

Pat Ludwig's Genealogical Find

Genealogically speaking this summer has been great for one such genealogist. A whole new family line has been opened up with many new friends and relatives ready and willing to help.

Let me tell you how it happened. After spending about 3 or 4 years exchanging names, dates, and pictures with my husband's family, I decided to put that volume on the shelf and work on my own side of the family. Since my mother is still alive as is an older sister, I was able to fill out many pages on one side of my family but I was equally curious about my father's family.

This was not so easy. My father's immediate family had all passed away 25 to 30 years ago including Dad so I had to find some other relatives or friend who knew the family. Since their family had resided in Butte and we also had about 30 years ago I recalled the last name of some cousins my dad visited with. I asked a friend to secure a telephone book from Butte and was pleasantly surprised that the family was still in Butte. So I wrote to this person. A couple of weeks went by and finally I got a letter from the wife of the "cousins" I had written to. She informed me that he had died a few months earlier and she didn't know much about the family - but she did send me addresses of 2 more cousins in the Seattle area where most of the family had been living. Immediately I wrote to both of them as I was surprised there were other cousins.

Two days later I received a letter from a lawyer in Seattle. I was a link in legal proceeding to determine heirs for a brother of my dad's mother (a grand-uncle).

This fellow had died earlier in the year. One petition had been filed with the final probate to be on June 24. My grandmother was listed, but with no

living heirs. In 20 days I was sent a very nice check as my brother and I were awarded one fourth of the estate since we were the only living heirs of our grandmother. What a surprise and so well appreciated as we have several college age children between us. But just as important is the fact that several of these cousins are now corresponding with dates, pictures and a whole new circle of relative and friends, Just to trace all these leads will take the next year or two and swell another volume.