

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES'

HERITAGE KEEPER & HERITAGE GUARDIAN AWARD

Narrative Application for

James O. Southworth, Billings, Montana

Author, bluegrass musician, avid genealogist and raconteur, James O. Southworth is well known across the state for his love of Montana, community volunteer work, and his family homesteading tales. Born and raised in Park City in 1929, Mr. Southworth and his family have a deep history in that area which he freely shares through many newspaper articles, two books, and bluegrass/story telling performances across the state.

As a writer James Southworth has focused on his family's experiences homesteading in Hope Valley just north of Park City, especially those of his grandmother "Lizzie". The Southworth clan came to Montana in 1914 with "... cow, horses, chickens, and machinery" in toe—all tucked in Northern Pacific Railway cars as part of the Railroad Homestead Program. James describes in poignant detail the hard-dry years the family endured through the 1920s—using Lizzie's letters to family members as his main source.

In 2004, he also participated in a joint oral history project between the Montana Historical Society and the Homesteading National Monument of American in Beatrice, Nebraska. The project was dedicated to capturing and preserving 19th and 20th century homesteading experiences across the country. The resulting interview (OH 2150) is part of the permanent collection at the Montana Historical Society. It has and will be used by researchers for years to come to gain insight into the lives and experiences of homesteaders

James expanded his writing to his own life and experiences in, *"The Road Taken"*. In this candid depiction of Mr. Southworth details his efforts as a genealogist to capture his family's history, his work as a gandy dancer on the Northern Pacific, service in the Air Force, and his love of bluegrass, writing and politics. The latter including his 1988 run for the legislature and dedicated work with labor unions in the state.

Mr. Southworth's musical contributions center on his devotion to preserving and performing old time bluegrass music, both as a member of several bands, as an active member and longtime president of the Old Time Fiddlers Association. He has also been honored as an inductee in the Fiddler's Hall of Fame.

As the attached awards and letters of commendation show, Mr. Southworth is deeply dedicated to his community and his home state. Whether volunteering as a driver for the DAV (Disabled American Veterans), building wheel chair ramps, or performing in senior centers, he has spent countless hours in service to others. And for his efforts he has received letters and certificates of recognition from local, state and national organizations, including one from Senator Max Baucus. Mr. Southworth's greatest commitment and gift to the people of Montana however has been his efforts to share his passion for family and community history, and to inspire that love in others.

Through his writing, volunteer work and music, James O. Southworth has brought the history of homesteading and homesteaders to life for this and generations to come.

It is my hope you will give this application your every consideration, and I happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Jodie Foley
Montana State Archivist
Montana Historical Society
jofoley@mt.gov
406 444-7482

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MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES' HERITAGE KEEPER & HERITAGE GUARDIAN AWARD

NOMINATION FORM

ABOUT THE NOMINEE

Name of Nominee JAMES O Southworth
Address 4215 MT Sapphire DR APT 102
Phone Numbers 406-545-9761
E-mail NA

ABOUT YOU

In case we need more information about your nominee.

Nomination Submitted by Jodie Foley
Address 1400 Hauser
Phone Number 406 444-7482
E-mail jofoley@mt.gov
Date Nomination Submitted 3/13/19

Return completed form, narrative & support documents **by March 16, 2019**

to:

**Heritage Keeper Awards Chair
Montana Historical Society
P.O. Box 201201, 225 North Roberts
Helena, MT 59620-1201**

Or e-mail to: Joy Lewis, jlewis@mt.gov, or FAX to: 406-444-2696.
For information call: 406-444-1799

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Historical Society

**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES'
HERITAGE KEEPER & HERITAGE GUARDIAN AWARD**

NOMINATION NARRATIVE

Please answer the following questions:

1. Contribution(s) to Montana history—please describe the project or on-going service within Montana's historical community that has been accomplished by the nominee. (Limit 500 words)

2. What are the particular strengths and impacts of the Montana history goals the nominee has achieved? What impact has the work accomplished had on the community/intended audience? (Limit 500 words)

3. Describe the nominee—provide a short biographical sketch/history of the nominee, including: length of involvement in service; effectiveness of service; level of prior recognition; and degree of commitment to the general concepts and highest goals of the historical community. (Limit 500 words)

4. Attach Supporting Documentation—i.e. news articles, commendations, letters of support. (Limit - three documents)

2/22/2019

I, James O. Southworth, was born and raised in Park City, MT later moved to California. It was a learning adventure during a time where jobs were difficult to come by, especially where circumstances were not conducive to remain in CA and moved back to MT.

So, after many years, I decided it was time to reflect on my past, family genealogy, and experiences that allowed me to write articles, short stories, and even an autobiography.

Through several writings, I portrayed the homestead era in this particular area of MT. The tough nature of these homesteaders that came to MT managed to build a life in a very dry, arid land some 90 (ninety) years ago. These good citizens and good people paid their taxes, and rarely ever missed (if ever) the opportunity to vote in the elections.

By writing and donating the story of "Lizzy" to the MT Historical Society gave me the opportunity to open a window to the rugged lives these men and women lived and endured during those bleak homestead days.

I also have donated my book, "The Road Taken" to the MTHS, which includes several accounts of homestead living in those days, some short stories, and researched family genealogy.

At 15 years old, I worked as a "Gandy Dancer" for Northern Pacific Railroad. The definition for a "Gandy Dancer" is the man who maintains the railroad track by removing ties and replacing worn rails, and routine maintenance and repair work. Most of which in today's time has been replaced by modern equipment that was required by many men's strong backs and hard working ethics. Thus, the railroad functioned extremely well then by the mere sweat and blood of those who needed work. Later on, machines were able to alleviate most of the backbreaking work for the many men who labored for the railroad's progress to continuous years of success.

For 4 (four) years I served the United States Air Force, was stationed in Alaska as a heavy equipment operator, honorably discharged, and moved back to MT. Jobs were hard to find. In the interim, I joined the Peace Corp and moved to Belize, only to learn that my choice left something to be desired and came back looking for work.

From 1952 to 1985, I worked for the major oil and gas company CENEX. Although at the time, they were not hiring and a fellow veteran and I applied anyway and were given temporary jobs as laborers. This later developed into a career with this great company for 32 ½ years.

Living, working, politics, and music are the essentials in my life. As a musician, I am involved in keeping many of the old time songs and music alive through contests,

and primarily volunteering to play for assisted living communities, rehab center, rest homes, and other organizations. For 12 years I was the President of District 4, MT Fiddlers Association, awarded the Hall of Fame in 1990 in Polson, MT. members like to strive to maintain the old time and bluegrass music alive. There are even younger generations who are currently playing in the association.

Politics has been a passion of mine and actively served in the Montana Legislature for years, initially by working in the 1989 session bills department and also served in the 1991 session. I am still involved by remaining active in voting and staying apprised of our government's current activities.

After retiring from CENEX, I started a company, still own and operate Southworth Construction. With this business I was able to help provide people with disabilities by building ramps, installing other necessary items. Although retired I continue to work voluntarily on projects with the poor and elderly community.

Currently, I am 89 years old, still playing music and working with people.

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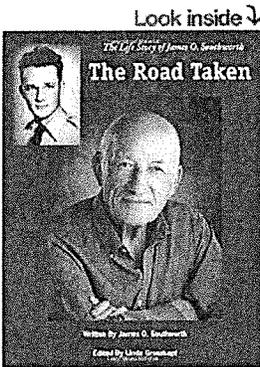
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James O. Southworth

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The Road Taken Paperback – July 19, 2013

by James O. Southworth (Author), Linda Grosskopf (Editor), None (Illustrator)

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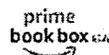
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The autobiography of James O. Southworth. James Southworth was born in 1929 in Columbus Montana, the middle child in a family of five children. More than eight decades have passed since that event, and James has filled them with a diverse variety of life experiences. As a teenager, James worked on the Northern Pacific Railroad with his father and his older brother. In the late '40s and early '50s, James had a four-year hitch in the Air Force, during which time he was stationed in Alaska and Florida. Following his discharge, James returned to Montana and got another job on the railroad before going to work at the Cenex Refinery, a job he kept until retirement. James married in 1953, and it wasn't long before the family included three children. During his spare time, James began to develop two strong interests - music and politics. Both

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Editorial Reviews

Review

In this plain spoken reminiscence, Jim Southworth doesn't sugar coat the mistakes he figures he made in a life lived fully, from a childhood moving across the West during the depression, through years as a Railroad Gandy dancer, a hitch in the military, union organizing, politics, country music, and many more experiences. He shares some bright spots, too, including saving dozens of people from injury or death with quick thinking and courage in the face of a boiler explosion at Parmly Billings Library in 1987. Wherever he traveled and whatever else was going on in his life, it seemed he was always rooted in Montana and always cared about his extended family. For a guy who reports he came to the appreciation of books late in life, he has written one that will reward its reader with a candid and colorful account of a fascinating life. --Bill Cochran, Director, Billings Public Library

The Billings Outpost has been pleased to run a number of articles by Jim Southworth over the years, both historical and autobiographical pieces. They always generate a warm response from readers and often a chuckle from this editor. It's good to see some old friends among the pieces in his new book, as well as new work with which fans can now become acquainted. --David Crisp, Editor, Billings Outpost

Bluegrass musician, railroader, activist, and storyteller, James O. Southworth, recently released, The Road Taken, 300 page autobiography spanning eight decades. Southworth memoirs are a colorful collection of his life experiences in Montana. The book reads as part genealogy and part autobiography with stories told in a tone that reminds the reader of a good conversation with a friend over coffee. The author traces his lineage in photos and family mythologies back to 1721, then launches into his own journey from stubborn boy nursing a wounded heart to a clear eyed man approaching life with measured toughness and insight. Through it all, Southworth repeatedly returned to the stuff that makes for good stories, family, love, and the Big Sky country. Born in 1929 in Columbus, Montana, Southworth's early years were shaped by family strife, and peppered with school boy hijinks, the kind that raised eyebrows then and now. The author does not sugar coat the hardship of those early years, the poverty brought on by the depression, his parents

About the Author

In the mid-1960s, my thoughts turned to genealogy, and I became interested in my family name. My dad had died in the '50s, my uncles were passing away, and I realized it was getting late to be asking questions. I started asking and writing for information. Then sometime in the 1970's, I decided to write the story of my youth, which turned into the story of my life told in bits and pieces over many years. It has taken 80-some years to put this material together, and now that it is complete, I realize that I have had a good run for my money!

Product details

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Language: English
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THE SOUTHWORTHS COME TO MONTANA

Jesse, William, Joseph and Goldy, with their mother and father, John and Anna Southworth, arrived from Kansas on Valley Creek north of Park City, Montana in 1913. They brought with them all their possessions; cows, horses, chickens, machinery, and more, by the Northern Pacific Railroad under the Railroad Homestead Program.

William bought the eighty acre ^{Sowell} "cow place" on the creek and Jesse homesteaded 160 acres just west of William's place, bordering it. Joseph homesteaded 160 acres on the north and east side of William's place.

Grace, an older sister, with her husband John Feasel homesteaded 160 acres on the north fork of Valley Creek about a mile above these other homesteads.

The scrapers, arrowheads and knives were picked up over the years in this Valley Creek area by Jesse and William. The random bullets were possessions of these men from that time and probably some from Kansas.

They scratched out a bare living here on these dryland acres for nearly 60 years. They were good people, just a little late in the Homestead days, the good land was gone.

Assembled and donated by James O. Southworth





Montana Historical Society

225 North Roberts · Helena, Montana 59620-9990 · (406) 444-2694

September 25, 1997

JAMES SOUTHWORTH
1512 DOWNY RD
LAUREL MT 59044

Dear Mr Southworth

Thank you for your donation of Lizzy : Ann Elizabeth Nutter Southworth to the Montana Historical Society Library.

This material will be added to our permanent collection and made available to researchers. We do appreciate the gift. Many of the rare or unique items which make our collection valuable for historical research have come to us through such generosity as yours.

Thank you again for thinking of the Society.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Clark
Society Librarian

5913

Wed Nov 20/2013
Laurel Outlook



Highlights

Book review: 'The Road Taken' is worth the trip

By JENNIFER RIES
Outlook Staff

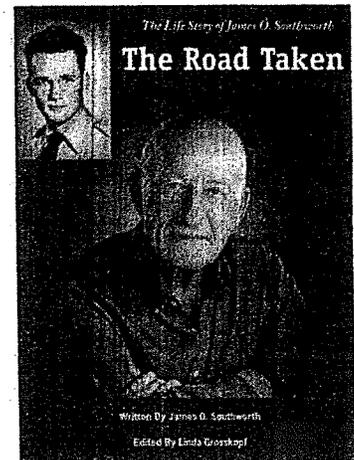
Bluegrass musician, railroad-er, activist, and storyteller James Southworth recently released "The Road Taken," 300-page autobiography spanning eight decades, and kindly offered an edition to the Outlook for review.

Southworth's memoirs are a colorful collection of his life experiences in Montana. The book reads as part genealogy and part autobiography, with stories told in a tone that reminds the reader of a good conversation with a friend over coffee. The author traces his lineage in photos and family mythologies back to 1721, then launches into his own journey from stubborn boy nursing a wounded heart to a clear-eyed man approaching life with measured toughness and insight. Through it all, Southworth repeatedly returns to the stuff that makes for good stories — family, love, and Big Sky country.

Born in 1929 in Columbus, Mont., Southworth's early years were shaped by family strife and peppered with school boy hijinks, the kind that raised eyebrows then and now. The author

does not sugar-coat the hardship of those early years — the poverty brought on by the Depression, his parents' troubled marriage, and his struggles in school. As a teen, Southworth worked with his father and brother as a gandy dancer on the Northern Pacific Railroad, followed by a 4-year stint in the Air Force. When he returned from service, during which time he was stationed in Alaska and Florida, Southworth went back to railroading and then took a position with the Cenex Refinery, a job he held until his retirement. "The Road Taken" includes stops for Southworth to marry and start a family, hone his skills as a bluegrass musician, and in his golden years discover a passion for writing that lead to publication in area periodicals, culminating in his first book.

The tome is heavily annotated with family photos and documents that provide provenance and help the reader put faces to the dizzying array of names. Local readers may recognize a good many family names, as the Southworths called Park City home since 1913, crossing paths with the homesteaders and rail-rod-ers who settled the



James Southworth recently released "The Road Taken," 300-page autobiography spanning eight decades. Courtesy image

Yellowstone River valley from Columbus to Laurel.

Southworth will offer up a little music and a little reading from his new book Saturday, Nov. 23, at Emma's Kitchen, 401 East Main St. in Laurel, at 11 a.m. Southworth will be available after the presentation to answer questions and to sign books. Books cost \$20, plus \$3.50 if shipped. For further information contact the author at 406-545-9761.

THE SOUTHWORTHS COME TO MONTANA

Jesse, William, Joseph, and Goldy, with their mother and father, John and Anna "Lizzy" Southworth, arrived at Valley Creek from Kansas just north of Park City, Montana in 1913. They brought with them all their possessions: cows, horses, chickens, machinery, and more, by the Northern Pacific railroad under the Rail;road Homestead Program.

William bought the eighty (80) acre "Cowel Place" on the creek which was bordered by Jesse's homestead (320 acres) on the west, and Joseph's homestead (320 acres) on the north and east side him.

Grace, an older sister with her husband John Feasel, homesteaded 160 acres on the north fork of Valley Creek nearly a mile above these other homesteads.

There were scrapers, arrowheads, and knives picked up over the years in the Valley Creek area by Jesse and William (see photograph). The random bullets were possessions of these men from that time and probably some from Kansas.

They scratched out a bare living there on those dry land acres for nearly 60 years. They were good people, just a little late coming into the homestead days, the good land was gone.

Jesse Southworth proved up his homestead in 1919 and Joe Southworth proved up his homestead in 1920. John Feasel proved up his homestead in 1917 and only spent a few years then sold out and went back to Kansas. Feasel was married to Lizzy's oldest daughter. They (Jessie, William, and Joe) moved the Feasel house to Joe's homestead and they all lived there until Bill Southworth bought the Cowel's 80 acres, then the homestead bordered each other. Joe married and started a family and the times were too tough and "dry." Joe sold out and moved to Park City, MT and found work as a carpenter and worked in the Stillwater ~~egg~~ mine.

I quoted some of the statements from Lizzy's letters to her sons, Joe and Ray. She describes here daily work and how they prayed for rain. Their only means in most years was taking their eggs and cream to Park City to trade for items they needed. There were times they didn't get enough of their wheat and barley seed back to plant the next season.

The above stories may be referenced in my book, "The Road Taken" published by James O. Southworth.

Although most people had electricity ANNA, LIZZY NEVER HAD A LIGHT BULB OR A REFRIGERATOR.

The United States of America,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS, a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at **Billings, Montana,** has been deposited in the General Land Office, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress of May 20, 1862, "To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of **Joseph V. Southworth** has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the **west half of Section twenty-six in Township one south of Range twenty-two east of the Montana Meridian, Montana,** containing three hundred twenty acres,

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor-General:

NOW KNOW YE, That there is, therefore, granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said claimant the tract of Land above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said claimant and to the heirs and assigns of the said claimant forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights, as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts; and there is reserved from the lands hereby granted a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, **Woodrow Wilson,**

President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, in the District of Columbia, the **FOURTH**

(SEAL)

day of **FEBRUARY** In the year of our Lord one thousand
 nine hundred and **TWENTY** and of the Independence of the
 United States the one hundred and **FORTY-FOURTH.**

By the President:

By

Woodrow Wilson
W. P. Le Roy, Secretary.
E. P. C. Samson,
 Recorder of the General Land Office.

RECORD OF PATENTS: Patent Number

732419

—

Billings 011510.

The United States of America,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS, a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at **Billings, Montana,** has been deposited in the General Land Office, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress of May 20, 1862, "To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of **Jesse R. Southworth** has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the **Lots one, two, three and four and the north half of the south half of Section thirty-four in Township one south of Range twenty-two east of the Montana Meridian, Montana, containing three hundred twenty-five and twenty-hundredthe acres,**

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor-General:

NOW KNOW YE, That there is, therefore, granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said claimant the tract of Land above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said claimant and to the heirs and assigns of the said claimant forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights, as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts; and there is reserved from the lands hereby granted, a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, **Woodrow Wilson,**

President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, in the District of Columbia, the **TWENTY-SECOND**

(SEAL)

day of **SEPTEMBER** in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and **NINETEEN** and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and **FORTY-FOURTH.**

By the President:

By

Woodrow Wilson
W. P. Le Roy, Secretary.
S. P. C. Samler,
 Recorder of the General Land Office.

RECORD OF PATENTS: Patent Number

707615

February 14, 2001

James O. Southworth
1512 Downy Road
Laurel, MT 59044

Dear Mr. Southworth:

Thank you for submitting "The Last Thirteen Steps for Frank Robideau" for consideration by Montana The Magazine of Western History. Although I enjoyed reading the essay, I'm afraid it won't work for our magazine. We tend to publish stories with more context—that are about more general aspects of history, for which an incident like this would provide an example. Our articles are also always footnoted.

Nevertheless, I found the story very interesting and was particularly intrigued by the grain deal gone bad. I think to make the story work for publication in any venue, you'll need to find out more about this wheat deal: why Kuntz wouldn't pay Robideau and what they were fighting about. Otherwise, the modern reader is left hanging, wondering what happened. Hope this critique helps.

I wish you the best of luck in your finding an outlet for this piece. I spoke with our librarian, who said she would welcome a copy.

Sincerely,


Martha Kohl
Acting Editor

OLD MARTHA
TO GIVE HER
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August 14, 2007

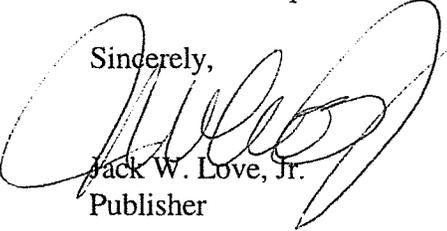
James Southworth
1512 Downy Rd
Laurel, MT 59044

Dear Mr. Southworth:

Thank you for sending us your story *The Fork In The Road*, which we selected as the best "Remember When" submission in the August/September 2007 issue of the *Montana Senior News*. The War affected so many people in so many ways. Thank you for sending us the history of how your family dealt with the many changes that occur during wartime.

Your ten-dollar prize check is enclosed. Please feel free to make additional submissions.

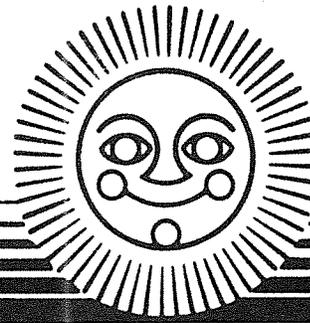
Sincerely,



Jack W. Love, Jr.
Publisher

JWL/ss
Enclosure

The Billings Gazette



P.O. BOX 2507
BILLINGS, MONTANA 5910
406-657-1200

WAYNE E. SCHILE, PUBLISHER

January 14, 1988

James Southworth
3810 N. Tanager Lane
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Mr. Southworth:

Congratulations on your Billings Gazette award for service to our community.

A check is enclosed and in a few days you will receive a framed printing plate of the front page of the January 3, 1988 edition of the Billings Gazette in recognition of this award.

Thank you for your role in making our area such a grand place to live.

Sincerely,

Wayne E. Schile
Publisher

WES/kp

Encl.

EARLY SETTLERS OF MONTANA

This certifies that

James O. Southworth

is a descendent of

Anna Elizabeth MATTER

and has qualified as a member having proven direct
descendancy of an early settler who settled in Montana
between 9 November, 1889 and 31 December, 1929.

Signed

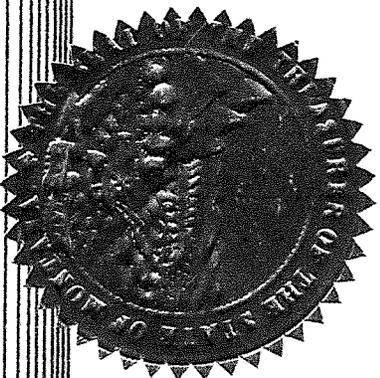


President, Montana State Genealogical Society

Date

22 October 1998

ESM #74



EARLY SETTLERS OF MONTANA

This certifies that

James O. Southworth

is a descendent of

Ray Clarence Southworth

and has qualified as a member having proven direct
descendancy of an early settler who settled in Montana
between 9 November, 1889 and 31 December, 1929.

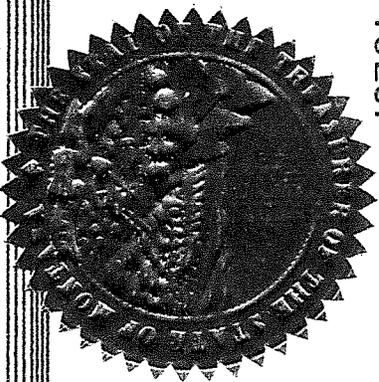
Signed


President, Montana State Genealogical Society

Date:

23 October 1998

ESM #75





State of Montana
Office of the Governor
Helena, Montana 59620
406-444-3111

STAN STEPHENS
GOVERNOR

November 7, 1990

The Honorable Jim Southworth
3843 Sand Piper Lane
Billings, Montana 59102

Dear Jim:

The 1990 election is now history. Congratulations on conducting a successful campaign.

If we are going to move Montana forward it is imperative that we communicate and cooperate with one another, regardless of political affiliation, better than ever before. I am committed to working closely with you and each of your colleagues in the 1991 session, for the good of all Montanans.

I look forward to meeting with you in my travels around the state prior to the convening of the legislature and welcoming you to Helena in January.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sta".

STAN STEPHENS
Governor

INSERT 104 D

Greater Yellowstone Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO



LABOR TEMPLE
Twenty-Four South Twenty-Ninth Street
Billings, Montana 59101
(406) 252-2271

November 18, 1991

New
Address

{ Jim Southworth
3843 Sandpiper Lane
Billings, Montana 59102

Dear Brother Southworth:

On behalf of myself, the delegates of the Greater Yellowstone Central Labor Council and all of our brothers and sisters in the labor movement, I would like to personally thank you for your efforts in making our new Labor Temple a reality.

This has been one of the greatest undertakings of organized labor and only by the hours donated by dedicated members such as yourself will our new facility finally be completed. Hopefully, next summer we will have a new building we all can be proud of.

Once again, thank you for all your service. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Gary Bauer,
President

Enjoy Section BILLING'S GAZETTE
MARCH 20 1992

SUMMER

Working vacation can educate, too

By ANN BRILL
For The Gazette

TILLOO CAY is as isolated as Gilligan's Island. The small island in the Bahamas is known as a good place to spot humpback whales, dolphins, manatees and even the rare Caribbean monk seal.

Like lots of other folks, Billings resident Jim Southworth thought he might need a vacation to recover from his vacation. But in his case, it's not because he played too hard, but that he spent his vacation working.

Southworth, an environmentalist and retired carpenter, has spent several vacation helping environmental groups. Two years ago, he helped research the habits of humpback whales for Earth Watch. This year, he spent two weeks in a rented cottage on tiny, secluded Tilloo Cay. The 4-mile-long and quarter-mile-wide island in the Bahamas is a good place to study marine life, according to the Center for Whale Research, Inc., organizers of the study.

Getting to the remote island took more than a day of traveling. The journey began at Logan International Airport in Billings with stops in Salt Lake City, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Miami and Marsh Harbour, Abaco, in the Bahamas. From Marsh Harbour he traveled by boat to Tilloo Cay.

The research team expected to see some of the 16 species of cetaceans reported in the area, including manatees, the near-extinct Caribbean monk seal, bottlenose dolphins by the hundreds and humpbacks whales calving.

Unfortunately, Southworth said, high winds on the Atlantic Ocean prevented them from taking their small vessels out for sightings.

"The Atlantic was rough surf all the time, with waves pounding



Jim Southworth used his carpentry skills on his Bahamas vacation.

hard and spray raising 30 or 40 feet in the air," he said.

It may have been the winds, but one of the things Southworth saw that shocked him was the amount of garbage coming in from the ocean. One day on the small beach he counted 44 plastic tubes, used by the U.S. Navy to spot submarines.

High winds on the Atlantic Ocean often prevented the researchers from taking their small vessels out for sightings. On days that the research team did manage to get on the water, members took their boats out on the more sheltered west side of the island.

Dolphins and calves were in abundance there. Southworth said the team is able to track dolphins because each has markings as distinctive as a human fingerprint.

Because of his carpentry skills, Southworth spent a lot of time building and fixing things at the group's base camp. After a few days on the island, he was not only proud of but eager to use the shower he constructed.

Working and educational



The pleasure of a vacation

vacations are becoming more popular, said Billie Ruff at Cook Travel Service. Although she said it's not a major source of their business, they do offer tours for special-interest travelers, such as New York theater groups, golf cruises to Hawaii or art-study tours to Italy.

Loni Hanzlik, of Grand Travel Inc., agreed that working vacations are not a major part of their business. She said, however, that they do get customers who are planning these trips and the agency helps them figure out the details.

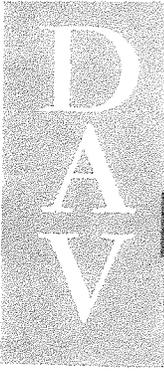
For travelers who view the world as their classroom, here are few places to contact for more information:

■ Center for Whale Research, Inc., 1359 Smuggler's Cove, Friday Harbor, Wash., 98250.

■ Earth Watch, 680 Mt. Auburn St., Box 403, Watertown, Mass., 02272.

■ Elder Hostel, 75 Federal St., Boston, Mass., 02110.

■ The Smithsonian Associates and Travel Program, 1100 Jefferson Drive, SW, Washington, D.C., 20560.



Motto: "If I cannot speak good of my comrade, I will not speak ill of him."

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NATIONAL SERVICE and LEGISLATIVE HEADQUARTERS
807 MAINE AVENUE, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024
(202) 554-3501

May 23, 1997



Mr. James Southworth
1512 Downy Road
Laurel, MT 59044

Dear Mr. Southworth:

When you became active as a DAV volunteer you earned the DAV's gratitude and its congratulations. We offer you our gratitude because the need is so great among the patients at our VA medical facilities. We extend our congratulations because you've embarked on a course that will allow you to make a substantial contribution to a cause of immense social merit. Every time you give of yourself to the well-being of men and women who have served in our nation's defense, you'll make such a contribution. Few experiences could bring a greater measure of personal reward.

All of us in the DAV's elite corps of volunteers open our arms to you, welcoming you to our ranks. One of the ways in which we express our appreciation to our volunteers is by providing pins that denote the number of volunteer hours they have on their records. These pins begin at the 50-hour level and we wanted to let you know how much we value the commitment you've made. So, as a small expression of our gratitude, we've enclosed a special DAV VAVS Volunteer pin that we hope you will wear proudly until you qualify for the 50-hour level pin.

We're certain that your work as a DAV volunteer will prove to be a valued asset, not only to the medical staff but most importantly to the patients. We look forward to presenting a 50-hour pin and DAV Volunteer Cap to you in the very near future. At the 300 hour level, you will be eligible to receive a DAV/VAVS Volunteer T-Shirt.

And once again, Mr. Southworth, thank you so very much.

Sincerely, [Handwritten signature of Bruce G. Nitsche]

BRUCE G. NITSCHKE
National Director of Voluntary Services

BGN:jlb
Enclosure
CC: VAVS Representative
Chief of VAVS



Motto: "If I cannot speak good of my comrade, I will not speak ill of him."

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NATIONAL SERVICE and LEGISLATIVE HEADQUARTERS
807 MAINE AVENUE, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024
(202) 554-3501

August 15, 1997

Mr. James Southworth
1512 Downy Road
Laurel, MT 59044



Dear Mr. Southworth:

CONGRATULATIONS! Enclosed is your new DAV Transportation Network lapel pin you have earned as a volunteer driver for this vital program. The figures on the pin show you have attained more than 2,000 DAV Transportation Network miles while driving disabled veterans to VA medical facilities for needed care.

A new pin is automatically sent to every DAV Transportation Network volunteer driver when they reach additional mileage levels --- 500; 1000; 2000; 3000; 4000; 5000; 6000; 7000; 8000; 9000; 10,000; 15,000; 20,000; 25,000; 30,000; 35,000; 40,000; 45,000; 50,000; 75,000; 100,000; 125,000; 150,000; 175,000 and 200,000. Under separate cover, a National Commander's Certificate will also be sent to those drivers who have reached levels from 100,000 thru 200,000. All volunteer driver mileage is updated from monthly reports submitted by DAV Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCs).

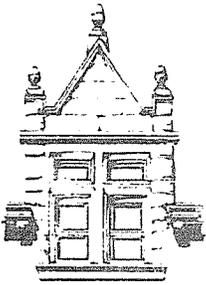
Our records reflect you have a total of 2,200 DAV Transportation Network miles recorded from HSC reports received thru May 31, 1997. This is a combined total for volunteers who drive for more than one hospital. Please advise your HSC if there is a discrepancy in this total --- as well as those which you earn in the future. Your HSC will verify the correct miles with the Chief of VAVS and then advise this office in order that pins with the accurate mileage level will be sent to you in the future.

Wear this pin proudly --- because we're proud of you! It represents the DAV national organization's appreciation for your volunteer efforts in helping disabled veterans obtain the medical care they so richly deserve. And we look forward to sending additional pins with new mileage levels as you continue to serve the DAV Transportation Network.

Sincerely,


BRUCE G. NITSCHÉ
National Director of Voluntary Services

BGN:jlb
CC: DAV/HSC
Chief of VAVS



BILLINGS
P R E S E R V A T I O N
SOCIETY, INC.

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August 6, 1998

South Bound Band
c/o Jim Southworth
1512 Downey St
Laurel, MT 59044

Dear South Bound Band:

Thank you, thank you for braving the weather to help provide another successful Country Fair for the benefit of the Moss Mansion. Without the overwhelming support of all the volunteers, we would not have been able to produce such a superb fundraiser.

On behalf of the Country Fair committee, I would like to thank you for providing entertainment for the Fair. The crowd enjoyed the array of talents that were displayed throughout the day. We appreciate you taking time out of your schedule to come and support our fundraising activities.

Once again, thank you very much. We could not have done it without you!

Sincerely,

Ruth Towe, Director
The Moss Mansion

Thora Aldrich
Admin. Assistant

Way to go, Jim!



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

MAX BAUCUS
MONTANA

May 27, 1999

Mr. James O. Southworth
1512 Downey Road
Laurel, Montana 59044

Dear Jim:

Congratulations for being honored at the annual Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Recognition Dinner for your many hours of service to the community. You certainly exemplify the spirit and energy of RSVP with your commitment to the program and your willingness to help wherever you are needed. I salute you on your efforts.

Please stay in touch, Jim, and let me know whenever I may be of assistance to you in any way.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

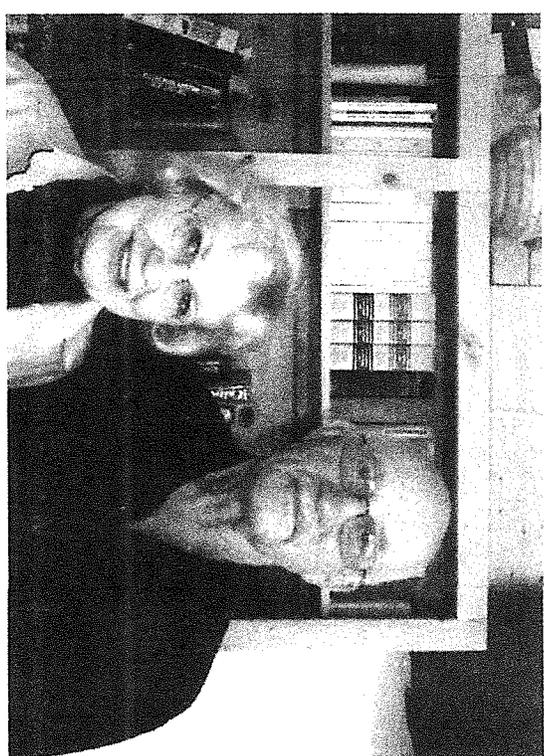
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Max Baucus".

A handwritten note in cursive script that reads "Good work Jim!".

Jim was born in Park City. His family moved to CA. so his father could work in the defense plant. When Jim was 15, they came back and went to work on the railroad section. A year later, he enlisted in the Air Force with basic in Wichita Falls, Texas and then to Hamilton A.F. base in CA. Wanting to see the world, he put in for 3 different overseas bases and was assigned to Alaska. He trained as a motor vehicle operator and ended up as a heavy equipment operator. That tour was for 27 months and then he was sent directly to Florida.

At 22, he went back as an apprentice for the railroad and then on to the refinery, where he stayed for 32 years until his retirement. Working in several different departments within the refinery, he ended up being a carpenter.

During this time, he met and married Clara Koch and they had 3 children. After 27 years, his wife died in '81. The oldest son has an 18 year son, Brett, who is a soldier in Iraq and under fire. Jim and Shirley ask everybody's prayers for him and all of our service people.



Jim is well known as a musician. When he was growing up, his family was poor, but his mother found the funds to buy a "38 Coronado" radio/record player. They would tune in the Grand Ole Opry. His brother got a guitar, Jim started playing and the band would practice in the garage. Eventually, Jim started following the bands around and would fill in when he could. Jim feels the bands were probably thinking, *oh no, here comes that Southworth kid again.* For 20 years, he played with the Lenhart band and his own group. Jim has also been president of the Old Time Fiddlers.

Coming home from a Peace Corp stint, he worked at the Billings Community Center as custodian and musician. Shortly after transferring to the library, he was injured in a gas explosion. The city of Billings, the Fire Dept. and the governor awarded him a Valor Certificate for his assistance in evacuating people from the library.

In 1988, Jim ran for the Montana Legislature and was defeated. He accepted a job in the 1989 Legislature working in the bills department. Running again in 1991, he was elected by 4 votes and called himself "Jim Landslide" Southworth.

Shirley and Jim do lots of charitable/volunteer work, she with her artwork and he with his music and carpenter skills. Jim regularly plays at various personnel care and nursing homes. He is also a contractor for LIFFT and builds their wheelchair ramps. They plan on continuing as they are, staying healthy and together live a productive life. This is the greatest time of their lives and each day is the first day of the rest of their lives.

THE RESOURCE CENTER
ALLIANCE 2002
NEWSLETTER

Jill Flikkema, President
Tobi Magruder, Vice President
59752
406-285-3823



PO Box 459
Three Forks, MT

A 501 3-C Nonprofit Organization

August 16, 2004

James O. Southworth
1512 Downy Rd.
Laurel, MT 59044

Dear Mr. Southworth

Congratulations on your recent induction to the Montana State Old-time Fiddlers Hall of Fame. After considering all qualifications of the nominees, the committee chose to honor you for your contribution to the MSOTFA along with Jim Davidson of Hamilton. Your picture and write-up will be displayed at the Fiddlers' Hall of Fame at the Miracle of America Museum in Polson, Montana.

Thank you for your years of dedication to this organization. We are proud to have you as a member of the Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Jill Flikkema, President MSOTFA

Montana Old Time Fiddlers Dist. 4

News Letter And Jam Schedule

As A member of District 4 James O Southworth has written his life story. It has taken 80 years to put all this material together and now it is complete, and I realize that I had a good race for the money. If anyone would be interested in the Book it is for sale.

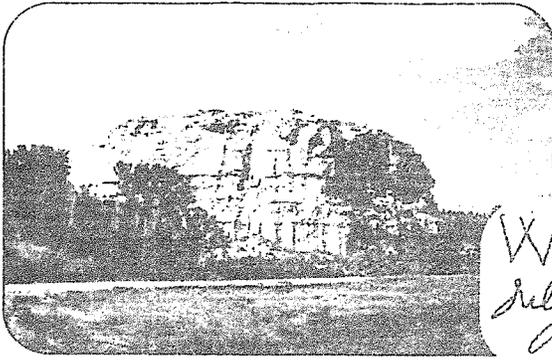
I joined the old time Fiddlers in the 1960s, I then become the president for 12 years all through the seventys and early eightys, I also ran the Festival of Strings in Columbus, Mt. until we were loosing money on the show and had to shut it down.

I went to Polson Mt. for the State Contest and worked in the program for years. I was voted into the hall of fame in Polson for Accompanist back some years ago, I played Banjo in the Lenhardt Polka Band for 21 years. I have had A Bluegrass and Country Band of different people for sixty years.

(the Book Sells for Twenty Dollars plus Three Dollars for postage if it is Mailed call me or Write me if interested) James O Southworth

Dec. 2013

1317 Yellowstone Ave.
Billings, Mt. 59102 Phone # 545-9761



Pompeys Pillar Association, Inc.

*W^m Clark
July 25, 1806*

Pompeys Pillar, on the Lewis & Clark Trail, bearing an inscription by Captain William Clark, July 25, 1806, is the only remaining physical evidence on the trail of the Lewis & Clark Journey.

August 16, 2007

James Southworth
1512 Downy road
Laurel, Mt. 59044

Dear Jim:

We want to thank you very much for again bringing your band to Clark Days. It is always so nice to have your music on Sunday.

We really appreciate this as without people like your group it would be impossible for us to hold the Clark Days Event.

Again, thank you for all you have done for us over the years and we look forward to working with you again next year.

Sincerely,

Clark Day Committee

VOLUNTEERS.....

THE "HEART OF AMERICA"

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

JIM SOUTHWORTH

**WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO -
YOU GIVE YOUR TIME AND ENERGY, TOO.
YOU BRIGHTEN LIVES LIKE A SHINING STAR;
WHAT A TRULY SPECIAL PERSON YOU ARE.**

**YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE
BY YOUR COMMITMENT AND CARING,
AND BECOME THE HEART OF AMERICA,
BY VOLUNTEERING.**

*Thank You for Your Dedicated Service to Beartooth Manor
as our Special Volunteer!!
We extend our Sincere Gratitude to You!!*

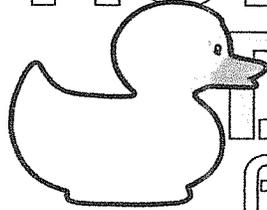


BOB ZELLAR/Gazette Staff

Jon Shields talks to James O. Southworth about historical photos from his family's homestead outside Park City. Shields, who's with Pediment Publishing, was in Billings on Saturday scanning old photos for a book to be published in December.

BILLINGS GAZETTE 6/14/15

RUBBER DUCK REGATTA



Prevention of Elder Abuse
Senior Helping Hands
Friends Volunteer Program



October 22, 2009

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Jim Southworth
Southbound
3912 Towhee
Billings, MT 59102

Dear Jim:

We deeply appreciate you and the Southbound Band's consistent support at the Rubber Duck Regatta year after year! The attendance at this year's regatta exceeded all of our expectations. We have you and the members of Southbound to thank for your volunteer efforts and for your continued support of the Prevention of Elder Abuse Program.

You must know we want you back for 2010, but I want to extend a special invitation to you for a return performance next year. The 14th Annual Rubber Duck Regatta will be held again on National Grandparents Day, which is on Sunday, September 12th, 2010. We are also open to any suggestions you may have for next year. Please contact me with any questions/suggestions and to confirm your attendance, at 259-3111 or email me at nleby@bigskyseniorservices.org. Enclosed is a thank you certificate for you and the band and we hope you enjoy the photos and the memories.

Again, thank you Southbound! We appreciate you!

Warmly,



Nell Eby
Events Director

STILL PERFORMING ANNUALLY.
LOS... 2019

Department of Veterans Affairs

Voluntary Service
Certificate

This certificate is presented to

James Southworth

by the Department of Veterans Affairs

in appreciation of

1,409 hours and 13 years

of volunteer service to veterans

through dedicated participation in the

Voluntary Service Program.

Given at VA Medical Center

Miles City, Montana




Joseph M. Underkofler
Director

CERTIFICATE OF VALOR



In recognition of a courageous and unselfish act, for heroism above and beyond the call of the average citizen, we, the undersigned, hereby present this certificate of valor to

JAMES SOUTHWORTH

for participation in the preservation of life and property from the perils of fire.



Governor
State of Montana



State Fire Marshal
Department of Justice

President
Montana Fire Prevention Association

Billings Fire Department issued Valor plaque - 6/30/1087

Governor presented plaque to - Jim 10/20/1988



VALOR

JAMES SOUTHWORTH



BILLINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT
RECOGNIZES YOUR UNSELFISH ACT
OF BRAVERY ON 6-30-87

PARMLY BILLINGS LIBRARY



JOINT CITY - COUNTY LIBRARY

CITY OF BILLINGS

November 1, 1988

James O. Southworth
3810 North Tanager Lane
Billings, Montana 59102

Dear Mr. Southworth:

At our October 28, 1988, Library Board meeting, we were pleased to hear that Governor Ted Schwinden presented to you the Montana Certificate of Valor for 1987 in ceremonies held in the State Capitol. On behalf of the Joint City-County Library Board, I want to convey both our recognition and congratulations to you upon receipt of this award for your act of heroism in connection with the gas explosion on the 4th floor of the Library on June 30, 1987.

The Library has long been distinguished for its outstanding programs and employees. In addition to being an outstanding employee, you have also demonstrated heroism and caring for your fellow employees above and beyond the call of duty.

Again, congratulations and please accept our very best wishes and thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Marie Thompson
Chair
Joint City-County Library Board

cc: file

[/dw4/doc1/jos.doc]

JOHN STALEY

1607 21st St.
Billings, MT 59102

About Jim Southworth,
To The Voters of House District 86:

In 1987, a natural gas explosion shook the Billings Parmly Library. Jim Southworth, our candidate for State Representative, ignored his own injuries to help evacuate others. This is the kind of person we need to get the job done in Helena.

He has courage. Risking life and serious injury to try to stem the flow of the escaping natural gas is truly a brave act.

He is caring. He had the presence of mind to think before reacting hastily, or with reckless abandon, and alert his friends and co-workers to the danger that existed. His actions gave them sufficient time to make their escape from that perilous situation. He cared more about the safety of his friends than about his own.

In the face of panic and imminent danger he first took the time to make sure someone called for help. Afterward having suffered serious injury himself, he remained composed enough to check the building to make sure his friends and co-workers were all out of the building and safe.

Jim Southworth is a friend. I can think of no person who would more bravely speak his mind against even overwhelming odds, or be more caring about the opinion of others and their ideas, yet remain composed no matter how tough the situation may seem.

Above all, friends are reliable, and Jim Southworth is someone people relied on at the library in Billings that day, and he didn't let them down. He is the kind of friend we need in Helena.

John Staley



MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

225 North Roberts ♦ P.O. Box 201201 ♦ Helena, MT 59620-1201
♦ (406) 444-2694 ♦ FAX (406) 444-2696 ♦ www.montanahistoricalsociety.org ♦

March 31, 2004

Dear Project Participant,

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the **Homesteading in Montana Oral History Project!**

Based on your responses to our survey you have been selected to participate in this project. We feel your experiences and those of your ancestors make you a great candidate for this project.

The project itself consists of collecting tape-recorded interviews from 20 to 30 families whose members homesteaded in Montana in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The tapes will be stored at the Homestead National Monument of America (in Nebraska) and the Montana Historical Society. They will augment the rich oral history collections at each institution. Your interview will become a valuable part of the recorded history of Montana and the national homesteading experience.

The interviewing process will take place at the following time and location:

1:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 7
Montana State University Student Union Building, Bridger Conference Room
(see map included. We are in building #5)

You should find attached a general outline of questions that will be asked. Do not worry if you cannot answer all the questions. This list is intended to cover all possible experiences. We will review your survey to determine which questions might not be applicable to your specific experience.

The interviewers for this project will be four history students from Nebraska State University, Todd Arrington, Project Director from the Homestead National Monument, and myself.

If you have any questions about the process or how the interviews will be used, feel free to contact me directly.

Thank you once again for agreeing to participate in this project. I look forward to hearing more about your family's experiences homesteading in Montana!

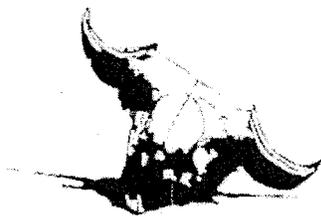
Sincerely,

Jodie Foley
Archivist/Oral Historian
Montana Historical Society

Jodie Foley
444-6779

The Homestead National Monument of America Oral History Project

The Montana Historical Society, in cooperation with The Homestead National Monument of America, is proud to announce a new oral history project. The Project will focus on the living descendants of homesteaders in Montana. In an effort to gather the names of potential interviewees the Society is asking folks with family stories relating to homesteading experiences in Montana (roughly between 1910 and 1930) to complete the survey provided below. The surveys will be used as background research for the project, but will also serve as a pool from which oral history interviews will be conducted. In April staff members from the Homestead National Monument of America and the Montana Historical Society will choose up to 20 people to interview more extensively regarding homesteading family stories and experiences. Homesteading era photographs, letters, or diaries are also of interest. Anyone wanting more information about the survey or the project should contact society oral historian Jodie Foley via email at jofoley@state.mt.us.



1

Homestead National Monument of America Project (in cooperation with Montana Historical Society Oral History Program)

Historical Information Submission Form

(Participation is completely voluntary. The contact information is for our records only. All contact information will be kept strictly confidential and will NOT be made available to any outside sources. Your answers will be, with your approval, preserved for researchers interested in homesteading in Montana)

Name: JAMES O Southworth
Mailing Address: 4215 MT Sapphire Dr APT 102
Billings MT 59106
Telephone: 406.545.9761 Fax: _____
E-mail: NA
Cellular Phone (if applicable): NA
Today's Date: MARCH 4 2019

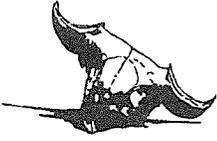
- When and how did your family/ancestors arrive in Montana?
1914
- How exactly were these family members related to you?
MY DAD AND HIS BROTHERS GRAND PA & GRAND MA
- Do you know how they heard about homestead opportunities in Montana?
NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD ADVERTIZEMENT
- Where did your family/ancestors homestead? Do you know the legal land description(s) of the homestead(s) in question?
COPIES INCLUDED
- Were they able to "prove-up" on the homestead? If so when, if not, do you know why?
Jessey Sept 22 1920 Joseph 4 day Feb 1920
- Did you learn about the family homesteading history from personal experience, family stories or conducting research?
BOTH PERSONAL & FAMILY STORIES
- Do you have any photographs or paper documentation relating to the homestead? Would you be willing to share them with our staff?
YES

- Would you consider sharing your memories in an oral history interview? Yes
- Would you mind our sharing the answers you provided to researchers studying homesteading in Montana? I AGREE
- Do you know of anyone else that we should contact about homesteading in Montana?
?

Please add any family stories or first-hand experiences you would like to share relating to homesteading/farm life in Montana (feel free to use additional sheets if you require more room to write):

IN 1922 JESSEY "SHOCKING" GRAIN IN
THE FIELD WAS BIT BY A RATTLE SNAKE
THEY HAD TO GO TO THE RANST HITCH THE
TEAM UP AND GO 70 MILES TO PARK CITY
FOR A DOCTOR, JESSEY HAD TURNED
BLACK BY THAT TIME BUT THE DOCTOR
WAS ABLE TO SAVE HIM AND HE LIVED TO
BE IN HIS EIGHTIES

If returning via mail, please remit to:
 Montana Historical Society
 Attn: Jodie Foley
 P.O. Box 201201
 Helena, MT 59620-1201



MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

225 North Roberts ✦ P.O. Box 201201 ✦ Helena, MT 59620-1201
✦ (406) 444-2694 ✦ FAX (406) 444-2696 ✦ www.montanahistoricalsociety.org ✦

May 14, 2004

James Southworth
1512 Downy Road
Laurel MT 59044

Dear Mr. Southworth,

You recently visited with our volunteer interviews for the Homesteading in Montana Oral History Project. Please find enclosed a cassette tape copy of the resulting interview. The tape is our gift to you—a small thank you for participating in our project, and delving your memories for the benefit of future generations. There is also a tape included for Mr. Frank. Would you mind passing the tape on to him with our thanks as well?

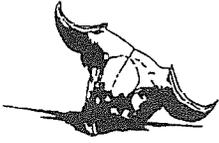
We knew when we started the project that the topic was important. Listening to some of the interviews we have collected, I am even more certain that this is the case. Each interview tells similar tales of hardship and joy, but each from a very personal and unique vantage point.

In the coming months we will work on creating transcripts for the interviews. When we have a draft ready I will send one along for you to review. Once the final is ready it will be sent to you as well.

Thank you once again for your generosity and candor in sharing your family's extraordinary experiences.

Sincerely,

Jodie Foley
Archivist/Oral Historian



MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

225 North Roberts ✦ P.O. Box 201201 ✦ Helena, MT 59620-1201
✦ (406) 444-2694 ✦ FAX (406) 444-2696 ✦ www.montanahistoricalsociety.org ✦

July 9, 2004

James Southworth
1512 Downy Road
Laurel MT 59044

Dear Mr. Southworth,

Earlier this spring you graciously agreed to be interviewed for our Homesteading in Montana project. In reviewing our files in preparation for entering the interviews into our catalog I found that your interview does not have a release form. Would you mind signing the enclosed form and sending it along in the envelope provided. This will allow me to officially open the interview for use.

As promised we are currently working on transcriptions for the interviews. As soon as we have a draft completed I will send it along to you for review.

Thank you once again for your generosity and candor in sharing your family's extraordinary experiences.

Sincerely,

Jodie Foley
Archivist/Oral Historian