



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

NOVEMBER 1992

OFFICERS FOR 1992-1993

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DUES \*\*\* This year we are asking our members to please include an extra dollar with their dues to cover the cost of the annual membership in the Montana State Genealogical Society. Dues are \$10.00 + \$1.00/year for individuals or \$12.00 + \$1.00/year for a family. \*\*\* Dues for 1992-93 are now being accepted. Please bring your dues to the next meeting or mail to: WMGS, P.O.Box 2714, Missoula MT 59806-2714.

Membership cards for the State Genealogical Society are included with this newsletter for those who paid their dues last spring.

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held on the second Thursday of the month (September-May) at 7:00 pm in the small meeting room of the Missoula Public Library. After the response to the meeting date survey, it was decided not to change the meeting day from the second Thursday.

NOVEMBER MEETING will be Thursday, NOV.12th at 7:00pm. The program this month will feature guest speaker Sherri Furrer from the Networking Adult Adopted Children. The program will begin immediately at 7:00 pm as Sherri will be presenting another program later in the evening. The Society's business meeting will be held following her presentation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 21 -- Montana State Genealogical Society Executive Board meeting in Helena. (Call Paulette for details, 721-2665)

PAF Our PAF USERS' GROUP is up and going again. Tracy Scott will be presenting a class on different aspects of the PAF program about once a month. The next class will be on Friday, Nov. 13th at 7:00 pm at the Family History Library. The topic will be "Using the Research Data Filer". We also hope to be able to get everyone who has the PAF program the most current updates. (These can be copied to your discs as we receive the updates).

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY at the LDS Church, 3201 Bancroft, Missoula, 543-6148. \*\*\*NOTE that the FHL is not longer open on Fridays.

Monday	12:00 - 4:00pm		
Tuesday	12:00 - 4:00pm	and	7:00 - 9:30pm
Wednesday	12:00 - 4:00pm	and	7:00 - 9:30pm
Thursday	12:00 - 4:00pm	and	7:00 - 9:30pm
Saturday	12:00 - 4:00pm		

NEW FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG: The latest version of the FHL catalog on CD ROM disc (May 1992) arrived last week. This new version allows the downloading of catalog information to diskettes (one record per file).

NEW IGI: To date the FHL has received the new IGI for the U.S., Canada and England.

ANCESTRAL FILE UPDATE: An updated version of the Ancestral File was received last week. This version includes all submissions received as of 14 Dec 1991, and includes data from over 9,500 new submissions. There are now 7 CD ROM Discs for Ancestral File and the program itself has been changed somewhat. A new technique for arranging families was developed which is said to reduce CD swaps when making descendency charts and GEDCOM downloads. (However, I noticed that several more CD swaps were required when trying to get a pedigree chart printed on screen). When making a GEDCOM download the program now lets you know the number of direct line families being downloaded and a status line shows you the % completion as the GEDCOM file is made. Before, if you pressed <ESCAPE> before the GEDCOM file was completed, everything processed before the <ESCAPE> was saved. Now everything is lost if you press <ESCAPE> before completion of the file. Disc ejection is done automatically with this version when a disc swap is required. There is also an edit function which allows you to enter corrections to Ancestral File on a floppy disc as you use the program.

After making several GEDCOM downloads from the new Ancestral File Program and looking at the results at home, I strongly advise that you do not merge these GEDCOM downloads directly with your family data! If the information has come from more than one submitter (highly likely) you will find yourself with a GEDCOM file containing families with multiple MRINs for the same husband and wife, and children appearing in the same family group 2 or more times with different RINs. I also found numerous date errors (children born before their parents, children born when the mother was 85 years old, and children still living when the parents were born in the 16th century)!

The multiple marriages and children cannot be removed using the automatic Match/Merge feature of PAF. The multiple marriages must be removed by deleting the family. You need to go through the children one by one and decide which are the same (spelling differences and different ways of entering place names seem to prevent them from being matched and merged automatically). Once you have the RINs you

can either delete one of the duplicates using the delete individual feature, or merge them using the merge two individuals feature.

When you bring the GEDCOM file home, create a new directory in your /PAF/DATA directory and add all of the GEDCOM file to this new directory. You can then look at the families in this new data directory, eliminate the duplicates, correct errors and make a new GEDCOM file of the corrected data to add to your family data.

VITAL RECORDS COMPUTER INPUT PROJECT Volunteers are needed to input data from our newspaper indexing project. If you do not have a computer, you can book a computer at the Library for a two hour session. The discs, cards and instructions are available at the Information Desk or the Magazine Desk. You do not have to pay for this time. Be sure to call and book the computer ahead of time (they are quite often very busy). We are trying to get as much of this project done as we can by the time of the 1994 Conference (in Missoula). If you have a computer at home, pick up the disc, cards and instructions and sign them out. You will need to leave your name and telephone number in case we need to call you if we have a patron request from that year. If you have questions, call Paulette at the Library, 721-2665.

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