

GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The Falls Newsletter

JANUARY 2022

Established 1975



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*The Library
will be closed
on Saturday,
1 January, for
New Year's Day,
and Monday,
17 January for
Martin Luther
King Jr. Day.*

You, I anticipate, have spent recent days involved in some aspect of celebration of the Christmas season. All around us have been opportunities, either as a participant in events, or as one helping to make events happen. Whatever your part, I hope it was a meaningful occasion for you.

As January 2022 bursts on the scene, we are reminded that January is a time of celebration for the Great Falls Genealogy Society. It was in January 1975 that our Society was launched! As I helped close the Library the day before Christmas, I was reminded of what I was first introduced to, entering the GFGS Library housed in what had been the principal's office of the former Central High School building, now known as Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art. We've come a long way in the forty-six years our Society has been in existence.

Happy 47th Anniversary Great Falls Genealogy Society! We hope that we will be able to have a celebration of some sort before our Society's 50th Anniversary rolls around.

In lieu of immediate celebration, this month's newsletter contains some opportunities for your involvement. Mention is made of things you may want to contribute funds toward, as well as a number of projects that volunteers are needed to help with. If you could help in either of these areas, it would be greatly appreciated.

(Continued on page 2)

JANUARY 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, January 6th - Acquisition Meeting, 1:00 p.m., GFGS Library

Thursday, January 6th - Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m., GFGS Library

Saturday, January 8th - Workshop via Zoom plus 5, "U.S. Censuses, 1790-1840: Yes, You can Use Them Effectively", 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. (see article p. 3)

Wednesday, January 12th - Wednesdays At 11AM, Zoom Session, "Finding Your U.S. Marshall - Where are the Records?" Jan Thomson, moderator.

Thursday, January 13th - GFGS General Meeting via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.





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

Books:

- Anabaptist Mennonite Time Line
- Apprentices of Virginia 1623-1800
- Ballarat 1897-1917 Facts and Folklore (CA)
- Beneath the Mask: life with the Hutterites
- Black Montana: Settler Colonialism and the Erosion of the Racial Frontier, 1877-1930
- First Rangers
- Fur Trade Families of Quebec, Pierre Chabot and Symphorose Tapoloe, Vol. 8
- Genesis of the Corps of Engineers
- Geography of the Hutterites in North America, A
- Great Columbia Plain the: A Historical Geography, 1805-1910 (WA)
- Guide to Historic Virginia City: Montana Mainstreets Vol. 1, A
- I am Happy to Be in Montana
- Images of Modern America Lake-wood (CO)
- "Education, Leadership, Wisdom" The Founding History of Salish Kootenai College, 1976-2010
- No Step Backward: Women and Family on the Rocky Mountain Mining Frontier, Helena, MT 1865-1900
- The Brethren, A Story of Faith and Conspiracy in Revolutionary America (NC)
- Trinity Episcopal Church 100th Anniversary 1872-1972, Cranford, NJ
- Truth about Sacajawea, The
- Westward into Kentucky
- Wiley's Dream of Empire: The Wiley Irrigation Project (WY)
- Years of George Montgomery, The

Directories

- Lewistown MT 2018 Polk City
- North East MT, 2018 Polk City
- South East MT, 2018 Polk City
- Sunrise Presbyterian Church, The - 1991 Directory

President's Corner (Continued from page 1)

As I stated in last month's newsletter, I believe GFGS have every reason to look forward to a tremendous and productive year in 2022.

*-Larry D. Spicer
GFGS President*

Membership News



*Welcome to our newest member:
Kim Angelina Stefani, Great Falls*

Need a Tax Deduction for 2021?

Don't forget the Great Falls Genealogy Society when you are making your end of year deductions! You can donate to the operating of the Society or one of the Acquisitions Funds (U.S., Montana, First Nations, or Foreign). There is also the Special Projects or Computer Funds. For 2020 and 2021, we have not received the revenue that we normally do because of Covid19. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated!

*-Cheryl Lucas
Treasurer*

Wanted: Librarians!

Over the past two years, with our closure and the continued uncertainties posed by COVID19, a number of our librarians, both for the Montana Room and the Genealogy Library, have had to remove themselves from our active librarian list. We now find ourselves short-

(Continued on page 3)

**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: Gary Campbell,
Diane Kiro, Linda Long

Committee Chairs:

Acquisitions: Larry Spicer
Membership: Ann Dues
Publications: Jan Thomson
Projects: Vacant
Research: Diane Green
Technology: Linda Long

Webmaster:

Merle Anne McLeish

Newsletter Editor:

Linda Long

Society Library Hours:

Monday - Saturday
12:00 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

Projects, Projects, Projects!! Can you help?

Interested in helping the Society? We are always looking for volunteers to assist with projects that keep the Society and Library running smoothly. The projects that we have are many and varied, as you can see from the lists below. Some can be done at home, others must be done at the Library.

Here are the projects that we currently have that we need people to work on:

Projects that must be done at the library:

1. Scanning Board Meeting/ General Meeting Minutes
2. Scanning early telephone directories from Montana Room
3. Scanning early library records
4. Print and file O'Connor Funeral records
5. Print Ursuline records
6. School Census indexes – by year
7. Label boxes in library collection
8. Inventory Cascade County Records into PastPerfect – this includes descriptors/ pictures/ condition/location
 - a. Small School Districts
 - b. School District 1
 - c. Coroner Records
 - d. Marriage Books
 - e. Miscellaneous Books

Projects that may be done at home:

1. Index Cascade County prisoners' binders - requires Excel
2. Index Fergus County Argo newspapers binders - requires Excel
3. Index Teton County News binders - requires Excel
4. Write and publish basic biographies of GFHS graduates 1921 – 1929 - requires Word
5. Index Conrad scrapbooks – requires Word or similar program - requires Excel
6. Index Stagecoach drivers - requires Excel

Projects to be done at Highland Cemetery

1. Update cemetery records since 2012

If you see something here that you would like to work on or for more information, please contact Society Vice President Jan Thomson at jannyt2162@bresnan.net or send a text to 406-788-2162 or email gfgenealogy@genlibrary.org

January Workshop

Saturday, January 8th
**“U.S. Censuses, 1790-1840:
 Yes, You can Use Them
 Effectively”**
10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.
**via Zoom and in person at the
 Great Falls Genealogy Library**

Join Jan Thomson on Saturday, January 8th for the first workshop of the new year. Censuses from 1790-1840 recorded only the head of household, and then others in that household were counted within age / gender groupings. Learn to use census blanks to record these people and the sources available to confirm first names.

This workshop will be **on Zoom and will also be available for in person participation at the Great Falls Genealogy Society Library.** Due to COVID restrictions on the number of people we can have in the Library, **we can only have 5 people in person** for the workshop. **If you would like to participate in person,** call the Library at 406-727-3922 to sign up.



2022 Schedule for Meetings

For planning purpose, here are the 2022 schedules for the Acquisition Meetings, Board Meetings, and General Meetings:

<u>Acquisitions:</u>	<u>Board Meetings</u>
6 January	6 January
3 February	3 February
3 March	3 March
7 April	7 April
5 May	5 May
2 June	2 June
7 July	7 July
4 August	4 August
1 September	1 September
6 October	6 October
3 November	3 November
1 December	1 December

General Meetings:

13 January
 10 February
 10 March
 14 April
 12 May
 8 September
 13 October
 19 November
 8 December

Wanted: Librarians (Continued from page 2)

handed and in need of librarians. If you've ever thought about contributing to the Genealogy Society, here is a great opportunity.

What does it take to be a librarian for GFGS? Primarily, and most importantly, is a cheerful attitude and a willingness to help others with their research; you don't have to be a genealogy expert! Your willingness to help others to the best of your ability is the most important asset you can bring. And, of course, you won't be on your own – training will be provided.

If this sounds like something you might like to do, contact the Library at 727-3922 or by email at gfgenealogy@genlibrary.org for more information and ask for Larry Spicer.

First Nations Acquisitions Fund is Low

There are a lot of new books that help Montana's First Nations Community to find their genealogy. Unfortunately, the Great Falls Genealogy Society does not have enough in the First Nations Acquisitions Fund to purchase all of them. One new series by Gail Morin is the "*Fur Trade Families of the Pacific Northwest*". There are 6 volumes in total for this series. The Pacific Northwest includes the states Washington, Oregon, northern Idaho, western Montana and parts of British Columbia. Most of the families are the descendants of Northwest Company, American Fur Company, and Hudson Bay Company employees and their Native American wives. Also included are the adventure seekers from the United States and Canada in search of gold and/or land. Most of these men stayed and raised mixed blood families. Descendants can be found on tribal censuses for Blackfeet, Coeur d'Alene, Flathead, Fort Belknap Assiniboine, Kalispell, Kootenai-Salish, Little Shell Chippewa, Rocky Boy Chippewa, and Turtle Mountain Chippewa. Witnessed events and notes are included for baptisms, marriages, burials, employment history, censuses, BIA probate records, council minutes, military draft and enlistment records, social and legal newspaper articles, obituaries, old biographies, etc.

Each book in the series is \$45 or \$50. They are wonderful books and will be heavily used just like all of the other Gail Morin books. If you would like to donate to this fund, please send a check to GFGS and note that it is for the First Nations Acquisitions Fund. As always, if you want to donate to any other function of GFGS, it is always wonderful and gratefully accepted.

News You Can Use

1950 Census Release Will Offer Enhanced Digital Access, Public Collaboration Opportunity

By Victoria Macchi | National Archives News

WASHINGTON, DC, December 14, 2021 — With the scheduled April 1, 2022, release of 1950 Census records a little more than three months away, the National Archives is completing efforts to digitize those records and using technology to make them more accessible than ever.

"Employees from across the agency have worked on digitizing and indexing the records and developing and testing a new, dedicated 1950 Census website," said Project Manager Carol Lagundo, who leads the 1950 Census project at National Archives. "It's taken innovation and creativity to keep this project on track throughout the pandemic and to continue to meet our project milestones. We hope the public will benefit from our hard work."

The new website will include a name search function powered by an Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology tool. This is important for genealogists and other researchers who rely on census records for new information about the nation's past.

"The OCR being used to transcribe the handwritten names from the census rolls is about as good as the human eye," said Project Management Director Rodney Payne. "Some of the pages are legible, and others are difficult to decipher. So, the National Archives developed a transcription tool to enable users to submit name updates. This will allow other users to find specific names more easily, and it provides an opportunity for the public to help the agency share these records with the world."

National Archives officials are encouraging interested members of the public to use the transcription tool and assist the agency to make the records as accurate as possible.

"This is an exciting project for the National Archives, and we know it is important information for so many Americans. We are looking forward to collaborating with the public to refine and enhance the first draft of OCR-created names. This is a great example of automating as much as we can and then collaborating with the public to make access happen," said Chief Innovation Officer Pamela Wright....

The National Archives is also working to provide bulk download access of the full 1950 Census dataset on launch day. This will be of interest to digital humanists, web developers, social scientists, and anyone wanting to explore aggregations of the records....

When made available on the Amazon Web Services Registry of Open Data, the 1950 Census dataset—over 165 terabytes of data—will include the metadata index, the population schedules, the enumeration district maps, and the enumeration district descriptions for the 1950 Census records. This is approximately 10 times the size of the 1940 Census dataset.

Included in the dataset are approximately:

- 6.5 million digital TIFF images and corresponding JPEG derivative images of the microfilmed "1950 Census of Population and Housing" forms for U.S. states and territories
- 33,215 TIFF images and corresponding JPEG derivative images of the original paper "1950 Census of Population and Housing: Indian Reservation Schedule" forms
- 9,600 digitized images of the 1950 Census Enumeration District Maps, which are annotated maps of counties, cities, and other minor civil divisions that show enumeration districts, census tract, and related boundaries and numbers used for each census
- 63,000 digitized images of the 1950 Census Enumeration District Descriptions, which are written descriptions of geographic areas included within enumeration districts
- 232,000 1950 Census Enumeration District Descriptions, which were produced by generating OCR output of the Enumeration District Description images. More than 25 NARA staff reviewed and cleaned up the OCR output.

For more information see, NARA's [1950 Census blog posts on History Hub](#).

Resources for earlier censuses as well as tips for searching these records are available on [Archives.gov](#).

Reports and statistics from the 1950 census are available [through the U.S. Census Bureau](#).