

Big Sky Roundup



<http://montanamsgs.org>

2014-2015 Officers

April 2015

President's Message

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Newsletter Editor – Shawna Valentine

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As the days get longer and temperatures continue to climb, it is so reassuring to see the world shake off the doldrums of inactivity and emerge in a symphony of re-growth. Green sprouts eagerly volunteer to lead the way to fill in the life-less voids of the flower beds and it seems that every day brings very noticeable results.

The progress of spring reminds me that anything is possible. I will admit that it takes a plethora of elements and a large dose of Divine Intervention, but just look at what can be accomplished when a few plants decide to become active and contribute to the greater good!

Without a few plants to take the lead and show the world what can be accomplished by working together and volunteering their efforts for the greater good, the plain brown dirt prevails. MSGS is like a flower bed. Like any Society, it requires a few members to step up and contribute their talents in leadership positions. New people, just like new plants, bring a continued vitality to any environment.

At our September Conference, the opportunity to conquer inactivity and contribute your talents will be available as MSGS will have at least one Office (Secretary) in need of a volunteer. If you have questions on the office, please email me or Betty Marshall at the addresses to the left.

Please consider becoming involved so the future of MSGS can be a colorful garden rather than a patch of barren earth.

Shawna Valentine, President

Summary of the 28 March 2015 MSGS Board Meeting



The March 28th, 2015 meeting of the Montana State Genealogical Society was called to order at 10:07 by President Shawna Valentine. The roll call of officers & board members by Kathy Patrick, secretary showed the following present: Shawna Valentine, Verba Valentine, Terry Atwood, Shirley Rogers, Mary Pitch, Karen Huck, Pat Ludwig, Kathy Patrick, Carol Elliott, and Marilyn Lewis.

Minutes were read and approved.

Terry Atwood delivered the Treasurer's report. It showed the checking account at \$296.65 and savings account \$17,127.81.

1st Vice President, Verba Valentine, shared her findings on the state conference which will be held in Butte September 24, 25, 26 2015 at the Butte Civic Center. After much discussion about affordability and participation the prices for registration and food were decided.

To buy food separately- Lunches \$17.00 Banquet \$25.00	Full registration with all the meals \$114.00
Registration without meals \$75.00	Friday only registration, no meals \$50.00
Saturday only registration, no meals \$45.00	

Coffee we hope will be covered with donations.

MSGS has a block of rooms at the Comfort Inn on Harrison Avenue held until September 9, 2015. The Hotel rooms will run \$88.00 plus tax for 2 beds or King single or double occupancy with \$10 per each additional occupant, Breakfast included. There will be a free shuttle from the motel to the Civic Center.

An Ethnic Tour of the Neighborhoods along with a stop at the Serbian Orthodox Church will be offered on Thursday for \$15.00. Limited to 26. They have suggested Chris Fritz for the banquet speaker. He is a teacher and comes well recommended. Ellen Crain is thrilled to welcome us to the Butte Archives for those who would like to do research on Thursday or earlier. We had planned at the September meeting to offer a 1st Family Workshop on Thursday of Conference. After some discussion, it was decided to postpone a workshop having it at a conference held closer to publication date allowing time for inclusion in the next edition.

Shirley Rogers 2nd Vice President reported the pins will be here for the July meeting. She will know more about the raffle prizes at that meeting as well. If there are any ideas for fund raisers please contact Shirley.

Registrar's Report from Mary Pitch indicated 560 members plus 48 from Gallatin group. There are still a couple of societies who have not reported.

Committee & Appointment Reports:

Library – Karen Huck Microsoft products have replaced open office on computers 1 and 2. Internet wiring for the third computer is hung and the computer will be available soon. There will be a shelf-reading party at the library to correct misplaced books (and generate a little fun as well). May 7 & 8 will be the Montana Shared Catalog meeting in Helena.

FGS Report – Shirley Rogers thanked the Board for allowing her to serve as delegate to the conference. The FGS conference was held with RootsTech this year. The Societies were not given adequate space for presentation of their work. Shirley enjoyed the meet and greet and opening sessions. Again we heard the message of keeping up with the changing technology. The Preserve the Pensions of 1812 is hoping to get more machines to speed up the work.

History – Pat Ludwig brought this year's conference memory book. She asked that we sign the book as a means of identifying people. She will bring past years books to the conference for all to view.

First Families & Early Settlers – Shawna needs old photos for divider pages and cover. All the data needs to be to Shawna by July 1 for a September delivery. Photos and half page stories of ancestors need to be to Shawna by June 10. In July we can look at the number of books to print. Carol Elliott recommended combining the indexes for all volumes for ease of use. Pat Ludwig was going to check with someone about doing that project.

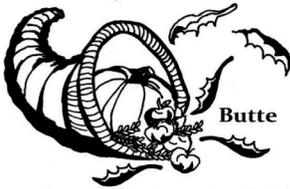
Old Business: A discussion was held about a way to inventory records available at the county courthouses. Marilyn Lewis will bring a copy of the form the Lewistown group used in their project.

New Business: Nominating Committee will be looking for a person to serve as Secretary.

July 2015 Board Meeting will be held in Helena on the 18th.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Patrick, Secretary

Harvesting Our Roots



September 24, 25, 26, 2015

Montana State Genealogical Society
26TH ANNUAL STATE GENEALOGY CONFERENCE
BUTTE CIVIC CENTER, BUTTE, MONTANA

September 24, 25, 26, 2015

FEATURING TWO NATIONAL SPEAKERS

PAUL MILNER

Paul Milner, a native of northern England, is a professional genealogist and international lecturer. He is the author of numerous books on genealogical research. As a genealogist he speaks on a variety of topics relating to research in the British Isles, migration to North America and research methodology. Paul focusses on British Isles resources and methodology on his blog at www.milnergenealogy.com In Butte, he will speak on:



ENGLISH PARISH REGISTERS: HOW TO ACCESS, USE AND INTERPRET: Learn how to access, use and correctly interpret the information found in the christening, marriage and burial registers of the English parish church. See examples of the problems to watch for and the clues given for further research. Learn what to do when your ancestor is not found.

BURIED TREASURES: WHAT'S IN THE ENGLISH PARISH CHEST: The English parish was both an ecclesiastical and a civil jurisdiction. Both jurisdictions created informative records and kept them in the Parish Chest. This presentation will examine the breadth and wealth of information that can be found, going well beyond the baptism, marriage and burial registers.

FINDING THE CORRECT PLACE: MAPS AND GAZETTEERS FOR SCOTTISH RESEARCH: Learn the important history of map making and see examples of many examples of the different types of maps available, many now online and how they can be used to assist in your Scottish research. Plus learn about the different gazetteers that will assist in finding the correct location.

EFFECTIVE USE OF ENGLAND'S NATIONAL ARCHIVES WEBSITE: Learn how to effectively use the research tools, indexes and catalogs on this large website to find your ancestors and to put them into their correct historical context. There is material here for the absolute beginner to the most experienced researcher.



MAUREEN TAYLOR

Ms. Taylor is a frequent keynote speaker on photo history, photograph preservation and family history. She has a skilled eye for uncovering clues within a picture – a hairstyle, sign in the background, or shape of a shirtsleeve – in order to identify a person, place or era. What follows from her genealogical expertise is the story behind the images of the past, shedding light on what otherwise may remain unknown for centuries.

Maureen will speak on:

IDENTIFYING AND DATING FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS: Audiences love this interactive lecture on discovering who's who in their family pictures. They'll learn 10 easy steps for naming those unidentified pictures tucked away in shoeboxes.

BUNS, BEARDS, BODICES & BUSTLES: UNDERSTANDING ANCESTORS THROUGH CLOTHING: Ancestral fashions and the industry that produced them left behind a fascinating legacy of images and information. •Paris fashion in America: north, south, east and west interpretations •Fashion icons from Charles Dickens to stage star Lillie Langtry •Fashion foibles & practical pastimes: how our ancestors designed & hand-crafted accessories •What's old is new and what's new is old? Repeating fashion trends & how to read the clues •Labor records relating to hat, hair and accessory factories & home-work.

PRESERVING FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS 1839 TO THE PRESENT: From daguerreotypes to digital imaging dilemmas, this in-depth seminar covers everything a family photographer needs to know about caring for photographs. Topics include printing and sharing digital images, and how to safely label grandparents' pictures.

RIGHT OR WRONG: 6 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PICTURE SHARING ON LINE: Upload, post, and share. Yet there are pitfalls of permissions, resolution and re-use. This seminar takes you through the steps of resolution rules, the dangers of right click copying, the ethics and safety of picture sharing platforms & citing your photos.

Full Registration is only \$75.00 without meals, \$114.00 with 3 meals

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

Who are the Morrisites & What do they have to do with Montana?

By Karen Huck, Librarian

A member of the Lewis & Clark County Society donated a chart and also a thumb drive with an alphabetical listing of the Morrisites to the library. If you would like us to look up a name for you, contact the library for a query at lccgs1@gmail.com

The Church of the Firstborn was a sect of the Latter Day Saint movement that formed as an offshoot of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1861 and involved in the Morrisite War. Its adherents were known as Morrisites, and schismatic sects that emerged from it were extant until 1969.

In 1860 Joseph Morris began to collect followers. In February 1861 he was excommunicated from the LDS Church. On April 6, 1861, Morris and his followers organized the Church of the Firstborn and called all of his followers to gather at Kingston Fort, a 3 acre fort on Weber River that had been abandoned in 1858. By midsummer 1861, the group reached 300 followers.

An eight-page *Roll-of Membership, Names of Persons Baptized into the Fulness of the Gospel* was published in San Francisco in 1886. An introduction to the roll reads: "Names of persons baptized during the administration of Joseph Morris, at South Weber, Utah Territory, in the years of 1861 and 1862." The Roll of Membership then lists alphabetically the names of 430 individuals.

By the spring of 1862, food was scarce and some members were becoming discontented. With the steady outflux of members, the question of property entitlement became contentious. Eventually, the Utah territorial militia was ordered to arrest Morris and the other leaders of the church. On June 15, 1862, Morris was killed in a skirmish and other Morrisite leaders were taken prisoner.

Ultimately, many of the members of the church began to re-gather in **Deer Lodge County Montana** under the leadership of George Williams, who declared himself to be the "Prophet Cainan" and Morris's rightful successor.

After Williams died in 1882, the church divided into a number of schisms, each claiming to be led by William's rightful successor. The largest group, based in Montana, was led by John R Eardley, who renamed the church the "Church of Jesus Christ of Saints of the Most High." By the 1950's most of the members of the church had died and it was officially disbanded in 1969.

--Excerpts taken from Wikipedia.org for Church of the First Born (Morrisite)

Bitterroot Scottish Irish Festival Planned for August 15 & 16, 2015 at the Daily Mansion in Hamilton

Plans are well underway for the **Bitterroot Scottish Irish Festival** to be held at the Daly Mansion in Hamilton on August 15 & 16, 2015. This year, Clan Gregor is our 2015 Honored Clan. A free bus runs continually each day to take you from the huge high school parking lot to the Daly Mansion. Be sure to be there by noon for the Parade of Pipers, Drums and Clans and plan on staying at least a couple of hours. There's vocal & instrumental entertainment, Irish and Scottish dancing, & Celtic games going on all day, plus vendors (both food and otherwise) and Clan booths. The mansion is open for self guided tours and pasties are served out on the porch. Events are held both Saturday and Sunday.

For more details, see our website: <http://www.bitterrootscottishirishfestival.org/> We look forward to see you there.

Submitted by Marti Hale,
Regional V.P. Clan Fergusson Society, NA

Remember to send notification of any members who have died since last September to Judy Cohen at bumpie6@bresnan.net so they may be included in the annual Memorial Program at the September Banquet. All names must to be to Judy by Sept. 11th to be included in the 2015 program.



What's happening on the local level....

Beaver Head Hunters – Dillon

Spring is around us, and we are anxious to get out and enjoy some nice weather. We will soon be planning our summer outing, which is one of the highlights of the year.

The Beaver Head Hunters elected new officers for 2015 in January. Carla Andrus is president, Kim Nye vice president, Dorothy Stout secretary, and Bob Gunderson treasurer. After these officers took over we each checked our last years' genealogy resolutions to see if we accomplished them. Then we wrote out new resolutions for the coming year. In doing this some members mentioned that they had difficulty knowing how to organize the piles of papers that they accumulate. In order to help with this dilemma that every genealogist faces, we spent our February and March meetings discussing how to organize paper records and scanned documents. Keeping organized makes a big difference in keeping track of our ancestors.

This month we will again have a session on Loving Our Ancestors. We each bring a favorite heirloom from one of our ancestors and a photo of that ancestor, and tell about the heirloom and the ancestor that passed it on. It's always fun to see artifacts from the 1800s.

In June we will again start our summer project of helping visitors find information on their local ancestors. We have a committee of 12 members who work one day a week in the museum research room to help the visitors. Using Past Perfect we can search through many thousands of records held in the museum. We have a plethora of information on the early settlers of this county, and visitors are always thrilled with the amount of data we find for them. All of our books, records, family files and photos have been entered into this database, making it easy to find whatever is available on their surname.

We will soon be planning for the 2015 State Conference. We will all be working together on our secret projects, and hope everyone will be able to attend the conference in September. See you there!

Submitted by Pat Darling, BHH Liaison

Broken Mountains Genealogical Society – Chester

The Broken Mountains Genealogical Society has been continuing their work on cataloguing the obituaries that appear in the local newspapers as well as updating the maps and listings for the burials in the various cemeteries in Liberty County. All of this material is available at the Library and also on the BMGS web site. Sean Knighton has been the web master and with his leaving the group was concerned about updates but he has assured them that he will continue to keep the material current.

Betty Marshall, the present treasurer informed us that with the budget intact, it will not be necessary for the club to collect dues from members and she has sent our dues into the State organization with our present membership. That means we can continue with our memberships with no dues for this year, nor will any former member or anyone who join this year. We are hoping this will encourage others to come to the meetings and take advantage of our materials.



Since we have many of the headstones photographed and many more are available on *Find a Grave*, we are having a work meeting in April and possibly in May to work on gluing these images on to the burial cards. This information will also be added to our burial database. The photo to the left shows the gals hard at work on the burial cards.

Another summer project is to walk the Joplin Cemetery and see what updates are needed for our records and the present map. The larger maps for the Chester Cemetery are updated and will replace the ones in the display case at the Cemetery.

Anyone interested in working on their genealogy or our society projects are invited to check the Library on the first Thursday of each month to see if the group is working. Business meetings are held only 4 times a year with the next one being in July.

Submitted by Pat Ludwig, BMGS Liaison

Flathead Valley Genealogical Society – Kalispell

The Flathead Valley Genealogical Society has been busy the last several months. In November we elected new officers with Vickie Rowley as President, Debbie Perrone as Vice-President, Charlotte Van Dyke as Treasurer and Lynn Bradley as Secretary. A heartfelt thanks goes out to Shirley Rogers - departing president, for all the wonderful work she did. Thankfully she's still involved. We had a meeting in January on Newspaper research, what to look for and where to look. As we had several members of the society attend the Rootstech conference in Salt Lake in Feb, we asked them to give us an overview of what they learned and experienced. We learned of several new online programs out there that help with your genealogical research. March was a webinar on how to do a personal history from the Rootstech conference. Very informative and very fun. This last month we had the opportunity to tour the local Family History Center and find out what is offered there for us to use.

We have also been busy updating the Flathead County GenWeb site, part of the Mt Genweb, and have included obituaries listed in the Daily Interlake for 1969-1985, all newspaper records from 1893-1911, 1920-1921. We are currently working on 1986 obits, 1912-1919, newspaper records and 1911-1919 Marriages. We have also been given permission to add Presbyterian Church records for the years 1892-1940 and hope to be able to get those online in the near future. The members of the society also asked us to include a section on research helps, which has begun and will continue to be added to. In June we plan on taking cemetery pictures for findagrave and at that time will update our list for Conrad Cemetery.

Submitted by Vickie Rowley, FVGS Liaison

Gallatin County Genealogical Society – Bozeman

Winter ushered in a busy season with a new society index project and a series of programs to introduce members to new research sources and methods.

In late 2014, the society started a new project to index probated wills located at the Law and Justice Center in Bozeman, Montana. Due to the lack of file space, wills had been stored in miscellaneous boxes with no easy retrieval system. The society purchased document storage boxes with tabs for easy access and retrieval. The index lists the surname, first name, box number, file number and file date of each will. Each box is labeled on the outside with the will numbers and will dates contained within the box. In addition, a printed index list is contained in each box to help court staff with retrieval. The index will be posted on the GCGS website once the project is completed. So far, over 1800 wills have been indexed. The society has also reached a significant milestone of 100,000 indexed records in less than three years. As of April 2015, members have indexed over 105,000 local records and posted the information to databases accessible via the society's website (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mtgcs).

In November, member Carol Elliott gave a program on "Genealogical Research in Washington, DC" based on her participation in a National Genealogical Society research trip. She focused on physical research at the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Library as well as use of their websites for research.

The society took a field trip in January to the Gallatin History Museum. Members toured the basement research areas which hold original voter registration records as well as the museum's newspaper archives. Research Coordinator Rachel Phillips discussed how people visit the museum for research on family history and the history of their homes as well as use of the museum's collection of city directories, oral histories, and photographs.

Pat Roath, the Registrar and Collection Manager at the Museum of the Rockies, presented a fascinating February program on dating photographs using clothing styles. Members had been encouraged to bring family photos to the meeting. Pat's expertise was in great demand as she analyzed and dated individual photographs based on clothing style and portrait poses.

Submitted by Carol Elliott, GCGS Liaison

Great Falls Genealogy Society – Great Falls

Great Falls Genealogy Society is celebrating its 40th year as a Society and a Library! On April 25 our Society hosts an Open House, from 10-3 PM at the GSGS Library. Later in the fall, we have plans for a celebratory banquet. In honor of our 40th year, we have a fund-raising project designed to increase our Montana Collection in the library. One member who wishes to remain anonymous has given \$1,000 to be matched to the first \$1,000.00 raised; we are hoping to raise \$4,000.00, total for our Montana Collection. Come visit and celebrate with us!

Our Society has been working on two large projects in 2015. Eleven years ago the Society inventoried all Cascade County records, and at that time, found more than 800 Inquests which were cached in the Courthouse basement. At that time, we provided the Commissioners with an index of the Inquests, and these were removed to the Cascade County History Museum. Fast forward to 2015. This spring, several of our volunteers are now involved in unfolding these valuable documents, carefully straightening them, and making a copy of each one for our Society Collection. The unfolded originals will be returned to the History Museum in individual files. This is a very time-consuming project, as many of the Inquests have 20 pages or more, and the originals are in fragile condition. When the project is complete, GFGS will have copies of all known historic Cascade County Inquests and Coroner Register Reports—and these will be available for researchers.

Our second major project this year involves working with the Ursuline Catholic Center to inventory all Ursuline mission archived records kept in Great Falls. The Ursuline Center recently was signed over to a Foundation, and plans are to continue to keep the Ursuline records at the Ursuline Center. The Ursuline Collection contains all extant records from the myriad of Ursuline Missions in Montana, Alaska, and the Northwest (some records are missing due to fires at the Missions through the years). Three volunteers work twice a week with the remaining Ursuline Sister at the Center, recording the contents of each archival box from these missions. When the project is complete, GFGS will retain a copy of the Ursuline Inventory, so that we can better advise researchers regarding those records.

Submitted by Janet Thomson, GFGS President

Lewis & Clark County Genealogy Society – Helena

The Lewis & Clark County Genealogical Society meets on the second Wednesday of each month year round, usually at the Lewis & Clark Library. The meetings for the past six months have been very diverse. In November, we had two presenters—Beth Foster, a member of the Pipes and Drums of the Black Devils, a bagpipe 'band', here in Helena. Beth not only played her pipes for us, but gave us a history of the band which is now the official pipe band for the First Special Service Force Association. Following Beth's presentation, Bill Woon, whose father was a member of the First Special Service Force, told us of FSSF's training at Fort Harrison and activities during WWII and why they garnered the name the Black Devils. If you are interested in learning about either group, you can google them. At our Christmas Open House, each member talked about an item they had brought that at one time belonged to an ancestor. These included a store ledger, salt & pepper shakers, a pocket watch, an engraved spoon, an evening bag, an unusual WWII music box that dispensed cigarettes, etc. The New Year began with Karen Huck and Dorothy Oliveira talking about First Families/Early Settlers of Montana and other such programs from other states. They explained why it is so important to share your genealogy and how to apply for First Families/Early Settlers. Since they gave their talk, a number of our members are feverishly completing their applications before the deadline of June 1st. In February and March two of our members gave memorable talks—Linda Howard spoke on her American genealogy and Indian Culture and Dianne Armstrong spoke on "Researching Linked Descendants—Slave Holders/Slave Genealogy". By April it was time to just sit back and share information. We held discussions on Findagrave and other genealogy websites including one that has a time line of epidemics in the U.S. and where they occurred.

Our society has started a Family Tree Maker Users Group that meets the first Friday of each month in the public library. We bring our laptops, our questions and whatever we are working. Two of our members are very knowledgeable and keep busy answering our questions as we enter data into our programs. We are learning from one another!

Submitted by Mary Pitch, LCCGS President

Park County Genealogy Society – Livingston

The Park County Genealogy Society has had a busy year. One of our members has been searching for descendants of Lavina Taylor and John Cone to obtain military headstones at their place of burial. Lavina Taylor was a Civil War Volunteer nurse and is buried in the Gardiner Cemetery. John Cone was in the Civil War, Nevada Calvary Company A, and is buried at Chico Cemetery. At least one descendant has been found and a military stone application has been sent to them for a signature.

The Society has continued cleaning the military records we received from the American Legion. We are currently in the process of indexing these records.

Our Society had a table to show off our work at the annual "Park County Pioneer Dinner" on April 11th. We had obituary indexes, military indexes and most of the indexes for the Park County cemeteries. Our work was greatly appreciated.

The Montana Secretary of State has a Centennial Project that recognizes "100 Years of Business" in Montana. The Chico – Emigrant Cemetery Association was started 100 years ago in 1915 and is still active on the Secretary of State's website. The society has a certificate of recognition that will be placed in the Genealogy area of the Livingston Public Library.

Last but not least, the society has a new website with many of the indexes we currently have at the library. You can find us at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mtpcgs/> or on the link thru the Montana State Genealogy Society. We also have a society e-mail: pcgsmt@outlook.com

Submitted by Audrey M. Dodge, PCGS President

Yellowstone Genealogy Forum – Billings

Land Records – the "where" and "when" of your ancestors' lives - was the topic of a program given by P. J. Smith. P. J. worked at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for several years and is knowledgeable on homesteads, Indian allotments, and other federal land records. Forum members toured the BLM Public Room records.

Members were given a tour of the Clerk of District Court at Yellowstone County Courthouse. Some of the records in that office are marriage licenses, probate, divorce, wills, insanity, criminal, and guardianship. The Clerk gave a program at a Forum meeting a month or so before this and also provided tours then.

The November program was presented by Dick Thayer who does a large amount of research in Carbon County. His current project is indexing the names and locations of all schools in that county. He is also collecting pictures of the schools. There were 177 schools in Carbon County, starting in 1887. Dick is trying to locate pictures of all the schools. A list of "missing" schools is on the Forum website.

January's program was a webinar on Annie Moore of Ellis Island, the first person to be processed through the facility. Megan Smolenyak was the featured genealogist.

Daughters of the American Revolution discussed what types of service qualify your ancestor as a patriot and make you eligible for membership. DAR members are available at the Family History Center to help potential members.

The Forum celebrated Women's History Month by having a speaker from the High Plains Women's Museum in Billings. Eileen Morris is in charge of an oral history project that is collaborating with Rocky Mountain College to interview older local women.

The Genealogy Room at Billings Public Library has 10 volunteers who staff the room weekday afternoons and on Thursday evenings. The book selection committee is gradually purchasing books and there have been many donations.

Submitted by P. J. Smith, YGF President

HOW A QUERY LED TO A TRAGEDY

by Marilyn McCollum Lewis

This is the story of how a friend and I finished up a query research with very little information. It also shows some of the resources available for researching Fergus County, many of which were compiled by members of the Central Montana Genealogy Society in Lewistown. Newspaper clippings are from the local Lewistown paper.

Last year, Shirley, a high school classmate who knew I was involved in genealogy, called me about a query that had been forwarded to her from another person living in Lewistown. The query was asking for information for a friend of hers, I think her friend was looking for her biological mother who I will call "Betsy". She sent "Betsy's" graduation picture, her birthday in 1934 and said "Betsy's" mother died in 1936. The graduation picture was taken at a Lewistown photography studio, but Shirley and I didn't know anyone from that class that fit the information. Then we realized that there were several small high schools in the county with towns that didn't have photo shops, so most graduates would have to come to Lewistown.

I looked in several of the history books that have been done by these communities. Several of these listed all their graduates over the years. However, I didn't find anything that matched. Shirley then visited a friend of hers in the Winifred area. She had taken "Betsy's" picture with her and sure enough she found a match! Now we had a last name. I find her with a Winifred family in the 1940 census listed as a lodger. I think she was living with another lady in Winifred when she was in high school. I then checked our marriage index records and found she was married in her senior year. I don't think that marriage lasted very long, as I find another marriage a few years later.

Then I checked our obituary records and find "Betsy" had passed away about 10 years ago. Her husband was a truck driver and they had

WOMAN SWEEP TO DEATH IN JUDITH RIVER

MOTHER OF 8 PERISHES WHEN
WALL OF WATER THROWS
HER FROM PLATFORM
WHILE CROSSING SWOLLEN
STREAM—BODY NOT RECOVERED.

Mrs. Dreng Dranky, 40-year-old mother of eight children was swept to death in flood-swollen Judith river late Monday night near her home, 15 miles west of Winifred.

Mrs. Dranky and her husband were returning home from Lewistown with supplies and were crossing the river on a cable and platform rigged to trees on both sides of the river.

They had made three trips and on the fourth, water which had backed up behind an ice jam was suddenly released and both Mr. and Mrs. Dranky were swept from the platform by the wall of water and fell into the raging torrent.

Although he tried desperately to hold Mrs. Dranky, she was torn from her husband's grasp. Mr. Dranky, bruised and cut by buffeting from floating ice, managed to reach shore safely. He notified neighbors and Thomas Jackson, Jr., and Jess Wareham brought news of the tragic mishap to Winifred about 3 a. m. Tuesday.

Sheriff Guy Tullock was notified and Deputies Ross Brown and Ed Nave went out Tuesday morning to assist searching parties along the river. Late Tuesday night they had found no trace of the body.

Mr. and Mrs. Dranky had been living for almost two years on the old "Bulldog" Brown place near the homes of Oscar Anderson and Thomas Jackson. Recently Mr. Dranky had been working with the graveling crew near Christina. They have relatives named Lund living near Hilger. The eight motherless children range in age from two to 19 years old.

DRANKY RITES AT WINIFRED 2 P.M. MONDAY

SERVICES TO BE HELD FOR
MOTHER OF EIGHT WHO WAS
DROWNED IN JUDITH RIVER
WEST OF WINIFRED LAST
MONDAY.

Arrangements were completed Thursday for the funeral of Mrs. Dreng Dranky, who was drowned in the Judith river Monday night when, with her husband, she was swept from a ferry platform by a rush of water as they were attempting to cross the river about 15 miles west of Winifred. The body was recovered Wednesday afternoon about a mile below the point where she was swept into the river, and torn from the grasp of her husband who, battered and bruised by floating ice, managed to reach shore.

The services will be held from the Winifred Community church at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon.

The body was brought to the Creel mortuary here Thursday by County Coroner Curtis W. Wilder and members of the sheriff's force.

Mrs. Dranky is survived by the husband and eight children, all residents of this county.

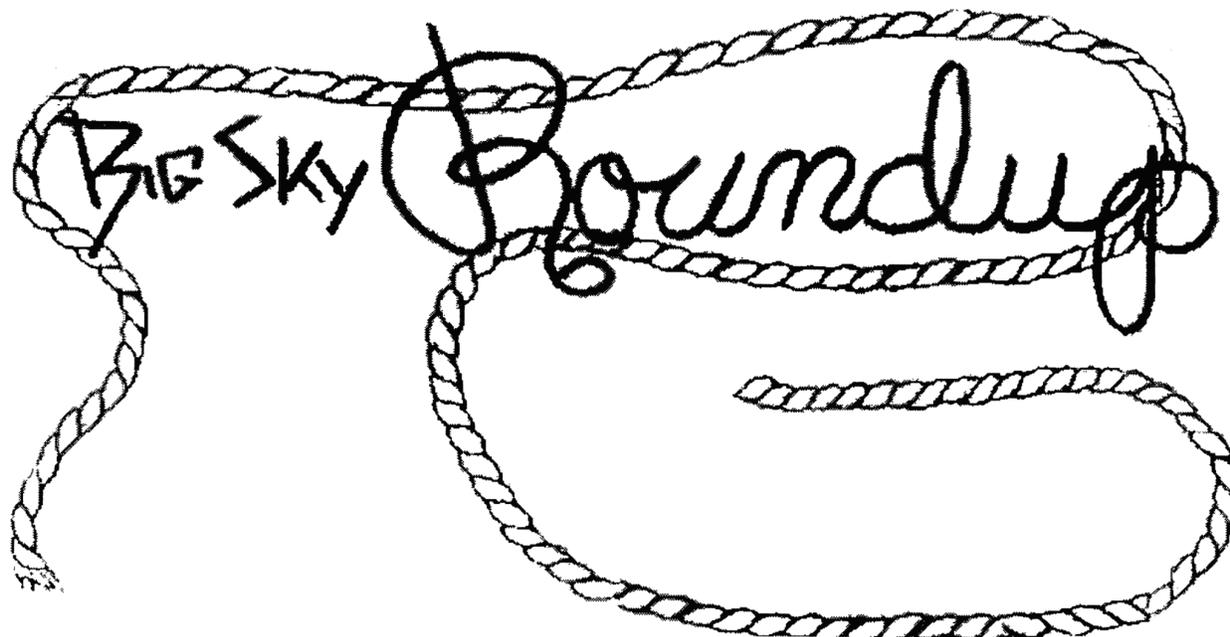
lived several places in Montana. Then he died and she moved back to Lewistown with her two sons. She worked in Lewistown, mostly as a waitress. Next I looked in our death records and I found about five or six entries for "Betsy's" mother. I knew this must be a tragedy of some sort and I was right. The Lewistown Library has the Lewistown newspapers on microfilm and I found several articles in them about her. She and her husband were living near where the Judith River flows into the Missouri. The two of them were returning to their home with supplies and had to cross the Judith River several times on a raft with a cable. This was in March of 1936 and there was ice on the river that broke loose, knocking them off the raft. Her husband hung onto her, but then she was swept out of his arms. They found her the next day about a mile downstream. He was cut and bruised from the ice.

I didn't find an obituary for her, but several of the articles about her said she was a mother of eight! I did some more research and found she was born on the Isle of Guernsey, England and came to America when she was 14 to somewhere in the Midwest. She married there and had seven children before her husband died. I don't know why she moved to Winifred, but that is where she married her second husband.

The person we did the research for has talked to several of her relatives after we sent our results, although several of "Betsy's" half siblings have also died. I also found her father had moved back to Minnesota and lived with his parents. I don't think he ever married again. He died in Michigan in 1971. I hope he kept in contact with his daughter.



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