

# GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

# The Falls Newsletter

APRIL-MAY 2020

*Celebrating 45 Years - 1975-2020*



*The Great Falls  
Genealogy  
Library  
is closed due to  
the Covid-19  
pandemic.  
Check our  
website and  
Facebook page  
for updates.*

## **MEMO FROM GREAT FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR, SUSIE MCINTYRE**

Attached at the end of this newsletter is a memo from Susie McIntyre, the Director of the Great Falls Public Library (GFPL), regarding the procedures the Library will be following with regard to how they will be proceeding with opening through the various staged responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you will see, it is a very thoughtful, careful plan to ensure the safety of Library staff and the public.

There is no time set for the opening of the Genealogy Library, but the Genealogy Society Board is staying in contact with Ms. McIntyre and we will look forward to being open when it is safe for all.

## *PRESIDENT'S CORNER*

In an effort to protect the health and well-being of society, one thing after another was curtailed, postponed, or canceled in recent weeks.

Postponing the Society's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration events and canceling our April and May General Meetings was the first of similar measures for me. The next move was the cancellation of services at our church, followed by canceling the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion of my college graduating class! Thinking I would go to Calgary regardless, I found the border closed to "non-essential" traffic and the condo my sister lives in allowing only residents into the building!

On the bright side, remember my suggestion at the onset of 2020 to establish "genealogy resolutions"? This "down time" is proving to be perfect to get after the recording and organizing of my neglected accumulation of papers and photos. Don't tell me you have nothing of this sort for you to work on while things at the library are on hiatus.

We anticipate the rescheduling of our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary events and the return to a regular schedule of meetings once "social distancing" and limits on group gatherings have been lifted. Our return to "normal" will be slow and calculated, following what fits with the Public Library policies. In the meantime, please do all you can to remain safe and healthy.

*-Larry D. Spicer  
GFGS President*



**2020 jamboree Webinar**  
*extension series* [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com)

**The Packet Ships That Brought Them to America**  
Free Webinar from SCGS  
Wednesday, May 20, 2020,  
6:00 PM (Pacific Time)

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5597862590165368066>

### **ABOUT THE PRESENTATION**

The turn of the eighteenth century brought an unprecedented demand for safe, fast passage across the Atlantic for cargo, mail, and passengers. Thus, in 1818 the packet ship was born.

*(Continued on page 2)*



**NEW IN THE  
LIBRARY  
as of  
7 March 2020**

**Books:**

- 1987 Judith Gap Cemetery, The (MT)
- 60 Miles of Photo History, Upper Yellowstone Valley
- Always Bet on the Butcher
- Attu Boy: A Young Alaskan's WWII Memoir
- Autobiography by Jorgen Jorgensen, 1856-1940
- Border Bank Bandits, The
- Brief History of Butte, Montana, A
- British Isles Research Guide
- Butte Short Line: The Construction Era 1888-1929, The
- Captain Ahab had a Wife: New England Women and the Whalefishery, 1720-1870
- Cartographic Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Cemetery and Sexton Records: A Research Guide
- Dancing on the Marias River: Montana Territorial Explorations
- Dividing the Reservation
- Dutton Sentinel, The Excerpts, 1923-1940 (MT)
- Eighty-third Annual Session, Grand Chapter of Montana Order of the Eastern Star, 1872
- Elma Lode Plat of the Claim of Paul Roehl (MT)
- Guide to the Kiowa Collections at the Smithsonian Institute, A
- Henry Plummer, California to Montana and His Wrongful Assassination in Bannack
- Historic Pendleton (SC)
- History, 1883-1983, The United Methodist Church Townsend MT
- History for Genealogists: Using Chronological Time Lines to Find and Understand Your Ancestors
- Ins and Outs of Probate for Genealogists: The Research Guide
- Land of the Dacotahs
- Land Use Study of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area of Montana
- Last Letters from Attu: The True Story of Etta Jones, Alaska Pioneer and Japanese P.O.W.
- Metis Pioneers
- Minutes, Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Montana, 1934
- Montana's Wild and Scenic Upper Missouri River

- Municipal Records & City Clerk's Role in Managing Public Records (Great Falls, MT)
- Obituaries, RiverPress, Fort Benton, 1882-1921
- Open Range Days in Old Montana and Wyoming
- Order of the Eastern Star of Montana, 1915
- Recovering from Record Loss
- Roots, Rails, and Reminisings
- Roster of Officers and Members, Grand Chapter of Montana Order of Eastern Star, 1953
- Skexwts Squamish-English Dictionary
- Tracing Ancestors among the Five Civilized Tribes: Southeastern Indians Prior to Removal
- U.S. Land and Tax Records Research Guide
- Which Way West?
- Winter Brothers: A Season at the Edge of America
- Yesterday was Demersville

**Directories:**

- Masonic Directoy, 1943, 1952, 1967
- Opportunity Fire District 1959-1960 Directory

**Yearbooks:**

- Dutton High School, *The Cardinal*, 1967-1982, 1985-1994, 1996-1998-, 2000-1006, 2008-2010,
- Great Falls High School, Class of '55, 20 Year Reunion

**A GREAT NEW DNA RESOURCE**

Diahan Southard, longtime DNA expert, has written a fantastic DNA helps guide titled, *Your DNA Guide, The Book: Step by Step Plans to Connect You with Your Family Using Your DNA*. Self-published, this book came out this spring (2020) and is well worth your while.

See the book at:

[www.yourDNAGuide.com](http://www.yourDNAGuide.com).

Her lessons within the book (brief, to the point) include: Overview, Working Your Plan, and 49 2-3-page Learning Guides—such as Chromosome Browsers; Centimorgans; Segment Size, Cheating Tools; Endogamy; Expanding Your Genetic Net-

**Membership News**



*Welcome to our newest members:*

- Kurt & Velda Baltrusch, Great Falls
- Carolyn Cornelius, Butte
- Chuck & Bonnie Klamm, Great Falls
- Laura McCrohan, Libby
- Kyle Millhouse, Great Falls
- Rebecca Scott, Great Falls
- Kay Silk, Great Falls

work; Finding the Generation of Connection; Descendancy Research, Generating Trees for groups of DNA Matches, Half-Relationships, Using Match Blocks to categorize; Pedigree Collapse; Removed Cousins, XDNA Inheritance Patterns, YDNA Basics, Cousin Category Strategies. I've been using my copy for about two months, and I am amazed by all the practical helps! Do you think this is a book we should get for check-out?

*-Jan Thomson*

***Free Webinar*** (Continued from page 1)

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Nancy Waters is a researcher, lecturer, college instructor, and award-winning author whose extensive speaking experience includes NGS, FGS, BYU, Rootstech. She is an instructor at HCC, Maryland, teaching MS applications and is past Managing Editor, MGS Journal. Nancy's books have won the 1997 Heart of America Genealogical Society Award of Excellence, the 2007 NGS Writing Competition Award for Excellence and the 2007 Maryland Historical Society, Sumner A. Parker Award.

**UPCOMING WEBINARS**

The list of upcoming webinars can be found at <http://scsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html>.

# Celebrating 45 Years!



The Great Falls Genealogy Society's library got its start in late 1976 with a most generous donation of publications by Miss Geneva Combes of Sidney, MT and her sister, Mrs. Esther Combes Vance of Missoula, MT. They had offered their personal collection of genealogical material to the Society and the Society gratefully accepted their offer in October. By November 1976, the Library had been jumped started with the acquisition of 211 publications! The Combes continued to donate to the Library over the course of the next six years, expanding the Combes Collection to 286 items.

With the Combes Collections as a foundation, the library has continued to grow these past 45 years and now contains almost 10,000 items - books, journals, maps - one of the largest collections in the Northwest.

## National Genealogical Society Providing Free Access to NGS Monthly Archives Through 31 July

During this time when so many Americans must stay at home, the [National Genealogical Society](#) (NGS) is offering non-members free access to five years of *NGS Monthly*. Now through 31 July 2020, everyone interested in family history can read insightful articles in their digital publication archive.

Edited and authored by Aaron Goodwin, an award-winning genealogist, NGS Monthly's articles help researchers of all levels. The articles offer family historians invaluable insights on methodology and digestible recommendations on genealogical research by considering the techniques of skilled researchers and scholars, and how they solved difficult research problems. Topics often examine valuable lessons in case studies published in the scholarly NGS Quarterly to help readers understand how to apply new concepts to their own work.

As an example, in the February 2020 issue of NGS Monthly, "The Creation of Leap Year and Its Effects on Genealogy" gave a nod to the leap year and used the opportunity to review how calendars have changed over the centuries. These changes are of critical importance to family history researchers. Goodwin explained the difference between the Julian and Gregorian calendars, and noted that though the Gregorian calendar was commissioned in 1582, some areas of Europe did not begin using it until the eighteenth century.

This article from Goodwin and many more, as well as dozens from former editors Laura DeGrazia and Melissa Johnson in the NGS Monthly archives can provide genealogists and family historians hours of fascinating reading and will help them advance their skills as they continue to build their family tree.

You can access the NGS Monthly at [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org)

## 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)

# MEMO

**DATE:** April 28, 2020  
**TO:** Great Falls Public Library Staff  
**FROM:** Susie McIntyre  
**REGARDING:** Great Falls Public Library Staged Response to COVID-19

The Board of Trustees has approved the Great Falls Public Library Staged Response to COVID-19. I have been given the authority to determine when the Library will move from stage to stage. Any decision to move from one stage to another will be based on the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic and on guidance from the Governor, City Offices and the City-County Health Department.

As of now, we are in STAGE 2. Please see the attached documents, "Staged Approach to Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic" and "COVID-19 Stage 2" for more detailed information.

Supervisors will continue to provide guidance to each of you regarding your work assignments and schedules.

My highest priority is our health and safety. The health and safety of the Great Falls Public Library staff. The health and safety of our patrons. The health and safety of our community.

We also need to provide the highest level of service that we safely can. I know that patrons need books and movies and computer access. I know that our patrons need our community services. I know that we have to make the very best use of every penny that we have been given by our tax payers and our donors.

I will do my very best to make decisions that ensure safety and still provide service. When in doubt, I shall err on the side of caution.

I appreciate how difficult this pandemic has been and continues to be for all of us. I hope that we will continue to support each other.

I value each of you and I appreciate all of your work.

Please let me know if you have concerns or questions.

On Tuesday April 28, 2020, Great Falls Public Library Board approved the Great Falls Public Library Staged Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IS A CRISIS THAT CHANGES FREQUENTLY. THESE GUIDELINES WILL BE UPDATED AS NEEDED.

The Library is in STAGE 2.

Starting Sunday April 26, 2020

Stage 2 Staffing Schedule plan implemented:

- Managers working staggered shifts spread out over 7 days.
- Custodial employees continue to work regular shifts
- Arrangements made for vulnerable employees to continue to work remotely
- All other staff working % time remotely and % time in the Library

Starting Sunday April 26, 2020

Stage 2 Social distancing guidelines implemented:

- Staff will be provided with cloth masks. Staff are required to wear masks when in spaces shared by other staff.
  - Staff may remove mask:
    - ◊ When working alone in an office with the door closed
    - ◊ When working alone on one of the floors of the Library building. (If a staff person is the only person on the third floor, they may take off their mask.)
- Staff are required to remain 6 feet away from co-workers .
- Staff are required to wash hands with soap and water upon arrival at work and frequently throughout the day.
- If staff are exposed to COVID-19, they must inform their supervisor and remain quarantined for 14 days or until they test negative.
- If staff travel outside of Montana, they must inform their supervisor and remain quarantined for 14 days.
- If staff are not feeling well, they must stay home. Staff may not return to work without a note from a medical provider. (GFPL will follow all guidelines to provide staff with appropriate leave if they are required to miss work due to COVID-19.)
- If staff start to feel sick at work, they will be sent home to recover. Staff may not return to work without a note from a medical provider. (GFPL will follow all guidelines to provide staff with appropriate leave if they are required to miss work due to COVID-19.)

Starting Wednesday April 29, 2020

Stage 2 Service Provision Started:

- The Library is closed to the public.
- Library start to provide curbside service. We will do a soft start of curbside service by calling patrons who currently have holds waiting. We will create press release and send out messages on social media for the official opening of curbside service to start Monday May 4, 2020. We will develop specific hours for curbside pickup which will be scheduled with individual patrons.

- Library phone is staffed Monday through Friday 9:00 to 5:00.
- Youth programming is offered online.
- Youth Services plans for a high-bred online and in person Summer Reading program.
- Adult programming is suspended.
- Staff stock Little Free Libraries.
- Montanalibrary2Go is available for eBook and eAudiobook checkout.
- Library accepts item returns. Items are quarantined for at least 72 hours and are then disinfected before being checked-in.
- Library provides unlimited renewals and does not charge.
- Library volunteers are asked to remain at home.
- Administrative staff continues perform administrative functions (pay bills, make deposits, process timesheets, develop budget, manage meetings and minutes...)
- Technical Services staff continues to order and process materials as able with reduced staffing.

Starting Monday May 4th, 2020

Stage 2 Service Provision Started:

- The Library publicizes curbside service.
- Develop specific hours for curbside pickup which will be scheduled with individual patrons.

Starting Wednesday April 29, 2020:

Stage 1 preparation:

- During Stage 2, Library staff will work to prepare for moving to Stage 1.
- Creation of signage asking patrons to remain 6 feet apart
- Creation of signage asking patrons to NOT ENTER if they feel sick or have been exposed to COVID-19
- Installation of Plexiglas shields at public desks
- Clarification with HR/City Manager/City Attorney on how to enforce social distancing and "do not enter if you are sick" guidelines with patrons.
- Re-arrangement of Library furniture to encourage social distancing
- Creation of procedures for handling of materials returned inside of Library
- Ensure that GFPL has appropriate levels of cleaning supplies and protective equipment
- Other?

Ongoing projects:

- Annex re-organization
- Basement Flooding Mitigation
- Security Camera Installation

## **GREAT FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY STAGED APPROACH TO SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:**

**STAGE 3:** Library is closed to the public. Custodians maintain building and grounds. All other staff work remotely. Library provides service through telephone and online means. Phone is staffed Monday through Friday 9:00 to 5:00. Youth programming is offered online via recorded Storytime and Toddler Time. Other programming is suspended. Staff continue to stock Little Free Libraries. Library suspends taking returns. Library provides unlimited renewals on items and does not charge late fees. WiFi is boosted to reach into parking lot and across plaza.

***STAGE 3 instituted when Governor or other governing official declares shelter-in place emergency.***

**STAGE 2:** Library is closed to the public. Staff have staggered work schedules and are required to practice social distancing while at the Library. Staff who are medically vulnerable are asked to work remotely. Library provides curbside service for persons to pick-up holds. Library provides service through telephone and online means. Phone is staffed Monday through Friday 9:00 to 5:00. Youth programming is offered online via recorded Storytime and Toddler Time. Other programming is suspended. Staff continue to stock Little Free Libraries. Library accepts item returns. Items are quarantined for at least 72 hours and then disinfected before being checked-in. Library provides unlimited renewals on items and does not charge late fees.

***STAGE 2 instituted when Governor or other governing official declares a public health emergency, but is not requiring the public to shelter-in-place.***

**STAGE 1:** Library is open to the public (possibly limited hours depending on staffing). Staff have staggered work schedules and are required to practice social distancing while at the Library. Staff who are medically vulnerable are asked to work remotely. Library provides curbside service for persons to pick-up holds in addition to regular reference and circulation services. (Signage is developed to encourage patrons to remain six feet apart.) Youth programming is offered online via recorded Storytime and Toddler Time. Other programming is suspended. Staff continue to stock Little Free Libraries. Library accepts item returns. Bookmobile service is reinstated in stages based on staffing availability and requests of organizations being served as nursing homes may still not allow visitors. Meeting room use is suspended except for persons using the rooms as solitary study spaces.

Director is given discretion on a timeline to lift restrictions on the following:

- Suspend Use of the Online Public Access Computers (OPAC)
- Remove Toys from Kids Place
- Restrict Computer Access to Allow Cleaning
- Suspend Library Volunteer Service
- Close the Montana Room and Genealogy Society
- Suspend Interlibrary Loan Service

***STAGE 1 instituted when Governor or other governing official lifts the public health emergency declaration, but still urges the public to avoid groups.***