

GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The Falls Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2019



February Program: Great Falls City Records

Our guest speaker this month is Andrew Finch, the Senior Transportation Planner and CTEP Program Administrator in the City's Planning and Community Development Department. Andrew will talk about his office and the records they hold there, both current and historical.

Our general meeting will be at 6 p.m., Thursday, February 14th, 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!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

So did you make a genealogy resolution? Things in your research or organization of your records you have been putting off and have started back after? I'm going to be asking at our next meeting. Your success could very well inspire someone else.

As a Society we are working on some things around the Library. Members have pointed out a couple things to me. They are things that are easily overlooked, but no more. The work has started and will be ongoing as we attend to various tasks. The Public Library may also ask that we adjust how we provide electricity for laptop users.

We are in need of some volunteer help as well. Pat Wardinsky has resumed Membership Secretary responsibilities, but would like an assistant that she can train. Julie Pepos has asked to be replaced as Supply Purchaser. Please talk to me if you would be interested in looking into either of these positions.

Everything indicates that our library continues to meet the needs of our patrons and we continue in our efforts to make the Society and Library as user friendly as possible. You are a vital part of that being so and I thank our members for your involvement.

*-Larry D. Spicer
GFGS President*

FEBRUARY 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, February 7th - Acquisition Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library.

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

Thursday, February 14th- GFGS General Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Society Library. Guest speaker: Andrew Finch (see article this page)

Sunday, February 24th - RootsMagic SIG, 1:15 - 2:15 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library

Sunday, February 24th - DNA SIG, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library



NEW IN THE LIBRARY as of 5 January 2019:

Books:

- 200 Years in the Shenandoah Valley
- Bath County, KY Marriage Records 1811-1826
- Bath County Memories 1811-1974 (KY)
- British Columbia Chronicle 147-1871
- Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vols. 9 & 10
- Eastern European Historical Repositories
- German Residential Records for Genealogists
- Going to Highwood (MT)
- Ismay, Montana: Little Chicago of the West
- Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy and Records, Vol.1 #1 & #4, Vol.2 #1-#4
- List of Colonial Soldiers of VA
- Marriage Record of Washington County, TN 1787-1840
- Montana Justice: Power Punishment & the Penitentiary
- Pleasant View Cemetery, Belt, MT
- Revolutionary War Pensioners
- U.S. Census, 1840, Dewitt Co., IL
- U.S. Territories, Census & Substitute Names Lists 1590-2015

RootsMagic SIG: Media Madness!

Using media in RootsMagic seems to draw more questions than almost anything else, so this month we will dedicate the hour to all things media.

We'll start with the basics and move on from there. So bring your computers and your questions!

The RootsMagic Special Interest Group meets on Sunday, February 24th, at 1:30 p.m. in the Great Falls Genealogy Library.



Membership News



Welcome to our newest members:

Felicia O'Brien, Cascade
Carol Stevenson, Great Falls

WANTED: GREAT FALLS CITY DIRECTORIES

The Great Falls Genealogy Society Library is in need of a new 1972 Great Falls City Directory; our current volume is in very poor condition.

If you have a 1972 city directory that you would be willing to donate to the Library or know someone who might, please bring it to the Library or leave a message for Larry Spicer at 727-3922 or at gfgenealogy@genlibrary.org

The Library would also like to expand its Great Falls City Directory holdings and is looking directories from 2008 and later.

Keeping You in the Know

Why Was the Information Removed from Online?

[Dick Eastman](#) · [February 4, 2019](#)

Two newsletter readers sent email messages to me recently expressing dissatisfaction that a set of images of vital records has been removed from a popular genealogy site. Indeed, removal of any online records of genealogical value is sad, but not unusual. Changes such as these are quite common on Fami-

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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, Secretary
Cheryl Lucas, Treasurer
Trustees: Carol Byerly,
Gail Kapptie, Linda Long

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

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We're on the Web!
gfgenealogy.org

Dick Eastman (Continued from page 2)

lySearch, MyHeritage, Ancestry.com, Fold3, Findmypast, and many other genealogy sites that provide images of old records online. Removal of datasets has occurred dozens of times in the past and I suspect such things will continue to happen in the future. I thought I would write a brief explanation.

Contracts

In most cases, information of genealogical value obtained from government agencies, religious groups, museums, genealogy societies, and other organizations is provided under contractual agreements. The contracts specify what information is to be provided, how it is to be made available, and what price the web site owner has to pay to the provider for the records. All contracts also have a defined expiration date, typically 2 years or 3 years or perhaps 5 years after the contract is signed.

When a contract nears expiration, the two parties usually attempt to renegotiate the contract. Sometimes renewal is automatic, but more often it is not. Maybe the information provider (typically an archive) decides they want more money, or maybe they decide they no longer want to supply the data to the online genealogy service. For instance, in the time the information has been available online, the information provider may have learned just how valuable the information really is. The information provid-

er may decide to ask for more money or may even refuse to provide the information any more since the provider may have a **NEW plan to create their own web site and offer the same information online on their new site for a fee.**

Sure, that stinks for those of us who would like to have the information everywhere; but, it makes sense to most everyone else. I am sure the budget officer at most any state or local government archive thinks it makes sense.

Every contract renegotiation is different, but it is not unusual to agree to disagree. The contract ends, and the web site provider legally **MUST** remove the information from their web site. The same thing frequently happens to all the online sites that provide old records online.

GDPR

Another issue that has become a problem recently is the European GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). These new rules apply to all public records in Europe. These regulations arose because of the concept of the “right to be forgotten,” mostly concerning people who had legal problems in the past but have since reformed and do not want the old records to constantly create new problems. The regulations are generic and open to various interpretations. While not specifically requiring information about ancestors of 100 years ago or even earlier to be removed from public view, many people and organizations have taken a conservative approach and

deleted any record sets that are even slightly questionable under the new rules.

A full discussion of the GDPR would consume hundreds or even thousands of web pages so I won’t attempt that here. Instead, you can find many online articles that address the issues created by the GDPR by starting at Wikipedia at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Data_Protection_Regulation and then moving on to <https://duckduckgo.com/?q=gdpr&t=hi&ia=news>.

One problem for web publishers is how to create two separate services: one to display European records that comply with the GDPR and also create a second service that displays records from the rest of the world. Some web publishers have simply removed ALL records that might not comply with the GDPR regulations, regardless of the geography involved.

The moral of this story

If you find a record online that is valuable to you, **SAVE IT NOW!** Save it to your hard drive and make a backup copy someplace else as well. If there is no option to save, make a screen shot and save it on your hard drive and save another copy in the cloud or some other place where it will last for many years. Just because you can see the record online today does not mean that it will be available forever.

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



Mark Your Calendar!

May 8-11, 2019 - National Genealogical Society 2019 Family History Conference, “Journey of Discovery”, St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles, MO. Hotel registration now open. Conference registration opens December 1st. For more information, go to: <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

May 30 - June 2, 2019 - Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree 2019, 50th Birthday Bash, Los Angeles Marriott, Burbank Airport Hotel, Burbank, CA. This conference combines the 7th Annual Genetic Genealogy Conference on May 30th and the 50th Annual Genealogy Jamboree Conference, May 31st-June 2nd. There will be 100’s of genealogy classes, 8 DNA workshops, 80 exhibitors, and much more. For more information go to: www.genealogyjamboree.com

June 15-17, 2019 - 2019 International German Genealogy Conference, Sacramento, CA, Hyatt Regency Hotel. Local host: Sacramento German Genealogy Society. Registration now open. Go to: <https://igqpartner.org/aem.php?eid=4>

August 21-24, 2019 - 2019 FGS Family History Conference, Washington, D.C., Omni Shoreham Hotel. Hotel now accepting reservations. For more information go to: <https://fgs.org/conference-lodging/>