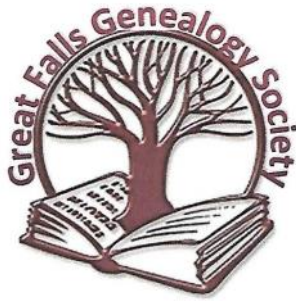


GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY



The Falls Newsletter



JUNE 2023

Established 1975

Society Business

President's Nook

Happy Summer!!! We have all survived the first half of the year!! Can you believe half the year is already gone!! Unbelievable!!!

As you know we will not be having any General Meetings until September. I will miss our monthly meetings! As a substitute for our monthly meeting, I would love it if we all could get together informally. Just a way to get to know each other. Okay.... you all know each other but I don't know you all! This would be a potluck gathering in a park in Great Falls on a Sunday afternoon. Nothing too fancy or formal. Just a way to get to know each other outside of the library. Bring your family!! I will let you know all the details soon!

Don't forget our State Conference will be held in Bozeman September 21-23!! How great would it be if our Society could be there in force!! In their April newsletter they reported that the 2024 Conference is on hold and they will be discussing the 2025 Conference plans this year. I have never been to a conference but I will be attending this year. They have 2 great speakers lined up and the full conference fee (without) meals is just \$95.00! That is a great value for 2 professional level speakers! For more information check out the April issue of Big Sky Roundup!

Wishing you all a happy and fruitful summer!

JUNE 2023 Calendar of Events

Thursday, June 1st —Acquisitions Meeting, 3 pm

Thursday, June 1st—Board Meeting, 4 pm

Wednesday, June 7th—Summer Wednesdays —Zoom —Janet Thomson, Facilitator; 11:-00 am—3:30 pm

Wednesday, June 14th—Summer Wednesdays —Zoom —Janet Thomson, Facilitator; 11:-00 am—3:30 pm

Wednesday, June 21st—Summer Wednesdays —Zoom —Janet Thomson, Facilitator; 11:-00 am—3:30 pm

Friday—Sunday, June 23rd—June 25th—Fort Benton Annual Summer Celebration—GFGS has a vendor spot

Wednesday, June 28th—Summer Wednesdays —Zoom —Janet Thomson, Facilitator; 11:-00 am—3:30 pm

We have a new email address: info@gfgenealogy.org

Please add it to your addresses!

Acquisitions Committee is Accepting Recommendations

The Acquisitions Committee is always accepting recommendations for materials that will help you in your research. The library does have material from all over the world. If there is a book or map that you think would help you or others in research let us know and we will see if we can purchase the material. Not all material is available on the internet so the printed material is also important to research for information. Email the society and put acquisition request in the subject line if you would like to request or recommend material. You can also send the request to the Acquisitions Committee by writing to the street address. Please specify a specific area (such as a county in a state and not just a state) to help us narrow down what to look for.

2023 Conferences

Mullan Road 2023 Conference—Plans are moving ahead for the 2023 Mullan Road Conference in Missoula on the second weekend of June (June 9-11). We'll be at the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History for the Friday night reception and across the Fort Missoula campus at Heritage Hall all day Saturday. <https://www.facebook.com/MullanRoad2023/>

Conference dates for FEEFHS (Foundation for East European Family History Studies) 2023—The first week of August, starting on Tuesday August 1. The format will be Hybrid, with some content only available in Salt Lake City (Utah), some content will be live-virtual, and some content by play on demand. We will offer workshops and regular classes. <https://feefhs.org/>

Montana State Genealogical Society—September 21—23, 2023 Bozeman, Montana. No registration page yet. Best Western Plus GranTree Inn for accommodation.

Montana State Historical Society—September 28—30, 2023 Helena, Montana. No registration page yet. Delta Hotels Colonial for accommodation.

Watch us
on



2023 Planned Schedule for Meetings

For planning purposes, here are the remaining 2023 scheduled dates and times for Committees, Board, and General meetings:

Acquisitions 3:00 pm Board 4:00 pm

1 June	1 June
6 July	6 July
3 August	3 August
7 September	7 September
5 October	5 October
2 November	2 November
7 December	7 December

General 6:00 pm

14 September
12 October
9 November
14 December

Dates and times may be changed if needed through the year. Currently, meetings are hybrid format. The program will be at the beginning of the meeting and the business meeting will be after the program. The length of the program will be announced so Zoom participants can attend only the General Meeting if they desire.

For the consideration of others, when on Zoom please remember to mute your computer/phone during the presentations and classes.

Help Wanted!!

GFGS will have a vendor space at the Fort Benton Summer Celebration 2023 June 23, 24 and 25. The hours are Friday 3—7; Saturday 9—7; and Sunday 10—2. We need volunteers to help man this space for these days. Please contact the library and let us know when you would be able to help. We don't expect people to work the entire day (unless you want to) but even just a couple of hours would be great! Also, if anyone has a portable awning they would be willing to loan us for this weekend that would be great also!

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:

Stacey Corcino, President
Janet D. Thomson, Vice President
Linda Long, Secretary
Cheryl Lucas, Treasurer
Trustees: Gary Campbell,
Diana Kirol, Merle Anne McLeish

Committee Chairs:

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

Webmaster: Merle Anne McLeish
Newsletter Editors: Cheryl Lucas,
Janet D. Thomson

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 membership.

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 info@gfgenealogy.org.

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Great Falls Genealogy Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit so your donations are tax deductible.

Society Business

New in The Library As of May, 2023

- * The Continental Backwaters of Chinese Railroad Worker History and Archaeology: Perspectives From Montana and Utah
- * Cascade County, Montana Homestead Relinquishments and Cancellations After About 1900
- * Culture History of the German Gulch Chinese (Montana)
- * All Class Reunion 1916—1983 Baker, Montana
- * A Necessary Balance Gender and Power Among Indians of the Columbia Plateau
- * The Fourth World of the Hopis
- * Native American Tribalism
- * The Luck of the Irish (Montana)
- * A Guide to Norwegian Genealogy, Emigration, and Transmigration
- * In Search of the Mount Cleveland Five (Montana)
- * Marcus Daly's Road to Montana
- * Proud Heritage An Illustrated History of Lake County, The Lower Flathead, Mission and Jocko Valleys
- * Victorian Maps of England The County and City Maps of Thomas Moule
- * Rum Road to Spokane (Montana/Idaho)

FAMILYSEARCH SCAN TEAM

By Janet Thomson

The FamilySearch.org Scan Team has been scanning records from our GFGS Library for many months, as a part of our GFGS goal to collect and preserve genealogical records. Recently, this team completed the scanning of all of the George Company Funeral Home Records (1902-1976) and these will soon be available at the FamilySearch.org site. They are presently scanning the Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home Records (1959-2001) and have completed the first 35 years (also soon online). They will scan O'Connor Funeral Home Records (1911-2015) and also plan to scan the Great Falls Mausoleum Records. The Schneider Funeral Home has requested that their funeral records be scanned from 2001-2015. FamilySearch.org has previously scanned 660,000 local Great Falls/Cascade County records as part of our GFGS effort to save old documents and provide public access.

Beginning June, GFGS members and other genealogists will receive an email each week advertising the ZOOM link to

SUMMER WEDNESDAYS AT THE GFGS LIBRARY ZOOM Open Sessions--June 1-August 30.

The ZOOM link is offered weekly to give GFGS members and genealogists the opportunity to share genealogy successes and to ask questions about genealogical questions and source checks. It will open at 11:00 AM (just like Wednesdays at 11 AM), and will close at 3:30 PM.

Jan will be available to interact with Zoom respondents, so see you there!

Jan Thomson, Volunteer, GFGS Library, Great Falls, MT

Fort Benton Annual Summer Celebration—June 23—June 25

Great Falls Genealogy Society will have a vendor spot at the Fort Benton Summer Celebration! If you are in Fort Benton for this great event be sure to stop by and say hello!

News You Can Use

Alien Enemy Index, 1917—1919, is Now Online

By Claire Kluskens, NARA

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) recently completed digitization of the Alien Enemy Index, 1917–1919 (National Archives Identifier [NAID] [602456](https://www.foia.gov/602456)), that contains 57,722 index cards that document U.S. government interest in – and actions concerning – enemy aliens during the First World War. Enemy aliens were citizens of the German Empire, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire. You can read more about this index and the related records at "[The Alien Enemy Index, 1917-1919, is Now Digitized!](https://historyhub.history.gov/genealogy/blog/posts/the-alien-enemy-index-1917-1919-is-now-digitized)" at <https://historyhub.history.gov/genealogy/blog/posts/the-alien-enemy-index-1917-1919-is-now-digitized>.

Search Tips: When searching the Enemy Alien Index in NARA's Catalog, keep in mind that the first name of some aliens are abbreviated, such as "Chas." for Charles or "Robt." for Robert. Therefore, if searching by first and last name yields no results, search by surname only, or even by first name only for unusual first names. Also consider searching by alternate spellings of a surname if you get no results. In addition, some women are listed by their husband's name, such as Mrs. Theodore Zeigler (NAID [296756836](https://www.foia.gov/296756836)). You can also browse through an entire file unit (there are 23 file units), but be sure to set the "Sort by" order to either "Title (Alphabetically, A-Z)" or "Title (Alphabetically, Z-A)" instead of "Most Relevant."

News You Can Use

Keeping Items Safe When Disaster Strikes

Obviously when a natural disaster strikes or a home emergency occurs, you are the most precious artifact that needs to be preserved. But some preparation now can hopefully assure that you may also rescue your precious memories and valued collectibles if conditions allow. The tips below can help you protect treasured objects in the case of an emergency:

- Store family heirlooms, collectibles and other treasured pieces in archival-quality enclosures and boxes—archival materials are designed to help prolong the life of your items for centuries
- Consider using Gaylord Archival DocuDry boxes or plastic sheeting to help prevent damage from moisture and leaky pipes or roofs
- Avoid storing items in areas with extreme temperature and humidity fluctuations, like attics, basements & garages
- Keep everything in one area so it's easy to evacuate if circumstances allow you to do so safely
- When possible, keep collections elevated off the floor to help prevent damage from flooding
- Scan and digitize your family documents and photos; be sure a backup is stored elsewhere or in the cloud

If your family treasures are damaged in a disaster, you can use these resources from reputable institutions with simple techniques for salvaging items damaged by water or fire, linked below.

RESOURCES FOR FLOOD DAMAGE

[Emergency Salvage of Flood Damaged Family Papers from the National Archives](#)

[Video on Water Damage from AIC](#)

RESOURCES FOR FIRE DAMAGE

[Saving Family Treasures After a Fire from Beth Heller Conservation](#)

[Video on Soot & Ash from AIC](#)

News You Can Use

By Janet Thomson

The Maryland State Archives is a wonderful site, worthy of your attention if you have ancestors from Maryland. For example, more than 900 volumes of the state archives papers are online and easily accessed at: *Archives of Maryland Online* <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/html/index.html>.

And...most of this neat historical information is INDEXED! See, for example, the titles (in full) of each specific volume; Volume 1 begins with documents from the General Assembly from 1637-1664. Hotlinks are provided for immediate access. See also the list of probate records, land records, judicial records, military records and miscellaneous files that have been placed in electronic format for public use. Note that one of the objectives of this project is to preserved records which are scattered among repositories and are rapidly disintegrating.

AND THEY HAVE A YOUTUBE CHANNEL--

“Training Videos

Our [YouTube channel](#) has brand new videos to assist you in vital records and land records research. You'll also find videos from our lunch and learn lectures, as well as a records management overview video. Our most recent videos include [Montgomery County Indexes](#), and a new virtual tour [Harriet Tubman & Frederick Douglass: The Old House of Delegates Chamber, Maryland State House](#).”

How did Maryland fund this awesome electronic collection? They got money from the State of Maryland Information Technology Fund, with additional moneys coming from annual appropriations and private contributions. GREAT SITE FOR YOU TO EXPLORE! ~~Jan Thomson