

# 2026

# MSGGS

# Conference

10-12 SEPT

THURS – SAT

LCCGS

HOST



**JENNIFER ZINK**

FOUR IN-PERSON  
SESSIONS ON DNA



**SHANNON COMBS-BENNETT**

TWO VIRTUAL SESSIONS  
ON LINEAGE SOCIETIES



**LORI SAMUELSON**

TWO VIRTUAL SESSIONS ON  
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

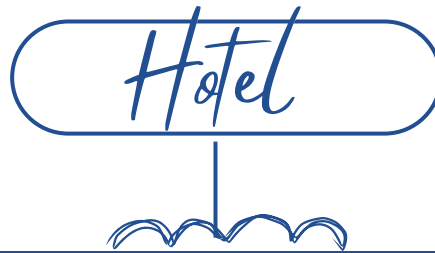
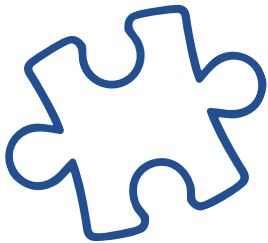


Montana Heritage Center, 225 N Roberts St, Helena

34TH ANNUAL  
**MSGGS  
CONFERENCE**

**Piecing Together the Past**

-  **Date: 10–12 September 2026**
-  **Venue: Montana Heritage Center**
-  **Address: 225 N Roberts St, Helena**



**BEST WESTERN CAPITAL**

(Formerly Jorgenson's)

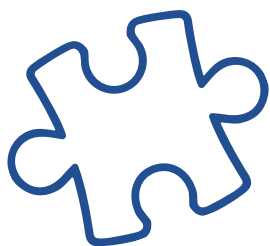
1714 11th Avenue, Helena  
(406) 442-1770

Ask for Montana State  
Genealogy Society block

Single queen or  
double queen room,  
\$132 + tax

Reservation deadline: **August 25**





*Host*



**LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

*Fun Stuff*



**BOOK FROLIC**

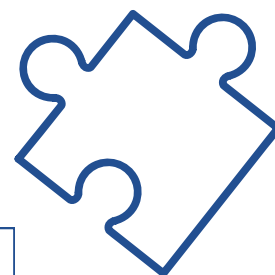
Our annual fundraiser is back with the "Gambler's Sale" format. Donate books you no longer need, and buy books that you want!

**RAFFLES**

Donate a themed basket or a fun item. Raffle tickets will be on sale \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

**VENDORS**

Check out our wonderful vendors during our breaks for some great retail therapy.



# Speakers

## JENNIFER ZINCK

from Connecticut will join us in person to present four sessions on DNA.

## SHANNON COMBS-BENNET

from Virginia will present two virtual sessions on lineage society applications.

## LORI SAMUELSON

from Indiana will join us online for two sessions on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Please visit our website for full speaker biographies:  
<https://montanamsgs.org/conference/>

# FREE Pre-conference events

## THURSDAY EVENING

**Montana History Portal Workshop, 5-6p** - Learn how to use Montana's best free, online history repository.

**Genealogy Jam Session, 5-6 p** - Join us for an informal research work session. Bring your laptops and your questions; volunteers will be available to assist.

**Dessert Social, 6:30-7:30p** - Visit the Lewis & Clark Public Library (120 S Last Chance Gulch) to tour MSGS's Library, enjoy a treat, and visit with friends.

# THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 10

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 3 - 6p       | Registration & Vendors  |
| 3 - 6p       | Book Frolic Drop-off  |
| 3:30 - 4:30p | Board Meeting   |
| 5 - 6p       | Workshop: Montana History Portal  |
| 5 - 6p       | Workshop: Genealogy Jam Session   |
| 6:30 - 7:30p | Dessert Social & MSGS Library Tour<br>(Lewis & Clark Library - 120 S Last Chance Gulch) |

# FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 11



|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 7:30 - 9a      | Registration   |
| 7:30 - 9a      | Book Frolic  |
| 8a - 6p        | Vendors  |
| 9 - 9:15a      | Opening Remarks  |
| 9:15 - 10:15a  | After the Test: Exploring AncestryDNA Results -<br>Jennifer Zinck                                    |
| 10:15 - 10:30a | Break & Book Frolic  |
| 10:30 - 11:30a | The perfect Fit: Locating and Applying to a<br>Lineage Society - Shannon Combs-Bennett               |
| 11:30a - 1:15p | Book Frolic  |
| 11:45a - 1p    | Lunch  |
| 1:15 - 2:15p   | Unleash the Power of DNA: Testing Family<br>Members - Jennifer Zinck                                 |
| 2:15 - 2:30p   | Break & Book Frolic  |
| 2:30 - 3:30p   | Proving What you Know: Documentation for<br>Lineage Society Applications - Shannon Combs-<br>Bennett |
| 3:30 - 3:45p   | Break & Book Frolic  |
| 3:45 - 4:45p   | Expecting the Unexpected: Surprises in our DNA -<br>Jennifer Zinck                                   |
| 5 - 6p         | Membership Meeting   |
| 6:30 - 8p      | Banquet - Awards Ceremony  |

# SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 12

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 7:30 - 9a        | Registration  |
| 7:30 - 9a        | Book Frolic   |
| 8a - 3p          | Vendors   |
| 9 - 10a          | Connecting Cousins: Finding Living Relatives on the Internet - Jennifer Zinck                       |
| 10 - 10:15a      | Break & Book Frolic   |
| 10:15 - 11:15 am | AI & Ancestry: Using Artificial Intelligence to Expand Your Genealogy Research - Lori Samuelson     |
| 11:15a - 1p      | Book Frolic   |
| 11:45a-1p        | Lunch   |
| 1pm - 1:30p      | Raffle Drawings   |
| 1:30 - 2:30p     | AI as a Genealogical Research Assistant: Breaking Through Genealogical Brick Walls - Lori Samuelson |
| 2:30 - 3p        | Book Frolic   |

**For full session descriptions, please visit our website:**  
<https://montanamsgs.org/conference/>



## MEALS

**Friday Lunch Buffet** – Sandwich and Wrap Platters with Minestrone Soup and Salad, \$17

**Friday Awards Banquet Buffet** – Pepper & Herb Crusted Flank Steak, Roast Chicken with Rosemary Dijon Sauce, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Asparagus, Salad, Tiramisu Dessert, \$32

**Saturday Lunch Buffet** – Two Pastas, Two Sauces, Three Protein Toppings, Veggie Toppings, Salad, Breadsticks, \$20

# REGISTRATION FORM

34<sup>th</sup> Annual Montana State Genealogical Society Conference  
Heritage Center, Helena, MT  
September 10, 11, 12, 2026  
<https://montanamsgs.org/conference/>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your 1<sup>st</sup> MSGS Conference? Yes No

Thursday Evening Social – Free but **registration required**

Yes – How many tickets? \_\_\_\_\_ No

|  |       | How many? | Total   |
|--|-------|-----------|---------|
| Full 2-day Conference w/Banquet & 2 Luncheons          | \$199 | _____     | \$_____ |
| Full 2-day Conference Registration – NO MEALS          | \$130 | _____     | \$_____ |
| 1 Day FRIDAY ONLY Conference Registration – NO MEALS   | \$ 81 | _____     | \$_____ |
| 1 Day SATURDAY ONLY Conference Registration – NO MEALS | \$ 49 | _____     | \$_____ |
| Additional Fee for Non-MSGS Members                    | \$ 15 | _____     | \$_____ |

**MEALS:** To guarantee meals, registration MUST be received by Thursday, August 27, 2026. One of each of the three meals is included in the \$199.00 level. If you want to select only one or two meals, select the \$130 level above and then add the individual meals below. If you want to purchase additional meals for spouses, etc., please add these meals below:

|   |      | How many? | Total   |
|---|------|-----------|---------|
| Friday Lunch – Sandwich/Wraps with Minestrone & Salad | \$17 | _____     | \$_____ |
| Friday Banquet – Flank Steak and Roast Chicken Buffet | \$32 | _____     | \$_____ |
| Saturday Lunch – Pasta Bar                            | \$20 | _____     | \$_____ |

## Conference Pins:

|  |        | How many? | Total   |
|--|--------|-----------|---------|
| Starter Bar                            | \$6.00 | _____     | \$_____ |
| Helena 2026 Shingle                    | \$7.00 | _____     | \$_____ |
| Prior Year Shingle(s) – indicate years | \$4.00 | _____     | \$_____ |

Pre-registration must be received by August 15, 2026, to qualify for the “Early Bird” drawing for a refund of the conference fee (\$130.00 max).

Cancellation Policy: Full refund of all meal, function, and registration fees (less a \$15.00 cancellation fee) will be issued if the request is received by Tuesday, September 1, 2026. For cancellation notifications received after September 1, 2026, or for non-attendance, no refund will be given.

**Questions:** Email [admin@montanamsgs.org](mailto:admin@montanamsgs.org)

**Grand Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Make check payable to  
MSGS and mail with this  
completed form to:  
MSGS Registrar  
4532 Draffhorse Drive  
Bozeman, MT 59718**