

GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The Falls Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2021

Established 1975



**The Genealogy Library
remains closed.**

Wednesdays at 11 AM Zoom Sessions are a Success!

Our "Wednesdays at 11 AM" sessions on ZOOM continue to be fruitful in many ways. First, members of the Great Falls Genealogy Society who need assistance with genealogy questions have been able to participate and second, GFGS has been able to offer Genealogy informational classes.

All GFGS members receive an email with the ZOOM link and class handouts (usually on Mondays or Tuesdays); for the last three sessions in January, members of the Lewis and Clark Genealogy Society have also participated as a means to share resources among societies during this time of COVID. Numbers of participants has varied, from 14 to 20. Topics covered last month:

January 6. Topic: "What are Gazetteers and how can they be used in your genealogy research and family story? How do they add to your family information and knowledge of an area? How can info from such a publication or a travel guide enhance your story?"

January 14. Topic: "Making/Curating Your Own Newspaper Research Archive from Online Sources".

January 27: "Timelines and Geography Of Place: Why They Matter In Your Genealogy Research."

(Continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Here we are, into our second month of the 46th year of the Great Falls Genealogy Society. 2020 turned out to be a year unlike any we have experienced. With COVID still fairly active in Cascade County, we continue to assess the local situation and dialog with the Public Library director, but as yet we have no projection of when the GFGS Library will reopen. Librarians, please let us know your vaccination status so we are aware when we will have volunteers able to resume duty.

In December I expressed thanks to our Board members and volunteers for all of their work during 2020. I specifically thank outgoing trustee, Jerry Clark, for his input in Board matters. To say your participation is appreciated, Jerry, is an understatement.

Volunteers, I'll be contacting you about your willingness to continue in your roles, with anticipation that one day, hopefully soon, you can in fact resume those responsibilities.

Until then, Society business and Library activity is being taken care of as best as a few board members can handle. Reports are given during our General Meetings, just as they were when we met in person. It's good to have more of our members taking opportunity to participate in our meetings via Zoom. Give it a try if you haven't as yet.

Until our Library reopens, please, I beg you to do all you possibly can to remain safe and healthy. The church of which I'm a part lost a member to COVID last month and a second spent time in ICU. We can only hope and pray all this will be behind us sometime soon.

-Larry D. Spicer
GFGS President

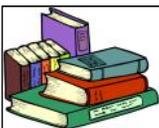
FEBRUARY 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, February 4th - Acquisition Meeting, 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 6th - Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., via Zoom

Thursday, February 11th - GFGS General Meeting, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom.





**NEW IN THE
LIBRARY
as of
9 January 2021**

Books:

- 3 Trails Home: A History of May-erthorpe and Districts (AB)
- A Century in the Foothills, 1876-1976: A History of the Eden Area
- Back-trailing on the Old Frontiers
- Belt Valley History, 1877-1978 (MT)
- Company Men, Vol. 32, John Peter Pruden
- La Pointe: Village Outpost on Madeline Island
- Martyrs Mirror
- MNO Root Ancestors, Vol. 2, Georgian Bay
- North Carolina Gazetteer, The
- Prairie Sod and Goldenrod: History of Crossfield and District (AB)
- Riverton, Wyoming 75 - Family Stories
- Roads to Rose Lynn: A History of the Rose Lynn, Sheerness, Scotfield areas (AB)
- St. Ignatius, MT Chronicles 1864-1938
- United States Achievement Academy 2001 National Awards, Vol. 183
- Weaverland Mennonites 1766-1968

Yearbooks:

- Catholic Central High School, *The Chimes*, 1953
- Simms High School, *Tiger*, 1954

Directories:

- Butte City Directory, 1975

MAPS, MAPS, MAPS!

The Randy Majors Site is well-known on the Genealogy circuit and I have probably mentioned all of Randy's great helps before. This week, I recommend that you go to his site again to acquaint yourself with all the great map and other helps - ALL ARE FREE!

Randy's Site: randymajors.org

Get there and then, go to his HELP section and his FAQ section to get his brilliant advice!

-Jan Thomson

**From the President:
What Can We Do
to Help?**

Thinking that it wouldn't last long, in the early days of the COVID pandemic, we started something at our church as a way for people to connect with each other. People were asked to complete the statement, "I'd like to know how to..." The responses were then compiled and people indicated "I know how to..." Those with abilities are then to be matched with those wanting to know how to do a thing.

I'd like to try an adaptation of this with our GFGS membership by having you complete the following statement, "It would help me in my genealogical research if I knew how to...". E-mail your completed statement to me at ldspicer@mail.com. I'll be waiting to receive your completed statement and will share those with Jan Thomson to help with planning for future workshops and our search for General Meeting speakers.

-Larry D. Spicer
GFGS President

**Wednesdays at 11 AM
(Continued from page 1)**

SILVER LINING! We have also had GFGS members from Maryland and from the San Diego area of California participate in "Wednesdays at 11 AM" - we are so pleased to be able to offer these opportunities to participate in GFGS sessions!

-Janet Thomson



**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: Linda Long,
Gary Campbell, Diane Kiroi

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:

Temporarily closed due to
Covid-19



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

Contents © 2021 All rights reserved.

We're on the Web!
gfgenealogy.org

How to Find Genealogy, Family History, and Local History Books in the Internet Archive

Dick Eastman, 20 Jan 2021

[Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#)

Would you like to electronically search through 164,634 genealogy books? You can do that on the Internet Archives' online service at: <https://archive.org/details/genealogy>. Not only can you search these books, but you can do so electronically. A search for a name might require a few seconds, not hours or days in the manner of a manual search through printed books in a library.

The *Internet Archive* (also known as *The Internet WayBack Machine Archive*) is a San Francisco-based nonprofit digital library with the stated mission of "universal access to all knowledge." It provides free public access to collections of digitized materials, including websites, software applications/games, music, movies/videos, moving images, and nearly three million public-domain books. This online library now has a collection that fills more than 15 petabytes. [NOTE: 15 petabytes is equal to 15 million gigabytes. Yes, that's a lot of information!]

The Internet Archive's collection is growing daily. Best of all, the use of the Internet Archive is always **FREE**. There is only one class of available service: **FREE**. There is no upgraded, or "pro" version. The Internet Archive is funded solely by voluntary donations, so everything is free.

I have written often about the Internet Archive. It has always collected genealogy, family history, and local history books. However, searching through the huge collection used to require imaginative search terms to find specific references.

For instance, searching all of the Internet Archive for references to my last name of Eastman used to find a few genealogy books buried in a listing of hundreds of book related to photography. In addition, a search for family names often also produced listings of book authors who shared that name, even if the book had nothing to do with genealogy. A search for a family name that is also a common English word, such as Black or Street was almost hopeless. Luckily, a change made some time ago has now reduced the search problems.

The Internet Archive now has a dedicated section just for genealogy, family history, and local history books at <https://archive.org/details/genealogy>. You might want to go to that address first and then conduct a search there.

When writing this article, I went to <https://archive.org/details/genealogy>, found the box labeled "Search this Collection" and performed a search for: Eastman. That search found 10, 140 books. Unlike searches I have performed in the past, all the books were either (1.) books about Eastman genealogy or (2.) genealogy or local history books that had the name Eastman someplace within the book. In fact, quite a few of the books were local histories for towns where Eastman families had settled. One book was a history book written by Ralph M. Eastman although the book did not appear to contain any genealogy information. I also tried searching for geographic locations, such as "Penobscot County," and had equally good success.

A few of the books listed in my searches were about U.S. Civil War histories. Those books had little or no genealogy information but contained great information about the soldiers and sailors who served during that war.

Many of the books were originally published in the 1800s; all of the ones I found were published prior to 1923.

The front covers of each book were displayed, and clicking on the image of any book cover immediately showed the contents of the book. Once I clicked on a book's image, full source citations also were displayed for that book, including:

- Author(s) name(s)
 - Publication date
 - Publisher's name
 - Internet Archive call number
 - Number of pages within the book
 - The name of the person or organization who contributed the book
- and even the name of the OCR software used to convert the book to text

The searches seem to work best for surnames of families that have been in North America for a century or longer. It does not work well for recent immigrants with eastern European or Oriental or Hispanic names. After all, these books are out of copyright; therefore, almost all were published prior to 1923. Don't look for more recent immigrant families in this collection. Almost all the books listed are in English although a very small number may be in other languages.

The addition of a dedicated genealogy section on the Internet Archive is an incremental improvement but a very welcome one indeed. It greatly simplifies the searches for genealogy, family history, and local history books in this fabulous online resource.

I suggest you might want to go to <https://archive.org/details/genealogy> and search for any surnames of interest. You never know what you might find. You probably want to bookmark that address. Did I mention that the service is **FREE**?