GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The Falls Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2025

Established 1975

WE ARE 50 YEARS STRONG! CELEBRATE OUR BIRTHDAY WITH US!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Have you ever been a GFGS volunteer? Have you been assisted by a GFGS volunteer? As we conclude our 50th anniversary year join us at

6 PM November 13th
For a Potluck Dinner
Volunteer Appreciation
And Annual Meeting
Location—Nazarene Church
1727 2nd Ave S.
(use the parking lot off of 2nd Ave S.)

NOMINEES FOR SOCIETY OFFICES
ELECTION HELD AT ANNUAL MEETING

President—Stacey Corcino Vice-President—Jan Thomson Secretary—Pegi Palmes
Treasurer—Cheryl Lucas Trustee—Donna Winters

Write-in nominations may be made by the general membership, provided each nominee has given written consent to serve if elected. Write-in nominations, with written consent of nominees, may be mailed in, or brought to the October meeting. No ballots will be necessary and the list of nominees will be considered elected by acclamation at the November meeting.

November 2025 Calendar of Events

Thursday, November 6th—Acquisitions Meeting, 3 pm
Thursday, November 6th —Board Meeting, 4 pm
Thursday, November 13th—Annual Meeting 6 pm Potluck Nazarene Church 1727 2nd Ave South
Wednesday, November 12th - Wednesday at 11, *14 Ports of Entry and What You Need to Know* Janet Thomson, Presenter

Membership News

Welcome to Our Newest members:

Sarah & Storrie Wolf, Great Falls

We are an affiliated library with

FamilySearch

Check us out on Facebook!

New posts appearing frequently. When you look at our page, please take the time to comment on the posts so that we know you have looked at it. Lots of information, hints, and jokes appearing. Have fun with it.

Don't forget to like and subscribe to us on YouTube. It helps get our content out to the masses. Thank you for all your support!

Wanted: Homestead or Ownership Maps

GFGS will take any Homestead or Ownership Maps that you no longer want or need. Preferably areas in Montana but if you have one from another state that would be welcome also.

2025 and 2026 Planned Schedule for Meetings

For planning purposes, here are the 2025 scheduled dates and times for Committees, Board, and General meetings:

Acquisitions 3:00 pm	**Board 4:00 pm**
6 November	6 November
4 December 2025	4 December
? January 2026	? January 2026
5 February	5 February
5 March	5 March
2 April	2 April
7 May	7 May
4 June	4 June
2 July	2 July
6 August	6 August
3 September	3 September
1 October	1 October
5 November	5 November
3 December	3 December
General 6:00 pm	
	13 November
11 December 2025	8 January 2026
12 February	12 March
9 April	14 May
10 September	8 October
12 November 2026	10 December 2026

Dates and times may be changed if needed through the year. Currently, meetings are hybrid format. The program will be before the meeting and the business meeting will be after the program. The length of the program will be announced if possible 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.

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 (2023-2025)
Janet Thomson, Vice President (2018-2025)
Pegi Palmes, Secretary (Appointed 2025)
Cheryl Lucas, Treasurer (2014-2025)
Trustees: Gary Campbell (2020-2025)
Diana Kirol (2021-2026)
Merle Anne McLeish (2023-2027)

Committee Chairs:
Acquisitions: Larry Spicer
Membership: Stacey Corcino
Publications: Cheryl Lucas
Projects: Janet D. Thomson
Research: Diane Green
Technology: Cheryl Lucas

Webmaster: Merle Anne McLeish
Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Lucas,

Society Library Hours:
Monday—Saturday
12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
Sunday
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 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 October 2025

* The Ellisonian 1936 Mount Ellis Academy (Bozeman)
*The Ellisonian 1946 Mount Ellis Academy (Bozeman)
*The Ellisonian 1947 Mount Ellis Academy (Bozeman)
*The Ellisonian 1954 Mount Ellis Academy (Bozeman)
*The Ellisonian 1955 Mount Ellis Academy (Bozeman)
*The Ellisonian 1956 Mount Ellis Academy (Bozeman)
*The Ellisonian 1957 Mount Ellis Academy (Bozeman)
* Beaver 1957 Minot State Teachers College Yearbook
* Daughter of Persia A Woman's Journey From Her Father's Harem through the Islamic Revolution
* The Man Who Invented Seattle
* Parallel Lives Five Victorian Marriages
* Sons of the Profits or There's No Business Like Grow Business The Seattle Story 1851-1901
* Finding Fathers: Lost, Found, Remembered. A Family History by Clyde Davis
* Davis Family Descendant Reports: Davis, Gooch, Savage, Benko, Douthart, Maloney and Lauff Families
* John H. Hansen One More Day A Tribute to an Unsung Union Man
* Centennial Historical Map of the Wind River Reservation 1868-1968 (Wyoming)
* Early History of Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana 1966
* Early History of the Northern Cheyennes of Morning Star
* Historical Map of the Crow Indian Reservation
* Historical Map of the Flathead Indian Reservation
* Historical Map of the Fort Belknap Reservation
* Historical Map of the Indian Tribes of Montana
* Historical Map of the Rocky Boys Reservation
* Recreation of Historical Map of Fort Peck Reservation
* Territory of the Northern Plains Tribes
* First United Methodist Church Fall 2023 Directory
* American Soldier General Tommy Franks
* Irish Family Histories
* Other Losses: An Investigation Into the Mass Deaths of German Prisoners
* Post Falls School District 1886-1986 Centennial Issue (Idaho)
* Billings A to Z
* Ebb and Flow November 1950-July 1951 United States Army in the Korean War
* Izaak Walton Inn A History of the Izaak Walton Inn and Essex, Montana
* Post-og Telegraf Adressebog for Kongeriget Danmark 1972
* Svensk ort forteckning 70
* Hallock Centennial 1883-1983 (Minnesota)
* 31 Years on the Upper North Fork of the Clearwater River (Idaho)
* Times Past Memories from the Early Days of Glenrock, Wyoming
* Down by the Riverside: A South Carolina Slave Community
* English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records
* Fortine Cemetery Map, Alphabetical Listing of Names (Montana)
* The Genealogist's Guide to Minnesota Vital Records: Volume 2—Births and Deaths
* Grandma and the Hills "Spirit of the Hills" Volume 1 (Montana)
* History and Families Polk County, Missouri Volume 1
* Portrait and Biographical Record of Hancock, McDonough and Henderson Counties, Illinois
* Possessing the Land: The Holland Settlement of Columbus, Montana 1915-1940
* Prairie Tales II (North Dakota)
* Sodbusters: A History of Kinuso and Swan River Settlement (Alberta)
* Concordia College Yearbook Cobber 1961
* Cut Bank High School Yearbook Wolf 1957
* Cut Bank High School Yearbook Wolf 1962
* Cut Bank High School Yearbook Wolf 1963
* Cut Bank High School Yearbook Wolf 1968
* Cut Bank High School Class of 1964 10th Reunion
* The Great Bicycle Experiment: The Army's Historic Black Bicycle Corps, 1896-97
* 100 Years Cut Bank 1911-2011 A Collection of Stories Celebrating the Centennial of the Great City of Cut Bank, Montana
* Saint Joseph's Parish Diamond Jubilee 1912-1987 Church Directory
* Alberta Back Road Atlas: Includes Township Roads and Range Roads
* Index to Virginia Estates Volume 1
* Index to Virginia Estates Volume 2
* Index to Virginia Estates Volume 3
* Index to Virginia Estates Volume 10
* The Peoples of Canada: A Post-Confederation History

Watch us on YouTube

Society Business

Great Falls Genealogy Society and Library would like to say THANK YOU!! to everyone who has donated their time, labor, supplies, books and money to the Society.

These include (but are not limited to):

Roger Jones, Bill & Stacy Zins, Warren Anderson, Jeffrey Gray, Daryl Albrecht, Rita & Gary Campbell, Dietrich Schwecke, and Larry Spicer

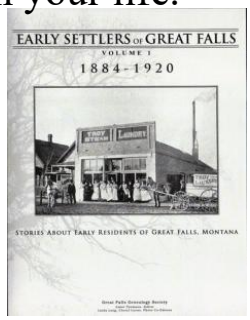
Everyone who has donated is greatly appreciated and you are what make us the thriving and vibrant organization we are!

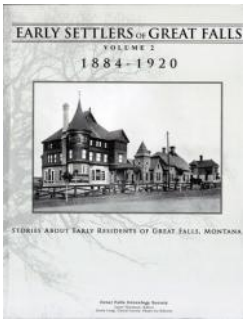
Remember we are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all donations are tax-deductible!

Society Business

Need Present Ideas?

Consider the following items for the special people in your life.

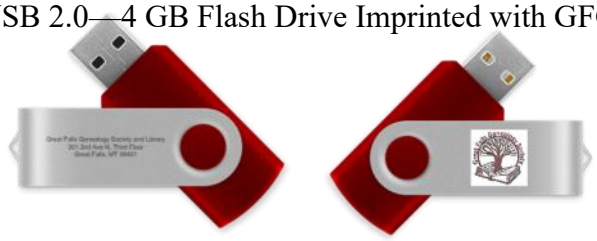




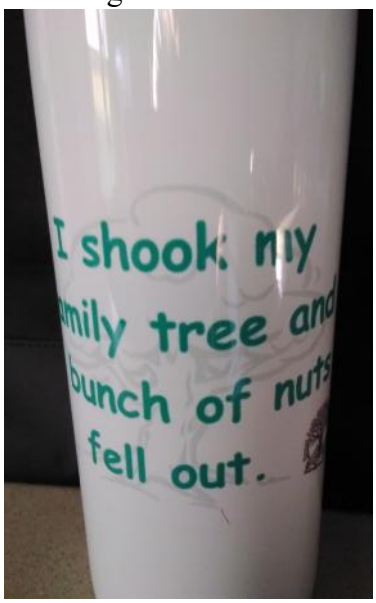
Published by the Great Falls Genealogy Society, this two volume set chronicles stories about early residents of Great Falls 1884 – 1920. This 9 x 12, 2 Volume set has over 900 pages and includes Family Stories and Photos Submitted by Individuals Information on Early Residents, Compiled from Numerous Sources Comprehensive Histories of the City, Early Neighborhoods, Police and Fire Departments and Schools Photo Section Cost of the 2 Volume, Soft-Cover Book $ 39.95 plus $10.00 shipping

Journal Jar—Each day remove one slip of paper from the jar. Answer the question by writing you answer on a single piece of paper or by entering it in your computer. At the end, sort your answers and you will have the story of your life. You can then have your document printed and share your history with others. Cost $5.00

USB 2.0—4 GB Flash Drive Imprinted with GFGS logo and address. Cost $10.00



Tumblers that say "I shook my family tree and a bunch of nuts fell out." with the GFGS logo. These tumblers come with a metal straw and straw brush. Cost $20.00

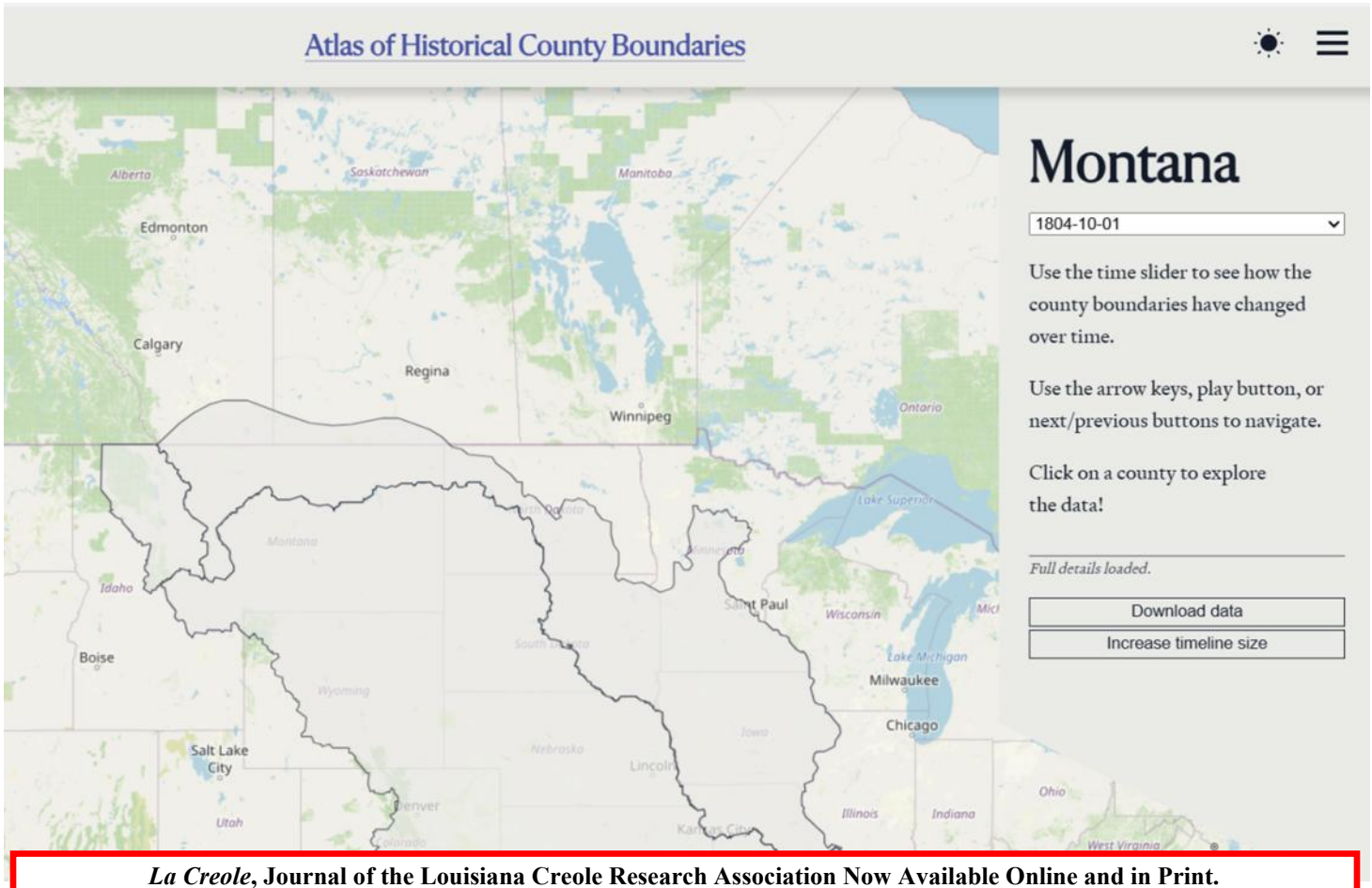


Tote bags for $5.00

Notebooks for $5.00

News You Can Use

CHECK OUT THE **ATLAS OF HISTORICAL BOUNDARIES: https://publications.newberry.org/ahcb/mt/ from *Jan Thomson, GFGS.***



***La Creole*, Journal of the Louisiana Creole Research Association Now Available Online and in Print.**
From Elizabeth Shown Mills as of October, 2025

A new collaboration between the Louisiana Creole Research Association and Xavier University of Louisiana has just debuted online: all 17 past issues of ***La Creole***, the Association's annual journal, and the newly published 2025 issue, are now available on Xavier University's website, available to the public, free of charge. PDFs of ***La Creole*** can be found in the University's Institutional Repository: https://digitalcommons.xula.edu/lacreaole/ (easily found by searching "Xavier University of Louisiana Institutional Repository" on any search engine).

The Louisiana Creole Research Association was founded in 2004, just one year before Hurricane Katrina. Following the catastrophic event some of the founding members dispersed and have been unable to return to their beloved city. Like New Orleans itself, the organization regrouped, survived, and has been a crucial part of the thriving Creole renaissance that has taken place throughout Southern Louisiana since the tragedy 20 years ago.

In 2008 the Association, often referred to as "LA Creole," committed to publishing an annual journal. The 2025 issue of ***La Creole*** makes its debut in print at the Association's conference held in New Orleans on October 18th at Xavier University. ***La Creole*** will continue to be available in hard copy and can be purchased directly from the Louisiana Creole Research Association via its website, where all who are interested can join as members (a subscription to ***La Creole*** is a benefit of membership: www.lacreole.org.

Even in Louisiana there is much misunderstanding of the meaning of who and what is Creole. There is evidence that both French and Spanish colonial Louisiana identified all its people (White, Black, and mixed), both free and enslaved, who were born in the new world of old world stock, as Creole. That included the offspring of Europeans (predominantly French and Spanish), Africans, and a mixture of both that could also include Native American. Therefore, the descendants of all these people can claim Creoles of heritage. The mission of the Louisiana Creole Research Association and its journal is to assist Creoles of Color in researching their ancestry, to educate the general public about Creole history and culture, and to celebrate the contributions and legacy of an unique, sometimes forgotten people.

News You Can Use

FAMILYSEARCH.ORG

TO FIND GREAT FALLS, MONTANA MORTUARY RECORDS

They have been indexed within the particular collection:

1. GO TO: **Familysearch.org**
2. **Sign in.**
3. At top, go to: **Search**
4. Then, go to: **Images.**
5. At place field, type: **"Great Falls Cascade Montana"**

Start your search with a place.
FamilySearch will look for records created there. Want to search by name instead?
Search Historical Records.

Place

Great Falls, Cascade, Montana, United States

Life Event

Death

Date

Advanced Search

Record Type

Record Type can limit your results. Learn More

Funeral Home Records

Keyword

SURNAME >>>>>>>>>>>

Keywords can limit your results. Learn More

Creator

Custodian

Image Group Number (DGS)

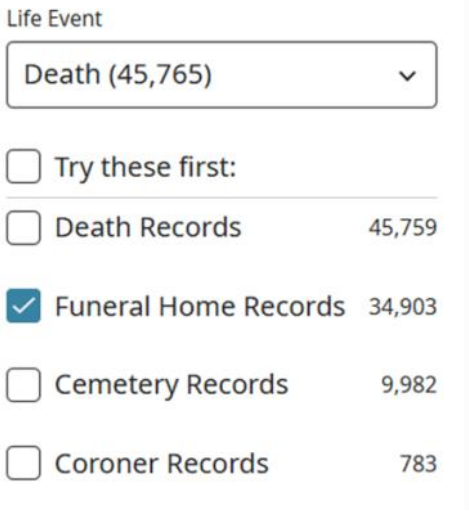
Each result has a unique ID number. Learn More

500

6. **RE:** ABOVE: In **Search Results on your screen**, use filters on the right side of your screen:
7. Select **Life Event > Death > Funeral Home Records** and **Funeral Home Records Index**
8. **You Get:**

https://www.familysearch.org/en/records/images/search-results?place=4464630&lifeEvent=102899&lifeEventRecordTypes=123724%2C126508&page=1&pageSize=100 (https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Fen%2Frecords%2Fimages%2Fsearch-results%3Fplace%3D4464630%26lifeEvent%3D102899%26lifeEventRecordTypes%3D123724%252C126508%26page%3D1%26pageSize%3D100&data=05%7C02%7C%7C963813df3d85414358a108ddd9ef010c%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638906342715394733%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bGIKOZ3rRQPEEzy0h8r9GRtR6a9kGHtn%2B8EJgfprTes%3D&reserved=0

SAMPLE RESULT:



- **Image Group Number is the file # for one person in these Mortuary Records. It will also be automatically noted in the Citation for your record.**

10. **Note:** Each set of numbers or Volume is ONE PERSON…the file tells you how many pages are available. **At above Right, note the person indicated under "volume".**

BEST beginning SEARCH STRATEGY:

1. **REMEMBER: ADVANCED SEARCH** allows you to search on a surname. select **REFINE SEARCH** and then, **"Advanced Search"** and at **Key Word** enter the **SURNAME** you want: for example, "Jarvey" (which, for example, produces 13 results across many years of records).
2. When your selected surname appears, find the person you want. Note that the file may continue for several pages (for early

O'Connor Funeral Home Records, usually there are 2-3 pages that have been digitized). Advance pages by utilizing the blue arrow. You will be able to select and save the file, or save pages within that file.

3. Remember to retrieve the **"CITATION" at bottom right**; it is your proof of record. Enter it into your genealogy database.
4. As you become a fluent user of these mortuary records, you will find best research hints, and begin to use more advanced strategies.

HAPPY HUNTING WITHIN THESE RECORDS!

~~~~Janet Thomson

News You Can Use

The Twelve Key

Digitization Update on War of 1812 Pension Files

By Claire Kluskens October 8, 2025

The National Archives and Records Administration, in partnership with Fold3.com, recently finished digitizing all files for surnames beginning with the letters "U" and "V"! All files from surnames A to V are free for viewing at Fold3.com at **https://www.fold3.com/publication/761/us-war-of-1812-pension-files-1812-1815**.

In addition, War of 1812 pension files from A to Laughlin are free for viewing and download at the National Archives Catalog at **"War of 1812 Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, ca. 1871-ca. 1900"** (National Archives Identifier 564415), **https://catalog.archives.gov/id/564415**. Additional files will be uploaded to the NARA Catalog in the future.

Digitizing of files for surnames beginning with the letter "W" began in September but is now halted due to the federal government shutdown.

If War of 1812 pension records - or other records at NARA - are important to you, **please contact your Representative in Congress and your Senators** to let them know *how important these records are to you, personally*. Please ask for **full funding for NARA** and request that they end the government shutdown so that *federal employees can get back to doing work that you personally care about*.

This series consists of approximately 180,000 pension and bounty land warrant application files relating to claims based on service between 1812 and 1815. The files generally contain documentation submitted in support of a claim, such as the original application form, affidavits, and statements from witnesses. The records document the veteran's name, age, place of residence, and service data including dates, places of enlistment and discharge, organization, and rank. In addition, the pension and bounty land warrant application files may include reports verifying the military or naval service of the veteran, submitted by the officials in the Adjutant General Office and the 3rd and 4th Auditors of the Treasury Department, and letters from a pension agency regarding pension payments. Similar information about a veteran is included if the application was submitted by his widow or survivors. In addition, a widow's application files generally shows the widow's age and maiden name, the date and place of marriage, and date and place of the veteran's death. Some bounty land warrant application files, have been consolidated with the pension files.

News You Can Use

Researching Seasonal Workers and Harvest Laborers
by Kate Penney Howard
KatePenneyHoward.com katepenneyhoward@gmail.com

I've just come in from the garden, and the mid-August heat wave has caused an avalanche of produce. Here in Indiana, we think we have the best tomatoes, and I'm not sure we're wrong.
I remember my grandfather telling a story about a bicycle he purchased when he was a young child. I was surprised and asked him how he paid for it. He said he picked strawberries for the entire season. He was six years old. It was not uncommon for local children to pick up odd agricultural jobs. In fact, millions of Americans followed agricultural work across the country. These seasonal workers - fruit pickers, grain harvesters, cannery workers, and fishermen, all present unique genealogical challenges and opportunities.
Seasonal workers moved constantly, making them difficult to track in traditional records like censuses or city directories. However, their transient lifestyle created alternative paper trails that persistent researchers can follow. Railroad employment records, temporary housing registrations, and seasonal payroll records often survive when other documentation has vanished.
Specialized Research Approaches:

- Individual farm/operation records
- Check railroad company records for seasonal worker transportation arrangements
- Search agricultural extension service records for harvest labor statistics
- Look for cannery and processing plant employee records
- Examine company store accounts and boarding house registers
- Union organizing records (IWW was active among seasonal workers)
- Federal labor camp inspections and reports
- Local newspaper accounts of seasonal worker arrivals
- Medical records from company-sponsored healthcare

Understanding seasonal work patterns helps predict where ancestors might appear in records. Apple harvest workers moved through specific regions following ripening schedules. Wheat harvesters traveled a predictable north-south route called the "Wheat Belt Express." Lumber workers followed cutting seasons and river conditions.
Seasonal workers often used nicknames or shortened names, complicating searches. They might appear under different names in various locations. Cross-reference physical descriptions, birth dates, and known associates to confirm identities across multiple records.
Seasonal work shaped family structures and cultural patterns. Children might attend school in winter base communities but work alongside parents during harvest. Understanding these patterns explains educational gaps, marriage timing, and family mobility patterns that appear in genealogical records.
This transient lifestyle created resilient, adaptable families whose stories enrich American social history when properly researched and documented.