

# GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

## The Falls Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2020

*Celebrating 45 Years - 1975-2020*



### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*The Library  
will be closed  
on Monday,  
February 17th  
for  
President's  
Day.*

January gave us a good start to the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Great Falls Genealogy Society and Library. Nearly every one of our volunteers has consented to continue to serve GFGS in 2020. Several people have stepped forward to serve as librarians in the GFGS Library or Montana Room, but we could still use a couple more volunteers there. And, in our last Board meeting, it was reported that membership in GFGS has just gone over the 200 mark! New people continue to find and identify with our Society.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I am asking our Board and membership, *"What do we need to do or get to better serve our society members and library patrons?"* That is a question I will continue to ask throughout the year. The email reminder you received regarding our January meeting was due to a suggestion made by Diane Green. Other suggestions have been for the purchase of a map file cabinet, a new projector to use in our meetings, and an amplifier for our speakers to use. As things come to your mind, please share your ideas with me or any of our Board members.

Just a couple of quick things for your information:

*(Continued on page 2)*

### FEBRUARY 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday, February 1st - Workshop: Directories: City Church, Business, State, Special Types,** 10:15 a.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library (see article p. 4)

**Sunday, February 2nd - How to Write Your Family History SIG,** 1:15 p.m.-2:15 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Society Library (see article p. 3)

**Thursday, February 6th - Acquisition Meeting,** 1:00 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Society Library

**Saturday, February 8th - Board Meeting,** 9:00 a.m., Great Falls Genealogy Society Library

**Saturday, February 8th - Workshop: Finding News to Augment Your Genealogy,** 10:15 a.m., Great Falls Genealogy Society Library (see article p. 4)

**Thursday, February 13th - GFGS General Meeting,** 6:00 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Society Library. Guest speaker: Suzanne Waring (see article p. 2)

**Saturday, February 22nd - Workshop: Timelines: Creating & Using These to Solve Problems,** 10:15 a.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library (see article p.4)

**Sunday, February 23rd - RootsMagic SIG,** 1:15 p.m.-2:15 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Society Library

**Sunday, February 23rd - DNA SIG,** 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Society Library

## February General Meeting: "Montana Pioneers - Creating a Community"

Join us this month when author and Society member, Suzanne Waring will be our guest speaker, discussing her new book, "Montana Pioneers - Creating a Community".

Researching historical documents and interviewing descendants, she wrote 33 stories about those who arrived early, built homes and businesses, and helped make Great Falls what it is today. In addition to an overview of her book, Suzanne will introduce us to one of the early pioneers that many may not know about.

Our general meeting will be at 6 p.m., Thursday, February 13th, 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!



### NEW IN THE LIBRARY as of 4 January 2009

#### Books:

- American Loyalist Claims
- Ark and the Dove Adventurers. The
- Archdiocese of Denver, The 125th Anniversary
- Butte and Anaconda Revisited (MT)
- Chico Hot Springs Resort & Spa (MT)
- Ellis Island: An Illustrated History of the Immigrant Experience
- Finding Early Connecticut Vital Records: The Barbour Index and Beyond
- From Sandstone to Setters: Writing -on-Stone History, 1900-1983 (AB)
- Frontier Days in the Flathead Country (MT)
- Guide to County Records in the North Carolina State Archives

- Hardship to Homeland: Pacific Northwest Volga Germans
- High Border Country (MT)
- Historical Atlas of Germany
- History and Memories of Tempel Hills Baptist Camp, 75 Years (MT)
- History of the Catholic Church in the Pacific Northwest, A
- History of Weather Observations, Helena, MT 1866-1948
- Indian as a Soldier at Fort Custer, Montana, The
- "Long George" Francis: Gentleman Outlaw of Montana
- Marriages and Deaths in the 1951 Elizabeth, NJ City Directory
- Mother Cumberland: Tracing your Ancestors in South-Central PA
- One Man's Dream : Elkhorn Mine - Coolidge, MT
- Our Jubilee, 1911-1961: Lower Yellowstone Valley, Sidney, MT
- Pennsylvania Births, Lancaster County, 1778-1800
- Reflections of Rising City (NE)
- Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors: The Essential Genealogical Guide to Early Modern Ulster, 1600-1800
- Sheriff Neil Howie of Madison County, Montana: Historical Diaries 1864-1869
- Stump Town to Ski Town: The Story of Whitefish, MT
- Treasure State Tycoon: Nelson Story and the Making of Montana
- U.S. Marshals of the District of Montana
- Wheels Keep Rolling Across Montana's Prairie, The
- Wills and Administrations of Surry County, VA, 1671-1750

#### Yearbooks:

- C M Russell High School, *Russellog*, 1971-72
- Conrad High School, *The Whoop-up Trail*, 1923-29, 1930-31, 1936-37, 1939, 194-41, 1944-49, 1950-54, 1963-69, 1970, 1972
- University of Providence, *Caritas*, 1991

#### Directories:

- Great Falls City Directory, 1932

### Membership News



*Welcome to our newest members:*

Barry Atkinson, Great Falls  
James & Katherine Hill  
Roger LaVoie  
Brent & Sue MacDonald

### *President' Corner* (Continued from page 1)

1. As we transfer to a new system for handling our membership, we will no longer be issuing Membership Cards.

2. We ask individual GFGS members not to make purchases or order items for the Society. We have a Purchaser in place to do that. If something is needed, please note that on the white board on the side of the lockers in the GFGS Library.

My thanks again for the contributions each of you make to our Society. Together we are well on our way to make our 45<sup>th</sup> year as a Society one of our best years.

*-Larry D. Spicer  
GFGS President*



# Celebrating 45 Years!



January 1975

The first elected officers of the Great Falls Genealogy Society. From left to right: Grace Hoxsey, Secretary Treasurer, Thelma Marshall, President, and Peggy Murray, Vice President.

## Plan Now for the GFGS 45th Anniversary Dinner at the 3D Restaurant in Black Eagle

We will be celebrating our 45th anniversary with a dinner and a guest speaker at the 3D Restaurant in Black Eagle on **Tuesday, 21 April 2020 at 6 p.m.** and everyone is invited!

There will be four entrées to select from; price will be \$25.00 per person:

- Prawn Dinner, with baked potato, tossed salad, and dinner roll.
- New York Steak Dinner, with baked potato, tossed salad, and dinner roll.
- Chicken Alfredo Dinner, with tossed salad, and dinner roll.
- Glazed Salmon Dinner, with baked potato, tossed salad, and dinner roll.

Mark your calendars! More details will be coming soon.



## Workshop: How to Write Your Family History

Would you like to read a family history that one of your ancestors had written? Many people do not have a written family history. Are you interested in writing one? The Great Falls Genealogy Society will offer a workshop, "Writing Your Family History", on Sunday, February 2nd at 1:15 p.m. Diana Kirol will be the instructor, with help from Jan Thomson, and Linda Long. If there is enough interest, this will turn into a Special Interest Group (SIG) which would meet on a monthly basis. If you have any written family histories please bring them for "show and tell". The library is usually closed on Sundays, but come to the front door between 1:00 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. on Sunday, February 2nd, and we will admit you. This class will last 1-1 1/2 hours.

If you are interesting in attending, please sign up by sending an email to [gfgenealogy@genlibrary.org](mailto:gfgenealogy@genlibrary.org) or calling 727-3922, as seating is limited. See you there!

## 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: Jerry Clarke,  
Linda Long, Gary Campbell

### Committee Chairs:

Acquisitions: Larry Spicer  
Membership: Ann Dues  
Publications: Jan Thomson  
Projects: Carol Byerly  
Research: Diane Green  
Technology: Linda Long

### Webmaster:

Merle Anne McLeish

### Newsletter Editor:

Linda Long

### Society Library Hours:

Monday-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)

## February Workshops

All workshops will be held in the Great Falls Genealogy Library and will last approximately 2 hours. Seating is limited, so if you are interested in attending, please sign up by stopping by the Library, calling 727-3922, or sending an email to: [gfgenealogy@genlibrary.org](mailto:gfgenealogy@genlibrary.org)

### **Directories: City Church, Business, State, Special Types, Saturday, 1 February, 10:15 a.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library**

Directories can be a fantastic source of information, but many people concentrate on city directories for names and addresses, not realizing there are also many other categories of directories available to search - special directories from churches, ethnic associations, fraternal organizations and government offices to name just a few.

This workshop will introduce you to the wide variety of information you'll find in directories if you know how to look for it. Jan Thomson, instructor.

### **Finding News to Augment Your Genealogy, Saturday, 8 February, 10:15 a.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library**

Newspapers online have proliferated in the past several years, making it easier than ever to get great stories and events about our ancestors. Instructor Jan Thomson will take you on a brief tour of both national and international newspaper sites available for FREE and some requiring payment. Explore Newspapers.com, the historic newspaper archive, other international newspaper sites, and learn to drill down to better explore newspapers through Ancestry.com and MyHeritage.com. Find out about news available through Google and gain knowledge of some religions-based newspapers of the past. Laptops not necessary. You will leave with handouts on the featured newspapers.

### **Timelines: Creating & Using These to Solve Problems, Saturday, 22 February, 10:15 a.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library**

How do you set up an anticipatory

timeline which aids in identifying important data points in an ancestor's life? What data points can be anticipated prior to starting your research? What are the "starter elements" you should use? Learning the essential elements used in time-lining your ancestor's life will ensure that you are not missing tried and true data. Learn the powerful strategies of anticipating census information and finding more census-like data about your ancestor. This workshop reviews the essentials used in making a working timeline of an ancestor. You will leave with samples of essential timeline elements and formats. Jan Thomson, instructor.



## **Mark Your Calendar!**

**May 20-23, 2020 - National Genealogical Society Family History Conference. "Echoes of Our Ancestors"**, Salt Lake City, UT. The NGS Family History Conference is being held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City. There will be more than 150 lectures presented by many nationally recognized speakers, an exhibit hall filled with more than 80 exhibitors to explore, and an opportunity to network with more than 2,000 genealogists. Hotel reservations can now be made; **conference registration opens December 2nd. For more info, go to: <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>**

**August 12-15, 2020 - The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society 7th annual Genealogy Conference, "A World of Discoveries"**, at the Byrnes Performing Arts Center and the Arlington High School facilities, Arlington, Washington. The focus will be on Colonial America and the Great Migration as well as technology and techniques. Details to follow.

**September 2-5, 2020 - Federation of Genealogical Societies 2020 Family History Conference, "Blazing Trails in the Heart of America"**, Kansas City, MO. Details to follow.

**September 24-26, 2020 - Montana State Genealogical Society 31st Annual State Genealogy Society Conference, "Shining a Light on Our Past"**, at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, Fairmont, Montana. Scheduled speakers: Blaine Bettinger, The Genetic Genealogist, and Catherine Lake Hogan, who specializes in finding Canadian ancestors. For more info go to: [montanamsgs.org/conferences.html](http://montanamsgs.org/conferences.html)