

Western Montana Genealogical Society

MISSOULA
PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAR 06 2009

MISSOULA, MT



Is Your Research Energy Efficient?

Ancestry Weekly Journal 23 February 2009
(Copyright 2008, The Generations Network and its subsidiaries.)

In my house, I'm the thermostat police. I'm constantly turning it down and when the family complains I promptly hand them a sweatshirt. We've put plastic over the windows to keep out extra drafts and a rolled up towel sits at the foot of front and back doors to give added support to the weather stripping. And it's paying off. Despite really cold temps this month, my utilities bill was still lower than last year. Yeah!

I try to keep my family history research "energy efficient" too. A few simple steps can really make a difference and help you get the most out of every pre-

cious minute you have to spend with your family history.

Start a To-Do List

Too often I find that I have just fifteen minutes or a half hour between errands and picking up my daughter and I'd like to be able to sneak in a little family history in between. I have a word processing document that I saved to my desktop and whenever I think of a task I need to do, I add it to my document. I keep it free form and I can add notes—where I left off last time I worked on that task, what I've tried and failed with, where to look next, etc.

Some of the items are from when I got interrupted mid-

(Continued on page 3)

March 10, 2009 MEETING

The March meeting will be Tuesday, March 10th at 7:00 pm at the Large Meeting Room of the Missoula Public Library. This is our annual *Brick Wall* meeting.

Sometimes genealogists can guide each other over, or around, or through a mystery in limbo. Bring your brick wall problem to this meeting of sym-

pathetic listeners, and present the case of *who* you are looking for, *what* you want to know, approximately *when* the ancestor lived, and *where* you have looked. We all understand *why* you need to know. We will do our best to suggest new research options. Non-members are welcome.

March 2009

WMGS Officers 2008-9

President Peggy Harris oldpond@aol.com	728-6615
Vice-President Nancy Shrader najash@msn.com	543--2886
Treasurer Bonnie Schuster bonnie.schuster@umontana.edu	721-1549
Secretary Theresa Woomer theresiew5@aol.com	549-4613
Newsletter Editor Judith Field jalf@marsweb.com	728-1628 550-3677
Librarian MPL Paulette K. Parpart parpart@missoula.lib.mt.us	258-3858

Inside this issue:

Is Your Research Energy Efficient?	1
WMGS March Meeting	1
In The Mail	2
Family History Library	3
Bits & Bytes	4
1875 Norwegian Census	4
New at Ancestry.com	5
Dues & Queries	6
Upcoming Conferences	6

In The Mail



FAMILY CHRONICLE, February 2009. Articles on: *Law Officers In The Family, Toronto Genealogical Research, Czech and Slovak Research, Research Advice From Literary Sleuths, Working in Archives, Dating Old Military Photographs, Norwegian Farm Names.*

FAMILY CHRONICLE, March/April 2009.

Family History On The Go—50 Time Saving Research Tips, British Poor Records, Oregon Trail Pioneers, Early Ontario Ancestors, A Research Treasure Hunt—in old records, Military Dog Tags.

GENEALOGICAL HELPER, Jan/Feb 2009.

Stories In Stone—Interpreting old gravestone art, City Directories, Controlling Bias in Genealogy, The Past in Motion—preserving valuable old memories found on film, Using German Parish Registers, Genealogical Research In Alsace, Net Family History—Scandinavian Sites.

INTERNET GENEALOGY, March 2009.

Lots of great stuff here: *Top ten Sites for Finding Family Photos Online, Canadian Expeditionary Force Records, Poorhouse and Workhouse Records, FamilySearch Labs (free databases), Nova Scotia Records, New York City Tax Photos (pic's of all buildings in the five boroughs 1939-1941), States' Free Records (states with free online vital records images.)*

NGS NEWSMAGAZINE, January/March 2009. *Swiss Mennonite Research, Mining Records, NYC Police Records, Google Search Tips.* This last article should be a must read for anyone searching on the Internet. The author, Daniel M. Lynch, is also the author of *Google Your Family Tree, Unlock the Hidden Power of Google*. His five top tips are included in the article and include use of quotation marks (" "), the asterisk (*) as a wild card, the minus sign (-) to filter out unwanted results, the word OR or the pipe symbol (| found at the top of the \ key), and use of the tilda (~). Read the article to find out what these magic five symbols do!

Energy Efficient?

(Continued from page 1)

stream. They may say something like "transcribe Joe Dennis's birth certificate into Family Tree Maker," or "create a timeline for George Dennis."

Shorter tasks like the transcription are highlighted, so when I only have a few minutes, I can go right to those items and knock them off. As items are completed, I mark them complete and move them to the bottom of the document. It's a simple system, but it works for me.

Keep Up with Filing

Although I have the best of intentions, I still struggle with keeping up with filing. I have given in to a certain extent and have a "to be filed" box that I have to empty occasionally. When I get time to tackle the pile, I sort first into a small standing file frame with folders for each surname. Then when that's done, I pull out a folder at a time and file it into the binder for that family.

Are You Letting Technology Help You?

The tools we use are constantly evolving and sometimes it's hard to keep up. Add reading Help files or user manuals for the tools you use so that you're taking advantage of all the features. For Ancestry tools, check the Learning Center to see if there is a webinar that can help. Take online tours wherever they are available.

Plan Your Research Trips

If you have a research trip coming up, start a separate to-do list for that trip. If you'll be visiting several repositories, you might want to create a separate list for each one. Use online catalogs to look up film and call numbers ahead of time for the materials you plan to use. Explore the library website for descriptions of the collections and check for any restrictions. Call ahead too to make sure that there are no major unexpected closures. You can enlist the help of fellow genealogists on message boards or mailing lists too. Ask for advice from genealogists on lists or boards for the geographic area you will be visiting. They may share some helpful tips with you that will help you get more

(Continued on page 4)

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

*** Please note the new evening hours ***

The Missoula Family History Library, 3201 Bancroft St., Missoula, is open again on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but is still closed on Saturdays until staff is in place.

COMPUTER RESERVATIONS

(1 hour session) Call 543-6148

FHL HOURS *EVENING HOURS CHANGE*

Mon. CLOSED

Tue. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM & 6:30-8:30 PM*

Wed. CLOSED

Thurs. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM & 6:30—8:30 PM*

Sat. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM* (Closed)

FamilySearch Update: 6 million New Indexed Records & 1.4 Million New Images

FamilySearch added over 6 million new indexed records and 1.4 million new images since January 5, 2009, to its Record Search pilot The West Virginia birth, marriage, and death records, and the South Dakota state censuses for 1915 and 1925 are now complete.

The following databases can be accessed FREE at the FHL.

Footnote.com

Civil War Union Soldier's Service Records – added MS, MO, Utah Territory and Dakota Territory to AZ, GA, NE, NV, OR, Colored Troops, and CSA [Compiled Service Records of Former Confederate Soldiers who Served in the 1st through 6th U.S. Volunteer Infantry Regiments, 1864-1866 9100% complete).]

WorldVitalRecords.com *The American Civil War Research Database*

The American Civil War Research Database™ is the definitive online resource for researching the individuals, regiments, and battles of the

American Civil War. Originally created by Historical Data Systems, Inc., the database contains indexed, searchable information on over 4 million soldiers and thousands of battles, together with over 16,000 photographs. With thousands of regimental rosters and officer profiles, the database will continue to grow as new information is loaded semiannually

History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield, Volume 1 (online 2/25/2009) [Volume 2, part 1 & 2 also available]

This publication is a two-volume work created by Donald Lines Jacobus in the early 1930s. This work contains over 46,000 names of early Connecticut settlers and their descendents.

*** Databases added to WorldVitalRecords.com are generally free for the first 10 days after they are added. If you check the site or go to this site and subscribe to their newsletter you will be informed about new databases as they are added.

Question of the Day

Each day (M-F), David Lambert, the NEHGS [New England Historic Genealogical Society] Online Genealogist, posts an interesting "Question of the Day" on NewEnglandAncestors.org... Following is one question asked last month [Feb 2009].

Question:

Could you answer a debate I have with another genealogist. They claim they saw a census pre-1850 that gives exact ages for families. I do not recall ever seeing such a census.

Answer:

Thanks for your intriguing question. Your colleague is actually partially correct. The 1840 U.S. Census does list the exact age and the name for those collecting a military pension or a widow's pension. They are often the head of household, but occasionally they are listed living with another family member. These names and ages appear on the second page of each enumeration sheet. The statistics for this was used to publish *A census of pensioners for revolutionary or military services, with their names, ages, and places of residence, as returned by the marshals of the several judicial districts, under the act for taking the sixth census.* (Washington, Printed by Blair and Rives, 1841). This volume can be seen online at: www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/colonial/census/1840/

Bits & Bytes



OAister

OAister is a union catalog of digital resources. They provide access to these digital resources by "harvesting" their descriptive metadata (records) using OAI-PMH (the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting). OAister currently provides access to 20,220,634 records from 1082 contributors.

OAister can be searched by Title, Author/Creator, Subject, Language or Entire Record. Searches can also be limited by resource type (text, image, audio, video, dataset) and sorted by title, author, date and hit frequency. Results allow further limiting by data contributor (i.e., where the record was harvested from).

www.oaister.org

Census of Canada, 1891

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) has announced the launch of a new online database, Census of Canada, 1891. Through this online database researchers can access digitized images of original census returns featuring the name, age, country or province of birth, nationality, religion, and occupation of Canada's residents at the time of the 1891 Census.

The database is available at:

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1891/index-e.html

Energy Efficient?

(Continued from page 2)

from your trip.

Keep a Book in the Car

Since I often find myself waiting in the car for my daughter to get out of some activity, I keep a bag of books and a notepad and pen in my car so that when I'm sitting there waiting, I can catch up on my reading. I jot down notes on things that may be relevant to my research or that I'd like to learn more about. The bag is handy because I can take it in when I have an appointment and know I may have a wait. Now I actually look forward to my "waiting time."

1875 Norway Census Transcription Initiative Is Underway

Salt Lake City, Utah—FamilySearch International, the University of Tromsø, and DIS-Norge announced today a joint initiative to transcribe the 1875 Norway Census for free online access. It is the only Norway census that has not been indexed and the first to be tackled as a global, Internet-based effort. Volunteers who can read Norwegian are being sought to complete the project at www.FamilySearch.org. (Go to **FamilySearch.org**, then click **Index Records**, and then click **Volunteer**.)

The 1875 Norway Census is valuable to researchers because it was the last national census taken just before the great Norwegian immigration period that started in 1878. Researchers will not have to wait much longer for convenient, online access to the historic census. FamilySearch digitized the census images and is using its Web-based transcription tool and volunteers to create the automated index. The University of Tromsø and DIS-Norge are sponsoring the project, but many more online volunteers are needed to transcribe the 1.6 million individuals found in the tens of thousands of census sheets.

—News of FamilySearch Record Access Program

Research Recommendations: Beyond the Names: FamilySearch.org

by Michael J. Leclerc

The Family History Library's website has for years been an indispensable tool for genealogical research. The International Genealogical Index, Ancestral File, Pedigree Research File, Vital Records Index, and Census transcriptions have been providing online access to names, dates, and places for a decade. And the Family History Library Catalog is the gateway to mil-

(Continued on page 5)

New at Ancestry.com [Missoula Public Library]

1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta

This database is an every name index to individuals enumerated in the 1916 Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta and also includes images of the original census documents. Information listed includes: name of each person in the household, gender, age, birthplace, relationship to head of household, year of immigration to Canada, military service, and religion.

Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

This database contains Iowa state censuses for the following years: 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925. It also includes some head of household censuses and other special censuses from 1836-1897. Information available for an individual will vary according to the census year and the information requested on the census form. Some of the information contained in this database though includes: name, age, gender, race, birthplace, marital status, and place of enumeration.

U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles

This database is a compilation of military records (including state rosters, pension records, and regimental histories) of individual soldiers who served in the United States Civil War.

General Photographs of the Bureau of Ships, 1914-1946

This database contains thousands of photographs of military ships dating from 1914 to 1946. These ships and photographs were under the jurisdiction of the Bureaus of Engineering and Construction and Repair before coming under the Bureau of Ships in 1940. Each photograph has a "Ship Name" and "Date of Photo" associated with it.

Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934

Updated— 2/18/009 Only the years 1885-1914 have been indexed so far. However, all of the images for 1850-1934 are available.

Research Recommendations

(Continued from page 4)

lions of records from around the world, available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and their Family History Center network.

But did you know that in addition to all the names, dates, and places, there are other valuable research aids available for free from the website? Gathered under the Research Helps tab is an abundance of information for family historians. The Research Guidance section is organized by locality, and provides basic information on finding records of birth, marriage, and death for that particular area. The information includes not only the civil registrations of these matters, but substitutes for this information that can be found or deduced from church records, cemetery records, Bibles, pension, military records, etc.

Clicking on one of the links under birth, marriage, or death, brings you to a Search Strategy section, with links to different types of records. Other tabs will bring up a Historical Background for the locality, and basic research assistance for beginners. Clicking on one of the Search Strategy links provides a links to a number of resources, organized under the various governmental structures for that area. For example, clicking on the Parish Register link under Bayern, Germany, provides links organized under Country Records, Kingdom Records, and Town Records. The links bring you to entries in the Family History Library Catalog that give more detailed information on each source.

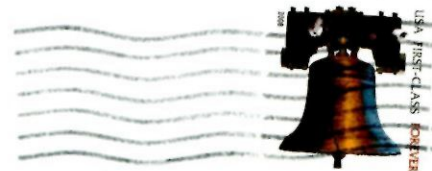
The other section under Research Helps is Articles. Here you will find hundreds of documents to give you more how-to information in your research. They include historical backgrounds, explanations of records, word lists for non-English records, and letter-writing guides among other resources. You will also find a number of blank forms, such as pedigree charts, research logs, census abstractions, etc. The default view is Sorted by Place, but the navigation bar on the left allows you to sort the articles by title, subject, or document type. Also in the left navigation bar is a link to a glossary with definitions for words from a multitude of languages.

**WESTERN MONTANA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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



We're On The Web
www.rootsweb.
com/~mtwmgs



Missoula Public Library ex
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.

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.

NEW BOOKS

If you know of a genealogy related book that you would like the Missoula Public Library to purchase please contact Paulette Parpart. She is looking for new books to add to the

Upcoming Conferences

Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD –Forensic Genealogist

May 30, 2009 Hayden, Idaho

Presented by the Kootenai County Genealogical Society & The Family History Store. Colleen's first book, *Forensic Genealogy* [available at the Missoula Public Library] has been widely recognized for its innovative forensic science approach to genealogical research. Her newest book [June 2008] is *The Dead Horse Investigation: Forensic Photo Analysis For Everyone*.

Pre-registration by May 19th is \$25, at the door (if available) is \$30. Bring your own lunch.

I can e-mail a copy of the pre-registration form and more info to anyone interested.