

Western Montana Genealogical Society



First Impressions ???

— Paula Stuart Warren, CGRS

I recently began work on a new research project. As I progressed through my usual preparation routine, I realized that most of my work steps have not varied over the years.

The first impression when reviewing something new is often a fantastic impression. I have learned to not just think about the project or task and the research process, but to actually make immediate notes. In the excitement upon finding or receiving a family clue or record, my mind goes off in a dozen different directions. Years ago after simply letting my mind go in these directions, I realized that many of those thoughts were actually great research routes to take. Sometimes when looking at a document later, those first impression ideas did not magically reappear.

When Something New Arrives

When I open the regular mail,

check my e-mail, or find something online, I do so with pen and paper at hand and take notes. This way I do not miss any of those important first impressions that may not rush into my mind when I actually begin the follow-up research.

The In-Person Version

There are many guides to conducting oral interviews. Of course these advocate taking notes or taping the sessions. There is one more part related to family history research that is often ignored. Whether you are interviewing on the telephone or in person, make immediate "to do" notes as they surface in your mind. Maybe a statement gives you the idea that the 1900 census indexes should be checked to help verify the location given. Get that task written down before the thought disappears.

(Continued on page 5)

May 2005

**WMGS Meeting,
Tuesday, May 10th,
7:00 pm, at the Mis-
soula Public Li-
brary Large Meet-
ing Room.**

WMGS Officers 2005

President
Paulette Parpart 728-8054
Library 258-3858

Vice-President
Judith Field 728-1628
Jalf@marsweb.com 550-3677

Treasurer
Harold Fisher 721-5333
Hfisher@montana.com

Secretary
Terri Denney 251-4006
Olivia@marsweb.com

Newsletter Editor
Judith Field 728-1628
jalf@marsweb.com 550-3677

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WMGS MAY MEETING

The WMGS will meet on Tuesday, May 10th, at 7:00 PM in the Large Meeting Room of the Missoula Public Library. We will continue planning for the Montana State Genealogical

Conference to be held in Missoula in September. After the planning we will have an Internet program on "Interesting Genealogy Sites on the Internet."

In The Mail



FADED GENES, Lewis & Clark Co. Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 5313, Helena, MT 59604, www.rootsweb.com/~mtlcgs/index.htm, Vol. 22, No. 1, **March 2005**. "Vital Records From the *Mountaineer*, Sep-Dec 1896"

FAMILY CHRONICLE, June 2005, www.familychronicle.com (8 year index on website.) Articles include "101 Records You Might Have Missed", "How To Be A Lucky Genealogist", "20 Websites For Eastern European Research", "Websites Worth Surfing", "Fantastic Family Functions" - exactly what it takes to plan a successful family reunion, "Letters Home" an extract from their newest project -*Letters Home: The Immigrant Experience*, and "The Fabric of Your Ancestor's Personality."

GEN-BUG NEWS, Yellowstone Genealogy Forum, % Parmley Billings Library, 510 N. Broadway, Billings MT 59101, **April 2005**. "How To Find a Maiden Name" - 16 sources to help, "Top Military Web Sites."

GENEALOGICAL HELPER, March/April 2005. "Urban Research—Finding Your Ancestor's Church", "Online 'Armchair' Irish Genealogy", "Investigating the Library of Congress From Home", "Native American Research: The Dawes Rolls, an Introduction", "Delving into Your Family History Through Antique Furniture."

HERITAGE QUEST, Winter 2004-2005, Vol. 20, No. 4. **Winter 2004-2005**. Features include "Birthday Books: A Home Source of Vital Records", "Evidence of a Person's Age, Birthdate or Birthplace—A Checklist of Sources", "Birth Records and Alternatives", "Getting to Know Your Ancestors Through Artifacts", and "Extraordinary Birth Registrations."

JEFFERSON COUNTY GENEALOGY NEWS, Jefferson County Genealogy Society, P.O. Box 1094, Boulder, MT 59632; Vol. 3, No. 2, February 2005. This issue contains a partial list of the surnames that some of the members are researching.

NGS NEWS MAGAZINE, January/February/

March 2005. Features include "Discovering the Benefits of Conferences", "NARA: What's in it For Me", "Getting the Most Out of England's National Archives Website", "Digitizing Family History", "Researching Your American Indian Ancestry", "Dear Diary..." (for diaries and their usefulness in genealogy and family history research), "An Index is an Index...or is it."

National Genealogical Society Quarterly, Vol. 93, No. 1, **March 2005**. Features articles: "Origins of Colonial Chesapeake Indentured Servants: American and English Sources", "Determining Children from Underused Sources..."

TALES & TRAILS, Columbia Gorge Genealogical Society, % The Dalles Public Library, 722 Court St., The Dalles, OR 97058-2270; **April 2005**. "Pioneer Cemetery [The Dalles] Names and Dates" Robbins, Ellen—Wothington, W. L. There is an order form for **Surname Occurrences** from the Dalles Weekly Mountaineer, The Dalles Weekly Times, and The Dalles Sun, Book One 1880—Jan 8, 1887, and Book Two, 1887-1890. The books are \$25 each + \$7.50 S&H, or \$15 (Includes shipping) for the CD version.

THE TREE BRANCH, Dawson County Tree Branches Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1275, Glendive, MT 59330; Vol. 14, No. 1, **March 2005**. "Dawson County & Eastern Montana Death Notices" Jun-Dec 2004. Do read "Things You Didn't Know About U. S. Presidents."

TREASURE STATE LINES, Great Falls Genealogy Society, High Plains Heritage Center. 422 2nd St. South, Great Falls, MT 59405-1816, Vol. 30, No. 2, **April 2005**. "Citizens of Cascade County Subject to Military Duty; Surnames E-F", conclusion of "Registry of Deaths" - 1909, "Official History of the Operations of the First Montana Infantry, U. S. V. In the Campaign in the Philippine Islands", "Various Vital Statistics From the Wolf point Herald, 1926-1927."

Bits & Bytes



FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

BYU Digital Genealogies—The Harold B. Lee Library at Brigham Young University has an extensive collection (1000 items) of genealogies that they have digitized and made available online. You can do a keyword search by Surname, Geographic Area, Title or Author, or do a full text search. A search page for this collection can be found at:

<http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/>

University of Montana Digital Collections

The main index of the three collections: American Indian Ledger Art, Northwest Digital Archives, and *Progressive Men of Montana* can be found at: <http://www.lib.umt.edu/research/digitalcollections/>

NEWSPAPERS – Newspaper Archives – **New York Times** : Access the Proquest Newspaper Search Site where you can search the New York Times articles database from 1859. This is a pay per download (PDF) site – each article will cost \$2.95 (larger package deals are offered) but there is no membership required.

<http://montanalibraries.org/>

MONTANA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Montana State Genealogical Society is establishing a Research Contact File for anyone wanting to hire researchers. If you do research in your county or counties around you and would like to be included please contact Betty Marshall, P.O. Box 476, Chester, MT 59522 or e-mail at bubbles@ttc-cmc.net. She needs name, address, city, state, zip, e-mail, website and counties willing to do research in.

COMPUTER RESERVATIONS

Call 543-6148

FHL 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

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. **There is now a FHL tutorial on CD that you can check out for home use.**

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MICROFILM PROJECT

From *Faded Genes*, March 2005

The Montana Historical Society has announced that they have a project with the Genealogical Society of Utah to film the vital records within the office of the Clerk & Recorder of each county in Montana. Lewis & Clark is currently (as of early 2004) the only county for which the filming is now complete, although they expect to have each county done over the next few years. The microfilm for Lewis & Clark County includes death certificates (1869-200), birth certificates (1869-1930), school census (1897-1926), mortgages (1865-1927), deeds (1865-1936), and various other records. The LSSGS has a complete listing of the film, but you can also contact the Historical Society and mention Microfilm 490 and they can provide you information about some of the miscellaneous records. The Historical Society does not have the staff to do research for people but contact the LCCGS and they will try to do research for you.

Missoula Public Library New Books

The Surnames of Wales, by John & Sheila Rowlands. 929.4209 Rowland

The Clans, Septs & Regiments Of The Scottish Highlands, by Frank Adam, 929.2094 ADAM

Finding Your French-Canadian Ancestors..., 2nd Ed., by Louise St. Denis. GenColl R 929.1972 STDENIS

Researching Canadian Vital Statistics Records, by Sharon L. Murphy, GenColl R 971 MURPHY

Researching Canadian Census Records, 2nd ed., by Doris Bourrie, GenColl R 971 BOURRIE

Researching American Immigration Records, by Kyle Betit, GenColl R 929.1072 BETIT

Letters of a German American Farmer, by Johannes Gillhoff, 833.912 GILLHOF

Centerpiece Items and Door Prizes Needed

We need holiday decorations for every month of the year to create the centerpieces for the banquet tables at the State Conference in September. Please scour your closets, basements, attics or other overstuffed storage spaces for any seasonal items of decoration that you could donate for the centerpieces. Items representing any holiday celebrated throughout the year are needed. We will be working on creating the centerpieces over the summer.

We are also in need of some door prizes for the conference.

Please bring items to the meeting on Tuesday or call Judith Field at 728-1628 if you have items to donate but cannot attend the meeting.

Ancestry.com News

U.S. Records Collection Update: Tennessee, Civil War Confederate Pension Applications Index

Description:

This database is an index to approximately 28,000 individuals who applied for Civil War Confederate pensions in Tennessee. These pension applicants were either Confederate soldiers or the widows of deceased soldiers. Information found in this index includes the applicant's name, county of residence at the time of application, whether soldier or widow, application number, name of soldier if not the applicant, state served in, and source information. Photocopies of applications may be obtained from the Tennessee State Library and Archives. For more information about these records and how to order them, please visit their website (<http://www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/>). Information about these pension applications may be found on their website by clicking on "Tennessee History and Genealogy" on the homepage, then by clicking on "Military Records", and finally, "Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications: Soldiers and Widows."

War of 1812 Service Records

This database is a listing of men mustered into the armed forces between 1812 and 1815. Taken from records in the National Archives, each record includes the soldier's name, company, rank at time of induction, rank at time of discharge, and other helpful information. It provides the names of nearly 600,000 men. These records were taken from Record Group 94 Records of the Adjutant General's Office, microfilm publication M602, a total of 234 rolls of film. Compiled Military Service Records (CMSR) Each volunteer soldier has one Compiled Military Service Record (CMSR) for each regiment in which he served. The CMSR contains basic information about the soldier's military career, and it is the first source the researcher should consult. Check out Ancestry.com for more info on CMSR's.

ENGLAND 1861—1901 CENSUS COMPLETE

Adds the complete, fully indexed 1861 Census; all 52 counties; every name indexed and searchable; includes the Channel Islands and Isle of Mann.

(Continued from page 1)

The On-Site Version

Visualize yourself sitting at a microfilm reader or in the courthouse viewing a census, probate, or land record. The leads that record supplies are beginning to send your mind in a hundred different directions. The clues may be ones to help solve some tough research spots.

Don't Skip Any of Those Thoughts

Make a list of those ideas or clues that jump out as you read through the paper or papers. You might immediately see mention of an event in the person's life that begs for further research. Often some of the unanticipated ideas are not as evident on the second reading as you are sitting down to detail a research plan. At that second or subsequent reading you are so intent on the process that you have other ideas, but the first ones may not surface or may be overlooked.

If You Aren't Sure What to Do

This advice may help you target your thoughts after the first impression. Make yourself a general list of various types and years of records to check for an ancestral area. (Such as state census, federal census, probate, church, tax, land, etc.) Then reread that newly found clue or record. Use that general list to determine other possible records to check.

Challenge Yourself

I have a task for you. This is a first-impression experiment. Either go online (try www.Ancestry.com) or to a library to obtain a copy of a 1900 census record or a pre-1920 obituary. This record should be for someone you have never heard of before. As soon as you read the record and print it, pretend it is your own ancestor and think about the research clues you just found. As thoughts flow through your mind, jot down the research paths you need to follow from the clues in this copy. Now put the notes and the copy away in a file folder.

The Next Step—Take out your calendar or daily planner and make an appointment with yourself for at least a month from now (further out is even better). This appointment is a reminder to revisit that file folder. You will then reread the copy (but NOT your notes) and make another list of what research tasks you should do based on the contents of the record. Compare the notes and see if you had some impressions from the first reading that do not appear on the second and vice versa.

Add One More Step

You could make a copy of this record and have a genealogical friend repeat the same process as you. It will be interesting to see the similarities and differences in the task lists when they are compared. In past columns I have often advocated bringing in another set of eyes to evaluate a record.

Another Way to Capture a First Impression

Even without asking a genealogy friend to follow this same process, you can still capture a first impression. Once you have a copy of a record, an obituary, or a family letter you are often tempted to show it to someone else. Let's say you are at your genealogical society's next meeting and have brought along a copy of this item. As you excitedly show it to someone and ask them to read it, be prepared to write down the thoughts expressed. Perhaps this person will have some first impressions that you did not have and they'll say "wow, you should check the . . ." or "If I were you I would see if there are also . . ."

Are First Impressions the Best?

I have often thought this, and, yes, I have been proven wrong on occasion — but not often. As with assessing any situation or person, the first impression is important, but may not present the whole picture. This is true in our family history research, too. Don't let the rush of ideas get away from you when you first review a new record. At the same time, don't let that be the end of your planning process.

Paula Stuart-Warren, CGRS, is a professional genealogist, consultant, writer, and lecturer. She has lectured all across the U.S. and coordinates the Intermediate Course, American Records & Research, at the annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. She is co-author of *Your Guide to the Family History Library* and an author for genealogical periodicals including *Ancestry Magazine*. She is a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota and spends many weeks each year at the Family History Library and the U.S. National Archives. Her roots include ancestors from seven different countries and researching them has given her broad experience and an occasional headache or two. Comments will reach her at PSWRsearch@comcast.net. Paula is unable to answer individual genealogical research inquiries due to the volume of requests received.

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(Continued from page 4)

Germans in Minnesota, by Kathleen Neils Conzen, 977.6004 CONZEN

Irish in Minnesota, by Ann Regan, 977.6004 REGAN

Swedes in Minnesota, by Anne Gillespie Lewis, 977.6004 LEWIS

Norwegians in Minnesota, by Jon Gjerde & Carlton C. Qualey, 977.6004 GJERDE

Dating Old Photographs 1840-1929, A Family Chronicle Publication, 771.46 DATING

More Dating Old Photographs, 1840-1929, A Family Chronicle Publication, 771.46 MORE

The German-Americans: An Ethnic Experience, by Willi Paul Adams, American Edition, 973.0431 ADAMS

Destination Canada: A Guide to 20th Century Immigration Records, compiled by David Obee, GenColl R 929.371 OBEE

Godfrey Guide, African American Early Newspaper Online Collection, African American Biographical Dictionary, GenColl R 070.484 AFRICAN

Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest, GenColl R 929.3795 CATHOLIC

This Collection Includes:

- Vancouver, Vol. I & II, and Stellamaris Mission
- Missions of St. Ann and St. Rose of the Cayouse 1847-1888; Walla Walla and Frenchtown 1859-1872; Frenchtown 1872-1888
- Grand Ronde Register I (1860-1885); Grande Ronde Register II (1886-1898); St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Grand Ronde Indian Reservation, Grand Ronde, Oregon; St. Patrick's Parish, Muddy Valley, Oregon
- Oregon City Register (1842-1890); Salem Register (1864-1885); Jacksonville Register (1854-1885)
- Roseburg Register and Missions (1853-

1911); Portland Register (1852-1871)

- St. Louis Register, Volume I (1845-1868); St. Louis Register, Volume II (1869-1900); Gervais Register (1875-1893); Brooks Register (1893-1909)
- St. Paul, Oregon 1839-1898

Priest's Progress, The Journey of Francis Norbert Blanchey from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific in Three Parishes, by Harriet D. Munnick, GenColl R 282.092 MUNNICK

In Celebration of Our Past, a yearly publication of the Gallatin Historical Society, GenColl R 978.666 HISTORY 2003, and 2004

Papers included in 2004 edition are:

- James Madison Page: Montana Pioneer and Union Soldier Who Defended the "Monster of Andersonville"
- The Sojourning of Sacagawea
- Six Pointed Silver Star
- Mud-slinging in the Land of Gold and Silver: Political Campaigns of Territorial Montana
- Veterans Civil War Plot: Mountain View Cemetery, Livingston, Montana
- Our Baby Pomp: A revision and expansion of the article 'Pomp, Our Baby' that appeared in the 2000 edition of *In Celebration of Our Past*
- Bozeman Sidewalks
- The Hot Spring Gold Rush of 1864-1868: A Bit of the "Rest of the Story"

Papers in the 2003 Edition Include:

- Medicine of the West
- Montana Women and the Defense Decade: Women, the Home, and the Struggle Against Communism
- Anatomy of a lynching
- National Park Idea
- Bozeman Trail Revisited
- The Resume of Albert Gallatin



September 16, 17, 2005

"OUT ON A LIMB"

16 th Annual Montana State Genealogical Society Conference

Hosted by the Western Montana Genealogical Society
Ruby's Inn, 4825 N. Reserve St., Missoula, MT 59808

The 16th Annual Conference will feature J. Mark Lowe, CG from Tennessee as the main speaker. Mr. Lowe is a full-time professional genealogist, author and lecturer. Mark shares personal experiences that help beginning and experienced researchers gain new skills and insights for research. He specialized in Kentucky and Tennessee resources and researches primarily in original records and manuscripts throughout the Southeast.

Mark lives in Robertson County, Tennessee which lies in the Northern Middle Tennessee along the Kentucky border. With family history in both states, a knowledge of the interaction of citizens along borders helps Mark resolve difficult issues using often overlooked records. He brings this expertise along with his unique humor and southern style to many diverse audiences. As the director of the regional in-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance, Mark has developed and directed (with the RIGSA team) week-long interactive learning sessions and hands-on research focusing on original documents and manuscripts at regional archives.

Mark has published many articles and is the President of the Association of Professional Genealogists and former Vice President of Development for the Federation of Genealogical Societies. He was recently recognized as a Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Society,

His topics will be:

1. **OUT ON A LIMB, TRAPPED BY BAD RESEARCH** - Feeling trapped with nowhere to go? Bad, weak, or missing evidence all contribute to misleading research. Review your research findings, sharpen your techniques, evaluate your sources, and map a new course.
2. **WONDER WHAT'S OVER THE MOUNTAIN** - Our ancestors looked for new and better lands to call home. They became pioneers on the Kentucky and Tennessee frontier. Before moving your research back across those mountains to the east, understand what you need to know.
3. **LOCATING CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS** - Discover the records of your Yankee or Rebel ancestor. Learn more about compiled service records, pensions, and more.
4. **USING THAT BRICK WALL AS A FOUNDATION** - Feel like you are at a dead end? By reviewing our research, and taking a fresh approach, we can often see new opportunities for finding our family. Use the very evidence that stops you in your tracks to spring over that wall.

There will be a speaker who will cover Norwegian genealogy and Robert Cummings of Helena will speak on "Technology in Genealogy." Other speakers will be forthcoming.

Registration forms will be available in July. Fees are \$55 for those individuals who are members of a local society that is also a current member of MSGS. For all other, the fee is \$65. All current members of the WMGS qualify for the \$55 fee. Rooms at Ruby's Inn will be \$73 + tax one queen bed and \$83 + tax for two queen beds. Please start to make plans to attend the conference.

[Adapted from info in Gen Bug News, April 2005.]

P.O. Box 2714
Missoula, MT 59806-2714



We're On The
Web
[www.rootsweb.
com/~mtwmg](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mtwmg)

MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY
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 would 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.

Upcoming Conferences

National Genealogical Society Conference in the States—Gentech 2005

"Tennessee Crossroads" will be held in Nashville, **1-4 June 2005.**

2005 Montana State Conference - in Missoula at Ruby's Inn, **September 16-17, 2005.** The keynote speaker will be T. Mark Lowe, NGS/FGS State Liaison.

"People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors"

-Edmond Burke