

WMGS

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2714 MISSOULA MT 59806-2714

MARCH 1997

OFFICERS

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------|
| President | Judith Field | 728-1628 |
| Vice-President | Hazel Harley | 549-1471 |
| Treasurer | Phyllis Duncan | 251-3177 |
| Recording Secretary | Irene Berven | 549-8898 |
| Missoula Public Library | Paulette Parpart | 721-2665 |
| 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.

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting will be Thursday, Mar. 13th, at 7:00 PM in the large meeting room of the Missoula Public Library. The program will be given by Irene Berven on her "Family History Research and Travels in Norway and Denmark".

REFRESHMENTS FOR MARCH: Hazel Harley

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.

NEXT YEAR???

It March already so it's time to start thinking about officers for next year and about some possible changes to our meetings. The membership list was down somewhat this year but some recent re-newals have brought it up a

little. The size of our meetings has been quite small so Paulette is going to schedule us into the small meeting room for next year as there is a big demand for the large meeting room.

We need to get more people involved with programs, the Newsletter and operations if the society is to continue. Most of the current board members have been rotating through the various board positions ever other year for many years. As we are co-hosting the State Seminar in 1998 we need these experienced hands but we are also in need of some new ideas and directions. It has been suggested that we change from monthly to bi-monthly or even quarterly meetings. This would make program scheduling easier, but would likely still require monthly business board meetings. At this time our financial situation is still sound, but may not permit any large extra expenses for books or tapes..

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

Computer reservations / Information: call 543-6148 during library hours.

CD'S: The FHL has received a second set of CD's so that there is now one set for each computer. All of the CD set is now in one large CD container for each computer.

FHL HOURS:

| | |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| Mon. | 12:00 - 4:00 PM. |
| Tue. | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM & 7:00 - 9:30 PM |
| Wed. | 7:00 - 9:30 PM |
| Thurs. | 12:00 - 4:00 PM. & 7:00 - 9:30 PM. |
| Sat. | 12:00 - 4:00 PM. |

NEW FILM ORDER POLICY AND PRICING

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City has instituted a new film order policy and pricing effective March 1st 1997. The new price for all film orders / re-newals is now \$3.25. Two re-newal will be allowed but after the second re-newal a film will stay in the library indefinitely. (It will effectively cost \$9.75 to get a film indefinitely.) All loans will be for 60 days from the date of shipment / re-newal until the film is received back in Salt Lake City. There will no longer be any 6 month loans. Films must be received back in Salt Lake City by the 60 day limit or they will be automatically renewed and the FHL will be billed. At our librarians meeting last Saturday it was decided that new films would be put out with a return date 7 weeks (49 days) from the date they are put out. This should allow sufficient time for shipping from and to Salt Lake City to

get the films back within 60 days of shipment. Re-newals will get a full 60 days from the return date originally marked on the box... This new automatic re-renewal policy will likely also affect current 6 month loan films in the library. They must be returned earlier to avoid the automatic re-renewal billing so you may see their return dates decreased by a week to allow for shipping back. The new 60 day policy will also affect the already tight film storage space. (Some new shelving is planned.) Since films can now stay in the library for twice as long, and indefinites are again allowed, a system of marking the films "DONE" will be instituted so that some films can be returned before the 60 day period freeing up shelf space. You will see a modified label on your film boxes with a place for you to initial the label when you are finished with the film and it is O.K. to return it to Salt Lake City. Also mark 'DONE' across the label so that Carol will easily spot it when she does the film returns. All of the librarians thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

INDEXING

The group indexing of the MISSOULIAN is continuing, (and growing!), on Tuesdays at 1:00 PM in the Montana Room of the Missoula Public Library. We had 5 people indexing last Tuesday! 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 in 1929 at the present and averaging about 1 month of newspaper /month /person.

HOW FAR BACK CAN WE TRACE OUR ANCESTORS??

I saw this item in one of the Internet genealogy newsgroups the other day:

"The newspapers in the UK (8 March) report that there has been established a direct DNA link between a Somerset history teacher and the 9000 year old skeleton remains of 'Cheddar Man', known to be a hunter and gatherer. The DNA was extracted from a tooth. The history teacher is quoted as saying that his family had been living in the area for a long time. The wife of the history teacher is reported as having said that she now understood why her husband likes his steaks rare.

Are we about to see the beginning of a new newsgroup - soc.genealogy.dna?"

BITS AND BYTES



Great sites for maps:

<http://www.mapquest.com/>

This site features an INTERACTIVE ATLAS which allows you to find and view maps on a national, regional,

city or street level. Click on 'go to map', fill in the city and country and wait a few seconds for your map to appear! They come with highway numbers and you can even get driving directions, locations of lodging, services, etc!

<http://www-nmd.usgs.gov/www/gnis/gnisform.htm>

This site is the Geographic Names Information System Query Page of the U.S. Geological Survey. You get a fill in the blanks query page that allows you to search for certain geographic 'feature types' located in a particular state/county in the U.S. If you enter a state and a county with 'cemetery' as the feature type, you are returned a listing of all cemeteries shown on the U.S. Geological Survey map for that county. The list contains the name of the cemetery, its latitude and longitude and the name (township) of the USGS 7.5' map showing that cemetery. There is a fairly long list of accepted feature types that you can enter. Included are church, civil, school, river, stream, etc. When I entered Nassau County, NY I got back a list of 31 cemeteries. Not every church or cemetery will turn up but it's a good start.

IN THE MAIL

CENTRAL MONTANA WAGON TRAILS, Lewiston Genealogy Society, 701 W. Main St., Lewiston, MT 59457, Vol.18, No.2, Feb. 1997. Summary of two recent society programs, "How We Do Our Family Reunions" and "How To Do Family Histories", both by Mitzie Lund. Also "The Heritage Of Our Christmas Traditions" by Mary Criswell, and "Formulas For A Good Letter".

PRAIRIE TUMBLEWEED, Powder River Genealogical Soc., P.O. Box 394, Broadus, MT 59317, Vol.1, No.1, Nov. 1996. This is the first newsletter from a new society. They are doing a SURNAME INDEX of the local newspapers that are on microfilm at the local library, and indexing the Powder River County cemeteries. See article "A Spelling Lesson" for some good tips when looking for foreign names. **The idea of having someone who speaks the language of the foreign born person you are researching pronounce the name that you are interested in is a great help in figuring out possible spelling variations.**

TREASURE STATE LINES, Great Falls Genealogy Society, Paris Gibson Square, 1400 1st Ave. North, Great Falls, MT 59401, Vol.22, No.9, 1997. "Turn of the Century Coal Miners" has a list of names many of which represent Slovenian, Croatian, Serbian and Montenegrin families who came from Europe shortly after the turn of the century and settled in the south central part of Montana. The list were originally

published in the Spring 1990 and Summer 1994 issues of Montana Magazine of Western History. These magazines and a copy of the Master Index for the Oral Histories are available at the Great Falls Genealogy Society library.

This issue also has the "Birth Register -1903", and the "Hereford Association - 1886" (a cattle breeders association first organized in 1881).

TALES & TRAILS, Columbia Gorge Genealogical Society, % The Dalles Public Library, 722 Court St., The Dalles, OR 97058-2270, Vol. 11, No. 3. They have a list of cemeteries from the Portland, OR and Vancouver, WA areas. June events at the Dalles include a Leland Meitzler conference on June 14th and their Family History Fair, "Preserving Our Heritage", on Saturday, June 21st at the Portland State Ballroom.

GENEALOGY BULLETIN, No. 37, Jan.-Feb. 1997. See "A Review of Published Indexes to the U.S. Federal Censuses, Part I: 1790-1840; "Scottish Church Records, "3000 Queries", and AGLL's Clearance sale and New Books listings.

GENEALOGICAL HELPER Jan/Feb 1997: Here is the "1997 Directory of Locality Periodicals" - the updated list of publications pertaining to particular areas or locations; "Land Record" - says that "the older the records, the more genealogical data they contain" and

that "statements regarding relationship (other than husband and wife) are found in about 10% of early American deeds". Also take a look at "A Genealogical Journey" which says that "genealogy studies of family members can be enhanced by revealing their personalities through handwriting analysis".

HERITAGE QUEST Jan/Feb 1997: Here are articles on the Klondike Gold Rush, using death indexes, finding maps, American & Canadian passenger lists, the Connecticut archives, plus various helpful articles on doing genealogy around the world and in the U.S.

All of these Newsletters, Quarterlies, and genealogy magazines are available in the Genealogy Collection, Missoula Public Library

INFO ON THE 1997 MSGS CONFERENCE

The Tree Branches Genealogical Society will be hosting the 1997 MSGS Conference in Glendive, Montana on May 2-4, 1997. Mailing should be out very soon.

BITTERROOT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY GENEALOGY FAIR

In May the Bitterroot Genealogy Society will be holding a genealogy fair. We would like to have a table and may do some encapsulation of documents.

1996-1997 MEMBERSHIP LIST

| | First Name | Surname | address | city | state | zip | phone |
|----|-------------------|------------|----------------------|----------|-------|------------|------------|
| 1 | WANDA | ALSAKER | 1308 JACKSON ST. | MISSOULA | MT | 59802-3835 | 543-5388 |
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WMGS NEWSLETTER

MONTANA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE - MAY 2-4, 1997 will be hosted by The Tree Branches Genealogical Society in Glendive, Montana

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE IN THE STATES - MAY 7-10, 1997 "Cradle of a Nation", locally hosted by the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania You can write for a conference brochure to : NGS '97 Conference Registration Brochure, 4527 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2329

DONNA POTTER PHILLIPS WORKSHOP - Sept. 19-20, 1997 at the Missoula Public Library.

YELLOWSTONE GENEALOGY FORUM 20th ANNIVERSARY SEMINAR - Sept. 26 -27, 1997. Will feature speaker Curt B. Witcher from Fort Wayne, Indiana.

THE GENEALOGISTS VIDEO RESEARCH GUIDE - This three volume set belongs to the WMGS and is available for viewing by members Call Judith Field (728-1628) if you would like to view the videos Part I: Home Sources, Family Search, Published Histories, Record Keeping; Part II: Census and Probate Records; Part III: Land, Military and Vital Records

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