

# Western Montana Genealogical Society



## INTO THE NEW YEAR

JANUARY 2007

2007 IS HERE! If you actively worked on your genealogy last year, you, like me, may have notes, photocopies and books waiting to be sorted and files, and new material waiting to be entered into your database and documented. Oh, how I wish I had one of those 'Easy Buttons' from the Staples commercials on TV that would instantly organize all my files and clear the clutter in my office. Since that's only in my dreams, my first job, after I finish this newsletter, is to head to the local office supply store to browse for new organizational items and stock up on office supplies for the new year. The new yellow

highlighters from *Post-It* are especially nice because they come with a supply of little red page marking tabs neatly tucked away in the barrel of the highlighter—handy for marking pages to photocopy or magazine articles to read later.

If you haven't actively pursued your genealogy in the last year, you may be surprised by the vast amount of information that is constantly being introduced in online digital databases. You should resolve to take advantage of the Ancestry.com subscription available for free at all Family History Centers, and the

(Continued on page 4)

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## WMGS JANUARY MEETING—TUESDAY, JAN 9th 2007

The January meeting of the Western Montana Genealogical Society will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the small downstairs meeting room at the Missoula Public Library. The program will be:

**"Showing Your Family Treasures" by Art Attic Framing and Design**

Do you have family memorabilia or small antiques stored away? The Art Attic creates customized display cases to preserve and show those items. They will show several examples of their cases and talk about their design process and the history of shadow boxes. Come see these beautiful creations! The program is open to all, so bring a friend.

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## In The Mail

**BEAVER HEAD HUNTERS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**, 15 S. Montana Ave., Dillon,

MT 59725, [www.rootsweb.com/~mtbeaver](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mtbeaver), December 2006. Headhunter Membership List 2006, Publications of the Beaver Head Hunters. On Dec. 8th, the Head Hunters visited with **Richard Sims**, the new director of the **Montana Historical Society** in Helena. They reported that "a new Montana Historical Society building is in the planning stages and Mr. Sims is seeking input from all areas of Montana on their perception of the needs and interests of the people. There are four categories that the MHS is involved in: Planning, Research, Publication, and Preservation. Many good ideas were voiced and some included - could the MHS have a roster of names and e-mail addresses so we can contact a specific person for information in their own area of expertise, deciding what would make the MHS building more representative of the State of Montana, what localities are being discussed for the building, and ways of contacting the public when money is being requested so we can notify our legislators. Mr. Sims will be the lobbyist for the MHS and was encouraged to work closely with other departments of the government, like the Forest Service and Federal Agencies for financial assistance and technical support."

**FAMILY CHRONICLE**, [www.familychronicle.com](http://www.familychronicle.com)

**December 2006.** This issue includes "Finding a Wandering Relative," "The Interviewer's Digital Toolbox," "The Red Cross' ITS Records," "Dating Undated Old Photographs," "Locating Censuses Online," "Seeing Dead People: Burial Customs and Traditions," "Looking Beyond Birth, Marriage and Death Records" (in parish records), "Enhance Your Research With City Directories," and "Foto Tagger: Preserving the Past Note By Note" - a look at the latest 'must have' tools for genealogists. "Publishing A Family History: Print-On-Demand" includes a list of companies which will electronically publish your books on de-

mand, advertise it on their site, and on Amazon.com as well,

**February 2007.** This issue presents Examples of how DNA Testing Unraveled Family Mysteries, and info on Uncovering the Truth Behind Family Legends, WWII Draft Card Research, Williamsburg: The Story of Colonial America, and Researching Surnames.

**GENEALOGICAL HELPER**, November/ December 2006. Feature articles in this issue include "How To Produce Family Newsletters", "National and Statewide Name Lists of the Civil War Era—Part 2", "Is the Soundex Obsolete?", and "Census Lessons From the Rich and Famous." In the 'Beginner's Corner', Donna Potter Phillips offers "Revolutionary War Era Lineage Societies". They are also introducing 'Germanic Genealogy' as a regular feature in the Helper. Author, Horst Reschke, promises "many interesting, entertaining, educational, and useful, if not world-shaking or mind-boggling German columns" and states that "doors that had been closed for many years are opening."

**INTERNET GENEALOGY**, [www.internet-genealogy.com](http://www.internet-genealogy.com), January 2007. See "A new Dawn for Online Databases" for a look at several new and upcoming major online databases. "So That's Where That Was!" for info on using the US Government's Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). This issue also includes an excerpt from Michael Otterson's book, *Finding Your Family On the Internet*, and info on Austro-Hungarian online research, Jewish Genealogy, and finding land patents online.

**TREASURE STATE LINES**, Great Falls Genealogy Society, High Plains Heritage Center. 422 2<sup>nd</sup> St. South, Great Falls, MT 59405-1816; October 2006. This issue contains "Roll of Citizens of Cascade County Subject to Military Duty—1896, Surname P—R" and "Campaigning in the Philippines, 1st Montana Infantry, Company K—2nd Battalion" roster and biographical sketches of Thomas Dillon, George E. Kumpe, and Arthur W. Stoddard.



## FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

## Bits &amp; Bytes

**COMPUTER RESERVATIONS (1 hour session)**

Call 543-6148

**FHL HOURS**

Mon. CLOSED

Tue. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM &amp; 7:00 - 9:30 PM

Wed. CLOSED

Thurs. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM &amp; 7:00 - 9:30 PM

Sat. 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**PAF Companion Basic v5.2.1 (English Only)****Free Color Chart Printing**

Print your family tree in colorful ancestor and descendant charts. It's free, easy, and fully compatible with PAF. The basic version prints up to three generations.

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To upgrade to the full version, simply download the free basic version (above) and follow the unlock instructions provided in the program. (You need to call Salt Lake City, pay and get a pin number to unlock the full program.)

**DeathIndexes.com**

This website is a directory of online death indexes listed by state and county (some are pay.) Included are death records, death certificate indexes, death notices & registers, obituaries, probate indexes, and cemetery & burial records. Also included is information about searching the Social Security Death Index online. <http://www.deathindexes.com/>

**Social Security Death Index Search at WorldVitalRecords.com**

There are many sites now available where you can search the Social Security Death Index for free, but the search results provided for free at [www.worldvitalrecords.com](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com) have a number of unique features. When you find an individual and click on the name you will see results that include links to historical events on the birth and death dates, a list of nearby cemeteries, and a Microsoft Virtual Earth Map showing the location of the cemeteries with a little tombstone and location of the residence at time of death by a pushpin. The 'Neighbors' feature shows people in the same zip code who died within a year of the search person—not sure of the usefulness of that feature, but the others are very nice, especially the cemeteries.

Here is the results for a search for Gladys VanCamp in Michigan:

**Name:** Gladys A Vancamp**Birth Date:** 30 March 1903 (Historical Events)**Death Date:** 26 April 1997 (Historical Events)**Issuing State:** MICHIGAN**Residence at Death:** Crescent City, Iroquois, Illinois 60928**SSN:** 367-14-8559

See Neighbors

**Nearby Cemeteries:**

Saint John's Ash Grove Cemetery, Iroquois, Illinois

<http://www.worldvitalrecords.com/indexinfo.aspx?ix=ssdiall> for SSDI directly.



## ANCESTRY.COM NEWS

**Digitized Images of the 1850-1880 Mortality Schedules**— access through SEARCH, US CENSUS RECORDS, scroll down the list to US Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1880.

### **Description: (From Ancestry.com )**

This database is an index to the Mortality Schedules of the United States Federal Censuses for 1850-1880. Each of the U.S. Federal Censuses from 1850-1880 included a mortality schedule enumerating the individuals who had died in the year previous to the census year. In addition, each individual is linked to the census image on which they appear.

### **1930 Census of Merchant Seamen**

#### **About 1930 Census of Merchant Seamen (From Ancestry.com)**

The 1930 Census began on 1 April 1930, except in Alaska where it began on 1 October 1929 because of harsh weather conditions expected in April. For the first time in 1930 the U. S. Census Bureau enumerated merchant seamen serving on U.S. flag merchant vessels on a special Merchant Seamen schedule. Seamen who were to be enumerated on this special schedule were all persons aboard ship, except officers who had regular or fixed places of abode ashore. Information for these officers with fixed places of abode was to be obtained at their homes. Seamen and other persons claiming to be married or those who gave the names of their next of kin on the crew lists were to be included in the enumeration of the vessels on which they were employed or had secured employment on 1 April 1930, even though they may have maintained fixed places of abode on shore in the intervals between employment on different vessels.

Information found at the top of the Merchant Seamen schedules includes:

- Name and address of owner or operator of vessel

- Name of vessel
- Date of enumeration
- Name of enumerator, usually his signature and/or typewritten name
- The home port of the vessel (If the vessel did not have a regular home port then the name of the port in which the vessel was anchored on the census day or from which it sailed last prior to 1 April 1930 was to be listed)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Heritage Quest Online databases (census, books, Revolutionary War and Bounty Land Records, PERSI Index, Freedmans Bank Records), available free from the Missoula Public Library - in your own home if you have an Internet connection and a library card, or at the Missoula Public Library computer bank which is being greatly expanded. This expansion, located off the downstairs lobby, should be finished soon and will offer a greater number of computers with an expanded time limit of one hour. Also, remember that NewspaperArchive.com is located on the library's catalogue computers upstairs. There is seldom a wait to use these computers.

If you can get to the library on Tuesday afternoons, do check in with the group indexing the *Missoulian* in the Montana Room upstairs. It would be great to get totally up to date with this project in 2007!

So, plan to get organized and explore new research venues in the new year.

Hope to see you all at the library next week for a great presentation by the Art Attic.

Happy New Year and Happy Ancestor Hunting.



## WESTERN MONTANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2007 MEMBERSHIP LIST

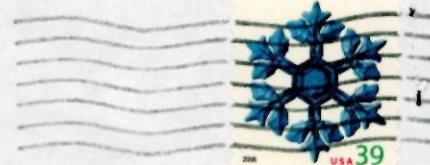
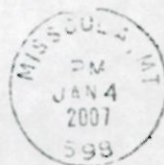
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## Dues & Queries

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.

## 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.

## Upcoming Conferences

**Oct. 5-6, 2007** Montana State Genealogy Conference, Billings, MT. The keynote speaker will be Sandra Luebking from Illinois.



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