

Big Sky Roundup



<http://montanamsgs.org>

2016-2017 Officers

April 2017

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President's Message

At Conference each year a survey sheet is provided for all participants to give their opinions concerning the conference. The Board appreciates this input and it plays a major role in planning future conference speakers, topics presented and activities.

Unfortunately, it is usually not possible to accommodate individual requests while also providing broad enough topics that appeal to the majority of attendees. As a result, the Board is concerned that it appears as we are ignoring special requests.

In an attempt to help this situation, this issue, and future issues of the Roundup, contains an article on a requested topic that we couldn't find a way to address at a conference. To start this off, Dorothy White Oliveira, Montana DAR State Society Treasurer has contributed an extensive overview of The Daughters of the American Revolution, including where or whom to contact for more information.

We will also be offering several informal opportunities to gather with fellow attendees that are interested in a common topic. Specific topics will be announced later.

Genealogy is the study of individuals, and rest assured MSGS is trying to accommodate your individual requests even when we don't find a way to address them in a formal conference topic.

Shawna Valentine, President



Summary of the 18 March 2017 MSGS Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Shawna Valentine. Other members present included Verba Valentine, Shirley Rogers, Carol Elliott, Terry Atwood, Mary Pitch and Fern Kauffman. The minutes of the October 22, 2016 board meeting were approved. Treasurer Terry Atwood reported the checking account balance as \$610.90 and the savings account balance as \$24,495.89.

First Vice President Verba Valentine discussed arrangements for the 2017 MSGS Conference in Billings, September 21-23, at the Big Horn Resort. The theme will be "Moving Forward Thru the Past."

Conference Fees: The board approved the following fees:

- Full 2-Day Conference Registration with Banquet & 2 Luncheons/\$124
- Full 2-Day Conference Registration with No Meals/\$65
- One-day Friday Only Registration with No Meals/\$45
- One-day Saturday Only Registration with No Meals/\$30

Meals: The two lunches will be buffets. One lunch will be a Soup and Salad Bar. The other will be a Deli Bar. The banquet will be a Southern BBQ Buffet with beef brisket and grilled chicken. Meal costs if purchased separately: Luncheon/\$21 per lunch and Banquet Buffet/\$34. The board decided to eliminate door prizes at this conference.

Hotel: Room is \$89 per night (plus tax) and includes breakfast.

Thursday, Sept 21: The board discussed options for hosting two to three workshops or discussion groups on Thursday afternoon at 5:00 pm. One workshop will be on the First Families and Early Settlers application process.

The board agreed to offer gift certificates to be used for future MSGS Conference registration with a caveat about final registration fees.

Shirley Rogers, 2nd Vice President, reported the final tally of MSGS sales at the 2016 conference: Raffle/\$459; Pins/\$315; Fun Stuff/\$72 and Book Frolic/\$743.50 for a total of \$1589.50. These funds are used to offset conference expenses. The board approved the bid for 2017 conference pins. Shirley will represent MSGS at the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) annual conference in Pittsburgh, Aug 30 – Sept 2, 2017. She will set up a Montana state table at the conference. **Local society brochures for the table should be sent to Shirley Rogers by August 15th.**

Mary Pitch, Registrar, reported MSGS has 605 active members as of March 2017. Fern Kauffman reported new First Family & Early Settlers applications are slowly being received. If applicants want to receive their FF&ES certificate at the 2017 MSGS Conference, Fern must receive the application by July 15th.

The board approved \$100 for the purchase of a handheld microphone for use at conferences. The board also approved the motion to update the MSGS Bylaws. Carol Elliott will chair the Bylaws Committee. The next MSGS board meeting will be held on Saturday, July 8, 2017, at 10:00 am in Helena. Location will likely be the public library.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Elliott, Secretary

Congratulations to Montana's Librarian of the Year Paulette Parpart

At the Montana Library Association's Conference held in Billings the last of March, one of our own was recognized for her many years of leadership and service. As *The Missoulian* reported on March 26, 2017, Paulette has been employed at the Missoula Public Library for 42 years. However, as anyone who has ever visited the Missoula Public Library in search of ancestors from the Missoula area soon realizes, the Library has a MASSIVE Treasure Trove of information available. And Paulette has been a driving force behind most of it. Consequently, all of us, not only those of the Missoula community, benefit from her tireless zeal to ensure items of genealogical and historical interest are made available.

In 2008, MSGS honored Paulette with our Anna Mae Hanson Award that recognizes outstanding service by a genealogist to the genealogical community. She is most deserving of both awards and MSGS is pleased the Montana Library Association choose to recognize her contributions by naming her Montana Librarian of the year.



MSGS to Represent You in Pittsburgh at the FGS Conference *But only if YOU Send Us Something Specific to YOUR Society*

Not content with promoting Montana Genealogy just within the state's borders, MSGS will once again have a table within the Exhibit Hall in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Conference in August, 2017. This conference is attended by thousands of genealogists HOWEVER, in order to promote your organization, we need you to send us brochures about your local society that we can display at the table and that attendees may take with them. Consequently, please send 20 to 25 copies of your current flyer that describes your society to our FGS Delegate, Shirley Rogers **BEFORE August 1st**.

Paper copies must be sent, not the electronic file. Mail to Shirley at PO Box 24, Boulder, MT 59632

Looking for a gift for that Impossible-To-Buy-For Genealogist in your life???

How about a Gift Certificate to the upcoming MSGS Conference to be held in Billings on September 21, 22, 23, 2017? Gift Certificates may be for any classification -

2 Full Days of Sessions with 3 meals for \$124.00

2 Full Days of Sessions with NO Meals for \$65.00

Friday Only with No Meals for \$45.00

or Saturday only with No Meals for \$30.00

Simply mail the appropriate payment payable to Montana State Genealogical Society in care of Verba Valentine, 3462 Barley Circle, Billings MT 59102 **before** July 31, 2017. Provide the name of who is giving the certificate, the recipient of the certificate, and an address to mail it to. MSGS will mail a certificate that the recipient needs to enclose with their completed conference registration. A Conference Registration must be sent in by the recipient noting gift certificate payment.

Certificates will also be offered for future conferences.

There is no charge for Thursday events.

If you have questions, please contact Verba at blgsmarket@aol.com



MONTANA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
**28th ANNUAL STATE GENEALOGY
CONFERENCE**
BIG HORN RESORT, BILLINGS, MONTANA
September 21, 22, 23, 2017

Updates & Registration Form
will appear on our website at
<http://montanamsgs.org/conferences.html>

FEATURING TWO NATIONAL SPEAKERS



THOMAS W. JONES, Ph.D., CG, CGI, FS-ASG, FUGA, FNGS, has edited the National Genealogical Society Quarterly since 2002. He is the author of *Mastering Genealogical Proof*, a popular textbook on genealogical assessment and reasoning. Tom writes and speaks frequently on genealogical methods with broad application across geographic areas, time periods, and levels of expertise. He is known for his meaty lectures benefiting genealogists of all levels.

His topics are:

- **FIVE WAYS TO PROVE WHO YOUR ANCESTOR WAS:** Case studies will illustrate five ways – some reliable & others not- that genealogists “prove” an ancestor’s identity: using information provided by others; using a single source; following a chain of evidence; correlating evidence from multiple sources; and weighing conflicting evidence. Attendees will learn how to use the GPS to identify their ancestors accurately.
- **GOING BEYOND THE BARE BONES: RECONSTRUCTING YOUR ANCESTORS’ LIVES:** You will learn how to extract information from frequently used genealogical sources and arrange it to create biographies that bring ancestors to life.
- **INFERENTIAL GENEALOGY: DEDUCTING ANCESTORS’ IDENTITIES INDIRECTLY:** Participants will learn how to accurately deduce ancestors; identities & many aspects of their lives by digging below “surface information” in genealogical records and by combining information from several sources.
- **SOLUTIONS FOR MISSING AND SCARCE RECORDS:** You will learn strategies for overcoming research barriers caused by lost or destroyed records, poor record-keeping, or a simple lack of records.



CeCe MOORE is the genetic genealogy consultant for the PBS television series *Finding Your Roots* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Her work has also been featured on *20/20*, *Genealogy Roadshow*, *The Dr. OZ Show*, *The Today Show*, *Nightline*, *Good Morning America*, *Crime Watch Daily*, *Nancy Grace*, *CBS This Morning* and *The Doctors*, as well as being quoted in many online & print publications. Her primary focus is promoting genetic genealogy education & sharing positive stories about the power of genetic genealogy through the media.

CeCe's topics are:

- **THE POWER OF DNA: GENETIC GENEALOGY BASICS:** Understanding the basics of the four types of DNA and three types of genetic genealogy tests is essential to successfully applying genetic genealogy to furthering your research. Explore the power of DNA to discover more about genealogy and extend family tree branches. This presentation helps to lay the foundation for genealogists interested in adding genetic genealogy to their skill set.
- **AUTOSOMAL DNA: DISCOVERING YOUR ANCESTORS IN YOU:** As genealogists, we have all invested a significant amount of time and effort searching for information about our ancestors. Rapidly advancing genetic technologies have now made it possible to discover more about our ancestors and in ways we never could have imagined. CeCe will demonstrate the methods that the experts use to get the most out of their results, including chromosome mapping trait tracing and applications for adoption search. Examples from CeCe's research will be shared to demonstrate the potential for using autosomal DNA to discover more about our ancestors.
- **WHO AM I: ETHNICITY ESTIMATES:** Addressing the question of "Who am I?" through DNA testing that provides ethnicity percentages is becoming a popular research tool for genealogists and even a pastime for the general public. It is important to understand the strengths and weaknesses of this aspect of DNA testing and the reasons behind them. Attendees will learn how to better interpret and analyze these results and what they can and cannot tell you about your family tree.
- **GENETIC GENEALOGY CASE STUDIES:** Step-by-step case studies demonstrate the use of all four types of DNA in conjunction with traditional research to solve genealogical mysteries and showcase the exciting possibilities this work offers. After learning of its potential to reveal and unravel complex family relationships many are flocking to DNA testing to solve their own family mysteries and break down longstanding genealogical brick walls.

FULL 2 DAY REGISTRATION IS ONLY \$65.00 WITHOUT MEALS, \$124 WITH 3 MEALS

Conference will be held in Billings at the Big Horn Resort, 1801 Majestic Lane. Sleeping Rooms are \$89.00/night plus tax and include a hot breakfast. For Reservations, phone 406-839-9300 BEFORE 26 August 2017 and ask for the "Genealogy Conference Rate."

***This is an opportunity you won't want to miss.
Mark your calendars and save the date***



What's Happening on the Local Level...

Beaver Head Hunters – Dillon

Now that spring is here we will all be enthused about working on our genealogy, doing some writing, and sorting our photos. We have been busy at our meetings finding ways to gather new information about our ancestors. At a recent meeting we each brought an artifact that belonged to an ancestor. These were nothing special. In fact, we had thought of throwing them out. They seemed useless. But when we took the time to investigate the artifact and gain new information on it, we suddenly felt different about it. It became part of our ancestor's life story and earned a place in his biography. Sharing the story of these artifacts with family members makes it more certain that the story won't die. Hopefully it will be shared with the younger generation.

All of our stories should be shared with family members, and hopefully many of these stories will be written. We are planning a Spring workshop where we will talk about genealogy in general, but also writing a family history. This seems daunting to many people, but we will talk about how to make it easy to do, enjoyable to read, and something that will be on the shelf in each family member's home.

We are looking forward to our summer outing at the Conover ranch where we will relax in the great outdoors while we share our stories and enjoy good food. The Conover ranch was established pre 1900. Mr. Conover came to the area as part of the Poindexter and Orr group, bringing the horses for their ranch. Mr. Conover himself was a logger, and sold wood to local settlers. Around the 1920s his son brought sheep to the area. His granddaughter, Kim Nye, still raises sheep, and is a member of the Head Hunters.

Submitted by Pat Darling, BHH Liaison

Broken Mountains Genealogical Society – Chester

We still struggle with getting together and coming up with meaningful projects but are working on a couple new ideas. We are hoping to looking at recent publishing ideas and have invited a local "author" to bring her latest book to our next meeting which is in July. Several others are working on or have done some book ideas so we will share them at the same time.

The group also looked at the plans already put forth about the next State Conference and we are hoping that others will join us at Billings when we have the Conference. There seems to be some interest in DNA and genetic connections. A couple of the members are planning to send for their results in the near future.

Meanwhile we will have work meetings to complete our Burial updates for 2016 and get this information on our web site. We did look at what is on the local and state websites and will continue to contribute to this information.

Submitted by Pat Ludwig, BMGS Liaison

Flathead Valley Genealogical Society – Kalispell

The Flathead Valley Genealogical Society is pleased to announce that they will be hosting a one day Conference on Oct the 14th. Thanks so much to Mary Pitch for putting us in touch with the state historical society. Our intent is to generate interest in Family History, and provide a venue for others in the area to see what help we can provide. We have a full docket from both Montana Historical Society and Humanities Montana, as well as some professionals associated with the Flathead Valley Community College. If you are interested in attending, the cost is free, and more information will be coming up on our society website flatheadgenealogy.org around the end of May, or first of June.

In other news, we have been busy getting more information on our Genweb site for Flathead county. We are pleased to announce the addition of Lutheran Church Records graciously provided for us from the Trinity Lutheran church. Also we now have posted obits from 1969-2004, and newspaper records from 1892-1931 (Missing 1926-1928 which are currently in progress). In April we are having the opportunity to visit the research archives at the Museum at Central School and are grateful for their willingness to share.

Submitted by Vickie Rowley, FVGS Liaison

Gallatin County Genealogical Society – Bozeman

Winter programming continued to focus on research skills and the use of new technologies to enhance genealogy research. In November, the society held an informal monthly meeting to give members the opportunity to work on Ancestry.com questions ranging from basic sign-up procedures to more advanced “brick wall” challenges. In January, President Steve Swinford presented an excellent program on “Photo Capturing with Digital Devices, Archiving and Uploading Media to Ancestry.com.” He described use of smartphones and tablets to capture, edit and organize photos and how to upload pictures and documents to Ancestry.com.

Society members are always asking for more programs on Ancestry.com. In February, Tricia Thompson gave a program entirely devoted to answering member questions on “How Do I _____ on Ancestry.com?” Not only did she answer a wide range of questions but she also shared some useful search tools and ways to navigate around the Ancestry website.

Nearly 200,000 local area records have now been indexed as part of the society’s overall indexing project. One database contains an index for Dokken-Nelson Funeral Home (Bozeman) records through 1919. Recently, the funeral home granted permission for GCGS to index records from the 1920s and 1930s.

Submitted by Carol Elliott, GCGS Liaison

Great Falls Genealogy Society – Great Falls

The Great Falls Genealogy Society celebrated its' 42nd anniversary in January. We don't have an accurate count on the number of people who visited our Society library in 2016. What we know is that during the year we had patrons from Canada and Norway as well as 25 states. Montana patrons came from Thompson Falls to Billings and from Butte to Glasgow and many locales between.

Our Library is again our focus for the year ahead. A copy of our inventory of books for each of Montana's counties has been sent to a genealogy or historical society or museum in each county, asking that they identify additional books that exist for their county. We appreciate the many and varied responses we are receiving. Shelf label holders are also being installed to make the Library even more user-friendly.

Within two weeks in February our Society lost three members, two of them former officers and longtime volunteers. Memorial funds donated in their memory are being set aside to purchase new chairs for our Library.

In the past several months we have enjoyed several excellent programs. In December Society vice president Gary Goettel shared with us recent developments in genetic genealogy. At January's meeting member Cande Recke spoke about the Christenot gold mill near Virginia City and her relationship to the mill's founder. Jim Kizer, director of the Great Falls Rescue Mission, spoke in February. He shared the mission's history and spoke of the records kept on each of the mission's residents. In our March meeting Society member Diane Green spoke and gave a presentation on her trip to Connecticut where she visited several family sites dating back into the mid-1600s.

Like the rest of Montana's residents we are looking forward to the spring and summer months and new opportunities to be out investigating more of our family roots.

Submitted by Larry D. Spicer, GFGS President

Lewis & Clark County Genealogy Society – Helena

Our meetings the last 5 months have included members sharing their knowledge of DNA, the different companies that offer testing and sharing the results of the tests they have taken, a demonstration of how to use Findagrave, a demonstration as to how to research Montana newspapers online and a power point presentation by Ellen Baumler from the Montana Historical Society on Norwegians in Montana. We have offered two tours of the Montana State/Lewis & Clark County Genealogical Library for new members and those interested in becoming volunteer librarians to become familiar with what the library holdings contain. Besides books covering nearly every state in the U.S. and many countries, there are city directories, school yearbooks, different Who's Who volumes, and many family books just to name a few. There are also Lewis & Clark County marriage licenses and School District #1 enrollment cards that include a student's name, birth date, where born, parent or guardian, last school attended. We encourage you to come visit us in Helena so we can show off the library to you and who knows? You just might find information that you've been looking for!

Submitted by Mary Pitch, LCCGS President

Yellowstone Genealogy Forum – Billings

Programs for the past months have been: Transportation Routes to Montana: People traveled to the Montana area for various reasons and by numerous conveyances. Ann Ferguson discussed the many forms of transportation that were used, depending on the time period. She asked us to look at our ancestors – who they were, when they came to Montana, why they came, where their destination was, and how they might have traveled there.

Our Ancestors in Wars: Four members talked about their ancestors' military service and how they found their records. The conflicts involved the American Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and World War I.

Writing Obituaries: Ed Kemmick, formerly of the Billings Gazette and now of Last Best News website, gave an overview of writing obituaries as seen from the news reporter's perspective. It used to be the job of the rookie reporter to interview the family of the deceased and write the obituary. Beginning in 1989, obituaries became paid announcements. Several members of the Forum wrote their own obituaries and read them to the club.

Cemetery & Tombstone Preservation: Sydney Gabel attended a workshop in Lewistown on tombstone preservation. She showed how a tombstone could be cleaned without damaging the stone and how to level a stone. Repairs should be left to professionals who have the knowledge and tools.

Passenger Lists: A video was viewed on ships passenger lists. There was much discussion about passenger lists and naturalization records – where to find them and what they contain. Program Coordinator Kay Cahill had a wonderful handout.

The Forum and Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) hosted a genealogy day at the public library. Videos from the DAR website were shown hourly. Forum members helped patrons in the Genealogy Room with research.

Volunteers staff the Genealogy Room at Billings Public Library from 1 to 3 weekdays and Thursday evenings. Outside of those hours, patrons are able to access the collection during library hours by asking for the room to be unlocked.

The Forum will host the MSGS annual conference on September 21-23. We hope to see you there.

Submitted by P. J. Smith, YGF President

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, founded on October 11, 1890, is a women's non-profit, non-political volunteer service organization dedicated to preserving American history, securing America's future through better education and promoting patriotism. The motto is God, Home, and Country. The Society was incorporated in 1896 by Congress, and on October 11, 2015 the organization celebrated 125 years of service to America.

DAR chapters can be found in all 50 states and also Australia, Austria, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Canada, Germany, France, Guam, Italy, Mexico, Japan, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

Any woman 18 years of age or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible. The National Society accepts service, with some exceptions, for the period between 19 April 1775 (Battle of Lexington) and 26 November 1783 (withdrawal of British Troops from New York).

DAR headquarters are in Washington D.C. covering a whole city block. There are many displays available for the public to see along with a museum, a recognized genealogical department.

The society publishes their award winning magazine AMERICAN SPIRIT bimonthly. The magazine focuses on early American history, historic preservation, genealogy, patriotism, civics education, women's history and biography, and historic travel and tourism. DAR members and non-members can subscribe to the magazine.

Since its founding in 1896, the DAR Library has grown into a specialized collection of American genealogical and historical manuscripts and publications, as well as on-site databases. The DAR Library collection contains over 225,000 books, 10,000 research files, thousands of manuscript items, and special collections of African American, Native American, and women's history, genealogy and culture. Nearly 40,000 family histories and genealogies comprise a major portion of the book collection, many of which are unique or available in only a few libraries in the country. The DAR Library is free and open to the public. It can also be accessed online at dar.org/library.

With DAR's commitment to education, the Society operates schools in Alabama and South Carolina and supports schools in Georgia, North Carolina, Massachusetts, and Kentucky.

The Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution was organized in 1894 with the first Montana chapter formed later that year in Butte. Today there are 11 Montana chapters with approximately 500 members. The current Regent's theme is: *Learn from the Past ~ Celebrate America! ~ Hope for the Future.*

Montana Daughters contribute many service hours to their communities in addition to those of DAR work. In 2016 13,742 service hours were for other organizations and causes.

Following are some activities by MT DAR chapters using the Society's Mission to guide their work:

Education

- awarding an annual scholarship from MSSDAR to a high school senior
- some chapters also award scholarships in their area
- honoring a high school senior as a Good Citizen with a cash award
- sponsoring history essay contests for fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth graders
- sponsoring the Christopher Columbus essay contest for high school students grades 9 -12
- nominating Montana History teacher of the year (2 Montana nominees have recently won the national award)
- distributing Constitution materials to schools
- taking classes through the NSDAR

Patriotism

- supporting American service personnel in current conflicts abroad through care packages, phone cards and other needed items
- placing patriotic displays in public places such as libraries and store windows
- placing American flags on deceased DAR members' graves
- sponsoring special programs celebrating the Constitution during its official celebration week of September 17-23

- participating in naturalization ceremonies
- presenting patriotic awards to deserving individuals
- participating in WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA ceremonies
- participating in patriotic parades
- assisting with events honoring veterans and soldiers who are on active duty
- partnering with veteran's organizations to support veteran and active duty soldier events
- supporting Montana veteran facilities with time, food, books, and other needs

- **Historic Preservation**
- helping with restoration and upkeep of historic sites
- digitizing and preserving historical records
- placing historical commemorative plaques
- restoring and maintaining the NSDAR national headquarters in Washington D.C.

Current Montana DAR chapters are:

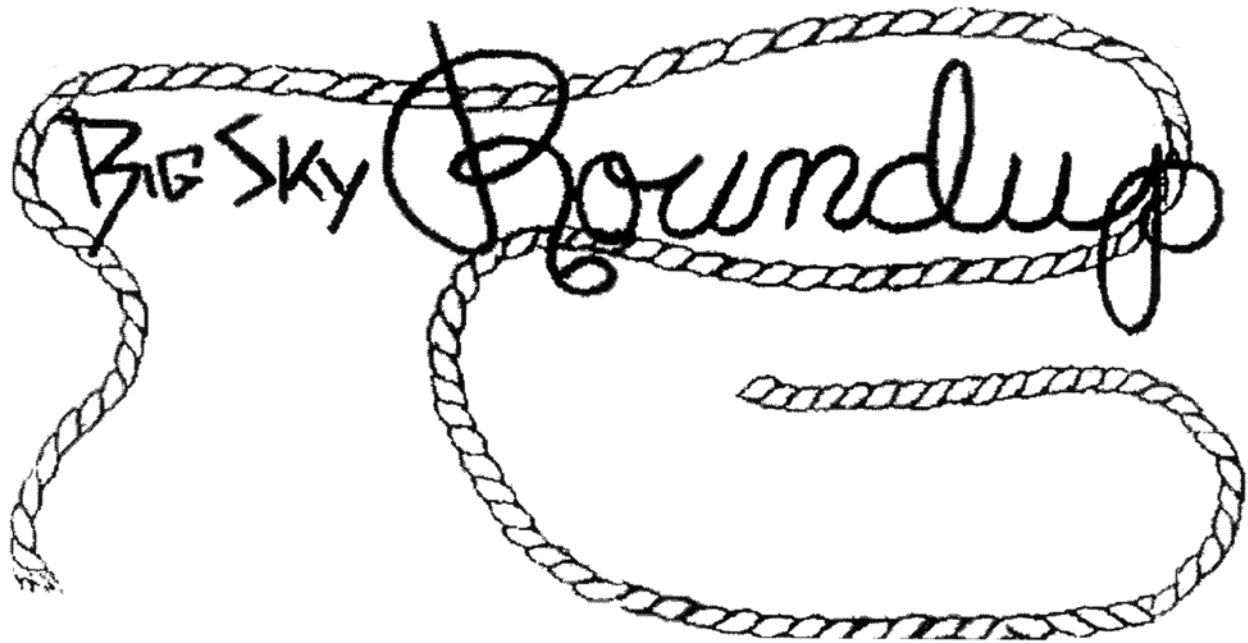
- Bird Woman Falls - Columbia Falls area
- Bitterroot - Missoula area
- Black Eagle /Assiniboine - Great Falls area
- Chief Ignace - Kalispell area
- Julia Hancock - Lewiston area
- Kuilix - Thompson Falls area
- Milk River - Glasgow area
- Mt. Hyalite - Bozeman area
- Oro Fino - Helena area
- Shining Mountain - Billings area
- Silver Bow - Butte area

We welcome you to explore DAR membership. Members are available to help you determine if you have a patriot in your family and complete an application. Further information about the state and national societies is available at dar.org and montanadar.org/. These websites can connect you to Montana chapters.

Moving forward in service to America,
Dorothy White Oliveira
Montana DAR State Society Treasurer
doliveira@vcn.com



Terry Atwood
PO Box 5313
Helena MT 59602



**Make Plans Now to Attend Next Year's
Montana State Genealogical Society**

**28th ANNUAL STATE
GENEALOGY CONFERENCE**

**BIG HORN RESORT
BILLINGS, MONTANA**

September 21, 22, 23, 2017