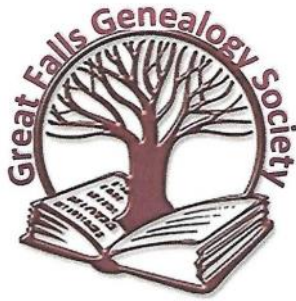


GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY



The Falls Newsletter



JULY 2023

Established 1975

Society Business

Editor's Ramblings

I wanted to take this opportunity to give you an update on our Fort Benton Summer Celebration weekend. It was a great success! We had a lot of people stop and get information. They were very interested. We got to inform them that we are located in the library and yes there is a third floor. I would like to do the event again. Stacey and Jack and I were there Friday and Jan and I were there Saturday and Sunday. The crowd at this event was very family oriented and interested in genealogy and history. I think that if we can find more of these events out of town but close (within at least 100 miles) we should try to attend them and get our name out there. If you know of an event please let us know.

The most excitement we had is that our brand new donated canopy broke apart during a storm the first night. Fortunately it can be sent back and get money refunded. We are looking at purchasing another one that is heavier and sturdier if we can get donations for it. The canopy was a great addition to the event. A new canopy would be very useful for future events. Especially if we can resume going to the Great Falls Farmers' Market. (Currently, they do not allow non-profits to have a space like they did before Covid).

Cheryl

Cheryl discussing GFGS with a Fort Benton Celebration attendee



JULY 2023 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, July 4th—LIBRARY CLOSED

Wednesday, July 5th—Summer Wednesdays —Zoom —Janet Thomson, Facilitator; 11:-00 am—3:30 pm

Thursday, July 6th —Acquisitions Meeting, 3 pm

Thursday, July 6th—Board Meeting, 4 pm

Wednesday, July 12th—Summer Wednesdays —Zoom —Janet Thomson, Facilitator; 11:-00 am—3:30 pm

Wednesday, July 19th—Summer Wednesdays —Zoom —Janet Thomson, Facilitator; 11:-00 am—3:30 pm

Wednesday, July 26th—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

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/>

Alberta Wall Breaker Conference 2023 on Zoom September 9—11, 2023. A three day intensive all on zoom that covers the dark histories and sad truths found in Genealogy. For further details please come explore www.wall-breaker.com/wall-breaker-conference. Cost \$60 Canadian.

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

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.



Wanted: School Yearbooks

Great Falls Genealogy Society and Library are collecting local schools yearbooks from Cascade County and the counties that are contiguous. If you have any of these school yearbooks that you no longer need or want please bring them in to the library for donation. We especially would like yearbooks from Simms, Cascade, Sun River Valley etc.

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.

Contents © 2023 All rights reserved.

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

Society Business

New in The Library As of June, 2023

- * West Junior High School Longhorns Annual 1978-1979
- * Rounding the Horn: A Deck's Eye View of Cape Horn (Chile)
- * A Work of Giants (Railroads)
- * The Alaskan Gold Fields
- * Death Valley and the Amargosa A Land of Illusion (California)
- * Death Valley in '49 The Autobiography of a Pioneer (California)
- * 50 Years in Death Valley—Memories of a Borax Man (California)
- * From Prairie Roots The Remarkable Story of Saskatchewan Wheat Pool
- * Ghosts of the Glory Trail (Southwest)
- * Hellroaring Fifty Years on the Big Mountain (Montana)
- * The History and Mystery of the Menger Hotel (Texas)
- * Mines of the High Desert (California)
- * Navajo Trader (Indigenous)
- * One Eye Closed the Other Red The California Bootlegging Years
- * The Ohio Valley Your Guide to America's Heartland
- * Only in Alaska
- * Out of the Ozarks (South)
- * Personal Narrative of James O. Pattie (Kentucky)
- * Saint Paul the First 150 Years (Minnesota)
- * The Story of Bodie (California)
- * This Reckless Breed of Men the Trappers and Fur Traders of the Southwest (Southwest)
- * Toward the Setting Sun Pioneer Girls Traveling the Overland Trails
- * Walkin' Down the Middle: The Hi-Line Metis
- * Hittin' the Jumper A 60 Year Affair with Basketball (Montana)
- * Custer County Business Phone Directory 2009
- * Behind Closed Doors Stories from the Kamloops Indian Residential School (British Columbia)
- * The Captured A True Story of Abduction by Indians on the Texas Frontier
- * Historic Uptown Butte An Architectural and Historic Analysis of the Central Business District of Butte
- * Indians, Settlers & Slaves in a Frontier Exchange Economy The Lower Mississippi Valley Before 1783
- * Ghost Town Stories 2 From Renegade to Ruin Along the Red Coat Trail (Saskatchewan/Alberta)
- * Ghost Towns and Historical Haunts in Arizona
- * Gold Creeks and Ghost Towns of Northeastern Washington
- * Montana's Centennial Farms and Ranches Volume 1: 2010—2020
- * The Peacemaker's of Hudson's Hope (British Columbia)
- * Remembrances of a Great Falls Jazz Trumpeter—John Huber
- * The Story of Early Mono County Its Settlers, Gold Rushes, Indians, Ghost Towns (California)
- * Tennesseans and Their History
- * Tlingit Indians of Alaska
- * The History of the Border Country of Coumts (Alberta)
- * Blackfoot Confederacy Ancient and Modern (Alberta)
- * Early Settlers of Mississippi as taken from Land Claims in the Mississippi Territory
- * The Montana Stranglers in Dakota Territory
- * Passports of Southeastern Pioneers 1770-1823
- * Polonia in Alberta 1895-1995 The Polish Centennial in Alberta
- * Romanians in Alberta 1898-1998
- * A Guide to Norwegian Genealogy, Emigration and Transmigration

Recommendation of New Subscription site for the library: Genealogical Publishing Co. & Clearfield Co. e-book library <https://genealogical.com/subscriptions/>

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

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

Society Business

Opportunities to Serve the Society

We are half way through 2023. GFGS's elections of officers is in November. And in June our nominating committee, Una Koontz, went to work. If you would like to serve the society in some capacity here are the positions and what their duties are. Contact the Society by email, phone or mail if you are willing to serve in one of these positions. If you are nominating another member, please remember that they have to agree to serve. With meetings being held both in person and Zoom, residence in Cascade County is not a requirement any more unless there are physical things that need to be done.

President—1. Preside at all meetings of the general membership and the Executive Board. 2. Appoint all committees, naming the chairman, with the exception of the Nominating Committee. All appointments must have the approval of the Board. 3. Sign, with the Secretary, all contracts and documents authorized by the Society. 4. Sign, with the Treasurer, checks for authorized disbursements on behalf of the Society. 5. Be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Vice-President—1. Assume the duties of the President in the absence of, or at the request of, the President. 2. Assume the duties of the President for the remaining term of office in the event of a vacancy in the office of President. 3. Be chairman of the Program Committee.

Secretary—1. Keep a record of the proceedings of the Society and Executive Board. 2. Keep and have available a book (aka "How to Book") containing the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules of the Society. 3. Maintain a current paper and electronic inventory of all legal documents, records, and equipment belonging to the Society. 4. Sign, with the President, all contracts and documents authorized by the Society. 5. Co-sign checks in the absence of either the President or Treasurer. 6. Be responsible for the management of the Society's correspondence including electronic communication. 7. Officers and committee chairmen shall furnish original incoming and copies of all outgoing correspondence to the Secretary.

Treasurer—1. Be the authorized custodian of funds of the Society. The treasurer receives and disburses moneys as prescribed in the local Bylaws and Standing Rules or as authorized by action of the Society. 2. All funds received shall be deposited in a bank approved by the Executive Board in an account in the name of the Society. 3. Prepare a budget for the following fiscal year and submit it to the Society at its next Annual Meeting. Bills for amounts over \$100.00 will be presented to the membership for approval with the exception of routine business expenses. 4. All checks must be signed by two of the three following officers: Treasurer, President or Secretary. 5. Prepare and submit a monthly financial statement containing the income and disbursements of the month as well as year-to-date figures. Copies should be made for all Executive Board members. The report should be signed by the Treasurer. A copy shall be available upon request.

Trustee—1. Serve as the Auditing Committee for the Society. 2. Assist the President in other areas as needed. 3. Will receive mail ballots and hold, unopened, until the Annual Meeting (when applicable).

Committees—

1. **Research Committee**—research sources in our Library for anyone requesting this service, provided they have prepaid the required fee.

2. **Acquisition Committee**—searches out desired materials for the Society and presents a list of recommended acquisitions and de-acquisitions to the GFGS Executive Board.

3. **Tech Committee**—install, maintain, and manage all GFGS computer hardware, software, network, Internet website(s) and associated social media. Stay current with and implement updates, upgrades, and new versions of software and all things computer and internet.

4. **Membership**—The membership committee manages the membership of the Society. Our membership drive begins on September 1 of each year.

Society Business

Opportunities to Serve the Society—continued

People File—A basket is provided where items for the People File may be placed. The People File volunteer organizes and files all material by last name.

Obituaries—The obituary volunteer(s) shall be responsible for copying those obituaries that are available digitally (see project list for which mortuaries are available).

Four Generation Charts—The four generation charts volunteer is responsible for entering the information on any chart received by members into the database available at the library.

Newsletter Editor—The newsletter pertains basically to the Society, its events and people. It should include announcements, upcoming meetings and programs, new member introductions, volunteer recognition, and any other items of interest to our members.

Treasure State Lines Editor—The editor needs to accumulate materials to be considered for publication and publish any items which are specifically requested by the Executive Board.

Audit Committee—Comprised of the three Executive Board trustees. The audit committee shall audit the Treasurer's accounts at the end of the fiscal year. A signed report of their findings shall be presented to the Executive Board and the general meeting.

Project Chair—The project chair keeps track of the projects the Society is working on and assigns projects to any member interested in working on them.

HELP WANTED!!

We are urgently looking for volunteers to work in the Montana Room of the Great Falls Public Library on Mondays. Our current Monday volunteers are experiencing family health-related issues that are keeping them from being able to cover their shifts. The shift is four hours, 12 noon – 4 p.m. What you'd be doing is greeting visitors to the room, helping them find the materials they are looking for (there is a computer in the room connected to the GFPL card catalog to help), and reshelving the materials at the end of the shift (all materials in the Montana Room cannot leave the room and/or be checked out). We, here in the genealogy library, can help show you the ropes and will be present if you would need assistance at any time. If you have any questions or want to sign up for a shift, please give us a call at 406.727.3922.

News You Can Use

Six Levels of Ancestral Profiles – Level-up Challenge!

22 JANUARY 2021 by YVETTE HOITINK

I had an interesting discussion with fellow genealogist Willem Vermeulen the other day, about the importance of going beyond the vital information to document your family and meet the Genealogical Proof Standard. I mentioned that I have different 'levels' of ancestral profiles, that I am now working to improve and expand. I have been working on my tree for thirty years, and not all of the work on my ancestors is up to my current standards. I decided to make these levels explicit to see where I am.

Level 0: Unidentified ancestor

I do not know who this ancestor is, not even a name.

Continued on next page

News You Can Use

Six Levels of Ancestral Profiles – Level-up Challenge! - continued

22 JANUARY 2021 by [YVETTE HOITINK](#)

Level 1: Names only

These are ancestors for whom I have found few records. They may have been named in records of their children. I may only know where they were at one point in time, for example when a child was baptized, but do not know when they were born, married, or died.

Most of my brick wall ancestors are like this. Most of them were born before 1650.

Level 2: Vital statistics

These are ancestors for whom I've done research in vital records: civil registration records of births, marriages, and deaths after 1811 or church records of baptisms, marriages, and burials before 1811. I may miss a date if records did not survive, but I have completed the research to find all the surviving vital records and have estimated dates for the events for which no record specifies the exact date.

I have reached this level for most of my ancestors born after 1650. See my [level 2 checklist](#) for the sources I use.

Level 3: Occupations, residence, children, spouses

These are ancestors where I know several key points of information. I not only know when and where they were born, married, and died, but also where they lived between those key dates and what they did for a living. I know who their children were, and whom they married, including spouses I don't descend from.

I have reached this level for most of my ancestors born after 1800 and some earlier ancestors. See my [level 3 checklist](#) for the sources I use.

Level 4: Property ownership, military service, religion, criminal activity

These are ancestors for whom I have filled in more biographical details about their lives. I have done research in court, notarial, cadastral, church and military records, where applicable. I know if they owned property, how they acquired it, how they disposed of it. I know whether they left a last will or if they had a prenuptial agreement. For men, I know whether they served in the army. I know what religion they were and which church they attended. If they were criminals, I found out what they did and what their sentence was.

I have reached this level for several of my ancestors born after 1800, particularly on my mother's Noord-Brabant side where more of these records are online. See my [level 4 checklist](#) for the sources I use.

Level 5: Genealogical Proof Standard

These are ancestors for whom I've finished reasonably exhaustive research and have proven who their parents are. I feel like I have gotten to know them. I have finished researching them in a wide range of records, such as newspapers, town records, and tax records. I've documented them according to current genealogical standards, analyzed everything properly, resolved conflicts, written up my conclusion, and met the Genealogical Proof Standard.

I have reached this level for my ancestors in my [possible line to Eleanor of Aquitaine](#) and some other ancestors born after 1800.

Continued on next page

News You Can Use

Six Levels of Ancestral Profiles – Level-up Challenge! - continued

22 JANUARY 2021 by YVETTE HOITINK

Level 6: Biography

These are ancestors for whom I have not only finished the research, but I have written it up in the form of a biography or family story, complete with historical context.

Current level

Generation																					Average																																
7	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	2	2	5	5	0	2	4	4	5	5	5	5	0	4	2	2	2	2	4	4	2	2	5	5	2	2	0	0	2	2	2.6
6	2	2	2	2	5	5	6	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	5	5	5	5	5	2	2	2	2	4	4	2	2	2	2	5	5	0	4	3.2									
5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3.1				
4	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3.5			
3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4.3		
2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4.5		
1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.0		

To see how I'm doing for my own tree, I filled in my ahnentafel chart with the levels for each ancestor and then color-coded them. That's me at the bottom, then my parents on the row above that, grandparents above that, etc., back to generation 7.

I'm *shocked* that it is this bad!

I have been strict though; one missing population register is an automatic cap at level 2, for example, and any family not written up properly is an automatic level 4 max since it doesn't meet the fifth element of the Genealogical Proof Standard, a written conclusion.

Some of these families I last seriously researched when I was a teenager, so I knew they were not all up to my current standards, but it is eye opening to see how much work remains to be done. I have been working on this for my mother's side off and on for the past couple of years, one nuclear family at a time, but my father's side is lagging. I create a report for each ancestral couple to document all the research, and then add the conclusions to my family tree.

Level-up challenge

I challenge you all to join me in leveling up our ancestors.

You can use the levels as defined above, or define your own if that makes more sense for the way you do research. For comparison, I suggest we all stick to level 1 = names only and level 5 = GPS. You can download an [Excel-sheet for seven generations](#) like the one I did above that automatically does the coloring if you put in the levels.

My first goal is to get all of my ancestors in the first five generations to level 3. That will take me back to the mid 1800s.

What level are most of your ancestors? What's your first goal? Please leave a note or link to a blog post in the comments.

Let's level up!

Please feel free to **share this challenge** with your society or other genealogists, as long as you credit me (Yvette Hoitink) and include a link back to this blog post. You can use <https://dutchgenealogy.nl/levelup> as a short URL when sharing in print.

News You Can Use

1931 Census of Canada—It's Here!

The 7th Census of Canada is now released to the public. The browsable images of the 1931 Census of Canada are now available through Library and Archives of Canada. This collection of records shows the details of over 10 million people living in Canada in 1931. The Library and Archives Canada, in collaboration with FamilySearch and Ancestry, is now working to make the images in this collection highly searchable. Forty questions were asked in the 1931 Census (though the Northwest territories had only seventeen questions).

Canadian censuses were every ten years from 1871 to 1951. After 1951, they switched to doing a census every five years. Canada releases their census records after ninety-two years to protect privacy. (The United States releases their census records after seventy-two years.)

General collection information

The census was written in English and French and was broken down into six schedules, or sets of questions based on situation:

- Population schedules
- Agriculture schedules
- Livestock schedules
- Merchandising schedules
- Schedules for special needs citizens, including the deaf, blind, and mute
- Schedules of institutions, including prisons, orphanages, homes for senior citizens, hospitals, sanatoria, and clinics

This collection includes the population schedules for 1931. City enumeration districts tend to be small and dense, while rural districts are usually geographically larger with sparser populations. Once you find someone in the census, you can explore their enumeration district in city directories, and telephone books to learn more about their community and how they lived.

Using the collection

Records in the collection may include the following information:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| · Name | Birth year and place |
| · Gender | Racial heritage |
| · Languages spoken | Literacy |
| · Marital status | Religion |
| · Relationship to the head of the household | Address |
| · Details about their home, including building type and radio ownership | Names of family members |
| · Nationality | Occupation and employment details |
| · Education details | Immigration details |

Conducted during the Great Depression, the 1931 census included questions about unemployment. If applicable, you may also find the following information:

- | | |
|---|--|
| · Causes of unemployment | Length of unemployment |
| · Medical history concerning unemployment | Living conditions relating to being unhoused |
| · | |

Knowing your family's address can be very helpful, especially if they lived in a large city. If you don't have that information, using the [1921 Census of Canada](#) to find your family's census division and subdivision is an excellent starting point. You can also consult the 1931 Census of Canada Population Summary for a list of townships and subdivisions. Due to the Great Depression, many people were transient or unhoused, making them difficult to count. If you're having difficulty finding your family members, Canada has a wealth of civic and vital records available, including civil registration and parish records. Consulting historical maps can also aid your search.

Canada uses the *de jure* method of enumeration, meaning a person's records are included with their district of permanent residence rather than their place of enumeration. This information is especially helpful to know if you are looking for students, hotel guests, members of the armed forces, or migratory workers.

If your family member was born or died in 1931, they may not be included in this collection. Census day, June 1st, was the deadline for inclusion. Individuals are included if they died after June 1st, as are babies born before June 1st.