

2026

MSGGS

Conference

10-12 SEPT

THURS – SAT

LCCGS

HOST



JENNIFER ZINCK

FOUR IN-PERSON
SESSIONS ON DNA



SHANNON COMBS-BENNETT

TWO VIRTUAL SESSIONS
ON LINEAGE SOCIETIES



LORI SAMUELSON

TWO VIRTUAL SESSIONS ON
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

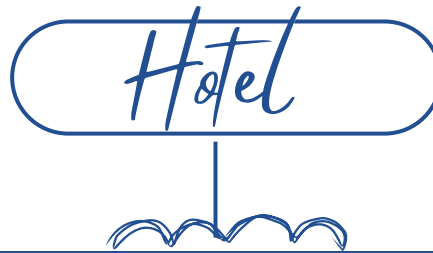
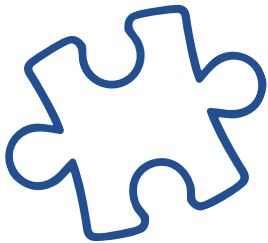


Montana Heritage Center, 225 N Roberts St, Helena

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)

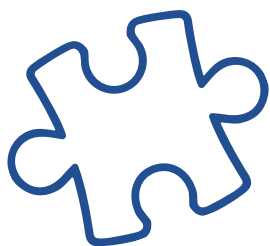
1714 11th Avenue, Helena
(406) 442-1770

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

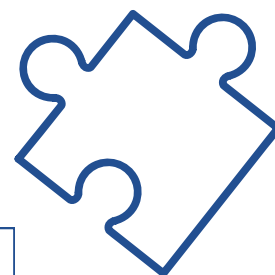
Our annual fundraiser is back with the "Gambler's Sale" format. Donate books you no longer need, and buy books that you want!

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 (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 - Jennifer Zinck
10:15 - 10:30a	Break & Book Frolic
10:30 - 11:30a	The perfect Fit: Locating and Applying to a 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 Members - Jennifer Zinck
2:15 - 2:30p	Break & Book Frolic
2:30 - 3:30p	Proving What you Know: Documentation for Lineage Society Applications - Shannon Combs- Bennett
3:30 - 3:45p	Break & Book Frolic
3:45 - 4:45p	Expecting the Unexpected: Surprises in our DNA - 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

34th 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 1st 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

Grand Total \$ _____

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