GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The Falls Newsletter

JANUARY 2026

Established 1975

President's Nook

Hello 2026! I hope your holiday season was better than you expected. Mine was fruitful when I confirmed a sister to a great-grandmother, which has opened up to other siblings. Unfortunately, she died in her 20's from phosphorous poisoning of her own doing. Confirming her also led to their father, who passed in his 70's by hanging. Now I'm not too sure if I want to be connected to this family LOL. But it sure makes for an interesting family!

Let's get 2026 started off with a bang and a plan. Each month, on the third Saturday, we will offer a new learning experience to help celebrate our nation's birthday. We hope this will be a great way to view our country through the eyes of those who helped to build it up.

Starting off in January, we will have a "Beginning Genealogy Workshop," a helpful session for those just getting started. Space is limited; if you know someone who might benefit, please encourage them to RSVP.

We will be expanding our social media presence by venturing onto Instagram. While Facebook is great for older generations, Instagram is a good platform for the younger generations. Having a presence on both and connecting our YouTube platform, we hope to reach more people. As always, if you are on these platforms, please be sure to like, comment, and share our posts. This is one of the best ways to get our name out there. The best part—it is free advertising!

I hope your genealogy ventures in 2026 are fruitful, and Happy New Year!

Happy hunting,

Stacey

January 2026 Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 8th—Great Falls Public Library Volunteer Luncheon 12:30—2:30 pm Cordingley Room Public Library If you volunteer for GFPL or GFGS please plan to come. RSVP to Sarah C. by January 5, 2026 at scawley@greatfallslibrary.org
Thursday, January 8th—Acquisitions Meeting, 3 pm
Thursday, January 8th—Board Meeting, 4 pm
Thursday, January 8th—General Meeting, 6 pm
Wednesday, January ?? - Wednesdays at 11, Janet D. Thomson, Facilitator, 11:00 am
Saturday, January 17—Learning Seminar—10:00—12:00 am, - Genealogy 101 Stacey Corcino, Facilitator, Montana Room, RSVP to GFGS to save a seat—only 15 available spots!

Upcoming Conferences

September 10—12, 2026 Montana Genealogical Society Conference—Montana Heritage Center, Helena. No Registration Page Yet.

Interested in other conferences? Check out Conference Keeper. Conference Keeper was created as a single go-to website for finding information about genealogy and family history conferences. They list both virtual, hybrid, or in-person events. You can find a conference on almost any topic.

Membership News

Welcome to Our Newest members:

DeeAnna Brady, Great Falls
Brian Geiger, Herndon, VA
Cindy Duffy, Great Falls
Michelle Bonner, Great Falls

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.

Watch us on YouTube

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.

2026 Planned Schedule for Meetings

For planning purposes, here are the 2026 scheduled dates and times for Committees, Board, and General meetings:

Acquisitions 3:00 pm	**Board 4:00 pm**
8 January 2026	8 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	
	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.

We are an affiliated library with FamilySearch

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 (2023-2026)
Janet Thomson, Vice President (2018-2026)
Pegi Palmes, Secretary (2025-2026)
Cheryl Lucas, Treasurer (2014-2026)
Trustees: Donna Winters (2026-2028)
Diana Kirol (2021-2026)
Merle Anne McLeish (2023-2027)

Committee Chairs:
Acquisitions: Larry Spicer
Membership: Stacey Corcino
Publicity: 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 December 2025

* Rapid City and District Our Past for the Future, Manitoba Canada History
* Mining Camps of Mineral County Montana—Ghost Town Local History
* Montana Mining Camps
* St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish Brandon Manitoba Catholic Church History Book
* Murder on Montana's Hi-Line, Montana
* The Dream: The Story of the 1978 and 1979 Peerless Panthers
* Faces of Freedom Gallatin Valley Remembers World War II
* Democracy by Degrees The 125th Anniversary History of Montana State University
* Women of the Klondike
* Images of America Wells (Maine)
* Ramsey County North Dakota 1883-1983 Volumes 1 and 2
* The Bozeman Trail in Montana A Trail Description and Touring Guide
* Cascade High School Yearbook Ketochi 1992
* Cascade High School Yearbook Ketochi 1998
* Cascade High School Yearbook Ketochi 2001
* Cascade High School Yearbook Ketochi 2002
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* Cascade High School Yearbook Ketochi 2021
* Cascade High School Yearbook Ketochi 2022
* Cascade High School Yearbook Ketochi 2023
* Cascade High School Yearbook Ketochi 2024
* The Idaho Story Volume 2
* Images of America Jerome (Idaho)
* Nampa's Stage Station, 1887-1900s: Forgotten Milestone

Check us out on facebook

We are now on Instagram!
Check us out!

Make sure to follow!

greatfallsgenealogysociety

Wednesdays at 11—As you have probably noticed on the front page, we do not have a firm date for the Wednesdays at 11 in January. Jan is having family issues that are not letting her plan for days except for one week in advance. She will send out an email when she has been able to firm up her schedule soon. Thank you.

Year End Income Tax Planning?

Don't forget that GFGS is a 501(c)3 entity.

All donations to the Society are tax deductible.

Society Business

GFGS 2026 SEMINAR & CLASS SERIES

BEGINNING GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Bring your:

- Family History Interest
- Ancestor Names
- Ancestor dates of Birth, Marriage, Death
- Notebook or Laptop/Tablet

Get ready to learn how to set up your research to find those ancestors!

JANUARY 17, 2026

Limited to 15 so be sure to RSVP

10AM - 12PM

GFPL - MONTANA ROOM

MORE INFO AND RSVP:

GF Genealogy Society & Library
406-727-3922

News You Can Use

Online genealogy companies are including more city/county directories every day, making it easier for us to find just the people we want! This week I looked at Helena, Montana Directories to see what is available online:

HELENA DIRECTORIES at My Heritage, online: 12/21/2025

My Heritage has many Helena Directories online: 1889*, 1891*, 1892, 1895, 1897, 1898*, 1899, 1902, 1903, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1918, 1920, 1927, 1929, 1933, 1935, 1941, 1947, 1950, 1954, 1956, 1958, 1960… and probably more! JDT

MyHeritage provides the genealogist with a great "all in one" overview of a person's appearances within Helena directories. For example, when I put in the name "Holter, Aubrey", the following report appeared (all in one report, with a hotlink option to hit each one to get more info or to look at the page):

YEAR	RECORD
1902	Holter Aubrey, student, b 441 N Benton av.
1903	Holter Aubrey M, student, b 441 X Benton av.
1905	Holter Aubrey M, student Jackman Cornl & Helena Bus College, b 441 N Benton av.
1906	Holter Aubrey M, clk A M Holter Hdw Co, b 441 N Benton av.
1907	Holter Aubrey VI, clk A M Holter Hardware Co, b 441 N Ben ton av.
1909	Holter Aubrey M, clk A M Holter Hdw Co, b 441 N Benton av.
1910	Holter Aubrey M, clk, b 441 N Benton av.
1911	Holter Aubrey M, clk A M Holter Hdw Co, b 441 N Benton av.
1912	Holter Aubrey M, clk A M Holter Hdw Co, b 441 N Benton av.
1913	Holter Aubrey M, clk A M Holter Hdw Co, b 441 N Ben-
1914	HOLTER AUBREY M, Sec A M Holter Hardware Co, b 441 N Benton av.
1915	Holter Aubrey M, sec A M Holter Hardware Co, b 441 N Benton av.
1918	HOLTER AUBREY M, Vice-Pres Auto Warehouse & Service Co, Sec anci Mngr A M Holter Helw Co, b 441 N Benton av.

1920 HOLTER AUBREY M Sec and Mngr A M Holter Hardware Co r 710 Harrison av

YEAR	RECORD
1927	HOLTER AUBREY M, V-Pres-Sec-Treas A M Holter Hardware Co, h642 Madison, Phone 430
1929	HOLTER AUBREY M (Florence H), V-Pres-Sec-Treas A M Holter Hardware Co, h642 Madison av, Tel 430
1933	Holter Aubrey M (Florence H) v-pres-sec-treas A M Holter Hdw Co h642 Madison av
1935	HOLTER AUBREY M (Florence H), V-Pres-Sec-Treas A M Holter Hdw Co, h642 Madison av, Tel 430

1941 Holter, Nannie

1947 Holter Nannie (wid Aubrey M) h206 W Lawrence apt 4C

From Janet D. Thomson

News You Can Use

The Bitter Root Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, is hosting the state convention of the Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution, in Missoula from April 23 through April 25. We have been looking at the stated needs of our membership and greater community interests. We are exploring hosting a full day of genealogical workshops/sessions on April 25th.

We are looking at providing 4-6 time periods during the day with offerings for participants at a number of levels of genealogy expertise. We envision this to be a good start for someone with a basic interest level as well as helping to provide new information to those of us who are experienced but still looking to expand our knowledge and resources. We have already received input from a Missoula genealogy-based group indicating interest in sessions on chain migration patterns into Montana by immigrants from smaller countries and representing populations who brought new industries into the state that have contributed to the state's growth and economy. They also mentioned needing more insight into wills and probates, special archives available for digital and visit exploration, and land records. Another topic that several people raised was different lineage organizations and how to apply for membership. We will take all the ideas and names of possible presenters and make further plans from there.

My contact for text or phone is 808-987-2114. We thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Nancy Schmitz, E.D.
Regent, Bitter Root Chapter, NSDAR

Are you missing out on this huge German genealogy collection?

Even if you don't live near St. Louis, the St. Louis County Library is a hidden goldmine for German genealogists. From village "family books" and German-language newspapers to passenger lists and emigration information, these resources open the door to uncovering real stories behind names, places, and migrations—stories that might connect to your own heritage. And best yet—you can request look-ups from the librarians via their website and have them send you information—even if you're not in St. Louis. Read here to find out more! slcl.org

Found this, this morning.
Jan

Hello Great Falls Public Library Volunteers!

I hope that you are all doing well this chilly Friday morning and enjoying a good book by the fireplace right now.

I am writing to you to invite you to our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon! We want to spend some time with you all and celebrate all the work you do for the Library. We would not be able to do all we do without your support and help. You make this Library what it is!
January 8
12:30-2:30
Cordingley Room
Please RSVP to me, Sarah C. by January 5th!

We will enjoy a meal together, chat about some updates within the Library including meeting our new Director, and then we have an activity that we would love for everyone to stay for!