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# FADED GENES

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

HELENA, MONTANA

**FADED GENES  
IS PUBLISHED FOUR  
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SEPTEMBER &  
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BY THE  
LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Please direct all queries to: Queries Committee  
Chairperson P.O. Box 5313, Helena, MT  
59604. Queries submitted by members to the  
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Direct all other correspondence to the Lewis  
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Box 5313, Helena, MT 59604. Please enclose  
a LSASE with the correspondence if you anticipate a  
response.

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## **LIBRARIES**

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and Clark Public Library. Hours: (TBD) Tuesday  
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members whenever the Public Library is open.

Family History Center, Helena. 1610 East 6th  
Avenue. Hours: Monday-Thursday 11:00 am to  
1:00 pm. Entrance at the back of the LDS  
Church on west end toward the Capital.  
Telephone no. 406-443-0716

Lewis & Clark Public Library, Helena,  
120 S. Last Chance Gulch. Hours: Monday-  
Thursday 10:00 am to 9:00 pm., Friday 10:00 am  
to 6:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm,  
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).

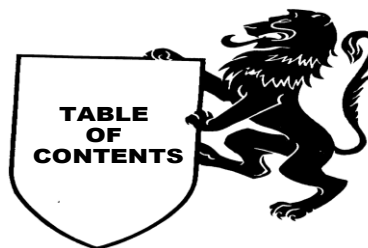
Montana State Library, Helena, 6th Avenue &  
Sanders. Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday-  
Friday (except holidays).

## **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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Library Coordinator	Mary Pitch	443-3452
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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. Due to COVID restrictions these have been on Zoom meetings. Hopefully by this fall we will be back to in person meetings again.*

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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

After the terrific temperatures and smoke from fires the past 2 months, I'm not sure this was our best summer in Montana! And although the temperatures are cooling down, at this writing we have yet to get rid of the smoke and there's been an uptick with the virus! I hope all of you have been able to stay well through it all!

One bright spot! We had a brown bag picnic at the firegrounds picnic shelter August 11<sup>th</sup> with about 15 of our members. Each shared what they had been doing the past few months including tracking down relatives using DNA, sharing information and pictures with far flung cousins, gardening and hiking.

When I was asked what I had been doing the past few months my mind went blank. What had I been doing other than having family with me for 3 weeks in July and then taking a week to recuperate?! I have now made a list of accomplishments going back as far as March 2020. I won't bore you with the list, but over the last few months I have attacked 2 4 drawer genealogy file cabinets full of papers that have been collected over many years. I'm sorting, tossing duplicates, breaking down families into more manageable groups, labeling files AND feeling very proud of myself! I have a long way to go, but trying to do at least a little bit every day. And NO! I have yet to clear piles off the floor, couch, tables, chairs, desks, etc. in what I fondly call "The Largest Closet in Montana" which is actually the largest room in the house. BUT once the drawers are organized to my liking, THEN I will have a place to put those piles—one piece of paper at a time. That's my plan & I'm sticking to it. 😊

I am looking forward to our September meeting at the Main Street Park in East Helena September 8th. The mayor of East Helena, James "Jamie" Schell, will be with us to talk about the service members monument that is located there.

We are planning to have in person meetings beginning in October at the Covenant United Methodist Church. We will be masking and disinfecting surfaces, so I am hoping many of you will feel comfortable to join us. SO.....

See you this fall!

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

The genealogy library now has a laptop computer dedicated to our use. This will be on the cart that our volunteer librarians will ask for when starting a shift. After turning the computer on, the home page has icons to help you search websites with patrons. The library still has the Ancestry library website. They dropped Newspaper Archives due to the cost.

Schedules are being developed for volunteers again to be in the library Tuesday and Thursday from 1-3. This will give us a start and figure out what else we need to be able to help patrons. The library's evening hours are going to close at 8pm so when we do evening hours, we will have to change our shift. Saturdays will be coming later.

At the end of our first shelf, the library put us up 2 different holders. One has brief information about our society and the other has a pedigree chart.

Printing will be done on the library machines so patrons (and volunteer librarians) will need to have change to pay for their own copies. It takes both dollar bills and change. Patrons can also bring an usb drive to save information on or the library edition lets them send the document to their home email address.

Our books are arranged with **city directories** first, filed alphabetically by town, then year within that. Next are the **annuals/yearbooks**. They are still separated by High School and college. Within these collections, it is by town and then year. For example all of the annuals for Helena are within the year, it doesn't matter which school was attended. Same with the college annuals as they are by city, then year. Colleges have a tendency to change their names, or the name of their annual. Next on the genealogy shelves are **help books**, **society books** and **family books** by author. Finally on our shelves are the **books by location**. Books about all US is first and then by state. Remember Montana section has **books about all** of Montana first and then **books by county**. This may sound confusing but when you check it out it should feel similar to the setup we had in our previous location.

The library is getting use by browsers. Books are accidently misplaced. Guess this additional use is a good thing. Remember you **do not need to live in Lewis and Clark County** to use their public computers that have ancestry.

On another topic, our books that we digitized are getting great online usage. Usage numbers we have to date show the following number of views for the digitized books that are now available online: March-488, April-634, May-699, June-778 and July-718. We never had that kind of usage of the physical books within the library. Thanks to all that helped with this project. We do not receive a usage report on the high-speed scanned original documents that we also digitized.

Karen Huck, Librarian

The query team has been asked to share some of the queries we receive in the library for information.

*The original query was submitted with the Newspaper article to see if we could find any other information about James Galloway born in Napan, New Brunswick, Canada and died in Pioneer City, Deer Lodge County, Montana (where buried?) and who Frank St. May was that is referenced to in the newspaper article.*

James Galloway (Research notes and suggestions)

Canadian Census 1851 says about 30 so birth abt 1821?  
not listed in 1861, left for US?

Newspaper article 1870 Feb 13

A correspondent writing from **Helena, Montana** Territory, U.S. on 13th **Feb.** informs us that on or about the **1st** of that month, James GALLOWAY, formerly a resident in Northumberland Co., N.B. came to his death by a kick from a horse. The sad affair occurred in **Pioneer City, Deer Lodge Co.** We did not know the deceased but perhaps some of our readers can recollect him; and if he has any relatives, it will be to their interest to follow the matter up, as Mr. G. has left behind him property worth 8 or 10 thousand dollars. Any further information may be obtained by addressing **Frank ST. MAY**, Box 11, **Helena**, Montana Territory (information was put in bold to help with research from article sent in query)

- Did not find him in Familysearch or in Ancestry
- Did not find Frank St. May
- Montana did not become a state until Nov 1889
- Deer Lodge County, County Seat **Anaconda**, one of original counties, established **1865**
- Montana did not require death certificates until 1907
- Looked in Helena death index. Not there. (lccgsmt.org)
- Also looked for St. May, no one with that name.
- Looked in Chronicling America for newspaper articles

Found article in newspaper New North-West (Deer Lodge) 7 Oct 1870 that they were settling bills for James Galloway . (newspaper.com) and (Chronicling America)

**To day the Court has been occupied in settling bills presented against the estate of the late **James Galloway.****

James Galloway married Anna Limbeck 15 Nov 1866, Meagher County, MT Page 119 Volume R (familysearch.org United States Western State Marriage Index) (same person?) Couldn't locate them any further.

- Searched records indexed for Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Montana (familysearch.org)
  - Tuttle's Funeral Registers-start 1898
  - Mortgage records start 1868
  - Anaconda, Deer Lodge, MT cemetery records start 1878

#### Suggestions:

I would write to Clerk of District Court, Jodi Lechman (<https://adlc.us/157/Clerk-of-District-Court> ) email [jodine.lechman@mt.gov](mailto:jodine.lechman@mt.gov) Ask her if they have records back to that date. It looks like there was a probate so it may be in their original books.

Although birth and death books were not required until 1907, many counties had large books that they recorded them in. This would be with the Clerk and Recorder, A-DLC Courthouse, Second Floor, 800 Main Street, Anaconda, MT 59711 (*this was the way it was listed on their website*)

Frank St. May--the City Directories did not start in Helena until 1890. I know the Montana Historical Society Research Center has copies of business licenses, but not sure how early. Their website is <https://mhs.mt.gov/research>

## EPIDEMICS

Information found on various websites (pre-COVID19)

In case you ever wondered why a large number of your ancestors disappeared during a certain period in history, this might help. Epidemics have always had a great influence on people – and thus influencing, as well, the genealogists trying to trace them. Many cases of people disappearing from records can be traced to dying during an epidemic or moving away from the affected area. Some of the major epidemics in the U.S. are listed below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Epidemic</b>
1657 & 1687	Boston	Measles
1690	New York	Yellow Fever
1713 & 1729	Boston	Measles
1732-3	Worldwide	Influenza
1738	South Carolina	Smallpox
1739-40	Boston	Measles
1747	CT, NY, PA, SC	Measles
1759	N. America w/ white people	Measles
1761	N. America & W Indies	Influenza
1772	N. America	Measles
1775	N. America	Smallpox killed more than 130,000
1775-6	Worldwide (one of the worst)	Influenza
1783	DE	“extremely fatal” Bilious Disorder
1788	Philadelphia & New York	Measles
1793	VT	“a putrid fever” & Influenza
1793	Philadelphia	Yellow Fever (one of the worst)
1793	Harrisburg & Middletown PA	Unknown [many mysterious deaths]
1794/1796-7/1798	Philadelphia, PA	Yellow Fever
1803	New York	Yellow Fever
1813	Maury Co, TN	Black Tongue
1831-32	Nationwide (brought by Eng)	Asiatic Cholera
1832-34	New York City & major cities	Cholera
1837	Philadelphia	Typhus
1841	Nationwide -especially in south	Yellow Fever
1847	New Orleans	Yellow Fever
1847-8	Worldwide	Influenza
1848-9	N America	Cholera
1850	Nationwide	Yellow Fever
1850-1	N America	Influenza
1851	IL, MO & Great Plains	Cholera
1852 & 1855	Nationwide	Yellow Fever
1857-9	Worldwide	Influenza
1865-73	Many E and S. large cities	Smallpox, Cholera, Scarlet Fever & Yellow Fever
1873-5	N America & Europe	Influenza
1889-90	U. S and Russia	Asian Influenza
1918-19	Worldwide	Influenza 40-100 Million died worldwide

The great Cholera epidemic was spread by immigrants from Europe. Malaria was also of epidemic proportions in the late 1800's. TB was also of epidemic proportions at the time. Children ages 5-15 rarely died from the “adult” epidemics, as this is a period of “Natural Immunity”



## **Gerties Babies Lack a Past: Adoptees Seek Mothers**

Originally printed in Independent Record Aug 28, 1994

The news came as a shock. Her birth certificate was a forgery. The doctor who delivered her was a chiropractor and an illegal abortionist. And the old brick building in downtown Butte where she was born is not only her link to a mysterious past but to others also searching who they are. "I couldn't believe it," says Sue Docken Cheney of Belgrade. She was even more shocked by the story her parents told her.

They'd prayed for a baby. Then on the night of May 2, 1951, they got a call; if they wanted a baby there was one in Butte. They drove to a three-story building at 115 Hamilton. Sue's mother took \$500 inside while her father waited in the car. When she came back out, she carried a still-wet newborn in her arms. Sue was so young, her parents had been instructed to dispose of the afterbirth on their way home. They did. And like all the adoptive parents who visited 115 Hamilton, they kept the secret for more than 40 years.

### **Sharing a similar past**

It's a story Bonnie DeHahn Gower and Mable Page Deane of Bozeman also share.

The women are known as Gerties's Babies—black market babies brought into the world and sold by Gertrude Pitkanen, a chiropractor and well known Butte abortionist in the 1930's, 1940's and 1950's. And they are not alone; at least another 10 have been found. "It is thrilling to find other people," Sue says. "The three of us found each other and there is a bond between us women. At least we have that. It is kind of like we are a family,"

The three women grew up in Gallatin County. Sue and Bonnie went to the same camps, sat next to each other in the same classes. Neither knew the other was adopted, let alone that they shared a common past.

It wasn't until they each separately began searching for their medical and family histories that they discovered the connection. And Bonnie, 41, found out her parents had paid Gertie \$500 for her. Sue found Mable, 44, who is not only a Gertie's Baby. Her mother Margaret Page, was possibly one of the people who helped set up adoptions in Gallatin Valley. It was Page who went with Sue's parents May 2, 1951, to Gertie's office in Butte. Page had adopted Mable in November of 1949.

### **Hoping for clues to the past**

While the women all say they are lucky to be alive and thankful to have had such wonderful families, they still need to know about their pasts. They want to know who they look like. They want to know who they are. That's why they have gone public with their stories, hoping someone will finally help them. So far, no one has.

"It really doesn't make any sense," Bonnie says. "It seems like one of the birth mothers would come forward."

They wonder if Gertie told their mothers they died at birth. Another theory is that everyone connected with Gertie has reason to be afraid. "Butte was so bad," says Bonnie, who's researched those years. It was a time of corruption. Illegal gambling, prostitution and abortion was common place.

“It was just incredible,” she says. “Every other day there was a shooting. It was like living in New York City.” Bonnie questions whether there might be an organized crime connection and that’s why people won’t talk. “Anything could happen in Butte.”

### **Gertie was no saint**

Gertrude Pitkanen proves that.

Not only was it known that she performed illegal abortions and sold babies on the black market, she was arrested three times on manslaughter for botched abortions that lead to the death of the women. But all three times she got off for lack of evidence. Some say she carried a little black book and all she had to do was open it and the judge would dismiss her case.

Few people question her power. Gertie’s first husband was a doctor, also an abortionist. Her second husband was a detective with the police department.

Gertie never had any children, but adopted five of her own. Three, born on the same day, she passed off as triplets for years, using them in her election campaign for coroner. She claimed the babies had been left on her doorstep.

One of those children told Bonnie that Gertie physically abused them, adding Gertie was a horrible, mean mother. The daughter claims her adopted mother had tried to force her adopted brother and his wife to let her sell their first child. In 1960, Gertie died, taking the secrets of all her babies with her.

### **Building sparks memories**

Recently the three Gallatin Valley women visited 115 Hamilton.

“I walked into that building and it just made me sick,” says Bonnie. “I’ve never believed in psychic abilities, but it was really overwhelming.”

But the question remains: Who were their mothers?

“Anything from prostitutes to wealthy women who didn’t want to get caught in affairs,” Mable says. They’ve been told some of the babies came from mistresses of city and state politicians. Gertie’s office was near the bus station, health clinic, courthouse and just blocks from what was called whorehouse street. But what really went on at 115 Hamilton remains a mystery. Forged birth certificates offer little help. Most of the adoptive parents are dead; the rest say they can’t help.

The women say they would be happy if even one birth mother would come forward. “We are all good people,” Sue says. “Why don’t they want to claim us?”

## THE PUZZLED CENSUS TAKER

by John Godfrey Saxe (1816-1887)

“Got any boys?” the Marshall said  
To a lady from over the Rhine;  
And the lady shook her flaxen head,  
And civilly answered, “Nein!”

“Got any girls?” the Marshall said  
To the lady from over the Rhine;  
And again the lady shook her head,  
And civilly answered, “Nein!”

“But some are dead?” the Marshall said  
To the lady from over the Rhine;  
And again the lady shook her flaxen head,  
And civilly answered, “Nein!”

“Husband of course?” the Marshall said  
To the lady from over the Rhine;  
And again the lady shook her flaxen head,  
And civilly answered, “Nein!”

“Te devil you have!” the Marshall said  
To the lady from over the Rhine;  
And again she shook her flaxen head,  
And civilly answered, “Nein!”

“Now what do you mean by shaking your head,  
And always answering, “Nine?”

“Ich kann nicht Englisch!” civilly said  
The lady from over the Rhine

*Found in old newsletters in 1997/98*

# LCCGS Membership for 2021

221	Alley	Nancy		454	Ellwein	Leah		313	O'Connor	Mike
392	Armstrong	Dianne		429	Fairbank	Bill		514	Oehring	Deborah
391	Armstrong	Ron		537	Freistadt	Rob		380	Oliveira	Dorothy
493	Ashworth	Linda		341	Gibson	Rita		387	Oliveira	George
105	Atwood	Terry		489	Grover	Mitzi		473	Olsen	Sandra
330	Bender	Bary		409	Guevin	Elizabeth		323	Oset	Earline
466	Bender	Lloyd		536	Hall	Michael		381	Oset	Lawrence
76	Benish	Barbara		532	Hamman	Jane		382	Patrick	Kathy
372	Benson	Sandi		C17	Harris	Del		224	Pearson	Tom
397	Bidmead	Matt		440	Heffner	Dennis		48	Pitch	Mary
494	Blake	Kelly		443	Heffner	Dodie		282	Roberts	Bill
419	Blakley	Douglas		366	Hoffman	Helen		478	Roberts	Bamby
490	Breeden	Robert		530	Honor	Cyndi		485	Roy	AJ
316	Breuninger	Nancy		364	Huck	Dennis		486	Roy	Carol
422	Brooks	Charlotte		289	Huck	Karen		523	Rummel	Tricia
423	Brooks	Phil		83	Jensen	Maryanne		482	Siroky	Marilyn
448	Carlson	Darla		361	Jones	Carolyn		204	Skinner	Sharlene
449	Carlson	Dave		533	Jontz	Eric B		338	Smith	Barbara
467	Cartwright	Paul		488	Kent	Vicki		461	Solwey	Pamella
444	Christophersen	Allen		C03	Kockler	Eloyce		471	Stier	Jerry
445	Christophersen	Cindy		371	Kramlick	Gale		472	Stier	Marji
534	Covington	Brock		420	Larsen	Curtis		C01	Stoner	Al
479	Crogan	Karen		437	Maness	Iris		496	Taylor	Cherryl
480	Crogan	Michael		184	Martinka	Kathy		396	Thomas	Shirley
535	Davie	Angus		225	Martinka	Robert		311	Utick	Annie
470	Davie-Pace	Jody		506	Morrison	Mike		415	Utick	Andy
495	Davis	John		528	Morse	Kandice		368	Vanisko	Robert
484	Davis	Karen		529	Weber	Joe		384	Vetter	Rosemarie
88	Downs	Pat		365	Nemeth	Patricia		426	Viereck	Fran
525	Donaldson	Dave		524	Naccarato	Paula		527	Walker	Julie
453	Ellwein	Richard		251	Nyland	Gene		393	Wulf	Gary

# 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\_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL -- Y N TODAY'S DATE\_\_\_\_\_

DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND PAYMENT TO:  
Lewis & Clark Co Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 5313  
Helena, MT 59604

Lewis & Clark Co. Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 5313  
Helena, MT 59604

FIRST CLASS

FORWARD AND RETURN  
POSTAGE  
GUARANTEED  
ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

TO:

#### SWAP AND SELL

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.