

**WESTERN MONTANA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 2714
Missoula, MT 59806**



November 1988

MEETING

The November meeting of the Western Montana Genealogical Society (WMGS) will be **Wednesday, November 2nd, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**, starting in the downstairs meeting room of the Missoula Public Library. Following a short business meeting, we will go upstairs to the main library for a work night. This is a painless way for those of us who have not yet worked on WMGS indexing projects to find out what to do and how to do it. According to our resident experts, reading through an old Missoulian is a guaranteed giggle! Our WMGS projects and publications are ALL due to volunteer work; HELP us work on projects to be completed by **MONTANA's CENTENNIAL!** This is our legacy to help those that follow us. PLEASE join us for a fun night. BRING AN INTERESTED FRIEND! Refreshments will be provided by Joyce Kemmer (cookies) and Judith Field (punch).

*******DUES ARE DUE NOW!**

Do you have a red checkmark on your address label? RELAX!--You are recorded as paying your 1988-89 yearly dues. NO red checkmark?--We have not received your dues for this year (as of last week). Would you please bring your dues to the November meeting or mail a check to WMGS? This is the **LAST** newsletter that will be mailed to those not paying dues. Until we get our publications sales project solidly underway, dues (and contributions) are our main source of revenue this year. Did you know that your dues (\$10 per single member) have not changed since we started up in 1979???

*****REMINDER**

We are updating our **SURNAME** file and our **BOOK LIST**. IF you have not submitted a list of surnames you are researching/interested in, or a list of books/resources you have and are willing to share with others, PLEASE bring these lists (or updates) to the November meeting. Hazel Harley has been phoning and reminding members.

*****GOVERNMENT IN ACTION: LEGISLATION AFFECTING GENEALOGISTS**

Brought to our attention from the Genealogical Helper was the following:

Judy Marble, 2149 East River Road, Cortland, NY 13045 has shared with us a newspaper article, July 21, 1988 issue, The Plain Dealer, concerning a bill in Ohio that would make all birth, death, marriage and divorce records secret. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Paul H. Jones, D-63 Ravenna, "whizzed through the House in 16 days which, for most pieces of legislation, is phenomenal speed."

"We'll never be able to go back and research family trees," said Jeanne Pramaggiore, president of the Ohio Genealogical Society.

Ohio residents may wish to know that this is House Bill No. 790 and if they wish to express their opinions concerning the bill they can contact **Senator Scott Oelslager, State House, Columbus, OH 43215** or call **614-466-0626**. The house will not hold the final vote on the bill until sometime in November.

WMGS member Hazel Harley recently contacted Senator Oelslager's office and was told by a secretary or aide that the bill was changed in committee to state that the records would not be closed. The person Hazel spoke to told her that they had received comment from all over the U.S. WMGS members should still consider sending a letter or making a phone call to the Senator to let known our feelings on legislation restricting access to vital records. The bill still must go through (potential changes by) the House floor before a final vote.

*****FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

WMGS member Joyce Kemmer will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the Friends of the [Missoula] Library--topic: Beginning Genealogy. Their meeting is **Wednesday, November 30th, 7 p.m.** in the meeting room at the Missoula Library. **Mark** the date on your calendar and **GO!**

WMGS MEMBER PROFILE

Hazel and Jack Harley are our Huson, Montana, members. Hazel, who grew up and has lived in Oregon and southern California before coming to Montana, is currently a Financial Assistant for the U.S.D.A. Forest Service. Jack grew up and lived in Colorado, Wyoming, Oregon and California before coming to Montana; before retiring, he worked as a welder, fabricator, logger, heavy-equipment operator, truck driver and millwright. Jack likes to hunt, fish and read. When not working on genealogy in her spare time, Hazel is likely pursuing her other interests of reading historical books or needlework (counted cross stitch). Hazel and Jack's other major interest is their family: between them they have 9 children and 14 grandchildren--some in Montana, Oregon, West Virginia and Alaska--something to warm any genealogist's heart! Although they live outside Missoula, Hazel says, "If I can help in any way by being on a telephone committee, I could do that." [Thank you, Hazel, for your help on the SURNAME file update!] Names Hazel and Jack are researching include: HARLEY in MT early 1900s and WY late 1890s; PICKETT in VA and IA, 1850s; WHEATLEY in OH and VA, mid-1800s; CARR in IL and NE, early-to-late 1800s; MUSICK in KY, mid-1800s; ROBERTS in ME, 1800s; WAGGONER/WAGGENER in KY (1810), IL (1835), IA (1854), and OR (1850s+); and THURMAN in TX, MO and OR, 1850s+.

*****NOTICE***:** From the Mineral County Museum and Historical Society (Kathryn Strombo c/o P.O. Box 533, Superior, MT 59872) [paraphrased]:

Are YOU related to someone who was involved in building the Military Road from Ft. Walla Walla, Washington Territory to Ft. Benton, [Montana,] Nebraska Territory during the years 1858-63? On July 4, 1989, as part of Montana's centennial celebration, dedication ceremonies will be held in St. Regis, honoring John Mullan, road-builder. As part of the activities, we are trying to locate descendents of the 1858-63 crews. These include workmen, military, cooks and anyone else who may have been involved, however slightly. We have names of over 200 persons, but we are sure many more were involved. A certificate acknowledging their ancestor's participation in building the road will be sent to anyone who can provide information of their relationship to the crew, and they are especially invited to come and participate in the "89'er" activities. The museum has a room dedicated to John Mullan. We would like to include more of the names of those who accompanied him and actually did the labor. Do you have letters? Perhaps a diary, photograph or article belonging to your road-building ancestor? May we copy or photograph them to include in our collection? If you are a descendent of the Mullan crew or would like more information about the Mullan dedication, please write [above address].

MISSOULA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY--LIBRARIAN PAULETTE'S REPORT: New books in the Genealogy Collection:

Liberty County Homesteader Names compiled by Marilyn H. Brown. August 1986. Chester, MT: Broken Mountain Genealogical Society, 27pp. This alphabetized list of Liberty County homesteaders was taken from a map with an estimated date of 1913-14. "This list alphabetizes the names instead of having a description listing which was a supplemental to Our Heritage: Historical Events in Liberty County."¹ Call number: R 929.3786 BROWN @ Gen.Coll.

Holdings of the Great Falls Genealogical Society Library. Lists the date received, reference number, title, author, publisher, donor, class, and cost of each item in the Great Falls Genealogical Society Library. R 978.6611 HOLDING @ Gen.Coll.

Mineral County, Montana Death Records Index transcribed by Judith J. Seeman. [1986]. No publisher: 154pp [+ unnumbered 7pp addenda at back]. This index lists the name, birth and death dates, birth and death places, and spouse and parents names of "anyone who had died and/or is buried in the county, or a long time resident who has died and has been buried elsewhere." It is up-to-date as of 23 July 1986. R 978.684 SEEMAN @ Gen.Coll.

LDS BRANCH LIBRARY IN MISSOULA. Notes of interest to genealogical researchers:

The updated IGI is now in for most locations--U.S., Canada, England, Germany, etc.--with South America to come later.

IGI microfiche: may now be purchased from Salt Lake City--by libraries or individuals--for 15¢ per fiche, or the entire microfiche collection may be purchased.

The Missoula LDS Family History Library is a Phase IV library. Phase II LDS libraries are being set up in smaller towns--Superior, St. Ignatius, Seeley Lake and Drummond. Phase II libraries will have IGI, GLC, and Family Registries on microfiche, along with microfiche readers (no microfilm readers).

WMGS's 10TH YEAR: HIGHLIGHTS OF 1979

Less than a year from now, September 27th, will mark the Tenth Anniversary of the 1979 organizational meeting of the WMGS! Relying on minutes of past meetings, here are highlights of WMGS's genealogy, from our first year, 1979-80. [*Denotes current WMGS members.]

27 September 1979: Dennis Richards led our organizational meeting at the Missoula Public Library (MPL) meeting room, explaining what a genealogical society can do for us and what we can do for a society. The name, Southwestern Montana Genealogical Society, was chosen for our group. Other contenders were: Five Valley Genealogical Society, Western Montana Genealogical Society, and Missoula Area Genealogical Society. Dues were set: \$10 single member, \$12 two people in the same family, \$5 senior citizens, and \$5 students. Committees set up were: By-laws and Constitution; Officer Nominations; Printing and Publishing; and Calling.

11 October 1979: Dennis opened the meeting (at Sambo's), and Sandy Roney read the minutes. Using a map, Dennis pointed out that Missoula was in the west central portion of the state, not southwestern. Our society's name was then changed to Western Montana Genealogical Society. Nancy Kirk read the first draft of our constitution, discussion and changes followed. Dennis would start looking into non-profit organization application. Officers were elected--President Joyce Kemmer*; Vice-president Gail Ranstrum; Recording Secretary Polly Haffey; Correspondence Secretary Paulette Parpart*; Treasurer Carol Israel*; Librarian Corrine Florin; Editor and Publisher Cherie Fisher* and Rod Austin. Committee to design a printed form for the surname file consisted of Eileen Higgins, Marlene Lundren, and Carol. Dennis presented a short program on beginning genealogical work.

8 November 1979: Dan Krug announced that WMGS could use the meeting room at "First Federal" bank for the year. We had \$299 in the bank. The surname file sheets were passed out and explained. The by-laws were read, a change made, and a motion made/seconded to accept them. Phyllis Duncan*, Dan, and Marlene volunteered for the program committee. Corrine showed author/title cards to be used in "our library" and asked members to submit a list of books, etc. they would make available for others to use. Our first outside query is recorded, and Katherine Strombo offered her services for Mineral County.

13 December 1979: Joyce read a letter from Dennis; he is writing a newsletter to be published through the University [of Montana] and asks for information on what individuals are doing for incorporation in his newsletter. Corrine has started a file of unidentified photos; also the surname and library file have been started. Helga Hosford presented a program on German Genealogical research.

3 January 1980 (Executive Board Meeting): Paulette suggested WMGS help index Missouliau obituaries, and asked for genealogical book suggestions for the MPL. It was decided to get a post office box. The WMGS library is stored at Corrine's who, with Paulette, will coordinate book purchasing so we do not duplicate books of the MPL. It was discussed that in the distant future, WMGS's library may be housed at the MPL. A gift subscription of Genealogical Helper for the MPL was suggested. Time limit for speakers was decided as 3/4 hour, including 5-10 minutes for questions. Corrine will start a file of people willing to do research, including their expertise/language ability. Harold Fisher* has our member list on computer.

10 January 1980: We had \$387 in the bank. Our first P.O. Box number was 8946. The by-laws were approved and passed out. Blanche Tate* suggested a flyer placed in the MPL to advertise our society's meetings. Joyce presented a program on beginning genealogy.

14 February 1980: Helga announced a proposed university course on "German and German ancestry" and passed around sign-up sheets. Gloria Andrews presented a program on genealogical research in Scotland.

13 March 1980: Corrine explained importance of surname file to WMGS, and asked that all surname cards turned in be typed as per handout instructions. Sandy is in charge of pedigree charts and family group sheets. Calling committee of Dee Fay and James Benish* was set up. Nominating committee of Pat Culver*, Marlene, and Cherie was set up. Indexing the Missouliau vital statistics from 1894 to present was formally presented to the membership as a WMGS project. Gail reported on trip to Missoula County courthouse concerning how to obtain birth, marriage and death records. Janet Dillworth presented a program on migration patterns.

27 March (Executive Board Meeting) 1980: The Missouliau indexing project was discussed and instructions presented by Dan Krug; each person will work on one volume until it is finished. Blanche's committee will design advertising posters, Cherie will get them printed, and they will be distributed to 20 major stores. Publication committee will publish a bulletin on WMGS activities, mailed to all members with the first one to be sent in May. Committees will be checked to make sure they are working, and their membership published in the bulletin.

11 April 1980: Nominating committee reported and those who were presently officers or committee heads were asked to continue. Nearly all agreed to do so; they were reelected. A meeting at Blanche's was announced to discuss common genealogical problems and help each other later in the month, focusing on the South (VA, NC, SC, and GA). Indexing project has begun; HELP! Corey Meyerik presented a program on record keeping, with samples of forms he uses.

8 May 1980: Carol reported that lawyer Tornabene would fill in our tax-exempt status forms for free. Filing costs were about \$103. Dennis would conduct a tour of UM Library to familiarize us with what was available. A letter from Helga was read, inviting us to affiliate with a German society that was being formed. No decision was made as to affiliation, but a meeting would be set up to determine how we could help each other. More help is needed on the Missoulian indexing project. Corrine announced that AAUW had donated 46 city directories left over from their book sale. Someone reported receiving a sheet of cemetery epitaphs from Warsaw, NY of Germans from Russia; it will be kept with our books. The guest speaker was ill.

15 July (Executive Board Meeting) 1980: Discussion of whether to publish a monthly newsletter or also a journal. It was decided to do both. Items to include in the journal were discussed; the 1890 [Missoula] City directory would be first. How to print it was discussed; Dennis would look into printing costs. One big journal for this year; 4 per year starting next year. Newsletter to be published monthly, August through April, with local and current information. Sandy would be in charge of newsletter; Dennis would be in charge of the journal (to be called the WMGS Bulletin). Bulletin to be about 24pp and fully indexed; members to volunteer as typists. Corrected instructions from MPL were received to help correct and avoid future indexing errors. And thus ended our first year!

WMGS

The nonprofit WMGS meets the first Wednesday of each month, September through May. Membership of \$10 per year entitles members to attend meetings, hold office, and have a vote in what the Society does with its money and time. Some WMGS goals include: enlarging and enriching the Genealogical Reference Collection at the Missoula Public Library, helping members via genealogical presentations by members and guest speakers at the monthly meetings, and publishing genealogical records concerning Missoula and western Montana.

<u>1988-89 WMGS OFFICERS</u>		
President	Jo Potter	251-3588
Vice President	Judy Field	728-1628
Treasurer	Harold Fisher	721-5333
Librarian	Paulette Parpart	721-2665 @ Library
Corresponding Secretary & Program	Joyce Kemmer	543-6770
Secretary & Newsletter	Sharon Rose	728-6784 or leave message

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