

Footprints Indexing Project

In the beginning (1957), our publication was known as *The Bulletin*, which was published monthly. The name change to *Footprints* came about in 1968, shortly after the format was changed to quarterly. The scope of this project is to create a Full-Name Index that includes every issue published since the founding of our Society. This portion of the project concentrates on indexing the issues contained on our *Footprints 1957-1997* CD-ROM.

When I first brought my Footprints CD-ROM home, I did what everyone else would have done. I went straight to the Master Index. Joe Grant, the mastermind who created the CD, assembled all of the individual indices into one gigantic, 1,632 page, surname index. I thought I was in Heaven when I found that there were 264 occurrences of one of my main surnames, Ward. But what if I were only searching for one particular person named Amanda Minerva Ward? Each of the 264 places where the surname Ward was found is an entire page. I would have to read 264 pages just to see if any of them mentioned Amanda. It took no time at all for me to come to the conclusion that a full name index would have been very much more useful. I was still grateful to Joe that I didn't have to search out and read through 41 separate indices. Joe's Master Index was still a great tool.

Well, it has been sixteen years since the CD was published and many more members have home computers and are comfortable in using them. One thing I learned from a big project I led a few years ago is that we have an army of volunteers out there who are eager to work on a worthwhile project. It is time to bring this FULL-NAME INDEX to life.

The index will be available to download free of charge and will become the property of the Society upon its completion. The project is not officially sanctioned by FWGS because I do not need Board members to help manage the project and I don't want to give monthly reports.

Contact me to volunteer!

Rob Yoder
Footprints Editor - Index Project Coordinator
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I have already completed the index covering the issues that came after the CD and you may browse through it to get the idea of what we are working toward. It is currently posted on the FWGS website at:

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/documents/Footprints_Index_1998-2013.pdf

Volunteers

Indexing the Footprints CD (1957 through 1997) will be completed using volunteers.

The time working on this project will be entirely up to each volunteer. This is a **work-at-home** project indexing an issue or a set of issues of Footprints that you may already have. You do as little or as much work as you want, at a time and place that is **convenient to you**. Assignments will be based upon what issues you have at home, or something could be sent to you if needed. The end result will go into Excel, but you may use any spreadsheet or database. You may even use a word processor or text editor to enter information if that makes it any easier for you. I copy and paste between these programs all the time.

Please do not begin indexing until you have been assigned a specific task. This is simply so that there is no duplication of effort, plus I need to know where everybody stands.

The format used is simple... We only need to record 3 items; the surname, the given name(s), and the page number. The first example shown is what we might see using a text editor. In a spreadsheet or database, we simply set up two fields or columns.

Watkins, Maud Mary Lee <tab>	151	This is an example as if I do my work in a word processor or text editor.
Tanner, Joyce O'Kelly <tab>	168	
Tanner, Joyce (O'Kelly) <tab>	168	This is an alternate method to display the previous line.
O'Kelly, Joyce <tab>	168	I like to index married women under maiden name also, when it's known.
Simpson, Col. John N. <tab>	180	The titles mess up the sort, but I am allowing some.
Morales, Mrs. W. <tab>	162	Include Mrs. or Miss only when the gender is in doubt, or when she
Smith, Mrs. Walter J. <tab>	17	is clearly listed under her husband's name.

This is the same information as it might appear if you work with a database or spreadsheet.

Watkins, Maud Mary Lee	151
Tanner, Joyce O'Kelly	168
Tanner, Joyce (O'Kelly)	168
O'Kelly, Joyce	168
Simpson, Col. John N.	180
Morales, Mrs. W.	162
Smith, Mrs. Walter J.	17

I will add the final column (with volume and issue numbers) and format the page column to right justify as I merge your work into the main database.

Assignments and Progress

Volume	February	May	August	November
1997 - v.40	Assigned	to	Betty Allen	
1996 - v.39				
1995 - v.38				
1994 - v.37				
1993 - v.36				
1992 - v.35				
1991 - v.34				
1990 - v.33				
1989 - v.32				
1988 - v.31				
1987 - v.30				
1986 - v.29				
1985 - v.28				
1984 - v.27				
1983 - v.26				
1982 - v.25				
1981 - v.24				
1980 - v.23				
1979 - v.22				
1978 - v.21				
1977 - v.20				
1976 - v.19				
1975 - v.18				

1974 - v.17				
1973 - v.16				
1972 - v.15				
1971 - v.14				
1970 - v.13				
1969 - v.12				
1968 - v.11				
1967 - v.10				
1966 - v. 9				
1965 - v. 8				
1964 - v. 7				
1963 - v. 6				
1962 - v. 5				
1961 - v. 4				
1960 - v. 3				
1959 - v. 2				
1958 - v. 1	Assigned	to	Diane Lunow	
1957 - v. 1	Assigned	to	Diane Lunow	