Manitoba Genealogical Society
Data Project

Gordon McBean
Vice President Information Technology
April 27, 2013

- Data Project Overview
  - Proof of project phases of the project has been completed and we now have a working web accessible database
  - Fundraising – thanks to Janice and her crew is proceeding well.
  - Data preparation continues with several volunteers working on sub-projects. Additional projects are listed at the end of this report
  - Policy creation – There are several areas of MGS Policy that will need to be developed.
    - membership benefits
    - profit sharing, etc.
  - Infrastructure -
    - server/hosting – A development server has been donated that will allow us to have the database available during the development phase. Additional discussion and investigation is required to come up with a permanent solution.
    - member log on – process and integration with the web site will come with a later phase.
  - Future plans
    - Hire programmer to incorporate Winnipeg & Rural Obits? Moving ahead with this would allow us to double the number of records in the data base and MANI would become the main search engine at MGS

RRC web access during development – We have still not received a reply from RRC regarding how long we can run on their servers.
A hardware and software donation has been arranged for a *development platform (server)*. - Target June 2013

- Project stats to date
  - Data file analysis and sorting
    - **27, 295** files in **1,453** folders
  - **1,670+** cemeteries/burial sites recorded
  - **562** cemetery transcripts of which **88** were FINAL
  - Rows of data
    - **1,250,000+** entries
  - Rows of Data in Cemetery transcripts **402,669**
    - **351,626** Manitoba Cemeteries
    - **51,043** Elmwood Cemetery
  - Rows of Data in Obituaries **573,483**

- - **373,483** WinPap (Winipeg Obituaries)
  - **200,000** (est) Rural Obits

- Hours Worked
  - Meetings MGS
  - Meetings RRC
  - Transcription file proofing
  - Project

MGS Data Project

- **Phase one** - computer & network upgrades at MGS Resource Centre
  - *Completed Fall 2012*

- **Phase two** – data consolidation and sorting MGS resource Centre
  - Ongoing
- **Phase three** – Data and methodology evaluation, sorting and planning by Red River College student
  - Completed Dec, 2012

- **Phase four** – Initial database and interface design with Red River College student teams
  - to be completed April 26th, 2013

- **Phase five** - Initial platform and hardware design with Red River College student teams
  - to be completed April 26th, 2013.

Where to from here
MGS Data Project – to do

- **Phase six** – upgrade existing cemetery data and enter it into SQL database
  - Computer based cemetery listing project with Manitoba Historical Society
  - MHS website enhancement (MGS link-back)
  - Cemetery description sheets
  - Digitize Cemetery Transcriptions

- **Phase seven** – conform and digitize all other MGS Databases
  - **200,000** (est) Rural Obits
  - Complete data-mapping
  - Digitize missing files
  - Cooperative arrangements with outside stakeholders of data

- **Phase eight** – Arrange for January 2014 Red River College Student project
  - Incorporate all of our databases
  - Additional functionality
    - create integration with MGS website
      - Navigation
    - Secure member sign-in
    - PPV, online purchase of transcripts and pages
  - Rigorous in house testing of content and function
    - Involve branches with web access for a limited number of individuals on test database
    - Weekday volunteers

- Sub projects
  1. Complete the Computer based cemetery listing
     - Enter missing data in cells
  2. upgrade existing cemetery data and enter it into SQL database
     - Computer based cemetery listing project with Manitoba Historical Society
     - MHS website enhancement (MGS link-back)
     - Cemetery description sheets
     - Digitize Cemetery Transcriptions
  3. Convert and merge MGS and MHS data
     - Match remaining MHS locations to MGS sites
     - Convert Lat Longs to township and ranges and visa versa
  4. Enter missing cemeteries in the index
  5. conform and digitize all other MGS Databases
     - **200,000** (est) Rural Obits
     - Complete data-mapping
     - Digitize missing files
  6. Fundraising
  7. Policy creation
     - Cooperative arrangements with outside stakeholders of data
     - membership benefits
     - profit sharing, etc.
  8. Infrastructure
     - platform and hardware design
     - RRC web access during development
     - A hardware and software donation has been arranged for a *development platform (server)*. Target June 2013
     - Hosting solutions
  9. Hire programmer to merge Obituaries
     - Hire programmer to incorporate Winnipeg & Rural Obits into the SQL Database
     - Rows of Data in Obituaries **573,483**
       - **373,483** WinPap (Winipeg Obituaries)
     - **200,000** (est) Rural Obits
  10. Data consolidation and sorting
  11. Arrange for January 2014 Red River College Student project
      - Incorporate all of our databases
      - Additional functionality
        - create integration with MGS website
        - Navigation
      - Secure member sign-in
      - PPV, online purchase of transcripts and pages
  12. Rigorous in house testing of content and function
      - Involve branches with web access for a limited number of individuals on test database
      - Weekday volunteers