

WMGS

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2714 MISSOULA MT 59806-2714

MARCH 1998

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.

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.

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.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month (Sept.-May, except Dec.) at 7:00 PM in one of the meetings rooms of the Missoula Public Library. Non-members are welcome guests.

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting will be Thursday, March 12, at 7:00 PM in the large meeting room of the Missoula Public Library. The guest speaker will be Vicki M. Zeier, Missoula County Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer. Vickie has worked for Missoula County for 14 years, starting her career in the Recording Office. In 1993 she was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to the office of Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer and was elected to a

four-year term in that office in 1995. Her presentation will be about information available in the Recording Office, specifically, birth and death records, and the laws that govern what is available for genealogical research. She will also cover how to research Missoula land records that go back to 1865.

REFRESHMENTS: Hazel Harley

UP-COMING PROGRAMS:

April 9th - Betty Hanson will be our guest speaker. She will discuss the new PAF 3.0 and PAF Companion programs.

MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEW BOOKS

The Samuel/Samuel Families of Tidewater, Virginia, compiled by Dorothy Stanaland Samuel and Col. Taliaferro Leslie Samuel III, Montgomery, AL 1997. GenColl R 929.2097 SAMUEL.

The University of Montana Alumni Association Directory 1997, Publishing Concepts, 1997. GenColl R 378.786 UNIVERS.

IN THE MAIL

BIT O' ROOTS, Bitterroot Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 350022, Grantsdale, MT 59835-0022, Jan. 1998. Membership list, info on how to get two articles from Eastman Kodak Co. on photo restoration and sharing photos; Arizona opens vital records to genealogical research.

PRAIRIE TUMBLEWEED, Powder River Genealogical Soc., P.O. Box 394, Broadus, MT 59317, Winter 1998. 'An Obituary Lesson', Member Directory, 'Powder River Co. W.W.II Draft List'

TALES & TRAILS, Columbia Gorge Genealogical Society, % The Dalles Public Library, 722 Court St., The Dalles, OR 97058-2270, Vol. 12, No. 2, Feb. 14, 1998.

TANGLED ROOTS GENEALOGY SOCIETY - Newsletter, P.O. Box 1992, Cut Bank, MT 59427, Vol. 10, No. 1, Winter 1998. Membership list with names they are researching, List of Books at the FHC.

BITS AND BYTES**Genealogy Freeware & Software:**

Several genealogy freeware and shareware programs are available on the Drake Software Homepage. Included are a freeware Soundex calculation program (see Soundex Coding Confusion), a program which will calculate the value of the British pound 1600-1996, a program to convert the Ansel character set (used by LDS programs) to ASCII, MS-DOS and Windows character sets, and a program to calculate British dates including days of the week and feast days from 1000-2050. These and other programs can be found at:

<http://www.tdrake.demon.co.uk/genindex.htm>

Genealogy CD Lookups

A list of people willing to do lookups in genealogy CD'S that they own can be found at:

<http://www.seidata.com/~lhoffman/cdlist.html>

Internet Service For Records in Scotland

The General Register Office for Scotland has announced that Internet service will be formally launched by Henry McLeish, Minister of State, at the Scottish Office on Monday, April 6th. Public access to the database will be available immediately after the launch. The service will provide WWW access to a fully searchable index to births/baptisms and banns/marriages from the Old Parish Registers dating from 1553-1854, and births, marriages and deaths from the Statutory Index for 1855-1897. An index to the 1891 census will also be provided (the 1881 census data will be available later this year.) Charging for the service will be by credit card and charges will be similar to those currently charged by the GRO(S) at New Register House in Edinburgh. More information can be obtained at the General Register Office for Scotland web page at:

<http://www.open.gov.uk/gros/groshome.htm>

"TRANSLATION SERVICE FOR GENEALOGISTS

now supports Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish, and Swedish. Free help (limit 40 lines of text) is offered by online volunteers at: <http://www.genealogy.com/gene/www/abt/translation.html>

"MISSING LINKS" - by Myra Vanderpool Gormley, C. G. and co-editor Julia M. Case. You'll find articles detailing research strategies, useful Web links, pointers on the latest CD-ROMS as well as touching and humorous letters of encouragement from readers. If you would like to subscribe to Myra's and Julie's free weekly, go to:

http://goodstuff.prodigy.com/Mailing_Lists/genealogy_news.html

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

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

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! NEW! NEW!

IGI ADDENDUM The new IGI Addendum has arrived. There are now 17 Addendum CD'S - 10 more than the old edition, with 41.6 million more names than the old IGI Addendum for a total of 84 million names. The new emphasis of the IGI is as a research tool and it no longer shows LDS Ordinances. There is a new LDS Option to look for Ordinances.

ANCESTRAL FILE The Ancestral File program now allows descendency charts to be downloaded as GEDCOM files and the submitters list now appears in alphabetical order. **There has not been an update to the actual database.**

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOGUE You can now search for a specific topic in the locality search, i.e. a specific church name or other particular type of record.

TEMPLE READY Individuals and couples now only appear once in a report and dates will no longer be estimated beyond one generation from what is known. The new Temple Ready will not accept PAF 2.0 files, only PAF 2.1 or higher.

RESEARCH OUTLINES All of the U.S. states and several of the foreign country Research Outlines have been revised. These have been filed in the Research Outline binders on the counter along with the revised Genealogy Word Lists for foreign countries, Letter Writing Guides, and new list of Accredited Genealogists.

PARISH AND VITAL RECORDS A new edition has been filed in the microfiche drawer.

NEW MICROFILM READERS The two new film readers in the back room are finally ready for use!

My family tree must have been used for firewood!!

SOURCES

by Marsha Porter

LOT AND LAND BOOKS AT MISSOULA COUNTY

The Records Management Department recently found some lot and land books in the Records Center and moved the books to the office. There are three (3) books for platted **SUBDIVISIONS**; and five (5) books for land listed by **SECTION, TOWNSHIP, AND RANGE**. Sometimes called **BLIND BOOKS** by the Title

Companies, they show **only** the Book and Page numbers for documents recorded pertaining to a specific piece of land. There are no dates in the books, however, Declaration of Occupancy's, some of the earliest land records, are shown. Dating of these instruments would be accomplished by looking at the document the Book and Page refers to for each piece of land. It is not known when the use of these books was discontinued, but it appears they go into the 1930's.

The Book and Page numbers refer to different types of documents; some shown in different colors of ink. Examples of the types of documents included in these books are:

Agreements	Lis Pendens
Articles of Incorporation	Miscellaneous
Attachments	Mortgages
Chattel Mortgages	Order & Decrees
Contracts	Placers
Deeds	Power of Attorney
Declarations of Occupancy	Sheriff Certificates of Sale
Easements	Tax Deed Affidavits
Leases	Vacations - Street & Alley
Liens	Water Rights

The **SUBDIVISION BOOKS** show the Bk. & Pg. for the **Lots & Blocks** they address in the subdivision. The **SECTION, TOWNSHIP, RANGE** books show the Bk. & Pg. for the **quarter section** they address in each section, by Township and Range.

The information in these books could be very helpful if trying to track the early history of your piece of property, by the **legal description**.

The Records Management office also has microfilmed the early Lot Books, Land Books, and Sanborn Map Book from the Assessors Office. These also trace ownership by legal description, showing the Bk. and Pg. numbers and ownership names. The Records Management Office is located in the basement of the Missoula County Courthouse, 200 W. Broadway, Missoula, MT 59802.

Friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate!

SOUNDEX COMPLEXITIES - THE LETTERS W & H

What do you do with 'h' and 'w' when you are trying to Soundex Code a name? This has been a subject of concern lately as evidenced by several recent postings to the Newsgroup soc.genealogy.computing. One person wrote that "The written rules I saw at NARA say " If the letters are separated by a vowel they are coded separately. If they are together or separated by an 'h' or 'w' they are

adjacent and are coded once." Another writer said that "All the published NA materials on the subject that I've seen, the latest probably being General Information leaflet 55, "Using the Census Soundex", published 1995, make no mention of the 'h' or 'w' hidden rules (they simply say that the 'h' and 'w' are not coded.)" In his book "The Researcher's Guide To American Genealogy", p175, Val Greenwood says that "No code is assigned to a, e, i, o, u, y, w, or h. And whenever two letters with the same code number are in immediate sequence (my emphasis) the two are coded as one letter."

The problem seems to be: Did the soundex coders of the 1930's treat the 'h' and 'w' as a *separator* as the vowels a, e, i, o, u and the letter y are treated, or were the 'h' and 'w' simple *ignored* as if they were *not there at all*? -It was also said that "when questioned by two volunteers, NARA declined responsibility and knowledge of this new wrinkle, having not heard it until these two persons inquired."

Here are some examples of Soundex coding using the two different methods of treating 'h' and 'w':

NAME	SEPARATOR 'h'	IGNORE 'h'
ASHCROFT	ASHCRÖFT = A226	ASCROFT = A261
KATSCHKE	KATSCHKE = K322	KATSCKE = K320
DEMSHKI	DEMSHKI = D522	DEMSKI = D520
WITSCHGER	WITSCHGER = W322	WITSCGER = W326

In the first three cases listed the name was actually found in the Soundex under the 'ignore h' Soundex code. The last name (WITSCHGER) is one of mine that I have not been able to find under W322. I intend to go back and look under W326! Since ASHCROFT was found as A261 in every Soundex (1880, 1900, 1920) it would seem that all of the Soundex may have been coded using the 'ignore h' rule, and possible 'ignore w' as well, although the later has not been documented.

From the above it looks like the rule to apply to Census Soundex coding is : If the letters are separated by a vowel, they are coded separately. If they are together or separated by an 'h' or 'w' they are coded once. Certainly, to be sure, code and check names using both coding methods. Also note that the Passenger Arrival Lists Soundex and the Social Security Death Index Soundex are not coded like the census - they use the 'separator' method.

The freeware Soundex Coder program mentioned in Bits & Bytes has been updated to include both of these Soundex coding methods. It runs in windows and is 240KB.

Judith Field

I'd rather look for dead people than have 'em look for me!

MONTANA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Montana State Genealogical Society Executive Board is submitting and recommending the following changes to the Montana State Genealogical Society Bylaws. The executive board approved the presentation of the changes at the quarterly meeting on February 7, 1998 in Helena, Montana. The membership will act on these proposed changes during the Annual Conference, May 1-2, 1998 in Missoula, Montana according to the following Article of the current Bylaws:

ARTICLE XIV: AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended at the Annual Meeting by a two thirds (2/3) vote of qualified members present and voting, using the following procedure:

- a. Proposals may be submitted by any member to the Executive Board at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting.
- b. All such proposed amendments, together with the recommendations of the Executive Board, shall be presented in writing, to the membership at least one (1) month prior to the Annual Meeting.

Additions to the Bylaws are underlined and will be added to the Bylaws if passed by the members in Missoula. Those words that are struck through will be deleted from the Bylaws. If you have any questions or require additional information please contact Jesse Long at 733 S. California, Helena, MT 59601, by phone at 406-443-3352, or by e-mail at jlong@mcn.net. The proposed changes to the Standing Rules are for your information. The Executive Board would appreciate any feedback from the members before they take action on these proposals. Please contact any of the officers with your comments.

Proposed Changes to the Standing Rules of the Montana State Genealogical Society February 7, 1998

6. Membership structure and dues:

- a. Individual membership \$10.00 per annum
- b. Individual Life Membership \$150.00
- ~~b.c.~~ Family membership \$12.00 per annum
- ~~c.d.~~ Society membership dues shown in the following table:

Number of Local Society members	Previous Local Society Maximum	New Local Society Dues	Cost per member
1-10	\$10	\$15	Between \$1.50 & \$15.00
11-25	\$25	\$25	Between \$1.00 & \$2.27
26-40	\$40	\$35	Between \$0.88 & \$1.35
41-55	\$55	\$45	Between \$0.82 & \$1.10
56-70	\$70	\$55	Between \$0.79 & \$0.98
71-85	\$85	\$60	Between \$0.71 & \$0.85
86-100	\$100	\$70	Between \$0.70 & \$0.81
101-125	\$125	\$80	Between \$0.64 & \$0.79
126-150	\$150	\$90	Between \$0.60 & \$0.71

Rationale: The Board discussed the need for providing another avenue to membership in the MSGS.

15. All Life Members shall be given a certificate indicating their life member status. This is the responsibility of the Registrar. Life membership money shall be placed in an interest bearing account, and the interest used for the general fund when needed.

Rationale: Relates to the recognition of the Life Membership Status and the use of the revenue derived from the membership.

16. No one person may cast more than one vote. No proxy vote is permissible; voters must be present to vote.

Rationale: Voting should be done by those present at the appropriate meetings.

**Proposed Changes to the Montana State Genealogical Society Bylaws
February 7, 1998**

ARTICLE X: MEETINGS

SECTION 1: The fiscal year for the Society

- a. The fiscal year of the Society shall be from July 1 of the one year through June 30 of the succeeding year.
- b. For accounting purposes, the books of the Society shall be closed on March 30 of each year, and the Treasurer shall present a financial statement as of that date to the members at the Annual Meeting.

Rationale: The proposed change here would provide time for the Treasurer to close the books and prepare a financial statement for the members at the Annual Conference. Prior to this time the financial statement was after the Annual Conference and not widely publicized.

ARTICLE VI: DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

SECTION 5: The Treasurer ~~shall be bonded and~~ shall have custody of the funds of the Society; shall deposit them in insured institutions or invest them pursuant to Executive Board policy; shall make disbursements as directed by the Executive Board; and shall be responsible for the collection of all dues, fees, and debts owing to the Society. The annual report of the Treasurer shall be audited at the close of each fiscal year and the report as audited shall be distributed to the membership. It is the responsibility of the Executive Board to select a person or persons to audit the Treasurer's Report.

Rationale: This change would delete the bonding of the Treasurer. The process of Bonding is expensive and with the limited budget of the Society it has not been done in prior years. We elect people with integrity and therefore Bonding is not necessary.

ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: The names and purposes of the Society Standing Committees shall be as follows:

- a. **AUDIT** - to audit the Treasurer's Annual report at the close of each ~~fiscal~~ accounting year. The Audit Committee shall consist of three members. The Audit Committee shall submit a written report to the Executive Board, present an oral report to the members at the Annual Business Meeting, and publish this report in the Society newsletter.

Rationale: With the change in the Accounting year it is now possible to present an oral report to the members at the Annual Conference.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

SECTION 1: The elected officers shall consist of the President, the First Vice President, the Second Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Registrar, and the Immediate Past President (by virtue of the office).

SECTION 2: Officers shall be elected for a two (2) year term and may serve the Society for one (1) consecutive term (maximum four (4) years total), using the procedures of the Nominating Committee and shall take office at the first board meeting after the State Conference.

SECTION 3: A vacancy in any elective position shall be filled by the Executive Board until the next election.

SECTION 4: All elected officers shall be residents of the State of Montana during the term of their office.

Rationale: The new Section is to maximize the accessibility of the officers in the State during their term of office.

ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: The names and purposes of the Society Standing Committees shall be as follows:

- h. **AWARDS** - to develop the Society's award program including the Anna Mae Hanson Award, to establish the selection process for all awards presented by the Society, and to screen and select all awards presented by the Society. The Second Vice President shall be a member of the Committee. The Awards Committee shall consist of three members.

Rationale: The addition of the Awards Committee will provide an opportunity to present awards to the members that so richly deserve the recognition in an organized manner.

NEW MEMBER

John Campbell 4830 Richmond Dr., Racine, WI 53406-1546 (414) 632-1592
jcampbell@wi.net

APRIL 16-19, 1998 STATE FAIR - EASTERN WASHINGTON GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
 Conference fee is \$100 for non-members. It will include 13 mini-session speakers from WA, OR, ID and MT who will speak on Courthouses, Documentation, Maps, Computer Programs, Indian Research, Homesteads/Railroad, Emigrant Trails and more. Registration and hotel reservation forms are available from the WMGS.

MAY 1 & 2, 1998 MSGS CONFERENCE IN MISSOULA *** The brochures and registration forms are in the mail! Please get your registrations in ASAP especially if you wish to participate in either of Marthe Arends classes on the Internet or Using Computer Genealogy Utilities, both of which are limited to the first 75 registered. There are 20 workshops in 6 sessions to choose from. If you did not receive a brochure or need more check the FHC, the Public Library or call Judith Field at 728-1628 and we'll get them to you.

MAY 6-9, 1998 NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE IN THE STATES, Denver, CO. We have registrations forms.

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) or Paulette Parpart at the Missoula Public Library (523-2858) if you would like to get on the list to view these videos - they are currently circulating. Part I: Home Sources, Family Search, Published Histories, Record Keeping; Part II: Census and Probate Records; Part III: Land, Military and Vital Records.

WESTERN MONTANA GENEALOGICAL SOC.
PO BOX 2714
MISSOULA MT 59806-2714



PAULETTE K. PARPART *
415 E. MAIN ST.
MISSOULA MT 59802-4772

NOMINATIONS FOR THE ANNA MAE HANSON AWARD

Please enter the name of any person you want to nominate for the Anna Mae Hanson Award and write an explanation of why you think this person should receive the award. The award is given for dedicated service to the genealogical community and the public at large. Possible service to be recognized could be many hours of indexing, walking cemeteries, teaching, leading a genealogical society or countless hours of selfless quiet work behind the scenes. Send your nomination to Pat Thompson, 380 Horse Ridge, Hamilton, MT 59840 by Feb. 1, 1998. The recipient of the award will be chosen by a committee of three district representatives appointed by the president of the Montana State Genealogical Society (Pat Thompson) and will be given at the annual MSGS conference in the Spring (May 17 2, 1998 in Missoula.) Please take some time to do this so that we can recognize out many wonderful members who do so much for so many. Feel free to make copies of this form and nominate as many people as you wish.

I nominate _____ to receive the 1998

Anna Mae Hanson Award for dedicated service to genealogists and the public at large. My reasons for nominating this person are listed below.

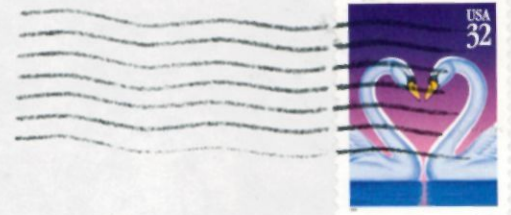
MSGs CONFERENCE IN MISSOULA April 30-May 3, 1998

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE IN THE STATES -
Denver, CO, May 6-9, 1998.

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

THE AMERICAN GIRLS COLLECTION Everyone who is interested in the history of the times in which our ancestors lived will love these dolls and their stories. Each doll represents a different time period or culture, and comes with her own story book set in the time period or culture she represents. Quality of the dolls and accurate attention to detail in their clothing and furnishings is very well attended to. There are quite a few dolls to choose from including Felicity, the spunky colonial girl of 1774, Kristen Larson, an 1854 pioneer girl, Addy, from the Civil War period is a slave girl who goes north on the underground railroad, and Samantha, of the 1904 Victorian Era. They have a web site at www.americangirl.com or you can order a catalogue from Pleasant Company, 8400 Fairway Place, P.O. Box 620190, Middleton WI 53562-0190

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MISSOULA MT 59802-4772