



Western Montana Genealogical Society

NEXT MEETING - Tuesday, November 10, 2009

November 2009

Missoula Public Library, large meeting room, 7:00 pm.

Program: Our speaker, Nancy Luger, is a physical anthropologist with a Masters Degree in Forensic Anthropology. Currently she is pursuing acceptance in a PhD program at MSU in American Studies concentrating on "Death and Subsistence Patterns of the Early American Northwest Frontiers". The program presented November 10th will cover the forensic case involving two skeletons whose identities remained a mystery for 35 years and were then reex-

amined using bioarchaeological analysis. Methods for estimating sex, age at death, ancestry, stature, and pathology/trauma methods were applied in an effort to glean more information about the remains. A facial reconstruction will be presented with a step-by-step illustration to reveal the potential appearance of one of the individuals. Historical research into the recovery site, the circumstances of their disinterment, and temporal evidence were used to contextualize in the tale of two men twice disturbed. These two

WMGS Officers 2009-2010

President
Nancy Shrader 543-2886
najash@msn.com

Vice-President
Brenda Miller 239-1223
indigoink@rocketmail.com

Treasurer
Susan Doores 543-6812
sgd@montana.com

Secretary
Theresa Woomer 549-4613
theresiew5@aol.com

Newsletter Editor
Judith Field 728-1628
jalf@marsweb.com 550-3677

Librarian MPL
Paulette K. Parpart 258-3858
parpart@missoula.lib.mt.us

Genealogical Proof Standard by Christine Rose

An article on FamilySearch Research Wiki states that:

"The purpose of the Genealogical Proof Standard is to show a minimum genealogists must do for their work to be credible. There are five elements to the Genealogical Proof Standard:

1. A reasonably exhaustive search has been conducted.
2. Each statement of fact has a complete and accurate

source citation.

3. The evidence is reliable, and has been skillfully correlated and interpreted.
4. Any contradictory evidence has been resolved.
5. The conclusion has been soundly reasoned.

Any proof statement is subject to re-evaluation when new evidence arises. "

Christine Rose's book *Genea-*

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In The Mail



BIG SKY ROUNDUP, Montana State Genealogical Society, % Terry Atwood, P.O. Box 5313, Helena, MT 59602; www.rootsweb.com/~mtmsgs, **October 2009**. The MSGS bylaws were recently changed to create a MSGS Liaison within each local society in the hope of opening channels of awareness between the local and state levels. By communicating activities, concerns, updates, etc. of the local group to MSGS.

FAMILY CHRONICLE, Sept/Oct 2009.

"Keeping Up With the Smiths" gives tips on tracing ancestors with common names, and "uncovering the Crooked Branch of a NY Family Tree" shows how to find New York criminal records. "A Quick Guide to European Village Histories" may help you locate a European ancestor's place of birth.

FAMILY CHRONICLE, Nov/Dec 2009. In "Judging History: The Truth is Out There" Donna Potter Phillips helps us answer three important questions: "How do I know that what I'm reading is correct? How do I know that this history is right? Is there a standard by which I can judge?" Also see "The Tax Man Cometh" and "Sweet Little Lies: Did Your Ancestor Fib About Their Age?"

INTERNET GENEALOGY, Oct/Nov 2009. Articles on Indian Census Records and Name Rolls, How to Find 'Hiding' Ancestors, and Using the US Census to track migration patterns in a community.

NGS QUARTERLY, September 2009. Several articles are presented in which the authors cannot reach a 'certain' conclusion, yet as the editors state in the Editor's Corner "The Peril of Certainty", "Neither generalizing beyond their evidence nor expressing undue confidence in their results, these authors present conclusions meeting genealogy's high standards for proof." These are good examples of applying the Genealogy Proof Standard.

Bits & Bytes



French Lines Archives allows web access to the lists of passengers for **the crossings having taken place from 1864 to 1936**, on the transatlantic lines of Compagnie Générale Transatlantique. You can search individual lists, by surname (patronym), or view the entire alphabetical list of surnames.

http://www.frenchlines.com/passenger_index_en.php

The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding *The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding*® ("TNG") is a powerful way to manage and display your genealogy data on the Internet, all without generating a single page of HTML. You can generate PDF reports, albums, incorporate various media types, and it includes a Google map feature to pinpoint locations. I have seen this on a number of sites lately and really like it. I intend to purchase it (\$29.99) to upgrade my web page. You can see a demo on the site. <http://lythgoes.net/genealogy/software.php>

Obituarieshelp.org An website designed to offer resources for obituaries, funerals and genealogy search. Articles on how to word obituaries and express sympathy. <http://www.bituarieshelp.org/>

Papers of the War Department 1784-1800 Fire destroyed the office of the War Department and all its files in 1800, and for decades historians believed that the collection, and the window it provided into the workings of the early federal government, was lost forever. Thanks to a decade-long effort to retrieve copies of the files scattered in archives across the country, the collection has been reconstituted and is offered here as a fully-searchable digital database. A search for Revolutionary War ancestors may turn up interesting items.

<http://wardepartmentpapers.org/>

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FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

The Missoula Family History Library, 3201 Bancroft St., Missoula, has resumed its Tuesdays / Thursday / Saturday schedule and is open all hours listed below.

COMPUTER RESERVATIONS

(1 hour session) Call 543-6148

FHL HOURS

Mon. CLOSED

Tue. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM & 6:30-8:30 PM

Wed. CLOSED

Thurs. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM & 6:30—8:30 PM

Sat. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Family History Center Services Portal Updates from the September Newsletter:

Footnote.com—announced this week that it will be adding the entire US Census Collection to its site. Currently they have the 1860 and 1930 census every name indexes and images. New census records will be added as states are completed and will be interactive in that you will be able to add comments, corrections and even pictures to the census records. Visit <http://www.footnote.com/census/> to see how the census on Footnote.com can truly be an interactive experience. You can also sign up to be notified via e-mail when new census records are added to the site.

Footnote.com also has one of the best collections of City Directories on the web. Featuring over 2 million pages, the City Directories Collection on Footnote.com has records dating back to 1785.

Historic Map Works Library Edition—they have some good land ownership atlases here. Map times range from about 1870's to nearly present day. There are also some Directories here.

These services can be accessed for free on the Family History Center computers.

(Continued from page 1) "Using & Correcting..."

logical Proof Standard, Building a Solid Case (CR Publications, 2005, 2nd edition) is available at the Missoula Public Library. In this book she shows us that even if we cannot resolve many of our questions beyond a reasonable doubt, "adherence to the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) will assure that we have subjected our conclusions to sufficient rigidity and objectivity to present a solid case." She also discusses **three classes of evidence now used**:

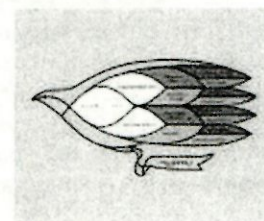
- Direct or Indirect evidence
- Original or Derivative source
- Primary or Secondary information

This differs from the pre-1997 standard which only used the first and third classes of information listed above. The addition of the second class of records helps to differentiate sources that are **comprised of the originals** and those that are **derived from the originals** (i.e. Internet copies of originals) and are more likely to contain errors. Chapter 3. *Evaluating Records*, shows how to evaluate various types of records (Census, Tombstone, Military, Death, Marriage, Birth, Internet, and Compiled Family Histories) using the

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My Tree & Me—Modern Genealogy designs and customizes modern genealogy charts. You choose design & colors. They run from about \$45 to \$95 and might make nice Christmas presents.

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



Why did you start doing genealogy and how many years have you been doing it?

(Replies to questionnaire sent 1st summer)

- Started in the 1980s when I discovered there was Doores history in Montana and I still have not proven their link to "my" Doores line. Also in honor of my Dad
- After my cousin, Donna, died in 1975, there was nobody doing our family history. So in 1978, I picked up essentially where she left off. That was thirty years ago, and I'm still doing it. With information from Leo and Emily Gustin Helterline's Ancestry published in 1964, and many other sources, I brought it up as far as I could. But at that time, nobody had done anything on my mother's (Green) ancestry. More about that later.
- I got interested in Genealogy about 3 years ago when Ancestry.com offered free access to civil war and other military records for Memorial Day. I heard about it on NPR and had a GGgrandfather who lost an arm, shot off by a cannonball at the second battle of Bull Run. I've always wanted to learn more about him, so I got 3 free days of ancestry.com and was hooked. I did not learn much about that GGgrandfather, but learned a whole lot about my father's father. My father's father died when my Dad was 2 yrs and his mother remarried a man that did not allow anyone to talk of the 1st husband. There were other relatives on ancestry that knew quite a bit about this lost family, so that was very fun to find out all this new info.
- I have always been interested in family history, I have been actively doing it for 1.5 years, and since I have all the family photos and memorabilia I feel I need to restore some order to it so what knowledge we do have doesn't get lost. And, in my own mind, I kept thinkin "who were all those Irish ancestors"?
- Received a letter from a man in Baltimore with the same surname asking for information about the family lineage. That's when the bug bit me. I started in earnest in 1999.
- Maybe 15 years
- Want to know who my ancestors were and all I can learn about them. About 15 years.
- I started doing genealogy about 5 years ago. My mother and grandmother died close together and I felt like I never really knew either of them, so I wanted to get to know them and part of getting to know them involved getting to know their parents and grandparents...and it just bloomed from there.
- My father's cousin got me interested. After I got copies of much of her research, I started my own about 35 yrs ago.
- I started in 1976 - 40 plus years. I have always been interested in Family History and just moved over into genealogy.
- My grandmother had me help her do a couple small books with info she had collected - 35 yrs ago
- 12 years. To find out who my family was.
- I inherited a large box of ancestor photos with very few
- names. I got involved in genealogy in order to identify the folks in
- the pictures. I began by scanning in the photos and sending them to
- lots of first and second cousins (referred to me by other cousins . . .
- and there are dozens of cousins in my family). Those I sent the
- packets to helped me identify the individuals, and sent stories and
- some additional photos. That led to trying to find more and more
- cousins with photos/stories. To do all of this required some knowledge
- of my family tree. I've been working on this for 6 years.
- Probably about 30 or 35 years ago.
- About 36 years ago
- A friend and I were in the University bookstore and she showed me a book she was hoping to buy. It had old home woven coverlets in it, and one I pointed to and said, "I have one just like that in a box in the garage." She was very excited and wanted to see it right away. We took it out of the box and found a note attached to it telling who had made it. I had always known I wanted to dig into family history, and this was the impetus. My friend wanted to know all about this great-grandmother of mine, so the research began.
- We started genealogy trying to find my husband's fathers sisters after his father died... At least 40 years!
- An interest in history and family as well as tracking a medical problem that has been in the family for a long time.
- I was interested in the history of my family. I did it steady for 6 or 7 years and have not worked on it much lately.

New on Ancestry.com

The following announcement was written by Ancestry.ca: 22 Sept 2009

18 million parish records from over 1,000 London parishes now online – Ancestry.ca

September 22, 2009 -- Ancestry.ca, Canada's leading family history website, today launched online for the first time the definitive collection of more than 18 million London parish records, which spans London's history for almost half a millennium.

This collection will be of huge significance to the estimated 14.6 million Canadians[i] who have been able to trace ancestors back to the City of London.

The records detail baptisms, marriages and burials from more than 1,000 London parishes between 1538 and 1980 and reveal the names and stories of those who lived through major events in the city's history -- including the Great Plague and the Great Fire of London

Hire an Expert

"Introducing Ancestry.com Expert Connect. This innovative online tool will link you to hundreds of experienced genealogists who can assist you with your research goals. Hire a researcher for a simple task like snapping a photo of an ancestor's grave, or recruit a professional to tackle a complex project like completing an entire section of your family tree." You can watch a webinar presentation on Expert Connect, or click Archives Available to see a list by US State and Foreign Country of places where an expert are available to search. [For simple tasks like a

Mark your Calendar for the 2010 NGS Family History Conference "Follow Your Ancestral Trail"

This conference will be held 28 April—1 May 2010, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Whether your family helped settle the nation, migrated across the country, stayed in the same place, or recently arrived in America, this conference has much to offer. A few examples of the Family History Conference's diverse program offerings include the *International Workshops* which will focus on researching the cultural records of other countries through lectures, research, and problem solving; the *Evening Celebration of Family History*, which will incorporate a multimedia tribute to family history, a special guest speaker, and a mini-concert by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; and *Ask An Expert*, where the Utah Genealogical Association will sponsor twenty minute family history consultations to registered attendees. Registration for the 2010 NGS Family History Conference to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, is now open. View the online conference program at <http://members.ngsgenealogy.org/Conferences/2010Program.cfm> or download a PDF version. For more information visit <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/>

photo of a tombstone or getting an obituary always check Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGC.com) for listing of people willing to do these simple lookups for free, except for actual expenses.]

**WESTERN MONTANA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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



We're On The Web
www.rootsweb.
com/~mtwmgs



Missoula Public Library
301 East Main St.
Missoula MT 59802

Dues & Queries

DUES FOR THE NEW YEAR ARE NOW DUE. Mailing label '09' after your name indicates this years' dues are now due. A '10' indicates dues are paid. Please update e-mail & other info. Thanks.

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.

Dues Notice

This will be your final newsletter by mail or e-mail if your dues for the new year are not paid by January 1st. Please check your mailing label. If there is not a '10' after your name you have not renewed your membership. If you are receiving the newsletter by e-mail only, check your e-mail for renewal status.