

# GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

# The Falls Newsletter

OCTOBER 2021

Established 1975



## Donna Wahlberg, GFGS Member Extraordinaire

Great Falls Genealogy Society long-time member Donna Wahlberg recently passed away at Columbia Falls, Montana. Her obituary (<https://www.greatfallstribune.com/obituaries/gft046549>) mentioned her two book publications and her interests in mining communities. However, Donna was responsible for far more - she was a researcher extraordinaire and purposefully created helpful indices to help others. For example, Donna spent a great deal of time indexing all of the Cascade County immigration records, so that those records are easily accessible for all of us. At GFGS, she provided several cemetery indexes (for example, Neihart Pine Hill Cemetery), researched and provided a Cascade County Coroner Register Index before those records were readily available, and provided an index for the *Belt Valley Times* newspaper. She was instrumental in helping to conserve Cascade County Rural Schools records (more than 90 small districts); her work ethic ensured that researchers have indexed access to valuable genealogical and historical county records. She was responsible for many other helpful indices and projects. We miss her cheerful countenance and her willingness to share. R.I.P., Donna

~~~Janet Thomson

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Last week, the wife of someone in town for their school reunion came in to use the Great Falls Genealogy Society Library. That would seem to indicate "genealogy tourist" season isn't quite over. But it also brings up something for you, our members, to consider. Do you perhaps have reunion materials for any Cascade County school you would be willing to donate to the Library? . Our yearbook collection is becoming more complete, but reunion materials are useful as well.

I want to thank those who responded to Dennis Sugden's request for help staffing our library and the Montana Room. We could still use your assistance, if you have considered volunteering. The more volunteers we have, the more the work load can be spread out.

As I mentioned last month, you should have received your membership renewal notice recently. We will continue holding our meetings via Zoom for the foreseeable future, as the limit of 10-people in the Library continues. At

*(Continued on page 3)*

## OCTOBER 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Wednesday, October 6th - Wednesdays At 11AM, Zoom Session**, Jan Thomson, moderator. Topic: Using Timelines to Analyze Genealogical Data

**Thursday, October 7th - Acquisition Meeting**, 1:00 p.m., GFGS Library

**Thursday, October 7th - Board Meeting**, 4:00 p.m., GFGS Library

**Thursday, October 14th - GFGS General Meeting**, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom. Guest Speaker: Jan Thomson, Topic: Using the National Register of Historical Places

**Wednesday, October 20th - Wednesdays At 11AM, Zoom Session**, Jan Thomson, moderator. Topic: Dower Rights - Information You Need to Know



**NEW IN THE  
LIBRARY  
as of  
2 September 2021**

**Books:**

- 102nd Military Intelligence Battalion, Camp Hovey, Korea 1985
- An Artist's Concept of Downtown Great Falls, MT (map)
- An Oral History of Some Residents of Hill 57 and Adjacent Native American Communities (Great Falls, MT)
- Battle of the Bulge, The: A Montana Perspective
- Church Missionary Society Red River Mission and the Emergence of a Native Ministry 1920-1860, The (MB)
- Colter's Hell & Jackson Hole (WY)
- Company Men, Vol. 34, Alexander Wilkie
- Early Vermont Settlers to 1771, Vol.2
- East of the East Side (MT)
- First Special Service Force, The: A Canadian/American Wartime Alliance: The Devil's Brigade
- Frontier Diplomats: Alexander Culbertson and Natoyist-Siksins' among the Blackfeet (MT)
- Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri 1840-1865, The (MT)
- Golden Jubilee, 1910-1960 Froid, Montana
- Healing Wounds: A Vietnam War Combat Nurse's 10-year Fight to Win Women a Place on Honor in Washington, D.C.
- Helene's World" Helene Desportes of Seventeenth-Century Quebec
- History and Civilization of China, The
- History of Leicestershire and Rutland, A (Great Britain)
- History of the Canyon Area, The (MT)
- Hope Mining Company of Philipsburg (MT)
- Montana Air National Guard
- Montana Air National Guard: The First 50 Years
- Montana Earthquake: An Illustrated Story of the Earthquakes that Centered around Helena, Mont. In the Fall of 1935
- More than Petticoats: Remarkable Idaho Women
- North American Indian, The: Illus-

*(Continued on page 3)*

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

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following names for the 2022 Great Falls Genealogy Society Board of Directors:

President: Larry Spicer  
Vice President: Jan Thomson  
Secretary: Ann Dues  
Treasurer: Cheryl Lucas  
Trustee: Linda Long

If you would like to be a candidate for one of these offices, our by-laws allow for write-in candidates.

In accordance with the by-laws, write-in nominations may be made by the general membership, provided each nominee has given written consent to serve if elected. Write-in nominations, with written consent of the nominee(s), may be mailed in or brought to the October general meeting.

If, after the October meeting, there is only one candidate for each position, then no ballots will be necessary and the list of nominees will be considered elected by acclamation at the November meeting.



**Membership News**



*Welcome to our newest member:*

Karen Whitehead, Indio, CA

**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:**

Monday – Saturday  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 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)

Contents © 2021 All rights reserved.

***We're on the Web!***  
***[gfgenealogy.org](http://gfgenealogy.org)***

## *New in the Library (Continued from page 2)*

trated

- Pemmican Empire: Food, Trade and the Last Bison Hunts in the North American Plains, 1780-1882
- Sauks and the Blackhawk War, The: Illustrated
- Scandinavian Research Sources and Strategies
- Some Chapters on the Forest Homestead Act with Emphasis on Western Montana
- Supercommandos, The: First Special Service Force, 1942-1944
- World War II POW Camps of Wyoming

### **Yearbooks/Reunions:**

- Billings Polytechnic Institute, *The Poly*, 1938
- CM Russell High School, *Russellog*, 1975
- Fairfield High School, *The Eagle*, 1949-1952
- Great Falls High School, *Roundup*, 1978
- Great Falls High School Class of 1959, 50 Years Reunion
- Havre High School, *The Blue Pony*, 1948, 1949
- Havre High School Class of 1949 30th Reunion
- Northern Montana College, *The Northerner*, 1953, 1958-1959, 1961-1964
- Northwest University Alumni Directory, 2007 (WA)
- St. Olaf College, *Viking*, 1961 (MN)
- Texas
- Western Story: The Recollections of Charey O’Kieffe, 1884-1898 (NE)
- Where Two Worlds Meet: the Great Lakes Fur Trade (MN)

## **ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP**

As many of you know, the Genealogy Library has over 10,000 books, periodicals, maps and other items to help you with your research. We know that this is just a drop in the bucket of items that are available. The Acquisitions Committee is always looking for new items to help

with the research of our members. To that end, we need to know what places you are researching that you need items for! Please be specific to the county in the state or country and if there is a special topic that you are interested in. Also, are there any subjects that you need research materials for?

Please email the Society at [gfgenealogy@genlibrary.org](mailto:gfgenealogy@genlibrary.org) with ideas and put “research materials wanted” in the subject line.

Thanks!

### ***President’s Corner (Continued from page 1)***

least two more of our members have had Covid recently and they assure us we do not want to risk anyone contracting that at our Library.

If you have been hesitant to visit the GFGS Library, do at least drop in for a minute if you are in the area. You will note that our larger, less used collections of books are being placed in archival boxes, opening considerable shelf space. We have also started a project to organize our map collection and made some furnishing upgrades. Just a few changes you will want to check out.

*-Larry D. Spicer  
GFGS President*

## **Dues are Due!**

It’s that time of year again - our annual membership drive for 2022 has begun.

You should have received your Membership Form in an email; please fill this out and return it with your payment in person at the Genealogy Library or by mail to:

Great Falls Genealogy Library  
301 2nd Ave N, 3rd Floor  
Great Falls, MT 59401

Membership dues are the primary source of our operating funds and your continued support as a member is the fuel that keeps our society going.

## **New Ways to Benefit the Society!**

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at:

[smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones.

When you shop with AmazonSmile, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose from over one million organizations to support. **Since the Great Falls Genealogy Society signed up with this program we have received almost \$150.** If you’d like to support GFGS (or any charity), this is an easy and no-cost way for you to do it.

The other program we have initiated is also on AmazonSmile: **we have created a charity wish list.** This works the same way as any other wish list. If you want to donate items to GFGS, just order them off of the wish list and the item will be shipped directly to the Genealogy Library. We are still adding items to this list so be sure to check back often.

## **News You Can Use**

**FamilySearch Completes Digitization of Massive Microfilm Collection Effort makes billions of historical genealogy records freely available online September 21, 2021**

It is a milestone 83 years in the making. Today FamilySearch International announced the completion of a massive project to digitize its collection of mil

*(Continued on page 4)*



## **Family Search** (Continued from page 3)

lions of rolls of microfilm containing billions of family history records from around the world. The archive containing information on more than 11.5 billion individuals is now freely available to the public on [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org).

"We hope that all those who contributed to this milestone in the last 80 years feel a sense of humble accomplishment today," said Steve Rockwood, the CEO of FamilySearch International. "And we hope the millions of individuals who will discover, gather, and connect generation upon generation of their family members for years to come because of these efforts will have a deep sense of gratitude for the many unheralded contributors who made those discoveries possible."

"It's a game-changer for everybody in the world. So, instead of having to come to the library, people can start accessing these records from home," said Becky Adamson, a research consultant at the FamilySearch Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

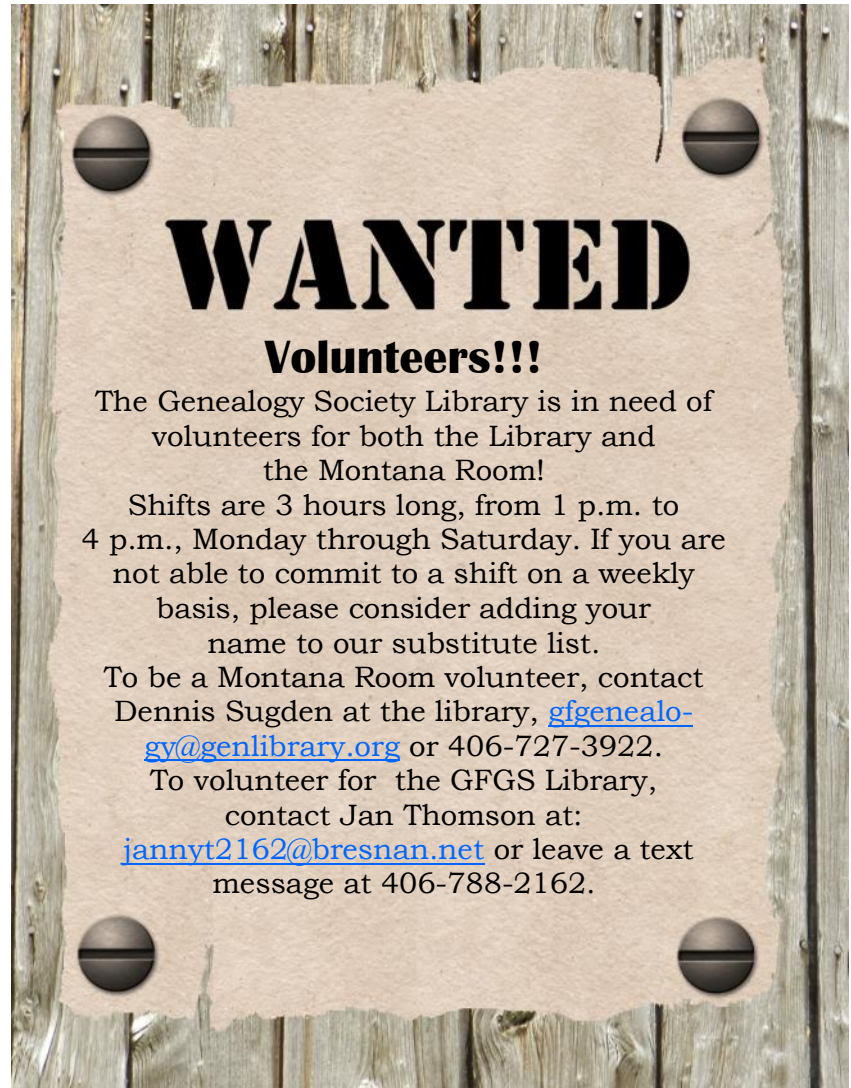
FamilySearch began microfilming in 1938 as the Genealogical Society of Utah. It was one of the first major organizations to embrace the use of microfilm imaging. That microfilm collection eventually grew to more than 2.4 million rolls.

FamilySearch ended its microfilm distribution to family history centers in September 2017 when it began its transition to an all-digital, free, online access approach. The microfilm collection will continue to be preserved, but the information the rolls contain can now be easily viewed and searched online.

FamilySearch continues to capture images of original records at an ever-increasing rate, howbeit in digital form, bypassing the need to transfer the information from film. The last roll of film added to the collection was captured by FamilySearch's in-field cameras in 2018.

Digitization of the rolls of film began more than 20 years ago when FamilySearch purchased its first microfilm scanners in 1998. The project was expected to take over 50 years to complete, but advances in technology helped shorten the timeline by nearly 30 years. The last of the microfilm scanning was completed this year.

FamilySearch will continue to increase the digitization of new records worldwide from its digital camera operations and partnerships. It will also begin digitizing 335,000 microfiches in its collections.



From the RootsMagic blog:

*"We are thrilled to announce the official release of RootsMagic 8, the latest version of the award-winning genealogy software which makes researching, organizing, and sharing your family history easy and enjoyable. With the release comes an update to the free "RootsMagic Essentials" product, as well as a limited-time discount offer for both new and existing users."*

If you purchased RootsMagic7 anytime during the past 2 years, you should have a registration key for RootsMagic8 - so you are all ready to update! If you've been waiting to purchase RootsMagic8, there is a limited-time discount offer until October 17th. For more information, go to:

<http://blog.rootsmagic.com/>