

Big Sky Roundup



MSGs Web Site:
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mtmsg>

2010-2011 Officers

January 2011

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President's Message

Can't you feel it??

It seems to be everywhere lately --

Recently, it seems that hardly a day goes by where I don't hear of someone becoming interested for the first time in learning about their Family Tree or someone who has been doing research for years becoming revitalized to dust off their notebooks and get going again.

The second season of "Who Do You Think You Are?" will be airing soon and is expected to keep the momentum going nationally. But, on a more localized level, I have heard of several communities reading of their neighbor's ancestors in Volume III of First Families & Early Settlers of Montana and are ready to learn how to ensure that their own families are preserved in the next volume. Interest in our favorite pastime is definitely moving out of just the libraries and courthouses into living rooms, coffee shops, and Main Street.

The excitement of either discovering or re-discovering the joy of knowing one's ancestors is definitely in the air. I encourage you to harness that energy by making your society even more visual in your own community.

Shawna Valentine, President



Summary of the November 6, 2010 Board Meeting

The Montana State Genealogical Society Board met in Helena at the Methodist Church on November 6, 2010 at 10 AM. President Shawna Valentine called the meeting to order. Roll was taken by Secretary Marilyn Lewis and she read the minutes of the last board meeting. Carol Woodley gave the treasurer's report showing a book frolic profit of \$672.00.

Verba Valentine, 1st Vice President, reported we had 70 full and 3 part time registrations at the state conference for a profit of \$735.00. There were lots of comments as well as areas of research interest in the evaluations. The theme for the 2011 conference will be "Finding Lost Leaves" with Thomas W. Jones as the national level speaker. Shirley Rogers, 2nd Vice President, sold quite a few pins. She also asked that members not bring periodicals or magazines for the book frolic. \$265.00 was collected for the War of 1812 indexing fund.

Mary Pitch, Registrar, reported that the Milk River Society has now joined making a total of 456 members in Montana.

Karen Huck, Librarian, attended the Montana Historical Conference along with Al Stoner and Mary Pitch. Karen also attended the Montana Shared Catalog Conference in October. The First Family and Early Settler files are now in our library in Helena.

It was announced that the Anna Mae Hansen Award was given to Carol Woodley and the new Huntsman Award was given to the Lewistown Library.

Fern Kaufman has 1 new First Family application and 3 new Early Settler applications. Al Stoner sent 216 postcards to those who bought Volume I and II. Fern sent e-mails to those without addresses. There have been 83 Volume III sold.

Shawna Valentine needs information for the "Roundup". It seems the word is not getting out or being shared with all members of the societies. She might try sending some information out on e-mail and highlighting a few articles to get more people interested in reading our newsletter. Shawna also reported that 52 counties have been indexed for the 1930 census, 3 are in the process and only Lake County is left. Under old business it was decided to hold the \$500.00 check we are donating to the Montana Historical Society Building Fund until a new administrator has been hired. Shirley Rogers was elected to be the 2011 FGS delegate.

Under new business the next meeting will be held March 12, 2011 at the library in Helena.

Marilyn Lewis, Secretary

MSGS TREASURER SUMMARY - November 4, 2010 - January 13, 2011

MSGS INCOME	
Club and Individual Membership	20.00
CONF 2010 REG	
Conf T-Shirts	12.00
TOTAL CONF 2010 REG	12.00
DEATH INDEX 20.00	
FFM and ES	3,143.10
FFM & ES Expenses	-287.30
TOTAL FFM and ES	2,855.80
Interest Income	1.10
Other Inc	50.00
TOTAL MSGS INCOME	2,958.90

MSGS EXPENSES	
Bank Charges	6.75
DONATION MSHS BUILDING FUND	500.00
Expenses	8.80
Newsletter	85.00
State Annual Tax Report	15.00
TOTAL MSGS EXPENSES	615.55
OVERALL TOTAL	2,343.35
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
MSGS Checking	797.42
MSGS Savings	14,844.45
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	15,641.87

Respectively submitted this 13th Day of January 2011

Carol Woodley, Treasurer

421 South 13th Street, Livingston, MT 59047

1st Vice President's Report

22nd Annual Montana State Genealogical Society Conference



Hilton Garden Inn
Kalispell Montana
September 22, 23, 24, 2011

Our national speaker will be Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., Certified Genealogist and Certified Genealogical Lecturer from Virginia. Dr. Jones is among the top ten speakers in the nation and it will be a wonderful experience to have him present four lectures at our Kalispell conference. Tom retired from a thirty-year career in higher education and professor emeritus at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. His research has encompassed records of every state east of the Mississippi, as well as Iowa, Missouri, Texas, England, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, and Wales. He is most interested in solving "brick-wall" genealogical problems.

The topics will be "Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor", "Five Proven Techniques for Finding Your Ancestor's European Origins", "Organizing Evidence to Overcome Record Shortages", and "How to Avoid Being Duped by the Internet".

We will also have a panel from the Montana State Historical Society. Other speakers are being signed at this time. Mark your calendars and make your plans to attend.

Verba Valentine, MSGS 1st Vice President

Registrar's Report

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND ALL YOUR MEMBERS! Yes, it's that time of year again to renew your society's membership in the Montana State Genealogical Society. Below is the dues schedule. Please include with the dues check, an updated list of your members with addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses if possible and a list of your officers. You may e-mail the lists to me if you prefer.

Please send the above to Mary Pitch, MSGS Registrar, 700 Grant, Helena, MT 59601 by January 31.

<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Society Dues</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Society Dues</u>
1 -10	\$15.00	71-85	\$60.00
11-25	\$25.00	86-100	\$70.00
26-40	\$35.00	101-125	\$80.00
41-55	\$45.00	126-150	\$90.00
56-70	\$55.00		

All State societies will automatically receive the quarterly Big Sky Roundup News. The newsletter is also on the state society's website. www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mtmsgs. However, if anyone wants his or her own copy of the newsletter, they may purchase an individual yearly membership for \$10.00.

Mark your calendar for September 22-24th for the State Conference to be held in Kalispell. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Mary Pitch, MSGS Registrar

Now Available

**First Families
and
Early Settlers
of Montana**



Volume III

**Volume III
of the First Families & Early Settlers of Montana**

Honoring First Family Ancestors who were in Montana before statehood on 8 November 1889 and those Early Settlers who were in Montana from 9 November 1889 to 31 December 1929, Volume III is complete with many individual photographs, data and stories of the families that first shaped our state. Containing over 50 First Families and over 130 Early Settlers, this volume provides valuable insight into life during the early years of Montana. From those who first came in to mine or to bring cattle and supplies to the miners, to the Homesteaders & entrepreneurs of the early 1900's, each has their own experience that collectively chronicles our unique heritage. From all four corners of the state and most places in between, this publication of the Montana State Genealogical Society truly represents the early Montana experience.

Copies of previous volumes are also available. Orders should be sent to:

First Families of MT Orders
44 Wonder Road
Clancy, MT. 59634

Volume I \$22.50 + \$4.50 postage per Book

Volume II \$30.00 + \$6.00 postage per Book

Volume III \$22.50 + \$4.50 postage per Book

**OLD MARRIAGE LICENSES
for Lewis & Clark County**

Patt Jenks of Helena reports that she is working on the old marriage licenses for Helena, Lewis and Clark County, Montana. So far she has gotten from 1865 to 1929. We are trying to get them ready for the internet. "What fun I have had tracing some of the family members and getting them copies of the old marriage licenses. The genealogy society is proofing them for me. This means coping down the names, dates, license number and where the marriage took place."



MSGS Library News
By Karen Huck, MSGS Librarian

**The MSGS Library is located on the
2nd floor of the Lewis & Clark Public Library
120 South Last Chance Gulch in Helena**

Interested in Military Research? The Library has 73 books available, including some "how to research" books. Located between the city directories and annuals (not cataloged yet), in the MSGS/Lewis & Clark Library are the **Official Army Registers** for 1915-1916, 1920-1938, 1940-1947, & 1950-1966. For example, 1944 has in alphabetical order, the active list, retired list, Emergency Officers' retired list of the Army of the United States, retired list under the act of May 7, 1932, Roll of Honor (participants in yellow fever investigations in Cuba), Officers of the General Staff corps, arms, services and bureaus, promotion list, and pay table at back. **US Navy & Marine Corp** records also are available for 1928-1931, 1933-1941, and 1947.

The Official Army Registers for 1863, 1869-1870, 1870-1874, 1876-1877, 1884, 1887, 1898-1899, & 1918 as well as the **Index of General Order and Circulars** for 1884 & 1885 that contains an index of people may also be found in the main section of the Helena Library and are cataloged. They may be found in the 973/ML (military) section.

Montana Aerial Photos for Genealogy

by Nan Breuninger, Helena Montana

Montana's aerial photos are snapshots of the landscape at moments in time, from the 1930s through the present. Old fields, fence lines, and homesteads may still mark the land, and towns are action stopped for a split second.

One convenient source for historic aerial photos of Montana is the National Resource Conservation Service or NRCS (formerly called the Soil Conservation Service), a branch of the US Department of Agriculture. In the 1930s and 1940s the US government began aerial photo inventories of farm land and sent copies of photos to many local offices. From then to the present, as new photos were sent out, some offices stored the old photos, and other offices kept only the new photos. A typical example is the NRCS/Soil Conservation Service office in Helena. It has a very few photos from 1938 and 1939 but has county wide historic photos from 1955. A list of all Montana NRCS offices is online at <http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov>; call for an appointment to view photos.

A second source of Montana aerial photos is a series of books by the Montana Highway Department. The oldest books have only city plats but books after 1960 contain both plats and an aerial photo of each town. Most of the aerial photos extend one quarter to one half mile beyond the city limits. There are plat books for various years, both for incorporated cities and for unincorporated areas. Copies of some books are available at the Montana State Library in Helena, others at the Great Falls Public library and libraries at MSU Bozeman, MSU Billings, and at UM Missoula. Titles of two 1960s books are Montana Incorporated Cities Aerial Photos & Plats, June 30, 1962 and Aerial Photos Montana Villages and Communities (Unincorporated) November 1, 1964.

Careful study of aerial photos is rewarding. Look for traces of old fields from sodbusting days, especially if there is a grazing or cropping contrast across fence lines. To find old homesteads look for old



1948 Livingston, Montana Aerial Photo

Train Station is in the Lower Left Corner,
North is Up Toward the Top of the Photo

roads, fences, hedges or windbreaks that lead to the sites. Building foundations are less distinct than actual buildings but can sometimes be distinguished. Active ranches change surprisingly from decade to decade—outbuildings come and go, crop patterns change, and roads switch around.

Gathering a series of aerial photos of a town is a good way to chronicle changes around buildings and homes of your ancestors. Here's an example from Livingston, Montana. Comparing two old aerial photos of Livingston (1948 and 1962) to a current image from Google Earth, the expansion of the town to the north is clear. In 1948 there were a few isolated houses north of the train station. By 1962 many more houses surround the older 1948 places. On today's Google image, suburbs extend north along Old Clyde Park Road, putting the 1948 houses far from the edge of town.

To buy a print of a historic aerial photo, contact the US National Archives or the US Geologic Survey. Recent photos are easily to find online. For example, look at Google Earth, a composite of aerial photos that is corrected for distortions and meshed into one seamless image. Government aerial photos are in the public domain (without copyright) but many online sources are subject to copyright.

Nan's article is based on an interview with her husband, a geologist, who often works with aerial photographs and on her research at local libraries.

Send comments to Nan Breuninger at nan@thoselittlecards.com



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

Please submit items to Shawna at
smv2222@bresnan.net

Butte Silver Bow Genealogy Society

The Butte Silver Bow Genealogy Society held its annual meeting on November 4, 2010. Officers for 2011 were elected. These are: Jo Ann Piazzola, President; Julie Bushmaker, Vice President; Linda Lee Holmes, Secretary; and Tony Konecny, Treasurer. The society bylaws were amended to allow for more than two consecutive terms by any officer.

Programs were tentatively set for the New Year. These include:

- New Familysearch.org lookups
- Danish/Finnish Research
- French Canadian—Daughters of the King
- Exploring Passenger Lists
- Military Records
- Using Mailing Lists and Message Tours
- New Archives Tour
- Where to Find Vital Records
- Taking Pictures
- Cemetery Visit – Mount Moriah (August)
- Quarterly internet lookups/brick wall problem solving

A possible May trip to Salt Lake City was also discussed.

An unfortunate flood at the Butte Public Library made it impossible to hold meetings in December and January. We are hoping that our gracious hosts are completely dried out and open for meetings by February.

Submitted by Linda Lee Holmes, BSBGS Liaison

Broken Mountains Genealogy Society

I am happy to report that the Broken Mountains Genealogy Society did indeed get off to a good start with new and old projects, gleaming much support. The group doing the Obituary files has most things up to date which is helpful for the group doing the Cemetery and Burial records as they are finishing up the update to their data base and now will check the records for these same people in the Obituaries collected by the group.

We have new officers and already our new Secretary has shared her reports with the local newspaper and plans to write an article each month with what we are doing and what we plan on doing. One of the exciting things she wrote about is that we will start collecting family stories and perhaps try to write a new volume of the Heritage Book. We will have two work meetings this month to help those folks who want to work on their stories or to work on genealogy, or to work on other projects in our part of the library. We hope to get back some of our members who have faded away.

We will soon have new items to add to the web site so were happy to see it is up and running again. We will definitely have to update the Obit index and plan to print a Cemetery and Burial list index which we will share. We will also have to update what is on the site in these slots, but that needs to be checked out.

There was interest in a Cemetery that we found that exists in our county that is not in our records so we are looking at various ways to determine who is buried there. Our next step will be to check with the Catholic Diocese as most church records end up there especially when there is no longer a Church in the location where there had been one.

We will try to keep up the enthusiasm of the few people who attended this meeting and hope to pick up new or previous members right along.

Submitted by Pat Ludwig, BMGS Liaison

Central Montana Genealogy Society

The Central Montana Genealogy Society held their Christmas party December 14 at a local restaurant. There were 24 people present and we enjoyed a nice buffet luncheon. Santa Claus made an appearance and handed out candy canes and called us skeleton chasers! In lieu of a gift exchange we brought items for the food bank. We collected 81 pounds of food, plus a \$20.00 donation. President Marilyn Lewis made some angel favors for everyone and the officers brought door prizes. We are not going to have meetings in January or February.

We are still working on cataloging our books and getting them ready for the shared catalog.

At our October meeting we elected the following officers. President, Marilyn Lewis; Vice-President, Shirley Barrick; Secretary, Nancy Weaver; Treasurer, Audrey Biglen and Librarian, Mary Wise. We are looking forward to a good year.

Submitted by Marilyn Lewis, CMGS President

Great Falls Genealogical Society

I am happy to report that after an extended absence, the Great Falls Genealogical Society has chosen to once again become a member of the Montana State Genealogical Society.

Welcome back!

Submitted by Shawna Valentine, MSGS President

Lewis & Clark County Genealogical Society

The society met at a member's home for a picnic in August. Fall meetings consisted of discussing "brick walls" and new finds and a talk on enhancing old photographs and photographing old tombstones to bring out the writing. At one meeting current newsletters that our library receives were passed out and each member asked to scan for some interesting genealogical tidbit to share. At our annual Christmas Open House members brought ethnic or family favorite treats to share and told about their history. At our first meeting of 2011 a speaker from the military museum at Fort Harrison discussed how to access ancestors' military papers. We plan to have a follow-up meeting at the museum in the Spring.

Submitted by Mary Pitch, LCCGS President

Yellowstone Genealogy Forum

The program for October was presented by member, Glenda Bell. For many years, Glenda performed around the country as "Calamity Jane" Canary. To be authentic, Glenda did much research. There are only five primary sources on Jane. The rest are rumors, newspaper stories, and legend. Glenda helped dispel many of the legends by discussing her research. She also gave short, first-person portrayals of Jane.

The November program was to be a murder mystery, with Forum members playing parts such as Bella Starry, Wylie Arp, Abby Oakley, etc. You get the idea. Preceding this was to be a potluck dinner. Well, the weather at the beginning of the week was bad and only became worse by Tuesday so the meeting was cancelled. It has been rescheduled for February 22nd.

Is your club looking for a fundraiser? If there is a Herbergers store near you, they offer a great fundraiser twice a year. The Forum participated in November and raised \$424. There is nothing to buy. The club sells coupon books for \$5 each that are good on one specified day. If the club meets some other requirements, it can share in the coupon sales on the day of the sale.

Long time Forum member, Bob Erekson, died December 27th. It was through him that the Forum has been able to meet in the LDS Cultural Center for many years. The Forum meeting location is now in limbo until it hears if it will be allowed to continue meeting at the LDS church. Bob will be greatly missed for all he did and for his knowledge of genealogy research, software, and computer hardware. He and his wife, Louise, have published several books on their families.

Submitted by P. J. Smith, YGF President



The Roundup accepts submissions of historical and genealogical interest that have a Montana connection. Examples include, but are not limited to, brief family or town histories, Church or Court Records, Cemetery transcriptions, Newspaper abstracts, Bible Records, Letters, descriptions of holdings and hours of Research Facilities within the state, and instate attractions of historical interest.

Photos may also be accepted if some type of written description of the photo's content accompanies them.

All submitted materials must include a cover letter from the submitter giving Montana State Genealogical Society permission to publish.

Questions, proposed articles and photos may be sent electronically to Shawna Valentine.

The editor reserves the right to accept or reject any submitted material, as well as the right to edit copy.

Beatrice Collins & The 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic in Livingston

by Carol Woodley, Livingston Montana

For the past two years, the Park County Genealogical Society has presented a cemetery walk where their members assume the persona of the person of a particular tombstone. The event has proven to be very successful, as well as a lot of fun for both the presenters and the audience. Every community has interesting residents to be found in the cemetery. Researching, and then presenting them is a great group project. Here, Carol Woodley shares her portrayal of Beatrice Collins, buried in Calvary Cemetery in Livingston. Given in the first person, the story brings both Beatrice and the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic in Livingston to life.

My father and mother are John and Theresa (Walha) Collins both born in Minnesota. I am their daughter *Beatrice* and was born 6 Jan 1893 in St Cloud where I attended school as a child and graduated from St Calhoun's College in St Paul, Minnesota in 1910. Soon after my graduation our family moved to Livingston where my father works as a conductor for the Northern Pacific Railroad. I love living in Montana and went to the Montana State normal school at Dillon and was awarded a life diploma to teach in Montana on the 4th of Dec 1917. I started my 5th year of teaching 1st grade at the North side School this last September and stay active with school activities and participate in the Livingston Social Circles and I am also active at St Mary's Church. I am a Red Cross Volunteer, supporting our boys in France. My friends call me "Babe".

The 1918 school year has started with more than the usual excitement. News of General Pershing's success in Europe is in the headlines, and it looks as though the Great War is coming to an end. My family sends gifts to our troupes and buys war bonds regularly. Our local businesses are very supportive of our troupes. Mother and her friends are busy preserving our winter supply of jam and jelly. We have been saving each and every one of the fruit and berry pits and deposit them in the barrel at the corner of Main and Callender Streets. We do this because both the shell and the kernel are used to produce a carbon that is essential in hardening the metal used in armament manufacturing and other essential war purposes. This helps us feel we are contributing to the war effort. *Park County News 27 Sep 1918*

But the most alarming news is reports of an illness that has reached epidemic proportions in army training camps in the northeast and in Boston. It is being called the Spanish Influenza. Despite its name the virus didn't originate in Spain. Spain has been neutral during the war and its news was not censored. The Spanish press began reporting incidents of the epidemic illness long before news appeared any where else, thus unwillingly lending its name to the disease. According to reports issued by the U.S. Surgeon General, a stricken victim will experience aches, fever and chills. This rapidly becomes pneumonia and often leads to heart failure in two or three days. His advice is to rest in bed, get fresh air, eat abundant food and take Dover's powder, named for Dr. Thomas Dover, an 18th century English physician who first prepared it. Largely used to promote sweating in order to defeat the advance of a cold and fever, it contained, among other ingredients, both opium powder, and potassium sulfate. It is recommended that one drink copious amounts of some warm and harmless fluid with of the powder to induce sweating.

We have been taking the advice found in the *Park County News* (18 Oct 1918 issue) about a preventative for this dreaded disease. Literally hundreds of people throughout the city are wearing pieces of camphor gum, sewed in a sack and suspended from the neck with a cord or small ribbon, as a possible preventative for this disease. This precaution is now being taken throughout the East, where the

disease has been particularly prevalent. People are cautioned against congregating in a crowd and against the use of whiskey or other intoxicants.

The malady reached Livingston in early October. Many of my friends and relatives are sick and unable to go to the local hospital because the hospital cannot care for them. At Livingston the moment the scourge made its appearance in epidemic form the city council, the city school board and the county and city health officials held a meeting and after appointing a committee to take up the question of nursing with the Red Cross, took over the Central School, the best school building in the city and within a short time converted it into a first class hospital. They immediately quarantined the city, all schools and any social activities with the following order from the Board of Health on October 14:

"No public funerals shall be held in the City of Livingston and no persons shall attend any funeral services held in any house, tenement or undertaking parlors, except the members of the family or friends who have been residing or living in the house or tenement of deceased; the undertaker and his assistants, the necessary pall-bearers and minister, the last mentioned only to be in attendance in the presence of the undertaker. No special sales of merchandise shall be advertised or conducted in the city and all persons patronizing any store or place of business in the city must conduct their business promptly and leave. No person or persons shall frequent, resort to, or congregate in any hotel lobby in the city, except transient guests in the city, registered at such hotel. All violations of this order will be prosecuted as and for a misdemeanor and will be punished under the Statutes of the State of Montana or the Ordinances of the City of Livingston." *Park County News 1 Nov 1918, Page 1.*

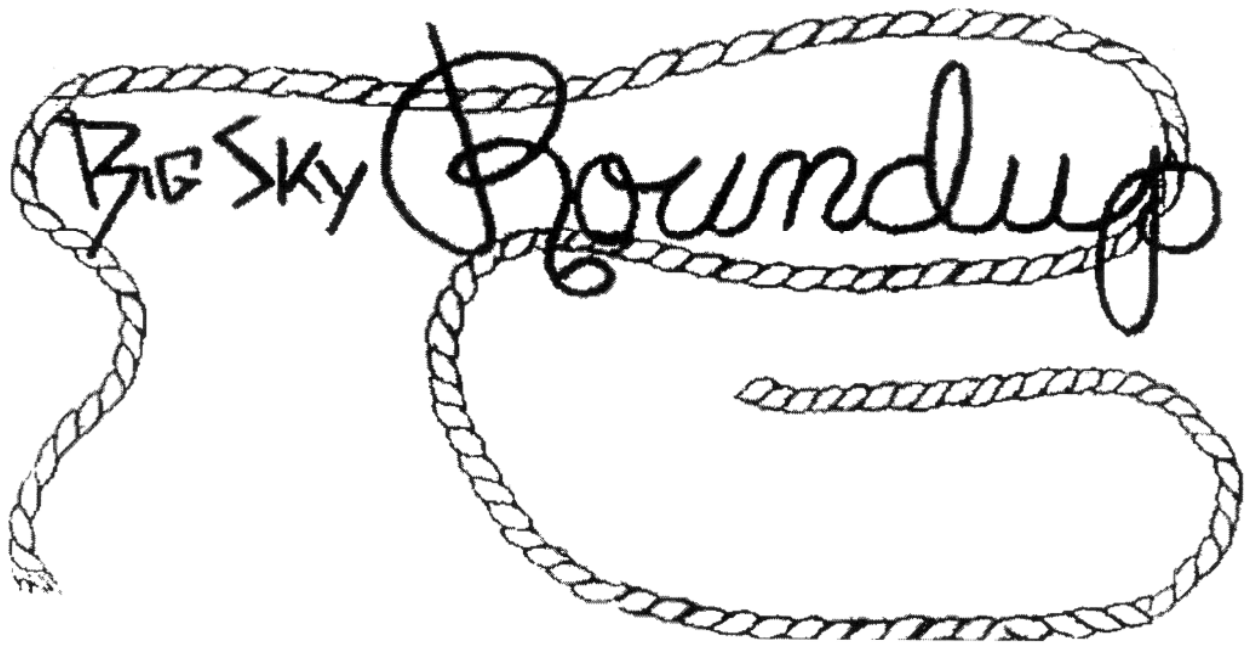
The Livingston Women Red Cross Chapter, under the direction of Mrs. Charles Garnier, has been working day and night in an effort to supply the demand for pneumonia jackets and flu masks. At last report on October 31, dozens of flu masks and 117 pneumonia jackets have been made. Pneumonia Jackets are made with gauze, cheese cloth and cotton or flannelette. They are sleeveless and button down the front to make them easier to put on and wrap around the chest. It is a frantic time and at one point, one of the three health board officials resigned in the face of a petition signed by 1,500 citizens who wanted a continuance of the quarantine when the doctors began to become reluctant to report new cases. According to an *Enterprise* report, one doctor flatly refused to report his cases saying, "I won't be responsible for board of health decisions". Livingston teachers met with school Superintendent B.A. Winans and as a group we volunteered to help administer to the ill at the emergency hospital and private residences. I was among the volunteers and all teachers were paid salaries just as if we were teaching our students. Two trained nurses were put in charge - one to work days and the other nights as superintendents of the aids.

I became ill about the 11th of November and 5 days later I am a statistic of what is now known as the Spanish Influenza Pandemic of 1918. I died early in the morning on the 16th of November from pneumonia and complications of heart trouble. My obituary states a majority of Livingston's population is in mourning today over the death of ME; Miss Beatrice Collins, the only daughter of John and Theresa Collins. My funeral was held the very next day at my parent's residence with Father Blaere officiating and because of the ban on public meetings only the undertaker, pall-bears and my immediate family were allowed to attend my burial. Park County does not have my death record because by preventing the masses from mingling, and fighting the epidemic with the only means it had, Doctors did not record all deaths in order to prevent a panic of the masses. Yet the health board announced the lifting of the ban whenever reports of new infections decreased and then reinforcing the ban as deaths were announced throughout the epidemic.

On a personal note, Carol adds that "One of my genealogy bragging rights for this year is getting County Coroner (Al Jenkins) to have the court issue a delayed Death Certificate for Beatrice Collins. He said he would give me a copy for her file as soon as the State sends him the recorded Death Certificate."



Terry Atwood
PO Box 5313
Helena MT 59602



**Gathering
Lost
Leaves**

Montana State
Genealogical
Society

Kalispell

22nd Annual
Conference

September 22, 23, 24, 2011