

GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The Falls Newsletter

DECEMBER 2021

Established 1975



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*The Library
will be closed
on Saturday,
25 December
2021
for Christmas.*

Volunteer Recognition

The Great Falls Genealogy Society is indebted to a cadre of volunteers, who, thanks to their dedication, keep the GFGS Library running smoothly. These volunteers are the face and heart of GFGS. They are the first people encountered when visitors enter the Society Library and the Montana Room. They go "above and beyond" in giving of their time and energy to see that our Society and Library function in the best way possible for our membership and patrons. We thank these volunteers for their commitment as librarians:

Barry Atkinson
Ramona Boyton-Logan
Marie Berti
Carol Byerly
Gary & Rita Campbell
Jerry & Carole Ann Clark
Linda Colenso
Ann Dues
Bev Eayrs

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We are entering the final month of 2021. Last month, the Volunteer Recognition and Annual Meeting of the Great Falls Genealogy Society were held via Zoom. Our thanks to all of those who participated in this meeting.

This month's newsletter will give you the results of that night's meeting as well as a summary of what has taken place in the Great Falls Genealogy Society and Library thus far in 2021.

In their latest meeting, the GFGS Board voted to approach our volunteer librarians in the Public Library's Montana Room and the GFGS Library about opening for an additional hour. Doing so would serve to fulfill our contractual agreement with the Great Falls Public Library.

We continue to be asked when the GFGS Library will again be open in the morning and when we will resume "in person" meetings. The first issue is totally dependent on having volunteers to cover the additional hours. "In person" meetings depend on the lifting of the limit to the number of people who can gather at one time in the Library.

I believe, in spite of the Covid situation, the Great Falls Genealogy Society and Library has had a good year. With our members and patrons in mind, considerable improvements have been made to our Society Library and we are looking ahead to a productive year in 2022.

*-Larry D. Spicer
GFGS President*

DECEMBER 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, December 2nd- Acquisition Meeting, 1:00 p.m.,
GFGS Library

Thursday, December 2nd - Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m., GFGS
Library

Thursday, December 9th- GFGS General Meeting via Zoom,
6:00 p.m.





**NEW IN THE
LIBRARY
as of
November 2021**

Books:

- 1920 Plat Map of Judith Basin & Fergus County Homesteaders (MT)
- 1969 Class C District 12 Basketball Tournament (MT)
- 2nd Journey into the Past: The Descendants of Martin Hruby & Alzbeta Preihobera (MT)
- 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Dedication of St. Mathias Catholic Church, Ryegate, MT 1914-1989
- Adventure Tales of Montana's Last Frontier
- Big-Enough by Will James (MT)
- Butterflies and Railroad Ties (MT)
- Cold War Montana
- From the Turning of the Sod: The Story of the Early Settlers in the R.M. of Hart Butte, Saskatchewan
- Guarding the Carroll Trail, Camp Lewis—1874-1975 (MT)
- Guide to the Milwaukee Road in Montana
- Hannes Eby Death and Burial Record: Life and Death in Old Warwick Township, Lancaster County, PA, 1806-1845
- Hemmings of Monticello, An American Family, The (VA)
- Heroes of the Bob Marshall Wilderness (MT)
- Hood County History in Picture and Story 1978 (TX)
- Look Back in Black and White: 42 Years as a Montana Newsman
- Montana Railroad, The: Alias: the Jawbone
- Oregon for the Curious
- Saamis, The Medicine Hat (AB)

Yearbooks/Reunions:

- Billings Senior High School, *The Kyote*, 1924
- Fifty-second Reunion of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Valley of Great Falls, 1949 (MT)
- Great Falls High School, Class of '47 10 Year Reunion, July 6, 1957
- Lincoln Elementary School, *Lincoln Memories*, 1995-1996 (Great Falls, MT)
- Montana State Normal School, *Chinook*, 1924

Volunteer Recognition

(Continued from page 1)

- Gary Goettel
- Diane Green
- Gail Kapptie
- Diane Kirol
- Una Koontz
- Margaret Leitz
- Linda Long
- Cheryl Lucas
- Merle Anne McLeish
- Julia Pepos
- Candi Recke
- Eldon Stampro
- Dennis Sugden
- Janet Thomson
- Anne Weaver

Words cannot adequately express our full appreciation of each of these volunteers.

Others give their time to ensure the Society/Library continues to grow:

Membership: Ann Dues, Linda Long.

Past Perfect Inventory: Cheryl Lucas, Ann Dues.

Inventory Specialist and Angel: Linda Colenso (year-long effort).

Researchers: Diane Green (answers queries and researches Research Requests). Kerry Constan (takes on in-depth tasks to return records found to families (for example, Bibles, family photo albums, family keepsakes... and more)).

The Acquisitions Committee: open to all members, meets once a month to review and recommend prospective acquisitions for the library. Committee members are asked to review the proposed selections before the monthly meeting. **Members:** Ramona Boyton-Logan, Cheryl Lucas, Marie Berti, Jan Thomson, Larry Spicer, Carole Ann Clark, Gary Goettel.

Technology Committee: open to all, meets frequently to assess computer needs, problem-solve: **Members:** Merle Anne McLeish (also,

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**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 Kirol

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

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We're on the Web!
gfgenealogy.org

Volunteer Recognition

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GFGS Web master); Linda Long, Ann Dues, Gary Goettel.

Current Project Volunteers:

working on Society/Library Projects (we intend to list the many, many past Projects and their volunteers in a separate list this winter - stay tuned):

GF Mausoleum Project, to copy mausoleum records/index these: Glenn Jeffrey and Diane Green (they have nearly finished this great project).

O'Connor Funeral Home Project, to scan, copy, and index O'Connor Records 1911-Present: Margaret Lietz, Julia Pecos, Carol Byerly, Jan Thomson, Linda Long.

Cascade Co. School Censuses Overview Index: Diana Kirol.



The Great Falls Genealogy Society was saddened by the passing of the following current/former members of our Society during 2021:

Joyce Knowles
Laurae Allen
Donna Wahlberg
Lance Logan

Each of these individuals made their unique contributions to our Society in the time of their active membership. They and their many involvements are missed.



Great Falls Genealogy Society 2021 Volunteer of the Year - Cheryl Lucas



It was shortly after the beginning of the new millennium that our **Volunteer of the Year** became a member of the Great Falls Genealogy Society. And it didn't take Cheryl Lucas long to begin her involvement in the Society. Her many talents have been put to use in a variety of ways. While working a full time job, Cheryl served as one of the librarians on Saturdays or Sundays. While Cheryl was on the Acquisitions Committee, she took over the task of computerizing the listing of the then over 8,000 volumes of the Society Library, working with Jan Thomson to add more adequate descriptors to book spine labels. She also computerized the periodical listings. It was Cheryl who assembled the orange guidebooks and maps that, until recently, were the first volume for each state and country in our Library's collection. Cheryl served our Society as a Trustee, was president for 3-years, and currently has been the GFGS treasurer since 2014. While employed by Walmart for four years, Cheryl earned a grant which provided the funding at least 40 books for the Library's growing Metis and Native American collection. Since her retirement earlier this year, Cheryl has given her attention to several projects within the Society Library. This has included changing Library arrangements, organizing and providing an inventory of our collection of maps, taking over the task of entering new books into the computer inventory, and helping assess materials in what is being termed "Area 51", the alternate location of what we called the Society's "office". We, as a Society, are grateful to Cheryl Lucas for all she does for the Great Falls Genealogy Society and in appreciation name her our **2021 Volunteer of the Year**.

The Great Falls Genealogy Society 2022 Officers

Congratulations to our newly elected officers:

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

VISITORS TO OUR LIBRARY IN 2021

As patrons enter the Montana Room of the Great Falls Public Library, everyone is asked to sign in, indicating if they are there to use the Montana Room or the Great Falls Genealogy Society Library. Going through the Visitor's Log on 23 November, a total of 1116 people indicated they were there to use the GFGS Library. That number includes patrons, volunteers, project workers, and those attending Board and Acquisition Committee meetings.

Among GFGS' Montana patrons, those from outside of Cascade County came from Billings, Brady, Butte, Cut Bank, Ft. Benton, Libby, Missoula, and Polson. Out of state patrons came to us from California, Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Oregon, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, and Texas.

Considering that we began 2021 under Covid-19 restrictions, this is a good report. We will be planning, working, and preparing for a busier year in 2022.



*Merry Christmas from the
Great Falls Genealogy Society*



Photo courtesy Linda Long

Looking for a fun genealogy gift for Christmas? Consider a Journal Jar!



Each jar contains over 250 questions - just pull out a slip of paper and answer the question! Complete all the questions and you will have your life story.

Available at the library
for \$5.

Haven't Renewed Your Membership Yet? We'll Miss You!!

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please take the time to do it this month. Membership dues are our primary source of income, making it possible for us to continue to support you in your genealogy work and make improvements to the Library. We're counting on you!

Help make a difference

Shop for gifts using AmazonSmile to support us, at no cost

amazon smile

