

Big Sky Roundup



<http://montanamsgs.org>

2012-2013 Officers

April 2013

President - Shawna Valentine

Newsletter Editor – Shawna Valentine

3420 Granger S #20, Billings, MT 59102
Phone: 652-5866
Email: 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
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
Elected Sept. 2008 (2nd full term ends 2013)

Secretary: Marilyn Lewis

1014 Ware Rd., Lewistown, MT 59457
Phone: 538-9739
Email: 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
Appointed Oct. 2012 (1st term ends 2014)

Registrar: Mary Pitch

700 Grant, Helena, MT 59601
Phone: 443-3452
Email: 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

President's Message

The Montana State Genealogical Society has several opportunities available to become involved.

First, our current secretary, Marilyn Lewis, has decided not to serve another term. She has been a great asset to the board and we all certainly appreciate her contributions. Her term ends at the September 2013 conference. As per our Bylaws, the duties of MSGS Secretary are:

The Secretary shall have charge of all the Society records, books, seals, papers and corporate records. The secretary shall keep minutes for permanent record of all the proceedings of the Executive Board and general meetings.

This position does necessitate making a concerted effort to make all board meetings which are held in Helena on a Saturday morning in March & October, one in July usually at the location of that year's conference, and at the annual conference in September. If you would be willing to join the board in this position, please contact Betty Marshall or myself. Our emails appear to the left.

Also, we are in need of someone to serve on the Awards Committee. This position does not necessitate making the board meetings, but should be someone who attends the annual conference in September. This committee reviews nominees for the two awards presented at the Friday night banquet of the conference. Please contact Shawna if you would like to participate in this committee.

If you would like to serve on the Nominating Committee, please contact Betty Marshall.

These positions offer great opportunities to become involved in a great organization. I hope you will seriously consider joining us.

Shawna Valentine, President



Summary of March 16, 2013 MSGS Board Meeting

MSGS held a board meeting in Helena, Montana on March 16, 2013 at 10 AM at Mary Pitch's home with the following present: President Shawna Valentine; 1st Vice-President, Verba Valentine; 2nd Vice-President, Shirley Rogers; Secretary, Marilyn Lewis and Registrar, Mary Pitch.

The minutes of the last board meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report shows \$1231.11 in the checking account and \$16,188.53 in the savings account.

Verba reported on the upcoming state conference. It will be September 26-28, 2013 in Bozeman, Montana at the Holiday Inn. The theme will be "One Leaf at a Time". The room rates are \$99.00 plus tax for single or double occupancy. Registration will be \$49.00 and the three meals will be \$50.00. There will also be a charge of \$5.00 for the reception for those not paying a full registration. There will be 2 national speakers, Mark Lowe from Tennessee and Warren Bittner from Salt Lake City. Verba is still checking on T-shirts. Brochures will be mailed out in July. The 2014 state conference will be September 25-27, 2014 in Helena, Montana. The place has not been confirmed yet. Shirley has the pins ordered for 2013. She plans to use the larger valued donated prizes for the raffle and use the others for door prizes.

Mary reported we have 648 members in 19 societies, including 16 individual members. Mary also read Librarian Karen Huck's report. She has received donated books from the disbanded Miles City society. A letter was read from the Helena Oro Fino Chapter of DAR about a 3 volume set of books published by the National DAR entitled, "America's Women in the Revolutionary Era 1760-1790; A History Through Bibliography" for \$195.00. It was decided to buy the books with the DAR and Lewis and Clark Society for \$65.00 each. The books will be held in the MSGS Library in Helena. Shirley Rogers will be the delegate to the GFS conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana the 21-24 of August, 2013. She will have a Montana Society table there and needs brochures from our societies by August 16 for her to pass out.

It was approved in September to buy the next five years of the Montana Death Index for \$125.00. Mary will talk to Karen on how to get this ordered. It was also decided to buy an ad in the spring and fall issues of the Montana State Historical Society Magazine for \$100.00.

The next board meeting will be July 20, 2013 in Bozeman at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Lewis, Secretary

MSGS TREASURER SUMMARY November 1, 2012 – March 13, 2013

EXPENSES

Newsletter	211.00
State Annual Tax Report	15.00
Death Index	5.29
First Families & Early Settlers	12.31
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$243.60

INCOME

Club & Individual Memberships	665.00
First Families & Early Settlers	264.00
2012 Conference	109.00
Interest Income	0.51
TOTAL INCOME	\$1038.51
Net Income for period	\$794.91
Terry Atwood, Treasurer	

Federation of Genealogy Societies Conference

To All Societies:

Again this year I have been given the privilege of representing MSGS at the FGS conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana in August. The Montana Society decided to pay to have our own table on Thursday night's special vendor's night. This means that we will have a 6 foot table to promote all of our local societies. The conferences in Fort Wayne always have a large turnout so this is a chance to shine to the rest of the genealogy community. I am asking all societies to PLEASE send me information on what your society is doing. I can't sell items, but I can pass out brochures that tell what you have available for sale. If you are working on projects let me know what they are so I can promote and brag about you at our society luncheon. This is our chance to let people know that we are also trying to preserve records in Montana and we have serious researchers. You can send me your brochures at:

Shirley Rogers
PO Box 24
Boulder, MT 59632
jcsar@q.com
406-461-5761

Thank You,
Shirley Rogers, FGS delegate

Library Report

Submitted by Karen Huck, MSGS Librarian

We received 4 boxes of genealogy books from Miles City Public Library for the State Library. Many of the books are new to our library. Any duplicate books will be used for the book frolic at the state meet in Bozeman in September.

We also received 5 volumes of Mayflower Families Genealogies Through Five Generations from Douglas Clark, Governor/Treasurer of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Montana. These volumes filled in a gap and completed the set.

Many books are being donated every week. Colleen Sanders has been cataloging them after they have been checked in.

Ancestry has corrected the database for the Montana death index. We found that it was the State of Montana that had converted the county numbers to alphabetical and did not convert correctly. Now we will work with the State of Montana and Family Search to have it correct on their website.

Mary and I will be attending the Montana Shared Catalog meeting in Miles City May 2nd and 3rd.

Food for Thought & Discussion:

If a baby is born enroute from one location to another while on some type of moving vehicle, such as an airplane, train, bus or ship, what place of birth should be entered on the birth certificate?



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

Please submit items to Shawna at
smv2222@bresnan.net

Beaver Head Hunters – Dillon:

The Head Hunters have three new members this year, and are looking forward to an interesting year.

In honor of Valentine's Day, in February our program was "Love Your Ancestors". Members picked out a favorite ancestor and brought something that represented that ancestor, telling a story about the item and the ancestor that it represented. Some brought photos, letters, medals or artifacts that were owned by the ancestor and made by them, or letters. It was a great way to honor our ancestors.

In March we talked about The Seven Secrets of a successful genealogist. Most of us work hard on our genealogy, but it is often hard to get organized and stay that way. Following good research techniques can make a huge difference in the success of our research.

Submitted by Pat Darling, BHH Liaison

Flathead Valley Genealogical Society – Kalispell

The Flathead Valley Genealogical Society has been busy the last few months. We have had several wonderful programs by Beverly Zierow (Federal Census Records), Lon Brown (State Census Records) and Shirley Rogers (Civil War parts 1 & 2). We have also adopted the Flathead County section of Montana section of US genweb. Check it out at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mtgenweb/> and click on Flathead County. Lon has done a fabulous job of setting it up for us. In conjunction with this project, we are trying to find out which cemeteries and tombstone pictures have been put on findagrave and are updating those files. Thanks to much fine work before, that will not be too difficult. We also hope to add to our website located at flatheadgenealogy.org by adding and updating an obituary index. We are thankful for all the wonderful people in the Flathead valley that are currently supporting us and have planned many wonderful programs for the upcoming months.

Submitted by Vickie Rowley, FVGS Liaison

Gallatin County Genealogical Society – Bozeman:

The 4 Gallatin County Genealogical Society databases are already up online. We update them about once a month. Go to our website <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mtgscgs/index.html> and in the upper right hand corner click on "Databases." That will take you not only to our obituaries, but also the naturalization petitions, vital records, and divorces.

Submitted by Michelle Westberg, GCGS President

Great Falls Genealogy Society – Great Falls

The Great falls Society had a very interesting and moving program in March on Ellis Island and another in April on DNA. Several of our members have had their DNA done at the 23andme sequencing company and talked about the information available on health, ancestry and deep ancestry. They also pointed out things to think about for discovering relations. One thing pointed out was that the wider the coverage of your ancestry file the better. So include all the brothers and sisters of your direct ancestors and at least their marriages.

If you are interested in Cascade County connections we have now direct access on our computer system to all of the huge number of images now on Family Search and it provides a fast way to access those images.

Also will point out that we have subscriptions to Ancestry, American Ancestors (New England site), Genealogy Bank, and Fold3. So come visit and search.

Submitted by Dennis Sugden, GFGS President

Lewis & Clark County Genealogy Society – Helena:

Since last writing, the Lewis & Clark County Genealogical Society has toured the Montana Mason Museum, located here in Helena. The assistant administrator, Dan Gardiner, gave us a brief history of Freemasonry and talked about the artifacts in the museum related to early Montanans. The Grand Lodge of Montana has information on lodges and their members only in Montana. If you are searching in another state, you must contact the Grand Lodge of that particular state. If ever you are in Helena, the museum is very worth your while. It is usually open Monday through Friday from about 9 to 4. To send queries e-mail: mtglsec@grandlodgemonntana.org.

Our December meeting is always a "Show and Tell" of members successes and failures during the year and share ethnic goodies.

In 2013 we have had talks by several members and guests: Gale Kramlick talked about "How to Cite and Document Sources" using Family Tree Maker as an example. She also demonstrated her new "toy", a Flip Pal Mobile Scanner" which can scan large documents. Andrea Atwood gave a talk on her family's experiences when they first moved to Helena from Germany in 1962 & their trip back to Germany in 1964 when they had passport issues delaying their return trip to Helena by 3 months! Sam Gilbert gave a power point program on his Bavarian Forest & Cultural trip to Germany. Al Christophersen gave a power point program on land survey systems, maps & homestead legislation. Prior to the program we asked members to go to www.glorerecords.blm.gov in search of homestead records of their ancestors and at our latest meeting, member Betty Poucher gave a very moving talk about finding her birth mother which she entitled, "Perseverance".

Submitted by Mary Pitch, LCCGS President

Yellowstone Genealogy Forum – Billings

The Forum started the New Year with a speaker from Rocky Mountain College in Billings. She is the archivist at the college library. Through her, we learned what items of genealogical interest are held by the library.

In February, Jeff Kitchens of the Bureau of Land Management presented a program on Pompey's Pillar National Historic Landmark. Jeff is the site manager.

At MSGS state conference, a Forum member purchased CD's from Larimer County (CO) Genealogy Society and donated them to the Forum. In March, we viewed two of the programs: Will & Probate Records and Birth-Marriage-Death and Church Records. They were both very informative.

The new Billings Public Library is rapidly being built. The Yellowstone Genealogy Forum Library will need to vacate the old building by the end of August. To facilitate the move, volunteer librarians are reviewing each item in the library for retention value. Many books will be for sale. These will be offered to genealogy societies. Three file cabinets full of obituaries, collected from the Billings Gazette from 1984 to 2004, are free for the hauling. These are not specific to Billings or Yellowstone County as the Gazette has a large circulation area. The estimated count is 110,000 obituaries. If your club/library wants these, please contact buffalo@itstriangle.com.

If you are in Billings and need help with research, librarians are available in the YGF Library on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m.

Submitted by P. J. Smith, YGF President

Special Free eBook Offer: Family Treasures—15 Lessons, Tips and Tricks for Discovering Your Family History

The genealogy journey is not an easy one, but the treasures you'll discover on the way make the path well worth traveling—something Barry J. Ewell knows from personal experience. In his travels he has found clues in everything from dusty relics to modern technology. Now he is ready to share his experience and guide you through each step of your personal family history journey. Whether you're just beginning your family history journey or you're a seasoned genealogist, this book is the perfect road map to all the treasures still waiting for you in your personal family history.

This is a limited time offer. Barry J. Ewell will share with you a PDF of his book Family Treasures: 15 Lessons, Tips, and Tricks for Discovering Your Family History (437 pages). The resource will help you increase your skills and speed at which you are able to improve your genealogy research success.

If you or your friends would like a PDF copy of the book, do the following:

Send email: bj57barry@gmail.com

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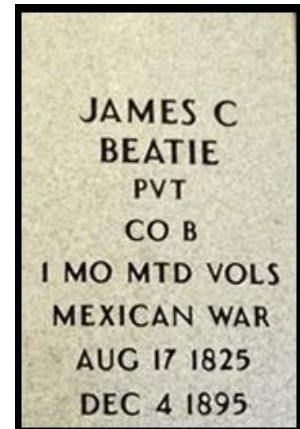


The Roundup accepts submissions of historical and genealogical interest that have a Montana connection. Examples include, but are not limited to, brief family or town histories, Church or Court Records, Cemetery transcriptions, Newspaper abstracts, Bible Records, Letters, descriptions of holdings and 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.

James C. Beatie of Montana

by Christy Beatty

In a search for her great-grandfather Roy Beatty's grandfather, Christy came across an article in a Lee Whittlesey book indicating that she was looking for James C. Beatie. Although further research proved that this was the wrong James as she was descended from James Beatty who died in Pennsylvania in 1898, she was bothered by the fact that James C. of Montana had an unmarked burial. She continued the research and began the process to procure a military marker for his grave at Mountain View Cemetery in Livingston. Park County Genealogical Society has helped her with funds to place the stone and they will have a public ceremony around Memorial Day at the cemetery to dedicate the grave.



James Claiborn Beatie, another of Montana's pioneers, died at his home in Riverside Wednesday evening, December 4, 1895, after a lingering illness, of dropsy.¹ James was born August 17, 1825 in Seven Mile Ford, Smyth County, Virginia² to Josiah Nichols Beatie and Eleanor Rogers White. James was the 2nd child in the family, and had siblings; William Richard, Hampden Sidney, Susan H, Thomas Fountain, and John White, and several half siblings. On March 27, 1826, as Josiah wrote a letter to his brother Samuel, he boasted that James, at the age of seven months, was a very fine child of his age.³ Around 1833, Josiah and his family relocated to Boone County, Missouri, where many of Josiah's siblings had already settled. On November 6, 1835 Josiah, a resident of Boone County, registered his deed for 40 acres of land located in Lexington, Lafayette County, Missouri. A year and a half later, at the age of eleven, James lost his mother.

During the years of 1840 and 1843, James and his brother Hampden, residents of Lafayette Co. MO, returned to Virginia to attend Emory and Henry College and are listed as members of the general student body in the 1840 catalog and the 1841-1842 catalogs.⁴ In 1843 they began listing the students by class (freshman, etc.). James and Hampden were listed in what was titled the "Select Course". According to the booklet this meant they received a certificate for the classes they completed but were not eligible for graduation. One of the earliest financial supporters of Emory & Henry College was Colonel William Byars, who was married to James' aunt, Elizabeth Beattie. Late in the year of 1843, James returned to Andrew County, Missouri, where his father was living. James' father passed away in 1845.

On June 14, 1846, at the age of 20, James enlisted for service in the Mexican War. He enlisted as a Private in Co. H of the 1st Missouri Mounted Volunteers, under Captain Charles Rodgers. The company was organized at Fulton, Missouri, and marched to Fort Leavenworth, arriving June 23, 1846. The following day, US Army General Stephen Kearny ordered the transfer of James to Company B, of the 1st Missouri Mounted Volunteers, under Captain William Walton. Company B was organized at Lexington, Missouri. During the time James was enlisted in the Mexican War, his company marched from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to Santa Fe, New Mexico where they engaged in the Battle of Brazito on Dec. 25, 1846. The company also engaged in the Battle of Sacramento in the spring of the year 1847. James was honorably discharged at New Orleans, Louisiana on or about 25 June 1847.⁵ Veterans of the Mexican War were eligible, upon discharge, to receive a federal bounty land warrant redeemable for 160 acres of land anywhere in the United States. All the veteran had to do was send a request to the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., along with some proof of service. The land warrants were assignable. Most of the soldiers were released at New Orleans and speculators purchased the warrants from many men for a lot less than their value.

Two years after James' return from service, he took a bride, Miss Catherine A. Stevenson. They were married in Andrew County, Missouri on November 29, 1848.⁶ They made their residence through 1850 with

Catherine's parents in Jackson, Missouri, where James was employed as a clerk. Catherine must have passed away sometime before James' trip to California in the spring of 1852. James returned to Filmore, Missouri, and in 1860 lived with his 2nd cousin Jerusha Dysart Gilmore and family, and was still employed as a clerk. James never remarried.

On March 28, 1865, James claimed 160 acres of property located in the newly formed East Gallatin Precinct of Gallatin County, MT and farmed it with the help of Roderick Evans. While in the Gallatin valley he engaged in stock-growing. After 1870, he removed his herd to the upper Yellowstone Valley, making his headquarters near the present site of Gardiner (Lamar Valley of Yellowstone National Park). In 1877, Superintendent Norris of Yellowstone National Park was determined to preserve the great herds of wild buffalo. A species, which once numbered in the millions, had been greatly reduced, and there was not much hope for their survival. The bison were being decimated by hunters, and Superintendent Norris believed they would be exterminated, unless they could be saved by domestication. Superintendent Norris persuaded stockman James C Beatty to put some cattle in Lamar Valley as a source of milk to raise the buffalo calves.⁷ During the severe winter of 1876-1877, James lost a large number of cattle, as the Nez Pierce Indians slaughtered the cattle for traveling rations. In 1880, James ranched at the site of the Ben Strickland Ranch. James continued to raise cattle in the Upper Yellowstone Valley of Gallatin County at least through November 16, 1883, when he was attacked and injured by a bull, resulting in both clavicles being fractured.

Between the years 1862 and 1883 many changes were taking place in Montana. Bozeman was platted in 1864, just a few months after Montana became a territory. Big Horn and Gallatin counties encompassed more than half the Montana territory. Early settlements of Gallatin County included the nearby towns of Livingston, Emigrant, Gardiner (YNP access) Mammoth Hot Springs and Big Timber. Eventually Big Horn County passed out of existence and smaller counties were formed. The town now known as Livingston was part of the newly formed Park County (1887), which was named because of a small area of Yellowstone National Park being in the county.⁸

On March 11, 1886, James C Beattie, John Work, and John Locke purchased land from Benjamin Clark, located near the present site of Mission Creek, east of Livingston. The following year, James sold his 1/2 undivided interests in the Mission Creek property to John Work and John Locke. Before James' 63rd birthday, a newly approved act of Congress granted both Mexican War Veterans and their widows a pension of \$8 per month. He applied for this on April 17, 1888, and payments began on May 11, 1888.

James is described by those who knew him as a man of 5' 9 1/2" tall, weighing 140 pounds. His right eye was missing, and his vision in the left eye was 20/70, which made it difficult to see to read or to distinguish one man from another across the street. He had permanent dislocation upwards & backwards of the external end of the right clavicle; the ligament of said shoulder being so displaced that complete reduction could not be made and permanent dislocation of the left shoulder. He had a hernia the size of a walnut above the umbilicus; a hydrocele of long standing on the left side the size of a coconut. James was totally and permanently disabled from performing manual labor, had rheumatism, a palpitation of the heart, and couldn't do a day's work to save his life.⁹

On Wednesday, December 4, 1895, James died, with his funeral taking place the next afternoon at 3 o'clock from the residence in Riverside and interment in the old section, Block 5, Lot 20, Grave 3 of Mountain View Cemetery.¹⁰ In the spring of 2013, a little over one hundred-seventeen years after death, James' grave will finally be marked.



¹ Obituary of James Beattie, Livingston Enterprise December 7, 1895, page 5

² Beattie, James C. (Private, Co. B., 1st Missouri Mounted Volunteers), pension no. 15519, Case Files of Mexican War Pension Applications, compiled ca. 1887 - ca 1926; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15, NARA

³ Beattie, Josiah. "Item 4" Letter to Samuel Beattie, Esq. 27 Mar. 1826. RamblingRoots.com. Diana Powell

⁴ Emory & Henry College Catalogue, Washington County, VA 1840 Officers & Students; Diana Powell

⁵ Beattie, James C. (Private, Co. B., 1st Missouri Mounted Volunteers), pension no. 15519, Case Files of Mexican War Pension Applications, compiled ca. 1887 - ca 1926; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15, NARA

⁶ Missouri Marriages, 1766-1983; (Certificate #468, Bk A, pg. 93)

⁷ Haines, Aubrey. "Yellowstone History: 125 Years & More to Tell." *Yellowstone Science* Fall 6.4 (1998): Page 17

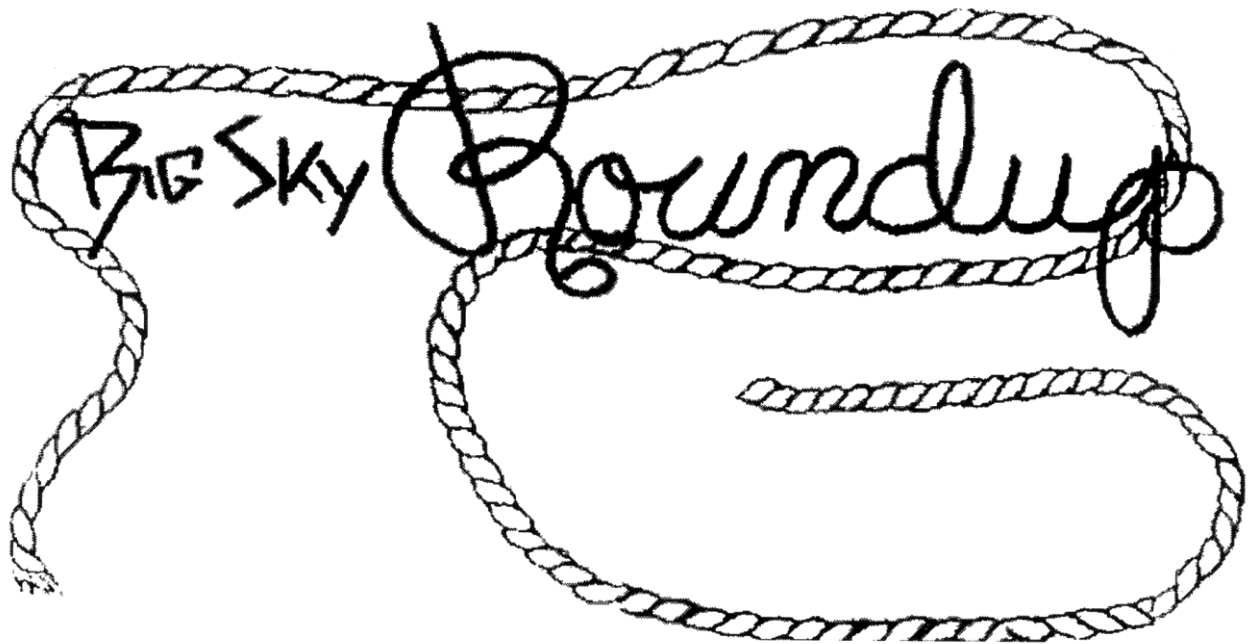
⁸ http://www.montanagenealogy.com/gallatin/early_towns.htm; <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mtpark/>;

⁹ Beattie, James C. (Private, Co. B., 1st Missouri Mounted Volunteers), pension no. 15519, Case Files of Mexican War Pension Applications, compiled ca. 1887 - ca 1926; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15, NARA

¹⁰ Obituary of James Beattie, Livingston Enterprise December 7, 1895, page 5



Terry Atwood
PO Box 5313
Helena MT 59602



24TH ANNUAL STATE GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

Hosted by Gallatin County Genealogical Society and the Montana State Genealogy Society

BOZEMAN MONTANA HOLIDAY INN, SEPTEMBER 26, 27, 28, 2013

FEATURING NOT JUST ONE, BUT TWO NATIONAL SPEAKERS

J. MARK LOWE OF TENNESSEE. Mark spoke in Montana several years ago and many of you have asked to bring him back. He is a full time professional genealogist, author, and teacher who researches in original records and manuscripts throughout the South. He is the Director of the Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance - a week long hands-on research session focusing on original documents and manuscripts in cooperation with the National Archives. He is an instructor at the Institute of Genealogical & Historical Research (Samford Univ.) and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. He is a former officer and board member of FGS, and Past President of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Mark Lowe will speak on "**Circuit Riders and the Early Methodist Church**", "**Finding Uncle John by Talking with his Neighbors**", "**My Taxes Were Due When? (Using Delinquent Tax Lists & Release Books)**", and "**Pioneers of the Frontier: Using Online Newspapers to Find Early Settlers**".

F. WARREN BITTNER OF UTAH. Warren has spoken at the Federation of Genealogical Societies and National Genealogical Society Conferences many times, the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and was Keynote Speaker in 2012 at the Palatines to America National Convention, the Mid-Atlantic German Society Spring Meeting. He was the first place winner of the NGS 2012 Writing Contest with his article "Without Land, Occupation, Rights, or Marriage Privilege: The Bittner Family from Germany to America. Warren Bittner's topics are "**Document to Narrative: Writing to Engage your Reader**", "**Land on the Frontier: Hidden Treasures in Federal Land Case Files**", "**Exhausting Research to Find an Impossible Immigrant**", and "**German Historical Maps and Territories**".

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND HOLD THE DATES. More to come in the July Issue.