday person, AABD includes profiles and full-text sketches chronicling the lives of Black Americans from 1790 to 1950.

New York Times (1851-2001)

Los Angeles Times (1881-1984)

Washington Post (1877-1988)

Nineteenth Century Newspaper Collection

Otherdays - Search for your Irish Ancestors

A major milestone in the development of Irish genealogy on the internet has been reached with the launch of Griffith's Valuation of Ireland on the new *Otherdays* website. *Otherdays* includes references and page images to thousands of resources. Search by first name, last name, and any combination of county, barony, parish and townland, or use the GenWizard to help you plan your research.

To access the online resources from home will need to be a Godfrey Scholar.

Godfrey Scholars enjoy remote access to thousands of digital records for an annual fee of \$35.00. If you are not a member and would like to subscribe, either download the application form and mail it in, or call the library to register (860) 346-4375. www.godfrey.org

Dead Fred—The Original Genealogy Photo Archive

"Dead Fred's Genealogy Photo Archive, a free, fun photo genealogy research web site devoted to helping you visualize your heritage!"

Do you know someone who attended the University of Montana in 1910? From the main page below click on the "Detailed Search" link and type UOM in the photographer field on the form to see a list of all the students and groups pictured in the 1910 University of Montana yearbook.

You can search for any surname from the "Surname" link. If you find a picture of an ancestor on this site that the site owns, they'll give it to you! <http://www.deadfred.com>

Genealogy Research Automated With GenSmarts

GenSmarts is a genealogy research software utility that uses artificial intelligence to analyze your existing genealogy file and produce research recommendations. It helps you generate and track to do lists, print worksheets to record your genealogy research results, and plan trips to libraries, court houses, etc. For online research, GenSmarts produces links that already have your ancestors name and specifics embedded - making it much easier to perform online record lookups. You can download a trial version (it does not have all the capabilities as the full version but gives a good idea of the program) or purchase the full version for \$24.95 by visiting their site at: www.gensmarts.com

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Place Names Using Alphabetical and Reverse Alphabetical Indexes, by Roger P. Minert. Gen-Coll R 943.16 MINERT

Reading American Handwriting, with Kip Sperry, who explains techniques for reading early American Documents. VID 929.1 READING

Scandinavian Genealogical Research, Volume 1, Danish-Norwegian Language Guide and Dictionary, by Finn A. Thomsen. 929.1 THOMSEN V.1 [Vol. 2-3 on order]

Some Medieval Records for Family Historians, by Peter Franklin. 929.3 FRANKLI

grown children or other family members with whom the surviving parent could reside? The answers do not guarantee a subsequent marriage by the surviving parent, but may warrant a search of marriage records. Age, economic status, and ages of surviving children all play a role in whether or not a surviving spouse decides to remarry. Creating a chronology with the known information on your ancestor and their children is also an excellent idea.

Another clue to additional marriages are multiple maiden names for an ancestor. Multiple maiden names can arise for several reasons, most generally:

- Multiple marriages for the ancestor
- Multiple marriages for the ancestor's parents
- Confusion on the part of the person providing the information

Further research is warranted when last names are inconsistent.

Finally, are the names really different? Last names that appear to be different may actually be variants of the same name. One of my ancestors has a maiden name that appears as Bieger, Be-ger, Berger, Bigger, Biger, Picker, Pickar, Pickert, and Bickert. These are spelling and phonetic variations. The same is true for first names. Sarah and Sally may very well be the same person. Make certain that what you think are two separate people are not the same person listed once with their "real" name and once with their nickname.

Sources That May Help

There are a variety of records that may indicate an ancestor married more than once. Some of these records will not specifically reveal a marriage, but may suggest that your ancestor had a subsequent spouse. These records contain many clues, but today we are focusing on becoming aware of multiple marriages for various family members.

Guardianships. Guardianship records are usually created when a man with real or significant personal property dies with minor children. A guardian is appointed to oversee the property until the minor heirs reach the age of majority. Guardianship records will indicate which parents are deceased and may or may not mention the mother, even if she survives. If the family had no

property, there likely will be no guardianship records for any minor children. In some areas there may be records of apprenticeship, which may mention that a child has a deceased father.

Probate Records. Records of the settlement of an estate may mention the subsequent surname of a surviving widow. Wills may not include all children, either because some had already received their share or because they had a falling out with the writer of the will. Any court notices sent to heirs should list all children, even if all children were not listed in the will. If a list of heirs fails to include individuals you believe to be children of the will's writer, further research may have to be done. Some individuals you thought were children may not be children after all.

Marriage Records. Does the marriage record of your ancestor indicate the bride was a "Mrs.?" This is an obvious clue. It may be worth your while to look for both the husband and wife in later marriage records even if you don't think they were remarried.

Cemetery Records and Tombstones. These records may provide death dates not located in other records which may suggest an ancestor was a widow or widower for an extended period of time (and more likely to remarry). Adjacent burials may indicate an ancestor was married more than once. Look at the names on stones of those buried near your ancestor.

Death Records. An obvious source of death date information, look also for the name of the surviving spouse. Is it the same as the name you have?

Land Records. If your ancestral family owned land, locate all records where the land is acquired and all records where the land is transferred from family ownership. Records of transfer from family ownership are more likely to provide spousal clues. When the husband sells property, is it the same wife listed as giving up her rights of dower?

Court Records. Was your ancestor divorced? Divorce in the nineteenth century was not as common as it is today, but it was not unheard of either. Court records involving real property or inheritance are more likely to reveal spousal information than are other cases.

Virtually any record could reveal that your ances-

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ANCESTRY.COM UPDATE

1860 Census Index

Each entry is linked to the corresponding image and the exclusive every-name index represents a vast improvement over previous indexes. In addition to including names of every member of the household, rather than just the head of household, this index adds two search fields, allowing users to filter by gender and race. Once an individual is located, users may now click on a "Household" link that displays everyone enumerated in that household before downloading the image.

States Currently Available:

Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Dakota Territory, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

1871 British Census

This project has just begun and now includes the following for England: Middlesex, London, Shropshire, and Worcestershire. Also indexed are Wales, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

COMPUTER RESERVATIONS

Call 543-6148

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

Both online computers can access Family Search and the Ancestry.com databases. 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.

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tor was married more than once. The records we've discussed here are some of the ones that are more likely to provide this information. Remember to leave no stone unturned!

General Advice

Organize and analyze information as you find it. Do not "create" spouses or subsequent marriages to make information "fit." Document as you go and make certain to clearly and as concretely as possible connect individuals with the records that have been located. Just because your ancestors confused you does not mean that your research on them has to confuse others.

Summary

If the father remarries, surname changes are not usually a problem. If the mother remarries, a child may be listed with the surname of the birth father or the stepfather, whether or not there was an adoption. In some cases, there may be multiple stepfathers creating additional confusion.

A female with multiple maiden names may have been married more than once, or her mother may have been married more than once or had more than one relationship (not necessarily marriages), which produced children. Variant last names for male ancestors usually indicates that his father had multiple relationships, which may or may not have actually been marriages.

Of course, these are general tendencies, not hard and fast guarantees. There are no "always" rules in genealogy!

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 or visit his website at www.rootdig.com, but he regrets that he is unable to assist with personal research.

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Web
[www.rootsweb.
com/~mtwmgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mtwmgs)



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301 EAST MAIN ST.
MISSOULA MT 59802

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.

WMGS Elections

We are in need of a slate of officers for the 2004-2005 WMGS election which will be held in September.

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."

Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference—September 8-11, 2004, Austin, Texas.

We received 2 brochures with conference schedules and registration forms.

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.