

JAN 07 2006

MONTEANA MAGAZINE

# Western Montana Genealogical Society



Looking Backward, Looking Forward

JANUARY 2006

By Patricia Law Hatcher

This last *Ancestry Daily News* of 2005 is a perfect time to look backward and forward at our genealogical and family history efforts.

## Researching

Looking Backward. How many new ancestors did you find in 2005? It can be interesting to look back each year and think about whom you found--and how you found them. And how many former ancestors did you acquire in 2005? Yes, that's what I said, former ancestors. I remember a number of years ago an exchange of letters with a very highly respected genealogist in which we both admitted that we had reached a point in our research in which we

were, as he put it, "pruning branches off the family tree," as we realized that some connections simply didn't hold up to critical scrutiny.

Looking Forward. To get a good start on 2006, identify one line with good potential for discoveries that you can focus on. Also review your pedigree chart for the weakest link. From experience, I can tell you that this is usually something that you acquired early in your research, that came from a compiled family history without footnotes, or that came from the undocumented online compilations. Commit to digging in and doing "real research" to confirm or refute the connection.

(Continued on page 5)

## WMGS JANUARY MEETING

The WMGS will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 10th, at 7:00 PM in the Large Meeting Room of the Missoula Public Library.

The program will be on using *HeritageQuest Online*, which is available on the Internet at the Missoula Public Library or on your home computer if you have an Internet connection and a

Missoula Public Library Card with a barcode. HQ Online includes : Complete US Federal Census Records 1790-1930; over 25,000 Family and Local History Books; the PERSI Index of over 1.6 million genealogy and family history articles; selected records from Revolutionary War Era Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Papers.

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### Inside this issue:

In The Mail	2
Ancestry.com News	2
Family History Library – Fee Increases 1/15/06	3
Bits & Bytes—Castle Garden Web Site	3
New Officers Elected	3
2006 WMGS Membership List	4
Missoula Public Library—New Books	6
GLO Online (Again!)	6
Genealogical Codicil	7
Upcoming Conferences	8
Dues & Queries	8

Western Montana Genealogical Society Jan. 2006

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(Continued from page 1)

## Sharing Research

**Looking Backward.** Where are the results of your 2005 research? Did you compile the information into a family history to share with others or into reports to yourself to aid in future research? Or is it buried in piles of paper and scattered throughout files on your hard drive? (I'm sure Juliana is nodding at this last point.)

[ADN Editor's Note to Pat: Have you been looking in my windows?]

**Looking Forward.** Are you a big-project person or a little-steps person? If you are a big-project person, take time now to think about the one big project that you would like to complete in 2006 and write a goal statement and a timetable to post near your computer. If you are a little-steps person, make a list of twelve ancestral couples and commit to completing the research and writing a narrative for each family group, one per month. Another idea is to pair up with a friend or genealogy cousin and agree to send an e-mail on the last day of each month describing your research results during the month.

## Sharing the Past

**Looking Backward.** What have you done this year to share the family memorabilia that you have collected with others in your family?

**Looking Forward.** Consider creating a 2006 photo calendar with a picture of an ancestor or an item of memorabilia for each month. (It is especially nice if there is a related event in that month.) Most image-editing software has a text tool that will allow you to write the person's name and other information on top of the photograph or in an area added below the photograph.

## Sharing the Present

**Looking Backward.** Have you preserved the events of this past year in your life for your descendants and family members? I write an annual Christmas letter that does this. Well, that's not true. I have established a tradition of Epiphany letters, which often get written in the quiet

following the Christmas hoopla. (The greeting-card companies are missing a sure bet here. I'm certainly not the only procrastinator around, and there must be a huge market for Epiphany and Happy-End-of-Year cards.)

**Looking Forward.** If you aren't the kind of person to write letters, how about a chronology? Readers of this newsletter know that some of us are huge fans of chronologies as a research tool. This is a perfect time to create a personal chronology for 2005 and set one up for 2006. In addition to personal aspects such as vacations, moves, jobs, and (unfortunately for many of us) health problems, remember to include all events that meant something to you: births, marriages, deaths, and graduations of relatives and friends.

## Saying Thank You

**Looking Backward.** Did you thank those who aided in your research, not only those distant cousins who provided you with information on your common ancestry, but also those who made information available in print or electronically? Several patrons of the Genealogy Section at the Dallas library brought holiday goodies for the staff to say thank you, including scrumptious homemade Armenian paklava.

**Looking Forward.** You needn't bake. Now is the perfect time to write thank-you notes to the staff and volunteers at the archives, genealogical societies, historical societies, libraries, and elsewhere to thank them for everything they have done to help others with their genealogical research.

Thank you Juliana and crew for everything you do to make *Ancestry Daily News* the helpful tool that it is for family historians and genealogists.

Patricia Law Hatcher, FASG, is an instructor, and professional genealogist. Her oft-migrating ancestors lived in all of the original colonies prior to 1800 and in seventeen other states, presenting her with highly varied research problems and forcing her to acquire techniques and tools that help solve tough problems. She is the author of *Producing a Quality Family History*. Copyright 2005, MyFamily.com. All rights reserved.

## Missoula Public Library—New Books

**Planting Your Family Tree Online**, by Cyndi Howells, 929.1028 HOWELLS. This will show you how to create your own family website.

**Genograms**, by Emily Marlin, 155.924 MARLIN. "The genogram—a new way psychotherapists are mapping traits, behaviors, and preferences—opens up the hidden legacy of your family tree."

**How To Do Civil War Research**, by Richard A. Sauers, 973.7072 SAUERS. "This guide contains detailed information on using government records, locating and utilizing specialized libraries and collections, touring battlefield sites, contacting Civil War interest groups, and making the best use of published sources."

**Lines OF Succession, Heraldry of the Royal Families of Europe**, 929.7 MAGLAGA. This includes the genealogy of all of the royal families of Europe.

**Spanish Roots Of America**, by Bishop David Arias, 973.0461

**Everyone Has Roots**, by Anthony J. Camp, 929.1 CAMP

**Tracing Your Family History**, by Stella Colwell, 929.1072, COLWELL.

**Norwegians, Swedes And More: Norway To Minnesota**, by Loren H. Amundson, 929.2 AMUNDSO v.2

**First Families And Early Settlers Of Montana, Vol.2**, 929.3 FIRST v.2

**Genealogy Made Easy**, by Karen V. Sipe, 929.1072 SIPE

**Roots Of The Rich And Famous: Real Cases Of Unlinkely Lineage**, by Robert Davenport, 920.073 DAVENPO

**Scotland And Scottish Ancestry**, VID 914.1 SCOTLAN

**Wales And Your Welsh Ancestry**, VID 914.2 WALES

**Italians In America**, VID 973.0451 ITALIAN

**Meyers Orts- Und Verkehrs-Lexikon Des**

**Deutschen Reichs**, by Raymond S. Wright III, GenColl R 914.3003 MEYERS 3vols.

**American Families Of German Ancestry In The United States**, by Schlegel, GenColl R 929.2089 SCHLEGE

**Master Index Of Genealogy In The Daughters Of The American Revolution Magazine Volumes 1-84**, comp. By Elizabeth Benton Chapter, N.S.D.A.R., GenColl R 369.135 GENEALO

**Scots-Scandinavian Links In Europe And America, 1550-1850**, by David Dobson, 929.1072 DOBSON

## Note On The GLO Web Site

For the last few years the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records site has been an on-again-off-again thing—supposedly due to lawsuits to insure the privacy and security of Indian Affairs records. They now say this site is secure and it is up again at: <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>

*(Bits & Bytes Continued from page 3)*

matter how many records the search returns.

## Online North Dakota Death Indexes

<http://www.deathindexes.com/northdakota/>

- North Dakota Death Records Index 1900-present you can search in 10 year increments or less; early period (to about 1924) is incomplete
- Cass County...
  - Fargo Forum Obituaries Database (covers 1901-1904 & 1984-1995)
  - Fargo Forum Obituaries 1995-present (requires payment for full results)
  - Cass County Probate Records Index 1876-1944
- Grand Forks County Coroner Certificates Search 1882-1989
- Stutsman County Death Indexes 1893-1940s
- Red River Valley Genealogical Society Funeral Homes Indexes includes funeral homes in Cass County, Foster County, Griggs County, Richland County & Steele County
- Also... North Dakota Genealogy Databases at Ancestry (requires payment) for census, military & vital records, newspapers & city directories.

**GENEALOGICAL CODICIL**

**Genealogical Codicil to My Last Will and Testament**

To my spouse, children, guardian, administrator and/or executor:

Upon my demise it is requested that you DO NOT dispose of any or all of my genealogical records, both those prepared personally by me and those records prepared by others which may be in my possession, including but not limited to books, files, notebooks or computer programs for a period of two years. During this time period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of the said materials and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family histories. [If you know whom within your family or friends are likely candidates to accept these materials, please add the following at this point: "I suggest that the persons contacted regarding the assumption of the custody of these items include but not be limited to" and then list the names of those individuals at this point, with their addresses and telephone numbers if known]

In the event you do not find anyone to accept these materials, please contact the various genealogical organizations that I have been a member of and determine if they will accept some parts or all of my genealogical materials. [List of organizations, addresses and phone numbers at bottom; include local chapters, with their addresses, phone numbers and contact persons if available as well as state/national contact information and addresses]

Please remember that my genealogical endeavors consumed a great deal of time, travel, and money. Therefore it is my desire that the products of these endeavors be allowed to continue in a manner that will make them available to others in the future.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

This is an exact duplicate of the codicil that appeared in the Faded Genes Vol.22 No. 4. It can be found on many sites on the Internet, and there is a nice copy available in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format at : [www.wnfrhc.org/codicil.pdf](http://www.wnfrhc.org/codicil.pdf)



P.O. Box 2714  
Missoula, MT 59806-2714



MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
301 EAST MAIN ST.  
MISSOULA, MT 59802

## Dues & Queries

Dues are \$11 a year for individuals and \$13 for families, which includes a Newsletter (Sep, Nov, Jan, Apr, & May) and membership in the Montana State Genealogical Society. Queries are published free for members, \$2 for non-members.

**DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE FOR THE 2005-2006 YEAR.**

## Upcoming Conferences

**September 22-23, 2006**  
**2006 Montana State Genealogical Society Conference** will be held in Gardiner, Montana at the Comfort Inn. The theme is "Wander the Wonderland" and it will include a tour of the NPS Heritage and Research Center with a talk on what is included in the collection by Senior Archivist Lee Whitsley.

### **SUBMISSIONS:**

We would appreciate any submissions of articles on genealogy for the Newsletter including *How You Solved It*, local pedigrees, book reviews of local history/genealogy books, and any genealogy news items.