

GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The Falls Newsletter

APRIL 2019



April Program: "Oh, Give Me A Home"

Alisa Herodes, GFGS Member and Little Shell Chippewa Tribe member, recently gave a presentation entitled "Oh, Give Me A Home" as a part of the education component at the C. M. Russell Western Art Week in Great Falls. Her program featured models wearing Alisa's fashions made of mixed fabrics and textures. During this show Alisa talked about the Little Shell Tribe and their attempts to get Federal Recognition.

At our April meeting Alisa will give a brief slide show while talking about the Little Shell Tribe's efforts. Alisa has a local design business.

Our general meeting will be at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 11th, 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

Recovery from surgery on my right arm has given me the time to work on my Genealogy Resolution. Understand that I still do things "old school", putting everything in 3-ring binders. The mound of paper and pictures that had accumulated since I moved back to Great Falls is gradually diminishing, not that anyone would notice but me.

At the Great Falls Genealogy Society Library projects are being wrapped up too. A cabinet needed a shelf and the cemetery index shelves needed labels. Those are done. Records for the Chapel of Chimes have been indexed and the George Company records updates are being entered. The most noticeable project is the removal of quarterlies from our shelves if we find they are available on PERSI. Other projects are waiting their turn.

If any of our Great Falls members attend a church that has a columbarium, you could help us with a project. We would like to get a list of those in each columbarium so they can be included in our index of Cascade County burials. Thank you for your help in this.

We continue to look for ways to make our society and library known to the community. We will be signing up to be at the Farmers Market again this summer, but if you know of an event we could participate in or a group that may be interested in a presentation, please let me or one of our board members know.

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APRIL 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

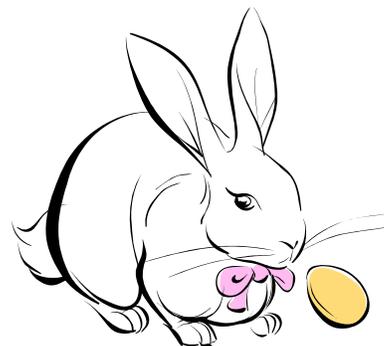
Thursday, April 4th - Acquisition Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library.

Saturday, April 6th - Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library

Thursday, April 11th - GFGS General Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Society Library. Guest speaker: Alisa Herodes (see article this page)

Sunday, April 28th - RootsMagic SIG, 1:15 - 2:15 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library

Sunday, April 28th - DNA SIG, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library



NEW IN THE LIBRARY as of 9 March 2019:

Books:

- About Sourdough and Commitment
- Black Robes and Indians on the Last Frontier
- Chippewa Half-breeds of Lake Superior - Concerning the Applicants for Half-breed Scrip
- Company Men, Vol. 20: The Laframboise Family
- Country Wives: Marguerite Ahdi Songab, Wife of Pe-wah-ah-ki, Peter Grant, and Charles Boottineau, Vol.3
- Dictionary of American Negro Biography
- Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vols. 6, 14, & 15
- History of Park County, MT
- Imperial
- Last Horizon, The (Ravalli Co., MT)
- Legendary Locals of Bozeman (MT)
- Metis Families Vol. 5, Gariepy - Houle; Vol. 6, Hourie - Laud; Vol. 8, Martel -Nolin
- Montana Historical Society of Mineral County: 118 Years of History
- Potentially Dangerous Enemy Aliens: Experiences at Fort Missoula
- West to Montana
- Wolves for the Blue Soldiers

Directories:

- Business Directory for Pioneer Culbertson, MT, 1902-1934
- Business Directory for Pioneer Roundup, MT, 1908-1934

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The snow is pretty well gone. Next it will be April showers, then May flowers. Through it all, your research and the work of Great Falls Genealogy Society and our library continue. Keep dropping by to keep abreast of what is taking place.

*-Larry D. Spicer
GFGS President*

Membership News



Welcome to our newest members:

Al & Roberta Beute, Great Falls

In The Genealogy Library

Did you know that Ancestry.com has a number of church records in its database collections? It has recently updated one of its collections, [U.S., Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church Records, 1781-1969](#). This collection contains baptism, confirmation, marriage, and burial records from more than 2,000 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregations. The records range from the mid-19th century through the early 20th century. Select records may be found prior to the year 1926. The information contained in the records varies from congregation to congregation (and sometimes from minister to minister). In some ethnic congregations, you may run into records in German, Danish, or some other language.

Baptisms (sometimes listed as christenings) typically include the name of the child, birth date and place, parents' names, baptism date, and sponsors' names. In some cases, the birth date is noted as well. In some registers of children baptized, you may find family groups being baptized together. An infant baptism can be a clue that that member had been in the congregation for all of his or her life, whereas later christenings could indicate the family had more recently joined the congregation.

Marriage records include the marriage date, the couple's names, residences, and the name of the officiant. Ages and remarks were sometimes recorded as well.

Death records typically included the name of the deceased, date of death,

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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

Keeping You in the Know

Preserving Documents Digitally Versus on Paper Alone

[Dick Eastman](#) · [February 21, 2019](#)

I frequently hear a genealogist say something like this: “Digital storage methods are dangerous and won’t last long. I am going to save everything on paper so it will last forever.”

I strongly disagree. That is one of the fallacies that seem to float around forever. Professional archivists and data center managers all know better than that.

I certainly do not object to saving information on paper as long as that is **only one of the copies made** and is in addition to digital copies. However, I would never trust paper as the **only** means of storing information for many years.

Paper is one of the most delicate storage methods available.

Most of today’s paper has a life expectancy of about 25 to maybe 75 years. If you use acid-free paper, the life expectancy is 100 years and possibly more. However, acid-free paper is kind of rare. It is available in a number of places but very few people purchase it.

The bigger issue is the ink that is used. Nobody uses real ink these days. Most documents are printed with ink-jet (which isn’t ink) printers or with laser toner. The liquid ink-jet printing will start to fade within a very few years and, depending upon storage conditions, will probably disappear entirely within 25 to 50 years. Red text made with an ink-jet printer fades faster. The good news is that black text lasts longer, in some cases maybe even 25 to 50 years if printed on good quality paper and stored in ideal conditions.

Laser-printed documents last 25 to 50 years, depending upon storage conditions. Unlike ink, the laser toner is not absorbed by the paper. Instead, the toner is simply heated and “fused” to the outside of the paper. It then slowly fades and flakes off. After 50 years or so, you may have a blank sheet of paper but also might notice some black dust in the bottom of the container where the document was stored.

Of course, the biggest threat to paper is external causes: mold, mildew, insect damage, burst water pipes, condensation, fire, earthquake, hurricanes, tornadoes, theft, or simple neglect. Those things destroy far more paper than simple old age.

In contrast, if maintained properly, digital documents can last forever and be used forever, long after paper has disappeared. The keywords in that sentence are “**If maintained properly.**” Digitized documents cannot be expected to last for centuries if they are simply stored on a disk or flash drive, placed on a shelf, and left there. The information has to be occasionally be “refreshed.” that is, periodically it is read and copied to new media, sometimes translated to new formats.

The U.S. Social Security Administration and most other government agencies have been doing this for more than 50-years. Digital information recorded more than 50 years ago is still available today because someone took the time every few years to copy it to modern media. One obvious example is the Social Security Death Index. Digital records created in 1963 are still available to you and me today and undoubtedly will also be available to our great-great-grandchildren.

The U.S. military, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, many other civilian agencies, aircraft manufacturers, automobile manufacturers, drug companies, insurance companies, and thousands of other corporations have all done the same. Most of them still have and use digital information daily that was recorded decades ago. Every competent data center manager knows how to maintain digital information for his or her employer, keeping it available for decades (so far) and probably for centuries.

If you record information with real India Ink (which is almost impossible to purchase these days) and a fountain pen (not a ball point pen) and acid-free paper, then store the result in a climate controlled environment that never has a fire, flood, earthquake or other disaster, paper documents probably will last 200 or 300 years, possibly more. (When writing the document, a high stool, green eyeshade, and sleeve garters are optional.)

Another huge problem is those fires, floods, earthquakes or other disasters. They instantly destroy a lot of paper. The solution is to make duplicates of everything before the disaster and store it elsewhere, ideally storing multiple copies in multiple locations. This process is often called **L.O.C.K.S.S.** – “Lots Of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe.”

Making multiple copies of paper documents is difficult, slow, and very expensive so it rarely gets done. In contrast, it requires only a few seconds to make copies of digital documents and file transfer them to distant “digital warehouses.” All data center managers know how to do that and most of them do it daily, if not hourly.

When I worked in large data centers in the 1970s, we typically copied all new data to magnetic tapes daily, then put them in the back of someone’s automobile and took them someplace else. I later worked for Iron Mountain, a company that has made millions by storing paper, microfilm and digital documents in remote storage facilities. You probably see Iron Mountain trucks often. I worked for the Iron Mountain division that handled off-site storage of digital information. Our software made multiple digital copies of all new information every 15 minutes and transferred it to data storage facilities around the world for safe keeping. We were not

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worried about any one disaster in one place... we had multiple copies of our customers' data stored in multiple countries.

Today, almost everyone stores digital data "in the cloud" for safekeeping and that has proven to work well in the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, in Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, numerous tornadoes, fires, and other disasters. In most of the recent disasters, a lot of paper was destroyed but most digital data was preserved simply because it had been backed up "off site."

Here is a short list from my newsletter about paper documents that did not last very long. Had digital duplicates been made and properly maintained, we would still have images of the documents for a few more centuries. A search on Google obviously will find many, many more articles about using digital records to preserve information for centuries.

<https://blog.eogn.com/2015/05/08/digital-files-may-last-much-much-longer-than-paper-or-microfilm/>

<https://blog.eogn.com/2015/02/01/fire-in-major-russian-library-destroys-one-million-historic-documents/>

<https://blog.eogn.com/2015/01/09/van-buren-county-tennessee-offices-destroyed-by-fire-birth-marriage-death-and-many-other-records-lost/>

<https://blog.eogn.com/2014/10/22/pipe-burst-destroys-books/>

<https://blog.eogn.com/2014/04/25/suggestion-the-time-to-digitize-historic-items-is-now/>

<https://blog.eogn.com/2014/09/22/how-not-to-store-a-towns-records/>

<https://blog.eogn.com/2015/04/03/tarrant-county-texas-is-digitizing-old-court-records-for-preservation/>

<https://blog.eogn.com/2015/02/20/new-data-storage-method-could-preserve-digital-information-for-millions-of-years/>

<https://blog.eogn.com/2014/04/25/suggestion-the-time-to-digitize-historic-items-is-now/>

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date and place of the funeral, and officiating minister.

You may also find membership records, with some listing the names and dates of admission, communion records, and how they were received into the church (e.g., baptism, certificate/transfer from another church, or other, which could indicate a transfer from another denomination). You may also find death dates listed in the membership registers. There are also some registers of church officials that can include dates of service, day-to-day business of the church, and functions of the congregation.

Ancestry.com has records for many other churches in the United States, such as [U.S., Dutch Reformed Church Records in Selected States, 1639-1989](#), [U.S., Dutch Christian Reformed Church Vital Records, 1856-1970](#), [Washington, Episcopal Diocese of Spokane Church Records, 1870-1947](#), and [New York, Episcopal Diocese of New York Church Records, 1767-1970](#) to name a very few.

Stop by the Great Falls Genealogy Library and check out Ancestry.com and see what you may find!



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://igggpartner.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://fqs.org/conference-lodging/>

September 19-21, 2019 - 30th Annual Montana State Genealogy Conference, "Genealogy - Preserving the Past" Helena, MT, Delta Hotels by Marriott Helena Colonial. Hosted by the Montana State Genealogical Society and the Lewis and Clark County Genealogical Society. Scheduled guest speakers are James M. Beidler and Kris Rzepczynski. For more information go to: <http://montanamsgs.org/conferences.html>

September 28-29, 2019 - Discover Your Swedish Roots: Genealogy Workshops Using ArkivDigital, Old Mill Museum, Lindsborg, KS "Little Sweden, USA". Attend 1 or 2 days, with sessions for beginners and experienced researchers. For more information go to: