

WMGS

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2714 MISSOULA MT 59806-2714

OCTOBER 1996

OFFICERS

President	Judith Field	728-1628
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Treasurer	Phyllis Duncan	251-3177
Recording Secretary	Irene Berven	549-8898
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Editor	Judith Field	728-1628

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 (Not in October).

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

We will not have regular meetings in October. The Missoula Public Library has scheduled a series of lectures on Thursdays from Sept. 5th - Oct. 17th. These lectures will be historical in nature and better than any programs we could come up with. They are also using the large meeting room. There is a complete schedule of these lectures under MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Program suggestions for next year are needed now! I will be working on a program on the FINDING AIDS TO THE U.S. SERIAL SET available at the UM Mansfield Library. This may be ready by November. If you have a topic that you would like to hear about or are willing to talk on some aspect of genealogical research please get in touch.

OCTOBER BUSINESS MEETING

We will have a business meeting on **Thursday, Oct. 10th at 6:30 PM** (before the lecture) in the Montana Room of the Missoula Public Library.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES -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

Computer reservations call 543-6148.

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

Closed: Saturday, Oct. (General Conference); Nov.28-30 (Thanksgiving); Dec.16-Jan.1, 1997 (Christmas).

INDEXING

The group indexing of the MISSOULIAN is continuing on Tuesdays at 1:00 PM in the Montana Room of the Missoula Public Library. 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! We're about in the middle of 1927 at the present.

BITS AND BYTES



See the insert that Dorothea Berthoud passed on with addresses for genealogy bulletin boards and home pages.

MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Missoula Public Library is presenting "THE FRONTIER IN AMERICAN CULTURE". This is a traveling exhibition for libraries organized by the American Library Association and the Newberry Library, Chicago with the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency.

The remaining lectures are:

Oct. 10th - 7 PM, Bob Brown and Kermit Edmonds
"The Nez Perce War Comes to Montana"

Oct. 17th - 7 PM, James Welch **"Killing Custer"**

All programs will be held in the large meeting room of the Missoula Public Library, 301 E. Main. This has been a wonderful series of lectures - well worth getting to!

IN THE MAIL

BIG SKY ROUNDUP, Montana State Genealogical Society, Marilyn Lewis, Ed., Rt.2, Box 2246, Lewistown, MT 59457. Sept. 1996.

MONTANA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

BOARD MEETING: Sat. Oct. 12th at 1:00 pm in the Lewis & Clark Public Library, 120 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena., preceded by lunch at 12:00 at the Windbag Saloon & Grill, 19 S. Last Chance Gulch.

FIRST FAMILIES OF MONTANA: Special Interest Group created to obtain genealogical records of the state's pioneers and to acknowledge descendants of same will also meet on Oct. 12th in Helena at 10:30 am on the mezzanine of the Lewis & Clark Public Library.

Committees for the project are now forming and if interested, please plan to be there. Bring a friend! This meeting is planned to coincide with the MSGS board meeting.

VITAL RECORDS ACCESS IN MONTANA: Jesse Long has been working with Director Sam Sperry and has gotten access changed from 100 years to 30 years for most birth, death, marriage and divorce records. The Dept. of Vital Records has moved to the SRS Bldg., Rm. 205, 111 N. Sanders, Helena MT. Two other tentative proposals to HB 89, the a "access to records" bill currently up are copies allowed or provided at @ \$.50 for non-certified, and a definition of who is authorized to receive such records, i.e. a card-carrying genealogist w/ a letter of release (permission from the family to do research).

STATE DEATH RECORDS INDEXING: 1906- part of 1917.

VITAL RECORDS FIND: During the move of the Vital Records Dept. a complete set of statewide death records, 1907-1966, as well as marriages and divorces, 1943-1968 on microfiche was discovered and is now available for viewing and searching at the Montana Historical Society Library. The marriages and divorces are also available on microfilm. The records are arranged alphabetically by year so searching should be fairly easy.

LETTER FROM PRES. PAT THOMPSON : see p.3

THE LAST LEAF, Dawson Co. Historical & Genealogical Newsletter, 1477 HWY 200s, Glendive,

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MT 59330-9402. Vol.VI-4. Dawson Co. School Census 1910, Districts 47, 48, and 49..

TREES AND TRAILS, Flathead Valley Genealogical Society., P.O. Box 584, Kalispell, MT 59903-0584. Sept 1996. Flathead Co. Marriages 1921-1931 (cont'd) Flathead Co. General Index to Deeds 1884-1897 (cont'd). For historical reminiscences of Creston and surroundings see Memoirs of One Lifetime by Robert H. (Bob) Gatiss, pub. 1993 when he was age 97. He talks of property changes, business deals, milling, schools, churches, neighbors, water power, workers and progress. One story is about the early families in the town of Jessup.

Don't forget to check the latest editions of the **GENEALOGICAL HELPER** and **HERITAGE QUEST**. The latest edition of HQ had a lot of good articles, including using "Civil War Reenactors as Resources", "Seeing the Patterns - Organizing Your Data", "Genealogical Writing", "Quaker Research in New York, New England and Canada Yearly Meetings". Also take a look at the various Q & A columns for Germanic, Irish, and Scandinavian research, and "Research in the Former Austro-Hungarian Empire - Part III. There are also Tips for Beginners on "Local and National Telephone Directories". All of these Newsletters, Quarterlies, and genealogy magazines are available in the Genealogy Collection, Missoula Public Library.

REMEMBER TO GET YOUR 1996-97 DUES IN NOW. . Please send dues to WMGS at P.O. Box 2714, Missoula MT 59806-2714, or bring them to the business meeting at 6:30 pm at the Public Library.

KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH

Have had some good success in locating name of family members that might have been in the Yukon Gold Rush in 1901. There is a new web site called GHOSTS OF THE KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH with a full searchable database at <http://www.gold-rush.org>



If your old computer is running slow while surfing the Internet or loading your large PAF database you might try an upgrade of your CPU or a new motherboard. There are a number of upgrades available at a fraction of the cost of a new computer.

President's Message

When was the last time that you read the stated objectives in your local genealogical society's bylaws or the objectives of the state society for that matter? Take them out, dust them off, read them, and then ask yourself, "How are we doing? Is there more that we could or should be doing?" Being active in a genealogical society involves more than just trying to further your own personal research. Most societies include the following goals among their lists of objectives:

- Promoting historical/genealogical research
- Locating, preserving, and indexing public and private historical/genealogical records
- Promoting the availability of these records and indexes to the public.

I suspect that sometimes we need to remind ourselves that we are not just trying to achieve the above goals for ourselves. We should be including the public at large in our vision, especially our youth. How are we doing? Most of us have published some indexes and other helpful items. Some of our local societies are fortunate enough to have holdings of records, indexes, and other resources, but there is so much more that we could be doing.

Focus on the first and third items above with emphasis on the words "promoting" and "public." We must do more than gather and produce resources and then sit back and expect people to come. Most of the general public does not know that we exist or what we have to offer. We need to communicate regularly with others, especially our historical societies and museum directors, libraries, LDS family history centers, and schools. We need to know what resources these groups have, and we need to make sure that they know what resources we have.

Many teachers are now trying to help their students see how their own family and community fit into the larger historical picture. They are finding that by doing this, the youth are more readily embracing history and developing a sense of belonging in their communities. Yes, it takes a village to raise a child, but if we do not include the history of the child's family and the village in the raising, we will lose him. This is what the Montana Heritage Project is all about. Have you heard of it? Find out about it, and see if you can help your schools become involved. Our MSGS 1st vice president, Paulette Parpart, is currently working with several people--teachers and librarians--to develop a family history unit for children in elementary schools. Hopefully in the future we can help schools develop such a unit for youth in middle and high schools too. Visit your local schools and talk to your history teachers. Although they teach some local and state history, often they are not natives of your particular area. They have a tremendous need to know what local resources are available. Don't just give them a list of the resources you have, but let them know about everything that is available in the area--including those wonderful people who are walking local history books.

The effort to make and keep records available to the public is neverending. We are still working to keep the state vital records open and available to researchers, but there is more to be done. There is an index of the 1910 census for Missoula County that is not available to the public because of a disagreement between two parties--the indexer and the University of Montana. Look around. Are there useful resources in your area that are in danger of becoming unavailable for use or even destroyed? Let us know about it. We all need to know about these problems and try to work for a solution.

Is there more we could be doing? You bet! Catch the vision...

Pete Thompson

NEW MEMBERS/NEW ADDRESS

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Genealogy Home Pages

Bulletin Boards

Genealogy BBS for NGS	http://genealogy.emcee.com/
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General Home Pages

Links to Web Sites containing genealogy	http://sillyg.doit.com/genweb
Genealogical Sites	http://www.crescendoweb.com/hcgs/sites.html
Good place to start	gopher://ftp.cac.psu.edu:70/11/genealogy
Good place to start	gopher://ftp.cac.psu.ed...1/genealogy/public_html
Genealogy archives (things from BBS, SIGs, etc.)	http://ftp.cac.psu.edu/~saw/genealogy.html
Yahoo Search Engine	http://www.yahoo.com/

Libraries

Library of Congress Home Page	http://lcweb.loc.gov/
International Libraries	http://sunsita.berkeley.edu/Libweb/
LDS Family History Library	http://utstdpwww.state.ut.us/~archives/referenc/fhl.htm
BYU CS Laboratory	http://issl.cs.byu.edu/FHiTL/homepage.htm

SURNAME SEARCHING

General Tools

Everton's Home Page	http://www.everton.com/
Helm's Toolbox for surname searching (excellent)	http://genealogy.tbox.com/genealogy.html

North America

United States	
Government	http://www.census.gov/
U.S. Census Bureau Home Page	gopher://gopher.nara.gov/
National Archives Home Page	gopher://gopher.nara.gov...ealog/holdings/catalogs
Canada	
Canadian Genealogy Resources	http://infoweb.magi.com/~holwell/cangene/gene.html

British Isles Genealogy Home Pages

England	
U.K. Genealogy	http://cs6400.mcc.ac.uk:80/~zzassps/genuki
U.K. Society of Genealogists Home Page	http://www.cs.ncl.ac.uk/genuki/SoG/
Ireland	
Univ. Dublin Sociology Project	http://pwaldron.bess.tcd.ie/sociology/fhp.htm
Genealogical Guide to Ireland	http://pwaldron.bess.tcd.ie/irlgen/genweb2.htm
Genealogical Research in Ireland	http://pwaldron.bess.tcd.ie/roots_ie.htm
Sources of Genealogical Information in Ireland	http://pwaldron.bess.tcd.ie/roots/prototyp/msource.htm

European Genealogy Home Pages

French Genealogy	
French Research Business	http://www.wp.com/gefrance/
German Genealogy	
Internet Sites for German Research	http://www.bawue.de/~hanacek/info/edatbase.htm
Russian Genealogy	
BLITZ-Russian Genealogy Sources	http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/feefhs/blitz/blitzgs.html
Swiss Genealogy	
D. Schorey Swiss Home Page	http://www.webcom.com/~schori/swiss.html