The Wagon Tongue

Volume 11 Issue 2

Madison Valley History Association, Inc. website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org Visit MVHA on Facebook: "Madison Valley History Association" **April 2013**

From the Wagon Seat- President Don Black: Don is busy being a new grandparent and other numerous activities for MVHA so the editor took liberties in reporting on all of the latest happenings. :) William Ennis Birthday Celebration

The fifth annual William Ennis Birthday Celebration, sponsored by the Madison Valley History Association was held March 17 at the Ennis School Cafeteria. This was the first time in 5 years that William Ennis' birthday fell on a Sunday and was held from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.. A good crowd feasted on Irish Stew, Irish soda bread, Blarney stones and Birthday cake. Most everyone stayed for the afternoon, had seconds of great food, enjoyed great company and great conversations that never ended until the clean-up was complete. If you did not attend, you missed a great birthday celebration of the founding father of our great community of Ennis.

A great big Thank you to all the MVHA members who helped in some way to make this celebration a success. Planning meetings, posters, putting up posters, window display, Madisonian articles, getting the supplies, arranging for the stew and cole slaw, getting donations from the merchants, setting up, serving, cleaning up, and a myriad of tasks to pull this off. We don't have a complete list of all that helped so cannot list them but you know who you are and thanks a bunch.

For those of you who are new or just did not know, William Ennis, the founder of the town of Ennis was born in Ireland on March 17, St. Patrick's Day; thus our celebration each year on March 17. Stay tuned for next year.

Awards were presented to the two students who won the "I like William Ennis Because," essay contest. Both students are 7th graders in Mr. Nelson's English class at Ennis Junior High School. Kelsie Frey placed first with her essay titled *The Founder of Ennis*, *William Ennis* and received a copy of the <u>Early Days in the Madison Valley</u> by James S. Spray and her choice of jewelry made by MVHA President, Don Black. Will Gilmore placed second with his essay entitled *William Ennis* and Will chose a copy of <u>Early Days in the Madison Valley</u> by James S. Spray for his award. Both students read their essays to the audience. You will find the winning essays printed on page 4 and 5 of this issue.

Programs of past months featured in January "History of Bear Creek School" with Mona Durham and Karen Shores, February was "Larry Zabel Reflections" with DVD and Zabel memorabilia provided by Beverly Claassen and March was the William Ennis Birthday Celebration. and now this month the "History of the Varney Oil Well" researched by Don Black. Check out Looking Ahead on page 6 to get the summer programs on your calendar.

Museum opening

Spring always gets the MVHA thinking about the opening of the museum. Otis Thompson has been busy preparing walkway boards and he will lead the project of completing the walkway from the museum to the forge building. Give Otis a call (682-7415) if you have a few hours to help with this project. Highway cleanup for the museum section of highway is scheduled for May 11. Meet at the museum with good walking shoes, gloves, sun screen and water at 9:00 am weather permitting.

The museum will open for Memorial Day weekend May 25, 26 and 27. Volunteers are needed to greet guests at the museum for 1:00 to 4:00pm. The museum will open for the season on June 11 and will be open Tuesday through Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00pm. until September or October or when folks stop coming by. Sign up calendars will be passed at meetings but call Larry at 682-5780 if you can help out by taking a day. The museum cannot be available for visitors unless you, the members, take a day to keep the museum open. If you live away from Ennis, plan your summer visit, trip or just make a special trip to come and volunteer at the museum. It is only 3 hours and is fun. If every member who is able could take a day, keeping the museum open for visitors would be very easy. See you at the museum this summer!!

Donations have been coming in. Madison Valley Woman's Club and Vintage Attic gave early day baby clothes, old nurse's dresses and medical clothing and another box which will be a surprise as we go through it. Larry Love just picked up a nice assortment of military uniforms from WWI and WWII from John Hauk of the VFW. Don Black just received several photo albums and assorted pictures of Bobbi Brand's Rodeo pictures for years 1979 to 1984. Members are working hard at getting these items ready for summer at the museum. Call to volunteer if you would like to help with getting these displays ready. Many hands make light work and the more the merrier!

History Tidbit: For sale: brick hotel building with furnishings. Ask Mrs. William Ennis Dec. 11, 1903 Times

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the January issue. If you know any of these new members or if they live near you, please invite them to attend the next MVHA meeting and welcome them aboard

Arrow Real Estate Toni & Don Bowen (B)

P.O. Box 1490 (406)682-4290

Ennis, MT 59729

Allestad, Janet (Knight)(I) 843-5668

P.O. Box 235 (cell 406-660-1453)

Virginia City, MT 59755

Warburton, Esther & Gene (F) 682-7740

P.O. Box 1104

Ennis, MT 59729

Wilkins, Gene (I) 682-4688

335 Ennis Lake Rd.

Ennis, MT 59729

White, Roger (I)

7 Foothill Terrace

Aberdeen, Scotland ABII7UR

United Kingdom

Membership Update 2013 memberships are now due. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your 2013 membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your '13 membership is due during April, May or June or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal slip included with in this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor. If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

Member News

the *Madisonian*)

Long time MVHA and Honorary member, Hal Pasley has spent the winter with son, Al, in Arizona. He has had a great time while there and has spent most of his time sitting on the patio. The Montana Talking Books Library sent his books for his machine and he has spent a great deal of time listening to them. He has said many times that he misses his friends in Ennis that come by and see him and he is looking forward to seeing them all when he returns to Montana on April 11, with daughter, Hallie Adam. Submitted by son, Al. John Scully, MVHA member, has filed to be a

candidate for trustee of the Ennis School Board. (From

Willie's Distillery on Main Street Ennis in the former Texaco Station location is open for business. Robin and Willie Blazer are owners and founders. Stop by and see a new piece of history as they produce Montana Moonshine which is an unaged version of bourbon whiskey. (From the *Madisonian*.) Moonshine is back in the valley! See one of the valley's original moonshine stills at the museum this summer.

Don and Darla Black, MVHA members and Don is currently president, are proud and brand new grand-parents with the arrival of William Henry born on Mar.15 to Devney (Black) and Bill Perry. (From the *Madisonian*)

Anita Ames celebrated her 90th birthday on April 8, 2013. Happy Birthday, Anita!

Please send any special member news to the editor of the Wagon Tongue.

Memories

Long time MVHA member, **Joy Eletha Bates Schendel** passed away on January 2, 2013 at the Madison Valley Manor. She was born on July 29, 1919 in Bellevue, Idaho to Mack and Elva Carter Bates. Joy's sister, Bobby Bates Klatt submitted this memory of her sister.

Remembering Joy Bates Schendel

The first ten years of Joy's life were spent in Bellevue, Idaho. She told me recently those were the happiest years of her life.

She and her parents, Mack and Elva Bates lived in the town of Bellevue. They had a lovely home there. Dad owned a service station and shop. Our grandparents, Jon and Ella Carter, owned a small farm on the outskirts of town. where they raised some crops and sheep. Now and then Granddad Carter would fetch Joy with a team and wagon, take her to the farm to spend the weekend. She loved that.

Joy was sad to leave her friends and grandparents when her family moved to Montana. But a few years later her grandparents moved to Ennis too. Also, I was born a year or so later so that must of added some excitement to her life.

Joy started school in Ennis in fourth grade. She graduated in 1937. She was the last member of her class of '37 when she passed away. Joy attended Normal College in Dillon for two years. There she met her lifelong friend, Violet (Scotchy) Burns Thexton. Scotchy was a graduate student and she took Joy under her wing. Joy taught school at Moise, MT for one year.

She married Wilson Schendel (high school sweetheart) in 1940 at St. James Episcopal Church in Bozeman. They spent most of their married life in Missoula where Wilson worked on the Northern Pacific Railroad. Their son, Dale, was born and raised in Missoula. After retirement, they moved to Bozeman and spent winters in Mesa, AZ.

Joy spent the last six years of her life alone. Wilson passed away in 2007 and son, Dale, died in 2008 from cancer.

Joy is very proud of Dale.

(cont on pg 3)

Memories cont from pg 2

He was a commercial pilot for Northwest Airlines.
Joy moved back to Ennis in July 2012. She resided at Madison Valley Manor. She was happy to be back in Ennis. She had a beautiful view of Fan Mountain from her window.

Joy left us January 2, 2013. We miss her. Her sister Thank you Bobby for submitting your memory of your sister, Joy, to the *Wagon Tongue*. Stories like this help with the MVHA's mission of preserving the history of the Madison Valley.

Michael O' Rourke, 86, passed away Dec. 21, 2012 in Butte. He was born on June 4, 1926 in Butte to Michael A. and Julia (Sullivan) O'Rourke. In Mick's younger years he worked on the Madison River Dam in the Bear Trap and he and his wife, Rae, and their children spent many years camping and fishing in the Madison area. For more than 30 years they have enjoyed spending time at their summer place in McAllister.

Kenneth Luke Kay, Jr., 83, passed away on Dec. 24, 2012 at the Madison Valley Manor in Ennis. He was born on April 15, 1929 in Oakes, N. D. to Kenneth L. Kay, Sr. and Sydney (Newstrom) Kay. Ken was proud of his pioneer history. His great-grandparents came to Montana from England in 1856. His grandfather was born in 1867 in a tent near Bannack. His grandmother was a cousin to May Hunter Doane, wife of the Army officer who led the first military expedition in 1870 into what later became Yellowstone Park. Kenneth is father to Janet Zimmerman of Pony.

Janice L.(Anderson) Smith passed away on Jan 10, 2013 at her home in Alder. She was born on Nov. 4, 1943 to Lawrence and Margaret Anderson. Her father was in the construction business and brought his family to Ennis in 1959 after the big earthquake. When work ran out, the family moved on but Janice chose to stay and got a job working at Betty's Cafe.

Dale E. Clark passed away Jan. 11, 2013 in Arizona. Dale moved his family to Ennis in 1951 to help his father-in-law, P. Lee Bollinger run the Norris Telephone Co. Over the next eight years, the two men moved the newly named Madison Valley Telephone Co. from the age of old fashioned "crank and shout,"Hello Central" telephone service to the modern dial telephone age. After Lee Bollinger died in 1959, Dale assumed ownership of the telephone company and provided service from South of Varney Bridge to North of Harrison and from halfway between Ennis and Virginia City East to include what is now Big Sky Ski Resort.

Bonnie Jean (Garrrett) Workman of Norris passed away Jan. 20, 2013. She was born on Sept. 27, 1939 in Casper, Wyo., to Edd Lee and Viola May(Taylor) Garrett. Bonnie studied nursing getting her Bachelor Degree in Nursing at Montana State University in Boze man. She was the second Nursing Administrator at the Ennis Hospital. In addition to her long nursing career she owned and operated Rivergal Shuttle Service, LLC which was a shuttle service for fly fishermen on the Madison River.

3

Frederick James Shively passed away on

Jan. 23, 2013. He was raised in Roslyn, S.D. by parents Harold and Cora Bell Shively. His life long entrepreneurial spirit bought Jim and his wife, Ellen, to Ennis in 1972 where they first bought the Longbranch Saloon with a partner.

During the years they lived in Ennis, Jim owned and operated many businesses including several restaurants and Lick-a-Dee-Lube, an oil change business. He was also Ennis town judge. For nearly a decade, Jim and Ellen served as the camp hosts of the Ennis campground. Phyllis Wasick, MVHA member and close friend of the Shively's, shared a story that Jim loved to tell. He owned the Ennis Cafe and Betty's Cafe. One evening a disgruntled customer complained about the poor menu and other displeasures and wanted to know if there was another better restaurant in town. Jim shared that there was a good one right across the street and that they were welcome to go there. The unhappy customer stomped out and crossed the street. Jim made sure that he crossed over some time later just in time to take the customer's money as they paid their bill at Betty's Cafe.

Clinton Brent Warburton passed away Jan 23, 2013. He was born April 6, 1944 in Brigham City, Utah to Hazel and Karl Warburton. His childhood was spent on the family ranch at Cameron and he graduated from Stevensville, MT high school. His sister is Karen Dringle and brother is newest MVHA member, Gene Warburton.

Juana Joyce (Willett) McKnight passed away at St.

Peters Hospital in Helena, MT on March 1, 2013. She was born on August 30, 1938 in Butte, Mt to Kemp and Doris Willett. Juana attended Ennis schools and graduated from Ennis High School in 1956. Her brother is long time Madison Valley resident, Jay Willett. James Harrison "Hungry" Saunders passed away on March 4, 2013 at the Madison Valley Hospital in Ennis. He was born in Morgantown, West Virginia to William Millard and Virginia Manley Southern Saunders on Aug. 15, 1923. He attended Ennis schools and graduated from Ennis High School. Harrison attended Western Montana College in Dillon briefly before being drafted into the Army and serving in WWII. Harrison found his calling when he became a back hoe operator and formed Saunders Excavation Company. He was once called on in 1972 to dig a channel into the gorge ice near the Ennis Bridge so that the Madison River waters would not flood the town. **David "Bus" Richardson**, 97, passed away March 4, 2013 at the Madison Valley Manor in Ennis. He was born in a raging blizzard in Great Falls, MT on Feb. 21,1916 to John and Flora (Gervais) Richardson. He ranched for many years near Geyser. In 2002 their grandson built a home for them at McAllister to be near daughter Marilyn and Terry Jenkins. Marilyn is a long time teacher for the Ennis Schools.

Phyllis E. (Day)Richter of Toston,Mt. passed away March 12, 2013. She was born in Idaho Falls, Idaho on May 24, 923 to Lucy May and Abraham John Day. Phyllis is the mother of (cont. on pg 4)

Memories cont from pg 3

MVHA member, Jynean Skank.

Cole Walter of Bozeman passed away on March 14, 2013. He was born on March 11, 1985 and was the son of Kristie Halse Kirby and Don Kirby and Ed and Lonora Walter. His grandparents are long time MVHA

Memories are excerpted *Madisonian* Obituaries. Any memories and stories of Madison Valley's departed folks is welcomed by the Wagon Tongue for printing in future editions. Their stories are the history of this valley.

Norris Hot Springs is passed by on your way to Bozeman from Norris through the canyon. It is getting to be a very popular place to come and soak in the hot water. There is music many nights of the week, and reports say very good food. Dr. Jeffery Safford, professor emeritus of the History Department at Montana State University in Bozeman shared this story of the early beginnings of Norris Hot Springs.

The "Devil's Teapot" by Dr. Jeffery Safford The hot spring from which the Hot Spring Mining District acquired its name was often commented upon. The most complete contemporary description comes from William Y. Lovell, who in late 1867 canvassed the district for the *Montana Post*:

A short distance below the Junction of Burnt Creek with Hot Spring Creek, is the spring or rather springs from which the district derives its name, situated in low, marshy ground. The volume of water is not very great, but sufficiently bold and strong to afford a beautiful, limpid stream. The temperature, as we were informed, is Shriver. They were married on August 5, 1861 (hey, 124 fahrenheit, and a little brackish to the taste. The medicinal properties, if any, we know not, as no analysis has ever been made of the water, nor did we hear of any cures 'of the ills that flesh is heir to.' The spring rises in a deposit of tenacious blue clay. This clay is so impregnated with lime that it has been found by Mr. Isaacs in the erection of the mill and buildings, to be a superior mortar, requiring only to be tempered with sand and water. That in the future, this marl deposit, will prove not only a convenience, but of great value, we have not a doubt. 1

Others left more colorful memories. In 1864, Cornelius Hedges examined the spring on a "warm July day" after coming to Montana via Bozeman's Trail. He drank water from the creek an unspecified distance below the spring and found it much too hot to swallow. His companions, undaunted by Hedge's experience, also drank, but none deeply, "and their comments were as hot as the water." 2 Two years later, Benjamin Dailey, another Bozeman's Trail sojourner, arrived at the hot spring: "So hot if you put your hand in it, you would jerk it out quick without anyone telling you to," he noted in his dairy. "The Captain [of the wagon train], Dailey continued, "said it was the devil's teapot, that Hell could not be far off." 3

1. Montana Post, December 28, 1867. James Isaacs 4

was field superintendent for the McAndrew & Wann Mining Company of New York City, whose mill 3 and stone office building and residence were erected in the Lower Hot Spring District (soon to be known as Red Bluff) in 1867.

- 2. Cornelius Hedges Address before the Unity Club of Helena, c. March 21, 1899, Cornelius Hedges Vertical File, Montana Historical Society Library, Helena, Montana.
- 3. Benjamin Dailey Diary, entry of September 8, 1866, Collection 326, Montana State University Special Collections, Bozeman, Montana. Dailey added that about fifty feet upstream there was a cold spring of pure water.

William Ennis Essav Contest

First Place: The Founder of Ennis, William Ennis By Kelsie Frey

I like William Ennis because -- William Ennis was the most honored pioneer to ever come to Montana! He was born in County Down, Ireland in 1828 on March 17, Hey that's St. Patrick's Day!!!! He had 10 brothers and sisters. He was number 6!! He came to America when he was just 14 years old with his father, John and one of his brothers, David! He escaped with his father and brother to escape religious persecution! It took three months to travel from Ireland to America!

As a teenager he worked on the railroad. As an adult, he started a business, "hauling" freight. He finally arrived in Montana in 1863, when he was delivering supplies to the," goldcamp" miners in Alder Gulch! William Ennis was a hard working person.

He met a lovely, beautiful woman named Katherine that's the start of the Civil War). They soon had a family. They had 2 kids: William Jr. and Jennie.

He liked this area so much that he built himself a house on the land. My friend, Dode Barnett knew about William Ennis's children. Dode was born in 1929. She told me the first home of William Ennis was where the Valley Bank, "popcorn bank" now sits. It was dug into ground with logs around it. As the town grew, buildings started to spring up. Some of the buildings were the post office, livery stable, and the general store. He was the first postmaster and his daughter was the second postmaster.

In 1898 he died, from a gunshot to the chest. The shooter was named Martian Peel; He may have shot William Ennis because he heard rumors. William Ennis lived for 14 more days until he died on the 4th. of July (which is Independence Day). Martian Peel turned himself right in after he shot William Ennis. Martian Peel never explained why he shot William Ennis. Did you know?

William Ennis's Great - granddaughter is Jane Rybus. She lives in Ennis, Mt on Main Street; while George and Lucy Ennis are not related at all! It was fun to discover all these interesting facts.

(William Ennis essays continue on pg 5)

William Ennis essay contest cont. from pg. 4 Second Place: William Ennis by Will Gilmore

I like William Ennis because he is the founder of our town Ennis, Montana. I think it is amazing that he claimed the Madison Valley and started the town. It would have taken a lot of courage to start one. He was born March 17,1828 in County Down, Ireland. He came to America with his father when he was fourteen years old in 1832.

His father went back to Ireland after a couple of years. He left William with an uncle in Detroit. William was the sixth of eleven brothers and sisters. He worked on the railroads but eventually started a business moving freight. He made a lot of money transporting supplies to the gold fields of Montana.

William Ennis married Katherine Schriver on August 5, 1861. He was thirty-five years old. In the spring of 1863 he brought eighty tons of freight from Omaha, Nebraska to the Montana goldfields. He found lush pastures and decided to build a cabin. He built a homestead in the Madison Valley and eventually moved his family there. He continued his business and started the town called Ennis. He eventually owned a general store, a livery stable, and a post office. He was the postmaster of his post office which passed through another two generations.

In 1891 the Ennis family began a telegraph service. The town of Ennis was now linked with the outside world. His daughter Jennie taught herself Morse code and was a licensed telegrapher.

While William was on a business trip in Virginia City, he was shot by Martin Peel on July 4, 1898. Martin Peel died in jail after turning himself into the police. This is what I know about William Ennis. He is a really amazing and inspiring person. It would have taken a lot of courage. We would not have a town without William Ennis. It would have taken a lot of courage to start a town.

This is a reprint of the poetry of Hal Pasley which was printed in the January 2013 issue. My apologies to Hal for leaving out two lines in my haste to complete the W T and get it to the printer by the deadline. No double checking and no final proofing and the old adage "Haste makes Waste" is proven true.... the editor **Poetry by Hal Pasley**. He makes each poem up in his mind, memorizes each and family members have written them down. **Nature's Beauty** by J. Hal Pasley

> Come on, old man, there are one or two chores left for you to do You cannot sit and dream all day you're wasting all your life away I do not dream, I visualize the rolling hills, the cloudless skies The mountain peaks, the country side I view them with a failing eye Nature's wonders far and wide it's streams it's parks, the mountain side Scenery stretching endlessly far beyond where the eye can see

The many things I've seen and heard the honking geese, the humming bird The bouncing doe, the trailing fawn the painted fence, the well kept lawn The singing birds, the honey bees the lilacs and the apple trees wild flowers swaying in the breeze They're here today, they disappear I view them many times a year I view them now, I've seen them all I view them summer, winter, spring and fall Nature's beauties, even though they're blanketed by ice and snow Sparkling scenery, even more gorgeous as it was before The scenes I view you see thank God for my memory Nature's treasures still remain embedded firmly in my brain Come on, old man, complete your chores you've done it many times before I tried, I failed, I'll try once more.

Thank you, Hal for sharing your poetry. **************

From the Mail Box Dear Editor: I am writing on behalf of the Ennis School music program. Due to budget constraints, it is impossible for our music teacher (the very talented Andrew Scruggs who teaches music to grades 2-12) to keep old instruments repaired or to purchase new ones for his growing bands: 5th grade-23 students; 6th grade-30 students; 7th grade-15 students; 8th-12th band-19 students.

Pam Boone and I are liaisons for a segment of the Ennis Booster Club called Music Enrichment. Any contributions you might wish to make to your alma mater would be welcomed. If you have a playable instrument that you wish to donate to Ennis Schools music program, just contact Andrew Scruggs through the EHS office....or even drop off the instrument! All donations will be gratefully acknowledged at school awards ceremonies.

Thank you, Vickey (Hansen) Gordon, 1965 EHS graduate

Roger White of Scotland recently joined the MVHA. He is connecting with his Montana ancestors on the Foreman side and recently sent Mary Ann Alger this letter:

Wow! How nice to get an unexpected letter from you and hear about your family.

I don't know what was said about me at the history association meeting but let me tell you why I made contact with them. My mother was Doris May Foreman. She was born in 1914. Her father (my grandfather George Foreman who I never knew) was the son of Stephen Foreman. Stephen was the younger brother of William George Foreman who emigrated to Montana from England. William was the father of Mary 5 Ann Foreman Thexton, your grandmother. (cont. pg. 6)

For Your Reading Pleasure

The Road Between by Florence Bell Ore Memoir written by the speaker for the May Annual Meeting. Available at Madison Valley Public Library and Twin Bridges Library and other libraries around the state. Will be available for purchase at annual meeting.

Looking Ahead

May 16th, 2013 Trinity Church, Jeffers 4:00 to 6:00 Annual meeting, Awards and Potluck Program Writing Your Memoir by Florence Ore of Pony

June 20, 2013 4:00pm First Madison Valley Bank downstairs meeting room. Program: Dawn in El Dorado the Early Mining Camps and Settlement of the Montana Territory by Gary Forney

7:00ish Fire Pit Social at the MVHA museum and forge BYOB, snacks, marshmallows and other beverage May 11, 2013 9:00am Highway Cleanup (see pg 1) July 26, 2013 All day 9am to 6pm Photo tour of the Madison Valley and BBQ Feature history, scenery, wildlife and people. Sponsored by MVHA, Ghost Town Preservation Society and Camera Club of Bozeman Details to be announced. This will be the MVHA

meeting for month of July **August** Too be determined

MVHA Cookbook It is not too late to get a copy of the MVHA historical cookbook. It is available at the at the Ennis Pharmacy. You may still order copies for \$15 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling to MVHA, P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729. This is a great Mother's Day gift or gift for an "old timer".

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Walk of Names MVHA's project for 2013 will be to complete the deck and handicapped walkway to the Forge building. Orders are s being taken for the Walk of Names boards. You may order one for \$50 at the address below or by calling 682-5780 or 682-7415. Don't forget to honor a family or family member or give a memorial. A great gift! Madison Valley History Association, Inc. P.O. Box 474 Ennis, MT 59729. Your donation is tax deductible.

From the Mail Box Roger White (cont. from page 5) My mother married twice. Her first husband was killed in W.W.II. Her second husband, Ronald George White, was my father. Both passed away some time ago. Neither of my parents had much contact with their relatives and I only began to investigate my family history after they died. I found out about William, Stephen and their brothers and sisters and began to track down information about all of them...except William, who disappeared from the English records sometime in the 1860's.

Eventually I found a reference to a William John Foreman in Virginia City. When I got a hold of some US censuses I became convinced he was my missing ancestor. A lady in Montana kindly sent me some pages about him from the book Pioneer Trails and Trials and I received further information from a Thexton in Australia who was also researching his family history.

There matters rested until I discovered the

MVHA Board of Directors

President: Don Black Vice-President: Larry Love Past President: Otis Thompson Treasurer: Kevin Brenneke Secretary: David Hoag Director: Liz Applegate Director: Shirley Love

Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month or as scheduled. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program. Board Meetings are held the **1st** Wednesday of each month 10:00am. First Madison Bank conference room Oct. to April

Museum MVHA Office May to Oct.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be July 2013.

Editor: Shirley Love e-mail.whitneyptranch@wispwest.net Contributing editors:

Bobby Klatt Remembering Joy Bates Schendel Dr Jeffery Safford The "Devils Teapot" Kelsie Frey The Founder of Ennis Will Gilmore William Ennis Hal Pasley Nature's Beauty

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by the First Madison Valley Bank

Madison Valley History Association web site. They put their newsletters online. I found various references in them to Foremans and Thextons including a note from Robert (Bob) Foreman who you mention. From the names in his description of family parties in the past I knew he must be a relative. I then contacted Don Black of the association who kindly put me in touch with Robert. His wife, also a Mary Ann, used e-mail and we have exchanged information.

And now I have found you! Believe it or not, I think I know what you look like because on the MVHA Facebook page there is a photo of a meeting they had last year on moonshine and you and your husband are in one of the photos. You're all smiling, so maybe you had free samples of the product?! Of course in Scotland we have our own special brand of the stuff- good Scotch Whisky.

Thank you for giving me Bob Foreman's address and also mentioning the English couple-Reggie and Vickie Dixon. I haven't heard of them so may write to them to see if they are Foreman relatives.

Although I live in Scotland, I am English and was born North of London where some Foreman relatives were living and farming before my parents moved there.

Mary Ann, thank you again for writing to me. In the old country we always think that it is the folks who left to emigrate that are keen to trace their roots. But it sometimes works the other way round and you have helped me trace some of mine.

All the best to you, George and your family. Who knows I might make it to Big Sky country one of these days. Roger