

# WMGS NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2714 MISSOULA MT 59806-2714

OCTOBER 1995

## OFFICERS

President / Editor	Jo Potter	251-3588
Vice-President		
Treasurer	Hazel Harley	549-1471
Recording Secretary	Wanda Alsaker	543-5388
Missoula Public Library	Paulette Parpart	721-2665

## MEMBERSHIP

Dues are \$11.00 a year for individuals or \$13.00 a year for a family, and includes the Newsletter (Sept-May) and membership in the Montana State Genealogical Society.

**DUES FOR THE 1995-1996 YEAR ARE NOW DUE.**

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please send your dues to WMGS, P.O. Box 2714, Missoula MT 59806-2714.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Held on the second Thursday of the month (Sept.-May, except Dec.) at 7:00 PM in the large meeting room of the Missoula Public Library (unless otherwise noted).

## OCTOBER MEETING

**THURSDAY, OCT. 12TH** at 7:00 PM in the Large Meeting Room of the Missoula Public Library. For the program Martha Lowry will talk about her recent Genealogical Tour of Ireland. She will discuss what you need to do before undertaking a trip such as this, and talk about the record sources that were available to them in Ireland.

## PROGRAMS / NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

We are still working on the programming for the coming year. If you have any suggestions or would be interested in working on program development please contact Judith Field (728-1628) or Blanch Tate (549-2855). Also, please remember that I will be leaving Missoula after the New Year and we need some people to put together the Newsletter and contribute articles. Articles sent to the P.O. Box will always get to the Newsletter editor, or if you have access to e-mail, you can send articles to me at:

ch\_rjf@selway.umt.edu

Newsletter articles can be on any genealogical topic. Short family histories and anecdotes from Western Montana would be greatly appreciated.

## QUERIES

We welcome queries from members (published free) and non-members (\$2.00 each). The society will undertake brief search requests (cemetery index, obituary indexes, etc...) for a fee of \$5.00 plus SASE and copy costs of \$.25 per page. Send queries/research requests to WMGS - QUERIES, P.O. Box 2714, Missoula MT 59806-2714.

## FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

**Hours:** Mon., Tue., Thurs., Sat. 12:00-4:00 PM and Tue., Wed., Thurs. 7:00-9:30 PM.

## BYLAWS REVISION

The changes to the Bylaws that were proposed in the Sept. Newsletter were approved by all of the members present at the Sept. business meeting. A full copy of the Bylaws revised as of Sept. 14, 1995 is enclosed.

## IN THE MAIL

**BIG SKY ROUNDUP**, Sept. 1995. Please read the enclosed letter from MSGS President Pat Thompson, and if you are interested in computer genealogy take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed MSGS Member Survey form for the Computer Genealogy Special Interest Group and return it to Bob Matkin.

## BIG HORN CO. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 13, No. 54, Sept. 25, 1995. Included a copy of Standard Form 180, for obtaining copies of military service records from WWI and later. This has 14 different address for obtaining records. (The form is reproduced in this Newsletter, but you may want to write for a copy from the National Personnel Records Center #14.)

**FLATHEAD GENEALOGICAL BULLETIN**, Vol. XX, No. 3, Sept. 1995. Continues Flathead Valley Marriages and Grantor Indexes 1884-1897.

**GALLATIN TRAILS**, Vol. 16, No. 4, Aug. 1995. Continues Dokken-Nelson Funeral Register, Bozeman 1929-1933.

**ROOT DIGGERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**, Year XIII, Issue #66, Sept. 1995.

## BITS AND BYTES

**E-Mail Form 80** - To order a copy of Form 80 (necessary to obtain military and pension records for pre WWI service, you can now send an e-mail message to:

Inquire@arch2.nara.gov

In the body of the message put:

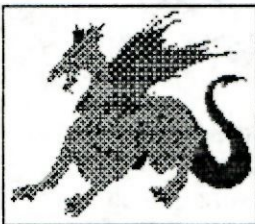
send NATF form 80 <your name and snail-mail address>

**Note:** Form 80 is not good for ordering copies of military records from WWI onward. For these records use Form 180 (see enclosed copy.)

## PRINT YOUR OWN RESEARCH CARDS

Do you travel to do research or write a lot of letters? How about designing your own business type card on the computer. These can be left in libraries, given to people you meet in your travels, or slipped into a letter. Include your name, address, phone number and e-mail address if you have one. Add a list of surnames that you are researching and maybe even a little graphic. Most word processing programs include a label generating facility (there are several label maker programs.) The business cards can be printed on pre-perforated business card stock which is now available at office supply stores in white, gray, or cream colors for \$11-\$12 for 25 sheets of 10 cards each, or you could print them on regular card stock if you have access to a good paper cutter.

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"This sad little lizard told me that he was a brontosaurus on his mother's side. I did not laugh; people who boast of ancestry often have little else to sustain them.

Humoring them costs

nothing and adds happiness in a world in which happiness is always in short supply." -- Lazarus Long

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## UPDATED TIPS FOR LIBRARY USE

(1) Remember what you learned in gradeschool about library behavior: keep your voice down, handle materials carefully and never mark them, reshelve your books or otherwise return them as directed by the library, ...

(2) When you first enter a new library, take the time to walk the collection and assess the available resources. Look for unique resources like, perhaps, a vertical file of local family histories.

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(3) Once you think you have a grasp of the library's collection, it's always a good idea to check with the genealogy or reference librarian to verify you haven't missed any unique resources. (The librarians often also know about other local information sources such as historical societies, professional genealogists, ...)

(4) As you begin work, be aware that first and foremost libraries are intended to be self-service. Librarians are there to help you learn how to use the library effectively -- they are not there to do your research for you.

(5) Be very patient with librarians. Because of the recent retrenchment in the public sector, virtually all librarians are both overworked and underpaid. The same librarian who is helping you is also probably helping several other people, handling telephone calls, and trying to get their administrative chores done.

(6) Beyond being very patient with librarians, be extremely patient with them. Inevitably, the last genealogists they met were rude and you have to overcome the sins committed by your predecessors.

(7) When you work with a librarian, be sure to note their name. It never hurts to write the director of a library and thank them when a member of their staff has been particularly helpful. Also, if you have a question after you leave a library, it's always best to direct it to a specific person.

(8) If you can afford it, when you visit libraries while traveling it is always a good idea to leave a contribution. A \$5-20 gift, while it may not be much in comparison to a library's budget, does seem to be greatly appreciated. Similarly, when writing a library, including a gift to the library is always a good idea.

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Dr. Brian Leverich

Co-moderator, soc.genealogy.methods/GENMTD-L  
leverich@rand.org

## A WASTE OF TIME TO RE-DO RESEARCH?

Much as we were always urged to do it right the first time, there are times when you should go back and take a fresh look at material that you have looked at in the past. Did you take down all of the people with a certain surname in the census or land records? Did you look through the whole county or township when you were looking at those census records? If your answer is NO to either question you could have something to gain by looking at those records again.

# Let LIFESTORY give you a hand



## LIFESTORY

❖ comes to your home every month and costs only \$24 for a year. It shows you how to do personal and family history easily and enjoyably with how-to articles and the popular "Course in Doing Autobiography" in each issue.

❖ is a correspondence course between you and the editor. You send him things you've written--if you desire, of course--and he'll read and return them with personal comments and suggestions tailored to fit you and your project.

❖ is a network of family writers just like you all over the USA and Canada. Each issue is chock full of memoirs by other subscribers.

Yes! Sign me up for a subscription at \$24 for 12 issues.  
My name is \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check enclosed.  
 Master Card.  
 Visa.  
Acct. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Send this form to Lifestory,  
3591 Letter Rock Rd.  
Manhattan, Ks 66502  
Or phone this information (credit cards only) toll free 1-800-685-7330

Montana State Genealogical Society Computer Genealogy Special Interest Group

Member Survey Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Computer User: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Computer Interests: Indicate your interest in joining MSGS CG-SIG

\_\_\_ Computer Genealogy Software. Indicate Software Program(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Write Family History. \_\_\_ Organize Genealogy Records. \_\_\_ Research Correspondence

\_\_\_ On-line Research. \_\_\_ Contact Researchers. \_\_\_ Learn Computers. \_\_\_ Help MSGS

\_\_\_ Other (indicate) \_\_\_\_\_

Computer Systems: Indicate the type of computer resources that you use

Computer Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Processor: 286 \_\_\_ 386 \_\_\_ 486 \_\_\_ Pentium \_\_\_ Memory \_\_\_-MB Disk Storage \_\_\_-MB

Modem: Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Modem Speed: \_\_\_\_\_ Comm Software: \_\_\_\_\_

Network Accesses: Indicate the on-line information services that you access

American On-line: \_\_\_ Compuserve: \_\_\_ Internet: \_\_\_ Microsoft: \_\_\_ Prodigy: \_\_\_ Others: \_\_\_\_\_

BBS's: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Indicate what you would like to see CG-SIG accomplish and what you can do to help. Other suggestions and comments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Send to Bob Matkins, 3120 Quincy St., Butte, MT 59701

# INSTRUCTIONS

1. Information needed to locate records. Certain identifying information is necessary to determine the location of an individual's record of military service. Please give careful consideration to and answer each item on this form. If you do not have and cannot obtain the information for an item, show "NA," meaning the information is "not available." Include as much of the requested information as you can. This will help us to give you the best possible service.
2. Charges for service. A nominal fee is charged for certain types of service. In most instances service fees cannot be determined in advance. If your request involves a service fee you will be notified as soon as that determination is made.
3. Restrictions on release of information. Information from records of military personnel is released subject to restrictions imposed by the military departments consistent with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1967 (as amended in 1974) and the Privacy Act of 1974. A service person has access to almost any information contained in his own record. The next of kin, if the veteran is deceased, and Federal officers for official purposes, are authorized to receive information from a military service or medical record only as specified in the above cited Acts. Other requesters must have the release authorization, in item 5 of the form, signed by the veteran or, if deceased, by the next of kin. Employers

- and others needing proof of military service are expected to accept the information shown on documents issued by the Armed Forces at the time a service person is separated.
4. Location of military personnel records. The various categories of military personnel records are described in the chart below. For each category there is a code number which indicates the address at the bottom of the page to which this request should be sent. For each military service there is a note explaining approximately how long the records are held by the military service before they are transferred to the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis. Please read these notes carefully and make sure you send your inquiry to the right address. Please note especially that the record is not sent to the National Personnel Records Center as long as the person retains any sort of reserve obligation, whether drilling or non-drilling.  
(If the person has two or more periods of service within the same branch, send your request to the office having the record for the last period of service.)
  5. Definitions for abbreviations used below:  
NPRC—National Personnel Records Center PERS—Personnel Records  
TDRL—Temporary Disability Retirement List MED—Medical Records

SERVICE	NOTE: (See paragraph 4 above.)	CATEGORY OF RECORDS	WHERE TO WRITE ADDRESS CODE	
AIR FORCE (USAF)	Except for TDRL and general officers retired with pay, Air Force records are transferred to NPRC from Code 1, 90 days after separation and from Code 2, 150 days after separation.	Active members (includes National Guard on active duty in the Air Force), TDRL, and general officers retired with pay.	1	
		Reserve, retired reservist in nonpay status, current National Guard officers not on active duty in Air Force, and National Guard released from active duty in Air Force.	2	
		Current National Guard enlisted not on active duty in Air Force.	13	
		Discharged, deceased, and retired with pay.	14	
COAST GUARD (USCG)	Coast Guard officer and enlisted records are transferred to NPRC 7 months after separation.	Active, reserve, and TDRL members.	3	
		Discharged, deceased, and retired members (see next item).	14	
		Officers separated before 1/1/29 and enlisted personnel separated before 1/1/15.	6	
MARINE CORPS (USMC)	Marine Corps records are transferred to NPRC between 6 and 9 months after separation.	Active, TDRL, and Selected Marine Corps Reserve members.	4	
		Individual Ready Reserve and Fleet Marine Corps Reserve members.	5	
		Discharged, deceased, and retired members (see next item).	14	
		Members separated before 1/1/1905.	6	
ARMY (USA)	Army records are transferred to NPRC as follows: Active Army and Individual Ready Reserve Control Groups: About 60 days after separation, U.S. Army Reserve Troop Unit personnel: About 120 to 180 days after separation.	Reserve, living retired members, retired general officers, and active duty records of current National Guard members who performed service in the U.S. Army before 7/1/72.*	7	
		Active officers (including National Guard on active duty in the U.S. Army).	8	
		Active enlisted (including National Guard on active duty in the U.S. Army) and enlisted TDRL.	9	
		Current National Guard officers not on active duty in the U.S. Army.	12	
		Current National Guard enlisted not on active duty in the U.S. Army.	13	
		Discharged and deceased members (see next item).	14	
		Officers separated before 7/1/17 and enlisted separated before 11/1/12.	6	
		Officers and warrant officers TDRL.	8	
NAVY (USN)	Navy records are transferred to NPRC 6 months after retirement or complete separation.	Active members (including reservists on duty)—PERS and MED	10	
		Discharged, deceased, retired (with and without pay) less than six months, TDRL, drilling and nondrilling reservists	PERS ONLY MED ONLY	10 11
		Discharged, deceased, retired (with and without pay) more than six months (see next item)—PERS & MED	14	
		Officers separated before 1/1/03 and enlisted separated before 1/1/56—PERS and MED	6	

\*Code 12 applies to active duty records of current National Guard officers who performed service in the U.S. Army after 6/30/72.

Code 13 applies to active duty records of current National Guard enlisted members who performed service in the U.S. Army after 6/30/72.

### ADDRESS LIST OF CUSTODIANS (BY CODE NUMBERS SHOWN ABOVE)—Where to write / send this form for each category of records

1	Air Force Manpower and Personnel Center Military Personnel Records Division Randolph AFB, TX 75150-6001	5	Marine Corps Reserve Support Center 10950 El Monte Overland Park, KS 66211-1408	8	USA MILPERCEN ATTN: DAPC-MSR 200 Stovall Street Alexandria, VA 22332-0400	12	Army National Guard Personnel Center Columbia Pike Office Building 5600 Columbia Pike Falls Church, VA 22041
2	Air Reserve Personnel Center Denver, CO 80250-5000	6	Military Archives Division National Archives and Records Administration Washington, DC 20408	9	Commander U.S. Army Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center Fl. Benjamin Harrison, IN 46249-5301	13	The Adjutant General (of the appropriate State, DC, or Puerto Rico).
3	Commandant U.S. Coast Guard Washington, DC 20593-0001	7	Commander U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center ATTN: DARP-PAS 9700 Page Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63132-5200	10	Commander Naval Military Personnel Command ATTN: NMPC-036 Washington, DC 20370-5036	14	National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records) 5700 Page Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63132
4	Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code MMRB-10) Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps Washington, DC 20380-0001			11	Naval Reserve Personnel Center New Orleans, LA 70146-5000		

# WESTERN MONTANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BYLAWS

## ARTICLE I - NAME

The following shall prevail throughout these Bylaws in the interpretation thereof unless specific provision directs otherwise:

WESTERN MONTANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY is the incorporated organization that is to be governed by, and which is empowered to act in accordance with, these Bylaws. Hereinafter said corporation shall be referred to as the "Society."

## ARTICLE II - ADDRESS

The address of the principal office of the Society shall be: Post Office Box 274, Missoula, Montana 59806-2714.

## ARTICLE III - POWERS

The Society shall have all the powers of a non-profit corporation enumerated and set forth in Title 35, Chapter 2, M.C.A., 1978. The purposes of the Society are those set forth in the Articles of Incorporation.

## ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

### Section A:

Any individual or institution willing to promote the objectives of the Society and pay the requested annual dues may be eligible for membership.

### Section B:

Membership is effective when dues are received and shall continue to the end of the Society's fiscal year.

Membership is terminated by failure to pay the annual dues. A sixty-day grace period shall be allowed for renewal of membership.

1. Individual dues are \$11 per year which includes a \$1 yearly membership in the Montana State Genealogical Society.
2. Family dues are \$13 per year which includes a \$1 yearly membership in the Montana State Genealogical Society. A family membership receives one newsletter per issue.

### Section C:

Non-members may be invited to assist in the objectives of the Society.

## ARTICLE V - EXECUTIVE BOARD

The executive board (hereinafter the "Board") shall consist of all elected and appointed officers, and the immediate past-President.

## ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS AND DUTIES

### Section A: Officers

All officers shall be paid-up members. An officer who misses three consecutive business meetings without reasonable cause shall be subject to action by the Board as to his continuance in office. Each officer shall:

1. Perform the duties outlined in these Bylaws and those assigned in the future.
2. Deliver all official material to his successor two weeks prior to the end of the fiscal year.
3. Present an annual written report at the annual corporate meeting.

4. Report on the activities of his office at the request of the President.

### Section B: Elected Officers

The elected officers shall be President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. They may be elected and serve in any one office for no more than two consecutive terms.

1. The President shall plan meeting agenda, preside at all meetings of the Society, and be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
2. The Vice-President shall temporarily perform the duties of the President or shall fill the unexpired term of the President in the absence or inability of that officer to serve. The Vice-President shall maintain the Society's surname file.
3. The Recording Secretary shall record the minutes of the business, Board and corporate meetings, read the minutes of previous meetings as requested by the President, preserve all minutes and reports, and provide the President with a copy of the previous minutes prior to each meeting.
4. funds received by the Society, pay all budgeted bills of the Society, keep an accurate record of all receipts and expenditures, and give a financial report at each meeting. The Treasurer shall collect and record all dues and monthly business meeting.
  - a) The Treasurer shall maintain the: 1) Checkbook; 2) Bank statements and canceled checks; 3) Account book; 4) Paid bills, statements, and other financial records.
  - b) Checks must be signed by two of the following four officers: Treasurer, President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary.
  - c) The Treasurer shall serve as chairman of the budget committee.
  - d) The Treasurer shall maintain a current membership list and provide a copy to the President and the Newsletter editor.
  - e) The Treasurer's accounts shall be examined annually at each fiscal year end and by the Auditing Committee.

### Section C: Appointed Officers

The Newsletter Editor, Correspondent, and the Librarian shall be appointed by the President.

1. The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for preparing, printing, and mailing a monthly (September through May except December) newsletter that informs members of the upcoming meetings, elections, proposed Bylaws amendments and revisions, and other announcements or topics of interest.
2. The Librarian shall catalogue and maintain, and suggest new materials for, the Society's Genealogy Collection.
3. The Correspondent(s) shall distribute Society mail to the appropriate person, and handle the non-financial

correspondence of the Society, including research requests.

## **ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES AND CHAIRMEN**

### **Section A:**

The following committees and chairmen shall be appointed by the President. They shall recommend policy to the membership and upon approval shall implement it within their estimated budgets. Additional ad hoc committees shall be selected to be responsible for special projects as they are undertaken. Chairmen may ask for assistance from the membership.

1. The Auditing Committee of two or three persons shall audit the Treasurer's records at the end of the fiscal year and shall report its findings in a signed statement at the October business meeting.
2. The Publicity Chairman shall be responsible for announcements of all Society meetings and special events to the public media.
3. The Program Chairman shall secure and arrange programs for each meeting. Programs should be centered on genealogy and related topics.
4. The Budget Committee shall determine financial requirements and compile the annual budget. The Treasurer shall serve as chairman. The membership shall approve or disapprove the proposed budget and any expenditure exceeding the approved budget.
5. The Publishing Committee shall select and publish materials of genealogical interest sponsored by the Society.
6. The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least two members. (For duties see ARTICLE IX - ELECTION OF OFFICERS.)

## **ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS**

### **Section A: Business Meetings**

1. A business meeting of the Society shall be held once a month (September through May except December) unless waived by majority vote. The meeting day will be selected to accommodate the majority of the members.
2. Five members in good standing must be present to constitute a quorum for conducting business. Of that five, at least two officers must be included.
3. All voting shall be by simple majority unless otherwise stated.
4. Any member must be present to vote. A family membership constitutes one vote.

### **Section B: Board Meetings**

1. Meetings of the Board may be called as needed by the President or by a majority of the Board members, provided all Board members are notified. Board meetings shall be open to the Society.
2. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
3. The Board shall report at business meetings of the Society on proposed policy changes and new projects. Minutes of Board meetings will be read upon request.

## **ARTICLE IX - ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

### **Section A:**

The nominating committee shall use the Bylaws (which list

each elected officer's duties), together with the current membership list, to select one nominee for each elected office.

### **Section B:**

Following the Nominating Committee's report at the April business meeting, an opportunity shall be given for nominations from the floor.

### **Section C:**

In the absence of a Nominating Committee report, nominations shall be made from the floor.

### **Section D:**

Only those who have consented to serve if elected shall be eligible for nomination either by the Nominating Committee or from the floor.

### **Section E:**

Officers shall be elected by the majority vote of the members present at the May business meeting.

### **Section F:**

A vacancy occurring in an elected office other than the Presidency shall be filled for the unexpired term by a member elected by a majority vote at a business meeting. The President may appoint an interim officer.

## **ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS**

### **Section A:**

Bylaws amendments and revisions (hereinafter "proposed change") may be proposed by:

1. Any member, or
2. A five-member committee that shall be appointed by the President every five years, from the time of the last revision, to review the Bylaws. This committee shall report its findings and proposals to the membership.

### **Section B: Procedure for Proposed Changes**

1. Any proposed changes shall be introduced in writing (in person or in letter) at a business meeting and read into the minutes, and shall be recorded by the Recording Secretary.
2. A copy of the proposed changes and notification of its voting shall be published in the Newsletter announcing the meeting at which the voting will take place.
3. Voting shall be no earlier than the next business meeting after the proposed changes was introduced.
4. Ratification of a proposed change shall be by a two-thirds majority vote.

## **ARTICLE XI - FISCAL YEAR**

The Society's fiscal year shall be from September 1 through August 31.

## **ARTICLE XII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The Society shall be conducted in accordance with the parliamentary procedure set forth in the most recent edition of Robert's Rules Of Order in case of question not covered by these Bylaws.

This version of the Bylaws, as amended, was accepted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Society on September 14th, 1995, and replaces all earlier Bylaws versions and amendments.

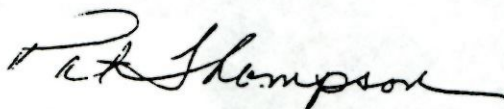
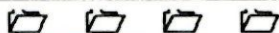
MSG S

## President's Message

Why should a person belong to a genealogy society, and why should a local genealogy society belong to the state society? Years ago when I first started to research my family history, I discovered that there was a local genealogy society. I joined because I hoped that there would be some people there that would know more than I, and I could learn from them. It's the age old adage of "Find someone who knows more than you and pick his brain." My hopes were realized. As a beginner I found wonderful instruction, information concerning where I could get more instruction, workshops with lots of help and more. Looking back on it, I would honestly have to say that my being active in the local society is what really gave me the boost to propel me forward in my abilities to research my family. In my local society I also found the opportunity for service. Records needed to be preserved and indexed. I was so grateful to people around the country who had indexed records in the places where I was searching that I really felt good about being able to return that favor by indexing our records for other's use. As I have gone from beginner to novice, I have enjoyed being able to turn around and help other beginners.

Many hands make light work whether it's preserving and indexing records or enabling the growing number of interested people to do family history research. Some local societies have folded and others are nearing that because they cannot get people to take offices and participate in projects. What a tragic loss! One doesn't need to be an expert genealogist to be a good officer or spend a little time indexing. Don't be afraid. Step right in there and participate fully, and you will reap the benefits just as I did. Some time ago a member of our local society, whom I will call Jane Doe, quit because she said it had nothing to offer her anymore. I truly liked Jane, but I thought her attitude was very unfortunate. She would donate money for different things, but never did she hold an office or put forth any effort to help the society or any of its members as she had been helped. She got hers and then pulled out. We all need to share in the work.

Some jobs are too big for local societies to handle all by themselves. State records need to be and are being preserved and indexed. There is a tremendous need for constant watchfulness and strong lobbying of the state legislature and health department so that needed information will be accessible to us. All of us as individuals and local societies benefit from these and other efforts such as the special interest groups and statewide indexing of local histories. We benefit just by associating with people throughout the state--talking to those who are researching the same area or can offer some help. Many hands make light work. Share the load. Don't be like Jane Doe. Beginner, novice, or expert, -- local society or individual,--you can reap great rewards. It's up to you.


**UPCOMING SEMINARS**


**MONTANA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SEMINAR, "SIGNPOSTS"**, April 26-27, 1996 in Deer Lodge, MT  
There will be more information in the January Newsletter.



WMGS NEWSLETTER  
P.O. BOX 2714  
MISSOULA MT 59806-2714



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415 E. MAIN ST.  
MISSOULA MT 59802-4772