

# Big Sky Roundup



<http://montanamsgs.org>

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2011-2012 Officers

July 2012

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## President's Message

A couple of weeks ago, I had the opportunity to help a fellow genealogist work on completing several applications for her ancestors in the MSGS First Families & Early Settlers of Montana program.

At first it seemed that the task was a bit overwhelming – all those blank lines just awaiting answers! However, as we methodically moved from one line to the next, gathering documents for proof, I could sense excitement replacing her fears of apprehension. Not only did they prove the event or relationship for the application, but several also revealed some previously unknown and very interesting facts.

As we neared the completion of the applications, she exclaimed she now felt like a true genealogist. The project forced her to organize her sources and proved to her that she was more than capable of continuing her research in a professional manner.

So, I encourage all of you to tackle those projects. Write that family story. Apply to a lineage society. Test your skills – I'll bet you'll be pleasantly rewarded.

*Shawna Valentine, President*



## MSGS TREASURER SUMMARY January 1, 2012 – July 19, 2012

### EXPENSES:

2012 Conference Catering Deposit	\$150.00
Speaker Travel Expense	505.70
2012 Conference Pins	333.00
Stamps:	9.00
Advertising	50.00
FGS Dues	85.00
Montana State Library	107.51
Newsletter	226.00
State Annual Tax Report	15.00
First Families/Early Settlers Expenses	56.99

### INCOME:

Club and Individual Membership	\$745.00
Death Index	50.00
FFM and ES	396.94
Interest Income	0.63
Balance as of 19 July 2012	\$14,717.29

The IRS, 990-N, E-Filing report was done, July 8, 2012

### **Carol Woodley, Treasurer**

421 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Livingston, MT 59047

## MSGS Vests Available for Purchase at the September 2012 Conference



By popular demand, MSGS Vests will be available for purchase at the September Conference in Billings. Advance orders will be taken with Conference Registrations, which will be mailed and on our website in July.

The new vests will still be made of nice, cozy fleece, in the same style as shown in the picture. **However, they will be charcoal grey this time around.** The MSGS Logo will be embroidered as shown here.

Cost per vest is \$40.00, sizes XS thru XL

### **Sizes in relation to bust measurements:**

XS-32-34; S-35-36; M-37-38;

L-39-41; XL-42-44;

XXL-45-47; 3XL-48-51; 4XL-52-55. (Sizes larger than XL may cost a little more.)

**Planning for the  
23<sup>rd</sup> Annual MSGS  
Conference:**

**September 20, 21, 22 at  
the Big Horn Resort in  
Billings**

**Deadlines:**

- **September 1:** Early Bird Deadline. Be sure your registration form has been mailed for the possibility of receiving up to \$45 of the Registration refunded.
- **September 6:** Deadline to order MSGS Vests. These are charcoal fleece with the MSGS Logo.
- **September 7:** Deadline to reserve sleeping rooms at the Conference Headquarters, the Big Horn Resort in Billings. Phone: 406-839-9300, Group Code GENE
- **September 10:** Conference Registrations must received by our Registrar in order to guarantee meals & t-shirts at the conference.

**Memorial Service**

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.

An obituary & picture are appreciated.

Her email address is:  
bumpie6@bresnan.net

The Complete Conference Schedule & Registration Form may be downloaded at:

<http://montanamsgs.org/2012ConfReg.pdf>



**DIGGING UP ROOTS**

Big Horn Resort  
Billings Montana  
Exit 443 off I-90

**September 20, 21, 22, 2012**

**Book Frolic**

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 useful resources, this is a major MSGS Fundraiser.

**PLEASE – NO Quarterlies, or Outdated Material.**

Items should be brought to the conference area on Thursday so they will be ready to view starting first thing on Friday morning. The Frolic area will NOT be open on Thursday for browsing – just for dropping off.

**Calling for Award  
Nominations**

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.

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.

**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](mailto:mardellaw@juno.com) so she has it by September 1st. The awards will be presented at the banquet Friday evening at the conference.**

**Billings Pins**

We would like to encourage you to show your MSGS loyalty by purchasing and wearing a Billings 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.

**A special prize drawing will be held at conference just for those wearing their Billings Pin!**

**Door Prizes**

These are always fun to get, but we need items to give away at our meal events.

**Please turn them in to the Registration Desk when you pick up your badges**



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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## Broken Mountains Genealogical Society – Chester

Although we do not meet during the summer months our members have still been busy with projects for our society and for themselves. There have been some very warm days in June and July where we have been able to walk the local cemetery and start indexing the actual gravesites. With the aid of the database we did previously, we are making a cemetery map which helps one to locate an individual grave. First we walk and diagram and then check our database for the actual block, plot and grave and then record the name on the appropriate grave square on the map. We had first thought this might be a fairly easy task, but the graves were not dug in nice neat rows and often do not exactly comply with the written records. But we have about finished the smaller part of the cemetery known as the Old Catholic Cemetery. We are also taking pictures of each headstone and these then are transferred to a site called Find a Grave on the internet. Again this was complicated until we learned to resize the photos and then submit them.

A senior boy scout in the community will be making a framed board to be placed near this section of the cemetery and which will house our map under clear plastic, making the search much easier.

The third part of the above mentioned project is to locate the obituaries in our Obituary File and use them with modification for the biographies on Find a Grave. Although a few are completed this project will probably be a winter activity when we can't actually do the cemetery. Next summer we will try to do the larger portion.

Two of our members travelled to Billings to the State Board Conference meeting recently. They will be attending the state conference in Sept. with plans to set up a table showing some of our projects. Our first meeting for the upcoming season will be September 6th.

The Obituary File committee continues to work on copying and keeping current with the recent deaths. Their files are usually right up to date and used frequently by individuals doing research.

Submitted by Pat Ludwig, BMGS Liaison

## Flathead Valley Genealogical Society – Kalispell

We are FINALLY official. Organized, up and running, bylaws passed, officers elected and we are excited! Now that the boring stuff is out of the way, we can have fun!

Our officers are:

- President: Shirley Rogers
- Vice President: Vicki Rowley
- Secretary: Lynne Bradley
- Treasurer: Charlotte Van Dyke

Submitted by Shirley Rogers, President

## Gallatin County Genealogy Society – Bozeman

We have elected officers, adopted by-laws, and have held 3 meetings with another scheduled for Aug 11 at 11am in Bozeman Library small meeting room.

We have started a project - indexing old obituaries from 1980's that member Marge David cut out and pasted to papers in binders so many years ago. We have a number of other projects we are setting up.

We are in the process of making brochures and getting our information out.

We will (VERY SOON) be a member of the State Society.

Submitted by Michelle Westberg, President (406) 581-3198

## Great Falls Genealogy Society – Great Falls

We do not hold general meetings in the summer so we've had no programs since May but a lot has happened at the library. Our project for digitizing county and local records in conjunction with Cascade County and Family Search is really paying off as we get copies of all the images. You can check them out at Family Search under Montana. Or you can check some of them out at our web site [www.gfgenealogy.org](http://www.gfgenealogy.org). If you go to our site check out the revisions and additions. There is now a complete list of our library holdings there. Some of our members have formed a genealogy excursion travel group and will be traveling to Salt Lake in late August.

We have an 1860 **first edition 4 volume set of James Savage's "Genealogical Dictionary of New England"** available for sale at \$50.00. Purchaser to pick it up or pay for shipping. If interested contact us at [gfgs@optimum.net](mailto:gfgs@optimum.net) or at:

Great Falls Genealogy Society  
301 2nd Ave N  
Great Falls, MT 59401

submitted by Dennis Sugden, GFGS President

## Lewis & Clark County Genealogy Society – Helena

In May we had a guest speaker who talked about the history of Radersburg, MT. Many of our members have never been to Radersburg so hopefully that will be on the agenda for an outing, either as a group or individually in the next few months.

At our June meeting we discussed connecting with others. One member talked about her recent trip to Italy where she ultimately met a family she has been trying to find for many years. After she was unable to find any church records, a hotel clerk sent her to another town to talk with his relatives. She showed them her family tree, they brought out THEIR family tree and her relative was on it! She finally found her family! One of our members showed a very large family chart big enough to document all your relatives. The charts are available from: Stevensen Genealogical Centre, 230 W. 1230 N, Provo, UT 84604. A 2'x3' pedigree chart is available for \$20 at [willitcopy.com](http://willitcopy.com). People also talked about the 1940 census and what they have found on their families so far. Another source right here in Helena is the Montana Masonic Museum which has records which they will copy for you.

In July we worked with our society's U.S. Research Atlas which contains a map of each state showing each county in each state. Members attached their membership number to all the counties in the U.S. where they are researching in hopes there are others in the society who are researching in the same area. We also discussed how to write a good query versus one with either not enough information or one with too much information.

Submitted by Mary Pitch, LCCGS President

## Yellowstone Genealogy Forum – Billings

Many members have been busy with planning, table decorations, and publicity for the annual MSGS conference that will be held in Billings on September 20-22. We look forward to hosting genealogists from all over the state.

The 1940 Census release was all the talk this winter. In April, Rick Davis gave a wonderful overview of how to search the un-indexed census, along with a helpful handout.

In May at Annual Meeting, the Forum celebrated all that members do for the club – programs, outreach, indexing, translations, and research. Election of officers was held: Program Coordinators – Laura Joy-Brock & Gayle Breeding, Recording Secretary – Irene Nelson, Treasurer – Tina Standish, Corresponding Secretary – Bobbie Meyer, and President – P. J. Smith. The program that evening was by members Dee Harper and Betty Hedges. Dee had an amazing list of items to take with you to cemeteries and how to use them. Betty, a professional photographer, gave us tips on taking photos of headstones and at family reunions.

In June, Shawna Valentine helped those who are applying for First Families/Early Settlers. Other members worked in small groups on "brick walls".

Several members traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah and spent a week researching at the Family History Library.

State conference promises to be well worth attending. We hope to see many of you there.

Submitted by P. J. Smith, YGF President

## Memories of a Ghost Town – Gloster, Montana

*Transcription of Original Recollections by John F. Tobol,*

*submitted by Joseph F. Martin of Romeoville, IL, first cousin twice-removed of John F. Tobol. John's father, John Tobol, Sr., was the half brother of Nicholas Kaptur, great grandfather of Joseph F. Martin. Over 40 years of research have uncovered many details, documents and photos of both families. Both the Tobol and Kaptur ancestors immigrated from Mieczewo, Srem, Poznan, Poland.*



John F. Tobol, Jr. (1889-1970)  
at age 25

I was born January 29, 1889, in Gloster, Montana. At that time it was a booming, mining town. My Dad, John Tobol, Sr. worked in the Gloster Mine.<sup>1</sup> In 1892 when I was three years old, we moved to the East Pacific Mine, and the next year we moved back to Gloster, and we stayed there until 1896.

When I was about six years old, I used to go and watch the kids in school. I would look through the window at them. In those days the school year only lasted three months. Before I knew it, it was my turn to go to school. I got ready the first day, went to school and stayed until the first recess, and then I went home. My Mother asked me why I wasn't in school, and I told her that I didn't like it. She said that she was going to tell Dad, so I crawled under the bed and stayed there until Dad came home.

When he got there, Mother told him about me not going to school. He came into the bedroom and found me under the bed, and I wouldn't come out. First he took the blankets off, then the mattress. When he started to lift the springs off, I just hung right on to them. By that time, Dad had started to laugh, and he gave up. That was my first day

of school. My teacher's name was Bell Price, and I remember how she was always pulling on her Adams's apple.

In 1896 I went to school for another three months. Annie Shay was my second teacher.<sup>2</sup> It wasn't too bad, but I didn't learn very much in those two terms of school.

There was only one well to get water from in Gloster. Many of the people had a long way to go to get their water. We had a few cows, and it was some job to pump water for them. The closest water (other than the well) was at Drink Water Gulch or the Gloster Mill. They were each about one-half mile away.

My sister, Agnes, was born in Gloster when I was five and one-half years old. They would not let me come in the house the day she was born, but they did give me a piece of bread and butter, and later they came out and told me to come in and see my new baby sister. I told them that I didn't want her, because she looked like a little devil!

My Aunt and Uncle Smigaj and cousin, Walter, also lived in Gloster.<sup>3</sup> There was always plenty of dry wood to be gotten. Smigaj's snaked their winter wood with a horse. One fellow named Dan Olson<sup>4</sup> didn't need a horse. He would put a rope around a log, put the rope over his shoulder, and away he would go. Dan was over six feet tall, and I remember how he was always talking to himself.

By this time Walter Smigaj and I were about eight years old, and we chewed tobacco when we could get a hold of some. We used to hide and watch to see when Dan Olson would go to get water, and as soon as Dan left, Walter would sneak in and get some tobacco. One day Walter made a mistake and took too much, though, and after that Dan kept his door locked. Of course, we still wanted tobacco, and we knew that another man in Gloster named Charley Drinkwater had some, because we never saw Charley without a pipe in his mouth. We also knew that every night as soon as he got home from work, he would go out and get a bucket of water. Walter and I watched one night, and when Charley left his house with a bucket in his hand, Walter went in. Charley was about halfway to the well, but I guess he saw us, because he came back and caught Walter in the house. Walter got his pants kicked, and out he came. We didn't get any more tobacco there. Walter's Dad was quite a smoker, so Walter had to be content with the few crumbs he could get there.

By this time Gloster was just about played out, but the Gloster Mill was still running, and my older sister Mary took the job of cooking there, so we moved again, this time to Gloster Mill, which was one-half mile from Gloster. This was Sixty Stamp Mill. There was a trestle running from the mine to the mill. It was down grade, and the loaded car going down would pull the empty car up, and the cars would meet in the center of the track, and one car would go around the other when they met.

By now it was time for school again, but school was in Empire, which was another mining town. We had to walk from Gloster Mill, and it was about two miles each way. There was a boy about my age going to school named Louie Johnson.<sup>5</sup> Every day he would hide his lunch, but it was not a very sanitary hiding place. It was in the outside toilet.

My Dad took up a placer claim at the Gloster Mill. It was just up the gulch from where we lived. He took out some nice gold, but the bedrock was about nine feet deep, so he had to drive a tunnel and bring the gravel out by wheel barrow. One day it started to rain and Dad had just arrived home from his claim, and my Mother who was outside heard something making a roaring sound and wondered what it was. Well, it was water, and it was a cloudburst. Before it was over, the water was ten or twelve feet high and two hundred feet wide. It took everything ahead of it, the Gloster Mill tailings, and it also killed some cows. A farmer named George Slater<sup>6</sup> later got rich from those tailings. They washed down to his land, and he panned them. Dad went up to his placer claim the next day, but there was nothing left. The cloudburst had leveled it, and everything was gone.

Now, this will sound rather eerie. My Dad had three dreams, and all three were exactly the same, and this was his dream. Behind Gloster Mill there was a trail, and beside this trail there was a tree which was bent over. On the tree there was a bobcat, and where the bobcat jumped, you dug a hole. So Dad took a pick and shovel and went up to see how true his dream was. It was all just like in his dream, so he dug where the cat jumped, and he found a rock. When he broke it open, it was full of crystals that were two different colors. Dad took the crystals to the Assayer at the Gloster Mill, and he asked Dad where he had gotten them. Dad told him, and he wanted to know if there were any more, and Dad said that there were a few pieces left. Later, Dad went back to get them, but they were gone. He went back to the assay office, but the assayer had quit his job and left and had taken Dad's crystals with him. I still believe that they were my Dad's fortune.

In the fall of the year the Empire Mill closed down, and the families began to move out. There was no work around there, so we moved to East Helena, Montana, and I got four more years of school. Those were the days when they used horses to pull the slag pot at the East Helena smelter. In 1902 we moved back to Empire to run the Empire boarding house. The Empire Mill, which was running again, was a Sixty Stamp Mill. The Empire Mine was above the Mill, and they had a trestle built very much like the one in Gloster from mine to mill. They started to build the Empire Cyanide Plant. The Mill closed down again, but by this time, they had started up the Cyanide Plant. There was a conveyor belt that went from the tailing dam to the plant. There was a hopper built over the conveyor belt, and they dumped the tailings into a chute onto the belt. This was all teamwork. They used scrapers to haul the tailings to the belt.



Gloster, Montana Mining Camp, 1889

I was just a kid, but I got a job working under the hopper picking out sticks of wood. One day a piece of wood got between the pulley and the belt, and I stooped down to pull it out. It pulled my arm under the belt, and the belt was rubbing my elbow. I yelled, and a man named Jack Johns<sup>7</sup> heard me and ran down to the plant and shut the belt off. To this day I still have a scar on my left elbow. After that I worked at the Cyanide Plant scraping the plates that caught the gold, but this was only a summer job.

In the winter of 1902 my Dad took a contract from Owen Burns<sup>8</sup> to sink a shaft, one hundred feet, at six dollars a foot at the Bell Boy Mine which was about one and one half miles from Empire. My brother Will was three years older than me, and we helped Dad as much as we could. Will and I had the wind-lass job. It wasn't too bad, as we had a shack over the shaft. It was a very steep hill to climb going over to the shaft, so Will and I made skis out of fifty gallon barrel staves. By riding the skis we could beat Dad home by twenty minutes. We finished the shaft by spring and then went back to the cyanide plant. It closed down very shortly, and I did not receive any pay for what I did at the plant until four years later.

By now, Empire was dead, so Dad went to work at the Hubert Mine about sixteen miles from Empire, and just below the Jay Gould Mine. When Dad was leaving, he said "Good-bye. I'll see you on the Fourth of July." We didn't see him again, as he died on February 4, 1904.

I worked at the Jay Gould Mine in the summer of 1904. First I had a job plastering log houses, but later I got a job in the mine. The job was on the mule train as the brakeman. All I did was ride the brakes. I got my arm hurt one day as I was coming out of the mine with a load of ore. I had my hands across the back of the car, and I got my left arm caught between the car and the chute, so I had to quit that job.

I then moved back near Maryville and got a job in the Maryville Cyanide Plant. My brother-in-law Archie Hamilton<sup>9</sup> and Dugle Gilcrest<sup>10</sup> had their teams of horses working, and my job was getting the horses in the morning. They called that a night herder's job. In the fall of 1904 we moved back to East Helena. In 1906 I finally received a check from E. W. Whitmore for \$87.00. This was the money they had owed me for the work I did at the Empire Cyanide Plant four years earlier.

Before I end this, I would like to go back and tell you a little more about Maryville. One year (I don't recall which one) on the Fourth of July the businessmen had a parade. They all had their wagons decorated with many things, but the butcher had a sausage machine on his wagon, and as he turned the handle, Vienna Sausage came out of the funnel. He had three live dogs on his wagon, and he would reach down and get one of those dogs by the neck and put him in the machine. He wasn't really grinding them up, but it looked pretty realistic. They also had hard-rock drilling matches, high vaulting, ball games, and rope jumping contests. They had one game that was a little messy. A man had his head stuck through a canvas, and for 10 cents you got to throw three eggs at him. It didn't take too long to make him look like a bunch of scrambled eggs. They also sent a man up in a balloon. He made his flight and came back safe and sound.

It may sound like all we did was move, but Dad had to go where the work was. This story is all about my younger days. I was 77 years old on January 29, 1966. If I tried to write about the rest of my life, I would have to write a book.

<sup>1</sup> John Tobol household, 1900 U.S. Census, Township 10-11 N. Range 1-3W, Lewis and Clark, Montana, E.D. 161, Sheet 1A, (Index and Images, <http://FamilySearch.org> : accessed 30 April 2012, John Tobol in household.

<sup>2</sup> Timothy Shea household, 1900 U.S. Census, Belmont Township, Lewis and Clark, Montana, E.D. 162, Sheet 16B, (Index and Images, <http://FamilySearch.org> : accessed 30 April 2012), Annie Shea in household.

<sup>3</sup> William Smigaj household, 1900 U.S. Census, Belmont Township, Lewis and Clark, Montana, E.D. 162, Sheet 20A, (Index and Images, <http://FamilySearch.org> : accessed 30 April 2012, Walter Smigaj in household.

<sup>4</sup> Drinkwater household, 1900 U.S. Census, Belmont Township, Lewis and Clark, Montana, E.D. 162, Sheet 20A, (Indexes and Images, <http://FamilySearch.org> : accessed 30 April 2012, Daniel Olsson in household.

<sup>5</sup> Conrad Johnson household, 1900 U.S. Census, Belmont Township, Lewis and Clark, Montana, E.D. 162, Sheet 20B, (Indexes and Images, <http://FamilySearch.org> : accessed 30 April 2012, Louis Albert Johnson in household.

<sup>6</sup> J Chas Edwards household, 1900 U.S. Census, Belmont Township, Lewis and Clark, Montana, E.D. 162, Sheet 20B, (Indexes and Images, <http://FamilySearch.org> : accessed 30 April 2012, Geo Slater in household.

<sup>7</sup> Chas W Winstrom household, 1900 U.S. Census, Belmont Township, Lewis and Clark, Montana, E.D. 162, Sheet 20B, (Indexes and Images, <http://FamilySearch.org> : accessed 30 April 2012, John Johns in household. [indexed as Chas W Cetinstraus household]

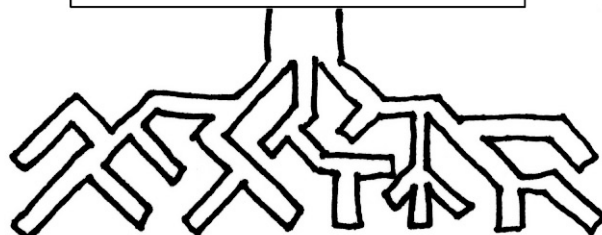
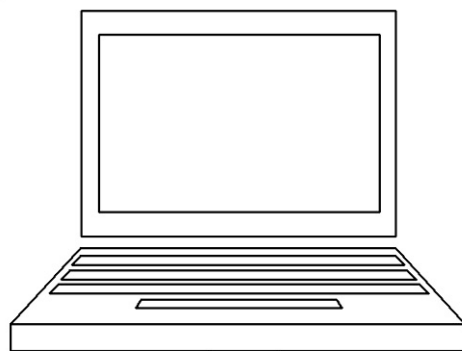
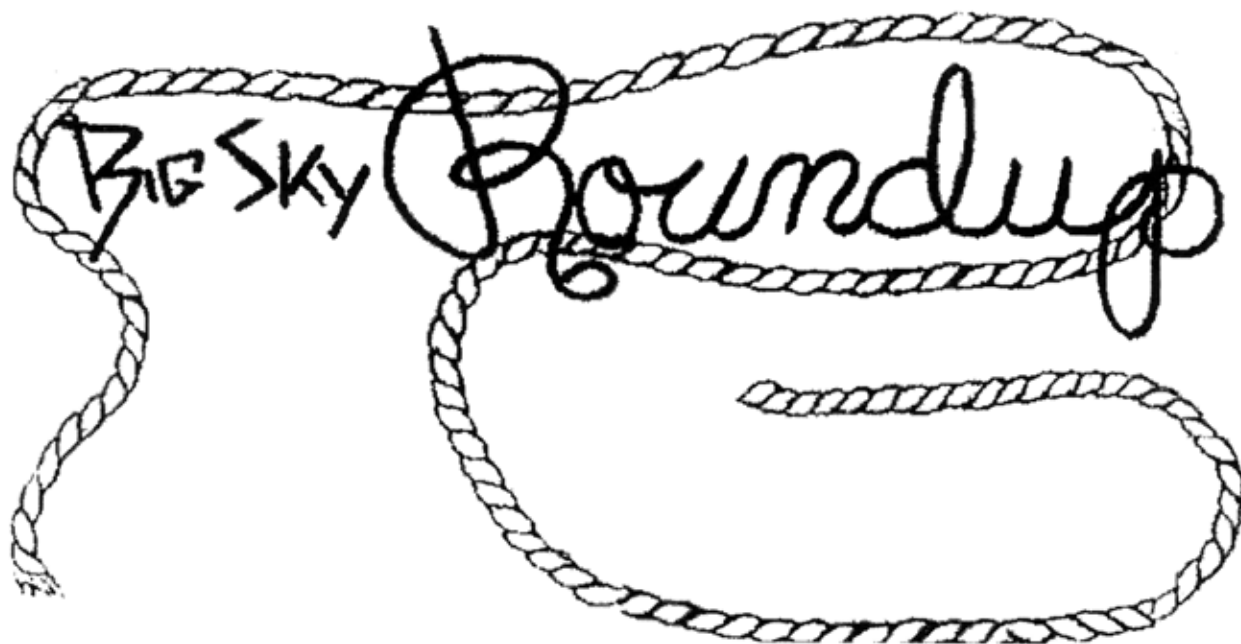
<sup>8</sup> Owen Burns household, 1900 U.S. Census, Belmont Township, Lewis and Clark, Montana, E.D. 162, Sheet 20A, (Indexes and Images, <http://FamilySearch.org> : accessed 30 April 2012, Owen Burns in household. [indexed as Owen Byrnes household]

<sup>9</sup> Archie Hamilton household, 1900 U.S. Census, Belmont Township, Lewis and Clark, Montana, E.D. 162, Sheet 20B, (Indexes and Images, <http://FamilySearch.org> : accessed 30 April 2012, Archie Hamilton in household.

<sup>10</sup> Dougal Gilchrist household, 1900 U.S. Census, Belmont Township, Lewis and Clark, Montana, E.D. 162, Sheet 14A, (Indexes and Images, <http://FamilySearch.org> : accessed 30 April 2012, Dougal Gilchrist in household. [indexed as Dougal Getchrist household]



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## DIGGING UP ROOTS

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