

GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY
The Falls Newsletter

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2022

Established 1975



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*The Library
will be closed
on
Monday, 21
February for
President's
Day.*

When February is mentioned, what's the first thing that comes to mind? Is it Valentine's Day? The stores certainly want us to think so.

I went to Wikipedia to explore Valentine's history, and it would seem to go back further than most of us can trace our ancestry. But what is your first memory of Valentine's? Were there expressions of affection other than the exchange of Valentines at school?

Several years ago I was given a file folder of family related items an uncle had collected. Among the many papers was what appears to be a page from an autograph book. Remember those? On this page, dated Jan 6, 1886, my great-grandfather, Winter Spicer, wrote "To Wife Dollie - What tongue can express the sweet comfort and peace of love in its earliest days?" Not a Valentine, but certainly an expression appropriate for that occasion. (He died four years later.)

In a similar vein of thought, is there someone you owe an expression of appreciation for having introduced you to, or mentored you, in genealogy? For me it's a former roommate, Curt Sanders, and then GFGS's own Thelma Marshall. These two recognized my interest and took the time to explain research and recording methodology of my ancestors. Thank you, Curt and Thelma.

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FEBRUARY/MARCH 2022
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, February 23rd - Wednesdays At 11AM, Zoom Session, "Finding Your U.S. Marshal - Where are the Records?" Jan Thomson, moderator.

Wednesday, March 2nd - Wednesdays At 11AM, Zoom Session, "Read Any Good Directories Lately?" Jan Thomson, moderator.

Thursday, March 3rd - Acquisitions Committee, 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 3rd - Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 10th - GFGS General Meeting via Zoom, 6:00 p.m

Wednesday, March 16th - Wednesdays At 11AM, Zoom Session, "Genealogy Toolbox: Introduction to Probate Records (Wills, Inventories, Public Notices, etc.)" Jan Thomson, moderator.





**NEW IN THE
LIBRARY
as of
12 February 2022**

Books:

- Cascade County Rural Schools & Teachers
- History of the Flathead Indian Nation from the Year 1813 – 1890
- The Roundup Class of 1940 Reunions – 30th and 60th
- First Ladies' Cookbook
- Discover Barkerville: A Gold Rush Adventure (British Columbia)
- One Man's Wilderness: An Alaskan Odyssey
- Emigrantar fra Hallingdal
- Letter to Commissioner Collier from Mabel H. (Munroe) Bonds Regarding Her Monroe Family at Babb, MT
- Lincoln County Montana Brand Book 2021
- Lookin' Back Big Horn County
- One-Room Schoolhouses in the Augusta School District Lewis & Clark County School System Circa 1870 thru 1920
- Petroleum County Montana Brand Book 2021
- Treasure County Montana Brand Book 2021
- Wibaux County Montana Brand Book 2021
- The Butcher, the Baker, The Candlestick Maker: The Story of Britain through its census, since 1801 - 2011
- DNA For Native American Genealogy
- Outdoor Women inside the Forest Service
- Echoes of an Era Vol 3 (MT)
- The Gathering Place: Swan Valley's Gordon Ranch (MT)
- Seventy-seven Years on the Main Street of a Small Irish Town in Montana, Helmville
- Richland Dryland (MT)

**President's Corner (Continued
from page 1)**

While I express appreciation, I want to thank those of you who responded to last month's call for contributions toward book purchases, as well as volunteers to help with projects. At the same time, please realize that there is still great need in both of those areas.

Great Falls Genealogy Society is celebrating its 47th Anniversary! Let's continue together and make 2022 a tremendous and productive year for our Society.

*-Larry D. Spicer
GFGS President*

Membership News



*Welcome to our newest member:
Bonnie Masters, Great Falls*

**THE 1950 CENSUS IS
COMING!
THE 1950 CENSUS IS
COMING!
ARE YOU READY?**



APRIL 1, 2022

**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 Kiroi, 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. Scanning George Company and Chapel of Chimes Records
5. Print Ursuline records
6. School Census indexes – by year
7. Scanning old Treasure State Lines
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. We are always adding to the list so check back later to see if there is more to do.

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!

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-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.

O'Connor Files Project

Scans of O'Connor Files, 1911-1950 are complete, with 1951 soon complete. Indexes have been created for 1911-1950, with 1951 soon to be added. The indexes include the following information: Surname, first name, DOB, age, DOD, Disposition (Cemetery and location); notes. Notes include: Montana Death Certificate reference[DC], O'Connor Funeral Record Reference [O'Connor Record #] Death Certificates and the O'Connor Funeral Record are on file at GFGS.

The Project continues, and we are always looking for volunteers who can help. Those who have helped thus far include: Margaret Lietz (she has scanned a huge number of these records); Carol Byerly, Julie Pepos, Diane Green, Linda Long, Cheryl Lucas, Jan Thomson, Linda Calenso, Barry Atkinson...hopefully I have not left anyone out of this list!

~~Jan Thomson

North Dakota Ukrainian Cultural Institute

Next time you are going across North Dakota, stop in at the Ukrainian Cultural Institute at 1221 West Villard in Dickinson. You will have access to the Marie Halun Block library which is filled with books on Ukrainian history, language, literature and more. The gallery/museum has Ukrainian art and handcrafts on permanent display. Spend time in reflection at the original altar from St. Josephat Ukrainian Catholic Church which once stood in Gorham, ND. You'll also find items left by western North Dakota's Ukrainian homesteaders. There is also a gift shop with locally made Pysanky (decorated eggs), egg supplies, traditional Ukrainian shirts and blouses, religious icons, embroidered items, books and much more. During Lent the Institute provides Lenten Lunches every Friday from 11 am to 1 pm (Covid permitting). Also, there are workshops on decorating eggs in the Pysanky style. The Institute has also hosted Ukrainian Parliament members last year. The Parliament members visited to learn more about the energy industry. This is a very active organization that can be found on the web at ucitoday.org or email uci@ndsupernet.com.

New To Our Library

We now have this book available for check-out (to members).

Dr. Robert Pope Ross Gordon was an early-era, much-beloved Great Falls physician. Trying to write a family history? Read this book to note how personal family stories are intertwined with well-resourced history. ~Jan Thomson

USVHS, Inc. ***The Gathering Place: Swan Valley's Gordon Ranch.*** Condon, Montana: Upper Swan Valley Historical Society, Inc., 2017.

Dr. Robert Pope Ross Gordon was an early-era, much-beloved Great Falls physician; this book reveals his connection and love for the Montana wilderness. In his lifetime, the Gordon Ranch in the upper Swan Valley of Montana was his personal refuge. After his death the Gordon Ranch continued on in new contexts, even to the present time.

This is a superb history of the upper Swan Valley in its yesteryear. The history of the Gordon Ranch is well-detailed, but the text provides far more. Early Indian trails, traditional use of the area by tribes, an horrific massacre, homesteaders, squatters, forest workers, cowboys, cooks, rangers, ranch owners, and visitors were researched to provide the gathering place story. I find this book fantastically rich in detail, with extraordinary sources. Maps of early Indian trails, early travelers, U.S. Forest Service surveys...the sources have depth. Read, and you'll discover references to unpublished diaries, newspaper stories, interviews with locals regarding family and tribal histories. Homestead patents, research from the Salish-Pend d'Orielle Culture Committee...just outstanding! Sue Cushman, Anne Dahl, Tony Koessler, Sharon Lamar, and Steve Lamar are the core authors for this extended historical research committee—a committee which has dedicated itself to in-depth research. The Salish-Pend d'Orielle Culture Committee actively participated, providing rich context and the sobering account of an horrific massacre in 1908. The book is well-sourced, with end notes within each of the 21 chapters. This tome is a wonderful library within itself. Examine the archives noted (places and people) you'll see riches in the documents, newspapers, books, the diaries, and the interviews listed. I am originally from the Swan Valley, and I gained valuable information and perspective about the upper Swan. This book needs to be recorded so that even more people can listen as they explore the Swan Valley area. Get a personal copy from: USVHS, Box 1128, Condon, Montana, 59826. This book was also reviewed by Theodora Lambson of the Montana Arts Council—and a descendant of one of the colorful characters portrayed; her review is available online. Now available for checkout by members at the Great Falls Genealogy Society Library. ^{JDT; TL}