

# Big Sky Roundup



<http://montanamsgs.org>

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2012-2013 Officers

October 2012

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**President - Shawna Valentine**

**Newsletter Editor – Shawna Valentine**

3420 Granger S #20, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: 652-5866

Email: [smv2222@bresnan.net](mailto:smv2222@bresnan.net)

Elected Sept. 2008 (3rd term ends 2014)

**1st Vice President: Verba Valentine**

3462 Barley Circle Billings, MT 59102

Phone: 656-9840

Email: [blgsmarket@aol.com](mailto:blgsmarket@aol.com)

Elected Sept. 2008 (3rd term ends 2014)

**2nd Vice President - Shirley Rogers**

PO Box 24, Boulder, MT 59632

Phone: 461-5761

Email: [JCRSAR@q.com](mailto:JCRSAR@q.com)

Elected Sept. 2008 (2nd full term ends 2013)

**Secretary: Marilyn Lewis**

1014 Ware Rd., Lewistown, MT 59457

Phone: 538-9739

Email: [marlewis@mcn.net](mailto:marlewis@mcn.net)

Elected Sept. 2009 (2nd term ends 2013)

**Treasurer: Terry Atwood**

4230 Wolverine, Helena, MT 59602

Phone: 443-4907

Email: [terry@atwoodarts.com](mailto:terry@atwoodarts.com)

Appointed Oct. 2012 (1st term ends 2014)

**Registrar: Mary Pitch**

700 Grant, Helena, MT 59601

Phone: 443-3452

Email: [mmpmep@earthlink.net](mailto:mmpmep@earthlink.net)

Elected: Sept. 2005 (4th term ends 2013)

**Past President: Betty Marshall**

Box # 476, Chester, MT 59522

Phone: 759-5627

Email: [bubbles@itstriangle.com](mailto:bubbles@itstriangle.com)

## State of the Society Message

The Montana State Genealogical Society continues our efforts to promote awareness and to provide a network between the local societies of the state. We can all learn from each other, which means being open to new ideas. Like it or not, all aspects of society are undergoing change on a daily basis. In order to keep pace, genealogical societies must also be willing to adapt to increasingly diverse memberships. We need to find the balance between being a social group and the entity that outsiders turn to when they need information on the area we represent.

All of us are the stewards of our home's history. In this capacity it is our responsibility to not only protect the unique documents that define us, but to allow the rest of the world to know they exist and are available. Our ancestors grew and adapted to their changing conditions, shouldn't our societies be able to do the same?

I have the pleasure and privilege to announce two new genealogical societies have joined during the past year. In chronological order, I'd like to welcome the Flathead Valley Genealogical Society from the Kalispell area and the Gallatin County Genealogical Society from the Bozeman area. This brings a total of 19 local societies that are members of MSGS. We continue to try to increase communication between all of us but despite some progress, we still have a long way to go.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## State of the Society Message, Continued

(From Page 1)

The new website is up and running and will continue to be upgraded in the upcoming months to include email addresses. Conversion of the Norski i Montana database has been problematic, but hopefully will be up soon. We do need to have current information for each society. We can't keep your individual society pages up to date if we don't have current data to work with. If you have questions or comments concerning the website, please let me know. We are also compiling a list of people &/or societies that are willing to do queries or research for a particular area of the state. To be included, please contact Betty Marshall at (bubbles@itstriangle.com).

Collections at the MSGS Library in Helena continue to grow for all areas of research, not just for Montana. Karen Huck, our Librarian, and her diligent crew of volunteers are to be commended for all their hard work to provide a first class facility for all of us to benefit from. The link to the catalog is on the MSGS website.

As for our quarterly, *The Roundup*, I would like to encourage all of you to contribute news of your society or community. I know you are all doing amazing things, and we feel left out when you won't share the news! Also *The Roundup* is an opportunity to share an historical story, a small indexing project, or old photos. I know many of you have some great items that need to be published, so please contact me so we can make that happen.

In September, 113 of us met in Billings to learn, share and re-connect at the "Digging Up Roots" Conference. It was a great success and I would like to thank our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Verba Valentine, for all her hard work that spanned about two years to plan and organize everything. I know we all benefited from her efforts. But, of course she isn't stopping there! Plans are well underway for next year's conference, "One Leaf at a Time" to be held in Bozeman on September 26-28 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center. This conference will feature not one, but two national speakers - namely Mark Lowe from Tennessee and Warren Bittner from Utah.

Since the election of officers at the September General Meeting, I reluctantly had to accept the resignation of the Treasurer-Elect, Linda Woods, due to other personal commitments. Terry Atwood of Helena volunteered to fill the office for the next term and was appointed at our October Board Meeting.

As Genealogists, we are not content in knowing just what we knew about our ancestors when we began researching. We want to move forward and fit more and more pieces of the puzzle together. We want to use every available resource to accomplish that goal. I believe the Montana State Genealogical Society has made good progress in adapting to changing conditions in the past few years, but we have many new avenues to continue to explore and utilize.

I wish you "Happy Trails" in all your genealogical journeys.

*Shawna Valentine, President*

The following Members were honored at the Annual Memorial Service presented by Judy Cohen	<b>Central Montana Genealogical Society</b>
	LILY ZWOLLE      JUN 12, 1920 – NOV 3, 2011
	<b>Lewis &amp; Clark Genealogical Society</b>
	KAREN BOWERS      JUN 12, 1941 – JUL 19, 2012
	LARRY RANIERI      MAY 17, 1932 – DEC 1, 2011
	NAOMI SMITH      JAN 1, 1931 – DEC 29, 2011
	<b>Yellowstone Genealogy Forum</b>
	PATRICIA MCRAE      MAY 16, 1930 – JUL 18, 2012
	LOIS "PAT" WEGNER      DEC 10, 1925 – NOV 12, 2011
	<b>Montana State Genealogical Society</b>
DONNA PETERSON      AUG 16, 1929 – AUG 19, 2012	

## Summary of September 20, 2012

### MSGS Board Meeting



President Shawna Valentine called the September 20, 2012 MSGS Board meeting to order at 3:10 PM at the Big Horn Resort in Billings, Montana with 12 members present. The minutes of the last board meeting were read by Secretary Marilyn Lewis.

Carol Woodley, Treasurer reported we have \$7611.15 in the checking account and \$15,062.84 in the savings account.

Verba Valentine, 1st Vice President, reported that the BLM tours are full and the cemetery dowsing event has 32. It was discussed and accepted to charge \$5.00 to attend the reception for those who do not pay for a full registration. Verba thanked Mary and Karen for their help with registration and Shawna for all her help. The 2013 conference will be in Bozeman at the Holiday Inn September 26-28. Verba would like to bring in two national speakers, namely Mark Lowe from Tennessee and Warren Bittner from Utah. We have money to cover this from profits on previous conferences. It was voted to do so.

Shirley Rogers, 2nd Vice President, has the following raffle items: 1 year Deluxe World membership from Ancestry.com, 1 week stay for 2 at the Carlton Hotel in Salt Lake City, 1 night stay at the Crystal Inn, 1 year memberships to Fold 3 (formerly Footnote), Godfrey Library, World Vital Records, My Heritage Premium Account, Genealogy Bank, Find My Past and Roots Magic version 5. Also 2 gift certificates from H & R Block and a Family Search bag of goodies. There will be no exchanges of plain pins for the looped ones. Sue Delger won the pin last year. The Fun Stuff that was ordered should be a good addition for our members.

Mary Pitch, registrar, reported we have 19 societies with 704 members plus 3 libraries. There are two new societies, Flathead Valley and Gallatin County.

FGS delegate Shawna Valentine thanked the board for letting her be the delegate to the FGS Conference held in Birmingham, Alabama and also to the societies that sent her flyers. The War of 1812 indexing project is ongoing. Family Search celebrated the completion of the 1940 census indexing in a record 5 months. They are now going to start indexing US Immigration and Naturalization Records. Findmypast.com is a new player to provide data. It is a pay site. The next FGS Conference will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, August 21-24, 2013. The 2014 Conference will be in San Antonio, Texas.

Karen Huck, Librarian, reported that several members are sorting the 41 boxes of information from Billings and indexing books from the Billings Gazette and Great Falls Tribune. The Lewis and Clark Society bought a microfilm/fiche reader from a member leaving town. She also gave the library a laser printer/fax/copier. Doug Blakely finished the school census for District 2-37 for 1897, 1898 and 1899. June Hartzel is still repairing books for our library. The Montana Shared Catalog meeting will be October 4-5, 2012 in Helena. Sept. 22 there will be 35 Norwegians researching in our library. Karen and Al Stoner gave a talk to a local group interested in the First Families of Montana.

Betty Marshall, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers to be elected at the annual meeting: President, Shawna Valentine; 1st Vice President, Verba Valentine and Treasurer Linda Woods.

Fern Kauffman has 58 applications for First Families and Early Settlers, Volume IV but we need to do more promoting.

Pat Ludwig brought the smaller, digital scrapbooks for people to look at.

Mary Pitch attended the Scottish-Irish Festival in Hamilton at the Daley Mansion in August. It was great fun with 5-6 pipe bands doing competition, food vendors, clan tables, and Scottish games. They used shuttle buses to help with the parking.

Betty Marshall is still working on a researcher list.

It was decided to buy the next five years of the Montana Death Index for 2008-2012 and put it on a CD.

The next Roundup deadline will be October 19, 2012.

Terry Atwood reported that his wife was included in the recent "Constitution Day" in Helena concerning her naturalization. Also included was the DAR, several schools and some bagpipers.

The next Board meeting will be in the Helena Library Oct. 13, 2012 at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Lewis, Secretary

## MSGS TREASURER SUMMARY

January 1, 2012 – October 12, 2012

### EXPENSES:

2012 Conference	\$8101.53
Advertising	292.00
Bank Charges	90.69
FGS Delegate	681.45
FGS & NGS Dues	135.00
Misc. Library	107.51
MT Shared Catalog	414.58
OCLC – Library	162.75
Newsletter	338.00
Stamps	9.00
State Tax Report	15.00

### INCOME:

(Less expenses in same category where applicable)	
2012 Conf Reg.	\$9237.00
2012 Conf. Sales	1378.97
Dues	790.00
Index CD Sales	195.01
FFM & ES	791.27
Interest	1.01
Net Worth as of 12 Oct 2012:	\$17,108.67

**Carol Woodley, Treasurer**

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

## Anna Mae Hanson Award Recipients

This year, MSGS presented the Anna Mae Hanson Award to three individuals in acknowledgment for their dedicated service in the genealogical community.



**Diane Green**

*Member of the  
Great Falls Genealogy Society*



**Mary Pitch**

*President of the  
Lewis & Clark County Society  
and MSGS Registrar*



**PJ Smith**

*President of the  
Yellowstone Genealogy Forum*

**The Al Huntsman Award was not given in 2012.**

## Library Report

Submitted by Karen Huck, MSGS Librarian

This summer we received 8 bound volumes from the Dever family. Their relative had received Civil War pension records and wrote a synopsis for each group. Here is part of one:

***Civil War Pension Record of Sarah Helms, mother of Philander S Helms who died during the Civil War (Certificate no. 193,884) Synopsis by Wm Dever, Jr.***

Philander S. Helms served as a private in Company D, 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry Volunteers from November 26, 1861 to August 3, 1862, the date of his death. His mother Sarah Helms, filed for a "Mother's Civil War Pension. October 18, 1880 she was awarded a Mother's Pension of \$8 per month commencing August 4, 1862, the day after the death of her son Philander. (A total of \$1750 due -- a fortune at that date).

In 1887 the Pension Commissioner in Washington, DC received a letter making accusations against four persons who were receiving Civil War pensions as they were able bodied people earning a living. On May 4, 1887 the Commissioner requested a special Examiner to investigate the charges against Jerome and Sarah Helms, who were then living in Kansas.

An investigator took depositions from the person making the accusations. A further investigation started in October 1887 and recommended another investigation. A third investigation was started and closed in March 1889. Quoted verbatim is a portion of the Special Examiner's report to the Commissioner of Pensions in Washington DC:

"I found this pensioner to be a venerable old lady living with her crippled and broken down old husband in a sod house or hut far out upon the desolate buffalo range 24 miles from Holyoke, Colorado, a new RR town near the Nebraska line, which is the pensioner's Post Office. On driving to the hovel the first object I noticed was pensioner's husband an old white haired old man stooped over and walking with a cane, one hand upon his back or hip as if in pain. He was clothed in rags through which the winter wind seemed to be playing hide and seek. His wife—the pensioner was preparing a frugal meal using cattle droppings as fuel, within the floorless hovel. Poverty and helpless old age was plainly in this miserable shelter in the midst of frontier winter desolation."

"When my mission was made known, fear, dismay and grief seemed to strike both the old people dumb. The old man cried in his maudlin grief and the old lady remained speechless for some time until assured that no injustice would be done her."

"I submit her statement, it speaks for itself. I believe this destitute old pair deserted by all their kin and kindred, standing as they do with one foot in the grave upon the utmost verge of civilization have told the truth and the whole truth. Their pension awarded years ago as an equivalent for their son's life, is now their only staff and support. Stop it and inevitable starvation will result. I learned from the nearest store about 6 miles distant that about \$28 of the next pension payment (\$36) had been consumed in groceries and that a few eggs was all the old couple had to barter for trade at the store." (her pension was \$12 monthly payable quarterly.)

"To disturb this helpless old couple at this time would be inhuman as well as unjust—and merely hasten their bitter end which evidently is not far off"

"My opinion—derived from a close perusal of all the papers on file in this case, is that the charges instituted in this case were based upon merely personal opinion not upon actual knowledge. That malice and personal ill will towards the pensioner's husband, on account of his differences of opinion with some of his fellow townsmen years ago, prompted the 'informer' to institute a reopening of this case."

"I do not believe that the interest of the public service or that justice demands a further consideration of this case. I therefore very respectfully recommend that further examination be stopped as unnecessary because the pensioner is justly entitled to the pittance she now receives in the shape of a pension. Should the Reviewer dissent from my opinion the necessary data for further investigation is to be found in the Pensioner's statement."

His recommendations were accepted and her pension continued to the date of her death on October 8, 1914 at the ripe old age of 91.



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

Please submit items to Shawna at  
smv2222@bresnan.net

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## Beaver Head Hunters – Dillon:

The Beaver Head Hunters are preparing to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Society. A party is being planned to celebrate the event. The Charter Members will be honored, of which four are current members of the society. Cake and punch will be served and there will be reminiscences of the past 20 years, including pictures for browsing. The public will be invited to attend.

Members of the society served as research volunteers at the museum during the summer, being available from 1 to 5 every afternoon from June through the end of September. During this time we helped 24 visitors find information on their Beaverhead County ancestors, and spent many hours working on projects when there were no visitors.

This summer we held our second annual Cemetery Walk, with a large turnout of both local people and visitors in town. Our members dressed in period clothes to represent the deceased, and we walked from one gravesite to the next as they told the stories of deceased early settlers. Refreshments were served after visiting the graves, and our guests gave us many suggestions for next year's event.

Several of our members are entering data from the Museum Photo Archives into an Excel database which will be every name searchable. Other members are entering the archival collections and artifacts of the museum into the PastPerfect database. Two other members are entering the old School Census records into an Excel database which is searchable on our website. All of these databases are used as we do research to help visitors. Our obituary collection is updated every month, with a searchable index on our website covering 1881-2012. See [www.3rivers.net/~rockhaven/BHH/](http://www.3rivers.net/~rockhaven/BHH/)

Submitted by Pat Darling, BHH Liaison

## Great Falls Genealogy Society – Great Falls

The September program was given by the Cascade County Clerk and Recorder's office at their location. An explanation of deed records and a sample search of land records were included in the presentation. FamilySearch, International is now digitizing the Cascade County deed books up thru 1920 and the index books up to the current time. These images will be available at the FamilySearch website when completed.

The genealogy excursion group reports that their trip to Salt Lake in September was fun and fruitful.

We will be hosting several events throughout October as family history month. There will be an open house with aid offered by members for visitors doing research and a Family Heritage Fair where people can learn and see what people have done as far as photos, family history, organizing research, or whatever they think would appeal.

We also have discovered duplicate books in our library and others we no longer need. We will offer them for sale at \$5.00 plus pickup or pay for shipping. They are *In Search of Your British and Irish Roots* Angus Baxter - 3rd edition; *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* John Greenham; *Mt. Tabor Cemetery Noble Co. OH* Sams & Miller; *Idaho Territory Federal Population and Mortality Schedules 1870 with Index*; *Idaho Territory Federal Population and Mortality Schedules 1880 with Index*; *Heads of Families First Census of the United States 1790 South Carolina*; *Census of Rhode Island 1774*; *Heads of Families of the First Census of the United States 1790 Pennsylvania*; *Index to the 1901 Census District of Alberta*; *The Bruner Bunch*; *Marriage and Death Notices of Wheeling, West Virginia and the Tri-State Area 1858-1865 Vol. 2*; *Our Native Americans - Their Records of Genealogical Value Vol. 1* Kirkham.

We are at 301 2nd Ave N. Great Falls 59401; phone is 406-727-3922; and email at [gfgs@optimum.net](mailto:gfgs@optimum.net)

Submitted by Dennis Sugden, GFGS President

## Lewis & Clark County Genealogy Society – Helena

In the last three months, we had our annual summer picnic, had a demonstration on how to send and receive queries on Internet message boards and member Mike O'Connor, past national director of the Ancient Order of Hibernians gave a talk on his trip last spring to Ireland including a bit of history of the AOH in the U.S. We had a dusting party to prepare the genealogy library for a visit from 35 Norwegians traveling the Northwest and 15 members of our society traveled to Billings to attend the state genealogy conference which we all thoroughly enjoyed. I hope those who were unable to attend this year will consider attending the conference in Bozeman next year, September 26-28, 2013.

Submitted by Mary Pitch, LCCGS President

## Yellowstone Genealogy Forum – Billings

The Forum holds its annual Ice Cream Social in July. We eat ice cream with toppings and homemade goodies in air conditioned comfort. James Moriska presented a program on the Veterans Cemetery in Laurel. At the time, many of the cemeteries in or near Montana were closed to new burials. The cemetery in Laurel was built using the specifications for "national" veterans cemeteries in the hopes of becoming one. Locations of graves can be searched on the Yellowstone County website. (At the end of July, the cemetery was approved as a National Veterans Cemetery.)

Brent Roberts, director of the library at MSU-Billings, was the guest speaker in August. The library is open to the public who can check out books with a Courtesy Borrower's Card. The library has little "genealogy" research available, although when I was there last week, I found that the Billings Gazette in the 1970's and 1980's had been indexed by the librarians. Each year is indexed and in its own book.

September's meeting focused on the new Big Horn County Museum located in Hardin. Director Diana Scheidt gave us a history of the development of the museum and an overview what is in its collection.

The Forum hosted the MT State Genealogical Society annual conference on September 20-22. D. Joshua Taylor was the national speaker. Regional speakers were Bob Larson on DNA and on grave dowsing, Kevin Kooistra on the first Crow Agency, located east of Livingston and Joyce Jensen on Pieces & Places of Billings. Two groups toured the Bureau of Land Management public room records. After conference, numerous attendees tried grave dowsing at Holy Cross cemetery.

Herberger's store offers non-profit organizations the opportunity to raise money, without an outlay of money, through its Community Days fundraiser. The Forum received over \$700 last year for participating. This year we'll be selling coupon books at the store on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted by P. J. Smith, YGF President

## Help Us Preserve the Pensions from the War of 1812

The Federation of Genealogical Societies, of which MSGS is a member, is spearheading a national project to digitize 180,000 Pension Records from the War of 1812 housed at the National Archives. These records are valuable tools for the vital period between the Revolutionary War & the Civil War. Even if your ancestor did not fight in the War of 1812 he may have given testimony on behalf of a neighbor that contains his own vital information. These original documents are fragile and scanning them will also ensure they will be preserved and accessible. There are approximately 7,200,000 total pages to be scanned in this project. After they are filmed, all images will be searchable and available to the public on fold3.com at NO COST.

However, the cost of scanning will require an estimated \$3.7 million. Since the project began 2 years ago, \$1.87 million has been donated and consequently 298,598 images have been scanned and are available online. This only brings them midway thru the C's. Approximately 7 million images are still waiting to be scanned, so the drive to raise money continues. Ancestry.com currently is matching every dollar donated, so your contributions will go twice as far.

All donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to: Federation of Genealogical Societies & marked for the "Preserve the Pensions Fund". They need to be mailed to:  
Federation of Genealogical Societies PO Box 200940 Austin TX 78720-0940

This is the first time that the entire genealogical community has joined together working to see a project of this magnitude come to completion. More information on the project is available at the "Preserve the Pensions" link on [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org) I encourage all of you, and your local societies, to support this worthwhile cause. **Remember that each dollar you donate will go twice as far thanks to ancestry.com matching all donations.**



## Scenes from Billings



## 2012 Raffle Winners

Item	Winner	Hometown
Roots Magic Version 5	Gale Kramlick	Helena
Carleton Hotel in SLC, 1 Week Stay	Sharon Hamill	Billings
Crystal Inn in SLC, 1 Night Stay	Verba Valentine	Billings
Fold 3 Subscription	Marilyn Lewis	Lewistown
World Vital Records Subscription	Paulette Parpart	Missoula
Ancestry.com 3 Month Subscription	Judy Cohen	Billings
Ancestry.com 1 Year Subscription	Jason Herman	Billings
My Heritage Subscription	Verba Valentine	Billings
Genealogy Bank Subscription	Sandy DeFord	Billings
Find My Past 1 Year Subscription	Irene Nelson	Billings
Find My Past 1 Year Subscription	Marilyn Lewis	Lewistown
Martinson's Chocolate Basket	Gale Kramlick	Helena
Family Search Totebag w/Goodies	Verba Valentine	Billings
Montana Wine Basket	Judy Cohen	Billings
H & R Block Certificate	Michelle Olson	Billings
H & R Block Certificate	Ruth Hoagland	Lewistown





**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.

## Josephine Kline 1870-1940

*The following is the presentation of the life of Josephine Kline written by Mardi Whitmore and presented at the 13 August 2011 Mountain View Cemetery Walk sponsored by the Park County Historical and Genealogy Societies.*

Hello Folks, I'm happy to have you come to visit me today. The name's Kline, Josephine Kline. My friends call me Josie. Incidentally, the name on the gravestone here is wrong. I don't know who to blame for that but the name is Kline – K-L-I-N-E. Let me tell you my story.

I was born in Sweden in 1870. My parents were Emanuel and Mary Peterson. They immigrated to the United States in 1873 and settled in Alexandria, Minnesota. I had two sister and two brothers. We all grew up in Minnesota. I decided to move out to Montana when I was twenty. First I lived in Billings and then moved to Big Timber. Somewhere along the line I met and married a man named Frank Kline. We had one daughter, Maude. The marriage didn't last and then I was on my own for the rest of my life. I was interested in starting a restaurant there in Big Timber and that's what I did.

I was always close to my two sisters, Edith and Annie. Both of them eventually moved to Montana too. Edith lived with me and helped me out after my husband left me. She never married. Annie married a man named Sam Nesbit. He had actually asked me to go out with him first, but I declined and suggested he take her out instead. Then he ended up marrying her. At one time we all lived together in a couple of houses at 221 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. They lived in the big brick house that I originally bought and I lived in a little house next to the alley. Those houses are gone – it's just a parking lot now. But as you can see my sisters are both right here beside me for all eternity.

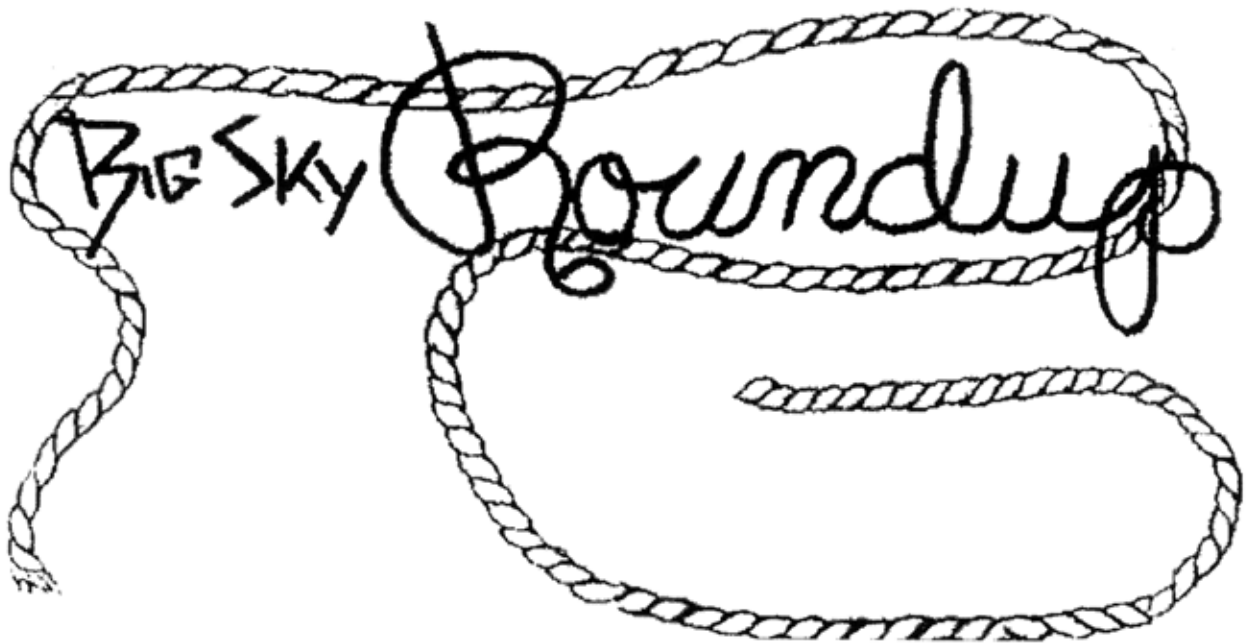
As I mentioned before, I started a little restaurant in Big Timber. But I thought I could do better in Livingston so I sold my business in 1905 and bought a couple of lots right across from the depot on Park Street. I then built a small hotel and named it the Elite Hotel. But the people of the community always pronounced it as the "E-lite Hotel". Soon after I opened the hotel I added a restaurant and I had a really nice and profitable business. I was a hard worker. In 1906 I built an addition onto the hotel because I was doing so well.

Things went along good for me for the next ten years or so. In 1917 the Livingston Enterprise wrote a story about me in which they reported: "Not only has Mrs. Kline been a successful business woman who, with less than two years of education, adapted herself to the times, and emerged on top, but she is a discerning seeker of pleasure, and in the past years she has spent several months of each year traveling on the Pacific coast, and Mexico. Each winter for the past four years she has spent the winter months in California away from the extreme weather of Montana." Then they went on to report about a trip I took in my motor car to Minneapolis and back with only "female companions." I think I was the first woman to buy an automobile in Park County!

Around 1920 I decided to rename my hotel the Kline Hotel and I decided to buy the building next door and expand into something bigger and better. The building had been recently vacated by the Livingston Enterprise. In order to do this I obtained financing from the owner of the building, a capitalist named J.A. Murray who lived in Butte. We had what was termed a "gentleman's agreement." As it turned out, this was the poorest decision I ever made in my whole life! I don't have time to tell you all of the painful details, but this is what happened. I went ahead with my building expansion, my financier J.A. Murray died in 1921 before the project was completed, the remodeling costs got way out of hand and I was faced with contractors' liens. Then Mr. Murray's niece May Murray, who was heir to his estate, fought



Terry Atwood  
PO Box 5313  
Helena MT 59602



### Josephine Kline 1870-1940, continued from Page 9

to foreclose on my property. She won her case and when I was out of town in February of 1924 she took possession of my hotel. When I got back to town the sheriff, Jim McClarty, was there in the hotel lobby and told me I had to get out. I really put up a fight and refused to go. Then he had me arrested by police officer Charles E. Wilson who put me in jail for 40 hours until I got bailed out. I fought back legally with everything I had. I even took my case to the federal court in Helena. But it was no use. I lost everything I had worked so long and hard to build up. The hotel became the Murray Hotel and that is still its name today. But there is a picture of me and my daughter on the wall of the stairway in the lobby of the hotel.

Now let me tell you what happened to my adversaries. In October of 1924 Officer Wilson who had thrown me in jail, was shot and killed by a burglar he was chasing through the rail yards. In May of 1925, just a little more than a year after she took over my hotel, Miss May Murray died of uremic poisoning. She was just 38 years old. I had nothing to do with any of this.

After I lost all of my property I lived with my sister Edith and did housework for a living. But there was one more adventure left in me. On September 26, 1934, at age 64, I set out on a journey to Washington D.C. to see President Roosevelt with my friend Mrs. Helen Sherwood, who was 61. We hitchhiked all the way there. It took us two weeks. We started out with \$14 between us and got there with a little more than a dollar left. We met so many kind people along the way who helped us out. We went to seek help for our legal problems but we never did get to see the president. While we were there the Washington Post newspaper heard about us. They talked to us and wrote a big story about our journey. The Livingston paper ignored what we did.

Later I became ill and I died August 15, 1940 at the age of 70. I was survived by my two sisters, one brother, my daughter Maude and six grandchildren. A few of my descendants are still living in Livingston.