



WESTERN MONTANA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 2714
MISSOULA, MT 59806-2714

WMGS NEWSLETTER

MAY 1994

OFFICERS FOR 1993-1994

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| President | Paulette Parpart | 728-8054 |
| Vice-President | Judith Field | 728-1628 |
| Treasurer | Laura Gregory | 543-7369 |
| Recording Secretary | Enid Erie | 251-3583 |
| Corresponding Secretary | Mary Bergum | 251-5944 |
| Librarian | Paulette Parpart | 721-2665 @ Library |
| Newsletter Editor | Judith Field | 728-1628 |

DUES *** Dues are \$10.00 a year for individuals or \$12.00 a year for a family, and includes Newsletter (Sept-May). Please include an extra \$1.00 with your dues if they would also like to be a member of the Montana State Genealogical Society through the Western Montana Genealogical Society.

MONTHLY MEETINGS - Held on the second Thursday of the month (Sept.-May) at 7:00 pm in the small meeting room of the Missoula Public Library.

MAY MEETING - Thursday, May 12th at 7:00 pm in the Large Meeting Room of the Missoula Public Library. The topic for the meeting will be "Getting the Show On the Road". We will discuss our travel plans for the summer and the best ways of preparing to do genealogy "on site". Bring your ideas and questions. There will be some printed materials available on the subject.

OFFICERS - proposed slate for the May elections as follows:

President:
V - Pres.:
Treasurer:
Rec. Secretary:
Cor. Secretary:

COOKIE CUTTERS - the cookie cutters that were being sold at the MSGS conference will be available at the meeting Thursday for anyone who didn't get to purchase these or needs some more.

BANNERS - the great heraldic banners that Pat Thompson made for the conference banquet will also be available for sale at the meeting Thursday.

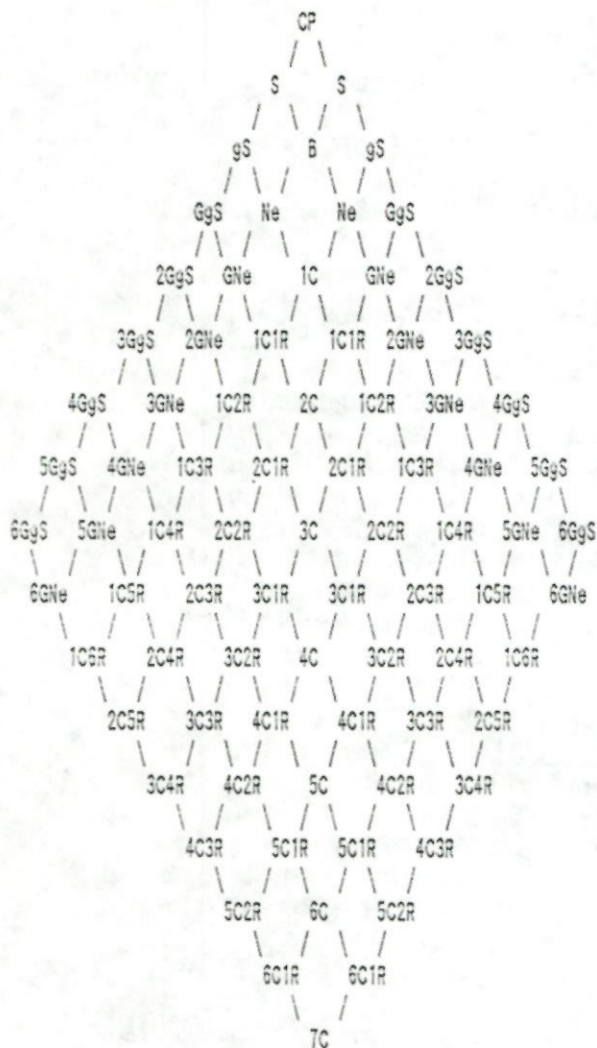
BOOK BINDERY - Shaffner's Bindery, located at 5605 Highway 93 South (an unmarked green house on the side of the hill as you round the big bend on Hwy. 93 just before Lolo) has been in business for 29 years and does an excellent job. They can professionally bind your own family histories or re-bind old books. Prices for single books (may rise by \$1-\$2 shortly) are:

| | |
|--|---------|
| depending on size and condition, 1 book: | \$18.00 |
| name imprint | \$ 3.50 |
| face stamping, per line | \$ 2.00 |
| laminated original cover: | \$ 1.50 |

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY - The current FHL hours are Mon., Tue., Thurs. & Sat. 12:00-4:00 and Tue., Wed. & Thurs. 7:00-

9:30 PM. Please call 543-6148 during library hours to reserve your computer time. The FHL will be closed Monday, May 30th for Memorial Day.

COUSIN CHART



- CP - COMMON PROGENITOR (WHO YOU CAN TRACE TO)
- S - SON (DAUGHTER)
- Ne - NEPHEW (NIECE)
- G - GREAT
- gS - GRAND SON (DAUGHTER)
- C - COUSIN
- R - REMOVED

NUMBER IS HOW MANY (4G = GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT)
 5C = FIFTH COUSIN
 2R = TWICE REMOVED

IN THE MAIL
 THE NGS NEWSLETTER - Vol. 20, No.2, Mar/Apr 1994. This is just packed with very informative articles. One of particular interest is Richard A. Pence's "Still More Heresy By The Numbers - Part Two". It continues a discussion of genealogical numbering systems, suggesting the "Modern Henry" system as being the easiest for finding the generation number of the individual, his ancestors and his descendants, as well as being "computer compatible" with its "hexadecimal" numbering system. The CIG Digest part of the NGS Newsletter has a very good article on notes editing utilities for PAF. If you are entering a lot of notes (and you certainly should be) you need one of these utilities. Two commercial utilities, NOTETOOL and HOTNOTES, that are loaded with PAF and run with it were discussed, as were a number of shareware and one freeware utility. Another article by George Archer, "The Genealogist's Guide To The Internet - Part Two", talks about the up- and downside of Freenets, which are the most economical way to get onto the Internet, which itself is free. It gives a list of Freenet numbers, the closest to us being in Dillon, MT. Their number is 406-683-7680. Dial in with your computer modem set at 2400 bps, 8-N-1. Login as: bbs, and then follow the on-screen instructions. Once registered, the charges from the freenet should be around \$0-\$75/yr. You will be charged on your phone bill for the call, so call during the reduced rate times. The freenets are usually up 24 hours/day. They are an easy and economical way to get started using the internet.

TRACING LIVING PEOPLE

PHONE BOOKS/ DIRECTORIES - The best available sources for tracing living people in the U.S. are the PhoneDisk CD-ROMs (2 CDs for the entire U.S., so one can search half the country at a time), PhoneFile on CompuServe (slow and expensive; you have to search one state at a time); and various published directories (American Men and Women of Science, Who's Whos, etc.). Former college students, including many who didn't graduate, are in alumni association directories. Scientists, MD's, librarians, authors, and many other professions are in library directories.

OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE (From Frieda Davison):

The April 1994 AARP Bulletin contains an article about finding WW II buddies. The writer found one with a notice in the Reader Exchange section of "The Retired Officer Magazine," with c395,000 former career military subscribers, published by the Retired Officers Association, 201 N. Washington St., Alexandria, Va. 22314-2529. Telephone: 703-549-2311. The article also suggests seeking buddies through unit and ship reunions and 1994 50th anniversaries at the following numbers -- THEY COST \$1.95 per minute:

900-737-VETS -- operated by the American Legion

900-933-VETS -- operated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

OTHER SOURCES - these sources though not perfect, have drastically improved the possibilities of tracing all the male lines of a particular family downward. Anybody can

now use these simple procedures:

1. 1900 soundex (and 1910 and 1920 soundexes too), for the month and year of birth.
 2. Social Security Death Benefits Index. With the month and year in hand, it's possible to make preliminary identifications on people born before 1900 who died mostly after 1961. You can find the month and year of death and often the person's place of residence.
 3. Usually you then go directly to the newspaper to look for the person's obituary, by checking in the Library of Congress Newspapers in Microfilm to verify holdings, then requesting microfilm of the newspaper on inter-library loan. If there are no microfilm holdings listed, write or call the local library; they usually will look through a month's worth of weekly papers. If it's a daily, order a death certificate to get the date of death. The larger the city, usually the harder it is to find an obituary.
 4. Check the survivor's names in the above sources. You can also use Polk's city directories, sometimes calling the local library to ask for the address out of the directory if you can't get it on film at the FHL.
- THE TREE BRANCH - Vol.2, No.4, Spring 1994. A good tip for mail is that only the first 5 sheets of 8 1/2 by 11 paper can be mailed for \$0.29. Also, a good recipe for dried apple pie.

BIG HORN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER - Vol 13,
No. 50, March 1994

CENTRAL MONTANA WAGON TRAILS -
Lewistown Genealogical Society,
Vol. 15, No.3, May 1994.

THE GENEALOGISTS' BACKPACK
(continued from last Newsletter
- this extremely large backpack
belongs to the weary soul
pictured on page 3) ---
and favorite songs: The Great
Historical Bum, I'm My Own
Grandpaw, Dem Bones,
Grandfather's Clock, Don't Know
Much About History, scribbled
notes from relatives, portable
computer, cellular telephone,
modem, calculator for figuring
out dates/ages, portable
photocopier, shredder for mail
from Bath, Ohio, peanut butter
sandwiches, fig bars, bananas,
coffee thermos, juice packs,
aspirin or ibuprofen, allergy
tablets, eyedrops, magnifying
glass (with light), tombstone
tools: brush, trowel, chalk,
shaving cream, jug of water,
camera with black-and-white
film, rice paper for making
impressions, maps -
topographic, historical, aerial
photos, old photograph
collections, English-ancestral
language dictionaries, folding
chair to use in courthouses
that don't believe in chairs,
satchel for things that don't
fit in the backpack, economical
car that gets about 50 miles to
the gallon.

CANADIAN RESEARCH HELP

The National Archives of Canada
has published the 1993 edition
of its popular booklet "Tracing
your Ancestors in Canada."
Copies are available free from
the National Archives Bookstore

in Ottawa, or by writing to the
National Archives of Canada,
395 Wellington Street, Ottawa
Ontario K1A 0N3.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

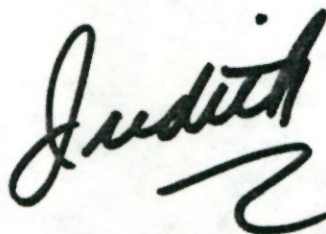
Dear friends and members of the
Western Montana Genealogical
Society,

It has been a very rewarding
year as editor of the society
Newsletter. I enjoy finding
articles that I think will be
of interest to everyone and
apologize if I sometimes get
too much involved with
computers.

This is the last Newsletter
until September, and I would
like again to ask our members
to submit material for this
Newsletter. If you find some
good sources or interesting
tidbits over the summer send
them to me. Consider writing an
article about your research
experiences or your family.

We need to get more people
involved with writing and
publishing the Newsletter if it
is to continue after next year.
My husband and I expect to be
on sabbatical for at least part
of the 1995-96 school year, and
it would be nice if we could
get some other people helping
with the Newsletter this year
so that they could take it over
while I am gone.

Your editor,



UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS *April 22-

JUNE 1 to 4th - 1994 NGS CONFERENCE IN THE STATES, HOUSTON TEXAS

Registration forms for all of the above seminars and conferences are available at the information desk at the Missoula Public Library.

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