

WMGS

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2714 MISSOULA MT 59806-2714

FEBRUARY 1996

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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. Send membership 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).

FEBRUARY MEETING

THURSDAY, FEB. 8th at 7:00 at the home of Jo Potter, 5055 Evergreen Road. (See insert for directions.) Jeff Smith of Internet Connect will show us how to connect our computers to the internet, some of the research tools we can access, answer questions, etc. Take HWY 93 S. toward Lolo. Turn right at the Sports Center onto Blue Mountain Road; take the first left onto Evergreen Road and go about 1/4 mile. Hint: wear sturdy snow boots, there are no sidewalks.

PROGRAMS / NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

We are still in need of program suggestions for March. In April, Betsy Douglas will talk on "WWI Records" and in May, Jerry Schliebe will talk about his "Research in Germany". If you have any suggestions or would be interested in working on program development please contact Judith Field (728-1628), Blanch Tate (549-2855) or Jo Potter (251-3588). Also I will be leaving Missoula at the end of January. Whether or not I am back in time to do the March Newsletter is still uncertain, but any help would be greatly appreciated. Articles sent to the P. O. Box will always get to the Newsletter editor. 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.

CENSUS MICROFILMS The Family History Library has decided that it can no longer afford to pick up the added expense of \$3.25 per roll to place all 1850 and later census microfilms on indefinite loan. Patrons can still order 1850 and later census microfilms on indefinite loan, but the patrons must now pay the full \$6.00 cost. The census can also be ordered on short term for 3 weeks for \$2.75 the same as other microfilms.

FICHE vs. FILM The FHL is also encouraging patrons to check to see if the microfilm that they wish to order is also available on microfiche. This is indicated in the Family History Library catalogue. If the item is available on microfiche, please order the fiche version. These only cost \$0.15 per fiche and they will stay in the library indefinitely. Ordering fiche can be cheaper than ordering a film for only 3 weeks, and it would help with storage space which is becoming very scarce.

GO FICHE A correction to last month's Newsletter! It was our dedicated Saturday librarian, Helen Van Giessen, who typed up the list of microfiche titles that are in the Family History Library. She has the list on her computer and will update it periodically. Meanwhile, librarians will add to the typed list as new microfiche are ordered.

INDEXING

The group indexing of the MISSOULIAN is continuing on Tuesdays at 1:00 PM in the Montana Room of the Missoula Public Library. If Tuesday afternoon is not a good time, then once you've been trained on what to do, any time that the library is open it's OK to come on in and index!

MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY MONTANA ROOM HIDDEN TREASURES

The Missoula Public Library is one of only a few libraries that have complete sets of, and continues to receive the new issues of both **THE HUDSON'S BAY RECORD SOCIETY** and **THE CHAMPLAIN SOCIETY**.

Both sets contain many published journals and diaries, and contain a lot of Northwest and Canadian history. Each issue of both sets is indexed and contains a list of members of that society.

One issue of the Champlain Society that I would like to note now is: **THE LOYALIST NARRATIVES FROM UPPER CANADA**, ed. by James J. Talman. The call number is R 971.024 TALMAN, MONT COLL R-IC, C.S. Series.

Dr. Talman points out that the Loyalist Party was made up of several diverse groups:

- 1- Royal officials, governors, Lt-governors, and other officials who acted for a variety of motives from self-interest to conviction of duty.
- 2- Large landed proprietors, as the Johnson and Jessup families of New York, who were loyal because they were aristocratic and their interests were best served by the established order.
- 3- Professional classes, as lawyers, doctors, teachers, etc. who were loyal from a sense of duty, suspicion of the revolution, a hope of reward, or because their associates were Loyalists. (Few of these went to Upper Canada).
- 4- Wealthy commercial classes, for whom the revolution was bad for business. This group included conservative farmers who were happy and did not feel burdened.
- 5- The conservative masses "of no trade and all trades" who made up the great majority of the Loyalist party and who comprised the great majority of the Loyalists who settled in Upper Canada.

This issue contains 25 narratives of Loyalists who settled in Upper Canada: Capt. Thomas Gummingsall Anderson, Roger Bates, George Brouse, Nicholas Brouse, Daniel Burritt, Richard Cartwright, Hon. George Crookshank, Adam Chrysler, Capt. James Dittick, Isabella Elizabeth Gamble, Michael Grass, Susan Burnham Greeley, Mrs. Amelia Harris, Col. Stephen Jarvis, Lieut. Col. John McDonell, Thomas Merritt, Hon. Henry Ruttan, William Ruttan, Adiel Sherwood, Mrs. Elizabeth Bowman Spohn, Joel Stone, Rev. John Stuart, Catherine White, Hon. John Wilson, William Woodruff.

THE SOCIO CULTURAL HISTORY OF PLACE NAMES IN MONTANA

The placenames of Montana are a rendering of its local history in poetic form. Echoes of the men and women who came to stay mingle with the echoes of those who came but did not stay. The Indian on a buffalo hunt; the French Canadian fur trapper; the cattleman riding in the dust kicked up by a thousand longhorns; the miner with his dreams of wealth; the dry land farmer praying for rain; the lonesome settlers from other lands and other states; the railroaders pushing westward; and the newcomers with industry and oil - each one has added to the history of the region, and that history can be read in the stories of Montana placenames.

Montana's hundred year history is colorfully reflected in them. The prospectors came and named their camps GOLD CREEK, SILVER STAR, and COPPEROPOLIS. Later miners added GRANITE, COALSTRIP, CINNABAR, SAPPHIRE and RUBY. Cattlemen trailed huge herds in from Texas and turned their brands into placenames like TWO DOT, MILL IRON and SEVENTY-NINE. The broad plains and free land of Montana beckoned to people from other countries who brought names with them to plant in the strange new land: ZURICH, AMSTERDAM, GLASGOW and the French WIBAUX and CHOTEAU. Settlers from other states thought wistfully of towns they had left behind and called their new homes AMHERST, ASHUELOT, POTOMAC and CORVALLIS.

The railroads laid tracks over the trackless prairies and pushed through mountain ranges to cross the state. They named the stations as they were established. Usually these names were chosen to honor a railroad official or a member of his family - BILLINGS, HARLOWTON, MAUDLOW and GERALDINE for Mrs. Rockefeller.

Indian names are a familiar part of Montana's history. Many names come from the tribes - FLATHEAD, CROW, KOOTENAI, BANNACK, BLACKFOOT, KALISPELL and PONDERA. The towns of CHARLO, LAME DEER and VICTOR were among those named to honor Indian chiefs. RED LODGE, LODGE GRASS and DEER LODGE describe their homes. The name DEER LODGE comes from a settlement first called THE LODGE OF THE WHITE-TAILED DEER, a phrase that captures the Indian sense of residence. There is also PIPESTONE SPRINGS where the Indians came to get the very fine clay to make their pipes and there is PAINTED ROBE where the colors were obtained to paint their robes and their tepees.

There was WHOOP UP TRAIL. In 1870 the United States government outlawed selling whiskey to the Indians, and the marshals set out to see that the law was obeyed. However many fur traders regarded whiskey as the first requisite of their business. Where whiskey was, there the trade was, so they went up into the less restricted territory across the Canadian border and built their trading posts. One of the first of these was Fort Hamilton, but the flourishing business soon led to its rechristening as FORT WHOOP UP. So the north country came to be known as WHOOP UP country, and the two-hundred mile trail that led from there to Fort Benton was called the WHOOP UP TRAIL. After the Canadian mounties put an end to the whiskey runs, the trail was used as a freight road for more acceptable goods but the name remained. To balance the scales, there was a line camp called SOBER UP.

BULLHEAD SPRINGS and BULL HOOK BOTTOMS got their names because cattle would get bogged down in the marshy ground in northern Montana with only their heads sticking out and could usually be retrieved only by using bull hooks. When the railroad came through and decided to put a station at BULL HOOK BOTTOMS, the officials insisted upon a change of name - a more dignified one. Several of the settlers got together and decided to name the town for their hometown in France. So Le Havre - meaning "the harbor" crossed the ocean and became HAVRE, MONTANA, far far from any harbor.

The most colorful names in Montana are the descriptive ones. Lewis and Clark chose many of them as they explored and mapped the territory. They saw the morning sun reflected on the mountains and called them SHINING MOUNTAINS. We were "THE LAND OF THE SHINING MOUNTAINS" until Bud Guthrie came out with his book, THE BIG SKY and that name caught on as an appellation for Montana. The mountains were officially named THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS and rocky, they certainly are. The GREAT FALLS of the Missouri, first named by Lewis and Clark, was later to become the town of GREAT FALLS. The big horn sheep that the explorers found in south-eastern Montana gave rise to their name for the BIG HORN MOUNTAINS. But Lewis and Clark also named places for members of their party, PRYOR CREEK for Sgt. Nathaniel Pryor, and POMPEY'S PILLAR for Sacajawea's little son, Baptiste, affectionately called "Little Pomp" by Clark. A town that later grew up nearby took its name from the pillar of rock on which Clark had carved his initials and the date July 25, 1806.

Perhaps Lewis and Clark's most interesting naming feat was of the three rivers they found to be making up the Missouri. Being politicians as well as explorers,

they named the JEFFERSON RIVER for Thomas Jefferson, their president and supporter, the GALLATIN for Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury, who made out their pay checks; the MADISON for James Madison, Secretary of State. They had a new problem when they followed the JEFFERSON and found it, too, divided into three streams, so they named them for the "three cardinal virtues" of President Jefferson, WISDOM, PHILOSOPHY and PHILANTHROPY. The prospectors who came along half a century later could not read maps very well, let alone pronounce philosophy and philanthropy, so the names were changed to the RUBY, the BEAVERHEAD and the BIG HOLE - all descriptive of the area. The name WISDOM did survive in a town name, and a nearby stream is called the WISE RIVER. BEAVERHEAD was a famous name because it referred to a big rock outcropping shaped like the head of a beaver which Sacajawea and her tribe used as a landmark. Besides the river, there is a town of RUBY and RUBY MOUNTAINS, although both of them are really misnomers because the stones found there and originally thought to be rubies turned out to be garnets. The explorers named two other rivers for members of the President's Cabinet, the SMITH and the DEARBORN.

Meriwether Lewis seemed to be a bit more romantic and named two rivers for the girls back home. The MARIAS RIVER is in northern Montana and the JUDITH in central Montana. THE GATES OF THE MOUNTAINS describe a spectacular break in the mountains where the MISSOURI RIVER rushes through. Two rivers, the CLARK FORK of the Columbia and the CLARK'S FORK of the Yellowstone, were later named to honor William Clark.

The rivers and streams, being here before people, were often given descriptive names. MISSOURI is said to come from an Indian word meaning "Big Muddy." The MILK RIVER drains an area in Canada where a white silt colors the water. YELLOWSTONE RIVER was called ROCHE JAUNE by the early French explorers to describe the yellow rocks found along its banks. Translated to YELLOWSTONE and given to the national park as well as the river, it is one of our most widely known names. The TONGUE RIVER heads in a Wyoming mountain where a giant "tongue" is outlined by a rock formation and trees. POWDER RIVER is lined with a black silt that reminded old timers of gun powder. YAAK is an Indian word meaning arrow, and the natives saw this stream as an arrow cutting across the arc or bow made by the KOOTENAI RIVER.

Placenames give a comprehensive picture of the animals and plants that were here before the white man came. WOLF CREEK, BEAR CREEK, BUFFALO, ALDER GULCH, COTTONWOOD CREEK and ROSEBUD.

Any study of town placenames will find the most specific information in post office records. They give the best clues to when a town was established, flourished, and when, and if, it died. In Montana many of the towns did die. Of the 1,900 places in the state that at one time reached the status of having a post office, only 319 remain. Also, the designation of a "post office" did not always indicate the existence of a town. The "office" was apt to be a cigar box in a prospector's cabin, or a shoe box in a settler's kitchen. Sometimes there was enough mail to justify an apple box on a homesteader's back porch.

The earliest post offices in Montana were, of course, in the gold strike areas: HELL GATE in 1862, VIRGINIA CITY in 1864, and GOLD CREEK in 1886. Mail came by stagecoach, freight wagon or by horseback. Post offices and names came and went with the fate of mining camps. NEIHART was a mining town in the LITTLE BELT MOUNTAINS; mail came by horseback from WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS. The sack going either direction was hung on the branch of a tree, and anyone coming or going was duty bound to take it along. One sack of mail took from November to June to make this forty-two mile trip.

IRON ROD, a camp originally known as RAGTOWN, got its new name when a fancy new bridge of iron was built across the Jefferson River to replace a rickety old wooden one. When an agent from Philadelphia came to inspect Montana post offices in 1873, the IRON ROD post office was in back of the saloon. It was mail day at IRON ROD and the big bag was brought in. The contents were dumped on the floor and patrons on hands and knees scrambled to look for letters. After they were finished the remaining letters were shoveled into a candle box and put on the end of the bar. The special agent, thinking the office needed some regulating asked for the keys to the office. The bar tender put the candle box on the floor, gave it a kick and said, "There's your office...now git," and said the inspector in reporting the incident to the Philadelphia Ledger, "knowing the customs of the country, I got."

UTICA began in 1880's as a lively meeting place in the spring and fall for central Montana cowboys, but it was cold and lonely in the dead of winter. After having shivered out a winter, four early settlers joked that a man had to be crazy to live there year round. When asked for a name on their post office application, they suggested UTICA, which was the location of the insane asylum in their

home state of New York. GREENHORN was a mining camp in the HELENA area and had a post office from 1871 to 1973. The office opened again in 1882, but in April of the next year the Territorial Governor of Montana telegraphed the postal authorities in Washington D. C.: "VIGILANTES AT GREENHORN, MONTANA, HAVE REMOVED POSTMASTER BY HANGING: OFFICE NOW VACANT." The office never reopened. Evidently no one wanted to take his place.

The Homestead Act and the promotion by railroads brought a rash of post offices and new names. Often when the settlers had unloaded their wagons and gotten a few acres plowed and planted, they began to be lonesome for news from home. One man, or more likely a woman, carried a petition around and got the required number of signatures and offered to be the postmaster. Since the "office" was almost always in some homesteader's home for the sake of convenience his family name generally became the name of the office and later the town. The "office" moved from one tar paper shack to another until someone opened up a general store in the community and took over the mail service, or until the railroad parked a box car along the tracks and called it a station, thus starting a town and location of the post office. Two hundred and forty-six towns in Montana were named for their first postmasters.

From these and the other commemorative placenames, one can identify the nationalities that went into the frontier crucible to make Montana. O'NEIL and KELLY; McLEOD and McDONALD; PATERSON and ANDERSONVILLE; STORY and BROOKS; HAUCK and KESSLER; KILZ and GEBO.

But there are by far more names of French origin than any other single ethnic group. The early French trappers left their mark on the maps of Montana. They left their names in the Indian tribes as they married the native girls and fathered children who were later to be instrumental in settling and naming areas of the state. BELLEVIEW, BONACORD, CHOTEAU, REICHEL and ROBARE.

This is the text of a speech given at the University of Montana History Conference by Roberta Carkeek Cheney, author of "NAMES ON THE FACE OF MONTANA, The Story of Montana's Place Names" now in its fourth printing. Printed here with the author's kind permission. jp

THE GERMAN CONNECTION

Several years ago Lorraine Davis wrote to W.M.G.S. requesting help with her Funk family research. I wasn't able to help her much but we have continued to correspond. She sent me the following information which may be helpful to someone doing research on German ancestry:

The German Connection is published quarterly by the German Research Association, Inc. Annual individual membership is \$18.00 (\$23 foreign, payable in U.S. dollars) and \$5.00 for each additional person at the same address. This includes one copy of *The German Connection* per address. Lifetime memberships are also available. The membership year is January 1 to December 31. Please address all correspondence to: The German Research Assn., Inc., P. O. Box 711600, San Diego, CA 92171-1600. jp

BLM HOMESTEAD NOTES AVAILABLE

Judith mentioned before she left that the notes and slides she used for her presentation at the last meeting are available at the Family History Center Library. Thanks, Judith, for the very interesting and informative program. jp

A COURSE IN PERSONAL & FAMILY HISTORY

When Is a Story Not a Story? When It's History.

George Caleb Bingham was a Nineteenth Century painter of everyday life in Missouri. His paintings of politicians on the stump, boatmen on the river, or of men playing checkers in a tavern, are wonderful windows on the history of that time. We look at such a painting and get a glimpse of what life was like then, when life was simpler and more leisurely.

Painters like him, realistic painters of everyday life, are called *genre* painters.

As you write your family history, you might think of yourself as a *genre* writer, portraying the everyday life of your times.

Just as Bingham did not worry about telling a story, you do not need to, either. All you need to do is honestly and realistically portray what you see in your mind's eye. The scene you write, doesn't have to have a beginning, a middle, and an end.

Think of a scene from your life--as a child at home with your parents, or as a young adult making your way in the world, or as a parent or grandparent. You might be a child absorbed in playing with a yo-yo; a young adult carefully working at his or her first day on a new job in a city far from the farm where you grew up; a parent fixing dinner before the world became microwavable; or a grandparent reading a story in a book to a grandchild.

Your scene should not be static, of course, not literally like a painting--words have the edge there over that medium but you need not tell a snappy and crackling tale that ends with a guffaw. It's enough to carefully--and realistically--portray that moment in time. Set the scene, lavish it with detail, be true to your memory, and call it not a story--but history.

Reprinted from *LIFESTORY*, Vol. 30, by Charley Kempthorne, MFA. jp

WILL A TREE SAVE YOUR LIFE?

by Marlene Peterson

When charting your family's history, it could be beneficial to include diseases and or disorders.

On going research shows that there is some genetic component in nearly all diseases. Each of us harbors at least 20 disease causing genes. Modern day medicine pays little attention to the family history during check ups, therefore it is important that you make a family health tree. Your risk increases when a parent has an illness. But this doesn't mean that a disease runs in your family and that you will get this disease. The early history of your first ancestor contains the genes, mitochondria (deoxyribonucleic acid). Today's generation can compare their DNA with recovered hair and bones of the deceased. DNA is a long molecule which contains coded genetic material. Every human cell has five feet of these coiled DNA strands and in the code by which the body is able to assemble proteins when the code becomes mixed up, many of the inherited disorders are seen. The gene either makes no protein or a defective one.

Some diseases have an ethnic pattern such as Fay-Sach, Sickle cell anemia, cystic fibrosis, brittle bones and extremely low cholesterol, cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

Most diseases spring from an interaction of genes with the environment and life style, which, with frequent check ups, could alert you to the problem. Setting up a health tree: Become a medical detective.

1. Look thru family records (name, birth and death dates, cause of death.)
2. Ask questions (education, occupation, birth order.)
3. Use tact (a gentle approach when questioning relatives).
4. Gather details (health or psychological problems).
5. Search for clues (blood type, marital history).
6. Obtain written records (birth & death certificates).
7. Share your findings.

Reprinted from *The Tree Branch*, Volume 2, No. 7, Glendive, Mt. Newsletter. Some medical diagrams and charts are contained in the newsletter, see the vertical file. jp

UPCOMING SEMINARS

MONTANA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SEMINAR, "SIGNPOSTS", April 26-27, 1996 in Deer Lodge, MT. More info when available.

FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES NATIONAL CONFERENCE, "IN YOUR ANCESTORS IMAGE", August 14-17, 1996, Rochester NY. Fliers available.

FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES - DALLAS IN '97, "UNLOCK YOUR HERITAGE", Sept. 3-6, 1997, Dallas, TX, hosted by the Dallas Genealogical Society.

THE SURNAME GAME

The National Genealogical Society Newsletter, Sept/Oct edition, Vol 21 No 5, contains a cautionary article concerning all the ways that various credit card, plastic sales, office supply, American Express, British Petroleum and even Armour frozen dinners are trying to capitalize on your surname. They suggest that when you receive these offers you write to the company and ask "Why do these companies besmirch their good names and otherwise fine reputations by selling spurious surname products?" Let the buyer beware. jp

YOUTH AWARD AVAILABLE

While reading the September/October 1995 edition of the *NGS NEWSLETTER*, Vol 21 No 5, I noted, on page 111, an article concerning the Rubincam Youth Award. I believe it is an annual contest for youth who are under 19 as of January 1 of the current year. First place is a \$200 cash award plus a one year membership in the NGS. Second place is \$100. Applicants need not be NGS members. The deadline was December 31, 1995 but it would be wise to read the article, begin preparations now (as the application requirements are stringent) and watch the Sept/Oct issue in 1996. jp

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