

WMGS

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2714 MISSOULA MT 59806-2714

APRIL 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

NOMINATION NEEDED

Remember that we are coming to the close of the year for the WMGS. We need to elect new officers at the May meeting (the last meeting of our year) so we need nominations for President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary. All of the above officers have served for two years in their current positions - and many more in other positions - and are not eligible to be re-nominated to their current positions. If you would be interested in any of these positions for next year please let us know!!!

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.

MEETING DAY CHANGE??

It has been proposed that we change the monthly meeting day from the second Thursday of the month to the second Tuesday of the month. This change would allow for use of the large meeting room at the Missoula Public Library and get around conflicts that some members have with Thursdays. The calling committee will be contacting local members for comments during the next few weeks. The decision will be announced next month.

APRIL MEETING

The April meeting will be Thursday, April 12, at 7:00 PM in the small meeting room of the Missoula Public Library. The guest speaker will be Betty Hanson who will discuss and demonstrate the new PAF 3.0 and PAF Companion programs. If you have questions or problems using PAF now is the time to get some help!

MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEW BOOKS

OHIO LANDS - A SHORT HISTORY, by Jim Petro, Auditor of State, State of Ohio: GenColl R 333.1097 **OHIO**. This booklet provides a short history of the original land subdivisions and federal land grants in Ohio. The Ohio Auditor describes the duties bestowed upon his office by the Legislature over the years as preparing tax deeds from 1824, school land deeds from 1827, canal land deeds from 1834, and to prepare and deliver all state deeds from 1877 at which time it also became Custodian of Public Land Records. All the federal land surveys, field notes, and tract and entry books concerning Ohio were placed in the Auditor's care. He states that all of these records are available either at the Auditor of State's Land Office or at the State Archives.

IN THE MAIL

BIG SKY ROUNDUP, Montana State Genealogical Society, Marilyn Lewis, Ed., Rt.2, Box 2246, Lewistown, MT 59457; March 1998. **Please read and take note of the President's message copied in full on page 5.**

CENTRAL MONTANA WAGON TRAILS. Lewiston Genealogy Society, 701 W. Main St., Lewiston, MT 59457; February 1998. Membership list.

FADED GENES. Lewis & Clark Co. Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 5313, Helena, MT 59604, March 1998. Biography of "Peter HUHNS: A Real Gentleman", by Betty Ann Clark; 1998 Family History Writing Contest rules; "Back to Basics (Part 2)", emphasizes home sources and the first rule of genealogy 'begin with yourself.'

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, March 1998.

THE TREE BRANCH. Dawson Co. Montana, P.O. Box 1275, Glendive, MT 59330-1275; March 1998. Dawson County Death Records, Sept. - Dec. 1997. **Index of WPA Interviews:** During the 1940's interviews of early settlers were conducted - biographies of the common man. They can be beneficial to genealogists because they often contain pertinent dates when people came to an area, where they came from, the legal description of their property, and often their children's names. The originals were used for agricultural statistics and copies often lay unindexed in libraries. These are primarily from the greater Dawson Co. area as it existed in 1900.

Greetings Everyone! *from Wendy Garner*

I am very excited about the upcoming conference May 1 & 2. There will be many excellent speakers sharing their knowledge and skills with us. Among them is Marthe Arends who will be speaking about Genealogy Utility Software and Using the Internet to do genealogical research.

Just in case there are some that want more than one workshop about the basics of Internet genealogy, Marthe Arends will be teaching a class at Virtual University (VU) - online - starting April 13. If you think you are interested, go to

http://www.vu.org/calendar_spring98.html

for a full description of the class. Below is the part that states what will be covered in this term's class.

"This intermediate class has no prerequisites and is open to all new students and continuing students who have taken previous courses. Topics will include the art of creating cold-call letters to contact possible relatives and others researching the same family; how to conduct an oral history or biographical interview; hints and tips on organizing online and off-line data; and how to explore historical resources. The course will also cover using maps and geographic tools, investigating genetics and the role it plays in genealogy, where to find help for

research problems or questions, and how to locate and use genealogy societies."

Please note that VU does charge a fee to cover operating costs but it is a non-profit organization.

VOLUNTEERS / EQUIPMENT NEEDED!!!

We are in need of volunteers to man the WMGS table during the May 1-2 conference and volunteers to act as 'facilitators' for the speakers - making introductions, making sure equipment is in place etc.

We also need: 1-slide projector, 3 overhead projectors, 3-projector screens, and some heavy duty, grounded extension cords.

Please call Judith Field (728-1628) or sign up at the Thursday meeting if you can help with any of the above.

BITS AND BYTES



NARA Genealogy Home Page - The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has a new page for genealogists. They say that "because of the sheer size of our holdings, it will be many years before electronic access to a significant portion of our genealogical records is possible. In the interim, this area provides many of the finding aids, guides, and research tools that can prepare you for a visit to one of our facilities." It does include information about how to use the records of the Federal Government for genealogical research and you will find information on how to order free instructional booklets, links to information about NARA's regional facilities, a link to NARA's online bookstore and a link to their SOUNDEX Coder (watch out for the letters 'h' and 'w' if you use this feature):

<http://www.nara.gov/genealogy>

CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (CEF)

Over 600,000 Canadians enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the First World War. The CEF database is an index to those personnel files, which are held by the National Archives (Canadian). In addition, through the support of Industry Canada and the SchoolNet Digital Collections Program, over 50,000 pages of Attestation papers have been scanned and made accessible through the database. It is at:

<http://www.archives.ca/db/cef/>

MTGENWEB PROJECT

There are now 24 counties (including Missoula) listed in the archives. You can visit the archives at :

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/mt/mtfiles.htm>

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.

SOURCES

by *Judith Field*

CITY, COUNTY, TOWN AND TOWNSHIP INDEX TO THE 1850 FEDERAL CENSUS SCHEDULES,

by J. Carlyle Parker. Gale Research Company. The introduction to this volume says that it helps with three problems of the 1850 census: lack of a city, town and township index; the fact that many counties are to be found on more than one roll of microfilm; and that communities and townships are not arranged in alphabetical order within county schedules.

After consulting the AIS or other 1850 Census Index to get a township and page number you can, in most instances, find the exact microfilm roll number to order by consulting this book. However, for very large areas, such as Brooklyn, NY, where the town is listed as being on six rolls of microfilm and the pages numbers start over again at page no. 1 on three separate times, this only reduces the number of microfilms to be ordered from six to three.

This index supplies the user with the National Archives microfilm numbers as well as the microfilm call numbers used by the LDS library. The index is arranged in alphabetical order and besides cities, counties, towns, and townships, it also includes boroughs, named census beats, districts, divisions, named election districts, grants, hundreds, parishes, plantations, named precincts, settlements, and villages. (Available at Missoula FHL)

SOUNDEX COMPLEXITIES -'H' & 'W'

Last month I talked about dropping the letters 'h' and 'w' entirely before coding a name for census soundex purposes only. The following was the name I was working on:

WITSCHGER: WITSCHGER=W322 or WITSCGER =W326

I did order the film with the W326 code. I did indeed find the Witschger's that I was looking for and had not been able to find by using the W322 code as would be indicated by the following the soundex rules from the National Archives!

HELTERLINE FAMILY HISTORY

by *Maurice Helterline*

[Maurice Helterlein grew up in Plains, Montana, where

the Helterlein family is well established. He has been researching the Helterlein family for many years, as well as indexing the death and burial notices of Sanders County, Montana. In 1984, Maurice published a book entitled "Horse Plains, Montana Territory." editor]

In prehistoric times, the Bavarian people lived somewhere in the central part of what is now Germany. By Roman times, they had drifted south to their present homeland. The name 'Bavaria' is derived from the Gaelic name for the area. In due time, they thought of themselves as Schwabish in speech, a distinctive dialect of High German. Thus, the Helterline name is distinctively Bavarian. The original spelling is HALTERLINE, with an umlaut above the 'A'.

In researching my family history, I have found in America three different, yet similar, spellings of the original German way of spelling the Helterline name. The three names are spelled HALTERLEIN [no umlaut], HELDERLEIN, and HELTERLINE. I have also found another name, spelled HOELDERLEIN, or variation thereof, with its origin being Wurtenburg.

The central meaning of the Helterline name seems to be related to 'that by which something is held or contained.' One of the specific meanings of 'halter' is 'land owner.' Another meaning in the Schwabish dialect of High German is 'slope farmer.'

Nothing is known of the history of the Helterline name before 1798. My gg-grandfather, JOSEPH HALTERLEIN, was born May 11, 1798, according to our family history as passed on from one generation to the next. His birthplace was never mentioned. He died in 1862 in Bavaria, and was buried there. MARY AMEND, his wife was probably born about 1800, although her date of birth and birthplace are unknown. She died in 1858. Not one word was ever mentioned regarding their parents or siblings.

According to the family account, the family of JOSEPH and MARY AMEND HELTERLEIN left Switzerland, perhaps on the run politically, some time around 1845, and settled in Bavaria at that time. During the period from 1846 to 1852, three sons, and their wives, immigrated to America, while the remaining three children remained in Bavaria. Later on, four grandsons also immigrated to America.

I have also found at least three other HALTERLEIN's / HELDERLEIN's who came to America, and one HALTERLEIN who came to Canada.

The first of these others who came to America was ANDRE HELDERLIN, who arrived at the Port of New York in December 1856.

The next HALTERLEIN to come to America [that I have found] was EDWARD HALTERLEIN, and his wife and

immediate relatives. They arrived at the Port of Baltimore in April 1886, and a short while later, moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where the family has since remained. Some of their descendants are scattered across the United States, from Pennsylvania to California.

In the United States Census of 1900 and 1910, I have found at least one or two HELDERLEIN's. The family name is soundexed exactly the same, whether it is spelled HALTERLEIN, HELDERLEIN, or HELTERLINE. One was MAX HELDERLEIN and his family, who were also located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He immigrated from Bavaria, and his wife immigrated from Switzerland. The descendants are also scattered from Pennsylvania to California. [I have not made contact with any of this HELDERLEIN family.]

FRANK HALTERLEIN came to Canada about 1952 from Rattelsdorf, Bavaria, not far from where my grandfather was born. By 1958, he was living in Vancouver, B.C.. He and his wife, Simone, currently live in the southeast sector of Vancouver.

MILITARY RECORDS FOUND

The following has appeared in several newsletters over the past few months:

The Veterans Administration has found about 10 million duplicates of 20th century military records thought to have been destroyed in the 1973 fire. So, if you have been told that the records you need have been burned, you may want to try again Write to:

National Personnel Records
GSA
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132

MEMBERS BOOKS / SOURCES

SAR RECORDS ON CD-ROM - Blanch Tate supplied an ad for the SAR War Graves Register - Cemetery locations of over 69,000 patriots, soldiers & their spouses (\$29.95 + \$5 S&H) and the Patriot Index - over 450,000 records of patriots and their descendants (\$39.95 + \$5 S&H). She has ordered the Patriot Index which should be received by 6/1/98.

MOUNTAINS OF GOLD, HILLS OF MOSS - A HISTORY OF MEAGHER COUNTY, 1994. This book is in the library of WMGS member Susan Doores.

(c) THE GOLDEN VALLEY: MISSOULA TO 1883
by H.G. Merriam, 1977.

Mountain Press Publishing Company
Excerpts from this poem printed with the permission of Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula,

Montana

BETTER DAYS

(Continued from February 1998 Newsletter)

Yessir, in '64 camels were brought into the golden valley used by the military, freighting on the Mullan Road. Camels were economical, packing heavier loads than horses or mules and eating what horses wouldn't. But they escaped bounds and were destructive of crops, being by nature unruly, and use of them was abandoned.

An express ran between Hell Gate and Walla Walla. In this same year Schockley built the last house in Hell Gate, a boardinghouse.

So life in the valley passed on from day to day, week to week, month to month and year to year. Early light to evening women housekeeping, serving three meals a day, men plowing, hoeing, buying and selling, drinking and gambling, fights, courts, planning and buying, looking for the ripe opportunity. Good days and bad days, sunshine and fog, warm days and nights and freezing days and nights, sometimes in summer cloudbursts, often in winter raging blizzards out of Hell Gate Canyon. Frontier life in the West in the mid-nineteenth century.

Then one day, in '64, the idea of progress popped up, (or was it supply of needs, or, simply, a glimpse of more money?) Worden saw the ripe opportunity. He thought: everybody needs flour, and in any community lumber is always in demand, wheat and oats are being grown in Grass Valley, in French Valley, up Grant Creek, and four miles up the Clark Fork are a creek and a river and lots of water. Higgins joined with him, later Pattee, and they formed The Missoula Mills Company, built a sawmill and a gristmill. Before long they moved their store from Hell Gate to be near the mills, called the new settlement Missoula Mills, and of course, the people of Hell Gate moved with them, the whole dozen of them, "Mills" was dropped from the name and the new settlement was called Missoula.

**Okay, so I don't descend from anyone... now what?*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – SPRING 1998

In the early 1900's when automobiles were new still fairly new to civilization and paved roads were few, there was a sign at the beginning of an old, badly rutted dirt road. The sign said, "Choose your ruts carefully. You will be in them for the next 20 miles." All societies have their ups, downs, and in between. There are three big ruts, or challenges, that continually pose a serious threat to genealogical societies, and they are definitely interrelated. The first is stagnation. Does your society seem to be going no where? It's the same old thing month after month—no new projects, ideas, or goals. Current projects are bogged down. Stagnation isn't too bad if it doesn't last very long. However, if it is allowed to continue, it is the death knell of a society. The second challenge is burn out. This occurs when there is only a handful of people who do all of the work. There seems to be a growing number of people who want to be members of a society, attend its monthly meetings and be instructed, but want to make no contribution of their own time and energy. I know that everyone is very busy with many demands on their time, but it is a simple fact that unless all contribute, the society will sooner or later not be there to instruct anyone or accomplish important projects. The handful of people who do all the work are to be commended, but they too are contributing to the problem. Delegate. Don't wait for others to volunteer. It is a certainty that you will become burned out at some point and will have a society of people who have become conditioned to be totally dependent on you—unable to function and take leadership roles when the workaholics burn out and quit. The third challenge is discouragement which can be caused by stagnation, burn out, or other problems.

In prescribing a treatment for the above ills, I would like to refer to an article from the FGS Delegate Digest, Winter 1997, by Susan Farrell Bankhead. She cites a scene from Alice in Wonderland in which Alice asks the Cheshire Cat, "Would you tell me please, which way I ought to walk from here?" The cat replied, "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to." Do you know where your society wants to go? Or does your society just wander down any path it finds?"

If your society is in a rut and struggling with stagnation, burn out, discouragement, or just general lack of direction, it is time to reassess your goals and decide where you want to go. Actually goal reassessment is a good thing to do even if your society is healthy. It's like a physical check up, and we know that physical exams are the key to prevention of serious health problems. Have a meeting in which you work to get a large turn out of members, and brain storm. Make a big list on a board of all the dreams you have for your society. What direction do you want to take? Where to you want to be ten years from now? You say that it's all you can do to plan for next year or next month? Then you are too short sighted and need vision. The death knell rings again. Allow yourselves to dream, and from all the dreams you come up with decide upon long range goals and prioritize them. Then take your top one or two goals and establish short range goals that will lead to the completion of those long range goals. Set completion dates and make assignments to make sure things get done. Write these things down for all to see. It is so important that everyone has a chance to participate and help decide the direction and future of their society. Many heads together are so much more productive than a few, and members who have helped set the society's goals will be more interested in achieving those goals. Follow up and discuss the progress of the short term goals in future meetings. Evaluate your progress and set new short term goals if needed. Circumstances may necessitate a change of goals or plans. Don't get discouraged if changes need to be made. It is a strong and vital society that can recognize where things aren't working and adapt. Whether your society is in a rut or not, meet and evaluate your direction and goals. Get a check up.

Last of all I will shout it out once again until I am hoarse. **WHAT WE DO IS SO VERY IMPORTANT!** We are not just a bunch of pesky hobbyists who tinker with things that don't matter to others. **WE ARE A VITAL CORNER STONE OF A HEALTHY, CIVILIZED SOCIETY.**

Pat Thompson

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. Also, if you are planning to attend the conference, and would like a souvenir shirt please fill out and mail in your order now! Order forms are in this newsletter.

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.

NEW MEMBERS: The WMGS has increased to 39 with the addition of new members:

Rebecca Drummond	617 Longvue Dr, Houston, PA 15342	
Bettijane Larson	900 Palmer St., Missoula, MT 59802	549-3610
Charles Page	819 Parkview Way, Missoula, MT 59803-2331	728-8189
Peggy Stellmach	1900 Brooks St. Suite 115, Missoula, MT 59801	728-9410
Leah Hansel	506 N. Corbin Rd., Greenacres, WA 99016	509-924-1025

WESTERN MONTANA GENEALOGICAL SOC.

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