

Western Montana Genealogical Society



MAY 2007

FAMILY SEARCH—WHAT'S HAPPENING?

As of April 1, 2007 free access to Ancestry.com databases on FamilySearch through the Family History Centers was sharply curtailed. The only free databases remaining are the 1880, 1900 and 1920 U.S. censuses (index & images), 1930 U.S. census index (may be terminated), full name indices for the British 1841-1891 censuses (England and Wales), indexes to World War I draft cards, and a few additional smaller databases.

In the last few days several announcements have been made as to new databases that will be made available through FamilySearch at Family History Centers. The following is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, May 14, 2007:

Comment: FamilySearch to

Provide Access to World's Genealogical Records

"I published an article yesterday entitled, *Rumor Mill: LDS Family History Centers to Offer Additional Online Resources*. I must admit that even I was surprised when The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints made an announcement only a few hours later, early on Monday morning. The announcement is everything that I had predicted and a lot more.

In fact, I believe this is perhaps the most important genealogy announcement of the past few years.

The first part of the announcement is a name change. Of course, the Church's web site is well known as FamilySearch.

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MAY 22, 2007 MEETING

The May meeting will be on Tuesday, May 22, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the large downstairs meeting room of the Missoula Public Library. The program will be "The DAR and Their Genealogical Records."

Louanna Butler, past regent of the local chapter and a past re-

gent of the Montana state chapter of the DAR, will tell us about the DAR organization in "What We're All About", and Blanche Tate will cover the DAR genealogical records and membership requirements. They will have new, updated information on DAR databases.

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In The Mail



BEAVER HEAD HUNTERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, 15 S. Montana Ave., Dillon, MT 59725; www.rootsweb.com/~mtbeaver, March 2007. Visit <http://JustaJoy.com> to explore JustaJoy Historical Treasures—"The first and BEST place to find YOUR family's heirlooms and artifacts. We are the link between reputable antique dealers and individuals who own these "orphaned" items and the families to whom they should belong. This is the place to find family name related items from the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, America's Black History, the World Wars, America's Transportation History and much more!" All items on the site have a direct link to any surnames with which they are associated.

BIG SKY ROUNDUP, Montana State Genealogical Society, % Terry Atwood, P.O. Box 5313, Helena, MT 59602; www.rootsweb.com/~mtmsg, April 2007. Information on the 18 sessions to be given at the 18th Annual MSGS Conference in Billings Oct. 5-6, 2007. The sessions only will be \$42.50, and the sessions + 3 meals will be \$79.00> Look for registration forms in late July.

FADED GENES, Lewis & Clark Co. Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 5313, Helena, MT 59604; www.rootsweb.com/~mtlcgs/index.htm, March 2007. They have an article from the Feb. 6, 2006 issue of Newsweek "DNMA Testing: In Our Blood" which shows how scientists are using DNA to answer the oldest question of all: where did we come from?

FAMILY CHRONICLE, June 2007. See "40 Fabulous Web Sites You've Got To Try", "French Canadian Research: Bienvenue A Quebec", "Finding Old UK Maps Online" and "Websites Worth Surfing."

GEN-BUG NEWS, Yellowstone Genealogy Forum, % Parmley Billings Library, 510 N. Broadway, Billings MT 59101, April 2007. Billings is 125 years old this year. It was originally called Coulson and the original townsite was platted in 1882.

GENEALOGICAL HELPER, March/April 2007. Details of one of the finest Northern California research sources available are in "The Richard Schellens Collection of California Historical Materials." See articles "Obsolete Names and Abolished Counties", and "The Numerical Index—Another Land Record" which shows you how to track a parcel of land (for federal-land states) through it's owners. The *Net Family History* feature will show you the 'Best Historic Photo Sites' and a 'Guide to Finding Canadians in Canada.'

INTERNET GENEALOGY, May 2007. See "Tracing Your Ancestors Across the Ocean" as easy as w-w-w, "England's National Burial Index", "Finding Your Scots-Irish Ancestors on the 'Net'", "Inventive Ancestors: Using Patent Records in Genealogy", "Washington State Digital Archives", and for those addicted to 'Google' you have to read "Delve Into the Past With Google News Archive Search" and "Google Helps Your Genealogy Go Global."

NGS NEWSMAGAZINE, April/May/June 2007. This issue features "The Virginia Peninsula—birth place of a colony, a state, a nation", "Traffic and Trade on the colonial coast", "What is the Standard of Proof in Genealogy" and "Case Study: Searching for Babe Ruth."

NGS QUARTERLY, March 2007. Two articles show how 'historical documents can sometimes be baffling and/or misleading—"Resolving the Inexplicable: The Marriage Bond of Archibald Young and Lettice Morgan" and "Searching for Greens at the Time of Peter Robinson." If you have Swedish ancestry you may find "Finding John Johnsson in Sweden" helpful in understanding Scandinavian

TALES & TRAILS, Columbia Gorge Genealogical Society, % The Dalles Public Library, 722 Court St., The Dalles, OR 97058-2270, April 2007. "Tribes Recall a Dam Closure That Ended a Way of Life" is a reflection on the 50th anniversary of the closing of the gates of the Dalles Dam on the Columbia River which saw the islands of Celilo Falls vanish along with the fishing way of life for the Umatilla

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FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

COMPUTER RESERVATIONS

(1 hour session)

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 - 12:00 PM **NEW HOURS**

FAMILY SEARCH INDEXING

www.familysearchindexing.org/en/index.jsp

You can go to this site to learn about the Family Search Indexing Project. You will find a list of the current and future indexing projects, as well as information on how you can download the indexing software and become a volunteer indexer even if you have only 30 minutes a day. There are no projects in Montana at this time, but they are indexing the 1900 census for CA, CT, GE, IL, IN, MA, MS, MO, OH, VA, and WA. The New England Genealogical & Historical Society is indexing the 1855 & 1865 Boston Census, the Indiana Genealogical Society is indexing Indiana marriage records, and the Ohio Genealogical Society is indexing Ohio tax records.

Nova Scotia releases early birth, marriage, and death records

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH—Early vital records of Nova Scotia, Canada, are viewable over the Internet for the first time and for free, thanks to a joint project by the Genealogical Society of Utah, FamilySearch™, and the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management (NSARM). The records include one million names found in birth records from 1864 to 1877, marriages from 1864 to 1930, and death records from 1864 to 1877 and 1908 to 1955. Users can search the database at www.novascotiagenealogy.com. In the near future, the index and images will also be available on FamilySearch.org.

Bits & Bytes



Microsoft Books: <http://search.live.com/results.aspx?q=&scope=books>

Microsoft has launched an online library of scanned and indexed "out-of-copyright" books called *Live Search Books* to compete against Google (<http://books.google.com>). Live Search Books finds specific pages in books that match your search terms, sorted by relevancy, and you can either read the pages online (very quick loading) or download and save entire books as PDF files. In a search for "Montana Genealogy" I found all 1120 pages of *Montana, It's Story and Biography* by Tom Stout, 1921.

Emerald Ancestors: <http://www.emeraldancestors.com/>

This is a pay site, but you can do a free search of the databases and click on the "number of results" to see limited details—like the name of the bride/groom, year and county for marriages, or year and county for births and deaths. "We specialise in Irish Ancestry within Northern Ireland and our extensive database contains birth, marriage, death, and census records for over 1 million Ancestors in Counties Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone."

VITAL RECORDS (BMD's)

Northern Ireland Births	1796 to 1924	All Co's
Northern Ireland Marriages	1823 to 1922	All Co's
Northern Ireland Deaths	1803 to 1900	All Co's

CENSUS RECORDS

1901 Fermanagh Census	
Northern Ireland Census Extracts	1841 to 1851 All Co's

MISCELLANEOUS

School Registers	1892 to 1938	County Down
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A one month membership is £9.99 or about \$8.50 US. A one year membership at £49.99 allows you to download one free e-book per month in fully searchable pdf format. (They currently have only 6 e-books available.)

They also have many good links to other research sites in Northern Ireland.

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org. That brand name has become synonymous with genealogy searches. The Genealogical Society of Utah, an organization fully subsidized by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has always performed the business of collecting and preserving records of genealogical interest. Now the name of Genealogical Society of Utah is being changed to FamilySearch. The organization that collects, preserves and publishes records of genealogical interest is now one and the same as the web site.

Next, FamilySearch has announced a major new program that will **aid other organizations in placing their records online.**

FamilySearch will provide free services to archives and other records custodians who wish to digitize, index, publish, and preserve their collections. As mentioned in the announcement, "FamilySearch will also provide tools and assistance to records custodians who want to publish parts of their collection using state-of-the-art digital cameras, software, and web-based applications."

The result will be digitized records that may be hosted on FamilySearch.org or on most any other web site. FamilySearch is not concerned where the records will be hosted, only that the records be available to the general public for free or for a reasonable fee. The Church's goal is to increase public access to massive genealogy collections worldwide, regardless of where the information is located.

Even better, the providers of the information may optionally have the index of the record collection available for free on FamilySearch. Anyone who visits FamilySearch.org (from home or at a local FHC) can search for records hosted on thousands of web sites, find a record of interest, click on the link and immediately view the record of interest. It makes no difference if the record itself resides on FamilySearch.org or on your local genealogy society's web site or any other web site that is a part of this collaborative effort.

One method of looking at this is that

FamilySearch.org will now become the equivalent of a "Google for Genealogy." You will be able to visit one free web site and perform searches of tens of millions of genealogy records. Click on the link and the next page you see will be that record, regardless of where the digital record is hosted

I would also point out one more item of note in the announcement:

FamilySearch will announce the first collaborative projects of its new Records Access program during the National Genealogical Society (NGS) Convention in Richmond, Virginia, the week of May 14, 2007. Many more project announcements are expected in the following months.

As I wrote at the end of yesterday's "Rumor Mill" article, "This should be a very interesting week for anyone who uses online genealogy resources!" I expect there will be more announcements in the next few days."

In a previous article on May 13, 2007, Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter had reported on an announcement of a partnership agreement between the **Godfrey Memorial Library** and Family Search:

"The Godfrey Memorial Library in Middletown, Connecticut has long been a valuable resource for genealogists. This private library houses thousands of genealogy books and also has an extensive collection of handwritten material, much of which is not available elsewhere. In addition, the Godfrey Library produces the American Genealogical-Biographical Index, or AGBI, is the equivalent of more than 200 printed volumes. This database contains millions of records of people whose names have appeared in printed genealogical records and family histories.

The Godfrey Library has been digitizing much of the information and is now accelerating that effort. Even better, visitors to LDS FamilySearch Centers around the world will now have free access to the digitized material

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available.

Godfrey Memorial Library Director Richard Black has now announced a partnership agreement between Godfrey Memorial Library and FamilySearch, the genealogy division of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Godfrey Library's online materials will now become available at 4500 FamilySearch facilities around the world."

These articles are from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and are copyright 2007 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>

NOTE: The Godfrey Library online databases will ONLY be accessible on FamilySearch at your local Family History Center, not from home. You can visit Godfrey at: <http://www.godfrey.org/> but it looks like you have to be a member and log in to see the databases.

ANOTHER NEW ANNOUNCEMENT

This morning (May 15th) there was an announcement of another new partnership with Footnote.com to provide access to 3 million complete Revolutionary War Pension files via FamilySearch at the Family History Centers. Footnote began partnering with the National Archives in January 2007 and has since digitized over 8 million historical records.

From browsing the Footnote.com web pages it looks as if the Revolutionary War Pension files are only about 7% complete with only a few letters of the alphabet complete for each state. When complete it looks like one will be able to browse the records by state, then surname first letter, followed by surname and pensioner's name.

There have been no announcements to when these new resources will become available on FamilySearch at the Family History Centers.

!!!WATCH for a really great, new version of FamilySearch to come online soon. Lots of new data, new submitter links. I've tried the beta version and found new data on my husband's line.

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tribe.

THE TREE BRANCH, Dawson Co. Montana Tree Branches Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1275, Glendive, MT 59330-1275; www.cheyenneancestors.com/dawson, March 2007. This issue concerns "The U.S. General Surgeon's Family History Initiative" and "Your Family Health History" which states that "The U.S. surgeon general advises researching family health history and documenting this information. The reason? A complete, accurate family history can be a lifesaver." The article includes a copy of 'My Family Health Portrait' chart which can be found online at <https://familyhistory.hhs.gov>. [NOTE: the https before a web address indicates a secure, encoded web site—you should never enter any personal information over a site that does not have an 's' at the end of the 'http']

WMGS FALL PROGRAMS

Programs will be at 7:00 pm at the Missoula Public Library.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

"THE MONTANA ROOM AND GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES IN THE MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY" - Paulette Parpart, librarian and genealogist, will give a tour of the Montana Room. Its resources include newspaper and cemetery indexes, microform files and on-line databases. The library now has many more genealogical materials that check-out and she will show where they are shelved. There will be time to browse this section of the library.

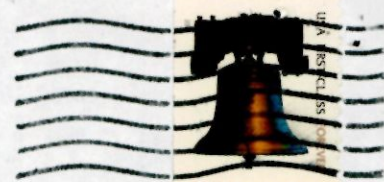
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007

"Writing a Family History Book" - Carma Gilligan, a self-published author, will give a program on writing your own family history book. Her computer experience is with Word and Family Tree Maker. She will give pointers on assembling your research into a book and will bring examples of her several different books.

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

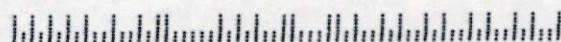


**We're On The
Web**
[www.rootsweb.
com/~mtwmgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mtwmgs)



MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY
301 EAST MAIN ST.
MISSOULA MT 59802

5980254799 C014



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.

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.

Upcoming Conferences

Aug. 15-18, 2007 Federation of Genealogical Societies at Fort Wayne, IN, home of the Allen County Public Library genealogy collection.

Oct. 5-6, 2007 Montana State Genealogy Conference, Billings, MT. The keynote speaker will be Sandra Luebking from Illinois. The theme is "Where Did They Go?" and some talks will be on Scotch-Irish, Land Records, Migration Routes, and the National Archives in Denver.