

NEWSLETTER FOR THE YELLOWSTONE GENEALOGY FORUM BILLINGS, MT JULY 2007

ALL ROADS LEAD TO BILLINGS FOR OCTOBER CONFERENCE

About every five years the Montana State Genealogy Conference is held in Billings. Dr. John Philip Colletta charmed us in 2002. Big plans are underway for the October 5 & 6, 2007 Conference to be held at the Holiday Inn Grand, 5500 Midland Road.

There are 18 sessions being presented to inform, enthrall and stimulate you in the quest for family history. In many cases you'll have 3 classes to choose from each time period.

The YGF Conference planners have done a fine juggling act to put together an outstanding conference. National Level Vendors will have genealogical materials to display and sell. The state will sponsor its usual BOOK FROLIC sale of surplus books, periodicals and genealogical items via silent auction.

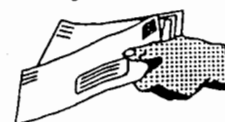
This year the meals are priced separately so attendees can choose any of the two luncheons and banquet they want. Often spouses or guests wish to attend the banquet

for special activities. Since Billings celebrates it's 125th anniversary this year, and the Forum celebrates its 30th birthday, we encourage those attending the banquet to come in costume. A person can choose any time in the last 125 years which should give us a taste of visual history and fun.

The cost of the conference is \$79.00 which includes all classes and all 3 meals. This has been difficult to do what with so many variables and price changes. Most people want to be in the building to browse the displays and visit with friends if they have any free time. The entire package is a wonderful buy but you can choose parts if that's your choice.

An Optional Bus Tour, "Cemetery Rituals and Customs of Yesteryear", will be held Thursday afternoon, October 4 for those arriving early. The Tour will visit several Billings Cemeteries for an additional \$20.00 fee.

The Registration packets will be sent out in late July. Watch your mailbox for further details.



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

Is the weather hot enough for you? October and State Conference will be here soon. Several of the committees have been very active planning the banquet and making decorations. Others are collecting door prizes and items for tote bags.

Our members are invited to wear "costumes" to the banquet. Is there a favorite Billings personality that you would like to impersonate? Remember - our history spans 125 years so you have many eras from which to choose - pioneers, bobby soxers, nurses with white caps, Ollie Warren, Willard Fraser. Let's have some fun!

Your help will be needed October 4th through 6th. The Forum will be selling cemetery books, school census CD's, obituary CD's, and calendars. Someone will need to be at our sale table at all times during conference. There is the "book frolic". It's a good way to acquire genealogy books for your home library while having the fun of a silent auction. Other members will be needed at the registration table, taking tickets for meals, and acting as hosts and hostesses.

The Montana State Genealogy Society Conference is held in our city only once every 5 or 6 years. This is a great opportunity for everyone in our club to hear national speakers and to meet genealogists from around the state. When you receive an e-mail titled "Genealogy", be sure to open it. It is probably from Verba or Shawna offering you a great opportunity to be a part of this state conference.

Enjoy the rest of the summer,
P. J. Smith
President

xxx

CALENDAR FOR SALE

YGF has been hard at work producing our own 15-month calendar (October 2007 - December 2008) commemorating the 125th Anniversary of Billings from a genealogical

perspective. Months focus on early families of Billings, complete with pictures, brief histories of the families, and pedigree charts. It also mentions important "happenings" in Billings through the years and Genealogy "To-Do" ideas. It is a full sized calendar, ready to hang. They will be for sale at the conference for \$10.00. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the families that built Billings!

xxx

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Shawna Valentine

Don't wait until the last minute -- YGF Dues are due September 1st (which is actually only a little more than a month away)! Please look at the first line of the mailing label of this issue to verify when your membership expires. If it reads 9/1/2007, only \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a family renews your membership for another year. Donations of any amount may also be made to the YGF Book Fund to purchase extra books and periodicals for the Gen-Room, to the Library Fund to cover all other needs of our Gen-Room, and/or to the Stern-NARA Gift Fund which makes more National Archive documents available to everyone. Checks should be made payable to YGF and mailed to: Shawna Valentine, 3420 Granger So., # 20, Billings MT 59102. I will also be available at the meetings to collect.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Welcome to our New Members:

Charles Stevens 1203 S. Fairview Rd. Columbia
MO 65203 573-445-6091

Dr. Virginia A. Young 629 NE Lake Pointe Dr.
Lees Summit MO 64064

Change in email address: Gayle Ottman
osunrunner@msn.com

xxx

The Search for Our Ancestors Takes Us Down Many Different Paths ...



Montana State Genealogical Society
18th Annual Conference
Billings, Montana October 5 & 6, 2007

Make Plans Now to Make
Billings One of Them

October 5 & 6, 2007
Billings Holiday Inn Grand Montana

Choose from 18 Sessions for Beginner thru Experienced:

Through the Looking Glass: Making Sense of Digital Genealogy
Turning Internet Databases Into Real Sources
Tracing Those Who Lived in Cities (Big & Small)
The Story Behind the Bozeman Trail
Treasures Within Academic Archives
Migration Patterns Into The Central States
Researching at the BLM
What NARA Offers Genealogists
How to Turn a Clue Into A Usable Source

Timelines: Placing Your Heritage in Historical Perspective
Tracing Native American Ancestors
Beginning At A Black Oak (A Lesson in Platting)
Spinsters & Widows: Studying Females
Yellowstone County Clerk & Recorder and Coroner
Clerk & Recorder Records for Wheatland County
Tracing Scots-Irish Pedigrees
Tech Talk with Cleve Kimmel
Finding the Story in Your Ancestors' Lives

National-Level Vendors for Quality Genealogical Materials

Celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the founding of Billings at the Banquet Friday Evening! History is the theme as we revisit pieces of our past. We welcome you to join us in costume from any era of our history – from the Pioneer Days of 1882 to the Present Day (and any time in between!). For those of you who don't like costumes, don't worry – present day dress is fine!

All this and more for only \$42.50 for the sessions or \$79.00 for the sessions and all 3 meals!

Optional Bus Tour of Boothill, Calvary, Beth Aaron & Mountview Cemeteries on Thursday afternoon, October 4th (\$20.00 additional fee)

Watch your mailbox for complete details and registration packet. Early return of registration forms is appreciated to guarantee we will be able to accommodate everyone.

BANQUET REPORT

In addition to the wonderful learning opportunities provided at the conference, we also have will have time to socialize and be entertained at the Banquet starting at 6:30 on Friday evening, October 5th. We have two reasons to celebrate this year -- the 30th Anniversary of YGF and the 125th Anniversary of Billings. This history is our theme and we welcome guests to dress in costume from any era of the history of Billings -- from the pioneer days of 1882 to present day and anywhere in between. Note this means that even today's attire fits into the description, so don't fret if you hate costumes! The committee is having fun creating the table decorations which depict events, industries, buildings, etc. from our city's past. We also have professional entertainment planned along this theme! Jake Whittenberg, News Anchor, along with archivist Kyle Kickoff from Q2 News, will share priceless vintage footage and stories from the historic news items that are stored in KTVQ's "vault". The menu offers two choices: Apple & Almond Chicken (Chicken Breast stuffed with Celery Sage Dressing & Red Apples, then topped with demi-glace and sprinkled with toasted almonds) or Pork Medallions (Medallions of Pork, slow roasted and topped with a creamy Bearnaise sauce. Both are served with Chef's Dinner Salad, Parsley Butter Red Potatoes and YGF 30th Anniversary Cake for only \$18.50 per plate. Spouses and friends are all welcome to attend the banquet, even if they haven't registered for any of the Conference Sessions. You just need to make reservations for them on your registration form. Please note--the deadline to be able to enjoy all the events planned for the banquet is Monday, SEPTEMBER 24th!! Unfortunately we will not be able to accommodate late requests. So--just one more reason to mail in your registration form as soon as it arrives!



CEMETERY TOUR

A special tour "Cemetery Rituals and Customs of Yesteryear" has been arranged for Thursday afternoon, October 4th from 3-6 pm. The first half of the tour buses participants to three Billings Cemeteries: Boothill, Calvary and Beth Aaron. Your guide will share information on Victorian mourning customs, funerary customs, headstone typology and symbols, and tidbits on who is buried in each cemetery. The second half of the tour is walking in Mountview Cemetery and discovering symbols on headstones. Be introduced to the famous and unusual people's grave site and stories such as Henry Frith, the first settler to what is now Yellowstone County; Jean McCormick, who claimed to be the daughter of Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickock; P.B. Moss, who built the Moss mansion for his family; I.D. O'Donnell, who was instrumental in bringing the sugar beet factory and the "Big Ditch" to the area; Sheriff James T. Webb, who was murdered in 1908, and the Chinese section. Included in the tour cost of only \$20.00 is material on headstone symbols. Reserve your seat on the conference registration form by September 24th!

xxx

OBITUARY CD FOR SALE

A new item for sale at our upcoming conference will be an Obituary CD. Because the Gen-Room at Parmly Billings Library is running out of space, YGF began making an obituary data base rather than collecting obituaries on 4 X 6" cards. We started in January 2005 and have continued since. The fields recorded are: surname, first name, maiden name, age, page number and date printed in the *Billings Gazette*. This new CD will contain obituaries of 2005, 2006 and 2007 through August 2007. This could prove to be an excellent finding tool. The CD will sell for \$10 and be available at the conference.

xxx

LATEST PERIODICALS FOR THE GEN-ROOM

April 2007 - July 2007

Athna May Porter 259-2552

or e-mail porter@usadig.com

Ancestry - May/Jun 007 - Finding Clues at Home; Going Home Again; Finding Histories of Houses; Meaning Behind Medals; Military Uniforms Descriptions; Tips on making Home Movies; Timeline of different modes of transportation & when they began. Jul/Aug 2007 - 8 Events that Changed History; Virtual Family Reunions; Heritage Travel - Following your Ancestors Footsteps; Bits of History on baseball & the teams.

Everton's Genealogical Helper - May/Jun 2007 - Was your Ancestor a Rich, Poor or Beggar man?; Statewide Name Lists of the Civil War Era 1861-69 IN - MD; 19 German Pamphlets to aid in German Research; Passenger Lists Online; U.S. Digital Document Gen Sites; Directory of Societies NB - SD; Jul/Aug 2007 - Migration via the Gt. Lakes Waterways; Statewide Name Lists of the Civil War Era 1861-69 LA - MI; German Research; Naturalization Made Easy; Cemetery Gen Sites; Podcasting; Directory of Societies TN - WV.

Family Chronicle - Jun 2007 - Telling the Tale of Your Ancestor Using "Other" Info; Causes of Death - Old Terms; Erie Canal Info; Occupation as a Commission Merchant; 40 Websites; French Canadian Research; Genealogical Proof Standard; Old UK Maps Online; August 2007 - Latest on FamilySearch.org; Celebrate Birthdays in Style; Loyalists During the Rev.; 10 Myths of Eastern Europe; Dealing with Damaged or Missing Courthouse Records; Signatures; Writing the Migration Story; Surname Distributin Maps Online; Collateral Lines.

Family Tree Magazine - July 2007 - Civil War Research; Passenger Lists Before 1820; Divorce Records; NM & ME Research Guides; Jamestown, VA; Reunions; Following Their Footsteps in Historical Travel; Translations Services; Sept 2007 Steamships; 101 Websites; Archiving Family Keepsakes; WA & IN Research Guides; 21 Needed Tools to Research; History of 9 Research Tools; Researching in 5 European Countries; Safe Keeping Dolls; Guide to Buying an All-in-One printer to use with your research.

Forum - FGS Society Quarterly - Spring 2007 What's in a Name; 1860 Census - Finding their Residence; Historical Films Online; Nazi-Era Documents to be released; MP3 players at Conferences, etc.

Germans from Russia Historical Society - **Heritage Review & GRHS Newsletter Now Combined** - June 2007 - DNA Research of Germans from Russia; Fellowship of the (Sausage) Ring; Trip to Ukraine & Crimea; Farm & Village Life; Bio of Daniel Netz; Homestead Records.

History Magazine - May 2007 - The 1780's; Murder of Dr. John White Webster; Blockade Running on the High seas; Bread; Violent Storms; Panama Canal; New France; May Day Vs. Labor Day; Frozen Foods; Songsters of Medieval Europe; July 2007 - Last Quarter of 14th Century; Life in US During 1800's; Russian Social Experiment Gone Wrong; Split Tally Sticks; Vaudeville 1880-1920; Defiant Flag Waver; Cryptography; Britian & France & the Napoleonic Wars; Expansion of US; Collars & Cuffs That Popped Off.

Internet Genealogy - July 2007 - Jewish Genealogy; FamilySearch.org Labs; Irish Case Study; Rushville, Nebraska; Veteran Nationwide Gravesite Locator; 10 Tips for your Family Home Page; www.HistoryKat.com \$24.95; Beyond the Basics of www.FamilySearch.com; British Records Online; Writing Letters Overseas; Web2.0 Social Networking; Google Alerts.

Journal of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia - Spring 2007 Survival During WWII; German Colony Karras in The North Caucasus; The Saratov Archives; DNA & Volga German Families; History of Tyumen, Russia **American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Newsletter** Spring & April 2007.

National Genealogical Society Quarterly - Mar 2007 - Young/Morgan Family of VA; Green Family of Canada; Bruncker Family of Ireland; Johnsson Family in Sweden; Pierpoint Family of Baltimore; Death Duty Registers for English & Welsh Research; OH & MS River Boat Lists; Fritz Family Bible; Newton's Book of Record; Parker Family Bible; June 2007 - John Bush, Master Horn Carver of MA; Bradberry Family of VA, TN & AK; West Family of PA, NY & NJ; Burgess & Perry Family in MA; Cornelius McDermott Roe Indentured Servant to Geo. Washington; Hill Family of Eng & Wales.

NGS Newsmagazine - Apr/May/June 2007 - Researching the VA Peninsula; Genealogy Standard of Proof; Colonial Coast Trade & Traffic; 20th Century Vessel Crew Lists; Different Research Methods; Good Research Methods; Preparing Lineage Society Applications; Searching for Babe Ruth; Naming/Tagging your computer files correctly; Assessing Oral History.

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New England ancestors - Spring 2007 -
 MA's Civil War German Mercenaries;
 Neumann Family in Boston; Germans in New
 England; Kruger Family of NH; John
 Nason's Civil War Pension Paper Trail;
 Mayflower Chiltons in Canterbury 1556-
 1600; New England African American Online
 Sources; Rev. Thomas Carter Dna Project;
 Wright & Ames Bibles; Summer 2007 - Guide
to Research VT; Kendall Family in VT;
 Popham Colony - 1st English Colony in New
 England; Immigrant Samuel Morse;
 Independence Day Accident at Ft.
 Constitution NH; Resister Style Writing;
 New England African American Resources;
 Computer as a Research Assistant; Buck
 Family of MA; www.inthefirstperson.com.
New England Historical & Gen. Register
Apr 2007 - Eliot Family of Nazeing Eng &
MA; Toppan Family of Eng & MA; Staple
Family of MA; Burton Family of RI; Coye
Family of CT & ME; Norris Family Returns
to Ireland; Bakers & Huntington's of CT;
Peirce Family of MA; Wallis Family of MA;
Farmer, Pollard, & Greene Families of MA.
Daughters of American Revolution American
Spirit - Owned by Parmly
 Three family newsletters:
Bunnell / Bonnell Newsletter
Gest - Guest Quarterly
The Chandler Family Association
Newsletter

xxx



**YELLOWSTONE GENEALOGY FORUM
 WELCOMES A KEYNOTE SPEAKER TO
 BILLINGS ON AUGUST 28TH!**

Pat Roberts from Boulder, Colorado will be presenting the August program for YGF on August 28th at 7 p.m. at the LDS Church on 6th St. West and Ave D. She will be speaking about Writing a Family History Your Relatives Will Read which will be both, very educational and entertaining.

The class will teach us how to write three-dimensional stories with emotion, intelligence and impact. Vignettes, episodes, and slices of reality are the building blocks and the primary distinguishing factor between good, evocative writing and ordinary prose. A creative writer will show a subject, place or personality in action. In this lecture Pat will Discuss ways of ordering and controlling your
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narrative so that the elements of your book are presented in interesting and orderly fashion while maintaining the integrity of your research from beginning to end.

Pat began researching her family history in 1973 when her husband challenged her to prove his family tradition of being descended from a Signer of the Declaration of Independence - it was true. Of course her side of the family deserved equal time and thus far she has proven a soldier who served with **Washington at Valley Forge, a Salem Witch, and more than one black sheep.**

In addition to a busy lecture schedule, Pat is currently the President of the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies, Program Chair for the Colorado Genealogical Society and the Education Chair for the Boulder CO Genealogical Society. She is also a volunteer researcher for the Denver Public Library's Western History/Genealogy Department and teaches a monthly "introduction to genealogy" class for the Boulder Public Library.

Yellowstone Genealogy Forum encourages everyone to mark their calendars so as not to miss out in welcoming Pat to **Billings and to attend this very informative program on August 28th.** See you there!

xxx

DONATIONS BEYOND YOUR DUES

A number of our members donate to the one or more of the optional funds in addition to paying their dues. They are all good causes. I just asked our Treasurer what the totals for the past year were and I think you might find it interesting.

Book Fund	\$128.32
Stern-NARA Gift Fund	\$83.34 (recently sent off to them)
Gen-Room Library Fund	\$93.34

THANKS so much, folks!

xxx

Friendships are the best books in the library of life.

CHANGES COMING?

There may be a revolution coming to researching family history in the future.

Most of us are aware that the LDS Church is digitizing their records in its own Granite Vault. Indexing them is in progress and many volunteers will need to spend many hours doing that so people will know where to locate the records they want.

At our May 19, 2007 PAF meeting Richard Davis presented a program on what's happening as technology digitizes the entire collection of more than 2.3 million rolls of microfilm. (This is estimated as taking 6 years.) The old Family Search will be kept and a 2nd site will begin called, "New Family Search" (NFS). After a couple of years of testing using LDS member records to get all the "bugs" out, this new system will become available to others. You can choose to put your data on-line and it can be seen near and far. Living persons' records will be excised. To get ready you'll need to scan your documents and put them in Resources in your PAF program and do other clean-up duties. When fully functional, any researcher will be able to pull up your document and see what your doc-

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ument says. It could be a way of finding a very obscure source and solving many brick wall problems.

I know times are going digital but I'll have to think about this. Going back and scanning 40 years worth of documents sounds like a big order for me. I think it behooves us all to learn all we can about how these services will come about.

Most of you are probably aware that Ancestry.com severed its ties to the LDS Church as of April 1, 2007 so is no longer available at the Branch Libraries. Individual memberships are available. I predict other data bases will become available.

Sincerely, Your Editor

References: Big Sky PAF User's Group, May 2007 handout.

BeaverHead Hunters, Dillon, MT, June 2007 issue pp. 5,6. "80 Billion Family Files Go Online".

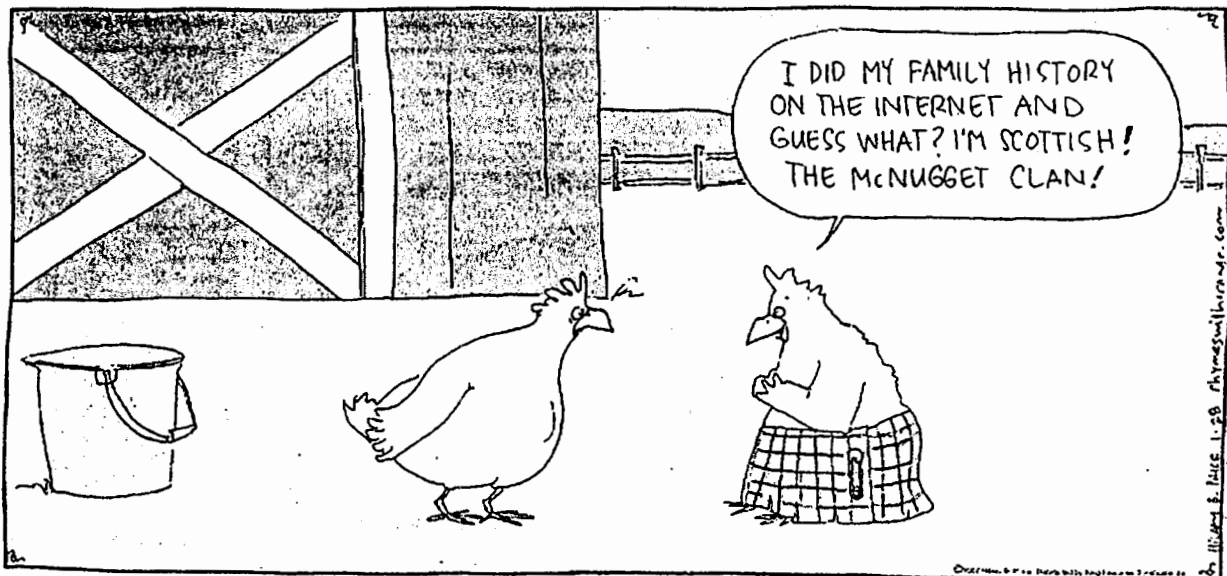
xxx

LIBRARY

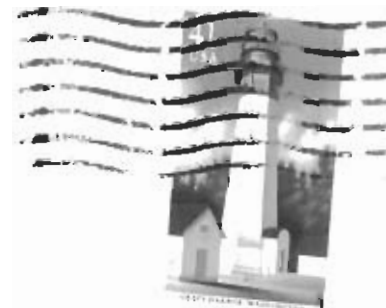
by Ellen Cushing

There were no new purchases or donations to report.

RHYMES WITH ORANGE By Hilary B. Price



YELLOWSTONE GENEALOGY FORUM
c/o Parmly Billings Library
510 North Broadway
Billings, Montana 59101



FIRST CLASS MAIL



Address Correction Requested

Dues Expire: 9/1/2007
Cleve & Adonna Kimmel
5915 S Ridge Rd
Billings MT 59101-9360

591019360 HD36



GEN-BUG NEWS

Coming Events

July 24, 2007 Family Picnic has been changed to ICE CREAM SOCIAL WITH DESSERTS at 6:30 pm, LDS Church, 6th St. West and Ave. D, Cultural Hall. 2 Part Program: "New Family Search" by Richard Davis, "Digital Photos—Will They Last?" by Sydney Gabel.

August 28, 2007 6:30 social, 7:00 pm Regular YGF meeting at LDS Church, 6th St. West and Ave. D, Cultural Hall. Program: Specialist, PAT ROBERTS, from BOULDER, COLORADO on "Writing A Family History Your Relatives Will Read". See her biography inside for more details.

September 15, 2007 Montana Big Sky PAF User's Group. 10 to 12 noon, LDS Church, 6th St. West and Ave. D. Meeting resumes fall schedule. Program to be announced.

September 25, 2007 6:30 social, 7:00 pm Regular YGF meeting at LDS Church, 6th St. West and Ave. D, Cultural Hall. Program: "DNA Testing and Inherited Diseases" by Susan C. Landgren.

October 5 & 6, 2007 Montana State Genealogical Society's Annual Conference, BILLINGS, MONTANA. Theme: "THE SEARCH FOR OUR ANCESTORS TAKES US DOWN MANY DIFFERENT PATHS". See details inside. Contacts: Verba Valentine at 652-6132 or 656-9840 or Shawna Valentine at smv2222@bresnan.net

October 23, 2007 6:30 social, 7:00 pm Regular YGF meeting at LDS Church, 6th St. West and Ave. D, Cultural Hall. Get Ready for Halloween. Program to be announced.