



NEWSLETTER FOR THE YELLOWSTONE GENEALOGY FORUM BILLINGS, MONTANA JULY 2002

**YGF/PARMLY AGREEMENT NEARLY FINALIZED**

Since its inception in 1977, the genealogical collection owned by the Yellowstone Genealogy Forum has been housed at Parmly Billings Library without benefit of a written contract. Recently a formal agreement was reached by the Parmly Billings Library Board and YGF to continue the mutually beneficial working relationship. The Billings City Council is expected to approve the document at it's meeting on Monday, July 22, 2002.

The non-circulating collection, which is housed in the Gen-Room on the second floor, has always been open to the public for research and will remain accessible in the public library. In turn the Forum will continue to provide assistance to library patrons in the use of the collection and to reply to all genealogical inquiries received by the library.

YGF Board members P.J. Smith, Athna May Porter, Louise LaRue and Sue-Ann Jacobson have been negotiating with the Parmly Billings Library Board since last March to reach this accord.

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**We Need a Carpenter**

The idea of having a "Sandwich Board" to set near the Gen-Room entrance when YGF librarians are there, has been suggested. We need a carpenter to make us one possibly 12 to 18 inches wide and 2-3 feet tall and hinged at the top. Call P.J. Smith at (406) 669-3139 if you can help.

**CONFERENCE IS COMING IN SEPTEMBER!**

The 2002 Montana State Genealogical Society Conference, with the theme of "Celebrate-Educate", invites YOU to come to Billings on September 20th and 21st for a splendid event. "Celebrate" was chosen because the hosting club, Yellowstone Genealogy Forum, began 25 years ago on May 26, 1977! And "Educate" will come from one of the nation's most sought after lecturers, Dr. John Philip Colletta based in Washington, D.C. This will truly be a rare opportunity for beginning and advanced researchers to learn from his six talks, which we have been told, are delivered in a very entertaining manner. Rounding out our topics, Anne Foster, Executive Director, Huntley Project Museum, will present an excellent class on "Preserving Your Family Archives" and Billings Computer Info Team, Richard Davis and Athna May Porter, will show us computer steps that will make our screens dance. And that's just our classes.

Since this is a Montana State Genealogical Society Conference, there will be a State Business Meeting with election, Memorial Service for deceased members and Book Worm Frolic (sale of donated books and quarterlies from members) particular to the state conference format.

The location is 3rd floor of the Sheraton Billings Hotel, 27 North 27th Street, Billings, Montana. Reservations

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**FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:**

It is now July and it is blistering hot, just about everywhere, and nothing to do? As your president I am attending meetings on the Seminar, which will be held in Sept., here in Billings. Then of course there is my weekly volunteer job at the Family History Center and a couple hours a month at the Gen-Room. We have a YGF Board meeting this week and then of course our annual picnic at the end of the month. Fortunately, we have a great 'crew' who attend the Family Board meetings, and I am not one of them, however I am kept "up to speed" via e-mail. I am the administrator of the McCalla family web site. In addition to scanning old photos for the 'name these ancestors' photo contest I am suggesting that each of us write our experiences with our grandparents McCalla. Our memoirs will be submitted to me for safe keeping until we decide what to do with them all. Hopefully I will be able to spend a little time with my grandson while he is in Billings next week and soon the McCalla family will be coming from MN to visit. I don't know if they will be gone before my annual "ladies party". But hopefully I will get the beds changed in time for my old friend from AZ to sleep comfortable when she arrives. At some point I need to deal with the new paper and ancestors that I generated from my recent trip to SLC and MN Historical. Did I mention the Pastor called last week and has asked me to take on the task of organizing old church 'stuff'? I start YOGA classes tonight.

You must be wondering why I am telling you all this? It's elementary. Work hard, play hard, keep organizing and make time to enjoy life and relax a little. Oops, what is the big orange tag on my front door for? THIS HOUSE IS BEING CONDEMNED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH FOR LACK OF UPKEEP! Mmmm. I think I'm on the wrong Board.

Have a wonderful summer. Your president,  
Suzanne

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**FORUM OFFICERS**

Officers for the coming year are:

President - Suzanne McPherson  
Corresponding Secretary - Sharon Oakland  
Program Chairman - Donna Sweeney  
Secretary - Verba Valentine  
Treasurer - JoAnne Miller

More volunteers are needed to work in the Gen-Room. Sign-up and help us out.

(Conference, continued)

and more information for the conference will be available through flyers or logging onto the Montana State Genealogical Society internet address of [www.rootsweb.com/~mtmsg](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mtmsg) or YFG site, [www.rootsweb.com/~mtygf](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mtygf).

The cost is \$70.00 for the 2-day conference. Two luncheons and a Friday eve banquet in the Sky-Top Room make for delicious dining. Twenty-fifth anniversary cake will top off the festivities that night.

YGF hopes you are making plans to attend this conference. There will be vendors and displays, door prizes and tote bags. It's a time to meet old friends and make new ones. Come celebrate, learn, and have fun with us. It may be the genealogical event of the decade.

A mailing of conference flyers is going out soon. If you don't receive one, please send your request to Louise LaRue, 252-1070, e-mail, [louruel917@earthlink.net](mailto:louruel917@earthlink.net) or Verba Valentine, 656-9840, e-mail, [blgsmarket@aol.com](mailto:blgsmarket@aol.com)

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**BOOK FROLIC**

For the last several conferences, MSGS has conducted a "Book Frolic" as a way of making money for our state society. Genealogy and History books as well as quarterlies are donated to a silent auction type book sale. A slip of paper is placed with the item for recording bids which take place throughout the conference. Then at 4 p.m. Saturday, bids will close and Sandra Gynn will announce the winners.

If any YGF members have books or quarterlies they would like to donate, please check through your bookcases. They may be given to any of the Conference Planning Committee members or brought to the August 27th meeting. Thank you.

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Remember me in the family tree  
--my name, my days, my strife;  
Then I'll ride upon the wings of time  
and live an endless life.

---Goetsch

### DUES ARE DUE

A new year for YGF is upon us which means dues are due. Your label shows when your dues expire. Only \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a family keeps you an active part of our organization. Donations of any amount may also be made to the YGF Book Fund to purchase extra books and periodicals for the Gen-Room, and/or to the Stern-NARA Gift Fund which makes more National Archive documents available to genealogists. Checks should be made payable to YGF and mailed to Shawna Valentine, YGF Membership, 3420 Granger So #20, Billings, MT 59102. Please notify me of any address changes as well. My phone is 652-5866 or e-mail is smv2222@aol.com (A mail in envelope is provided for your convenience.)

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### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Alcorn, James L., 541 Del Norte St., Denver, CO 80221-4418, ph. (303)427-4303  
Dobias, Mary, 501 Greenspring Pl., Billings, MT 59102, 656-0399 mkdobias@aol.com  
Evans, Jo, 13 Meadow Glen, Billings, MT 59102-2450, 256-9288  
Standish, Tina, 3518 Poly Drive, Billings, MT 59102, 656-5453 tinadolly@aol.com

### NEW ADDRESS

Picard, Sue, 4418 So. Oakwood Hills Parkway, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715)552-8244

### NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Johnson, Jenny; linnevans@yahoo.com  
Runner, Ed: egrunner@evl.net  
Taubert, Carlene: mdpres@attbi.com  
Theimer, Myrle: mtheimer@imt.net  
Torrence, Ruth: mailto:dr-tea@juno.com

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### FIRST FAMILIES AND EARLY SETTLERS

If you have Montana ancestors, perhaps you would like to fill out the necessary proofs to receive a certificate and be printed up in their Volume 2 of their "First Families of Montana". It is a fine way to honor your ancestors and help preserve their place in Montana history. Applications can be obtained on line at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mtsgys> or write to Al Stoner at First Families of MT., 6330 Blackfoot Dr., Helena, MT 59602-6515

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### THE ULTIMATE REVENGE

Not rain, not snow, not sleet, not hail  
Nothing can stop the genealogy mail.

We write, we beg, we ask so nice  
Yet each letter is like the roll of the dice.

We search in America and in Europe, too  
Across mountains, prairies and seas of blue.

Hoping to find the elusive cousin  
We keep the computers wizzin' and buzzin'.

Another letter goes into the box  
Covered with stamps as if it were pox.

We wait for the reply that keeps on comin'  
Knowing we keep our mail persons runnin'.

At last comes the letter, it's on the top  
'Returned for postage, the rates have gone up'.

---Suzanne McPherson

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### Stern-NARA FUND

In case you're wondering what this fund is all about, here goes.

Malcolm H. Stern started the NARA Gift Fund to help preserve records for genealogists. The National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC has many records that would be valuable to genealogists. Microfilming these records is costly and some of the records are already dimming with age. So this fund was started. Two sets of records were chosen. They were (1) the War of 1812 Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Records and (2) the U.S. Colored Troop (USCT) Compiled Service Records. The cost was projected to be \$1,666,000. The Federation of Genealogical Societies support this endeavor and the amounts and donors are published in their "The Forum" newsletter. The microfilm copies, produced with government funding are distributed to the National Regional Archives and through the LDS Family History Library for researchers to use. The original goal was to collect one dollar from each member of every genealogical society in the U.S.

So in addition to your dues, you may want to add a little extra money for our (1) YGF Book Fund or (2) NARA. It will be appreciated by someone, somewhere, you can bet on it!

## HOW I SOLVED IT

Many years ago I heard a story from my aged cousins about Martha Mansfield Smith, my grgrgr grandmother, that helped explain to me why she looked so dour and even sad in the only photograph that we have ever seen of her. Granted she was old at the time, about 80, but the photo told me that she had a hard life. The story was that her father had been killed during the Mexican War. This story had been passed down through 5 generations and had come with the Yates family when they moved to Montana from Missouri about 100 years ago. We knew that Martha had a son who was killed in the Civil War and that he had been the primary supporter of the family prior to his death because Temple Smith, Martha's husband, had become an invalid, probably due to poisoning of milk that he had drunk from a cow that had been free roaming and had eaten the wrong plant (white snake root). Martha had at least 8 children, 3 boys and 5 girls who lived to adulthood. Probably there were other children that we do not know about because of the problems on the frontier with untended births and no medical care.

We knew that Martha was born in 1818 and that she claimed in a census record that she and her parents were born in Ohio. Well, Ohio is pretty big and it had a large population even in 1820. There were many Mansfield's in Ohio at that time and I could not tell who was the right line because I did not have a specific location to search. I knew that Martha had married Temple Smith in Delaware County, Indiana in 1837. I began to look at every person named Mansfield who lived in Delaware and surrounding counties in 1837. I soon found a Charles and a John Mansfield who both owned land within a few miles of Temple Smith in 1832. I searched for everything I could find about these two men. They were brothers and they had been born in Butler County, Ohio but I could find nothing about their children except that they both had several sons and daughters listed without names in the 1830 Delaware County, Indiana census. I next hired research work done in both Delaware County, Indiana and Butler County, Ohio to look for Martha Mansfield born about 1818 but the records were very scarce during that time period and none were found. I did find, however, that both John and Charles Mansfield were married by 1818 and that they were descended from

Charles Mansfield who was born in Pennsylvania in 1765. I then learned all I could about Charles and his children and guess what single item jumped off the page at me? John, who had been born in 1795, married in 1814 had died in 1847 in New Mexico. The Mexican War lasted from 1846 to 1847 and I became suspicious about why a farmer from Indiana had died in New Mexico at the age of 52. The exact date of death was listed as 16 Feb. at a place called Pueblo de Taos. I next had to learn about the Mexican War as it was fought in New Mexico since that was an obscure theater of battle and not of much importance in relation to the battles fought near Mexico City. It turns out to be important concerning Southwest history since the victories during the war lead to the annexation of New Mexico, Arizona and California. I found that the battle of Pueblo de Taos was fought on 4 Feb. 1847 by Missouri State troops under Col. Sterling Price against Mexican militia and Pueblo Indians. I next searched for Indiana military records, federal pension applications and local New Mexico records to help prove that I had found the right John Mansfield. No information could be found that would answer who or why. In fact I was distressed to learn that John Mansfield who died at Taos was from Missouri and was a second lieutenant in the Second Missouri Mounted Rifles. Could all of my research be wrong after all. I next had to study the Second Missouri Militia records to find out who this Lieutenant John Mansfield was. The Second Missouri Rifles was a unit composed primarily of volunteer troops from Livingston County, Missouri. I next had to review land records of that county to see who was living there in 1847, and guess who I found living next to John Mansfield's land in Livingston County, Temple Smith! I then sent for the will of John Mansfield in Missouri since there had been no will in Indiana or Ohio. No will could be found in Missouri, but there was a probate. John has assumed he would live through the war and had not prepared a will. The probate was administered by John Mansfield Jr and Temple Smith. Things were looking pretty good at this point. Reading the fine print in the probate we find that wife Susan and 10 children are provided for. Susan! Who is this? John's wife was Rebecca. Well, it turns out that Susan was the second wife and mother of the last 2 children, Reuben and Sarelda. Rebecca was mother of 8

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How I Solved IT, (continued)  
 children and died before 1841. Barely legible are the names of the children and Martha Ann is among them. This single piece of paper is the only written proof I have found in 35 years of research that shows our Martha Ann Mansfield as the daughter of John. After reading more about the battle at Pueblo de Taos, I find that John must have died a terrible death. He was wounded on 4 Feb. and died 12 days later of his wounds. The biography of Reuben Mansfield, his son, says his father was wounded by an Indian arrow and took 12 days to die of his wounds. There were numerous guns used in the battle on both sides so it is also possible that John died from a bullet wound. It was a tough way to go, dying of infection without good medical care in primitive territory. I am sure John is buried in New Mexico near Taos since there was no way to embalm or transport bodies in that area in those days. The remains of the church, San Geronimo, where the battle took place is still standing after more than 150 years. It is made of adobe and is very resistant to erosion in the dry desert air.

Richard Thayer

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**LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS**  
 by Ellen Cushing

Donated by Athna May Porter

1. A Beginner's Guide to Hispanic Genealogy
2. Mexican and Spanish Family Research
3. Spanish Records Extraction

Donated by Millie Schanz

4. The Family Series: Oliver
5. Oliver Family History
6. Hoskins Families of Seventeenth Century America
7. Vermont Families in 1791
8. Naturalizations: Declarations of Intent (Sangamon Co., IL)

Donated by Ron Penn

9. Shifting Scenes: A History of Carter

County, Montana

Donated:

10. Germany: A Documentation in Pictures
11. Life of a Slave Girl

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**LATEST PERIODICALS FOR THE GEN-ROOM**  
 April 2002 - July 2002

If you have unwanted periodicals that you would like to donate or would like to donate a subscription to a periodical, call Athna May Porter 259-2552 or e-mail porter@imt.net

1. Family Chronicle - May/June 2002; July/Aug 2002
2. New England Historical & Gen. Register Apr 2002 #156
3. Family Tree Magazine - June 2002; August 2002
4. Germans from Russia Historical Society Heritage Review June 2002
5. GRHS Newsletter - June 2002
6. Heritage Quest - May/June 2002; July/Aug 2002
7. Heritage Quest Update Newsletter - Apr 2002; May 2002; June 2002; July 2002
8. History Magazine - Jun/Jul 2002
9. Journal of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Spring 2002
10. American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Newsletter Spring 2002
11. NGS Newsmagazine - May/June 2002
12. National Genealogical Society Quarterly - March 2002
13. New England Ancestors - Summer 2002
14. Daughters of the American Revolution - Owned by Pamly
15. Genealogical Helper - Owned by Pamly

Donated by the Lewistown Genealogy Society

16. North Dakota History - 1978 - Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall; 1979 - Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall
17. Genealogical Computing - 1998 - July/Sep, Oct/Dec; 1999 - Jan/Mar, July/Sept, Oct/Dec; 2000 - Winter, Summer
18. Ancestry 1997-2001 - 25 issues

Three family newsletters that we receive regularly

19. Bunnell/Bonnell Newsletter
20. Gest - Guest Quarterly
21. The Chandler Family Association Newsletter

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## ANCESTORS YOU CAN COUNT

Adapted from that article by Kathleen W. Hinckley in Family Tree Magazine Feb. 2002

The 1930 Census was released for public viewing on April 1, 2002 at the National Archives in Washington, DC and its 13 regional branches and shipped to other libraries in the country that day.

Now what does that mean to me, you might say. Well! There might be some "forehead slapping" revelations as you read that Uncle Joe Stump who everyone reminisced fondly about, had the occupation of "chronic loafer", or that sweet Lizzie Jones was recorded as "drinks bad whiskey", or Miz Whippleworth had her occupation described as "does horizontal work" (as applied to a prostitute in 1870 Ellsworth County, Kansas.) The US federal census is the foundation of genealogical research and continues to be a touchstone as your research progresses.

You begin census research with yourself if you were born on or before April 1, 1930. If you were born after that date, begin with your parents or grandparents--whoever may have been living in 1930. Always begin with the most current census record available for your research subject. Researching backward one census at a time is the most logical and more successful than leapfrogging to the time your subject may have been a child.

Beginning with the first census of 1790 and continuing every 10 years, the government has created a snapshot of American on each census day. The content of the census has developed over the years and each enumeration is varied in length and content, so the information you find about your ancestors will vary. Questions were added by the government (sometimes at the request of special interest groups or industries) to predict the nation's needs in education, retirement, housing and health care as well as statistics on future military capabilities.

Heads of household only were named from 1790 through 1840. All other family members and slaves were listed statistically. In 1850, each household members was named except slaves, and the state or country of birth was first reported in this year, and the practice continued through

1930. If you are researching black ancestors its important that you know prior to 1870, only free blacks were named individually--slaves were reported only by age and sex.

In 1930, the census enumerators carried large portfolios with preprinted forms and collected data for each person or household. There were more than 20 questions to fill out and along with the usual name, address, sex, date and place of birth, marital status and race, there were some pretty unusual questions being asked. The government wanted to know if you worked yesterday and did you own a radio set. If you were an American Indian, the government wanted to know the degree of Indian blood and the tribe's name. There wasn't a space on the form to record the information, so the enumerators were told to use the father and mother's birthplace columns for this information.

However, why did the government want to know if you owned a radio set? The public was sure they were going to be taxed for having one, when in truth, the Radio Manufacturer's Association had asked the government include the radio question to help plan geographic placement of broadcasting stations.!

Census schedules are kept confidential for 72 years, so the 1940 enumeration will be released in 2012 and the 1950 census won't be public until 2022. For more information on the 1930 census, see [www.nara.gov/genealogy/1930cen.html](http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/1930cen.html) and the National Archives' regional branches at [www.nara.gov/nara/gotonara.html](http://www.nara.gov/nara/gotonara.html) The census can be viewed for free, purchased or borrowed, or accessed via subscription. You will find records at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and its Family History Centers worldwide [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) and there are many more options and web sites to look for the census images.

Research in the census is like going on a treasure hunt without a map and each enumeration is a snapshot of your family at a particular time and place, rich in content beyond obvious names and dates. Persistent use of the census records as a cornerstone in your research, though time and energy must be spent, will yield many successful "finds". Look for further information in the Gen Room and ask other YGF members for helpful hints.

By Donna McKamy, YGF Member

# GEN-BUG NEWS

## Coming Events

- July 23, 2002 6:00 p.m. **FAMILY PICNIC** at North Park Shelter #4 (Roofed shelter on east side of park), N. 19th St. and 6 Ave. N. Bring potluck food, utensils and table service for your family. Forum members, spouses, children and friends are invited!! Forum will provide beverage.
- August 27, 2002 6:30 p.m. Social, 7:00 p.m. Regular YGF meeting at LDS Church, 6th Street West and Ave. D, Cultural Hall. Program: David Karnos, professor of philosophy at MSU-Billings will show slides of grave markers in rural Montana cemeteries and tell their stories. Dr. Karnos is writing a book on the subject called "Silent Sentinels of Montana."
- September 20, 21, 2002 **13th MONTANA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE**, Billings, Sheraton Hotel, 27 North 27th Street, featuring speaker, John Colletta plus Anne Foster, Richard Davis and Athna May Porter. MSGS Executive Board meeting is Thursday evening at 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., Sheraton, 3rd floor. More details on pages 1, 2, & 7.
- September 21, 2002 **NO PAF Meeting**--please attend the conference.
- September 24, 2002 **NO regular YGF Meeting.**
- October 12, 2002 **Genealogy Classes** for advanced beginners, 4 Saturdays, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Wicks LDS Church. Call Jason Herman at 256-3526 for info. Watch for announcements.
- October 22, 2002 6:30 p.m. Social, 7:00 p.m. Regular YGF meeting at LDS Church, 6th Street West and Ave. D, Cultural Hall. Program: Donald Clarin on "Researching Swedish Ancestors in Sweden".