

Big Sky Roundup



<http://montanamsgs.org>

2014-2015 Officers

October 2014

President's Message

President - Shawna Valentine

Newsletter Editor – Shawna Valentine

3420 Granger S #20, Billings, MT 59102
Phone: 652-5866
Email: smv2222@bresnan.net
Elected Sept. 2008 (4th term ends 2016)

1st Vice President: Verba Valentine

3462 Barley Circle, Billings, MT 59102
Phone: 656-9840
Email: blgsmarket@aol.com
Elected Sept. 2008 (4th term ends 2016)

2nd Vice President - Shirley Rogers

PO Box 24, Boulder, MT 59632
Phone: 461-5761
Email: JCRSAR@q.com
Elected Sept. 2008 (3rd full term ends 2015)

Secretary: Kathy Patrick

2051 Colorado Gulch, Helena, MT 59601
Phone: 443-5286
Email: kathypatrick16@yahoo.com
Elected Sept. 2013 (1st term ends 2015)

Treasurer: Terry Atwood

4230 Wolverine, Helena, MT 59602
Phone: 443-4907
Email: terry@atwoodarts.com
Elected Sept. 2013 (2nd term ends 2016)

Registrar: Mary Pitch

700 Grant, Helena, MT 59601
Phone: 443-3452
Email: mmpmep@earthlink.net
Elected: Sept. 2005 (5th term ends 2015)

Past President: Betty Marshall

Box 476, Chester, MT 59522
Phone: 759-5627
Email: bubbles@itstriangle.com

I want to take this opportunity to officially thank everyone who worked so hard to produce such a quality conference in Helena last month. The 140 attendees enjoyed outstanding speakers, the opportunity to network with each other, and the opportunity to see friends we've made through the years.

The Decoration Committee worked so hard gathering photos from past conferences and displaying them every chance they could. They graced easels in the lobby, and were decoupage on centerpieces. Nancy Alley's handmade quilts were exquisite as well. Photos of members who have passed since our last conference personalized Judy Cohen's Power Point program at the Banquet. The souvenir magnet, provided by the Lewis & Clark County Genealogical Society was a special touch. It was great reliving the memories of past conferences while we were learning so much to take us forward in our research.

But now, September is behind us and with October MSGS turns its attentions to future projects. Among these is the drive to publish Volume IV of the First Families and Early Settlers of Montana series next year. June 1, 2015 has been set as the deadline to submit applications for this volume with the hopes to have it ready for the Butte Conference in September 2015.

Forms and complete instructions are available on the website. If you or a friend has ancestors that were in the state before Statehood on 9 November 1889 or 31 December 1929, please focus on submitting them so they may be honored in this volume.

Shawna Valentine, President

Summary of the 25 September 2014

MSGS Board Meeting



The meeting was called to order. Those present were Shawna Valentine, Verba Valentine, Terry Atwood, Shirley Rogers, Mary Pitch, Karen Huck, Betty Marshall, Fern Kauffman, Pat Ludwig, Carol Elliott, and Kathy Patrick. The minutes were read and approved. Terry Atwood announced the savings account holds \$19,328.17, checking \$6242.90.

Verba Valentine shared registration has been cut off! We have a total of 137 people signed up to attend. Verba thanked everyone for their contribution and hard work. 2015 Conference is in Butte Sept 24, 25, 26 at the Butte Civic Center. National speakers, Paul Milner, noted English and Scottish expert and Maureen Taylor, The Photo Detective will present. Beaver Head Hunters from Dillon and Butte-Silver Bow Societies will host the conference. The theme is "Harvesting our Roots". 2016 conference in Missoula at the Hilton Garden Inn will feature Judy Russell Legal and DNA genealogist.

Shirley Rogers outlined the raffle prizes and procedures for the merchandise at the state table. Attendees will place their raffle tickets into buckets corresponding to the prize they wish to win. Mary Pitch, Registrar told us there are 701 members, 18 societies, 22 states other than Montana are represented.

Shawna Valentine thanked the Board for the opportunity to represent them at FGS. The conference urged societies to step into technology. She felt we were in sync with the idea of societies being run as business. One idea Shawna brought to our attention was reducing the number of paper copies of the newsletter. The opportunity to listen to speakers aided selection process.

Committee Reports:

Karen Huck, Librarian reported cataloging books, weeding newsletters and answering queries are activities keeping her and the volunteers busy. As the Montana Shared Catalog meeting is this Friday and Saturday she will not be attending. The OCLC bills will be out in October. Karen urged us to search the library catalog. The link is on the montanamsgs.org homepage.

Betty Marshall presented the Nominating Committee's proposed slate of officers to be elected at the general meeting: President Shawna Valentine; 1st Vice-President Verba Valentine; Treasurer Terry Atwood.

A letter from Al Stoner was read sharing her concern about lack of sales of First Families books and the question of continuing the program. After discussion of ideas to increase participation in the program Terry Atwood motioned to set June 1 as the deadline for Volume IV and to continue the program.

Pat Ludwig, Historian showed us the year book style photo album which is available to view at the conference. Shawna Valentine related Veterans of Civil War from Montana list compiled by Cathryn Strombo is on website. Motion passed to renew the hosting fee for the website.

The date of the next Board Meeting was set for 18 October 2014 at 10 a.m. at 510 Logan, Susanna's Place, next to the Methodist Church.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Patrick, Secretary

Were Your Ancestors in Montana before 1930?

**If so, why not honor them by submitting them for inclusion in Volume IV of
First Families and Early Settlers of Montana, published by MSGS.**

June 1, 2015 is the **Deadline** for submissions for Volume IV

Direct ancestors as well as siblings of direct ancestors are eligible.

Submissions may include the ancestor's photo and a short story. Certificates are issued for accepted applications.

For more information, lists of ancestors published in previous volumes & application forms, see our website: <http://montanamsgs.org/firstfamilies.html>

Preserve the Pensions Digitization Project

The Pension Records from the War of 1812 are among the most requested documents at the National Archives. These fragile documents are in dire need of digitization, which means the digitization of 7.2 million pages. Digitized images appear on fold3.com as they are completed and will remain FREE to everyone indefinitely.

In the July 2014 Roundup, it was announced that MSGS would match up to \$500 for contributions to this worthwhile cause. Response was tremendous and by the end of the Conference we had gathered \$1,201.00.



With the MSGS matching fund, the total contribution of \$1701.00 was presented by President Shawna Valentine to Curt Witcher at the close of our Conference. With the matching funds of FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies) and ancestry.com, I am so proud that Montana embraced the importance of these records and generated \$6,804.00 for this essential project!

For more information, or if you missed out and want to donate directly, see www.preservethepensions.org

Updates on the On-Line MSGS Library Catalog

By Karen Huck, Librarian

Since our library is a member of the Montana Shared Catalog, our members have the access to searching the EBSCO databases. EBSCO Discovery Service brings together the most comprehensive collection of content—including superior indexing from top subject indexes, high-end full text and the entire library collection. It is a layered system so you can click on the boxes to help narrow down your research. At this time, go to the library catalog at <http://mymontanalibrary.org>, choose Montana State Genealogical Library and on the left hand side where it says Discover It, put in a surname. If it asks you for a password, the password is *Discovery*. The library catalog master program is being changed. The special libraries are now on the new program for searching. To search the new site, go to the Montana State Genealogical website at www.montanamsgrs.org and click on the home page on Online Library Catalog. We are still in the process of testing this, so any feedback from you is welcome. Email me at dkhuck@aol.com and in the subject line put in Library Catalog Update. I will work with MSC for any of your concerns. This new portal allows you to also search the digitized State publications. At this time use the old site for searching EBSCO, we will have the new one setup soon.

2014 Memorial Program

The following members who have passed since our last Conference were remembered by a powerful Power Point presentation given by Judy Cohen at the Banquet.

From Lewis & Clark County Genealogical Society: Jesse Long, Lloyd Lippman, and Lois Reinemer

From Jefferson County Genealogical Society: Cleone Bell

From Beaver Head Hunters: Ruth Haugland

From Central Montana Genealogy Society: Nellie Boucher

From Yellowstone Genealogy Forum: Ruth Normand and Louise Erikson

From Great Falls Genealogical Society: Joyce Brurud and Harold Hochberger

Those Elusive Western Marriage Records

by Carol Elliott, Gallatin County Genealogical Society

Are you frustrated in search of those elusive marriage records from the western United States? If so, you may want to search the Western States Marriage Record Index established by McKay Library Special Collections at BYU-Idaho, Rexburg, Idaho (www.abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates). For nearly three decades, this organization has been extracting early marriage records from counties throughout the western part of the United States and entering them into the index.

This index currently holds entries for over 911,000 marriage records. Although the index is not comprehensive, the goal is to have marriages from all 12 western states available for family researchers. Most of the pre-1900 marriages are in the index for Arizona, Idaho and Nevada, and records into the 1930's and later have been extracted for many counties in those states. A significant number of marriages from selected counties in California, western Colorado, Montana, Oregon, Utah, eastern Washington and Wyoming are also included. Very early marriages (1700's) in New Mexico are currently being added.

If you click on "List of Counties by State" and search "Montana," you will discover entries for 24 Montana counties and the number of marriage records within the index by county. For example, the index includes over 10,000 entries for Beaverhead County and over 1000 entries each for Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, Silver Bow and Yellowstone counties. Surprisingly, the total number of entries for Montana (20,000+) is nearly the same as California (24,000+)!

Remember, this is an index database "in progress" and is provided on-line to share the results even though the index is incomplete and new entries are being added nearly every working day. As with any "in progress" database, you should search the database periodically if not initially successful. Trish Thompson, a GCGS member and local genealogist, provided this example: For years, she only knew that a family member's maiden name started with a "D." Recently, she checked the Western Marriage Records Index again and was pleased to see the results screen display the maiden name, "Davenport." So, even lesser known databases can provide answers today that were not available yesterday!

Community Trees from Family Search

<https://histfam.familysearch.org/>

This is a new website from family search. They have entered lineage charts from many different countries. Although this is still in development, it is a great site to work with for free on your family name. This is of special interest to anyone that has Norwegian roots as the *bygdebøker* (farm books) from Norway have been input to this website. Although these are considered a secondary source, they give you great genealogy information to be able to read the parish records at the Norwegian Digital Archives at <http://www.arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet>

Once you input your last and first name, be sure and input the # that is given there. Since this is a large database have patience as it does take awhile for the names to come up. You can then click on the parents names and follow them backwards. I tried the ancestors tab at the top, left it for awhile loading and did not find that it was working.

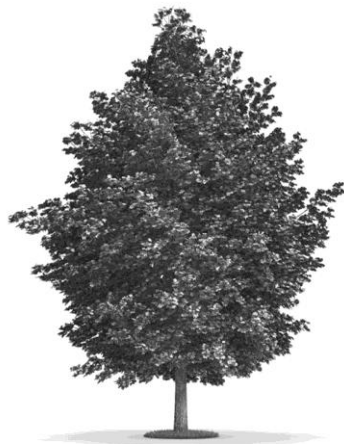
Submitted by Karen Huck, Librarian

Memorial Headstones or Markers for Veterans

Inspired by the Park County Genealogical Society Report, several Conference attendees showed interest in learning how to apply for a marker for deceased Veterans. For complete information and requirements for applying for a government issued headstone in a private cemetery, consult the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B86wKeDHvh1aS0h4QUFOaDV3VVk/edit?pli=1> Form

Find the Silver Linings in Your Tree



Montana State Genealogical Society
25th Anniversary Helena 2014

The 25th Anniversary Conference in Helena was wonderful in every way. We had record attendance and had to close registration before the conference as we had reached capacity. This resulted in crowded classes, book frolic and display tables and I am sorry for the inconvenience. The speakers were well received and interacted with each other so well it made for great presentations. Words like Awesome! Humorous with Great Ideas, Very good quality information were heard over and over. The decorations were outstanding and the tote bag was special. I would like to extend my thanks to the Lewis & Clark County Society for all their hard work. The Book Frolic and Raffles did very well and will help fund next year's conference. Our thanks to everyone who contributed books and door prizes. Special thanks to Yellowstone Genealogy Forum for their contribution for coffee. Coffee is one of our major expenses and one that cannot be controlled so donations are very much appreciated.

Several asked for vendors again and I wish I could provide them. The number of book vendors is slowly dwindling and I haven't been able to find any willing to come to Montana as freight costs are so high. I will keep trying.

2015 Conference Butte

The conference in Butte will be September 24, 25, 26, 2015

This conference will be held at the Butte Civic Center with Beaver Head Hunters of Dillon and Butte-Silver Bow Genealogical Society hosting. This will be something new for us as we have always held the conference in hotels but there are no hotels with enough space in that area to hold the conference since we are growing so much. Final details are being worked out as to hotel and food choices and will be announced as soon as available. The theme will be "Harvesting Our Roots".

Speakers for the 2015 conference are:

Paul Milner, a native of northern England who is a professional genealogist and international lecturer. Paul has specialized in British Isles genealogical research for 30 years. He settled in the US in 1975 and has been designing workshops and lecturing to a wide variety of audiences for over 35 years. He holds an advanced degree in Theology and is particularly knowledgeable about the church and its role in record keeping. He speaks on a variety of topics relating to research in the British Isles, migration to North America and research methodology. He has written many books including "Genealogy at a Glance: England Research" and "A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Scottish Ancestors".

Maureen Taylor, the Photo Detective is a frequent speaker on photo identification, photograph preservation, and family history at genealogical conferences. She's the author of several books and her television appearances include *The View* and *The Today Show*. Maureen was recently a spokesperson and photograph expert for MyHeritage.com. She will be selling her books at the conference.

Verba Valentine, 1st Vice President

Al Huntsman Award

The **Lewis and Clark Public Library** in Helena was this year's recipient of the Al Huntsman Award. This award is given to a business or individual who is not a member of a genealogical society that has provided exception assistance to the genealogical community. Director Judy Hart (left) accepted the award on behalf of the Library. Karen Huck, MSGS Librarian (right) submitted the award request.



A Look Back at the 25th Anniversary Conference



Anyone with photos of the 2014 Conference is encouraged to email them to Pat Ludwig, MSGS Historian, at 7patld@itstriangle.com for inclusion in the Conference's Memory Book. Credit will be given to the photographer.



Raffle Prizes and Winners:

1 Year Subscription to ancestry.com:

Kathy Patrick

1 Year Subscription to findmypast.com:

Sue Keene

6 Month Subscription to findmypast.com:

Marilyn Lewis

1 Year Subscription to Fold3.com and

Newspapers.com:

Mary Pitch

1 Week Stay at the Carlton Hotel in Salt Lake City:

Lindy Bunch

Hand Crocheted Afghan:

Pam Hendrickson

Helena Pin Drawing Winner: Evelyn Parrish





Beaver Head Hunters – Dillon

The year is quickly winding down and we will soon be into cold weather. But the memories of spring and fall are still with us. The Beaver Head Hunters had planned a summer outing to Lemhi Pass in August, but all of our members were so busy with summer plans that the outing was cancelled. We still had the Cemetery Walk to look forward to, but when that day arrived so did the bad weather. We moved indoors and our presenters, dressed in period clothes to represent the deceased, did a great job of bringing to life some of the early settlers of the Dillon area. We had many visitors attend, so it was a successful and enjoyable gathering.

During the summer we helped 43 visitors to the museum find information on their Beaverhead County ancestors. They are always thrilled to find so many interesting facts about their ancestors.

In September we were entertained by Clay Edwards who delved into the history of the Poindexter and Orr ranch started by pioneer cattlemen who settled in Beaverhead County around 1865. For many years Clay lived in one of the Orr homes on the Orr estate, which piqued his interest in learning more about these two men who started the first ranch in this area.

We had five members attend the State Conference this year. Everyone enjoyed it immensely and learned a lot from the two expert speakers. For one of our members it was the first conference she attended, and she was amazed at how much fun it was in addition to what she learned.

Submitted by Pat Darling, BHH Liaison

Broken Mountains Genealogical Society – Chester

Several members were able to meet for a regular October meeting at the Liberty County Library. It was an exciting meeting because Betty had an extra \$100 to deposit into our account as the result of interesting research she had done for a person working on a book. He wrote to her about finding some additional material concerning a deputy sheriff who was shot during the pursuit of a criminal who had the whole Chester, Joplin area on alert and looking for him. Betty had not only found the story in the Liberty County Times but another friend told her about the story as it was written up in a national magazine which she sent to him. He was delighted with the information and made it worth her while to report.

For anyone interested in the WHOLE STORY about Deputy Sherriff Fossen's murder and the impact on the whole community, there is a digital, readable article on our web site which might interest the reader in other stories about early pioneer life. Just go to: brokenmountains.org and click on the topic "Stories" on the top bar of the site. There are many other stories that are fun to read.

We also heard about the conference and were excited about the individual certificates earned for attending the State Conferences. All were urged to try to attend one these gatherings.

A few days after that meeting a couple of our members made a trip out to a cemetery we had not updated and after doing that they decided to go to another one further away. After an afternoon of working at the cemeteries, they decided with what has already been done, the rest of the project can be finished up in just a couple more work meetings and some computer updates. This will need to be done while the weather is still nice.

Submitted by Pat Ludwig, BMGS Liaison

Central Montana Genealogy Society – Lewistown

Central Montana Genealogy Society has done a few activities. Last spring one of our members did a pamphlet for a self-tour of the Calvary Cemetery. Last year he did one for the Lewistown City Cemetery. They contain a diagram of the cemeteries highlighting where famous (and some infamous) people are located. He also noted unusual headstones and markers.

We had an indoor picnic in August and we will have a Christmas luncheon in December where we will bring an item or two for the local food bank. Santa will make an appearance too.

We have answered quite a few queries. One couple was here from Iowa looking for his grandfather's homestead. The site was only about seven miles due west of our farm. (However it takes about 30 miles by road to get there!). This couple also joined us at our picnic.

Marilyn Lewis, CMGS President

Flathead Valley Genealogical Society – Kalispell

The Flathead Valley Genealogical Society was off for most of the summer but had the wonderful opportunity of attending a seminar sponsored by the Genealogy Library on the Whitefish Stage Road. The seminar was given by Larry D. Jensen on German Research and was presented in lieu of our September meeting. Mr Jensen is well known for his book Genealogical Handbook of German Research and we were excited to have him come. He covered several different areas, including maps, historical backgrounds and the ABC's of German Research. It was a well attended and extremely well done seminar. In October we had a wonderful presentation on using FamilySearch.org by Debbie Perrone. The Society has made significant progress in putting cemetery pictures online at findagrave and has updated the Conrad cemetery interment list on the genweb site. We have started a new project that will be posted on the genweb site also. Currently we are involved in scanning obituaries from the Daily Interlake newspaper and posting them as pdf's so that all may see them. This project as well as the cemetery projects will be ongoing for many years. We are looking forward to a wonderful lecture in November on the Civil War by our current president, Shirley Rogers. This is part 3 of a 3 part series and the first two parts were excellent and well received.

Submitted by Vickie Rowley, FVGS Liaison

Gallatin County Genealogical Society – Bozeman

After a three-month summer break, the society kicked off a busy fall season with strong attendance at the 2014 MSGS Conference, amazing progress on new indexing projects, and popular meeting programs. Over 25 percent of members attended the MSGS Conference in Helena and shared highlights and "nuggets" learned at the next society meeting. Quality of speakers, sharing the experience, and the hand-knitted conference tote bags headed the list.

The society started a new project last spring to index vital records found in microfilmed editions of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle newspapers, 1910-1979. Based on the initial laborious efforts, the society estimated it could take over 35 years to index the information. Thanks to the amazing efforts of small teams of indexers, this project may be completed in 5-6 years. The society singled out one indexer for special recognition. Over the past year, Lindy Bunch single-handedly indexed over 22,000 records including 12,000 vital records from the Chronicle. She received a GCGS Certificate of Appreciation & a gift certificate to the library coffee shop where the indexers reward themselves after an indexing session.

Two actions have been added to our monthly meetings to expand members' research sources and encourage attendance. At the beginning of each meeting, a member will provide a short, five-minute description and examples of a lesser known on-line database or website which members may not have used or are unfamiliar with the kinds of search results. For example, members were introduced to the Western States Marriage Record Index during the October meeting. The society is also conducting a raffle at each meeting from tickets obtained upon arrival. The raffle prize for the October meeting was one free consultation hour with a local genealogist.

The fall meeting programs proved very popular. In September, Charlie Spray, a Montana State University adjunct faculty member in Native American Studies, talked about "Native American Studies, Identity and History – Who Do you Say You Are?" His presentation focused on the many complexities when considering Indian cultural identities and family and kinship relationships. In October, members shared unique ways to commemorate family history including creating a MyCanvas family history book on www.ancestry.com; designing a genealogy quilt with fabric squares specially printed with family portraits; using family photos to make an iMovie; and combining family recipes and photos to create a family cookbook.

Submitted by Carol Elliott, GCGS Liaison

Great Falls Genealogy Society – Great Falls

During the Summer of 2014, an ad hoc sub-committee developed Genealogy Collection Guidelines to aid the Great Falls Society in evaluating materials for inclusion in our Great Falls Genealogy Society Library. Members of the sub-committee used recommendations from "Guidelines For Developing A Core Genealogy Collection" authored by the Genealogy Committee of the History Section of the Reference and User Services Association, [RUSA, 1991, 1999, 2007], as well as committee recommendations. The Society's Genealogy Collection Guidelines is now available at the GFGS Website: gfgenealogy.org

Ten GFGS members attended the State Conference in Helena in late September, and seven members enjoyed a week-long trip to the Salt Lake City Family History Library in August. Our Society is currently in the middle of our 2015 membership drive, with about 125 paid memberships thus far. The membership

drive concludes on December 31. Our big activity this fall has been the Annual Inventory, which takes several weeks to complete. The GFGS Library is located at 301 2nd Avenue North, on the third floor of the Great Falls Public Library. Our Society supervises the Montana Room Collection for the public library, and also keeps the GFGS Library open 30 hours a week (Tuesday thru Saturday, 10-4 PM).

Our September meeting was a field trip to the local Ursuline Center to hear a talk on their 100-year history as an education facility and retreat center. We also found out what records are available at the Ursuline for genealogy use. During September and October we held several free evening workshops for members, in addition to Saturday workshops for genealogy newbies [Learning To Use American Ancestors and Fold3, Two Great Resources; Beginning Genealogy, Part I; Part II; Smart Searching on Ancestry.com; Using Puzilla, A Family Search Tool, As A Way To Find More Family Members; Using the Family Search Site And Its Tools In Your Genealogy; and, Using Online Newspaper Sources In Genealogy.]

Our November Saturday workshop will be, Utilizing Census Information in Genealogy, with a possible evening class follow-up, depending on individual needs. A DAR speaker will talk about DAR research and membership at our December meeting. No workshops are offered in December, but we resume our schedule of evening and Saturday classes in January.

We just completed an index for our 74-year George Company Mortuary Collection, and it is now in print and will soon be on our Website. We always welcome visitors to our Library—we hope to see you there! Please come visit our Library!

Submitted by Janet Thomson, GFGS President

Lewis & Clark County Genealogy Society – Helena

We had our annual potluck picnic this year at the county fairgrounds which was a new location for us. After getting rained out a few times, the shelter was most welcome even if it didn't rain! Subsequent meetings included a round-the-room discussion about brick walls, with lots of questions and helpful answers among the members. Many times what one person doesn't know, someone else does.

At another meeting Zoe Ann Stoltz from the Montana Historical Society Archives talked to us about the importance of cookbooks in genealogy. She had some wonderful examples of old Montana cookbooks with recipes submitted by local people in different communities. She talked about pre-refrigeration days when the only way to keep things cold was in the ice box. She displayed an ice saw that would have been used to cut ice out of lakes, rivers and streams.

Continuing the theme of "Women's History Matters", Dorothy Oliveira gave a power point presentation on one of her DAR ancestors. Karen Huck gave a talk on the results of answering a query for a woman in Australia & what genealogical sources there are in Richland County at the Mondak Heritage Center & Museum in Sidney.

Submitted by Mary Pitch, LCCGS President

Yellowstone Genealogy Forum – Billings

The Forum has an ice cream social in July in air conditioned comfort. The speaker was the Clerk of District Court, Kristie Boelter. She talked about the various records that are available in the clerk's office: probate, marriage licenses, wills, guardianship, criminal, divorces. On October 16th, Forum members were provided tours of the office. The clerk is looking for volunteers to scan records in the office.

In August the Forum viewed two programs, Military Records and Census Records, from the Larimer County (Colorado) Genealogical Society. The programs were presented on local television and recorded on CD's. We've found the programs to be very useful.

Larry Pointer, retired teacher and federal employee, presented "Solving a Family Mystery with No Adoption Papers". His mother was "adopted" but had no documents showing her birth or adoption, only family stories. Larry used genealogy sources and techniques to trace his mother's origins. Family stories led him to research the local newspaper which led him to look for a "baby shelter" and the woman running it. Larry had DNA testing done that matched him with a local family. They compared photos of his mother and women in the other family. Once he had a family name, he used census records for research. He also used on-line forums to meet common relatives.

At Huntley Project Museum, Forum members taught a one-day class "Find Your Family's History". It was a good introduction to genealogy research.

Nineteen members of the Forum attended MSGS annual conference in Helena. Books that were weeded from the Genealogy Room last year were donated to the book frolic. Several boxes of Billings City Directories were delivered to the Lewis & Clark Library.

Submitted by P. J. Smith, YGF President

My Mother's Elopement

by Lesa (Elizabeth) Adelia Markuson (born 1915 in Galata, Montana)

Editor's Note: The following article was written by Elizabeth Markuson Leighton and is a sample of the historical articles that may be found on the Broken Mountains Genealogical Society's website: www.brokenmountains.org. Elizabeth died 20 April 1995 and is buried in the Chester Cemetery, Chester, Liberty County, Montana. The date for the article was not provided, but it was probably written about the mid 1980's.

"My Mother's Elopement" is a true story about my parents, Linus Markuson and Ester Victoria Naslund in the year of 1908. My father dropped his middle names and one "s" in his last name at the port of entry into the USA. I am the fifth child born to this marriage. I was christened Lesa Adelia Markuson. My birth was registered in Helena, Montana twenty years later as Elizabeth Adelia Markuson.

My mother had asked her father many times for permission to marry the man with whom she had fallen in love. Always the answer was, "No, not to a man of his low estate." This man did indeed come from an impoverished home. His formal education ended with the fourth grade when his father died from a heart attack while out in the woods hunting for a certain kind of tree from which to make a coffin for the infant son who had died the day before. Now the fourth grader had to earn his own board and room. This he did by herding cattle in the wooded mountains.

Having made arrangements for a trip to America, which Grandfather approved thinking that it would make her forget this man in her life, Mother packed her things and said her goodbyes at Vilhelmina, Sweden. What Grandfather did not know was that her husband to be was waiting in Norway to join her on her trip to America. Because he had no money, Mother bought his ticket; and so they set sail. After a brief stop in England, they were again at sea. Traveling third class, they were crowded into small quarters. Mother bunked with three other ladies in a room scarcely large enough for their bunks. Dad always said that although they traveled third class, they danced first class all the way across. During the day they left their deck and went to the top deck where there was music and dancing.

They landed at Quebec the early part of September in 1908 about two weeks after leaving Sweden. Their original destination was a small town in Canada, however some newly made friends told them that that town had little to offer and that they should go to Warren, Minnesota where many Swedes had settled. At the port of entry to the United States, Mother had a brief bit of anxiety. Knowing that she had to produce two hundred fifty dollars before she would be allowed to enter, she had the money ready. The rest of her money she had sewed to her under-clothes. When asked to show all of her money, she stood very still for a long time, then finally said, "I have more and it is mine." This sufficed, so she was allowed to go on.

The rest of the way they traveled by train. At one stop while Mother and Dad got off to eat, the train cars were switched and some cars were coupled to another train. My parents made the mistake of boarding the wrong train. All of their possessions were on the other train. The money that Mother had once sewed to her under-clothes she had given to Dad for safe keeping. She was more than a little disturbed when told that this was now in the pocket of Dad's coat which was slung over a seat in the other train. The train moved on in spite of their desperate feelings. Upon arriving at the next station, they found that their original train was waiting for them. Some friends had discovered that they were missing and had convinced the conductor to do something about it. Friends had never been so greatly appreciated! Many Swedes found other Swedes on this trip, but a great tragedy soon deprived them of many of these newly found friends. As my parents sat playing cards towards the front of the train, a violent impact shook them. Another train had telescoped their train from the rear. More than half of the passengers were killed. Dad went out to offer help to the injured. He told of boards which had pierced some people and decapitated others. Mother had some injury and so had retained her seat.

When they arrived at Warren, Minnesota, they found that obtaining employment was easier for single people, hence the wedding was postponed for practical reasons. Mother had no trouble finding work in a hotel because she had worked in her father's hotel and knew the business very well. Her room was a tiny basement room and the working hours were from six in the morning until ten at night.

Inasmuch as Dad's job on a farm and Mother's job in a hotel both offered free board and room, the idea of a secret marriage appealed to them. And so one Saturday evening they were married. The next day both of them were to have a day off. This altered when the landlady came into Mother's room early Sunday morning and found a man there. She was angered to think that this nice Swedish girl was not so nice after all, and embarrassed because she herself was dressed only in her nightgown. Mother was

ordered to the attic to patch mattresses. After dressing and regaining her composure, the landlady went upstairs to question her employee who tearfully explained that she was married the night before and had expected the day off. The landlady remained suspicious until the wedding certificate was produced. Now the entire atmosphere changed. Mother and Dad were treated to a lovely wedding dinner party, and Mother was given the best of recommendations for a new job which would not require her to live at the place of employment. Thus they embarked on a new life together in this wonderful new country!

Children of Linus and Ester Markuson :

(As compiled by Elizabeth)

Ingrid Victoria	Born 21 June 1909 Died 7 October 1909	Columbia Falls, Montana Columbia Falls, Montana
Ethel Dagmar	Born 24 December 1910 Died 6 July 1945	Galata, Montana Minneapolis, Minnesota
Gunerd Valfrid	Born 28 October 1912 Died 4 November 1912	Galata, Montana Galata, Montana
Emmi Viola	Born 2 October 1913	Galata, Montana
Lesa (Elizabeth) Adelia	Born 17 May 1915	Galata, Montana
Evelina Ruth	Born 25 February 1917	Galata, Montana
Harold Johann	Born 10 May 1918 Died 18 December 1981	Galata, Montana Galata, Montana
Leonard Linus	Born 11 November 1919 Died 2 October 1970	Galata, Montana Shelby, Montana
Esther Marie	Born 23 November 1921	Galata, Montana
Lillian Katherine	Born 25 June 1923	Galata, Montana
Mildred Elvira	Born 16 April 1925	Galata, Montana

The Chico Cemetery Book

Carol Woodley has self published a book on all the known burials from 1864 to 2014 in the Chico Cemetery, located at Chico, Park County, Montana. This is the oldest cemetery in Park County, and one of the oldest in the state. They were first available at the 2014 Helena Conference.

Cost is \$35.00 per book plus \$6.00 postage. Orders should be sent to:

Carol Woodley
421 South 13th Street
Livingston, Montana 59047

Carol notes there is one correction: Bruce Whithorn (page 192) and Duane Whithorn (page 197) moved to the Wan-I-Gan in 1948 not 1984 as recorded.

Institutional Cemeteries. org

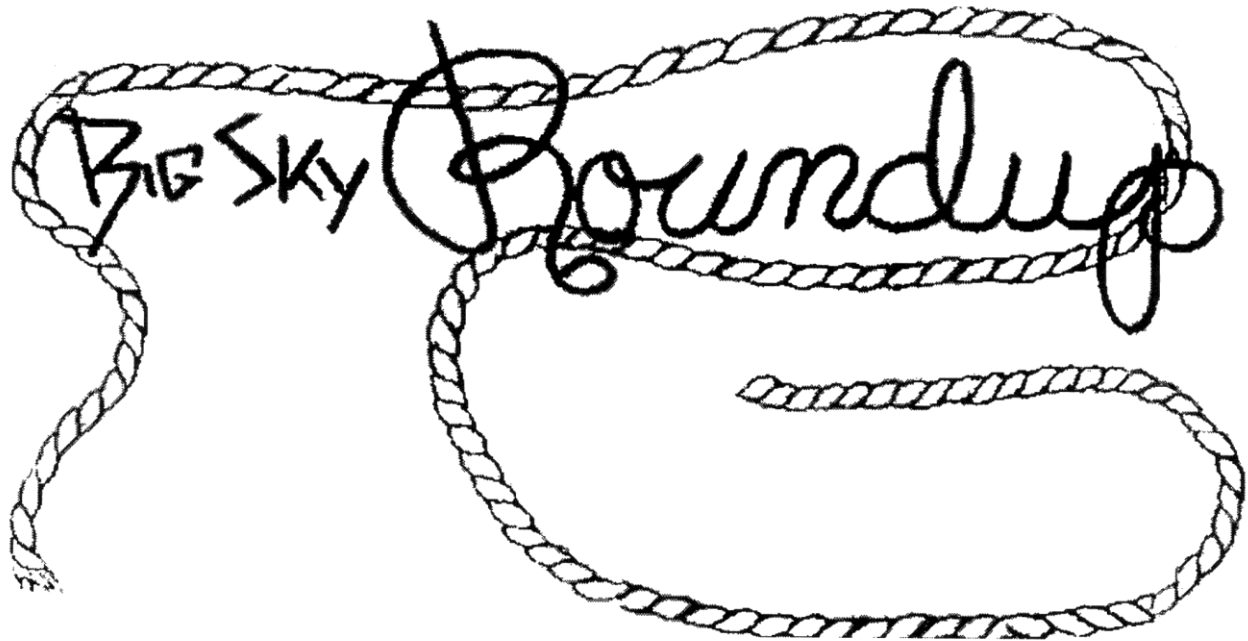
InstitutionalCemeteries.org is an attempt to catalog all known cemeteries established for residents of asylums, poorhouses, poor farms, prisons, orphanages, and similar institutions – in other words, cemeteries for the unclaimed.

Many of these individuals were buried in unmarked or numbered graves, and many of the burial grounds have been allowed to deteriorate. Most of the original institutions have closed. And some institutions that remain will not release burial information to the public, citing privacy laws. Whatever the causes, the results are the same. The people who lived and died at these institutions are robbed of a basic human dignity: the dignity of being remembered, of being acknowledged as a life that mattered. And a piece of our shared history is lost.

Our goal is to get every one of these cemeteries – and the name of every person known to be laid to rest in them – on Findagrave.com, the web's premier grave-registration site, and to index and collect information about those cemeteries in one place. See <http://institutionalcemeteries.org/> for more info.



Terry Atwood
PO Box 5313
Helena MT 59602



Plans are underway for Next Year's Conference

Harvesting Our Roots

at the Butte Civic Center in Butte, Montana

SEPTEMBER 24, 25, 26, 2015

FEATURING TWO NATIONAL SPEAKERS:

**Paul Milner, specializing in English & Scottish Research and
Maureen Taylor, The Photo Detective**

Watch the website for updates:

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