

Big Sky Roundup



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

2011-2012 Officers

January 2012

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President's Message

Another year is upon us.

A fresh start.

A great chance to stretch out of our tried and true habits and explore new opportunities.

The possibilities are limitless!

Is there a new line you've been thinking about exploring further?

Is there a new computer program or website that looks beneficial if you understood it better?

Is there a project you've been thinking about, but just haven't gotten around to yet?

Have you been thinking about volunteering for a Society project or office?

Life is a series of opportunities. I encourage you to grab on to some this year. Becoming involved is the best way to fully reap the benefits.

Don't let whatever this year may offer pass you by. Become active and involved. The rewards are most likely to far outweigh the effort.

Shawna Valentine, President



**Minutes of the 15 October 2011
MSGs Board Meeting will be
posted online when they become available**

MSGs TREASURER SUMMARY – October 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011

INCOME:

Hilton Garden Inn- refund 338.88
TOTAL INCOME 2011 Conference 338.88

INCOME:DEATH INDEX: -19.31

FFM and ES 62.50
FFM and ES:FFM & ES Expenses -6.46
TOTAL INCOME:FFM and ES 56.04

INCOME: Interest Income 0.93

TOTAL INCOME 376.54

EXPENSES

Montana State Library 66.62
Montana State Library : L and C share -16.65
TOTAL Montana State Library 49.97
Newsletter 129.00
Website 122.09
TOTAL MSGS EXPENSES 301.06

CHECKING Balance \$2,913.88
SAVINGS Balance \$12, 148.93
Secretary of State report was done January, 2012.
Cost of \$15.00 will show up in the next quarterly report.

Carol Woodley, Treasurer

421 South 13th Street, Livingston, MT 59047

MSGs Library Report, submitted by Karen Huck

As of January 1, 2012, there are 140 libraries and branches in the Montana Shared Catalog serving 86 Montana communities. Of these 78 are public, 45 school, 12 special and 5 academic libraries. There are 961,286 titles in the shared catalog with 3,647,838 books.

Montana State Genealogical Library has 3,826 titles and has cataloged 6,292 books. Some of the titles have many volumes to them. In our family books collection, 929.2 on the Dewey numbering scale, we have 1,268 books and some newsletters. These are cataloged by author as most of our collection is. It is hard to say that a family book is just about one surname. When researching the catalog at www.mymontanalibrary.com then choosing Montana State Genealogical Library, you can enter your family name in the search box. When the record comes up, click on catalog record at the top in blue. Scroll down and look for personal subject. This gives you more information about the book. Some even have a link as the book has been digitized. The call number will show in red at the bottom of the Item Information at the top. Remember when searching the catalog, you do not need a login or pin #.

Although our library is reference only and does not check out books, you may be able to find a library that does have the book that will do inter-library loan. The best way to find this is to go to www.worldcat.org and look for the book. If you would like us to do a query for you, we can also look in the index for your surname. If we find anything, we can copy the information and title page and send it to you. Our **new** email for the Lewis and Clark Genealogy Society is lccgen1@gmail.com

DOES ANYONE KNOW??

Does anyone know who is buried in the Wolf Cemetery? This cemetery is located on the old Chester to Carter Road in Liberty County, Montana. It is approximately four miles west of State Highway #223 about two miles north of Liberty County border. The only marker that is readable is inscribed with the name, Mary Wolf. However, there are nine other wooden crosses. Angeline Biegonak who died on the third of April in 1921 is also said to have been buried in this cemetery. She was eight days old.

A church near the cemetery was called the Wolf Church. It apparently was a Catholic Church, (may be St. Francis) and legend has it that in approximately 1938 it was dismantled and the lumber used to enlarge the first St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chester, Montana.

The Wolf Cemetery is cared for by Liberty County. Three wooden crosses are located in the northeast corner of the graveyard. In the southeast corner a rectangular area is ringed with stones and there appears to have been four graves within this area. To the left of the stone enclosure are two more crosses. These in addition to the one of the infant Mary Wolf, are all that remain visible in this cemetery.

To date little success has been had by the BMGS in finding more information regarding this cemetery. It would seem that any data should be in Havre or Fort Benton since Liberty County was not yet formed. If anyone has any further information about this area, please contact Pat Ludwig, Chester, Montana or any member of the Broken Mountains Genealogical Society.



1940 US Census Indexing Opportunity

Since MSGS just finished indexing the 1930 US Census last fall, the Board had decided that we will not volunteer as a Society to index the 1940 US Census that will be released in April 2012.

NARA will release the census as digital images. There is no index. Elaine E. Hasleton, Deputy, Chief Genealogical Officer of FamilySearch is coordinating an indexing project and hope to recruit local individuals familiar with their area. MSGS believes local is best, and if anyone is interested in helping with the FamilySearch index, please see the following websites for more information on the project.

<https://www.familysearch.org/node/1520>

<https://www.familysearch.org/1940census>

Elaine may be contacted at: hasletonee@familysearch.org



Lily Zwolle

Former MSGS President, Lily Zwolle, of Lewistown passed away in November 2011. She had fallen last winter and had been in the nursing home ever since. Lily was very instrumental in establishing MSGS and was honored for her contributions to at the 2010 Conference in Lewistown.



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

Please submit items to Shawna at
smv2222@bresnan.net

Beaver Head Hunters - Dillon

We had our annual Christmas party in December that was attended very well.

We had our annual meeting in January and elected officers. The officers for 2012 are:

Pres.— Michele Stephen-Hassard VP.— Carol McLaren Sec.— Carla Andrus Treas.— Dorothy Stout

We opened up the envelope with our genealogy resolutions that we wrote in 2011. We took turns telling what we had accomplished from our resolutions. Some members didn't complete their resolutions, but did other things that were genealogy related. Papers were passed out to make new resolutions for 2012. These were put into a new envelope to save to open next January.

Submitted by Carla Andrus, BHH Liaison

Broken Mountains Genealogical Society - Chester

We began 2012 by reviewing some of the projects we have going and the progress that has been made. There are three ongoing projects that are in the process of updating the events of 2011.

Marji Dahinden has been typing in stories that we have been collecting and we will still try to get these on to our website in the new future. Betty Marshall has worked very hard to keep up on the obituary notebooks which themselves are right up to date, and she will soon have the index to reflect this 2011 update. Lyla Pugsley and Pat Ludwig have just updated the collection of 2011 burial records in our hard bound books. Pictured here is Lyla working at the courthouse on transcribing the records from their records to ours, We will be working the next week or two to get this material onto our digital records and then send the digital records to our webmaster Sean Knighton to be put on our site which can easily be accessed by going to www.brokenmountains.org.

Also on our website is a link to several internet research sites. We have been working on taking photos of the graves in our Chester cemeteries and transferring these to one site on this list called *Find a Grave*. We are not only doing photos of the graves for the site, but are copying the obituaries that match each grave that we enter and also we are gathering some photos of the people we do. Last week we walked part of the cemetery to locate where the graves are located. We do have the plot information on each burial, but we need to make a map or directory so that is what we are doing along the Find a Grave information. Our County Commissioners made us a map of the graves and we will identify each as we make the directory. They then want to display the whole thing somewhere in the County buildings.



Submitted by Pat Ludwig, BMGS Liaison

Butte Silver Bow Genealogy Society - Butte

The Butte Silver Bow Genealogy Society's January meeting was a research session at the Butte Silver Bow Archives. Officers beginning terms for 2012 are Jo Ann Piazzola, President; Julie Bushmaker, Vice President; Linda Lee Holmes, Secretary; and Ann Bone, Treasurer. Plans were made for meeting programs for the year.

Jo Ann Piazzola presented a program on free internet genealogy to the public at a brown bag lunch at the Butte Public Library.

BSBGS is commencing work on a joint project with the Butte Silver Bow Archives to digitize and index Silver Bow County Cemetery records. The first records to be addressed are those from St. Patrick's Cemetery. Others will follow. This is a project that has been discussed for at least a year, and we are very excited to see plans coming to fruition.

Submitted by Linda Lee Holmes, BSBGS Liaison

Central Montana Genealogy Society - Lewistown

Our society had their Christmas luncheon on December 13 with a good turnout of our members. The food was good and Santa Claus made a visit, which was enjoyed by all. Instead of exchanging gifts we brought food donations for the community food cupboard. We don't have meetings in January or February. It is hard for many of our members to get out when it is cold and snowy.

Submitted by Marilyn Lewis, CMGS President

Great Falls Genealogy Society – Great Falls

Thanks to member and new Trustee, Jim Lowry, we have added 8 new bookcases giving us 160 more lineal feet in order to adequately provide access to our collection. This is necessary as our Montana book section alone requires over 97 feet; our New England section contains every New England Historical and Genealogical Register from 1847 to the present plus more books and doesn't count the material in the individual States of New England. Our Pennsylvania section contains all of the Pennsylvania Archives from the beginning of the colony through the Revolutionary War plus many other resources - must be 10,000 or more total.

While it will take awhile to reorganize our library we invite anyone to come to research at a very fine resource. We're on the third floor of the Public Library.

The FamilySearch imaging project is nearly completed and there are now over 430,000 Cascade County records available on the FamilySearch site. This project has been a joint effort with the Cascade County Historical Society Archives and the Cascade County Superintendent of Schools.

We also have MONTANAN annuals of 1937, 1938 and 1959 from Montana State College which are duplicates and are available free to a good home to anyone who will either pick them up here or pay for shipping.

Submitted by Dennis Sugden, GFGS President

Lewis & Clark County Genealogy Society - Helena

The Lewis & Clark County Genealogical Society's November's meeting had 2 purposes: to help newcomers with "Finding Those Elusive Leaves on Your Family Tree" and to encourage members to submit pedigree charts for publication in our quarterly newsletter "Faded Genes". We encouraged everyone to bring in a pedigree chart filled in as best as possible to help them see exactly where they needed help. We also suggested that they e-mail their questions ahead of time so that if we needed to do some research ahead of time, we would have answers for them. December's meeting was our annual Open House where members bring ethnic or family favorite finger food and shared genealogical successes during the past 12 months. Especially interesting were the stories of 2 members who have been able to locate long lost siblings. At the January meeting, 2 members demonstrated using scrapbooking & genealogy. They showed the different types of equipment to use for scrapbooking, had examples of pages that could be used from simple to advanced with stickers that are made for family history & showed an easy history book that they had done involving family recipes with pictures of relatives cooking. For old letters, they recommended the spray Archival Mist that removes the acid from old paper.

Projects—Members are indexing Lewis & Clark County school census records beginning in 1897. From 1897 through 1909 all children from ages 0 to 20 are listed as well as the name of one parent. By 1910 more information is listed including the child's actual birth date. To be able to key at home, several members are photographing or scanning the pages.

Volunteers are in the library every week cataloguing & repairing books, proof reading, as well as helping patrons. ☺

Member Karen Huck has taught two free classes for the general public at our public library this January as she did a year ago--Beginning Genealogy and Using the Internet for Genealogy. It is amazing how many new members joined our society because of her classes!

Submitted by Mary Pitch, LCCGS President

Powell County Genealogical Society – Deer Lodge

Hi all from Deer Lodge....We are still here and although our numbers dwindle after November (snowbirds!) there are about six of us who meet all winter.

In June, we partnered with the City of Deer Lodge to create an index for Hillcrest Cemetery which is located 1 mile west of Deer Lodge. It is one of the oldest cemeteries in the state established about 1871. Before 1872, the cemetery for Deer Lodge was in town and occupied the space where the I. C. Catholic Church now stands. According to our *NewNorthwest* newspaper, in exchange for purchasing the entire block Rev. DeRyckere agreed to remove all of the graves to the new cemetery 1 mile west of town. This was done in 1872.

We began the project the first week of July using the city cemetery maps with names on each grave and then doing a section at a time, we matched each grave with the maps. Work continued through the end of October and will be finished up in the spring. We completed more than 2/3 of the cemetery and hope to have an index completed by next summer.

We were sorry no one was able to attend the state conference in Kalispell in September but hope to see you all in 2012 in Billings.

In November, we held our annual "anniversary luncheon" and celebrated 22 years, having established our society on November 8, 1989, Montana's 100th birthday.

We wish you all peace and prosperity in the coming year!

Submitted by Megan Thompson, PCGS

Yellowstone Genealogy Forum - Billings

Lee Stadtmiller of Mountview Cemetery was the guest speaker in October. He gave a history of the development of cemeteries in Billings, beginning with Boot Hill in 1877. In 1882 the O'Donnell family started a cemetery on their dairy farm west of town. Record keeping was lax and any type of stone was allowed. In 1910 O'Donnell's was out of space so the West Addition was started. The city eventually acquired the cemetery. Lee is very knowledgeable about cemeteries in the Billings area. Both Mountview and Riverside cemeteries are searchable, by name, online at <http://www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/cemetery/ygl.asp> .

In November the program was "Germans from Russia". Alma Murphy talked about how the villages were set up in the Volga area and why. She also discussed immigration to the U.S. (Many of the sugar beet farmers around Billings are Germans from Russia.) Sharon Hamill's focus was on locating where in "Germany" your family came from. Germans who moved to the Volga and the Black Sea were only from certain Germanic states. For more information, go to <http://www.grhs.org> .

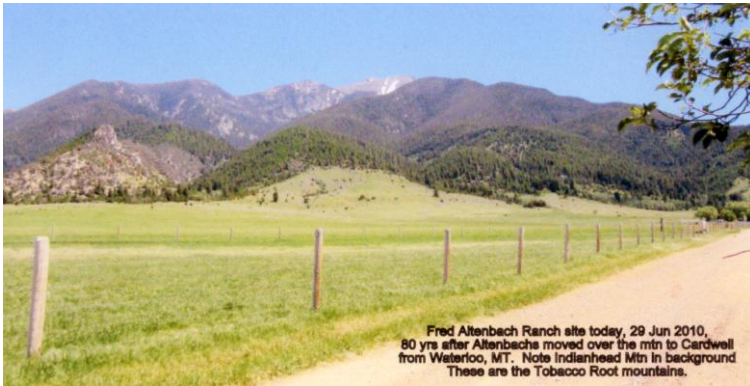
On November 15th the Forum hosted a class in the public library's computer room on the website Heritage Quest. There were only 6 or 7 attendees so they received personalized help from Forum members. We'll be teaching another computer class in March, on USGENWEB.

The bond issue passed in Billings so a new library building is being designed. The Gen Room will be located next to the Montana Room and visible through a glass wall. It will have 43% more square feet and 115 more lineal feet of shelving.

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.



The Search for My Grandparents' Ranch

by Alene Altenbach Stoner
Montana City, MT
18 Jul 2010

Finding my grandparents' Montana ranch was an adventure I've wanted to take for many years. Inviting my friend of Dillon, MT to join me and meet me half way to Waterloo, we stopped for lunch, pondered over my "evidence", if you will, of the ranch location

purported to be "3 miles east of Waterloo", and pursued the quest. We asked questions at a gift shop in nearby Silver Star and then went to the Forest Service in Whitehall to acquire a map naming the gulches, canyons and creeks that would lead us down the dusty, dirt road on which we were about to embark. I was given names and phone numbers of the "old timers" in the area that might have remembered the Altenbach family when they lived there from about 1916-1937, and I visited with two or three who remembered the ranch site, but not my family. I was not discouraged by that however. So.....

Armed with my father's "crude and somewhat inaccurate" map, as the local historian stated, we headed to Waterloo, Montana (now only a railroad crossing with a sign) in search of my grandparents' Fred and Alice Altenbach's first Montana ranching operation in the early 1900s.

What I knew about the exact location of this ranch was minimal. Besides the hand-drawn map, showing only one other farm; that being the Davis Ranch directly south, I had a large classified ad from the newspaper announcing the auction sale of Fred Altenbach's sawmill, 46 head of hogs, 9 "good head" work horses, 50 head A-1 Dairy Cattle, and several farm machinery items. The sale was to be Friday, Dec. 17th at the "Altenbach Ranch, 3 miles east of Waterloo". I first searched Ancestry.com to find the 1920 and 1930 census of Waterloo, Madison Co, MT and found the family at that location both times. Because there was no year listed on that auction ad, I really had only two choices for the date of the sale. On Google.com I asked for a perpetual map and found a Friday, Dec 17th in 1926 and again in 1937. Certainly Grandpa Altenbach wouldn't be selling all his farm equipment, animals and sawmill in 1926, several years prior to moving, when those were his livelihood! Now I was quite certain the auction sale occurred on Friday, 17 Dec 1937. (I did know that in 1936 he entered into a 5 year lease on another ranch just over the Tobacco Root Mtn range to the east, near Cardwell, Montana, which he later purchased and lived there until the day he died in 1948.)

One additional item that I thought might be beneficial to our search was an old photograph, identified, but undated, of course, of Grandpa Fred and Grandma Alice with their daughter Adeline and son Fred, Jr. shown in a field with two white horses pulling a rake. My father, Albert, the third child in the family must have been the photographer that particular day. The



ground was lush and green and behind them was a magnificent mountain range. We know them as the Tobacco Root Mountains, and it was pointed out to me by that gift shop owner we had questioned earlier, on the day of our search, that the highest peak shown was named "Manshead" because of its contour. Upon closer examination, it did indeed look like a Native American man wearing a headdress. His nose and chin protruded along the horizon and one could actually see what appeared to be feathers in the headdress, made more prominent by the snow. That one clue in the old photograph proved later to be the most promising piece of evidence we had.

Following lunch, away we went, down one gravel road after another with the photo in hand. Even though it was seventy to eighty years later and the ranches had all been bought and sold perhaps several times, and the resident farmers of the 20s and 30s had all passed away, one thing was certain – that range of mountains, in all its glory was almost exactly the same as in that old photo. Noticeably there were more trees on the slopes, but no farmhouse, barn or sawmill to be seen. The current ranch manager at the Old Davis place to the south told me our ranch house had burned down many years ago and the sawmill dismantled. That explained the lack of buildings today. However, there was no mistake. Those open fields with "Manshead" in the background as shown in the old photo along with our sketchy map and directions provided us with all the proof we needed.



Yes! This was the old home place, once known as the Altenbach Ranch. After many photos and a shout of "Eureka", my mission was accomplished. I thanked my friend for sharing this successful day with me, and waved her goodbye as she headed back to Dillon.

My Genealogical Journey

by Barbara Britt

Sometime ago, I was asked to be the Sweetgrass County Liaison. I was nervous about it, but I like to look for clues on ancestors and figured when I got my first inquiry or two, I could always count on some of my fellow Park County Genealogists, with much more experience, to help me through. I have done a lot of research there for my own family and have enjoyed going to their museum, library and courthouse. I have received help and information at all three places. At the library, they have let me search through newspapers from the late 1800s and I have found some wonderful information. Two notices of death gave me the names of my great grandmother's brothers. I always knew my great grandparents and several of their children had lived and were buried there, but had no clue my great, great grandparents had lived and died there also. My mother had shown me a very small notice of death and on it she had marked that it was her Grandmother Griffith's sister. It gave me a few clues, so I went looking for her (unmarked) grave. While I was looking in the area where it was supposed to be, I saw a large monument with the name Long on one end and the name Bailey on one side. My mind began to race putting little clues together and as any genealogist knows, that is a wonderful feeling. My mother had once told me that her great grandfather's name was John Lewis Long and she thought her great grandmother's name was Sarah Jane McNutt. We wrote this down on a piece of scrap paper that I still have. As I looked around, I saw two gravestones with John & Sarah's name on them. Two daughters, a son-in-law and two grandchildren were buried nearby.

From there I raced to the courthouse and picked up John's death certificate. I had to pick Sarah's up in Helena as she died in 1908 and it wasn't filed locally. I immediately went to the library and in those old newspapers found their obituaries. The death certificate gave some great information as did the obituaries. The obituary also had a lot of errors. As a liaison, I have enticed my friend Helen Peterson into working on her family history and she has put together some wonderful stories for the 3rd & 4th volumes of First Families and Early Settlers of Montana. She has joined the Park County Genealogy Society. I also invited Pam Woddson & Betty Connell to a genealogy meeting and they joined a year ago. In 2010, Pam & Helen went to our State Convention.

I have been doing research for my niece and nephew on their father's side of the family. I was going to Gallatin County to look for their father's birth certificate and a marriage license for their great grandparents. My friend Carol Woodley asked me to look for a marriage license for some folks buried at Chico Cemetery. I was delighted to do that for Carol. I also found the two items I was looking for.

On another note, I was lucky enough to go on a 2 1/2 week trip in September & October 2011 to South Dakota & Iowa and do family research. I was going on the trip alone and though I've traveled alone, it was always with the intent of visiting someone when I got to my destination. I had a wonderful time. I visited the usual places we genealogists do. The weather was almost perfect. In Springfield, South Dakota, my intent was to attend the church my great, great grandparents helped establish. They were Dutch and family history was very important to them. The church put together a book in 1988 celebrating 100 years and I am blessed to know some of their history back to 1550 in Holland. I was certain that I would find some of my ancestor's descendants at the church and I did. I met several people related to the Wynia family. My grandfather's first cousin's son, Don Wynia who is 88 years old, was kind enough to spend the next two days catering to me and showing me around, introducing me to others who could help me etc. Don had written much of the family history in the book. He took me to the two cemeteries where my great, great grandparents and so many other family members are buried. I got to visit the school house my grandfather & all 6 siblings attended 1st-8th grade at. Springfield is near the Missouri and I was shown some of the area that flooded. They figure it will take more than a year for the land to dry out and be put back to use. The farm land where it flooded is covered in deep sand. Matt, a gentleman I met had been a friend of my great aunt & uncle. He had a key to their museum & genealogy room and opened it up and let me stay by myself for a few hours and search their microfiche. I was lucky enough to find some death notices but was unable to photocopy them as they had no printer.

From Springfield, I headed to nearby Tyndall, South Dakota to do research at the County courthouse. Everywhere I went, people took time to help me find information. At Tyndall I found that my great grandparents had died in two different states, at least according to legal paper work in Yellowstone County, Montana and in Bon Homme County, South Dakota. In Yellowstone County I found their death certificates and obituaries. In South Dakota probate records it was declared they lived and died there. Yellowstone County's records are accurate, South Dakota's are not, but it was fun to find this.

I then headed to Iowa. The Wynia's had immigrated to Pella, Iowa in 1869, to Orange City in 1870 and to Springfield, South Dakota in 1878. Pella is a wonderful place to visit. They have really tapped into their Dutch heritage, have revamped part of Pella to resemble Holland and have an absolutely wonderful museum. Both towns are full of Wynia ancestors, although I did not contact any of them.

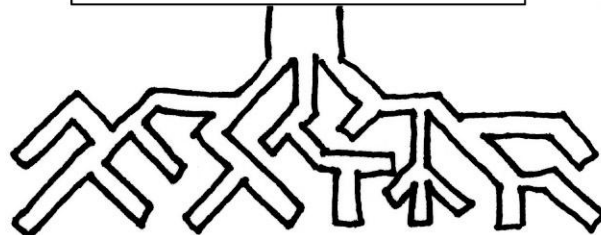
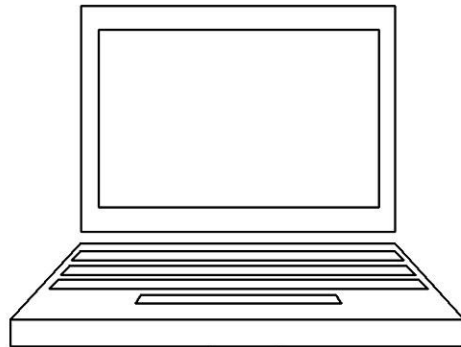
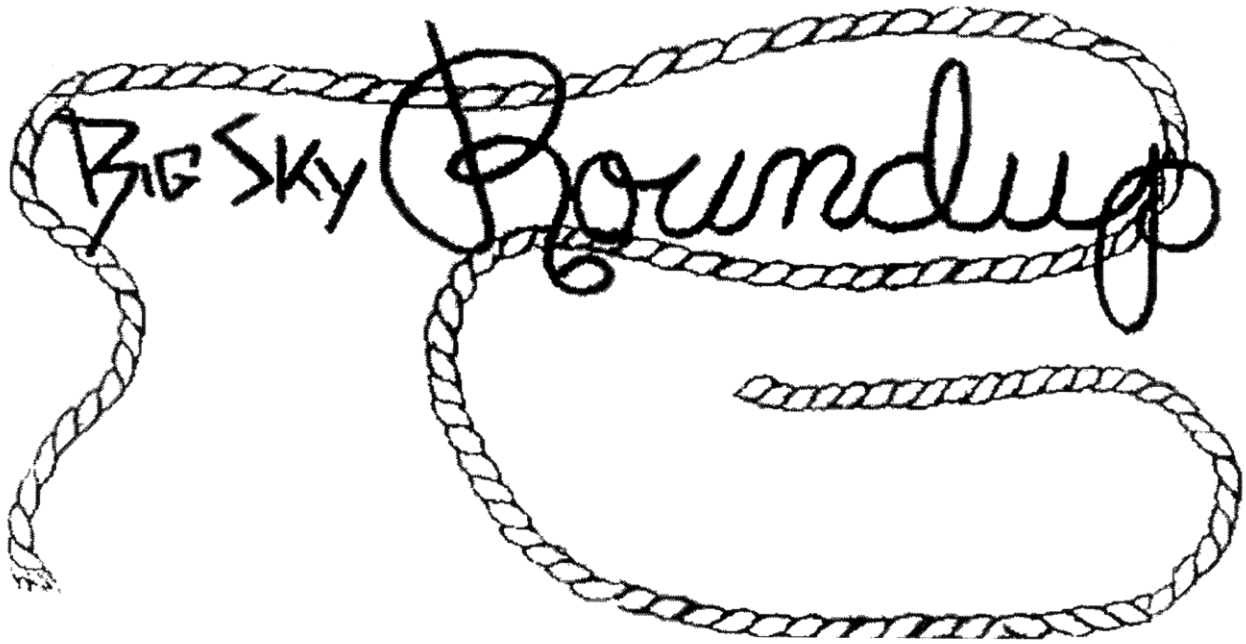
I then went to Noble, Washington County, Iowa where another side of my family had settled in 1839 when Iowa was still a territory. The nearby town of Washington has a brand new library with a genealogy room that is 60 by 60 feet and is load with information. They were very helpful. I visited some wonderful cemeteries where my great, great grandparents and 3rd great grandparents are buried. Standing in those cemeteries what can I say? Only those of you who love this kind of thing would understand. Noble is the town where my grandmother was born in 1898. There is very little of Noble left except for a general store (now closed) and a few houses. Just outside of Noble is located the schoolhouse I believe my grandmother attended from information I was given at their library.

I visited several Iowa communities and traveled all over the state. From this experience, I learned I should have gone to fewer places and stayed a few days longer in the Springfield S.D. and Noble, Iowa areas.

I believe my love of cemeteries and family history came from when I was a young girl and my grandmother would take some of her grandchildren with her on Memorial Day to decorate graves in Laurel, Columbus and Big Timber, Montana and for that I am grateful.



Terry Atwood
PO Box 5313
Helena MT 59602



DIGGING UP ROOTS

Montana State Genealogical Society
23rd Annual Conference
20, 21, 22 September 2012 Billings