



**Welcome to Membership** The following have joined since the April 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

**Beekman, Bob & Jan(F)** 682-4177

P.O. Box 1477 7 Mallard's Roost  
Ennis, MT 59729

**Bryner, Carol (Crump)(F)** 907-277-7967

626 'N' St.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**Elpel Jan (I)** 587-5844

8215 Fowler Ln..  
Bozeman, MT 59718

**Ravis, Lorraine & Chuck(F)** 682-4277

125 Haypress Lake Trail ( S)  
Ennis, MT 59729

43 Oatway Ln. (W)

Winthrop, ME 04364

**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 July, Aug. or Sept. or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal slip included with 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:)

If anyone needs a ride to a meeting, please call 682-5780 and we will arrange a ride for you.

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**Member News:**  
**Dick and Polly Todd** of Sheridan, were featured in the April 25, '13 issue of the *Madisonian* under Living Pioneers of Madison County.

**Vickey Gordon**, MVHA calling committee member, performed a concert of classical music in Virginia City at the Elling House on June 29, 2013.

**John and Sharron Gecho** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 29, 2013 at the Blue Moon in Cameron.

**Lynn and Devonna Owens**, MVHA board members, along with Bill and Marge Bowersox were Parade Marshals for the Ennis 4th of July Parade.

**Larry Love**, MVHA president and **Vickey Gordon**, 2

played in the Community Band Concert in Peter T Park for the Ennis 4th of July Celebration.

**Gary Forney**, local author and historian has recently completed and published his most recent book Dawn In El Dorado: The Early Mining Camps and Settlement of the Montana Territory.

**Fred and Darlene(Neville) Rochez** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a renewal of vows ceremony at Trinity Church on July 6, 2013.

**Mary and George Clausen** became proud grand parents for the first time with the birth of Livia July on July 9, 2013.

**Lester and Bobby (Bates) Klatt**, 15 year members of MVHA, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 15, 2013. Cake was served after church on the 14th

Please send any member news to the editor so special events and accomplishments are remembered.

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**Memories**  
Long time MVHA member, **Charles "Buck" Crump**, passed away in December, 2012. He was born in Wallingford, CT on December 23, 1916. He lived his whole life in Wallingford, but traveled often to Montana, Wyoming and England. After finishing high school, he took a bus to Montana where he spent the first of many summers working on the Nine Quarter Circle Ranch. He was very proud of his work there and wrote stories of moving horses from winter pasture to the dude ranch. Some of his stories have been published in past editions of the Wagon Tongue. He was a delightful man, only known to the editor through correspondence. He was a faithful supporter of the MVHA.

"Buck's" daughter, Carol Crump Bryner and son, Kirtland Hall Crump found his membership renewal form and have decided to continue their father's support of the MVHA with a membership.

**Monty Duane Jackson** passed away April 4, 2013 at the Billings Clinic. He was born in Norris on Aug. 9, 1944 to Willet and Gayle Shouse Jackson. He was raised on the family farm and graduated from Ennis High School. He married Sherrie Frisbie on Oct. 5, 1963. They later divorced and Monty married Rhonda Ross. Monty began his ranching career at Corral Creek Ranch outside of Cameron, MT.

**Donna B.(Smith) Bennett** passed away April 10, 2013. She was born March 14, 1940 in Minneapolis, MN to Harry Floyd and Thressa Lois(Tawlks) Smith. Donna moved with her family to Jeffers, MT when she was 3 months old. Donna attended Ennis High School. Donna is the sister to MVHA Board member, Devonna (Smith) Owens.

**Brendan Glenn Reints** passed away on April 10, 2013. He was born on March 18, 1980 in Sheridan, MT. to Danny Devers and Robin Reints Lake. He is a grandson to MVHA members, Elso and Marlene Reints.

**Tanya Christensen** passed away on May 14, 2013. She was born in Rexburg, ID to Pete and Arva Christensen. She was raised in Ennis and graduated from Ennis High School. (*Memories continued on pg. 3*)

*Memories cont. from page 2*

**Richard M. Lyon** passed away on April 17, 2013 at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. He was born in Atlanta, GA on Oct. 4, 1956. He moved to Ennis with his family and graduated from Ennis High School in 1984. He was in the National Guard and his passion for music took him to Nashville. He moved back to Ennis and married Mandy. He continued to play music with other musicians around Ennis.

**Genevieve Hickey** passed away on April 23, 2013. She was born in Minneapolis, MN on November 20, 1920 to Dr. Douglas Ford and Grace Evelyn Robbins. She followed her sister, Helen, to Dillon, MT where she met Maurice Joseph Hickey. They were married in Moore, MT and they eventually ended up in Ennis. They owned and operated Hickeys Four Seasons Motel on Main Street from 1949 to 1995, more than 45 years in the hotel business. She was a member of Madison Valley Woman's Club.

**George Alger** passed away on May 10, 2013 at the Madison Valley Hospital in Ennis. He was born on Feb. 8, 1922 near Harrison, MT to Carl and Minnie (Handkenson) Alger. George's father, Carl was born in Michigan and came to Montana with his parents when he was one. They lived on the Stephen's ranch and he went to school at South Boulder and then Jefferson Island. He also worked in the mines in Butte before marrying Minnie Hankenson in 1921. They then lived on a ranch just out of Willow Creek, MT. George was born near Harrison. He attended elementary school in Harrison and Varney and when his family moved to California in 1929, attended school in California. before returning to Montana and attending Ennis High School.

As a youngster, he got a job working for the Call Ranch at a wage of 50 cents a day. One day Mrs. Call was watching him and after a while called him over and told him he was working as hard as any man. She increased his wage to \$1.00 a day.

As a junior in high school, he attended a music festival in Bozeman and caught the attention of a music agent. He had a wonderful baritone voice that was recognized early on as exceptional, He was rated as Superior at the music festival where he sang the song Deep Purple. He left the Madison Valley in 1940 traveling to the Los Angeles area. He had the opportunity to sing with various bands one of them the Ted Lewis band. During his time in the Army he also sang for General Patton. He served in the Army during W.W.II. His instructor on the gun range asked if he had ever fired a rifle in the Army. His answer was "No". After being instructed how to use the gun, he fired 5 bulls eyes in the target. The instructor said, "I thought you didn't know how to shoot a gun." His reply was he had never shot a gun in the Army, but he had shot gophers in the fields of Montana. He was part of the Omaha Beach Landing during the war.

While in California he married former Miss California, Gladys Putnam. He later married Barb Carwell (sp?) and he and Barbara returned to Montana to make

their home. He was a very active member of the Masons and he bowled in a league up until the time that the alley closed. He was also an avid snowmobiler and belonged to the Vigilante Snowmobile club. After Barbara's death, he met and married Mary Ann Gorman on Sept. 27, 1999. Progressive Years, Madison County, Montana Vol. II pg. 554 by Marie Alger, Obituary *Madisonian*, Memory of George by Darlene Neville Rochez  
**Eula Cora Thompson Wing**, age 105, passed away May 20, 2013 at the Madison Valley Manor where she resided the last six years. Lula's son, Dave and wife, Jerry are current members of the Madison Valley History Association. Lula was born on Nov. 23, 1907 in Deer Park, Wash. to Lester H. and Besse Mason Thompson and they moved to the Gallatin Valley in 1910. Lula graduated from Gallatin County High School and attended Montana State College. In 1927 she was accepted into Northwestern University in Illinois where she became a registered nurse, a profession she continued throughout her life.

Lula had an early connection with the Madison Valley when as a girl at Gallatin County High School, 1923 to 1927, classmates were the Maynard sisters. She would visit the Maynard Family on weekends at the Family Ranch which is now The Channels. She told us of the experience crossing the lake on the pontoon boat when the wheels of the car would sink into the water. A scary experience for her. The girls enjoyed themselves going to dances at Cameron and riding horses at the ranch.

Lula married Leonard A. Wing on Feb. 23, 1932.

Eula's father, Lester, raised Purebred Hereford Cattle. Alice Orr of the Bear Creek Ranch purchased range bulls from Dave's grandfather. Dave recalls riding along when the bulls were delivered to Bear Creek and Antelope Basin.

During World War II while her husband, Leonard, was in the South Pacific, Lula worked as a registered nurse in Bozeman. When Leonard returned from the service, they resumed their normal life ranching at Toston and Manhattan, MT.

Dave remembers his Mom as being a great cook and horse woman. He also remembers that the last time they cross country skied together, Lula was in her early 70's *Madisonian* Obituary and Memory of Eula Cora Thompson Wing by Dave and Jerry Wing

**Helen Edwards** passed away at her home on May 21, 2013. Helen did not have much connection to the Madison Valley but you will remember her husband, Jim Edwards who passed away on Oct., 11, 2007.

**Karl Gene Warburton** passed away June 10, 2013 in Ennis. He was born Sept. 25, 1929 in Salt Lake City, UT to Karl and Hazel (Chadwick) Warburton. Gene was raised in Grouse Creek, Utah and moved with his family to Cameron in 1948 where the family ranched for 36 years. Gene joined the MVHA shortly before he passed on.

**Richard Noack** passed away on June 17, 2013 in Phoenix, Ariz. He was born Feb. 28, 1935 in Duluth Minn. to Arnold and Mary Noack. (*Continued pg 4*)

*Memories continued from pg. 3*

He started hunting in Montana in 1959 and brought the family for vacations in Ennis starting in 1965. He loved the area, and moved his family here in 1969. He bought the Todd Ford Agency from Dan and Zoe Todd which was located where the current City Hall complex is now. After getting out of the auto business, he built roads for the forest service.

**Marvin Lee Stewart** passed away June 27, 2013. He was born on April 29, 1937 in Ennis, Mt. He graduated from Ennis High School in 1955. He married Bea Duke on Jan. 28, 1956. Marv and his wife ran Marv's OK Tire in Dillon, Stewart's Tire in Pocatello, Id and Snake River Tire in Twin Falls, Id.

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Memories are excerpted *Madisonian* Obituaries. Also *Progressive Years* and *Madison Valley Trails and Trials* are helpful. 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. For this issue I received memories from Carol Crump Bryner, Dave and Jerry Wing and Darlene (Neville) Rochez. I also received tidbits of help from Neil Kent, Mary Ann Alger and Devonna Owens. Thank you for contributing.

**Collecting Family Histories**

The MVHA is making a concerted effort to have folks write their memoirs or collect their family histories to help preserve the history of the Madison Valley and the stories of the people who were born, raised and/or lived in the Madison Valley. Remember...history started yesterday so your stories do not have to be from long ago.

Ken Card of Billings recently donated a notebook of the Personal Genealogy of Frank Omar Vetter. This little notebook is a treasure trove of family history of the Vetter Lineage and the Daems Lineage. This notebook has been copied and is in archival form at the Research room of the MVHA Museum. The original notebook has been cataloged and can be used in the Research Room. Take a look at it sometime to see how Frank Vetter preserved history. It consists of copied photos and many lists, many dates and family lineage but the history is preserved.

From page 1-2, and 4 of this notebook:

*Personal Genealogy of Frank Omar Vetter.*

Date of Initial Entries: July 18, 1995.

Introduction:

Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing, leave behind us  
Footprints in the sand of time.

--Longfellow--

All of our ancestors left their footprints, some more visible than others, some so faint or obscured by time that they may never be detected. The collection of footprints discovered by studying the lives of ancestors is known as genealogy.

Webster's dictionary defines genealogy as the descent of a person or family from an ancestor,

generation by generation.

To me, Webster's definition, while technically correct is grossly inadequate. To me, genealogy means probing the lives of ones ancestors to ferret out their secrets. It means bringing those long dead ancestors back to life, in a sense to provide information about themselves. It means getting acquainted with ones ancestors.

It is my sincere desire that the ancestral footprints I have collected there will prove useful to future generations in preparing their own genealogical records. In that sense, my own footprints appear in these pages as my legacy. This account makes extensive use of an earlier account researched and compiled by nephew, William Gerald "Billy" Tucker, with the assistance of my dear mother, Elvira Elizabeth "Lizzie" Daems Vetter.

Useful information also been found in the following publications: Great Great Uncle James Simpson "Jimmie" Spray: *Early Days in the Madison Valley, Pioneer Trails and Trials History of Madison County, Montana, Volume I, Progressive Years History of Madison Count, Montana Volume II.*

A great deal of information has been found in the LDS Family History Library, probate records of Warren County, Ohio, vital records of Madison County, Montana, and the U.S. Census records, the latter located in the National Archives, Seattle, Wash.

Further research is expected to reveal a great deal of data now missing. However, it must be understood that much of the older data have been irretrievably lost. It must also be understood that, in an undertaking of such nature and complexity as this, discrepancies are likely to occur. Reasonable care is taken to insure that such discrepancies are kept to a minimum and they will be corrected when discovered.

**Omer versus Omar**

From earliest memories, it has been my belief that my father's middle name was Omer. Throughout his lifetime, he was known by friends and family simply as Omer, never Omar.

Moreover, I believed that I was also given the middle name Omer, and that the name Omar on my birth certificate was a clerical error.

However, a record recently came into my possession in which my father, in 1942, petitioned the Probate Court of Warren County, Ohio to register his birth. The name he used was George Omar Vetter.

The little notebook goes on with Table of Contents and the genealogy of his family and a lot of photos. A great way to preserve a family history.

Frank Vetter passed away Sept.16,2011 but he left his family legacy. Following his example, now it is our turn to write down or collect our family histories!

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**History Tidbit** Power Co. appraising farms for dam. Area condemned covered 3269.88 acres at \$20.27 per acre includes land, buildings, etc. It took appraisers 14 days to appraise at \$8.00 per day for 3 people.

July 31, 1903 *Times*



**For Your Reading Pleasure**

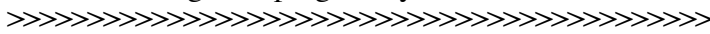
*Dawn in El Dorado: the Early Mining Camps and Settlement of the Montana Territory* by Gary R. Forney  
The sesquicentennial of the Montana Territory is a wonderful point at which to consider its dawning years. Against the backdrop of Civil War and Reconstruction, Montana became a place of refuge and a golden land of great hopefulness. This work recounts the struggles, tragedies, controversies, humor and colorful characters of Montana's formative years.

**Looking Ahead**

**July 26, 2013 Madison Valley Photo Tour cancelled**

**August 15, 2013** Tentative..Field trip to Pony ,MT with new history shared. Stay tuned for details

**Sept 19 and Oct 17, 2013** Monthly MVHA meeting with programs yet to be determined



**Walk of Names** MVHA's project for 2013 will be to complete the deck and handicapped walkway to the Forge building . Orders are 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. Boards are need to complete the project.

**Correction** from last issue. Bobby Foreman called to report that he very much liked the Roger White letter but noticed that on pg 6 mid page in column two "His wife also a Mary Ann " should read "His wife, Mary Jo".

**From the Mail Box**

June 19, 2013

Letter to the Editor of the Wagon Tongue, Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

Dear Editor:

This month I am writing on behalf of the Journalism classes and teachers at Ennis High School. In retrieving, organizing and displaying copies of past issues of the Ennis Mustang Annuals, some gaps emerged and the teachers would appreciate any donated copies for the displayed historical collection at school:

Missing years: Any years before 1948-49, 1950, 1952, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1959, 1960, 1965, 1966, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1976, 1982, 1999, 2004

If you have or know of extra copies that could be donated to EHS, please contact the high school office at (406) 682-4258.

I know there is a collection of Annuals at our History Museum, but I also think it is very cool that the teachers and students are interested in having a collection in-house; the issues on display in the Journalism room provide a visual history in their classroom! Thank you, Vickey Gordon

**MVHA Board of Directors**

President: Larry Love

Vice-President: Otis Thompson

Treasurer: Kevin Brenneke

Secretary: Liz Applegate

Director and Historian: Don Black

Director: Devonna Owens

Director: Jimmy Carlson

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 October 2013.

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Contributing editors:

Carol Crump Bryner Memory of Charles "Buck" Crump

*Madisonian* Obituaries

*Progressive Years Madison County Montana, Vol II*

Darlene (Neville) Rochez

Memory of George Alger

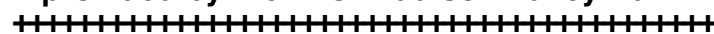
Dave & Jerry Wing Memory of Eula Wing

Roberta Carkeek Cheney

Pony pg 205

*Names on the Face of Montana*

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



A tentative field trip is planned to Pony, MT in August so just a little history. Pony is near Harrison, and was named for Tecumseh" Pony" Smith who arrived there in 1869. He acquired his nickname due to his small stature. Pony was one called by the *Madisonian* "the metropolis of the Madison Valley."

In its heyday it boasted a population of well over a thousand. Pony is an old town; even before the Alder Gulch discoveries, Smith had built a cabin on the stream that was to be called Pony Creek and was doing some placer mining. In the fall of 1875 quartz discoveries brought prospectors flocking, and by 1900 the town had many handsome brick building, including a \$12,000 schoolhouse, a bank, newspaper, stores, hotels and saloons. It is now a cluster of summer homes with a few year-round inhabitants. The post office opened in 1877 with William Wart in charge. *Names on the Face of Montana* by Roberta Carkeek Cheney

**Montana Trivia** is back again! Answers to #22 Wise River & #23 Belgrade from WT October 2012