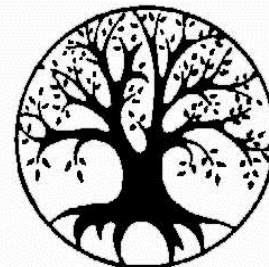
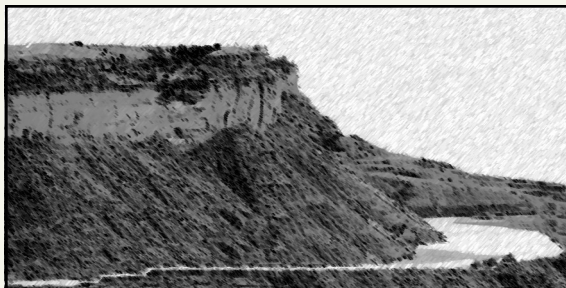


# YELLOWSTONE GENEALOGY FORUM



## News from the President

The Forum has met at the LDS Church for several years. Some of you may remember when we met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the library, when we could get on the calendar, and other locations when we couldn't. Through Bob Ereksen, we began meeting at the church. Bob, and Louise, was always there with the key, ready to unlock the door, turn up the heat, and set up chairs and tables. Sadly, Bob left this earth on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to member Linda Davis, and Bishop Wells and President Zaugg of the church, we will continue to meet in the Cultural Hall.

"Ancestry" is back at the Family History Center. I don't know the details but the website is available again at the FHC. If you have not used this source, now is your chance to use it for free. It is a great resource.

Judy Cohen has lined up some wonderful programs for the Forum. Wouldn't you like to share them with a friend? Invite someone to attend a meeting with you.

P. J. Smith  
President  
406-669-3139

## Five Steps to Organizing Your Research

By Patricia Law Hatcher, FASG 02 October 2003

This is not about organizing what you've already found. It's about organizing what you are going to do.

### What's Your Problem?

In genealogy we have many problems, too many to work on all at once. We are most likely to find solutions if we focus on a single problem and stick with it until we reach a conclusion, either by finding the solution or by admitting that we can't do any more on it right now.

Be specific and keep a narrow focus. Instead of, "Who was the wife of Samuel Smith?" consider the problem statement, "Did Samuel Smith's wife come from a neighboring family in Scott County?"

Put your problem statement in writing and post it near your work area. Make another copy to stick in your library bag. Use these as reminders to keep you from straying onto other problems.

More to follow in the newsletters

## Membership Report

Since the YGF Membership Roster was sent in January, there have been a couple of changes. If you have any updates throughout the year, please let me know at [smv2222@bresnan.net](mailto:smv2222@bresnan.net). I strive to keep our membership roster up to date, but it is very difficult if you move or change phone or email addresses and don't let me know.

### Changes to Phone Numbers:

Hentz, Bonnie	698-5474
Watterson, Helen	869-9553

I would also like to welcome a new member:

Janet Brenneman 4067 Woodcreek Drive, Billings MT 59106  
Phone: 303-358-8775 [jabrenneman@msn.com](mailto:jabrenneman@msn.com)

Also, if you would prefer to receive a link to the GenBug through e-mail, please let me know. The copy is in pdf format and is just as clear as the printed version sent through the US Post Office.

## Ontario's History Goes Online

Saturday, March 12th, 2011

Owen Ketcheson of Centre Hastings township, Ontario, has more than 500 documents, including photographs from the 19th century, handwritten notes scribbled by his forebears and century-old wedding invitations. Now, thanks to Knowledge Ontario's Community Digitization Project, or CDP, anybody from anywhere in the world is able to browse Ketcheson's extensive historical archive, as long as they have an Internet connection. That's because he submitted it to be scanned and uploaded online at the Tweed Public Library, an institution selected to participate in the program.

The CDP is the result of a \$15-million grant from the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture to the Southern Ontario Library Services and Ontario Library Services North. The project began in August 2009 after Our Ontario, the section of Knowledge Ontario that's running the program, chose to work with 30 public libraries and 20 other community organizations from across the province, said Our Ontario project co-coordinator Jess Posgate. The organization then sent digitization experts to guide the various institutions in their efforts to make their historical archives available online.

You can read more in an article by Alex Ballingall in the Ottawa Citizen at <http://goo.gl/UebXT>

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## USING A RESEARCH LOG

BY KIMBERLY BROWN, FAMILY HISTORIAN

Good family history researchers know that there is no habit more valuable than keeping a good research log. A research log helps you keep track of what sources you have searched, which individuals you searched for, the results of your searches, and when you conducted the said searches.

If you're like most of us, you squeeze genealogy in around all the other demands on your time. You may fit in a half hour of research here and there; sometimes you may put down a project not to take it up again until six months later. Six months from now, or even a week from now, you won't remember exactly which sources and for which years you've searched. That is why a research log is so invaluable. Nothing is worse than wasting your time duplicating searches that you've already done just because you can't quite remember what you've searched already and what you haven't. But if you keep a good research log, you can go back to a project after not working on it for months and pick up right where you left off.

How do you keep a good research log? It doesn't matter if you make an Excel spreadsheet or write it out with pen and paper. There are, however, a few elements that all good research logs have in common:

- The source you searched. Don't just put "1820 census"; it's too vague. Record the specifics of the source you searched, and what years you searched. For example: "Hardy County, West Virginia, Personal Property Tax Records, Years 1807 to 1819, on Family History Library US/Canada Microfilm 250005."
  - What information you searched for. Did you search Orange County marriage records just looking for your grandmother's name? Or did you also look for the marriage record of her sister while you were searching? Did you search for your grandmother under her given name, Sarah? Or did you also search for Sally, which is a common nickname for Sarah? Keep track of these kinds of details so that in the future you'll know if you need to go back and search records again.
  - Results. If you found what you were looking for, record it. If you didn't find what you were looking for, record that. Recording "nil" searches is just as important as recording the documents you did find, because doing so will save you from unnecessarily searching the same records again looking for ancestors that aren't there. If you do find what you're looking for, the best thing to do is to photocopy or print the document, label what it is and where it came from, and also label it with a document number. Then record that document number in your research log. Your research log can then serve as a table of contents for your documents.
  - Date. It's important to keep track of when you performed searches. That way, if you make a momentous discovery about an ancestor - that he was married to a different woman than you originally thought, for instance-you can go back through your research logs and see which searches need to be re-done to take this new information into account.

Making a detailed research log may seem like a lot of work - and it is. But keeping a good log will save you a lot of hassle, and it will actually save you a lot of time in the end.

Judy Cohen found this article and was kind enough to share it with us for the GenBug.

## Obit Project Report:

Thanks to the help of nine volunteers, the sixth year of the index of the obits that were published in the Billings Gazette is now complete. Each listing lists the page the obit was found on, the last & first name of the deceased, and their age and maiden name if that information was included. 2010 contains 4,296 listings.

The YGF Board has decided to compile the index in 5-year intervals. Consequently, 2010 will begin our second 5-year period. The first one contains the 23,033 names published from January 2005 to December 2009. Both files are posted on the Gen Room Computer. They are in alphabetical order and are fully searchable.

**I'd like to take this opportunity to give recognition to the volunteers for 2010.**

**Sandra Steele DeFord** - January

**Sue Keene** - February & May

**Ellen Booth** - March & October

**Sally Kisling** - April

**Anita Smith** - June & September

**Donna Sweeney** - July

**Loween Peterson** - August

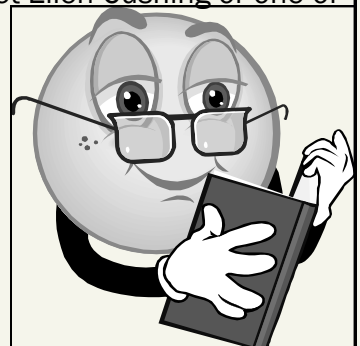
**Pat McRae** - November

**Sharon Woolsky** - December

Shawna Valentine  
Obit Project Chairman

## GENROOM LIBRARY NEWS

Due to the librarian being out of town and not the many new books there will be a full report of the new books in the Gen Room in the next newsletter. As always if there is a book out there that is not in the GenRoom and you think it enough valuable research let Ellen Cushing or one of the board members know and we will see about getting it purchased for the collection in the GenRoom. Also keep your eye out at book sales, Garage sales and estate sales you just never know what you might find. just ask Judy Cohen she seems to find the best county history books for little or nothing. If there is a book you want to purchase for the GenRoom please talk to a board member first that way we will not duplicate efforts and we might be able to find it in a cheaper place so we don't use up our book fund money so fast.



# "GATHERING LOST LEAVES"

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Montana State  
Genealogical Conference

Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell Mt  
September 22, 23, 24, 2011

Our national speaker will be Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., Certified Genealogist and Certified Genealogical Lecturer from Virginia. Dr. Jones is among the top ten speakers in the nation and it will be a wonderful experience to have him present four lectures at our Kalispell conference. Tom retired from a thirty-year career in higher education and professor emeritus at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., His research has encompassed records of every state east of the Mississippi, as well as Iowa, Missouri, Texas, England, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, and Wales. He is most interested in solving "brick-wall" genealogical problems.



The topics will be "Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor", "Five Proven Techniques for finding Your Ancestor's European Origins", "Organizing Evidence to Overcome Record Shortages", and "How to Avoid Being Duped by the Internet".

We will also have a panel from the Montana State Historical Society. Other speakers are being signed at this time.

Mark your calendars and make your plans to attend.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

May 11, 2011	NGS Conference Charleston, SC	<a href="http://www.ngsgenealogy.org">www.ngsgenealogy.org</a>
May 13–15, 2011	Golden Anniversary Conference Hamilton, Ontario	<a href="http://www.ogs.on.ca">www.ogs.on.ca</a>
June 3–5, 2001	ROOTS 2011 An International Conference on Family History Research at Montreal, Quebec	<a href="http://www.qfhs.ca">www.qfhs.ca</a>
June 10–12, 2011	Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel	<a href="http://www.scsgsgenealogy.com">www.scsgsgenealogy.com</a>
June 18, 2011	Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies will hold its 37th Annual Convention, at Manhattan, KS	<a href="http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweg/kcgs/KCGS_2011-5.PDF">http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweg/kcgs/KCGS_2011-5.PDF</a>
July 14–15, 2011	15th Annual Angelina college Genealogy Conference Lufkin Texas	<a href="http://www.angelina.edu">www.angelina.edu</a>
July 31–Aug 7, 2011	American Historical Society of Germans From Russia Salt Lake City, UT	<a href="http://www.ahsgr.org">www.ahsgr.org</a>

## U.S. Version of Who Do You Think You Are? Season 1 on DVD



If you missed some of the episodes of last season's *Who Do You Think You Are?* (U.S. version), you can now purchase the entire series on DVD. Each episode features a different celebrity; season one's lineup consists of Sarah Jessica Parker, Emmitt Smith (NFL star), Lisa Kudrow (also one of the program's executive producers), Matthew Broderick (also Parker's husband), Brooke Shields, Susan Sarandon, and Spike Lee.

The series on DVD does not include advertisements. Therefore, what is listed as a 60-minute program actually runs in about 41 minutes. Also, one of the many complaints of the first season involve the pause before every commercial break when the story also stops dead in its tracks to run clips of what's coming up, followed by more clips of what you've just seen. Thankfully, that was corrected in Season 2. Another "problem" with Season 1 is that every shows begins with a long teaser for the entire season, followed by another teaser for the show you're about to watch. The result is about 20 minutes of original material in each episode.

You can learn more and also purchase *Who Do You Think You Are?: Season One* for \$27.99 at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

**NOTE:** Amazon prices seem to bounce up and down almost daily, so the price might be a bit higher or lower when you read these words.

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## NGS 2011 Family History Conference Commemorates the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War

The following announcement was written by the U.S. National Genealogical Society (NGS):

(7 March 2011) – The National Genealogical Society (NGS) selected Charleston, South Carolina, for its 2011 Family History Conference in part to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War which began with Confederate artillery firing upon Fort Sumter 12 April 1861. If a member of your family served for the Union or Confederate forces, the NGS 2011 Family History Conference will provide a number of lectures about researching Civil War records and learning more about the lives of your ancestors.

The four-day conference, 11-14 May 2011, will be held at the Charleston Area Convention Center, 5001 Coliseum Drive, North Charleston, SC 29418. More than seventy-five nationally recognized speakers will provide over one hundred and eighty lectures on a wide variety of topics including research in South Carolina and the surrounding states, migration patterns, ethnic research, religious records, research methodology, and problem solving. Lectures about Civil War research will include: records of the Confederate conscription office, life on the battlefields, the service of Native Americans and African Americans, the Southern Claims Commission, confederate pardon and amnesty records, prisoner of war records, Civil War pension records, facilities for disabled soldiers, and analysis of photographs from the war. Two lectures will also review many of the websites available for military research. The NGS banquet on Friday night will feature Stephen B. Bacon, Major USAF (retired), speaking on “Separating Fact from Myth: A Look at the US Civil War from Both Sides.”

For more details and a copy of the conference registration brochure visit <http://tinyurl.com/yjhn89>.

For more information about the Civil War in and around Charleston, the *Charleston Post and Courier* is running a series of articles each Sunday through April at <http://www.postandcourier.com/civilwar>.

An exhibit area with more than one hundred exhibitors will be open and free to the public Wednesday through Saturday and will include the latest in genealogical software, online research providers, and DNA testing services.

Founded in 1903, the National Genealogical Society is dedicated to genealogy education, high research standards, and the preservation of genealogical records. The Arlington, VA-based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian, seeking excellence in publications, educational offerings, research guidance, and opportunities to interact with other genealogists. Please visit the NGS Pressroom for further information.

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## Warning from the Ancestors: Do Not Build Any Homes Below This Point

A 600-year-old tombstone in Japan says: “High dwellings are the peace and harmony of our descendants. Remember the calamity of the great tsunamis. Do not build any homes below this point.” The descendants paid close attention. The dozen or so households of Aneyoshi, Japan, did not build below that point. As a result, their homes emerged untouched from the recent tsunami and flood while low-lying communities elsewhere along Japan’s northeastern shore suffered thousands of casualties.



Could many more have been saved had everyone paid attention to the advice of the ancestors?

Hundreds of such markers (warnings) dot the coastline. Some of them are more than 600 years old. If one looks at all of the markers collectively as a whole, one can make the argument they are not separate stones at all but an ancient early warning system for descendants in Japan.

You can read more in the Sun Valley Chronicle at <http://goo.gl/tFRuf>

## Will a Rural Cemetery Live On after its Longtime Caretaker is Gone?

Virginia’s many small family burial plots on private properties are increasingly endangered — including Rock Hill Cemetery in Loudoun County, Virginia. The state is trying to slow the trend by offering cemetery preservation workshops. It’s unclear what will happen to Rock Hill after its longtime caretaker, Vernon Peterson, retires or dies.

There are thousands of graveyards scattered across Virginia, many of them small family burial plots on private properties, according to preservationists and historians. Some date to the founding of Jamestown more than 400 years ago.

You can read the full article by J. Freedom du Lac in the Washington Post at <http://goo.gl/T1Y7F>



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[www.ancestry.rootsweb.com/~mtygf](http://www.ancestry.rootsweb.com/~mtygf)

Address Service Requested

YELLOWSTONE GENEALOGY FORUM  
C/O PARMLY BILLINGS LIBRARY  
510 NORTH BROADWAY  
BILLINGS, MT 59101

## 2010 - 2011 Programs & Events

January 26th	Popcorn and a Movie (A Celebration of Family History)
February 23rd	Murder Mystery and Potluck
March 23rd	Sons of Norway present researching in Norway
April 26th	Google Earth for Genealogy by Rick Davis
May 24th	Western Heritage Center by Joyce Jensen History Mystery that we helped to find obits on pioneers.
June 22nd	Ice Cream Social
July 27th	Grave Dowsing by Robert Larson
August 24th	
September 24th & 25th	MSGs State Convention, Kalispell, MT
September 28th	
October 26th	
November 23	
December 28th	No Meeting

Please remember, these are subject to change!