

# Big Sky Roundup



<http://montanamsgs.org>

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2012-2013 Officers

January 2013

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## President's Message

As many of you know, the Montana Death Index posted on ancestry.com has been rife with errors and MSGS has been trying to get them corrected for several years.

I am happy to report that perseverance does pay off. I want to give special recognition and appreciation to Karen Huck for her diligence in working to correct this problem. She has received word from ancestry that they have received the new file from the Montana Department of Health which includes the county and file numbers. Ancestry.com has verified the new file against the errors that Karen sent them, and it does appear correct. They feel they will be able to convert the numbers to the proper counties, based on the info that they received from Karen.

Change does take time, but ancestry plans to launch the update to the entire database (1868-2011) in early April. After that update is live, they plan remove the other MT Death Index database from their catalog, so people will use only the new (correct) database going forward.

The Montana State Death Index database for 1868-2002 is correct and online now at the MSGS Website:

<http://montanamsgs.org/deathindex.html>

*Thanks again Karen for helping get this problem corrected!*

*Shawna Valentine, President*

## Library Report

Submitted by Karen Huck, MSGS Librarian

Using city directories for research is a great tool. In these books, one can find names of the people that lived in the town. It lists their name, employment and home address. One can follow people to see when they move or, the different jobs they hold. You can also track down a man's death as his wife will be listed the next year as *wid* for Widow. Businesses are also listed so that you can find out more information about whom your person worked for. Maybe you have a marriage license but it doesn't list what church they were married in. You can look up the minister's name and it will list which church he is affiliated with. Some of the directories even have the smaller towns around them, with a description of the town at that time. Be sure and look in the back of the books as many times farmers/ranchers are listed there.

In the Montana State Genealogical Library they are on the wall between our library and the Lewis and Clark Public Library reading room. They are alphabetical by city, then by year. When cataloging the directories, each volume was cataloged so you can see which years are within the library. To search the library database go to [www.mymontanalibrary.com](http://www.mymontanalibrary.com), then choose Montana State Genealogical Society Library. The city directories have been cataloged under different names, but if you put in the word "Polk" and press enter it will bring up most of the different city directories. Then click on which ever town you want to look at.

## US WEBSITES THAT WILL AUTOMATICALLY GIVE YOU THE ALL-IMPORTANT COUNTY NAME:

Submitted by Al Stoner

**Findagrave.com** – When you put in the state where a person was born or died, it then asks you for the county. If county is unknown to you, or not mentioned in the obit, click on "county". It takes you to another screen and asks you to put in the city and state. The county will automatically appear.

**Rootsweb.com** – Scroll down the left column to the "city/county/state" link. Type in city, and state; the county will appear.

**[http://projects.nytimes.com/census/2010/map?nl=todaysheadlines & emc=thab](http://projects.nytimes.com/census/2010/map?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=thab)** – Just guide your cursor over the map of the US and it will display every county; plus some interesting facts. An amazing site actually.



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

Please submit items to Shawna at  
smv2222@bresnan.net

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## **Beaver Head Hunters – Dillon:**

In November the Beaver Head Hunters celebrated their 20th anniversary with a party. Many members attended, and we were honored by the presence of three Charter members, Darlene Hildreth, Jane Dodd and Carla Andrus. There were many reminiscences, and old pictures were passed around. When we first started in 1992 we had our meetings in the City Chambers, whenever it was available. Sometimes we had to wander around town looking for a place to meet. Years later we moved into a back room of the museum, which was very crowded with their books and our books, but at least it was home. More recently we moved into the new addition of the museum where we have our own office, plus share a large research room with the museum. Things are looking up as our society grows!

In December the society took part in the city-wide Christmas Bazaar where we displayed some of our genealogy items, family photos and family heirlooms, as well as selling baked goods and Christmas swags. This is a good means of getting the word out about genealogy as well as making a little money.

Later in December we had our annual Christmas party with potluck dinner and traveling Bingo, which is always a fun evening for members and spouses.

We also spent the month of December rewriting our Bylaws, which turned out to be a big job since it had to be completed via email. We have since decided email is not a good means of having discussions! But now we have a very efficient set of Bylaws which should be easy to revise in the future.

In January we had our annual business meeting with several guests present, elected new officers, and opened our "genealogy goals" that we wrote a year ago. Some of the members accomplished their goals, but others are still lagging behind. The society's goal for the New Year is to get more members and to help those new at genealogy learn how to proceed.

Submitted by Pat Darling, BHH Liaison

## **Broken Mountains Genealogical Society – Chester**

Broken Mountains Genealogy in Chester has had only one regular meeting in the last little while as we voted to only have two biannual meetings a year. They will be in January and July. But we will have various work meetings throughout the year in order to finish and continue the projects we have going. Our Obituary group is continually updating their notebooks and files and will be updating their index to be put on our Web site. We have a wonderful webmaster right now and he has been periodically checking all our projects as they proceed and updating the material as he is able to get it. He also works on the Find a Grave site quite consistently and we are making great strides to get that up to date. We have finished taking all the pictures from the smaller of the two town cemeteries and are presently working with the shop class at school to get a map and other materials into the information shelter at this cemetery. With the snow and all we have not actually worked out there for a couple months but have a volume of computer and edit work to be completed in order to put up the display when the weather becomes more acceptable.

Meanwhile our individual members are having some time to work on their own research and several new finds have been reported.

Submitted by Pat Ludwig, BMGS Liaison

## **Central Montana Genealogy Society - Lewistown**

In November Sarah Nucci, a historical researcher with the Montana Historical Society, presented a program on Civil War dress for women. She brought a mannequin which she dressed from the undergarments to a dress, coat and hat. She has made most of the garments using fabrics and methods of the period. She was so enthusiastic and very knowledgeable. She is planning to come back in the spring to help date and talk about vintage clothing that our members can bring for a 'Show and Tell'. She also borrowed a wedding dress that was worn by the mother of one of our members to be used in the Historical Society's special exhibit on wedding dresses in Montana.

In December we met for a delicious Christmas luncheon at a local restaurant. Santa Claus made an appearance and the officers brought a few door prizes. Everyone enjoyed themselves. Our society does not meet in January or February.

Submitted by Marilyn Lewis, CMGS President

## **Flathead Valley Genealogical Society – Kalispell**

Our program for this month was on the 10th of January; Presenter: Beverly Zierow. Beverly teaches Genealogy at the Flathead Community College. She was able to instruct us on using Census records- tip and tricks. Her program was very good with much useful information in the navigation and using of census's. We now have a website up at [www.flatheadgenealogy.org](http://www.flatheadgenealogy.org). Be sure to check it out.

Submitted by Vickie Rowley, FVGS Liaison

## **Gallatin County Genealogical Society – Bozeman:**

The Gallatin County Genealogical Society Meeting will meet Saturday, January 12 at 11:00 am in the Small Conference Room at the Bozeman Public Library. John Russell from the Pioneer Museum is coming to discuss what research options available at the Pioneer Museum for Genealogist. Everyone is welcome to attend! Please bring a friend!

Our February meeting will take place at the Pioneer Museum. We will have a business meeting and then we can either tour the Museum or get an actual taste of what archives the Museum holds for us.

Submitted by Michelle Westberg, GCGS President

## **Great Falls Genealogy Society – Great Falls**

Annual elections were held in November and officers for 2013 were named and sworn in at the Annual Potluck dinner and meeting at the Good Eats Cafe. They are: President - Dennis Sugden; Vice-President - Marie Berti; Recording Secretary - Carole Ann Clark; Board Recording Secretary - Jackie Graham; Corresponding Secretary - Margaret Lietz; Treasurer - Pat Wardinsky; and 3 year Trustee - John Birkholz. Jan Thomson, one of whose accomplishments was the editing and publication of our new book "Early Settlers of Great Falls" a 2 volume set giving listings, facts and biographies of those people from 1884 to 1920, was named Volunteer of the Year for 2012. The Potluck, as usual, was a huge success qualitatively and quantitatively.

In December we had a musical program at our monthly meeting as the Great Falls Central High choral group sang a Christmas Program.

Now in January we are giving our annual beginning genealogy classes on Saturdays beginning on Jan. 12th and continuing on the 19th and 26th. We did have to cancel our January meeting as it was pretty bad with the snow, wind and cold.

Submitted by Dennis Sugden, GFGS President

## **Hamilton Genealogy Society – Hamilton:**

I thought you might be interested in a program that Lois Klemet, a volunteer at the Daly Mansion, gave to our group. She has done extensive research on a surveyor who immigrated to Montana from Canada and worked for Marcus Daly. She does a wonderful program and has lots of his old original land plat maps that she and others found in the basement of the Daly Mansion.

Mary Pitch gave a program on all that is needed to make the trip to do research at LDS Salt Lake.

We will have a shared program at our January meeting on the Civil War with the Ravalli County History Museum who has had a large exhibit about how after the Civil War soldiers came west to Montana. It should be interesting. We will meet at the History museum and the subject will be Civil War soldiers who moved to Montana after the War. Lots of good information and old articles etc.

Submitted by Marti Hale, HGF Vice-President

## Yellowstone Genealogy Forum – Billings

Two members of the Big Horn County Genealogy Society were the guest speakers in October. John Spomer discussed the history of Big Horn County. Gloria Menke assisted him. They reviewed the items in the Society's collection and the dates they cover. They gave the Forum a printed list of the books, publications, histories, and microfilm they have. This was e-mailed to Forum members. In November Yellowstone County Clerk & Recorder, Jeff Martin, was guest speaker. He discussed the various records that are held in his office.

Librarians are at the Gen Room at Parnly Billings Library on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 1 until 3 pm. Anyone wanting help with research is welcome during those hours. In preparation for the move into the new library next fall, Forum members will be indexing obituaries. We hope to have someone else scan them. The estimated count is 110,000 obituaries on 3x5 or 4x6 cards. The gen room committee wrote a mission statement and is now working on a collection development policy.

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.

### June Muri Marshall

by June Chitwood Trees

*June is the compiler of the 2002 Book "The Rosebud Cemetery, Stillwater County, Montana"*

There is a plot of graves north of the utility building in the Absarokee Rosebud Cemetery that early became a burial spot for several babies. Several years after I had published the Rosebud Cemetery book, I was looking up a burial site in 1909 for someone needing information on ownership. Although I had typed the name of Scotty Marshall in the Ownership section, I had not paid attention to that name but now my question of the ownership popped into my mind. Although Scotty Marshall had a blacksmith shop in Fishtail for several years, he and his wife, along with their family of seven children, had moved to Red Lodge years ago. So why would Scotty Marshall have owned a lot in the Absarokee Cemetery? For many years Mrs. Marshall taught Red Lodge children Scottish dances which were performed at the Festival of Nations.

To solve the mystery, I phoned Gordon (Dodie), one of the Marshall's sons living in Red Lodge. He told me that while the Marshall family lived in Fishtail they lost a baby girl. He directed me to his sister, Afton "Babe" Johnson. She amazed me with the news that there was a baby sister born in 1919 who died at birth and the siblings didn't know where it was buried. Their mother never talked about the loss. At that time burials of babies were often on family property.

After I found the death certificate in the Stillwater County Courthouse with the baby's death date, John Flanagan, the cemetery caretaker, hunted through the old certificates of ownership and witched the burial site. Any earth disturbed can be witched with rods like water witching and will provide evidence of a burial. The plot did have a child's coffin entombed.

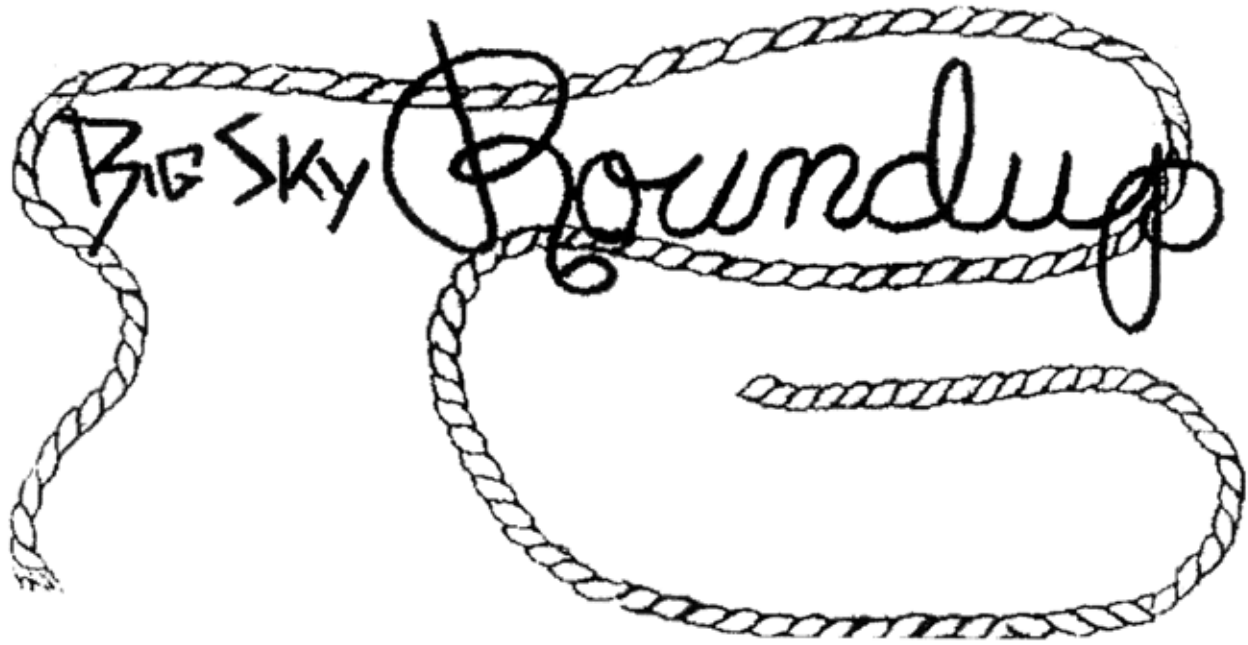
The three surviving siblings (Gordon, Afton & another sister living in Columbus) were very excited and met to decide on ordering and placing a gravestone on their sister's grave. This was done in time for Memorial Day, 2010. By that time Afton Johnson was the sole survivor of the seven Marshall children. She phoned me about Christmas time that the baby was to be named after her maternal grandmother and me – June Muri Marshall.

I was so touched by the honor, I cried when I hung up. Imagine having a baby girl born a year before I was, being named for me! The Muri middle name was her Scottish grandmother's family name.

I never had a baby named for me before. Now I have seen two Memorial Days with the June Muri Marshall baby stone decorated.



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Montana State Genealogical Society  
24th Annual State Conference

September 26, 27, 28, 2013

Holiday Inn Conference Center  
Bozeman MT

Featuring 2 National Speakers:  
Mark Lowe from Tennessee  
*and*  
Warren Bittner from Utah