

Western Montana Genealogical Society



Seeking Out Images for Your Family History

MARCH 2006

When I get a chance to watch TV, I try to choose carefully because I'm admittedly squeamish. So when I flipped through and settled on a home improvement network, I was not prepared for the traumatic experience that awaited me. The show was about people who were trying to raise money to buy a hot tub for their yard.

They were going through their house looking for items to put up for sale by auction. As they went through the house and found some really ugly old hats and other items, I watched distractedly. Then the narrator spotted a collection of daguerreotypes. "No! Not your family photos!" I screamed at the television. As I sat there

sobbing uncontrollably, the family ignored my cries and put those beautiful pictures up for auction.

Okay, maybe I wasn't exactly sobbing, but it was disturbing. Were they images of family members? I actually don't know for sure because I missed the beginning of the show. I couldn't help but shudder at the thought of someone's great-grandpa's photograph being sold off to strangers for a hot tub. As family historians, we would probably be more likely to sell the hot tub for a photograph of great-grandpa.

Photographs and sketches really add interest to a family history, but not all of us are for-

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MGS MARCH MEETING

The WMGS will meet on Tuesday, March 14th, at 7:00 PM in the Large Meeting Room of the Missoula Public Library.

The program will be a discussion of "brick wall" issues. Members and guests are invited to present "brick wall" issues that confront (and frustrate) them in their family his-

tory research. Oral presentations will be spontaneous, organized and brief. The group will offer a discussion and suggestions to the specific problems following each presentation. Need not be a member of WMGS to present your brick wall issues.

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In The Mail



CENTRAL MONTANA WAGON TRAILS,

Lewiston Genealogy Society, 701 W. Main St., Lewiston, Mt 59457-250; **February 2006**. This issue contains the 2005-2006 Local Membership List.

FAMILY CHRONICLE, April 2006. This issue is presented as a special issue on *The Dark and Dubious Side of Genealogy*. Articles include "Murder and Mayhem: The Dark Side of Genealogy," "Public Intentions: Disorderly Wives in the News" emphasizing the use of newspapers, "Second Marriage and a Murder," "Criminals in the Family Tree."

If you have ever considered DNA testing to help in your genealogy searches see "Taking a Y-DNA test: What Can You Expect?"

For tips on locating that hard to find relative in the census see "Searching For That Elusive Ancestor in the US Census."

*** They are also looking for undated, old photographs for an upcoming feature (probably in July-August 2006. See article p. 4.) where they will date old photos and publish interesting examples along with the clues used to arrive at their conclusions.

GEN-BUG NEWS, Yellowstone Genealogy Forum, % Parmley Billings Library, 510 N. Broadway, Billings MT 59101; **January 2006**. This issue has info on the 2006 MSGS Conference at Gardiner, MT, and their 2006 Membership List.

GENEALOGICAL HELPER, March/April 2006. Special articles in this issue include "Locating Your Ancestors in the U.S. Federal Census," "Solving Dead-Ends," "How to Become a Better Genealogist," "Alien Registration Records—World War I & II Era," and "Migrations of Canadians to the United States."

This issue includes the *Annual Associations/ Surname Periodical Directory*.

NGS NEWS MAGAZINE, January/February/ march 2006. See "Occupations in Our Family Tub" for information on special census schedules and other professional directories for deter-

mining ancestors professions. "Women and the California Gold Rush" explores different examples and sources relating to the early life of women in the Californis gold fields from 1848 to 1870. If you've just started researching in a new area see "12 Steps For Getting Started With a New Location" and if you have a brickwall read "Roads, Walls, and Paths Not Taken."

TALES & TRAILS, Columbia Gorge Genealogical Society, % The Dalles Public Library, 722 Court St., The Dalles, OR 97058-2270; **January 2006**. This issue has several pages of genealogy websites, and continues the index of the Old Carson Cemetery (M to P) located in Carson, Skamania Co., Washington.

Powerpoint Slide Show

After reading the article "Seeking Out Images for Your Family History" by Juliana Smith, I wanted to add a tip.

For family reunions, I take a laptop and have my family photos on slides that I set up in PowerPoint. Each slide has one to three photos with captions telling who the people are, when they were born, where they lived, who they married, and how many children they had. Many times the photos of their children are on the next slide. I set this up and if I can hook it into the TV in the recreation room where the reunion is held, even better.

I set it to show each slide for eighteen seconds and then at the end to recycle and start over. I have found everyone at the reunion looking at it at one time or the other, even the little kids.

PowerPoint is a very user-friendly program and you can insert photos from other files with ease. Once you get the hang of it the captions are real easy. You will be surprised as to how much genealogy information you can get into those captions.

Paul

Thanks to Paul for today's Quick Tip! If you have a tip you would like to share with researchers, you can send it to: ADNeditor@ancestry.com.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

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

***Closed April 1st for General Conference

Bits & Bytes

UK BMD - <http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/>

This site provides links to 343 web sites that offer on-line transcriptions of UK births, marriages, deaths and censuses.

Since 1837 all births, marriages and deaths have had to be registered at the register office in the district where the event took place. (1855 for Scotland). Genealogists and Family Historians can make use of these registrations to help create their family tree, working backwards from the present day to the start of civil registration.

The original indexes to these registers are held by the local register offices and many of these indexes are now being transcribed by the local authorities in conjunction with Family History Societies, and the data placed on-line in a variety of web sites.

These web sites, with indexes based on the original registers, can be seen when you click on the **Local BMD** button in the menu.

Quarterly, the original indexes were re-transcribed and then re-indexed by the central government and these indexes have been made available as the GRO indexes, many of which are available for viewing at web sites listed under the **National** button. (e.g. FreeBMD) However, the simple act of making this secondary GRO copy has introduced many errors and omissions in the national indexes - so the recommendation is to always look for an original data first, i.e. the local indexes.

Prior to 1837 parish registers need to be consulted to look for baptism, marriage and burial re-

cords. Many web sites have on-line transcribed parish register data and these can be found by selecting a county name from the list in the menu and then clicking on the **County** button.

Census records are the other main source of information for family historians. Many of the censuses have now been made available on-line, and these can be found by clicking on the **Census** button

OnlineConversion -

<http://www.onlineconversion.com>

Convert just about anything to anything else. Over 5,000 units, and 50,000 conversions such as:

Date/Time Several different converters and calculators related to dates and times.

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Genwriters - <http://www.genwriters.com>

Your genealogy source for ideas and resources to bring your family history to life. Ideas for getting started, adding social history, writing your family history, etc...

Free 1901 Canada Census - www.automatedgenealogy.com

The site hosts a free, volunteer-produced online index to the 1901 Census of Canada. The index was transcribed from the census images provided by the National Archives of Canada and proof reading is ongoing. Anyone with a web browser and an internet connection can participate. Transcription of the index is **complete** with over 5.6 million lines transcribed. The index has **links to the images of the original census forms**, over 60,000 links to related records, and is completely free to browse or search!

1911 Canada Census—is being indexed. You can do a surname search by province, or browse the pages of a district.

North Dakota Death Index - <https://secure.apps.state.nd.us/doh/certificates/deathCertSearch.htm>

Index covers Jan 1, 1881-Oct 31, 2005

FAMILY CHRONICLE OLD, UNDATED PHOTO SEARCH

Family Chronicle is looking for undated, old photographs for an upcoming feature (probably in July-August 2006) in which they will date old photos and publish interesting examples along with the clues used to arrive at their conclusions. They don't promise to date all submissions, but they will try to date at least 500 of the submissions, and feature 25-30 examples in the magazine article. They are appealing to readers to send them their old, undated photos so that they can date them to within plus or minus three years. There is no charge for this service.

There is a limit of three photos per submitter and the photos must be submitted by 30 April 2006. By sending the photo you are giving them permission to use it in the article. They are not responsible for lost photos.

To send by e-mail: undated@moorshead.com

- Scan image at resolution no less than 200 dpi and save as jpeg
- Send each photo image in a separate e-mail
- Give files unique names
- Limit image description to 30 words and include this in the e-mail
- Include your name and address with each image

To send by mail: (Do not send originals)

- Copy photographically, or on a photocopier using the color copy function which gives more detail
- Include your name, address, and photo information (less than 30 words) on the back of the copy or in any white space adjacent to the image
- Mail to their Canadian address: Family Chronicle, Undated Old Photographs, 500-505 Consumers Road, Toronto ON M2J 4V8, Canada

For more info see website: www.familychronicle.com/undated.html

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fortunate enough to have photos of all of our ancestors. That doesn't mean our family histories have to be lacking in visual appeal though. We can incorporate historical and contemporary photographs and sketches of homes, neighborhoods, the countryside, schools, churches, cemeteries, events, furniture and other heirlooms, original documents, maps, and anything else that is representative of our ancestry.

These photographs can be used in published family histories, to share at family reunions, to decorate your home, or to decorate your family history binder cover. I get binders with those clear plastic covers so I can create custom covers for each one. It makes it easy to find the correct binder and they look nice. With this in mind, in today's column I thought I'd take a look at some ways we might be able to locate photographs and other images that we can use to add interest to our family histories.

Where Can I Find Them?

Local Collections

Libraries, historical societies, museums, and local governments are good starting points in your search for historic photos. The San Francisco Public Library maintains a database of 30,000 photographs that can be viewed by subject (e.g., biography, buildings, businesses, churches, cemeteries, districts, orphanages, schools, and streets), as well as views listed by the decade from the 1850s through the 1990s. Local chambers of commerce or tourism bureaus may also include historic photos on their websites.

You may even find that these local venues offer historic photos for sale. The San Francisco Public Library site includes a price list for prints of photographs found in the online collection. The New York Municipal Archives has tax photos of every house and building in all five boroughs and copies can be ordered through their website as well.

American Memory

The Library of Congress's American Memory project contains both photographs and images. While you may not find your ancestor among these images, you will find all kinds of interesting

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images. The collection includes:

Photographs from the Chicago Daily News, 1902-33

The Northern Great Plains, 1880-1920: Photographs from the Fred Hultstrand and F.A. Pazandak Photograph Collections

The Life of a City: Early Films of New York, 1898-1906

Panoramic Photographs: Taking the Long View, 1851-1991

Touring Turn-of-the-Century America: Photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company, 1880-1920

These are just a small sampling of what you can find through the Library of Congress. Take a little time to do some browsing through the various collections. It's well worth the trip!

Ancestry.com Photo Collections

Ancestry.com has several image collections available to members on its site. These include:

Ship Images

U.S. Family Photo Collection, ca. 1850-2000

U.S. Panoramic Photos, 1851-1991

U.S. Historical Postcards, 1901-60

Ancestry.com Map Center

Includes many "bird's eye views" of U.S. cities and towns.

Orphan Sites

There are a growing number of "orphan" photograph and memorabilia websites now online. These sites rescue lost or abandoned photographs and other mementos from flea markets, garage sales, and online auctions, and post images or descriptions of the item on the site in the hopes of reuniting it with an associated family. These sites include Dead Fred: The Original Online Genealogy Photo Archive and Ancient Faces. Megan Smolenyak has written about these sites in her *Ancestry Daily News* column and in *Ancestry Magazine*.

Auction Sites

Online auctions such as eBay may reveal old photographs and postcards, which can be purchased, typically at reasonable prices.

Search Engines

Most search engines now include a tab that allows you to search images alone, and these can be a fun way to get a look at ancestral towns, even those located a world away. I have found both historical and contemporary images from ancestral towns in Poland, Ireland, and Hungary. I don't know if I'll ever be able to visit them in person, but it's nice to see what they look like.

Create Your Own

Do you have a collection of heirlooms from a particular family? Group them together and take your own photograph of them to include in your family history. Recording the history of these heirlooms will also help ensure their preservation as well as the stories that go with them.

If you or someone else in your family has artistic talents, a hand-drawn map of the old neighborhood, or a sketch of a family home or farm can add a really personal touch.

Copyright Considerations

When using these images, it is important to remember photographs and other materials found on the Internet are subject to copyright laws. Information on copyrights are available online from the U.S. Copyright Office. Although there is sometimes confusion when it comes to what constitutes "fair use," your best bet is, when in doubt, request permission; most of the time you'll find that your request will be granted.

Websites with online collections will often even include this information somewhere on the site. The San Francisco collection mentioned above even has "Permission to Publish" request forms available on the site and charges \$15 to use them.

In Closing

Photographs bring an added dimension to family history and can energize you and your family, inspiring interest to learn more. Share your photographic finds with family members; who knows what kind of memories it will stir up!

P.O. Box 2714
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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.

Upcoming Conferences

September 22-23, 2006

2006 Montana State Genealogical Society Conference will be held in Gardiner, Montana at the Comfort Inn. The theme is "Wander the Wonderland" and it will include a tour of the NPS Heritage and Research Center with a talk on what is included in the collection by Senior Archivist Lee Whitsley.

SUBMISSIONS:

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.