

MONTANA MAGAZINE



Western Montana Genealogical Society

Next Meeting Tuesday 10 March 2015
Missoula Public Library
p.m. Meeting Room

Meeting Program:
Minutes and Treasurer's report
Nomination for officers

Program:
Brick Wall Discussions

March 2015

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Susan Hintz

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Contact us at

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March's meeting will be our annual "Brick Wall" session. Please plan to present your problem or query as you would a written query on line. Tell us what you are looking for—name, place, date, event. Tell us what resources you have already checked. Bring related information such as a family group sheet or census record, as those might help us help you.

Often at this meeting, members bring laptops and go on line using the library wi-fi to search resources that might bring answers.

One of my "long lost" ancestors was rediscovered thanks to information from a Brick Wall session. Maybe we'll have that kind of luck again for your missing person.

WMGS Newsletter
March 2015

Western Montana Genealogical Society

P O Box 2714
Missoula, Montana 59806-2714



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 Activities

No classes are currently scheduled. We have had no recent requests for research assistance except as listed below.

Missoula Senior Forum

I gave a presentation on beginning genealogy and Internet research to the Missoula Senior Forum. Most of the attendees had worked a little on their own family trees, or had other family members who had shared research with them. President Jim Harmon had a specific brick wall event. His great grandfather Levi Harmon married Alice and had three sons. Alice re-married four years after the last son was born, but there was no record of what happened to the husband. Did he die? Desert? Disappear?

Jim knew Alice's second husband was Levin Doores, and he had information regarding the children from the second marriage. I contacted our group's Doores expert, Susan Doores. Although she is from a different branch of this family, years ago she had interviewed one of Levin and Alice Doores' daughters, and learned that Levi Harmon died of typhoid.

Interestingly, Jim's research project could have been used to make many of the points in my presentation. I warn against trusting on-line trees that lack correct documentation. Ancestry on-line trees lacked death information for Levi. In addition, most had the wrong information regarding Alice's maiden name. The clerk recording the marriage mistook her father's last name as his first, and gave him her married name. It is probable that one person didn't notice the error on the marriage license and the other "researchers" merely copied the incorrect information into their own trees. Alice was called "Mrs" in the record, and census records later showed her children as Harmon and later children as Doores.

In the end, the main point of the mystery was solved the old-fashioned way. Susan D had the information because she interviewed family members, and was able to find the information when it was needed. Thanks Susan!

DAR Event

After our last meeting, one of our members suggested that it might be valuable to have a several-hour clinic with DAR to learn about and work on DAR applications for those of us who are eligible. I attended a DAR meeting, and coincidentally, they had already planned to hold such an event.

"Any woman, 18 years or older can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence is eligible to join the DAR. She must provide documentation for each statement of birth, marriage, and death, as well as of the Revolutionary War service of her Patriot ancestor."

The DAR event will be held Saturday, March 14, 2-6 p.m. at the Library meeting room. DAR members will be available to answer questions. Take your documents with you and they will review them to help you get started with your application. The DAR website has a database that lists both the patriots and the members index, which may help your research.

Please RSVP to Janet Loran, Registrar for the Bitter Root Chapter, at renegade65@vcn.com



For Your Calendar—MSGS State Conference

The state conference will be September 24-26, 2015 in Butte. "Harvesting Your Roots" will be co-hosted by the Beaver Head Hunters of Dillon and the Butte-Silver Bow Genealogy Society. One scheduled speaker is Paul Milner. He is a native of northern England, a professional genealogist and international speaker specializing in British Isles genealogical research. Another speaker is Maureen Taylor, who speaks on photo identification, preservation, and family history. To stay current as plans for the conference are developed, check back at <http://montanamsgs.org/conferences.html>

Historical US County Boundaries Using Google Earth

From an Article by Nancy Hendrickson—Google Earth and Genealogy

For genealogists, the magic of Google Earth lies in the ability to find things like the site of an old family cemetery, a Civil War battlefield, or even (if you're lucky) the remnants of an original family homestead.

However, there's something else you can do with Google Earth to help in your family tree search and that's using the software to track historical county boundaries.

If this is a new area of research for you, you may not know that U.S. county boundaries have changed significantly over time. Areas that were once part of one state are now part of another, while big counties were often sliced and diced to make a number of smaller ones. Because of those changes, it's impossible to track down family records if you don't know which county the family was in during a specific period of time. That's where Google Earth comes in. Using free data from the Atlas of Historical County Boundaries you can now use Earth to display historical boundaries and even animate their formation over time.

<http://www.archives.com/experts/hendrickson-nancy/county-boundaries-using-google-earth.html> is the link for the full article—learn more about it!

Genealogy on TV

Genealogy Roadshow has wrapped up another season. <http://genealogyroadshow.org/> is the website, where you can find past episodes, and get genealogy tips. There's even a tab where you can fill out an application to be on their show.

Who Do You Think You Are on TLC channel returns March 8. While the show features celebrities, it doesn't take long to go back a generation to "regular folks" and the family history that could be anyone's. Celebrities this season include Julie Chen, Sean Hayes, Bill Paxton, Josh Groban, Tony Goldwin, America Ferrara, Melissa Ethridge, and Angie Harmon. (I wonder if/how she's related to Jim Harmon—see the earlier story in this newsletter.)

History Detective is a documentary program that researches some physical object or item, usually a family heirloom of some kind presented with the owner's family lore. If you have missed this PBS program, prior episodes are available at <http://www.pbs.org/gob/historydetectives/videos/>.