

VOLUME 38  
NUMBER 3  
DECEMBER 2021

# FADED GENES

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

HELENA, MONTANA

**FADED GENES  
IS PUBLISHED FOUR  
TIMES A YEAR;  
MARCH, JUNE,  
SEPTEMBER &  
DECEMBER  
BY THE  
LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Please direct all queries to: Queries Committee  
Chairperson P.O. Box 5313, Helena, MT  
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FADED GENES for publication are free. Non-  
member queries are charged \$10.00 new rate effective  
12/1/2019.

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& Clark County Genealogical Society, P.O.  
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a LSASE with the correspondence if you anticipate a  
response.

This publication is indexed in the PERiodical  
Source Index published by the Allen Public County  
Library Foundation. c/o Allen County  
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The advertising rate schedule for the FADED  
GENES is as follows:

1/8 page	3 1/2"x 2 1/2"	\$5.00
1/4 page	3 1/2"x 5"	\$9.00
1/2 page	3 1/2" x 10" or 7"x5"	\$16.00
Full page	7"x 10"	\$30.00

Please send appropriate copy to: Lewis &  
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Family History Center, Helena. 1610 East 6th  
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Church on west end toward the Capital.  
Telephone no. 406-443-0716

Lewis & Clark Public Library, Helena,  
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Sunday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm (Hours subject to  
change).

Montana Historical Society Research Center,  
Helena,  
Memorial Building, Roberts & 6th Avenue.  
Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Tuesday-Friday  
(except holidays).

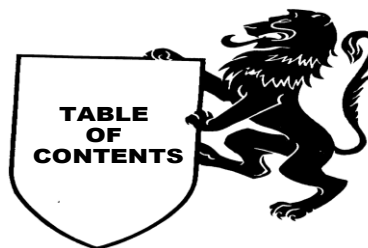
Montana State Library, Helena, 6th Avenue &  
Sanders. Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday-  
Friday (except holidays).

## **Suggestions?**

We are always glad to hear from you! What materials  
do you want included in the newsletter? Do you have  
any family stories you wish to publish? Any and all  
suggestions and additions for this newsletter are  
appreciated. Send your suggestions to the Editor or  
any of the Officers.

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## MEMBERSHIP

*Membership Dues are: \$16.00 per individual or \$21.00 per family. Dues are payable by February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Payment of dues prior to the third quarterly newsletter will ensure you copies of all current year newsletters. Organization subscription with no exchange is \$10.00 per year. Due to limited space the Society cannot accept newsletters with other societies but we are willing to still provide you our copy at no charge.*

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## MEETINGS

*Society General meetings are generally held the second Wednesday of each month at Covenant United Methodist Church, 2330 E. Broadway at 7pm. Members can also join by Zoom at this time.*

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Lewis & Clark County Genealogical Society  
email address: [lccgen1@gmail.com](mailto:lccgen1@gmail.com)

**You may contact any officer through this address or if you have any research needs for Helena and the local area.**

**You may also see more information about our society at our NEW website: [www.lccgsmt.org](http://www.lccgsmt.org)**

**Follow us on FACEBOOK - Lewis & Clark County Genealogy Society**

**Montana State Genealogical Society (MSGs)  
Website: [montanamsgs.org](http://montanamsgs.org)**

**MSGs Library Catalog:  
[mymontanalibrary.com](http://mymontanalibrary.com)**

## President Message

We've just finished Thanksgiving and are now rushing towards the Christmas holidays! Time goes by too quickly!

I'm wondering how many of you are preparing a genealogy gift for family members. I know that in the past some have made birthday calendars that included photos of family members. Others have written short family stories to share. What other ideas do you have or have you done? I hope to finish a short biography of my grandfather to share with my siblings, children, grandchildren and nieces. If I could only set aside 4 uninterrupted days! In the mean time I seem to be jumping all over my family tree. Through Ancestry I found a set of photos that were attached to my great grandfather that were of the family farm back in Ireland. I was shocked to see that one of them is almost exactly like a photo I was sent by my dad's cousin in the 1970's! I contacted the contributor who turns out to be a 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin once removed, and we are now emailing one another.

Last week was my first time working as genealogy librarian. The first thing I did was set up the genealogy library's laptop computer. While I waited for a patron to stop by, I explored **newsbank.com** and **Chronicling America**, both icons on the desk top which I had never used. I discovered that newsbank.com has more recent news articles whereas Chronicling American has newspaper articles back into the 1800's! All I had to do was enter a family name, a state and a range of dates & up popped anywhere from 6 articles to over 80! I didn't have any patrons stop in & yet those 2 hours flew by! I was happy to discover that I could email the articles I wanted to keep, to my home computer. But a word of warning, you need to cite the source (name of paper, city/town & date) as it doesn't print along with the article.

Elections will be coming up in the New Year. The present officers have all agreed to run again; however, we are going to need one new board member. Elizabeth Guevin has volunteered to head the Nominations Committee. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Elizabeth at [lizaguevin@outlook.com](mailto:lizaguevin@outlook.com).

We are also going to need several Saturday librarians beginning in January. Please consider giving 2 hours of your time once a month to our genealogy library.

I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a spectacular New Year!

Mary Pitch

## Calendar of Events

Future Programs of the LCCGS and other important dates to note. Some of the programs are tentative so wait for the Calling Committee notification. If you have an Email address, please give it to Mary Pitch and she will send you a meeting reminder electronically. This should help in speeding up the calling process.

At this time we are going to start meeting back at the Covenant United Methodist Church, with some COVID rules being followed.

We need input from all members as to what kind of future events your society should be having for their monthly meetings. Without your help, our Society cannot grow or continue to provide wonderful meetings.

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### **MT DEATH INDEX CD - UPDATE-2008-2012**

The Montana State Genealogical Society has created a 3rd Montana State Death Index CD that covers deaths in the State from 2008 to 2012. This update is available for a price of \$10. The 2nd CD for years 2003-2007 is still available for \$10. This will be a great addition to the original CD, which covers all the deaths reported to the State from the 1800s through 2002. Most of the records give the person's age and the county where they died. The data is in Microsoft ACCESS format in 10 year searchable increments if you don't know exact information. Included on the CD is a current list of Montana Counties, their numbers, and addresses. There is a helpful "read-me" file that explains some of the intricacies of the database. The original CD is still being offered for \$20.00, which includes postage and handling. Send your order to MSGS, PO Box 5313, Helena, MT 59604.

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The LCCGS library within the Lewis & Clark County Library is now open but we are still working on new procedures for our librarians. Since our books are part of the main library, they are accessible even when no librarian is there to help. Come in and see the new location.

# Library Report

## Using Chronicling America website

- <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> free and can be used from home
- Click on **Advanced Search** tab
- Choose your State, click on it
- I leave the newspaper to all, as one never knows where news was picked up
- Leave date range (more is better when searching)
- Go to bottom box that says .... **with the words**
  - Put in your relatives first and last name
  - Leave it within 5 words of each other
  - Click **Search** in bottom right hand side.
- Or if you know that your relative was in a certain article
  - You can put in **last name** and a **keyword** that may appear at the same time
  - Example: Smith and military
  - Change to within 10 or 20 words and it will bring up articles
- Once the results are there, I like to **sort by:** (right above the results)
  - **Date** this puts the oldest first
    - **Relevance** is what they think is most important

Remember to always note the paper name and date when printing an article.

## Snipping Tool (or Snip & Sketch)

Most computers have this tool so that you can snip part of an article or a piece from a website. I like to just clip the individual article about my relative rather than print the whole page.

- In the windows search box at the bottom left hand side of your computer, put in Snip
- It will bring up the Snipping tool, or the new Snip and Sketch
- Click on **New**
- It will let you **Draw a box around your article** (I make mine a little larger to get all)
- Then you can save it, or copy and paste it in an email to yourself if working at library.

I have a new computer and when I click on "new" it comes up with a black screen. If anyone can solve this for me, let me know.

Karen Huck  
Librarian

I just finished listening to this book on audible (also available in hardback) and had to let everyone know about it. It is called **The Lost Family: How DNA Testing Is Upending Who We Are - written by Libby Copeland**. It goes into the history of DNA testing, its ramifications on people who take the tests while following several people who have gone through this process to find family. It can be a little technical at times but it was very interesting to listen to. Whether you have or have not taken a DNA test it brings to light some of the social issues that may impact your results. It was published in 2020 so very current. Your editor Terry Atwood.

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I recently found some new DNA shows through my streaming programs. One is similar to U.S. version of CeCe Moore's *The Genetic Detective* that came out in 2020. It is called *Bloodline Detectives* but mostly includes crimes from England and emphasizes more of the police work and I believe is currently in its second season. There is also a version of *Finding Your Roots* and *Who do you think you are?* out of New Zealand called *DNA Detectives* which has a couple of short seasons. Its emphasis is in actually meeting distant cousins with maybe a little more historical information. I enjoyed listening to them even when they are not U.S. related. Your editor Terry Atwood.

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### **Ancestral Mathematics**

In order to be born, you needed:

2 parents  
4 grandparents  
8 great-grandparents  
16 second great-grandparents  
32 third great-grandparents  
64 fourth great-grandparents  
128 fifth great-grandparents  
256 sixth great-grandparents  
512 seventh great-grandparents  
1,024 eighth great-grandparents  
2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Think for a moment – How many struggles? How many battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness? How much happiness? How many love stories? How many expressions of hope for the future? – did your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present moment... (source unknown)

Thanks to Elizabeth Guevin for providing this article

### **Honoring your Veteran's grave this holiday season**

Each year, hundreds of thousands of people visit the graves of their loved-ones interred at VA National Cemeteries. These special trips often occur around the holidays, but due to COVID-19 safety concerns many are unable to make the trip this year.

But just because you can't be there in person doesn't mean your Veteran is forgotten.

"In the military we often say 'No one is left behind,' and at the National Cemetery Administration we have a saying that 'No Veteran ever dies' as long as we honor their legacy," said Danny Devine, executive director of the National Cemetery Administration's Office of Engagement and Memorial Innovations.

There are still ways to honor your Veteran despite not being able to travel.

Find someone local to visit your loved one's grave. Post in or search the comments below to find Veteran supporters who are local and can visit your Veteran without major travel.

- If you are looking for someone to visit your Veteran type LOOKING and the cemetery such as - LOOKING Florida National Cemetery.
  - Consider sharing some details about your Veteran with a volunteer visitor so they can honor his or her service.
- If you are offering to visit a grave type VISITING and the cemetery such as – VISITING Florida National Cemetery.
  - Consider taking a picture and sending it to the Veteran family member or loved one who requested the visit.

Not sure where your Veteran is buried or interred? Use NCA's Nationwide Gravesite Locator at: <https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/>

If you can't visit or can't find someone to visit your Veteran this year, consider using the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) online platform. VLM extends memorialization of the 3.7 million Veterans interred in those cemeteries to this digital memorial space by providing a VLM profile page for each Veteran. Launched in 2019 with Veteran service and cemetery information, VLM now allows family, friends and others to post tributes to a Veteran's page and to share Veteran pages using email, Facebook and Twitter. Visit <http://www.va.gov/remember> to get started.

VA operates 152 national cemeteries and 34 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 42 states and Puerto Rico. More than 4 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA's national cemeteries. VA also provides funding to establish, expand, improve and maintain 117 Veterans cemeteries in 48 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan. For Veterans not buried in a VA national cemetery, VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service. In 2017, VA honored more than 361,892 Veterans and their loved ones with memorial benefits in national, state, tribal and private cemeteries. Learn more at: <https://www.cem.va.gov/>



## **A Real Divorce or a Way to Circumvent Homestead Rules?**

By Gary Wulf

Revisiting Valley and Sheridan County Courthouses on Nov 4, 2021, I was pleased to note much progress on their digitization projects, to the point I was not even allowed to touch the old and heavy, but fragile, record books. Clerks did online searches for me and made copies of documents.

One item I sought was the marriage record of my great-grandmother to Askal Groven, her second husband. I first found his name on a Homestead Certificate of my great-grandmother, on which she was listed as Gena Groven, previously Gena Knutson. I did not find a marriage record at Valley County's courthouse as their marriage records only went back to 1914. A census report I had said they were wed in 1910. I also wanted to see if Groven had legally adopted her 4 girls, as their surnames on the census matched his. I was told I couldn't get adoption records without a court order, even though all involved were deceased.

In the Sheridan County courthouse, the clerk of court did not find a marriage record either, not surprising as Sheridan split off from Valley after the supposed wedding date so any record would have been the same as Valley's. However, paragraph 1 of a divorce complaint filed by my great-grandmother against Groven stated they were "intermarried" at Glasgow, Montana on or about the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1910.

I suspect the suit of divorce was to get around the Homestead Law prohibition that said married women could not homestead on their own; only unmarried heads of household could do so.

The uncomplimentary language (probably boilerplate supplied by a lawyer) in paragraph 3 of the complaint made me suspect that divorce must have been hard to get in 1914: "That since the aforesaid marriage of the plaintiff and defendant, the defendant has treated the plaintiff in a cruel and inhuman manner and has been guilty of extreme cruelty to the said plaintiff in that for more than one year last past he has made false accusations against the chastity of the plaintiff, and on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1913 and upon almost every day thereafter he has called the plaintiff a "whore" and accused her of having sexual intercourse with men other than the said defendant. The said charges being false and wholly without foundation."

Groven did not contest the divorce, which was granted on February 19, 1915, almost two months after my great-grandmother was awarded a homestead patent on December 23, 1914.

## **Jewish-Catholic Shotgun Wedding**

By Gary Wulf

While stationed at Camp Pickett, outside of Blackstone, VA, in 1965, I met a fellow soldier named Bob, a Jewish boy from a town on Long Island, New York. He invited me to go to New York to see the sights and double date with his girlfriend and her younger sister, which we did.

On what was to be the last trip with him to Long Beach, where his girlfriend lived, things got interesting. Stopping at his house, he told me to wait in the car while he went inside to get some record albums from his bedroom. When he came running out, his mother was shrieking at him at full volume. On getting into the car, he told me had just informed his mother that his girlfriend, a Roman Catholic, was pregnant and they would have to get married. This was the first I'd heard about it.

Next, we went to the girlfriend's house. After a normal evening meal with her family, she and Bob invited her parents into another room to be informed of the situation. A shriek resonated from the room and the mother came out, spotted me, a non-participant in the problem, and proceeded to cry on my shoulder for a few moments. Abruptly, she ceased the sobbing and went into taking care of business mode.

Finding a clergyman to perform the ceremony was a major problem. No Rabbi or the girl's family's parish priest would officiate at a Jewish-Catholic wedding. This seemed at odds with a monument in a nearby park that commemorated the cooperation noted between the city's 85% Jewish majority and the 15% Catholic minority.

A priest from another parish was found who agreed to perform the ceremony, evidently feeling it was better not to have them continuing to live in sin. Only seven people were in attendance: the priest, the groom, the bride, her parents and sister, and me. The sister would serve as the bridesmaid and I as best man.

Shortly after returning to Camp Pickett, I received orders to go to Vietnam. When I left the base, I never had contact with any of the wedding party again.

How to save some of your research and provide family information for generations to come. One of our members Pam Solwey has come up with a fairly simple way to do this. These are her words from the Preface to a book that she has started to put together. Hopefully it will help others dealing with all the information you may have gathered over the years.

Every family has a story to tell. My friend used to say that history is in the eyes of the beholder. I am going to try to tell a few interesting facts for each family that I have uncovered in the years of research.

My interpretation is based on the story as well as the facts. We have an interesting background – not everyone was good but not bad either. I am categorizing the family into 3 groups. The wanderers were the restless one that moved several times in their lives – for one reason or another. The stayers are the ones that lived most of their life in one place. Then there are the dreamers who did some of both. Our Dad was one of them as well as Martin Gonvick to start the long line of our people.

These biographies are a brief synopsis of a husband/wife team in each generation and not so much of their children. One can find them and the sources of my material in the chapters of my notebooks.

As I work on this project I realize that it is not for the faint of heart. I have been pretty frank about where I am in the research and what I am looking for. There is pedigree collapse (common ancestors) more than once over the 300 years but that is normal for families. I tend to try to see every family separately and try not to judge their decisions. If you are interested in a story in the book, I have notebooks full of more information:

1. There is a series of “Gen” books that only have direct ancestors in them. I will be working on them up to Gen 6 and they will be in the alphabetical notebooks.
2. The alphabetical notebooks are for the names of ancestors and the research info on them that I have accumulated over the years after Gen.
3. The people from Dad’s family have their own notebook for about the first four or five generations with research info about the children. The vital records are usually in the Gen books but not always yet.
4. The people from Mom’s family are more categorized by Norway and Sweden counties. Most of the families up to Gen four have individual notebooks.
5. There are numerous booklets, stories written by other people, map notebooks, and hard bound books with family information in them. I have no idea what to do with them.

## Surname Index Volume 38

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# Lewis & Clark County Genealogical Society

## Membership Application

### SOCIETY INFORMATION

1. The Society meetings are generally held the second Wednesday of each month at Covenant United Methodist Church, 2330 E. Broadway, at 7:00 pm., although summer meetings may be held at other locations.

2. The Society has a library located in the Lewis & Clark County Public Library on the upper level. Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1-3 pm and 7-9 pm; and Saturday 10 am to noon. Members can use any time the main library is open.

3. Members can at no cost have Queries published in the Societies Quarterly Newsletter. The Newsletter is exchanged with other Societies both in and out of state.

4. The Membership Dues are: Individual - \$16.00 and Family - \$21.00. Membership starts in March and payments received after August will begin the next year.

### PLEASE COMPLETE

### THE QUESTIONS LISTED BELOW:

SURNAME\_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME\_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE NAME\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: MONTH\_\_\_\_\_ DAY\_\_\_\_\_ YEAR\_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANTS PLACE OF BIRTH: CITY\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY\_\_\_\_\_

STATE\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY\_\_\_\_\_ MAIDEN NAME\_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME: SURNAME\_\_\_\_\_ FIRST\_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: MONTH\_\_\_\_\_ DAY\_\_\_\_\_ YEAR\_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S PLACE OF BIRTH: CITY\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY\_\_\_\_\_

STATE\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY\_\_\_\_\_ MAIDEN NAME\_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER\_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

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TO:

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This section in the newsletter is for the listing of genealogical items such as city directories, school annuals, any books, newsletters, etc. that are no longer needed or that you might have duplicates of, either to trade for similar items or sell. We reserve this privilege for our membership and those societies that we exchange newsletters with at no cost of listing. We need to receive the information you wish to have published at least one month prior to our publishing date.