

Big Sky Roundup



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

2010-2011 Officers

July 2011

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President's Message

As the days start to get shorter, it is time to think about the Montana State Conference that will be in Kalispell on September 22, 23, 24th.

Verba and the Board have worked diligently to produce another quality experience for all of us to benefit from. We are quite fortunate to be able to bring some of the nation's top genealogical speakers to us, and this year is definitely no exception. Thomas W. Jones joins us from Virginia and will speak on "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". As always, this will be balanced with topics from the area including "The History of the Flathead Valley", "Hey Partner, Where You Headin'? Washington State" which discusses online and on site resources for Washington research and "Digitized Primary Documents: New Access, New Clues" presented by the MT Historical Society staff to show records that are now available online. There will also be time for society discussions, so bring concerns and questions about your society's projects and together we'll learn from each other.

And, since there are always comments that there isn't enough time to socialize, we are introducing a Thursday evening reception this year so everyone can get to know one another and catch up on all the news since last year.

Sounds like a great line up – now all we need is YOU! Don't you deserve a weekend to immerse yourself in genealogy? Who knows what you might learn!

Shawna Valentine, President



Summary of the July 23, 2011 MSGS Board Meeting

President Shawna Valentine called the July 23, 2011 MSGS Board meeting to order at 10 AM in the Library in Helena, Montana. Roll was taken and the minutes were read by Secretary Marilyn Lewis. Treasurer Carol Woodley reported we have \$1181.56 in the checking account and \$11544.92 in the savings account. Several small bills were presented and paid from the First Family-Early Settler account.

Verba Valentine, 1st Vice-President, reported on the plans for the Kalispell Conference to be held September 22-24, 2011 at the Hilton

Garden Inn. There have been several changes in speakers. John Fraley from Fish, Wildlife and Parks will be the banquet speaker. Reid's in Lewistown will be doing the T-shirts again and will sell for \$12 and \$14 each. Be sure and get your rooms reserved early! We will need help filling tote bags and getting ready for the book frolic. Last year we had trouble with our lavalier microphone. Renting one costs about \$125 per day and a new one runs about \$299. It was decided to buy a new one.

Shirley Rogers, 2nd Vice-President, is working on raffle items. She has the pins and reminded us to bring door prizes. Please do NOT bring periodicals or fiction books for the book frolic.

Mary Pitch, Registrar, reported we have 16 societies with 646 members.

Fern Kauffman, First Families, has been getting new applications for First Families and Early Settlers, but we need to do more promoting. Alene Stoner suggested that we could send application forms with answers to queries and have each society have forms available for their members.

The following offices will be elected at the annual conference, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary and Registrar. The present officers were nominated for another term, Shirley Rogers, Marilyn Lewis and Mary Pitch.

Karen Huck, Librarian, reported the canopies for the book shelves have been received and installed. She and Mary Pitch will attend the Montana Shared Catalog meeting October 6-7, 2011 in Bozeman. She had a great time in Salt Lake City at the Family History Center using the free motel stay she won at last year's conference. Mary Pitch went with her and they found many records about their families.

FGS delegate Shirley Rogers is making a Montana map pinpointing society locations and she wants brochures from the societies by August 20 to display at the FGS conference in Springfield, Illinois in September.

Shawna Valentine wants to change our website address to something easier, such as montanamsgs.org. She has checked into listing with godaddy for \$14.99 for 10 years.

Under old business the 1930 census project is nearly done. Lake County is finished, Prairie County is nearly done, Missoula County has a few gaps to fill in and the only one left is Sheridan County. As soon as it is finished it will be put on a CD. Each society will receive a free CD. We are hoping to be done by conference.

The next Board meeting will be at the Kalispell Conference on September 22, 2011 at 3:30 PM and the following one October 15, 2011 at 10 AM in Helena.

The meeting was adjourned.

Marilyn Lewis, Secretary

MSGS TREASURER SUMMARY – January 13, 2011 – July 18, 2011

MSGS INCOME		FGS Delegate Registration & Expenses Lodging	207.00
Club and Individual Membership	790.00	TOTAL FGS Delegate Registration and Expenses	
Club Pins			207.00
Pins Bought 2011	-333.00	MSGS Library-Canopy	600.00
TOTAL Club Pins Inc	-333.00	Newsletter	258.00
CONFERENCE 2011		Montana Shared Catalog	615.73
SPEAKERS: Tom W Jones Travel Expense	-636.80	Lewis & Clark Share	-153.95
TOTAL SPEAKERS	-636.80	TOTAL MSGS Share	461.78
TOTAL CONFERENCE 2011	-636.80	TOTAL MSGS EXPENSES	1,550.26
DEATH INDEX	40.00	OVERALL TOTAL	-2,560.39
FFM and ES	1,061.00	ASSETS	
FFM & ES Expenses	-1,934.60	TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	12,726.48
TOTAL FFM and ES	-873.60	Hilton Garden Inn -1,000.00 Paid in 1010; IRS report	
Interest Income	3.27	done July 2011	
TOTAL MSGS INCOME	-1,010.13	Respectively submitted this 18 th Day of July 2011	
MSGS EXPENSES	13.93	<i>Carol Woodley, Treasurer</i>	
Bank Charges	0.75	421 South 13 th Street, Livingston, MT 59047	
Expenses	8.80		

<p>Planning for the 22nd Annual MSGS Conference:</p> <p>September 22, 23, 24 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Kalispell.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Does Your Society Have Items to Sell?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your society would like a table to sell their publications at the Kalispell Conference, Please let Verba know ASAP at blgsmarket@aol.com. 	<p>Registration forms have been mailed or may be found on the web at: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mtmsgsf/ then click on "2011 Conference in Kalispell" for Registration Form</p> <p>Deadlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 1: Early Bird Deadline. Be sure your registration form has been mailed for the possibility of receiving up to \$50 of the Registration refunded. September 1: Rooms must be reserved by to guarantee the discounted rate. The Hilton's phone is 406-756-4500, Group MTGENE. September 16: Your Conference Registration must be in Mary's hands in order to guarantee meals at the conference. 	<p>Calling for Nominations for Awards</p> <p>The Anna Mae Hanson Award is given by MSGS in acknowledgment of dedicated service in the genealogical community. Named in recognition of Anna Mae Hansen, a founding member of MSGS that quietly gave many, many hours and never asked to have attention for her efforts. Because of her fine example to other genealogists, an annual award is given at the state conference in her name to a genealogist who is an outstanding person, works beyond what is expected of them and is very dedicated to the field of genealogy.</p>
<p>Book Frolic</p> <p>Check your bookcases for items of genealogical or historical interest such as annuals, directories, county histories, genealogy books, tapes, software or videos that you would be willing to donate for use in this silent auction. Besides being a great opportunity to shop for usefully resources, this is a major MSGS Fundraiser. PLEASE - NO Quarterlies, Outdated Material.</p> <p>Items should be brought to the conference area on Thursday so Shirley can have them ready to view first thing Friday morning.</p>	 <p>22nd Annual Montana State Genealogical Society Conference</p> <p>Hilton Garden Inn Kalispell Montana September 22, 23, 24, 2011</p>	<p>MSGS will also accept nominations for the Al Huntsman Award. Named in honor of past president, Al Huntsman, this award will be presented to businesses or individuals who are not affiliated with a member genealogical society, but have been instrumental in helping promote genealogy.</p> <p>Nominations for either award will be accepted from any MSGS member and should be submitted in a written letter sent to Awards Committee Chairman, Mardi Whitmore, PO Box 1111, Livingston MT 59047 or emailed to her at mardellaw@juno.com so she receives it by September 16th. The awards will be presented at the banquet Friday evening at the conference.</p>
<p>Memorial Service</p> <p>If a member of your society has passed away since the last conference, please let Judy Cohen know ASAP so that she may include them in the Memorial Service at the Friday Evening Banquet.</p> <p>An obit & picture are appreciated.</p> <p>Her email address is: bumpie6@bresnan.net</p>	<p>Kalispell Pins</p> <p>We would like to encourage you to show your MSGS loyalty by purchasing and wearing a Kalispell Bar for the MSGS Pins. At only \$5, they are a great souvenir of the conference and may be combined with previous and future years.</p> <p>A special prize drawing will be held at conference just for those wearing their Kalispell Pin!</p> <hr/> <p>Door Prizes</p> <p>These are always fun to get, but we need items to give away.</p> <p>Please turn them in to the Registration Desk when you pick up your badges.</p>	<p>Thinking Ahead...</p> <p>Interested in helping with a <u>future</u> conference?</p> <p>We always need helpers, including people to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create Meal Centerpieces & Table Favors Take Meal Tickets Help with Registration Distribute Door Prizes <p>This is a great way to become involved! Contact Verba if you will help out!</p>



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

Please submit items to Shawna at
smv2222@bresnan.net

Beaver Head Hunters

The Beaver Head Hunters are busy this summer helping in the research room at the museum in Dillon. Each weekday afternoon there is a volunteer available to help find the appropriate museum resources for those who are doing family research.

Our summer outing was on July 19. After our picnic in the cemetery (on the grassy section that has not been used yet) we held a cemetery walk that was open to the public. Four of our members chose a different Beaverhead County pioneer and recounted some of their activities. They were dressed for the occasion and it was a lot of fun learning about some of the earliest settlers. Several members of the community joined us for the walk and were enthusiastic about how much they enjoyed it. As it was so successful, it is planned to become an annual event.

Submitted by Carla Andrus, BHH Liaison

Broken Mountains Genealogical Society

Broken Mountains Genealogy Society has not been meeting during the summer months, but at the last meeting we went through all the unfinished projects that each person is working on and did a run through on what can be done during the summer months to have ready for the September meeting.

Marji Dahinden has been typing many of the stories and biographies over as a digital record and then can be put together as a booklet and also used on our new Web Site created for us by our newest member of the Medical staff at our local hospital.

Betty Marshall and Francis Hochberger are always busy catching the latest obituaries in the Liberty County Times and in the Great Falls Tribune. They then photo copy each and put on a new form with the information in the header. They also collect the obituary programs used at the funerals and these are all put together in our Obituary Books maintained at our local library.

Lyla Pugsley and Pat Ludwig keep busy with the Cemetery and Burial lists and hope to start photographing the tombstones as part of that record and then they will be submitted to a site on the internet. Along with that all will be asked to bring a list of surnames they are searching and will start a new data base to be listed on this new site. Hopefully we can get this link on to our page on the State Site before fall.

Barb and Gary Cady keep us tuned into the work at the Family History Library where Barb helps with the research being done there. They also do many of the queries that we get along with Betty Marshall.

Submitted by Pat Ludwig, BMGS Liaison

Butte Silver Bow Genealogy Society

Butte-Silver Bow Genealogy Society has found a new meeting place, courtesy of Town Pump and member Tom Richardson, who are generously sharing the Town Pump headquarters conference room until we can identify another place with wifi access which is available on our meeting nights.

Members are exploring two potential projects. Local cemeteries are being contacted re: the possibility of transcribing and indexing their records. Tom is spearheading the early stages of planning publication of a Silver Bow County family history collection, which would be sponsored by the Society and invite local families to submit a written narrative family history with photographs. We are very excited about the possibilities of both projects.

Julie Bushmaker, Tony Konecny, and JoAnn Piazzola will once again present genealogy workshops at the An Ri Ra (the Montana Irish Festival) on August 12 and 13, assisted by other group members. Last year's workshop was very well received and we are happy to be participating in the festival again. We are also looking forward to the annual meeting in Kalispell, and hope to be better represented this year.

Submitted by Linda Lee Holmes, BSBGS Liaison

Central Montana Genealogy Society

Our society is working hard to catch up our obit card file for 2009 and 2010. The member who had done this for many years was not able to do it anymore. We have been scrambling to get someone to take it over. Hardly anyone has a typewriter anymore so we have been trying different ways to use the computer. Sometimes new technology presents problems!

One of our members, Charlotte Orr, is a grand-daughter of James Fergus. In June she arranged a tour to two of James Fergus' ranches; the Horse Ranch and the Box Elder Ranch. Both are north of Lewistown. They are still working ranches with many of the old buildings still standing. The Box Elder Ranch had a barn that was over 100 years old and still in good shape. Charlotte also gave some history about her family and the ranch foremen also gave some history about the ranches. We had lunch in Roy and then stopped at the monument that was built for James Fergus at the old town of Armells. Tom Wojtowick helped cut the grass and weeds around the monument. It was a warm, sunny day and there were eight of us who made the trip. We will have our indoor potluck picnic the 16th of August.

Submitted by Marilyn Lewis, CMGS President

Great Falls Genealogy Society

GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY HAS NEW WEBSITE

The Great Falls Genealogy Society has launched its new website at www.gfgenealogy.org available for use by members and nonmembers. The new site has a completely new look along with new features making searching for information easier and faster. This is a work in progress and new databases are being added frequently. There are special features for "Members Only" making it well worth while for researchers to join GFGS. The Society membership now totals 179, which includes many out of state people. GFGS library is open to the public and staffed by volunteers Mondays through Saturdays 10am until 4pm, except for holidays.

CASCADE COUNTY RECORDS BEING DIGITIZED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING

Peter Day from the Utah Genealogical Society, and Field Supervisor for Family Search International, is in Great Falls filming genealogical records which will eventually be online under the Family Search website. His travels have taken him throughout the United States and Canada as he first microfilmed and now digitized these important records. He will be in Great Falls for at least five or six months as he digitizes many of the early Cascade County records stored by GFGS and the History Museum. By July 18th, 20,000 images have been digitized, and the first images are out on Family Search. They have not yet been indexed, but are available for browsing.

CLASSES TO BE HELD BY GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY THIS FALL

Fall classes in Genealogy will be held in Great Falls this fall at a minimal charge to members and nonmembers. A class sponsored by GFGS, but held at the LDS Family Search Library on Saturday, August 20, will be given by Colleen Yates with hands on instruction demonstrating the new FAMILY SEARCH WEBSITE. Saturday, September 17, Colleen Yates will present a class on ORGANIZING YOUR WORK; Saturday, October 8 a class in BEGINNING GENEALOGY; Saturday, October 15, Jan Thomson will offer a class about CIVIL WAR RECORDS. These Classes will be held in the Great Falls Public Library. For more information about the classes email us at gfgs@mt.net OR CALL 406-727-2922.

Submitted by Alice Heisel, GFGS Liaison

Jefferson County Genealogy Society

The Jefferson County Genealogy Society has had a busy spring and summer.

At our April meeting we discussed the plans for Boulder's 100th year birthday party. Boulder became an incorporated town on May 1, 1911. The Heritage Center has been helping to plan events for the year to celebrate this milestone. Joyce Smartnick, Ellen Rae Thiel, and Shirley Rogers gave a report on their trip to Salt Lake. New member, Beverly Remmich shared pictures and documents she has on her family.

At our May meeting we discussed Civil War records of our ancestors and the kind of information they include. Very interesting discussion followed.

Our June meeting was a trip to the Jefferson City Grade School and community center. They have done a lot of work restoring and preserving this building. They are now using it as the community center.

Also in June one of our members, Nancy Alley, was presented with the award naming her "Mentor of the Year" for all work she does with the 21st Century Community Learning students. She has taught the children how to quilt, sew and embroidery.

It will be a busy summer with more projects in the works.

Submitted by Shirley Rogers, JCGS Liaison

Lewis & Clark County Genealogical Society

We are so fortunate here in Helena as we have so many wonderful people we have been able to call upon to speak at our monthly meetings. Since the first of the year we have had speakers ranging from a member of the military museum at Fort Harrison, author Lenore Puhek discussing her research for her book Annie (the first black woman to homestead in Montana), Caitlan Maxwell from the Montana Historical Society Archives discussing how to preserve old documents, books, etc and where to obtain supplies. Member Gary Wulf took us through how to research land records and took a group to the clerk and recorder's office to access land record books. Zoe Ann Stoltz, historical researcher at the Montana Historical Society presented a power point presentation on Brands in Montana. Did you know that brands must be re-registered every 10 years? And this is the year for re-recording so the brand office has been REALLY busy! In May we toured the military museum at Fort Harrison. We also participated in the Helena/Lewis & Clark County History Fair on the Walking Mall. Once again our annual summer picnic was rained out, but we took our potluck picnic to the meeting room at the Mountain West Bank and had a fine time!

Our membership has increased quite a bit this past 6 months and I attribute it to the two classes that librarian Karen Huck gave at the public library—in January she conducted a beginner's class and in April the class was about Internet sites. We found that there are many people in Helena who are interested in genealogy. They just don't know how to get started!

Submitted by Mary Pitch, LCCGS President

Park County Genealogy Society

Park County Genealogy Society has been working with the County Commissioners to utilize funds that have been earmarked for the restoration and preservation of two historic cemeteries in Park County, as well as other public cemeteries located between Livingston and Jardine. Old Chico (1864) and Emigrant (1885) cemeteries are situated in the Paradise Valley half way between Livingston and Yellowstone National Park. As unique cultural resources in need of accurate interpretation and extensive repairs, the cemeteries have been identified as priority projects for the funding. Since 2007, society members, Carol Woodley and Sharron Munro have worked to update burial records and, with Park County Historian Jerry Brekke, to create a plan for restoring and interpreting the cemeteries. Carol assisted interested community members to organize cemetery associations; the "The Friends of the Emigrant Cemetery" and "Old Chico Cemetery Association". To contact the Friends of the Emigrant Cemetery c/o Secretary/Treasurer, Eileen Story, P.O. Box 355, Emigrant, Montana 59027: 406-333-4341, for help finding out who is buried in the cemetery contact Sharron Munro at 120 Eight Mile Creek, Livingston, Montana 59047: 406-222-2727: Contacts for Old Chico Cemetery are Lorna Marchington-Chairman 406-223-1559 and Director of Burials c/o Brian Wells, 31 Emigrant Bench Road, Pray, Montana 59065: 406-333-4396 or Carol Woodley, 421 South 13th Street, Livingston, Montana 59047, 406-222-3468.

At our May meeting we toured the Park County Basement Vault showing off some of the interesting and important records that are the beginning of our county when it was split from Gallatin County. Park County was carved out of Gallatin County when Governor Hauser was in office from July 14, 1885 to February 7, 1887.

Mardi Whitmore presented a beginners genealogy workshop for the Livingston Public Library summer youth program the 23rd of June with 12 attending, while Connie Standish and Carol Woodley attended a work meeting with Matt Davidson, Data Image from Billings taught us how to place our Basement Vault Indexes into the Park County off Site Silo so eventually the public will have access to these records.

Our June meeting on the 28th was a cemetery walk at the Emigrant Cemetery with Sharron Munro as our guide and host for a very nice picnic at her residence at 120 Eight Mile Creek, near Emigrant, Montana. Sharron has been instrumental in compiling Emigrant Cemetery records and continues to assist the community in the on-going interpretation of this historically significant cemetery.

Then on July 12th we conducted a cemetery walk at the Old Chico Cemetery sponsored by the Old Chico Cemetery Association, with Carol Woodley acting as the guide for the group attending. About 25 people turned out to visit the graves and talk about the many people buried in this old cemetery. A potluck picnic followed the presentation. We are proud and pleased that these two cemeteries have created a large interest in genealogy research and the communities are taking an active interest in what will become of the cemeteries in the Yellowstone Valley.

Meet eight more "ghosts" of Park County's past at the Third Annual Cemetery walk, August 13th 1 pm, Mountain View Cemetery, 15 Fleshman Creek Road, Livingston, Montana. Tickets will be \$8.00. Co-sponsored by the Park County Historical and Genealogy Societies. For more information call Mardi Whitmore, 406-222-7126; Jack Luther, 406-222-5275; or Carol Woodley 406-222-3468

Submitted by Carol Woodley, PCGS President

Yellowstone Genealogy Forum

The April 2011 program was a podcast on using Google Earth for Genealogy. The software is free. The topics included: matching old photos with locations using Street View; locating churches and photos of ancestors' churches using Places of Worship; plotting ancestor homesteads by converting township and range, found in BLM's website, to latitude and longitude; and creating map overlays. <http://www.google.com/earth/index.html>

Last summer, Forum members helped the Western Heritage Center (WHC) by researching select homesteaders who settled along the Yellowstone River. The WHC now has a program for teachers called "The Montana Homestead Era, 1909-1925". In May, Joyce Jensen presented the finished product to the Forum. <http://www.ywhc.org/index.php?p=93>

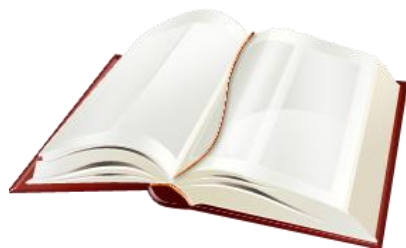
May was also the annual meeting and election of officers. Members elected to offices for 2011-2012 are: Program Coordinators Laura Alvin & Gayle Ottman, Treasurer Tina Standish, Corresponding Secretary Bobbie Meyers, Recording Secretary Irene Nelson, and President P. J. Smith. Volunteers of the Forum were recognized for their contributions to the club.

Local agricultural news editor, Linda Grosskopf, presented a lively program in June on "Converting Your Genealogy Research into a Family History". She stressed getting your family story told. Don't clean up your history. Don't worry about the format of the final product – whether it is hard bound or spiral bound. Write what you know. <http://www.wordwrightwomen.com/>

The program in July should be very exciting. Bob Larson will teach us how to Grave Dowse – search for bodies with a dowsing rod. This will be followed by a field trip to Riverside Cemetery.

On Saturday, August 27th, the Forum will participate in a Genealogy Fair. The Forum, the Family History Center, DAR, PAF, Germans from Russia, and Montana Room from the public library will have information tables and mini-workshops from 10 am to 2 pm at 1711 6th St. West. This is free and open to the public.

Submitted by P. J. Smith, YGF President



MSGs Library News

From Karen Huck, Librarian:

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

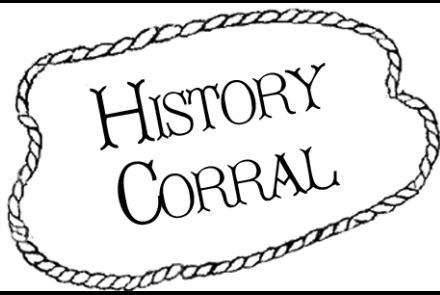
Finding the books that are in the genealogy library is easy. If you are in the library, you can double click on the icon on the desktop that says "Library catalog". At home you can find the catalog many different ways:

- www.mymontanalibrary.org (Montana Shared Catalog)
 - Then use the first pull down menu and select Montana State Genealogical Society Library (you can also get to the Montana Historical catalog also)
- www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mtmsg/ (Montana State Genealogical Society website)
 - The 3rd paragraph has the website hi-lighted and you can click on it and go to the website
- www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mtlcgs (Lewis and Clark Genealogical Society)
 - at the top click on Library hours and Staff
 - click on library catalog

Do you know of a book and wonder what library it is located in? You can research OCLC (online computer library catalog) by going to www.worldcat.org.

- You can input the title of the book and hit enter.
- When the book title comes up, click on it.
 - On the bottom half of the page, enter your location
 - It will show you which libraries have the book, you can click on any library to go into their library catalog.
 - If we do not have the book, work with your local library and see if they can interlibrary loan the book from the other resource.

If you are researching in an area, just use an internet search engine and look for their local library. Many have genealogy databases. If nothing there, look for historical and genealogical societies where your relatives lived.



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.

Why Not Ynot?

Submitted by Barbara Mavencamp



**Where the McMullen House
Once Stood**

How did Ynot get its name? It's still a mystery. The land has reverted to the Bureau of Land Management. All that remains of Ynot now are several depressions where buildings once stood, several large flat rocks that served as steps for the house, and the marker on the lonely grave of my uncle, Paddy.



**Gravestone of
Kenneth Patrick (Paddy)
McMullen**

The prairie grass whispers in the wind, cattle move through as they graze there in the summer. The prairie is dotted with gas well huts, and rutted with tracks of the trucks used to service them. Such is the fate of many places in Montana where ghost dreams of fresh starts and land ownership can be heard if you sit at any abandoned homestead. Mine just happened to be personal because Mary was my paternal grandmother.



Mary E. McMullen

In April of 1917, according to the post card Mary sent to her daughter, the McMullen's left their 120 acre homestead in North Dakota to homestead in Montana where more land was available. T. P., the father had left earlier in the car with a grown son, Mike. Later, another son who was remaining in N. Dakota took Mary and the remaining four children to catch the train in Dickinson, N. Dakota. Their destination was Malta, Montana where Mary E. McMullen would file on 320 acres in Northern Phillips County. Mary was 48 years of age at

this time. She married T. P. when she was 15 years of age and he was 31. She had given birth to 14 children, two of whom died in infancy of diphtheria. She had moved with her ever growing family many times. She was born in Indiana, married in Mt. Ayr, Iowa, moved to Kingman, Kansas, back to Iowa, and to several areas in North Dakota. Most of her children were grown, married, and living their own lives by the time she came to Montana. Her husband never seemed able to settle to anything, and make a success of it for very long. This move would be their last hope for a fresh start.



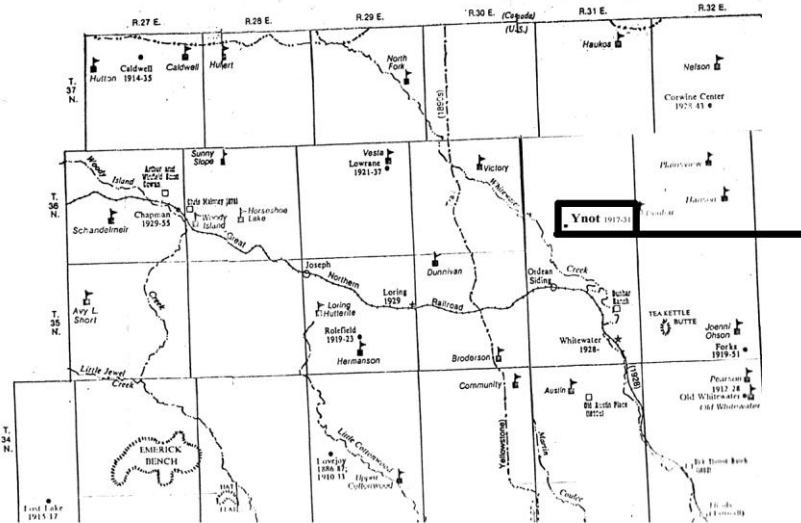
Ynot Post Office & Store

When she was settled on the land in Montana, she was approached to take the post office for the area. With no other towns in the area she opened the first, and only post office, and store at Ynot, Montana. For a brief time things thrived. They broke land, built a number of buildings, and according to the pictures there were trees, and gardens about the place. Those who remembered her marveled at her ability to be cheerful and uncomplaining no matter what she faced. In one of the letters that her son wrote he says she has asked him for money, but he didn't give it to her because he was sure his father would get it.

Soon their luck was once again draining away like sand through an hour glass. It wasn't long before the drought hit Montana, and people began leaving the area in droves. They found that even with more land it was impossible to make a living. Mary's fresh start was dwindling. Two more sons died in 1918. One in World War I, and the other of a gunshot wound. The remaining daughters married, and moved away. Mary's health

began to decline. She was diagnosed with Bright's disease (kidney infection). At this time there were no antibiotics to cure her. Her health quickly began to decline as did her husband's. In desperation, T. P. took out a loan he couldn't repay.

In 1931, when they were both ill and broke, they abandoned Ynot to return to N. Dakota, to live with one of their daughters. Mary succumbed at the end of 1931 and her husband shortly thereafter. Only my father remained in Montana to prove up his own homestead.



Historical Map of Phillips County, Montana

The **Montana Historical Society** and the **Museums Association of Montana** have partnered to present the following **ENCORE** workshop:

Gravestone Preservation Workshop
September 12th, from 10-4, rain or shine.

The workshop will be held in Butte, Montana at the St. Patrick's Cemetery, 2400 block of South Montana.

Cost- \$75.00 per person, includes lunch and supplies

The hands-on workshop will cover tombstone repair, proper care and cleaning of headstones, how to reset and conserve them, and maintaining historic cemeteries. The workshop will be conducted by:

Jonathon Appell, Gravestone Conservation, Hartford, Connecticut.

Check out Jon's website: <http://www.gravestoneconservation.com>

Registration is required. Checks and money orders only. Register online through the following link:

http://mhs.mt.gov/education/gravestone_preservation_workshop.asp



Society of Sons and Daughters of World War II Veterans
Recently Created by The Admiral Nimitz Foundation

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization that provides financial support and management infrastructure for the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas, and its associated entities, including the Nimitz Research Center. The Foundation currently carries a four star rating from Charity Navigator.

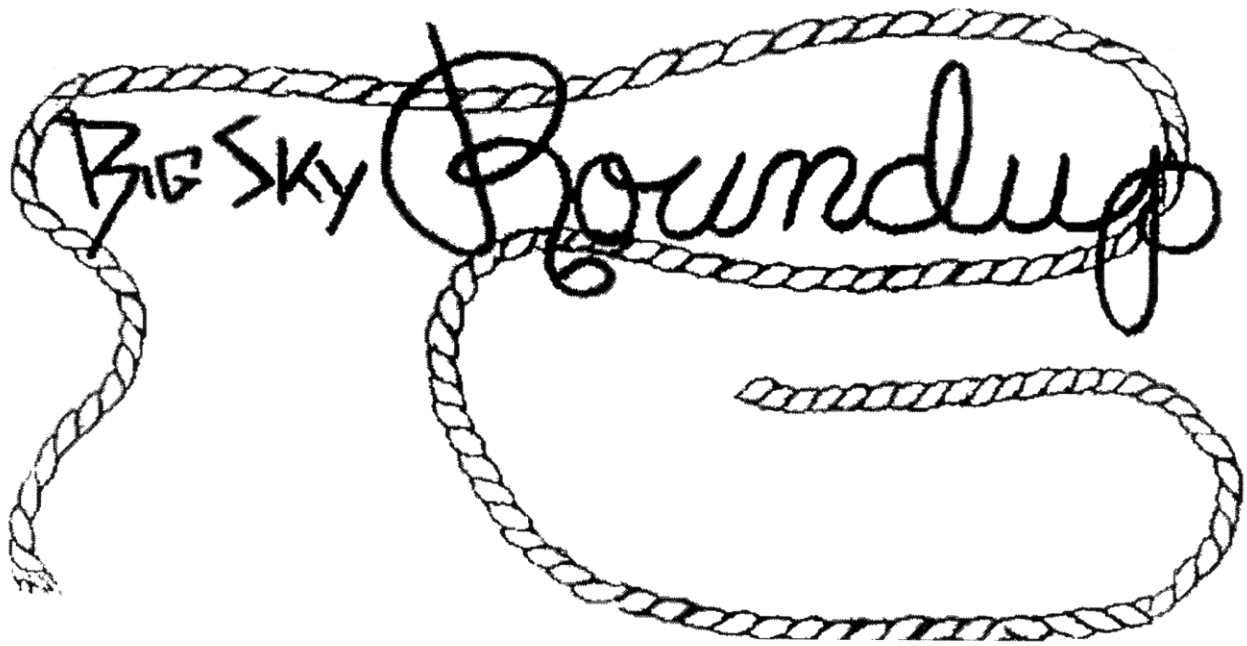
On January 1, 2011, the Foundation launched a lineage society for descendants of participants in World War II under the copyrighted corporate name Society of the Sons and Daughters of World War II Veterans. The Society's goal is to preserve

the stories of sacrifice and achievement of America's "greatest generation" - those who fought in and won World War II. Membership enables individuals to document family ancestry from an American veteran who served in any branch and any theater of World War II. The Society of Sons and Daughters of World War II Veterans plans to be an asset for educators and students, as well as family historians, as it creates a database of available military records about World War II veterans that will be accessible to family historians, authors and students. Membership is open to relatives of all men and women who served in the United States military in World War II in any theater, may they be related by birth, adoption, or marriage.

For more information see their website: www.sonsanddaughtersofww2veterans.org



Terry Atwood
PO Box 5313
Helena MT 59602



**Gathering
Lost
Leaves**

Montana State
Genealogical
Society

Kalispell

22nd Annual
Conference

September 22, 23, 24, 2011