

Big Sky Roundup



<http://montanamsgs.org>

2013-2014 Officers

April 2014

President - Shawna Valentine

Newsletter Editor – Shawna Valentine

3420 Granger S #20, Billings, MT 59102
Phone: 652-5866
Email: smv2222@bresnan.net
Elected Sept. 2008 (3rd term ends 2014)

1st Vice President: Verba Valentine

3462 Barley Circle, Billings, MT 59102
Phone: 656-9840
Email: blgsmarket@aol.com
Elected Sept. 2008 (3rd term ends 2014)

2nd Vice President - Shirley Rogers

PO Box 24, Boulder, MT 59632
Phone: 461-5761
Email: JCRSAR@q.com
Elected Sept. 2008 (3rd full term ends 2015)

Secretary: Kathy Patrick

2051 Colorado Gulch, Helena, MT 59601
Phone: 443-5286
Email: kathypatrick16@yahoo.com
Elected Sept. 2013 (1st term ends 2015)

Treasurer: Terry Atwood

4230 Wolverine, Helena, MT 59602
Phone: 443-4907
Email: terry@atwoodarts.com
Elected Sept. 2013 (1st term ends 2014)

Registrar: Mary Pitch

700 Grant, Helena, MT 59601
Phone: 443-3452
Email: mmpmep@earthlink.net
Elected: Sept. 2005 (5th term ends 2015)

Past President: Betty Marshall

Box 476, Chester, MT 59522
Phone: 759-5627
Email: bubbles@itstriangle.com

President's Message

Winter is finally behind us, and Spring is emerging everywhere we look. MSGS is also awakening from its winter hibernation and ready to announce several exciting developments since our October 2013 Issue.

I am pleased to announce that based on the positive reception of having two national speakers at our Bozeman Conference in September 2013, the MSGS Board has decided to continue this format for future conferences. Consequently, beginning with our 25th Anniversary Conference held in Helena on September 25, 26, 27, 2014, we will have two National Speakers for a total of 8 presentations. So now, the previously announced Curt Witcher of the Allen County Public Library of Fort Wayne, will be joined by David Rencher of Family Search. David is a leading genealogical speaker on several areas, but is one of the nation's leading experts on Irish research. We have several special extras planned for this conference and hope you will join us! Also, if you have attended 20 or more conferences thru the years, please let me know. The Conference Committee wants to give you special recognition!

MSGS has also entered the realm of social media with its own Facebook page thanks to the efforts of Fran Jensen and Shirley Rogers. Please like us and send news of your events, pictures, etc. to Shirley.

Shawna Valentine, President



Summary of the March 22, 2014 MSGS Board Meeting

President Shawna Valentine called the March 22, 2014 meeting of MSGS to order at 10:05 A.M. Kathy Patrick took roll call. The minutes were approved with one correction. Treasurer Terry Atwood reported \$419 in checking and \$17541.37 in savings. Verba Valentine, 1st Vice-President, reported the annual conference will be held September 25, 26, 27 at the Helena Colonial. Curt Witcher, Fort Wayne, IN will speak. Verba asked the board if they would be interested in having a second national speaker for 2014. David Rencher, Chief Genealogical Officer,

Family Search returned her call about 2015 saying he was available this year. The Board voted to have Rencher speak. The registration will be \$99. Pizza, ice tea and lemonade will be served for the reception. There will be luncheons on Friday and Saturday and a buffet banquet Friday evening. The banquet speaker is Pamela Attardo, Heritage Preservation Officer for Lewis and Clark County and she will be speaking about Helena and its 150th Anniversary. T-shirts for the conference will be black with a silver tree and will be \$12 and \$14. Butte and Dillon are considering hosting the 2015 Conference and Missoula and Havre are thinking about hosting 2016. Verba is working on booking speakers for both years. Shirley Rogers said the pins will be in for the July meeting. She will check to see if we can have a blue background and silver printing in honor of the 25th anniversary. She outlined her needs for tables and especially wanted room for the bulletin board and a table and volunteer for selling tickets. Verba Valentine will check on a magnet memento for the 25th anniversary.

Mary Pitch, Registrar, noted only 3 societies have not paid dues and we currently have collected \$601. Karen Huck will be attending the Montana Shared Catalog meeting in Helena May 1 and 2. She related a Bozeman school class is using the death index cd for a statistics class. Our FGS delegate, Shirley Rogers will not be able to attend the San Antonio conference but Shawna agreed to assume the delegate duties as she will be attending. We have sold 3 First Families books and 9 certificates are en route. Shirley Rogers will encourage other societies to forward to her news about programs which can be posted on our Facebook page. The positions of President, Vice-President and Treasurer were open and those holding those offices agreed to continue serving.

The next board meeting will be July 19, 2014 in Helena.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Patrick, Secretary

Montana State Genealogical Society is now on Facebook.

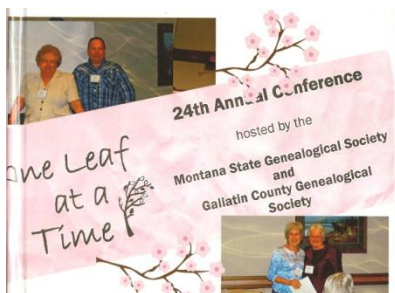


Did you know that MSGS has a Facebook page? It was started a few months ago thru the help of member Fran Jensen to help promote our society. We would like for all societies who are members to please contact us if you have special events coming up, pictures you would like to share or any other tidbits. **We would also ask that if you are on Facebook, to please like our page.** We want people to use us to promote your society as well as our state society.

So if you have something to add to our page please feel free to contact me at either jcsar@q.com or private message me thru our Facebook page. This was started to help all of our societies.

Thank You,

Shirley Rogers, MSGS 2nd Vice President



2013 CONFERENCE BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

Relive the memories of our Bozeman Conference!

Submitted by Pat Ludwig, Historian

The 2013 Conference book is done and I will bring it to the next board meeting and will try to put in the State Library before then. In the meantime if anyone wants to look at the digital version, it was done on Snapfish and is in the BMGS [Broken Mountains Genealogical Society] room. It can be looked at and/or ordered. Just send me an email or call me: Pat Ludwig, 7patld@itstriangle.com or 406-759-5113 and I will send you a link. Note: When you get into the site the book is pictured with back cover instead of front and is listed

as Pat Ludwig, rather than 2013 Conference. (See attachment) Several of you are already members and should be able to just go in there. There is the 2011 book also in this room and last year I did the 2012 album on Shutterfly and they also have a share mechanism and will link anyone to that if desired. I try to use the latest formatting although I have done books on several other sites and most of them are pretty standard.

MSGs Active in the National Movement to Protect to the SSDI (Social Security Death Index) Records

Submitted by Terry Atwood,

Montana Representative of the Records Preservation & Access Committee

The Budget Bill that passed Congress last December had a major update for SSDI Records. Under Section 203, SSDI records are closed for three years after the death of each individual. Things could have been worse. Two bills had been introduced asking for permanent closure of the Death Master File SSDI.

A few years ago, the Federal Department of Health and Human Services issued a document stating there is a push to lock out many vital records for 125 years, including indexes. The link to this document is <http://www.naphsis.org/about/Documents/FinalMODELLAWSeptember72011.pdf> Search for 125 and you'll see what years the rules locks out access to records. Lucky enough Montana doesn't follow this document, but they can change their mind.

As the Montana representative to the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC), I will be learning more about these types of changes being made to the records we genealogists dearly love. But as the leaders of this committee recently pointed out, it takes everyone to keep their ears open to possible changes. If you hear of any proposed legislation or rumors relating to the issue of open records, please let me know at terry@atwoodarts.com

Additional information on the current latest developments may be found at <http://www.fgs.org/rpac> This article describes the certification process now required for access to the Limited Access Death Master File.

Digital Collections: By Karen Huck, MGSG Librarian

The Montana Memory Project provides access to digital collections and items relating to Montana's cultural heritage and government. In part, these collections and items document the Montana experience. Access is free and open through the Internet. Many of these items are digitized copies of historic material, some items are contemporary. All serve as a resource for education, business, pleasure, and lifelong learning. This project is a statewide project of the Montana State Library in partnership with the Montana Historical Society Research Center. The website is www.mtmemory.org At the top you can put in your surname and it will search 66 different databases in Montana for your relative. One of the new collections is the Early Edgerton County and Lewis and Clark County voter records. Some of the digitized collections are newspaper, county histories, letter and diaries, radio interviews, obituaries, livestock brands, Military enlistments, prison records thru Gibson, and yearbooks.

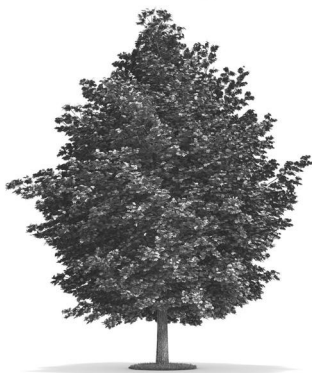
Other digital collections to search are Mountain West Digital library www.mwdl.org/ and the Digital Public Library of America www.dp.la/

Have fun researching these digital libraries, but be sure and set aside some time as once in, you can get hooked.

Update on the Index of Deaths Recorded in the MONTANA WORKMAN, Newsletter devoted to the Interest of the Ancient Order of United Workmen in Montana, March 1892 – February 1899

The October 2013 Roundup contained the first part of Al Stoner's index of the Deaths recorded in the MONTANA WORKMAN, a newsletter devoted to the interest of the Ancient Order of United Workmen in Montana. At that time, it was noted that the remainder of the list would be published in this issue. Given that the original publication dates from 1 March 1892 to 1 February 1899, most of this valuable genealogical information does not exist elsewhere. Consequently the decision was made to put the index on our website to make it continually available to a wider audience. We encourage you to consult the index at <http://montanamsgs.org/MTWorkmen.html> and also the newsletters which are now at the MSGS Library in Helena.

Find the Silver Linings in Your Tree



Montana State Genealogical Society
25th Anniversary Helena 2014

25TH ANNUAL STATE GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

*Hosted by Lewis & Clark County Genealogical Society and the
Montana State Genealogical Society*

**HELENA COLONIAL INN
SEPTEMBER 25, 26, 27, 2014**

**FEATURING NOT JUST ONE,
BUT TWO NATIONAL SPEAKERS**

CURT B. WITCHER OF INDIANA. Mr. Witcher, MLS, FUGA, IGSF is the Senior Manager for Special Collections at the Allan County Public Library in Fort Wayne where he manages The Genealogy Center, serves as general curator for the institution's Rare and Fine Book Collection. Curt is the project lead on the library's digitation initiatives. He is a former president of both the Federation of Genealogical Societies & The National Genealogical Society. He is the coeditor of the 1987 – 2013 editions of the *Periodical Source Index*, the largest & most comprehensive subject index to historical & genealogical periodical literature published by the ACPL. He has served on the Advisory Board for Ancestry.com as well as on the FamilySearch Advisory Council. He was research consultant for both the PBS Series, *Ancestors*. He is the author of over 500 record & methodology articles. He is now working with a team to raise \$3.4M to fund the digitizing of, and free access to, the War of 1812 pension files. He is a frequent presenter at local, regional and national genealogy conferences.



Curt Witcher will speak on "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".



DAVID E. RENCHER OF UTAH. Mr. Rencher, AG, CG, FIGRS, FUGA, is employed by the Family History Department in Salt Lake City as the Chief Genealogical Officer for Family Search. A professional genealogist since 1977, he is an Accredited Genealogist with ICAPGen in Ireland research and a Certified Genealogist with the Board for Certification of Genealogists. He is the Irish course coordinator & instructor for the Samford University *Institute of Genealogical & Historical Research* in Birmingham AL. He is past-president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies 1997-2000 and of the Utah Genealogical Association 1993-1995 and a Fellow of that organization. He is vice-president of the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History and an instructor for the British Institute. He is

currently serving as the Chair of the joint Federation of Genealogical Societies and National Genealogical Society committee for Record Preservation and Access and serves as Secretary for the FGS.

David Rencher will speak on "Irish Jurisdictions and Reference Works", "Digital Projects and Programs of FamilySearch", "Mining the Destination Data", "Methodology for Irish Immigration and Emigration".

PAM ATTARDO, Helena/Lewis & Clark County Heritage Preservation Officer will present the Banquet talk on "Helena's Origins"

Registration Fee is only \$99 with 3 meals.

Full 2 day registration with NO meals \$55. Friday only with NO meals \$40. Saturday only with NO meals \$35.



WE WOULD LOVE TO BE ABLE TO PUBLISH
YOUR SOCIETY'S NEWS.

Please submit items to Shawna at
smv2222@bresnan.net

Broken Mountains Genealogical Society – Chester

Broken Mountains Genealogy Society in Chester is still busy on projects in progress. Our Web site: www.brokenmountains.org has been very active with updated obituaries, burials, and most recently a new segment called Stories. The stories are from various writings that we have been collecting in a notebook and some were written many years ago. Marji Dahinden diligently retyped many of them as they had never been digitalized. Then our local librarian helped us scan and digitalize several others. With them in this form we were able to have our webmaster, Sean Knighton, put them into our site and now they are available to read, copy and enjoy. These writings certainly give us another glimpse into things as they were at various stages of Liberty County.

At the same time Sean used the updated material we had to bring our burial records up to date for the mapping project now being done in both Toole and Liberty Counties. This material is being utilized by the CJI schools for their GPS classes and the group doing the Mapping Project for the state. The research was done by Lyla Pugsley and Pat Ludwig and the whole society has been involved in getting the material into all our records.

Recently we had this wonderful thank you posted on our web site and a special thank you to Betty Marshall for completing the research. She and Francis Hochberger have kept the Obituary notebooks up to date. Since that letter we have had communications from another member of the extended family asking for more burial information on another relative.

Message: THANKYOUTHANKYOUTHANKYOU!!!!

The diligence & dedication of your volunteers put the 'finishing touches' upon an unusual extended family story. Hilmer Johnson's mother & my grandfather were siblings, settling from Sweden in Polk & Carlton, MN. His daughter, my grandmother, talked much over the years of lifelong friends 'the Stjernstroms'. 'Mrs. Hilmer Johnson' Elisa, was one of those. Her brother, Rev. Nels Stjernstrom, performed my grandparent's marriage ceremony. Had no IDEA until today, that it was a member of THAT Stjernstrom family that wed Hilmer. The 'story' as I can assemble: Their meeting, unknown, Hilmer was in Beatrice, MT by 1910; She worked in Duluth in 1915. (Blackhoof Twp, Carlton Co. where our families were neighbors St. Louis [Duluth] Co.) Wed a year when she died, infant Owen Hilmer went to grandparents Louis & Carolina Stjernstrom. Owen remains there though at least 1940; marries in Mnpls, MN in 1949. Two children; later moves to Clearwater, FL, dies in 2008 at 89. In 1920 Hilmer is at Polk Co. MN with Mom/sister. 1926 he weds Ruth Jenny Crosby at Chester MT & is at Eagle Creek, where they raise 4. Hilmer dies at Great Falls in 1969.

The find of the obit was both a joy and a moment of 'reliving' another's loss. Elisa is likely buried at Sandy Lake Community (once Baptist) Cemetery, which was the neighborhood cemetery. If you desire, I have no reservations on having this story included in the site. Always on the hunt for more cousins.

Since that letter we have had communications from another member of the extended family asking for more burial information on another relative. Always nice to be appreciated.

Submitted by Pat Ludwig, BMGS Liaison

Flathead Valley Genealogical Society – Kalispell

Our society has been hard at work on an index to many of the cemeteries in the valley. We have almost finished the largest cemetery, Conrad Memorial Cemetery, and this spring our members will begin taking pictures of the headstones that are not on findagrave. We will then post them there as well as put the index online at the Flathead County USGenWeb site so that all are able to see who is buried there. This has been a massive project and will be an ongoing one for the society for years to come. The society also has had several exceptionally good programs this winter including Nebraska and Midwest research, a History of the Flathead valley and a presentation by the Museum at Central School on how to date historic pictures. We are looking forward to this month's meeting which will be on courthouse records. The Society is also sponsoring the USgenweb site for Flathead County and have started to make progress in building that website.

Submitted by Vickie Rowley, FVGS Liaison

Gallatin County Genealogical Society – Bozeman

This winter, the Gallatin County Genealogical Society experienced remarkable membership growth, recovered society historical files, expanded its indexing databases, and enjoyed programs at four monthly meetings. The society's membership year runs from September 1st through August 31st. Since September 1, 2013, membership has increased an amazing 42 percent from 31 members to 44 members at the end of March 2014. The MSGS Conference at Bozeman, adult education genealogy classes, and meeting programs helped draw new members.

In 2012, the county society was reestablished after being inactive since the late 1980s. No one knew the location of any archives or files from the earlier organization. In December, the society received a call from the Bozeman Family History Center where two boxes of records were discovered. The majority of files consisted of family research information. These files were indexed by surname for review by current members and the Pioneer Museum.

In March, we celebrated the completion of a huge indexing project which covered 48 volumes of voter registration records at the Pioneer Museum in Bozeman. Since then, one of our intrepid indexers has discovered an additional five volumes so the work continues. Since October 2013, society indexers have added another 13,000 entries to the databases for a total of over 53,000 records.

The programs at our four monthly meetings proved extremely popular. In November, Steve Jackson, Curator of Art and Photography at the Museum of the Rockies, made an excellent presentation on "How to Date Old Photographs" and helped members date their own photographs. Tricia Thompson, a member and certified genealogist, gave her promised January follow-up program on Ancestry.com emphasizing how to save and attach images to Ancestry tree records and how to use Ancestry.com tutorials. The February meeting included both a presentation and a tour of the Bozeman Public Library by Terri Dood, the library's department head for Reference and Adult Services. She highlighted the library's genealogical references and Montana history material as well as library access to online genealogy databases. In March, our webmaster, Jenn Vieth, provided an update on the GCGS website and its use for genealogical research in Gallatin County. She also demonstrated how to search online for records in foreign languages and the use of online translation resources.

Submitted by Carol Elliott, GCGS Vice-President

Great Falls Genealogy Society – Great Falls

GFGS has been very busy on a series of projects. We have recently added six new large book cases, making it possible for us to move our Cascade County collection and make more room for Montana resources. Our county cemeteries are now complete through 2012, and we have been indexing our George Company Mortuary records which were given to us last year. We are in the process of identifying all of our county inmates from the state prison (available at Montana Memory Project), and we are indexing those names. Our "People Files" continue to increase as we find stories and obits and scan them. We have added more indices to our web site, and as soon as the George Co. index is finished it will be placed on the website. We are actively seeking scrapbooks for small towns in Cascade County, so that we can copy and index them. So far, we have completed similar projects for newspaper scrapbooks from Judith Basin and Pondera counties. We are also scanning news articles on local Indian tribes to include in our files. We recently received the full run of the periodical Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage, and also, Mennonite Family History Journal.

Our programs this year have included several topics—mortuary records, Japanese culture, Icelandic culture, Cascade county and Black history, civil war and Montana veterans. We are working on indexes for several types of Cascade records. Come visit us! We are open 36 hours a weeks, M-Saturday, 10-4 PM.

Submitted by Janet Thomson, GFGS President

Jefferson County Genealogy Society – Boulder

The Jefferson County Genealogy Society has had a slow winter. We did learn more about naturalization, and have a workshop on how to print out documents on different websites. We of course man the Heritage Center 7 days a week. We meet for lunch before our meetings to celebrate birthdays for that month.

In May we are planning on going to Fort Harrison to visit the Museum. We are trying to do more outdoor activities for the summer. We are always looking forward to learning more about our local history and work on our own family history.

In May, 3 members of our society will be taking our yearly trek to Salt Lake for a week of researching. It is something we look forward to and the number of people that go varies each year. We then come home and share what we did at our next meeting.

We are a small group, but we seem to keep busy.

Submitted by Shirley Rogers, JCGS Liaison

Lewis & Clark County Genealogy Society – Helena

The Lewis & Clark County Genealogical Society has had a variety of programs the past 5 months. Member Bary Bender gave a talk on business tokens which were used the same as money as far back as the 1500's. Bary started collecting tokens 46 years ago when he saw one in a coin shop with his great grandfather's name on it. Business tokens have continued to be one of several hobbies he has incorporated into his family and his wife's family genealogies. At our annual Christmas Open House we shared our genealogical successes and failures during the year as well as shared ethnic/family favorite treats. To start out 2014 Christine Kirkham from the Montana State Historical Society gave a talk on Chronicling America: How to access & search digitized historical newspapers in 35 states from 1836-1922. Check it out at <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>. Help for using the site can be found at http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/help/#advanced_searching. Since then we have watched a DVD webinar entitled "Chasing Women: Finding Your Female Ancestors" which we found to be very informative. We plan to continue with programs throughout the year involving our members who will share stories of their female ancestors. At our last meeting local author Earl Fred discussed his recent book, Marysville: It's History and It's People. Earl grew up in Marysville and was able to incorporate many memories as well as his research which included writings on scraps of paper that his father wrote over the years and stuck in a family Bible.

Submitted by Mary Pitch, LCCGS President

Western Montana Genealogical Society – Missoula

Our society responds to e-mail and mail requests for assistance with research in the Missoula (and Western Montana) area. A request from a man in France developed into an interesting story, and that story follows in the "History Corral" section of this newsletter.

WMGS offered a free beginners' genealogy class last October, co-sponsored with the Missoula Public Library. We recruited participants by having a booth at the Fort Missoula Fourth of July event, plus some public service advertising. The class consisted of two hours of the very basics of genealogy: how to record dates, places, names; documenting sources; common forms used; information to be gathered from vital and census records; search philosophies, "proof"; and some of the most popular websites. We then offered the participants the opportunity to meet individually with WMGS volunteers at the library to research specifically for their own ancestors, using whatever resources would be best for their particular needs. The class last fall had about 24 attendees, and several of those are now members of WMGS. We repeated the beginner's class this winter, recruiting at Missoula City Cemetery's Stories and Stones event (plus a notice in the local paper). The most recent class had about 50 attendees, and we are about to finish up meeting with almost 20 who scheduled individual sessions. Some members of the spring class have also joined WMGS.

One of our best-attended meetings was a "field trip" to the new Missoula County Records Center, which includes a large warehouse of records from the western part of the state (which was Missoula County before more counties were formed) dating back to the 1860s. Even though not all our members have Western Montana research interests, we learned what records might be available at other county records centers around the country.

Submitted by Susan Hintz, WMGS President

Yellowstone Genealogy Forum – Billings

Ann Ferguson and Louise LaRue gave the October 2013 program on Mapping and Migration Routes. Louise discussed different types of maps and where you might acquire them. Ann told about how people came to Montana and why. She had club members mark on a U.S. map various locations of their family members then mark the places to which they moved.

In November, Dick Thayer's program was on Using the Internet for Genealogy Research. He talked about the pro's and con's of a dozen sites, most of them free websites.

The Forum has purchased a new website through Easynetsites. This company caters to genealogy and historical societies and the costs are low. Jason Herman is the webmaster. The company provided four training sessions for those of us who will add to and maintain parts of the website. You can find us at <http://yellowstonegenealogy.org/>

On November 23rd, six members packed 138 boxes of books in the Genealogy Room in less than 3 hours. Parmlly Billings Library moved into the new Billings Public Library in December. Our new Genealogy Library is located next to the Montana Room on second floor. The new location has increased patronage. Volunteers are on site from 1 to 3 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays and from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on Thursday evenings to help with research.

In January, the program was a refresher on genealogy research presented by Forum members Louise LaRue, Laura Joy-Brock, Ann Ferguson, and P. J. Smith. They reviewed how to complete pedigree charts and family group sheets, how to document sources, what are home sources, and using federal census records.

Billings had a "China Town" in the 1930's. It centered on Minnesota Avenue and 2nd Avenue South, between South 26th & 27th Streets. Ying Lee Custer and her parents moved to Billings about 1937. Her family immigrated through Angel Island at San Francisco, moved to Loveland, Colorado, then to Billings. They worked in restaurants. She has traced her family to a small village in China based on the dialect of Cantonese that she speaks.

Roseann Thomas presented "Writing You Family History". She had good step by step ideas on how to write your story. There were also brief writing exercises during her program.

On April 27 & May 4 Forum members will be available at Barnes & Noble to help people start their family history research.

Submitted by P. J. Smith, YGF President

* * * * *



IN SEARCH OF: Marie Clapasson Mack

Submitted by Susan Hintz,
Western Montana Genealogical Society President

The request for information about Marie was a simple one that came through our website. Gérard from France was looking for an ancestor who came to the US in 1895, and who in 1907 married a man named Edward Mack, barber. He had their information from the 1910 census, and found Ed's burial information in the on-line Missoula Cemetery interment records, but Marie was not with him. Gérard's request was simply to know how to find out when and where Marie died, if in Missoula.

The answer would be easy to find – a trip to the library to check the cemetery index and biographical sheets from the Missoulian vital records index (created by WMGS volunteers). But first, I checked a few other resources. I confirmed that Marie or Mary Mack was not listed at the Missoula City Cemetery (although Ed was), nor in Find-A-Grave (many at Saint Mary's are listed.) Knowing that the Missoula Cemetery office has more than just the burial information for some interments, I sent an e-mail to the office to see if there were any clues in Ed's record that might lead to Marie. I found the image for Marie's marriage record to Ed at FamilySearch.org, and was surprised to see that it was an interracial marriage, performed by a Justice of the Peace, not in the Catholic Church. Mary's name was recorded as Chapasson, not previously married (although she had been previously married in France, with children) and Ed was divorced.

At Missoula Public Library, I easily found Mary Mack in the cemetery index books, and she was at Saint Mary's. The bio sheet included the date, page, and column number for the newspaper items. With that, I was able to go directly to her death notices in the newspaper microfilm. I saved those images to a USB drive, so they were easy to e-mail to Gérard. She died 2 October, 1914, of a brain tumor.

Gérard shared that he had a Canada border crossing record where Marie Clapasson named her contact in Missoula. I found that record on Ancestry, and it appears that the person listed was Mrs. Gleim. Mary Gleim is a notorious figure in Missoula history, known for, among other things, operating brothels. Her addresses, and those of Marie (from city directories) put them living adjacent to each other, in the downtown area of Missoula. I don't know what type of relationship existed between Marie Clapasson and Mary Gleim. I found no arrest records for Marie during a check of historic jail records at UM's Mansfield Library Special Collections, nor at the new Missoula County Records Center. Gérard later said that he was aware of the possible connection to Mrs. Gleim. The staff at MCRC also checked their naturalization records for Marie, but didn't find her. Perhaps she claimed automatic citizenship based on her marriage to Ed Mack.

I went to Saint Mary's cemetery where a staff member escorted me to Mary Mack's burial place. She has no headstone. She probably originally had a flat "paver" with her name. Probing with a large metal spike didn't reveal it, and it may have disintegrated after 99 years. I took special note of the location, then used Google Maps (satellite view) zoomed in all the way, plus street view (Marie was close to the fence) and was able to give Gérard a virtual visit to the burial site of his great grandmother.

I received an e-mail back from the Missoula Cemetery. They found no information about Marie Clapasson Mack with her husband's record, but the burial record for Ed's second wife Callie indicated that she had been murdered!

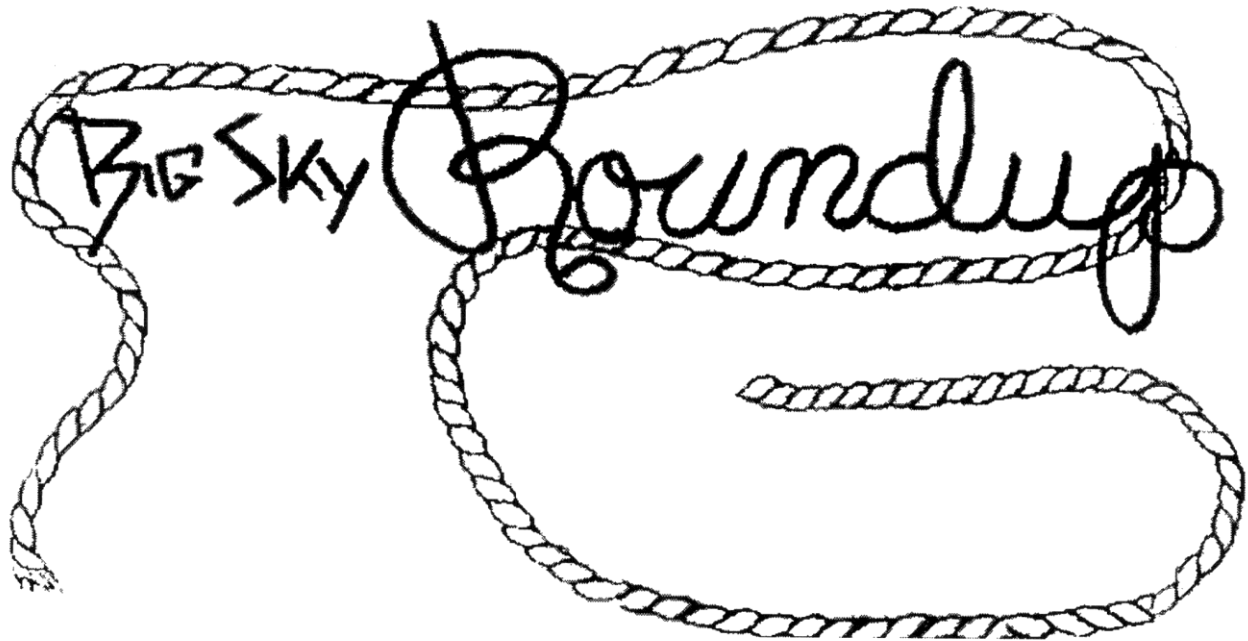
I visited the courthouse to get death certificates for Marie, Callie, and Ed, then went back to the library for the bio sheets for Callie and Ed. The newspaper reported that Callie had been found with a bullet wound in her head, and a gun in her hand. The initial thought was suicide, but investigators ruled that out. A female associate and a former male guest at Callie's boarding house were initially charged with Callie's death, but then I read that Ed Mack was charged a few days later with killing his wife. The newspaper vital records index did not have the date of Ed's trial. Back at MCRC, I was able to read the trial record. Sadly, it only listed the charges, the list of jurors, and the list of witnesses (which included the two people originally charged in the murder). The jury instructions included explanations of first and second degree murder, manslaughter, premeditation, and other information the jurors would need for the case. The file included no list of evidence and no testimony or law enforcement reports, but a final sheet of paper that said Ed was acquitted. His death notice in *The Missoulian* said that Ed had come to Missoula to play baseball. Perhaps he was part of one of the local company teams. He worked as a horse trainer in his earlier days, and was a barber until he became too ill to work. The notice referred to the murder of Callie, saying that he was acquitted after a lengthy trial, and vowed to find the real killers.

Feeling the full story of Marie's husband wouldn't be known without more information about the trial, I used the microfilmed *Missoulian* newspapers for February 11, 12, and 13, 1925 to review the coverage of event. The reporter commented on the large number of people who came to watch. The State was seeking the death penalty if Ed Mack was found guilty. The coroner and a doctor ruled out the possibility that the wounds could have been self inflicted, as she had three bullet wounds, anyone of which could have been fatal, and the body had no powder burns. Prosecution witnesses reported hearing three gunshots, and a voice they identified as Mack's, in the area of the woodshed behind Columbia Rooms, Callie Mack's boarding house business. However, some of these witness statements were not consistent with their previous testimony at the earlier inquest, and some were specifically contradicted. Apparently in response to criticism about the quality of the character of some of those witnesses, the prosecutor was quoted as saying, "One can't get witnesses from a Sunday school for a crime that is committed in a house of ill-repute." Defense witnesses testified seeing Ed at his barber shop during the time in question, and character witnesses described him as a good citizen. In the end, the jury deliberated only 40 minutes before acquitting Ed Mack of the murder, to the approval of the large crowd which had attended the trial.

I was glad to have the opportunity to work on this research request. Since my personal research doesn't include this geographical area, it was fun to learn what wonderful resources we have available right in our own home town. And most of all, the staff at every stop was friendly and helpful.



Terry Atwood
PO Box 5313
Helena MT 59602



25TH ANNUAL STATE GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

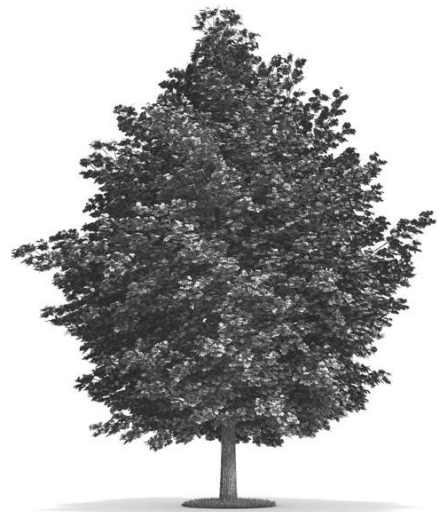
**HELENA COLONIAL INN
SEPTEMBER 25, 26, 27, 2014**

FEATURING TWO NATIONAL SPEAKERS

Curt Witcher and David Rencher

Save the Date!
This is a conference you won't want to miss!
Registration Forms will be mailed in late July.

Find the Silver Linings in Your Tree



*Montana State Genealogical Society
25th Anniversary Helena 2014*