

NEWSLETTER FOR THE YELLOWSTONE GENEALOGY FORUM BILLINGS, MONTANA JANUARY 2002

SEPT. 20 & 21, 2002 CONFERENCE

Yes, our conference is inked on our calendars and development will soon begin to grow. John Colletta, our speaker, kindly filled our request of a descriptive paragraph on each of the 9 top selections from the 36 possible choices. He asked to let him know our choices before they were finalized as there is some over-lapping and we should have a balance of "records" lectures and "methodology" lectures. Sounds like he has our interests at heart and wants our conference to be the very best. A planning committee is being formed. If you would like to be a part of that group, please phone either of the Co-chairmen--Louise LaRue at 252-1070 or Verba Valentine at 656-9840.

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NEW MEMBERSHIP LIST

Your new membership list is a part of this newsletter. Keep it for ready reference near your telephone. Our newest members are included in the roster but we'd like to welcome them here also. Welcome and Happy Searching!  
 Leroy & Sydney Gabel, 2056 N 4th Road, Huntley, MT 59037, ph. 406-348-3162, e-mail [sydney\\_gabel@hotmail.com](mailto:sydney_gabel@hotmail.com)



SPRING CLASSES?

YGF members will be asked at the January 22nd meeting if they would be interested in 4 Beginning Genealogy Classes during March. The last class of 8 nights was taught in the spring of 1999. It is thought there are new members who would really appreciate this kind of class. And it would be a good review for anyone else. The YGF Board felt that 4 lessons this spring and the last 4 in the fall after our Sept. 20, 21 Conference and before Thanksgiving would be a good time frame.

Please attend our January meeting and help shape plans for helping our members improve their research skills.

1994-2000 OBITUARIES

by Ellen Cushing, Librarian

Over the years many, many dedicated volunteers have been clipping the obituaries from the Billings Gazette. They are then glued on 4" x 6" cards and sent to the Family History Center in Salt Lake City for filming. The cards are then returned to us.

The latest, for the years 1994 to 2000, have been completed and are now available in our Genealogy Library and can be found in a cabinet (donated by Ken & Connie Sandrick--thank you!) in the sw corner of the library.

Microfilm copies of the obituaries are also available in the Heights Family History Center.

(continued on page 3)

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

What did YOU do on New Years Day? Perhaps take in a football game or a parade on TV? Dinner at friends' home? I have a tradition on New Years Day. There are 2 things I 'always' do (of course I ALWAYS do it because those 2 things are ALWAYS in my New Years resolutions and we all know once a resolution is made.....hahaha). I spend part of the day doing what the President of the United States is doing. I revamp my budget. Working with slightly fewer funds, it doesn't take me nearly as long (less than 4 years, more like an hour). With that out of the way I move on to more important things, genealogy. I decide what I hope to accomplish in the coming year. In the past I have 'vowed' to find war records or a particular person. Sometimes I decide to research a particular family in an unfamiliar country. There are usually language barriers, lack of films or I need to go back to square one and start writing letters. Sometimes I need to find my 'error', which is why I left that family to begin with, and accept the fact that perhaps much of my information is in the wrong tree. Whatever the obstacle, I give myself the year to straighten it out and get in gear again.

Now this may see a little too 'programmed' for some of you. But let me explain. It is not that I NEVER research on anything other than the plan. I do simply because I get overwhelmed, but after a few weeks of looking for the 'one' more important thing to my grandmother, I know that I need to return to the plan.

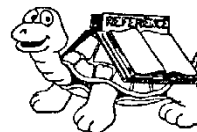
Since I began this methodology, actually from the first day I began to look for my ancestors, I have narrowed down what is important to me to research. Let's face it, some things are just more exciting to find than others and that particular 'thing' is different for all of us.

Now I suppose that you are wondering where the budget comes in. Well, right here. You see, now that I am older than I was when I first began my research, New Years is not so miserable. The budget that I am referring to at this stage of my life is all about how much money and time I can spend traveling to research, order films and records, go to Salt Lake.....

Happy New Year! Your president,  
Suzanne

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Cherish Yesterday, Dream Tomorrow,  
Live Today.



LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

1. 1970 Census for Pennsylvania
2. A Guide to Irish Church Churches and Graveyards
3. A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland
4. Locating Union & Confederate Records
5. Uncle, We are Ready! Registering America's Men, 1917-1918
6. Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry

DONATIONS

7. The Glacier, 1942 (Columbus Falls, MT High School yearbook)  
Donated by Jim Masters
8. People, Places & Events, Minot-Ward County. (North Dakota)  
Donated by Dorothy Lowman
9. The New York Directory for 1786
10. Dorset Pilgrims  
Donated by Dorothy Lowman
11. Cemetery Island, Canyon Ferry Reservoir  
Donated by Parmly Library
12. Land of Their Choice: The Immigrants Write Home
13. Republic of Texas. Second Class Headrights, March 2, 1836-October 1. 1837
14. The Bruner Bunch
15. New Mexico Place Names
16. The Aulls Genealogy
17. American Nicknames
18. Finnish immigrants in America, 1880-1920
19. Montana in the Wars  
Donated by Dick Thayer
20. Sheridan's Daybreak II; Sheridan Co., Montana
21. Some Southern Colonial Families (vol. 2)
22. David Kramm: His Ancestors and Descendants

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KULR 8 ENCOURAGES GENEALOGY

Thanksgiving is truly a time for family get-togethers and Roxeanne Vainuku honored our guest by presenting a 3-part series on genealogy November 21, 22(Thanksgiving), 23 at 6 and 10 p.m. on WLR 8. We hope you tuned in and saw our members, Athna May Porter and Sue-Ann Jacobson. do a fine job along with even the camera man under Roseanne's expertise. Thank you all for a job well done.

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## BREAKING BRICK WALLS

in the March/April 2001 Family Chronicle is an article on "More Brickwall Solutions" which set your editor to thinking. All of us have stone or brick walls in genealogical research along the way. Most require several years to solve.

Thinking that studying some writings on brick (or stone) walls would give me an insight on a trend, I am choosing this as a theme for the masthead this time. Perhaps there's a way to solve them faster.

Family-Chronicle magazine is collecting stories of how people solved their problems with a goal of 1,000 stories (they had 500 at the writing of their article). One thousand examples should make a very useful reference work. If you would like to contribute your story, contact them at Family Chronicle, 505 Consumers Road, Suite 500, Toronto, Ontario M2J 4V8 Canada, Fax 416-491-3996 or e-mail [ronwild@familychronicle.com](mailto:ronwild@familychronicle.com).

And quite a few of us think back to one of our earliest seminars in 1981 when Ron Bremer came and some of us paid an extra \$5 up front for his advice on how to break our stone wall. (Wine worked but it took 10 years.)

Back to the article in the Family Chronicle, of the stories that were given as examples, success had come by:

- a. Putting classified ads in the newspaper where you're researching
- b. Using the federal soundex to scan the whole U.S.
- c. Following a childhood memory about a statue in a cemetery
- d. Going through old letters for clues
- e. Reading histories of the area
- f. Build a timeline for the family you're searching
- g. Letters of inquiry
- h. Use of maps
  1. Reviewing what you have in a fresh attempt
- j. Ordering wills of friends and neighbors worked for one man
- k. If you can't find an old parent, chances are he went west with a son
  1. If you have a male born ca. 1840, strongly consider Civil War Service
- m. Persistence of try, try again!! maybe the MOST IMPORTANT.

Most of us can gain ideas of how others broke their brick wall down by being good listeners to see if their experiences could work for us.

Obituaries icon't.)

Thank you to all who have been involved in this project. These obituaries are truly a valuable resource for our genealogists.

We are looking to thank the unnamed donor of 1963 obituary cards taken from the Billings Gazette, Lewistown Argus and Great Falls Tribune. They are in a 4" X 6" single file on top of the big cabinet holding 1994-2000 obituaries. Does anyone know who did all this work?

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## NEED SPIRAL BINDINGS?

If you have need of putting a spiral binding on some of your genealogy booklets, contact Myrle Theimer. She has the machine and a numerous back strips and would be happy to do this for Forum members. There would be no charge.

Give a Myrle a call at 245-3650 or e-mail [mtheimer@imt.net](mailto:mtheimer@imt.net) to find a time that would be convenient for Myrle so you could take them to her home.

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Do Computers Have a Gender???

Men think computers should be referred to as females because:

1. No one but the Creator understands their internal logic
2. Your smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for later retrieval
3. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it,

Women think computers should be referred to as males because:

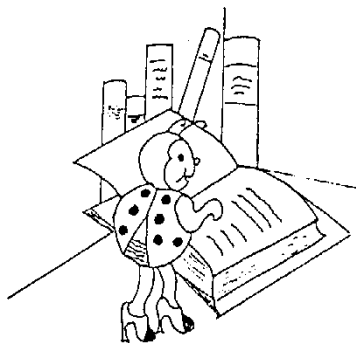
1. They have a lot of data. but they are still clueless
2. In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on
3. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have obtained a better model.

---Senior News, August 2001

Who knows more? The old know more about being young than the young know about being old.

-----Sheridan, Wyoming





### LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

"New Books" to the Gen-Room Library at Parmly Billings Library are placed on a shelf on the west wall for easy reference. Your editor would like to bring to your attention 3 that caught her eye.

"Uncle, We Are Ready! Registering America's Men 1917-1918" by John J. Newman, 2001, call #973/M2nu, is a soft bound book. It tells how over 24 million men were registered who were born 1842-1900. Draft registration cards can help fill the gap of the lost 1890 census. Most helpful it gives 2 sets of filmnumbers--those of NARA and the FHL microfilm rolls.

"Bicentennial Edition 1790 Census of Pennsylvania", call #974.8/X2 has a light blue soft cover. Reading the Preface is a good starting point to learn how to use the contents. If you have Pennsylvania people about that time period, check names in the index for a possible find.

"Montana in the Wars", compiled by Chester K. Shore, is a hardbound book, call #978.6-/M2mo. It was done for the American Legion and Auxiliary of Montana in 1977. It is called a "scrapbook" and contains a lot of information including lengthy Indian wars. Some individuals are named, but mostly places are named. One interesting quote from this book is "The study of war is not just a study of battles; military history is a study of society as well."

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Some people come into our lives and quietly go.

Others stay for awhile and leave footprints on our hearts and we are never the same.

---Needlework in Shaker Workshop catalog

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### 1880 CENSUS

in our July newsletter there was a small mention that the local Montana Big Sky PAF User's Group had purchased copies of the new 188G census for both Branch LDS Libraries in Billings. Most people know that the old version of the 1880 census Soundex only listed families with children up through 10 years of age. There were other people on the microfilm but harder to find.

The new 1880 Census indexes everyone to zero in on your ancestor. if you haven't used this resource, it may well place "where" your ancestor was in 1880. I knew my grandmother was teaching school in Iowa but didn't know which county. When I found her in Audubon Co., she was living with a couple that became life long friends.

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Ancestors Say the Damdest Things! "A letter arrived last week at Newton, Hamilton county. for Mrs. Lucinda Hawn. The postmaster asked an old gentleman by the name of Hawn if he knew any woman by that name. He replied that he did not. The old man went to his home, some three miles away, and asked his wife if she knew a woman anywhere by the name of Lucinda Hawn? "Yes," she replied., "that's my name". "Well, well," said the old man, scratching his head, "I have called you mother so long--nearly forty years--that I had really forgotten your first name. There is a letter in the post office for you at Newton."

So back he went, got the letter, and now knows his wife's first n.--Cincinnati Gazette (Reprinted in THE WEATHERFORD (TEXAS) EXPONENT, Sat.. 28 April 1877.)

--shared by Sue-Ann Jacobson

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### MAIL REQUESTS SUSPENDED

#### ATNATIONAL ARCHIVES

Mail delivery to Archives I (700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC) was stopped on October 23rd, due to the discovery of anthrax at the Brentwood mail distribution center, and the Archives mailroom was closed. Archives I was swept for anthrax contamination and the findings were negative. No anthrax was found. The mailroom, however has not reopened and until it does, no completed orders are being mailed to customers. These orders include all the NATF 81through 86 requests (Passenger Arrival, Census, Military Service, Pension Applications. etc.)

## HOW I SOLVED IT

About midway into my genealogy "hobby". I decided to tackle my maternal great-grandfather, John Chambers Randall. All I knew of him was from family history passed down to me and a tintype of him, two of sons, one son-in-law who was my grandfather. I also was given a list of all his children, his wife's name and lots of dates.

From Canadian census records I found him in Oxford Co., Ont. with a wife and 3 children in 1851. In the 1881 census he was in Simcoe Co., Ont. with his wife and several children and listed as a hotel keeper. From personal history collected by my Aunt Ethel, he died on Dec. 8, 1882 and was buried at New Lowell, Simcoe Co. A picture of his elaborate headstone confirms that date and a note said the death was "accidental". He died intestate and his wife was granted "Letters of Administration" which did not reveal a thing. The "accidental" death was something the family never talked about!

I went to Salt Lake City one spring with Liz Heal for a week of researching. I found John's marriage to Ann Pearson on a Marriage Index film. His marriage was witnessed by "Hannah Randall". That sent me back to the 1851 Oxford Co., Ont. census where I found a family of Joseph Randall and Hannah (no last name) living very close to where I discovered John Randall's family. I've had to assume Joseph and Hannah are John's parents but that is what has lead me further. On a Land Petition Index fiche I found a David and Joseph Randall had petitioned for Crown land 1820. The index gave me the date plus other codes that I had to decipher and they told me they had petitioned for "free" land. That meant that someone in the immediate family was a "Loyalist", meaning they fought for the British in the early wars. Joseph's birthplace on the 1851 census was "U.S." I sent the information of this index to the Canadian National Archives in Ottawa and was told I could get the film on inter-library loan from Parmly Library-free! It took about 6 weeks to get here but it was a gold mine of information-Joseph and David petitioned for land as heirs of their brother, John, who was killed at the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812. The petition also contained an affidavit from Matthew Randall and Rebecca, his wife, stating these were their sons. And ever since then I have been off and running with

all this new information.

Henrietta "Hank" Johnstone

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## LATEST PERIODICALS FOR THE GEN-ROOM October 2001-January 2002

If you have unwanted periodicals that you would like to donate or would like to donate a subscription to a periodical, call Athna May Porter 259-2552 or e-mail porter@imt.net

1. Family Tree Magazine-Feb 2002
2. Family Chronicle-Sept/Oct 2001; Nov/Dec 2001; Jan/Feb 2002
3. Heritage Quest-Nov/Dec 2001
4. Heritage Quest Update Newsletter-Oct 2001; Dec 2001; Jan 2002
5. NGS Newsmagazine-Nov/Dec 2001
6. National Genealogical Society Quarterly Special issue Jefferson-Hemings Genealogy
7. New England Ancestors-Holiday 2001 Vol 2 #5 & 6
8. History Magazine-Dec/Jan 2002
9. Forum-FGS Society Quarterly- Fall 2001 Vol 13 #3
10. Great Migration Newsletter-Jan/Mar 2001 Vol 10 #1
11. New England Historical & Gen. Register-Ott 2001 #155
12. Daughters of the American Revolution-Owned by Parmly
13. Genealogical Helper-Owned by Parmly
14. Germans From Russia-Heritage Society Heritage Review. Dec 2001
15. GRHS News, Dec 2001
16. American Heritage Society of Genealogy from Russia, Clues, 2001 Edition
17. Genealogy from Russia, Fall 2001.

Three family newsletters that we receive regularly:

Bunnell/Bonnell Newsletter

Gest-Guest Quarterly

The Chandler Family Association

Newsletter

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Daddy, why don't you get these pictures of your grandparents colorized?"