



MANI search results screen

#### **MANI**

We are up and running!

A 12 month delay caused by glitches prevented us from promoting MANI to our members. We can now enter a Beta Testing phase where we are asking MGS members to try MANI.

http://bitproject05.academic.rrc.ca/index.php

MGS has been working on this major project since 2010. Because of its size the project has been developed as phases and implemented over several years. Each discrete phase is stand alone.

We have come to the most expensive phase as we build an internet accessible database with an e-Commerce ability. We will modify our MGS website to accommodate the new features. We are currently working with Red River College students to build the new features into MANI. This phase adds to the work done in earlier BIT projects with the students from Red River College.

The Data Project has been named MANI or MAnitoba Name Index Project.

MANI combines about 80 MGS indexes, with 1,500,000 entries into one searchable database. It will eventually include access to thousands of pages from MGS documents, with additional information, on a pay-per-view basis.

# MGS MANI Newsletter v<sub>1</sub> n<sub>1</sub> January 1, 2015

# MANI has four main purposes:

- To preserve the unique collection of Manitoba data collected by the MGS over the past 35+ years
- 2. To provide access to web-based indexes and documents for MGS members
- 3. To provide a revenue stream for MGS revenue from pay-for-view documents and income from non-members fees for access to the indexes and pay-for-view content.
- 4. To increase MGS membership by providing at-home web access and convenience. As a rapidly increasing portion of genealogists do their research online, they are not joining societies. We are also experiencing a membership that finds it harder to travel to the MGS Resource Centre to do research. Providing improved access to our indexes and documents to our members through MANI is a huge benefit to them.

# **Digital conversion**

We are modernizing! The conversion of paper based MGS data to digital files by scanning and then OCRing or creating PDF copies allows us to make the information more easily accessible in the MGS Resource Centre and to allow uploading them to MANI.

# **New Features**

We are adding a number of new features to MANI this year. We will be adding the ability to process MGS Membership renewals as well as track credits for purchases of documents from the MANI website. This is done by adding an e-commerce feature as well.

Links to Info pages will be added where the user can view the actual page, such as one from a Cemetery Transcription on a pay-per-view basis.

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

As we build our processes and standards for entering and editing data we will be needing additional volunteers. Please contact me if you are interested.

# [OUR THANKS]

NEW RECORDS/DATA ARE BEING ADDED WEEKLY. A PARTIAL LIST OF WHO IS WORKING ON WHAT.

Pat Allen

- Cemetery transcription edits to conform to MGS data entry standards
- Cemetery transcription edits to add missing page numbers from Indexes

#### **Dave Jenkins**

• Ukrainian Cemetery updates

# Mona Phillips

Cemetery Transcription digitization and standardization

#### Linda Toews

Cemetery Transcription digitization and standardization

#### Mary Bole

• Data set identification and description

#### Sandra Havig

• Data entry

#### Gordon McBean

- Scanning all 1,379 cemetery Transcriptions to digital PDF documents
- Converting Legal land descriptions (Township, Range and Section) to latitude and longitude which is used with computers and GPS units

# **Winnipeg Foundation**

Thanks to a grant from the Winnipeg Foundation we have been able to purchase a Document scanner. In a month we have been able to scan almost 2/3 of our paper Cemetery Transcriptions. We are also comparing our list of transcriptions to those already listed in the MHS website. We will then use a Legal Land Converter database service to convert the MGS listing that are not already included to the lat/long format that the MHS and MANI require.

The grant also covers the Red River College BIT Project costs. We make a donation to the RRC Scholarship Fund in return for the students work.







Cemetery location from MHS website

# Joint project with Manitoba Historical Society (MHS)

We have a joint project with the Manitoba Historical Society where we will be providing our cemetery information to them and in return they will provide a link back on the MHS website to the MGS site where people can purchase cemetery transcriptions.

http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/index.shtml

This site has an interactive, searchable map of Manitoba's historic sites. The photo above is from

http://www.mb1870.org/mhs-map/search?go=t&st-name=Cemetery&submit=Search

# **Bug Reporting**

If you run into a problem please follow the Bug Reporting procedure

- Copy the Web address of the page you are on
- Describe what you were doing at the time the error occurred
- Describe the problem result you obtained.

It is planned that a bug reporting link will be built into the MANI webpages in the future.

Gordon McBean Vice President Information Technology Manitoba Genealogical Society