

GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The Falls Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2020

Celebrating 45 Years - 1975-2020



ZOOM! Join Us for Our September Business Meeting!

With social distancing requirements making our general meetings not practical at this time, the Board has decided to try a virtual business meeting on Zoom this month on Thursday, September 17th at 6 p.m. (Mountain Time). If it goes well, we will try a full general meeting in October.

You can join us on Zoom with a computer, laptop, tablet, iPad, or smartphone. Next week you will receive an email with the following information:

Great Falls Genealogy Society is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Before joining a zoom meeting on a computer or mobile device, you can download the zoom app from the ZOOM download center. Otherwise you will be prompted to download and install zoom when you click the "join zoom meeting link" below.

Topic: GFGS General Meeting
Time: Sep 17, 2020 06:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

(Continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I'm happy to report that the re-opening of the Great Falls Genealogy Society Library has gone well. Thank you to those volunteers who have made it possible for us to be open Tuesday through Saturday, from 1 – 4 p.m. We have not had a lot of patrons visit as yet, but the numbers are gradually picking up. City County Health Department guidelines are in place and close adherence to them is what will keep the Public Library open.

While use of the Library is down, requests for research assistance have continued. Diane Green, our research specialist, is not comfortable coming to the Library as yet. If there is someone who could help in this area temporarily, please email me at ldspicer@mail.com. Your assistance would be **most** appreciated.

Our GFGS Board has decided to hold a GFGS **Business Meeting** Thursday, September 17th via Zoom. This is being held as an experiment. If it works, we will explore holding our October meeting via this platform, complete with a speaker. Details for participating in a Zoom meeting will be outlined elsewhere in this newsletter. Please understand that Zoom **is not** something you have to have on your computer or other device.

In our last newsletter I mentioned that a return to "normal" will be slow and calculated. This experiment with meetings via Zoom is one **possible** step in that process. In the meantime, please do all you possibly can to remain safe and healthy.

*-Larry D. Spicer
GFGS President*

SEPTEMBER 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, September 3rd - Acquisition Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Great Falls Genealogy Library.

Saturday, September 5th - Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., via Zoom

Thursday, September 17th - GFGS Business Meeting, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom (see article this page for details).



**NEW IN THE
LIBRARY
as of
8 August 2020**

Books:

- 50 Great Pioneers of American Industry
- Acadia
- Australian Phrasebook
- Backroadring Vancouver Island
- Beyond Our Prairie Trails, Vol 1 & 2
- Conquest of the Missouri, The
- Images of America: Stoughton
- "Lost" Pensions, The: Settled Accounts of the Act of 6 April 1838
- Military Pension Laws, 1776-1858
- Nicholas Romanov, Life and Death
- Pennsylvania Land Records: A History and Guide for Research
- Russian Tsars: The Rurikids, The Romanovs

Yearbooks:

- Lowell Elementary School, 1976-1977

We're Open!

**The Great Falls
Genealogy Society
Library is Open
for Business**

The Genealogy Library is now open, Tuesday through Saturday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

There are currently new guidelines in place for our patrons:

-Masks or other face coverings are required inside the Great Falls Public Library and the Great Falls Genealogy Society Library.

-Personal help with computer research programs will be limited due to social distancing.

-Please use hand sanitizer prior to and after accessing any book or computer.

-After accessing books, please place in the box labeled with the corresponding day. Do not place them back on the shelf.

-Please wipe computer keyboard and

mouse with a sanitizing wipe when finished using.

-Pencils are one time use. Take them home or throw them out.

Membership News



Welcome to our newest members:

Sara Ehnot, Great Falls, MT
Kathy Leach, Great Falls, MT
Katherine Tonkin &
Eric Stromquist, Tucson, AZ

**NOMINATIONS FOR
GFGS BOARD OF
DIRECTORS FOR
2021**

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following names for the 2021 Great Falls Genealogy Society Board of Directors:

President: Larry Spicer
Vice President: Jan Thomson
Secretary: Ann Dues
Treasurer: Cheryl Lucas
Trustee: Diana Kirol

Zoom Business Meeting (Continued from page 1)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/91014018275?](https://zoom.us/j/91014018275?pwd=WDVZdWhIS3VxdWs4UFpjQi9ZbmhIZz09)

[pwd=WDVZdWhIS3VxdWs4UFpjQi9ZbmhIZz09](https://zoom.us/j/91014018275?pwd=WDVZdWhIS3VxdWs4UFpjQi9ZbmhIZz09)

Meeting ID: 910 1401 8275

Passcode: 140606

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,91014018275#,,,,,0#,,140606# US (Houston)

+16699009128,,91014018275#,,,,,0#,,140606# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 910 1401 8275

Passcode: 140606

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/abZtLqitpf>

We hope you will be able to join us for this virtual meeting.

News You Can Use

A New, Free Online Resource of 360 Million United States Court Records

Dick Eastman · August 24, 2020 ·

I could make a rather poor joke that none of MY ancestors would be listed in court records but, of course, I would be wrong. Every family has a few people who end up on the wrong side of the law. **HOWEVER**, court records also list millions of victims, witnesses, law-enforcement personnel, judges, and other people as well.

360 million court cases could be a great treasure house for genealogists.

The site is <https://www.judyrecords.com/> and is completely free, no credit card, no advertising, no sign ups, etc. and has over 360 million US court records that are completely free to search.

It has case types that are particularly important for genealogy research like marriage, divorces, probate/estates, name changes, and adoption records.

- marriage – 4,369,504 cases
- divorce – 6,979,501 cases
- estate – 4,968,717 cases
- probate – 5,580,719 cases
- name change – 2,900,354 cases
- adoption – 77,157 cases

About 10 to 15 million new court cases are being added every month.

The user interface is a bit basic, maybe best described as stark: “Just the facts ma’am, nothing but the facts.” In this case, I would say that is a good thing. No ads in your face, no begging for money. Just the data.

Try it yourself at <https://www.judyrecords.com>.

-Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter
<https://blog.eogn.com>

Cite This For Me

Dick Eastman · July 31, 2020 ·

Genealogists often don’t understand the need when they begin but soon find it is important to cite their sources. After all, someday you will ask, “Where did I find that?” If you were smart enough to record the source citation at the time you recorded the other information, your question is easily answered. You will find many other genealogy uses for source citations as well.

Cite This For Me is a **FREE** extension for the Chrome web browser that will automatically create website citations in the APA, MLA, Chicago, or Harvard referencing styles at the click of a button. Simply browse to the page you wish to cite and click the button to generate a correctly formatted citation. You may then copy-and-paste the citation into your document, or add it to your online bibliography for safekeeping until later. *Cite This For Me* also comes with a Google Chrome extension.

As stated on the *Cite This For Me* web site: “Cite This For Me helps you create your Bibliography Online in 60 seconds or less!”

Not bad for a free product!

You can find the **FREE** *Cite This For Me* at <https://www.citethisforme.com/>.

For more advanced reading, the Pittsburg County (Oklahoma) Genealogical and Historical Society has an excellent reference, called *Genealogy Source Citations Quick Reference*, available at <https://bit.ly/3gkaBBR>. If you are not familiar with source citations in genealogy, start with that document.

Elizabeth Shown Mills has written some far more detailed books about source citations in genealogy work: *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian*, *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, and *QuickSheet: Citing Genetic Sources for History Research: Evidence Style*. These printed documents are considered to be the standard references to be used by genealogists. You can find all of these books on Amazon by starting at <https://amzn.to/314kiy3>. [NOTE: The GFGS Library has *Evidence Explained*]

-Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter
<https://blog.eogn.com>

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

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We're on the Web!
gfgenealogy.org