

Western Montana Genealogical Society

Meeting Tuesday May 13, 2014
Family History Center
m.

May 2014

Meeting Program:

- Election of Officers
- Decision on Hosting a State Conference
- Tour of the LDS FHC

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FIELD TRIP!

Peggy Walker has arranged for us to tour the Family History Center at the LDS church. The address is 3201 Bancroft—this is between Sentinel High School and 39th street. Access the library from the parking lot on the south side of the church. The volunteers have arranged for us to have space to hold a short business meeting. Then we will learn about the resources and assistance that are available from the volunteers at the center. The FHCs have access to a variety of subscription websites. They have a hard-copy collection of books in the library. The volunteers can also explain the process for ordering microfilm from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, for records that are not available on line.

Before the tour, we will hold a short business meeting (at the Family History Center) in order to conduct our annual election of officers. We also need to decide whether to host the annual state conference, probably either in 2015 or 2016.

WMGS Business

Dues are \$11 a year for individuals and \$13 for families, which includes a Newsletter (Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, & May) and membership in the Montana State Genealogical Society. Membership runs from September through August of the next year. DUES MUST BE PAID BY THE NOVEMBER MEETING TO MAINTAIN YOUR MEMBERSHIP. Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the months of September, November, January, March, & May at 7:00 pm in the large downstairs meeting room of the Missoula Public Library unless otherwise noted in the newsletter.

If you have anything you would like covered in the newsletter, or have submissions, please e-mail the information to WMGS@outlook.com

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WMGS Newsletter
May 2014

WMGS Free Beginning Genealogy Class

The last genealogy class was held as scheduled in February. Afterwards, approximately 20 people signed up to take advantage of the offer of individual coaching to help them research their own families. We met, in one-on-one sessions, at the computer classroom at the library. As might be expected, the degrees of success varied with each researcher. I found this process rewarding, as I learned about researching for people with ethnicities and origins different from my own. For example, one person was searching for a man (probably Kootenai-Salish) who helped guide David Thompson through this area almost 200 years ago. As might be expected, there were not a lot of records on Ancestry or at Family Search. This man was referred to the genealogy/history room at the library, with suggestions that he seek out tribal historians, and perhaps records from the early Catholic missions. Another woman was searching for ancestors from England who went to Puerto Rico. From her, I learned the Hispanic naming convention of adding the mother's last name to that of the children. I also learned to remember to interpret records in the language in which they were recorded. For example, when looking at a census from Puerto Rico, if the race or ethnicity is "B" that stands for blanco (white) and not black. Some new researchers were able to go back a few generations. A couple only found out where records do NOT yet exist on line for them. I say "not yet" because new records become available regularly.

2014 State Conference in Helena

The 2014 Montana State Genealogy Society convention will be held September 25, 26, and 27 at the Colonial Red Lion in Helena. This will be the 25th anniversary of the state society. One featured speaker will be Curt B. Wilcher, senior manager for special collections at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Wilcher is a former president of both the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society, and the founding president of the Indiana Genealogical Society. The ACP, Genealogy Center has one of the largest research collections available with records from around the world. The staff specializes in genealogy, and even offers personal consultations for their library guests. Wilcher's topics:

- Historical Research Methodology—Engaging the Process to find all the Answers
 - Using Military Records for Genealogical Research
 - Mining the Mother Lode—Using Periodical Literature and PERSI for Genealogical Research
 - Fingerprinting our Families—Using Ancestral Origins as a Genealogical Research Key
- A second speaker has been added. David E. Rencher is the Chief Genealogical Officer for Family Search, and works at the Family History Department in Salt Lake. He has been a professional genealogist since 1977, specializing in Irish research. Rencher's topics:
- Irish Jurisdictions and Reference Works
 - Digital Projects and Programs of FamilySearch
 - Mining the Destination Data
 - Methodology for Irish Immigration and Emigration.

Full registration is \$69 and includes 3 meals. Friday only with no meals is \$40, Saturday only with no meals is \$35. Pam Attardo, Lewis & Clark County Heritage Preservation Officer will present the banquet talk on Helena's Origins.

Records Acquisition

Tricia Thompson, projects manager of the Gallatin County Genealogical Society, contacted WMGS to say that their society had recently received many old records. Among the records was a document titled "Records of the Parish of the Church of The Holy Spirit" from Missoula. Tricia offered the records to us, and mailed them to WMGS.

This document is a typed nine page list of about 250 baptisms (most with birth dates included), about 130 marriages many with groom and bride ages), and about 120 burials (most with ages), from 1877 to 1900. The document does not say who made the records extraction, or when. Our copy looks like a new photocopy of the original index. The typing appears to have been on a manual typewriter, as the capital letters are occasionally not lined up correctly. There are some type-overs, making some of the dates questionable, but I was able to find alternative records which helped clarify these type-over errors.

People using these records will recognize old Missoula family names—if not related to them, then by seeing the names on street signs or other geographical references: Woodman, Woody, Hammond, Greenough, Latimer, McLeod, Gilbert, Kemp, Beckwith, Higgins, etc.

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church has the originals for this index. I have entered the records on a spread sheet for ease in sorting by date and names, and will offer a copy to the Missoula Public Library. Until the records are proofread and forwarded to the library, if anyone wants a copy or wants me to look up a name, let me know.

Top 10 Indicators That You've Become a Gene-aholic:

10. You introduce your daughter as your descendant.
9. You've never met any of the people you send e-mail to, even though you're related.
8. You can recite your lineage back eight generations, but can't remember your nephew's name.
7. You have more photographs of dead people than living ones.
6. You've taken a tape recorder and/or notebook to a family reunion.
5. You've not only read the latest GEDCOM standard, but you also understand it.
4. The local genealogy society borrows books from you.
3. The only film you've seen in the last year was a census index.
2. More than 1/2 of your book collection is made up of marriage records or pedigrees.
1. Your elusive ancestor has been spotted in more different places than Elvis!

Other words of genealogy wisdom:

- Genealogy without documentation is mythology.
- Only a genealogist regards a step backwards as progress!
- There is no king who has not had a slave among their ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among his—Helen Keller.