

# GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

## The Falls Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2018



### *PRESIDENT'S CORNER*

*The  
Library will be  
closed on  
Sunday,  
February 19th  
for the  
Presidents Day  
Holiday.*

I hope that 2018 has begun well for you. I don't know if you are one to make New Year's resolutions; I'm not. But if I were, it would probably have something to do with giving more time to the things I love doing.

As we begin the New Year, I want to thank all those who have agreed to serve either as committee chairs or in other Society capacities. You will find a list of those individuals elsewhere in this newsletter. And when you meet our volunteers, please express your appreciation for their contribution to the ongoing operation of GFGS.

We already took a giant step forward in our Society library this year. Our members voted at our January meeting to replace our copier. Working with the same company we got a newer copier that will also serve as a scanner. All of our computers are networked to the copier, allowing it to serve as our printer as well. This cuts down significantly on toner costs, since our new maintenance contract includes the provision of toner.

I would ask that you please be patient as we continue to experiment with how best to arrange our library, now that the copier has been relocated.

*- Larry D. Spicer  
GFGS President*

### FEBRUARY 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Thursday, February 1st - Acquisition Meeting**, 1:00 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library.

**Saturday, February 3rd - Board Meeting**, 9:00 a.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library

**Sunday, February 4th - Workshop: Using Religious Records in Your Genealogy Research**, 1:30 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library (see article on page 2)

**Thursday, February 8th - General Meeting**, 6:00 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library. Guest speaker: Tim Stoddart (see article page 3)

**Sunday, February 25th - RootsMagic SIG**, 1:30 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library

**Sunday, February 25th - DNA SIG**, 2:30 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library



## NEW IN THE LIBRARY as of January 2017:

### Books:

- Bozeman and the Gallatin Valley (MT)
- Bozeman Trail, Vol. I & II, The
- Fort Laramie and the Sioux (WY)
- German Genealogy Research in Pomerania
- Getting Good Crops, Montana Bitterroot Salish Indians, 1870-1891
- Historical Atlas of the Outlaw West
- Indian Wars of the American South, 1610-1858
- Jamaican Ancestry
- Lewis and Clark County in WWI (MT)
- Locating Your Pennsylvania German Ancestor in Europe
- Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia
- Montana and the NFL
- Montana State Prison History
- Mountain Men and Fur Traders of the Far West
- Natchitoches Colonials, A Source Book
- Notes on Research Sources for 18th Century Emigration from the Swiss Cantons Basel-Land, Basel-Stadt, Bern
- Notes on Research Sources for Emigration Studies from Archives & Societies in Southern Germany
- Nuggets in Time: An Anthology Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Virginia City, MT
- Reflections of the Past (MT)
- Shining Mountain Shadows (MT)
- Virginia Research Guide, Bypassing the Burned Counties
- The Warmth of Other Suns

### Journals:

- Mennonite Historical Bulletin - 52 issues, 1966-2001, 3 indexes

## February Workshop

- **Sunday, February 4th: Using Religious Records in Your Genealogy Research, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Society Library. Free for Society members.** When thinking of religious records, the first thought is to go to one of the major databases for the birth, baptism, marriage, and death records from the Catholic churches and Lutheran churches that are quite accessible. And FamilySearch has many church records from the locations that you may be researching. But where do you go to find information if your ancestors were Anabaptists? Where do you find Quaker records? Where do you go to find the various publications the local churches produced? Who are the “experts” in this area of research? This one hour workshop will introduce you to the wide variety of religious records available, how and where to find them, and how to integrate them into your genealogy research. Jan Thomson, instructor.

Due to limited space, please sign up in advance for this workshop by stopping by the Genealogy Library, calling 727-3922, or sending an email to: [gfgenealogy@genlibrary.org](mailto:gfgenealogy@genlibrary.org)



## GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR 2018

### **Committee Chairs:**

Acquisitions: Larry D. Spicer  
Membership: Pat Wardinsky  
Projects: Carol Byerly  
Publications: Jan Thomson  
Newsletter Editor: Linda Long  
Treasure State Lines Editor:  
Jan Thomson  
Research: Diane Green  
Technology: Gary Goettel

Journal Jars: Diana Kirol  
People File: Gail Kapptie  
Purchasing: Julie Pepos  
Quarterlies: Marie Bertie  
Volunteer Coordinator: Dennis Sugden

### **Webmaster:**

Merle Anne McLeish

### **Volunteers:**

4-Generation Charts: Cheryl Lucas  
Inventory: Linda Colenso

## February General Meeting: Kilt o' the Falls Celtic Society - Who We Are!

Join us this month for a little Celtic fun. Tim Stoddard, founder of the Kilt o' the Falls Celtic Society, will be our guest speaker and talk about this Society that is dedicated to celebrating Scottish and Irish heritage.

Our general meeting will be at 6 p.m., February 8th, in the Genealogy Library and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Library at 727-3922. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Preserving History

“Would you like to preserve a bit of history?” That’s a question Dick Eastman asked in one of his blog articles earlier this month. And as genealogists, I think most of us would answer yes to that question.

These days, there are many ways to do that and I’ve included two articles about crowd-sourcing transcriptions of old documents to preserve them and make them available to the public. Along with these two projects, there are also the ongoing indexing projects at [FamilySearch](#)

If this piques your interest, consider transcribing documents or indexing as a way of preserving documents, learning some history, and helping other genealogists and researchers.

*-Linda Long*

## Crowdsourcing the Transcription of Anti-Slavery

## Manuscripts at the Boston Public Library

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 24, 2018](#)

“Through the participation of citizen historians, we now stand on the threshold of having available — free to all — the entire contents of the Boston Public Library’s extraordinary Anti-Slavery Manuscripts collection: the personal papers of women and men who joined together, across barriers of race and class, in the Abolitionist crusade,” according to Peter Drummey, Stephen T. Riley Librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

The Boston Public Library is looking for help from hundreds, maybe thousands, of volunteers. Quoting from the project’s web site:

“The Boston Public Library’s Anti-Slavery collection—one of the largest and most important collections of abolitionist material in the United States—contains roughly 40,000 pieces of correspondence, broadsides, newspapers, pamphlets, books, and memorabilia from the 1830s through the 1870s. The extensive body of correspondence records interactions among leading abolitionists in the United States and Great Britain over a fifty year period, thus creating an archive that comprehensively documents the history of the 19th century anti-slavery movement in Boston as well as abroad through the end of the American Civil War and the abolition of slavery.

“While the abolitionists were united in their fight against the enslavement of blacks, they were not always united when it came to the question of whether or not women should participate in the movement.

“Women’s rights also proved a dominant theme in the abolitionist movement, and the deep contention surrounding this issue is reflected in the correspondence. In addition, while the collection documents years of concerted effort on behalf of the abolitionists to end slavery, the letters also report frequently on resistance against the movement, thereby providing insight into the opposition.”

The project plans to use volunteers to transcribe the hand-written documents into computer text so the information

*(Continued on page 4)*

## MISSION OF THE GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The mission of the Great Falls Genealogy Society is to promote and encourage active interest in genealogy, compile accurate and complete genealogies and collect and preserve genealogical records. Additionally, the Society will foster education and training in genealogy through courses and instruction in genealogy, lectures, forums, seminars, and special work.

### Officers:

Larry D. Spicer, President  
Jan Thomson, Vice President  
Ann Dues, Recording Secretary  
Cheryl Lucas, Treasurer  
Trustees: Linda Long, Carol Byerly,  
Gail Kappte

### Committee Chairs:

Acquisitions: Larry Spicer  
Membership: Pat Wardinsky  
Publications: Jan Thomson  
Projects: Carol Byerly  
Research: Diane Green  
Technology: Gary Goettel

### Webmaster:

Merle Anne McLeish

### Newsletter Editor:

Linda Long

### Society Library Hours:

Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



*The Falls Newsletter* is published monthly by the Great Falls Genealogy Society, 301 2nd Ave N, Great Falls, MT 59401. Members of GFGS receive the newsletter as part of their memberships.



Members and the public are encouraged to submit material for publications. Articles should be sent electronically if possible. Deadline for submission is the fifteenth of the month. Neither Great Falls Genealogy Society nor the editor assumes responsibility for errors of fact or opinions expressed by the contributor. The editor reserves the right to edit material prior to publication. Send articles to the office at the above address or electronically to [gfgenealogy@genlibrary.org](mailto:gfgenealogy@genlibrary.org)

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**We're on the Web!**  
[gfgenealogy.org](http://gfgenealogy.org)

## *Anti-Slavery Manuscripts* (Continued from page 3)

can be quickly searched by the various search engines, making all the manuscripts easily available to genealogists, historians, researchers, and students alike. The web site also states:

“Over 12,000 of these letters were recently made available on Digital Commonwealth. This work was made possible through the support of the Associates of the Boston Public Library.

“In order to make this collection more valuable to researchers, scholars, and historians we are pleased to announce the launch of a new website which will make these handwritten items available for you to transcribe into machine readable text. This site was created and will be hosted by the development team at Zooniverse.org. Transcription will allow the text corpus to be more precisely searchable and better suited for natural language processing applications – helping researchers better understand patterns, relationships, and trends embedded in the linguistics of this particular community. We are especially excited to be launching on National Handwriting Day. We encourage you to celebrate by registering for the site and trying it out!”

You can get involved right now at <http://www.antislaverymanuscripts.org>.

[-Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#)

## **Crowdsourcing Volunteers to Transcribe Continental Army Paperwork**

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 23, 2018](#)

The Newberry Library in Chicago announced it has just digitized a collection of Continental Army receipts for clothing, food, and other supplies. And it's asking for volunteers to help transcribe those documents. Quoting from the Newberry Library's web site:

“Most of us are familiar with the grand narrative of the Revolutionary War—the hard-fought battles, the fragile alliances, the derring-do of the newly formed Continental Army. More rarely do we scratch the surface of the well-known textbook history to examine the minor players, local transactions, and day-to-day dealings that undergirded the war effort.

“Now, this approach has been simplified with the recent digitization of a rather unlikely collection: Revolutionary-era clothing receipts. Found in the papers of Chauncey Whittelsey, a Yale-educated clergyman and Connecticut-based merchant who served as purchasing agent for the Continental Army during the American Revolution, the receipts help reveal another front-line in the Revolutionary war: supplying the Continental Army. Yet a problem remains: no digitally searchable transcrip-

tions of the Whittelsey papers presently exist.

“In order to help scholars make use of Whittelsey's receipts and other similar manuscripts, the Newberry developed Transcribing Modern Manuscripts, a crowdsourced transcription site that allows members of the public to help transcribe almost 30,000 pages of eighteenth - and nineteenth-century American manuscripts. Once completed, these transcriptions promise to deepen our understanding of American history and shed light on overlooked but important actors like Chauncey Whittelsey.”

You can read more in an article by Matthew Clarke, Digital Initiatives and Metadata Assistant at the Newberry Library, at: <https://www.newberry.org/clothing-continental-army>.

[-Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#)



## **Mark Your Calendar!**

**May 2-5, 2018 - National Genealogical Society 2018 Family History Conference, “Paths to Your Past”**, Grand Rapids, Michigan at the DeVos Place Convention Center. Conference schedule is now online and hotel reservations are now being accepted. For more information go to: <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

**May 31- Jun 2, 2018 - 49th Annual Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree**, Los Angeles Marriott, Burbank Airport Hotel, Burbank, CA. For more information go to: <http://genealogyjamboree.com/>

**August 22-25, 2018 - Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference**, Fort Wayne, IN. Hotels now accepting reservations. For more information, go to: <https://fgs.org/cpage.php?pt=136>

**September 20-22 2018 - Montana State Genealogical Society State Conference, “Follow the Trail to Your Past”**, Heritage Inn, Great Falls, Montana. For more information, go to: <http://montanamsgs.org/conferences.html>