

Western Montana Genealogical Society

Next Meeting Tuesday 13 January
Missoula Public Library
7 p.m. Meeting Room

Meeting Program:

- Minutes and Treasurer's report

Program: Your Favorite Websites

It has been suggested that we have a program involving more membership participation. I would like all members to come prepared to talk for about five minutes describing a couple of their favorite genealogy research websites. It doesn't have to be where you spend the most time, just a spot where you've had good luck finding your family. I will ask the library to have the meeting room projector on line, so you can give a quick demonstration. If you have your favorites as a "favorite" with a short cut on your computer, remember to bring the URL, and your password if required. (You won't have to share it with us, but might need it to log in.) Have more than one option, in case someone else goes before you, and uses your idea.

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

Jan 2015

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WMGS Newsletter
Jan 2015

WMGS Activities

No classes are currently scheduled. We have had no recent requests for research assistance. Blanche Tate reported by e-mail that indexing is done through 1948.

Roots Tech 2015

RootsTech, hosted by FamilySearch, is the largest global family history event in the world! The fifth annual conference—celebrating families across generations—is the perfect place to discover and share your family's stories and connections through technology. At RootsTech, there is something for you, regardless of your experience in family history or your skill in technology.

This annual 3-day event offers you more than 200 classes, ranging from using social media as a family history resource to the most recent discoveries in DNA research; an expo hall of hundreds of exhibitors and sponsors, including interactive booths to assist in your family history journey; general sessions with well-known and inspiring speakers; and entertaining events at the end of each day.

RootsTech 2015 will be held on February 12-14, 2015, in partnership with the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), offering two great conferences in one location at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. Upgrade your RootsTech three-day pass to include the full four-day FGS program (Wed. through Sat.) for a small additional fee.

If you'd like to learn more about this conference, check it out at <http://rootstech.org/>

Our Visit to Garden City Funeral Home

In spite of the unpleasant weather, we had a reasonable turnout at the meeting at Garden City. Wayne Benson gave a very nice presentation on funeral home records in general. Funerals became a business, rather than a family function, much as a result of the deaths during the civil war. As with most records, the quantity and quality of the information in these records will vary with the era, the area, and of course the person collecting the evidence. Records might include obituaries, or at least the names of relatives.

Specific to Missoula, as the original and older funeral homes closed or merged, the records were collected by the business that eventually became Garden City. They now hold all, or almost all, records from funeral homes that have operated in Missoula. When Garden City rebuilt their new building, the plans included a room specifically meant for the protection and storage of the old books.

Wayne displayed sample ledgers from various eras, and gave us tips for getting useful information from funeral homes in general, and in Missoula in particular.

Surname and Location Research List

WMGS requested in the last newsletter that people share their surnames and locations of interest, so that the updated list could be published with this newsletter. There were no responses to the request, so we have no updated list to publish.

WMGS requested in the last newsletter that people share their areas of expertise, in order to help other members. There were no responses to this request, so we have no "I can help" list to publish.

Advice for Genealogists—Collected by Mary Harrell-Sesniak

Genealogy is like a magic mirror. Look into it, and pretty soon, interesting faces appear.

The kind of ancestors you have is not as important as the kindness of their descendants.

If you are the last living link between your grandparents and your grandchildren—don't break the chain.

If you don't want your descendants to put a twisted spin on your life story, write it yourself!

If you're the family photographer (and not showing up in photos), your family historian descendants will become upset with you.

To get your family tree done the fastest, run for political office. Your opponents will have it completed way before the election, and then you can resign if you really didn't wish to run in the first place.

Don't take life seriously. Every genealogist knows nobody gets out alive.

If at first you don't succeed, search, search again. That is why we call it re-search.

Genealogy Roadshow

From the Ancestry January Update—

Everyday Lives + Family Stories = Great TV

Every family has a story—sometimes they just need a little help to find it.

Ancestry is happy to be sponsoring the second season of Genealogy Roadshow on PBS starting Tuesday, January 13, at 8 p.m. ET. Part detective story, part emotional journey, Genealogy Roadshow pairs up professional genealogists with everyday Americans to see what research, science, and genealogical know-how can uncover about their family's place in history.

This season, the show's on the road in New Orleans, St. Louis, and Philadelphia, but the stories are as far flung and diverse as America itself. So mark your calendars and get ready to curl up with a good mystery on a winter evening.

<http://www.pbs.org/genealogy-roadshow/about/> is the link to the Roadshow link. Click on the Season One tab, and you can watch older episodes.