GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The Falls Newsletter

MARCH 2026

Established 1975

President's Nook

March Presidents Nook

Hello Spring! I hope this finds you have survived our winter. It has been a pretty mild one for the most part which doesn't bode well for our summer moisture.

We have started our third Saturday classes and they are going well. This month Jan will be speaking about Indigenous Research. It will be great to learn more about this type of research.

On March 17 we will be having a watch party at the library presented by MSGS! Courtney Carr from the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas will introduce the Society of Sons and Daughters of WWII Veterans. The program starts at 2pm so be sure to come on down and join. If you are unable to come down, you can register and watch at home as well. Look in this newsletter for the link to register.

Some of you may have heard about the digitizing project for Croxford Funeral Home. Unfortunately, Family Search has passed on digitizing it, but GFGS is currently working on getting set up with Croxford to digitize them for us and for them.

I hope your spring is bountiful with research and short on frustrations!

"No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow." — Anonymous

Happy Hunting! Stacey Corcino

March 2026 Calendar of Events

Thursday, March 5th—Acquisitions Meeting, 3 pm
Thursday, March 5th—Board Meeting, 4 pm
Thursday, March 12th—General Meeting, 6 pm
Tuesday, March 17th—Watch Party, 2 pm—Society of Sons and Daughters of WWII Veterans
Wednesday, March ?? - Wednesdays at 11, Janet D. Thomson, Facilitator, 11:00 am
Saturday, March 21—Learning Seminar—10:00—12:00 am, - Indigenous Research Janet Thomson, Facilitator, Montana Room, RSVP to GFGS to save a seat—only 10 available spots!

Upcoming Conferences

March 5—7, 2026 RootsTech 2026—Salt Lake City, In Person and Virtual Registration

May 27—30, 2026 National Genealogical Society Annual Conference—Fort Wayne, Indiana, In Person and Virtual Registration

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

September 24—26, 2026 Montana History Conference—DoubleTree by Hilton, Billings. 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:

Elizabeth Oakes, Los Angeles
Paddy Bray, Great Falls
Shelby MacDonald, Moore
Kelly Silk, Great Falls

As we look for additional shelf space to our Montana collection, we have decided to deaccession city directories that are also available in the Montana Room or Online. Directories for Helena, Bozeman, Kalispell, Missoula, Miles City, and Billings are available for sale. Contact Larry at GFGS info@gfgenealogy.org. and leave a message if he is not here.

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**
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	
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 February 2026

* Bynum—A Roundup of Memories The Story of Bynum, Montana, And Its People Index
* Fannie Belle Collins A Pioneer Teacher Great Falls, Montana
* Where the Railways Ran: Transportation, Commerce and Sandpoint, Idaho 1880-1935
* Sunnyside Elementary School Yearbook 1987-1988
* Sunnyside Elementary School Yearbook 1997
* Highland Cemetery Burials Through 2025
* The African Americans Many Rivers to Cross
* Breaking the Chains African-American Slave Resistance
* The Civil War in the Words of Former Slaves
* Dark Places of the Earth
* Faces of America How 12 Extraordinary People Discovered their Pasts
* Medical Apartheid The Dark History of Medical Experimentations on Black Americans
* Railroaded the Transcontinentals and the Making of America
* The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks
* Reckoning With the Past A Century After the Tulsa Race Massacre
* Riot and Remembrance The Tulsa Race War and Its Legacy (Oklahoma)
* Stony the Road Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow
* Wilmington's Lie The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy (North Carolina)
* The Family Tree Scandinavian Genealogy Guide
* Map of Montana The Land of Shining Mountains 1989
* Lima High School Yearbook Purple Sage 1931
* Catholics in the Gold Country History of the Catholic Church, Auburn, California 1861-1986
* Chronicles of the Knights The History of Fairview High School (Colorado)
* Family Album Grand Ole Opry 94th Anniversary
* Little Leage Championship Tournaments 2000 Official Program District 2, Montana
* 341st Transportation Squadron, Malmstrom Air Force Base Map
* The Nazi Officer's Wife How One Jewish Woman Survived the Holocaust
* War Stories III The Heroes Who Defeated Hitler
* Chief Eneas Bigknife Kootenai Indian Patriot and Diplomat
* The Conrey Placer Mining Company A Pioneer Gold-Dredging Enterprise in Montana, 1897-1922
* Indian Chiefs vs Government Agents Politics and Law Enforcement on the Flathead Indian Reservation
* The Wert Family of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania 1727-1995
* Atlas of Saskatchewan
* Map of Teton County First Claim Homesteaders
* Montana Madams
* Big Skies & Bygone Days Wild Tales From Powder River Country
* 1932 Census of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation
* Centennial History of Lemhi County, Idaho Volume 1
* Knights of the Broadax The Story of the Wyoming Tie Hacks
* North Dakota Post Offices
* South Dakota Post Offices
* Wyoming Post Offices

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 March. Jan is having family issues (for over 100 days as she likes to say) 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. Thank you.

Society Business

GFGS 2026 SEMINAR & CLASS SERIES

BEGINNING GENEALOGY III WORKSHOP

All about Indigenous Research

Bring your:

- Pedigree Chart
- Family Group Sheet
- Family Timeline

Get ready to add some details to that family chart!

MARCH 21, 2026

10AM - 12PM

GFPL - MONTANA ROOM

Limited to 10 so be sure to RSVP

MORE INFO AND RSVP:

GF Genealogy Society & Library
406-727-3922

Society Business

Come Join us for the Following Presentation March 17, at 2:00 pm at the GFGS Library. Should be a fun and informative time!

UPCOMING VIRTUAL PROGRAM

Preserving the Greatest Generation: World War II Genealogy at the National Museum of the Pacific War

Museums can play a vital role in their communities by offering genealogy programs to preserve the stories of past generations. Courtney Carr, WWII Veterans Legacy Programs Manager, at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas, will introduce the Society of Sons and Daughters of WWII Veterans. This genealogy focused membership initiative honors, preserves, and shares the stories of America's "Greatest Generation."

The program provides descendants an opportunity to connect to other families while also documenting their loved one's lived experiences for future generations.

Courtney is an enthusiastic public historian who holds a MA in Public History from Arizona State University. She has extensive leadership experience in museums and nonprofit management, and served in the U.S. Navy for 12 years.

Tuesday, 17 March 2026, 2:00p

Remember GFGS does have a DA Davidson account for future capital or large needs. People can give/donate stock directly to GFGS to lessen their capital gains tax or just because. Also, donations of cash may be designated for this fund if that is what you desire. To donate to this account you will need the name and number—Great Falls Genealogy Society, 81951477. We will receive reports on who has donated to this account.

Do you or an organization you are affiliated with need green legal hanging folders? We have lots to give away. Please come in or contact the GFGS library and ask for Cheryl. These folders are ones that are being emptied with our project with the Great Falls Public Library Vertical Files. The Public Library doesn't need all these folders and have said it is okay for someone else to use them.

News You Can Use

Bitter Root Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution Conference

The Bitter Root Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution in conjunction with celebrating America's 250 anniversary is organizing a conference at the Doubletree-Edgewater Hotel in Missoula, "History is the Key: Discovering Family Lineages and Uncovering Your Story" on April 25, 2026. This conference is framed for those who are just beginning their family history story and those who are well versed in genealogy.

Our keynote speaker is noted author, historian, Richard Bell, from the University of Maryland who will be speaking on "America's Birth Certificate: The American Revolution." His newest book, published in November, is "The American Revolution and the Fate of the World."

Contact The Bitter Root Chapter at https://www.bitterrootdar.org/homepage/contact/ for more information.

Regards,
Nancy Schmitz, Ed.D.
Regent, Bitter Root Chapter, NSAR

When the Census Says Your Ancestor Never Existed
Kate Penney Howard katepenneyhoward.com

Your great-grandmother lived to be 94. You have her obituary, her photographs, stories passed down through three generations, but you cannot find her in a single census record.
This happens more than people think.
Women disappeared from census records when enumerators recorded only male heads of household. Children were listed as "daughter" or "son" without names. Entire families were skipped when enumerators ran out of time or patience. Indigenous people were excluded. Black families were undercounted or ignored. Immigrant names were mangled beyond recognition.
The absence of a record does not mean your ancestor did not exist. It means the system failed to see them.
DNA does not have this problem. Your great-grandmother's genetic signature exists in you and your relatives whether any government official bothered to write her name down or not. DNA rebuilds family structure when the census cannot. It proves kinship when paper records fall silent.
If you have hit this wall, you are not alone. The frustration is real. But so is your ancestor.

Subscription Sites for Use at the Library

GFGS subscribes to several websites for use at the library. These include:

⇒ American Ancestors (New England Historical Genealogical Society)
⇒ Ancestry.com
⇒ Newspapers.com
⇒ MyHeritage
⇒ FindMyPast
⇒ Fold 3
⇒ Genealogy Bank (Newspapers)
⇒ Genealogical.com Library
⇒ OldNewspapers from MyHeritage

If you cannot make it into the library but you would like something researched for you on one of the sites, please visit our website gfgenealogy.org for our research policy and fees.

News You Can Use

Introducing TribalPages.Com
Submitted by Dave Feist

TribalPages.com: A Modern Home for Family History

Genealogy has surged in popularity over the past decade, driven by a desire to understand personal roots and preserve family stories for future generations. Among the many platforms available, TribalPages.com has carved out a loyal following by offering an accessible, privacy-focused, and feature-rich environment for building and sharing family trees. Whether you're a casual hobbyist or a dedicated researcher, TribalPages provides tools that make documenting your lineage both intuitive and rewarding.

A Platform Built for Family Connections

At its core, TribalPages is a web-based family tree builder designed to help users create, maintain, and share their genealogical research. The platform emphasizes privacy and control, allowing users to choose who can view or edit their tree. Users can invite relatives to collaborate, upload photos, and contribute stories—turning a family tree into a living, evolving archive.

Key Features That Stand Out

1. Comprehensive Charting and Reporting Tools

TribalPages offers a suite of visual tools, including:
- Ancestor and descendant charts
- Family charts
- Printable reports
- Maps and relationship finders

2. Photo and Story Sharing

One of the platform's most beloved features is its robust photo-sharing capability. Users can upload images, annotate them, and build extensive family albums. Premium tiers allow thousands of photos, making it ideal for families with rich visual histories.

3. Mobile App and Multi-Device Access

The TribalPages mobile app lets family members view trees, receive birthday reminders, and upload photos on the go, ensuring the family archive grows organically over time.

4. Smart Matching and Tree Connections

Upgraded accounts unlock real-time smart matches, helping users discover potential relatives and connect their tree with others. This can significantly accelerate research and uncover previously unknown branches.

Pricing and Membership Options

TribalPages offers Free, Premium, and Deluxe tiers. All versions allow unlimited names, but paid plans expand capabilities such as:
- Number of photos (from 50 to 10,000)
- Custom newsletters
- Printable charts and reports
- Highlighting multiple family lines
- Ad-free browsing

The platform is known for affordable pricing and occasional discounts. Importantly, subscriptions do not auto-renew, giving users peace of mind.

Who Is TribalPages Best For?

TribalPages is an excellent fit for:
- Families wanting a private, collaborative space to document their history
- Users who value visual tools like charts, maps, and photo albums
- Beginners seeking an easy-to-navigate genealogy platform
- Anyone wanting a low-cost alternative to larger genealogy sites

News You Can Use

Introducing TribalPages.Com Continued
Submitted by Dave Feist

It may be less ideal for researchers who need deep historical record databases, as TribalPages focuses more on tree-building than archival research.

Final Thoughts

TribalPages.com offers a warm, accessible, and customizable home for family history. Its emphasis on privacy, collaboration, and visual storytelling makes it a compelling choice for families who want to preserve their legacy in a secure and engaging way. While it may not replace heavyweight research platforms, it excels at what it sets out to do: helping people build beautiful, meaningful family trees that can be shared across generations.

If you're curious about your roots or looking for a digital space to bring your family together, TribalPages is well worth exploring.

FUN AND EXCITING RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY!

British Columbia Genealogical Society member and professional genealogist Kathy Chung is offering a fun, supportive, small-group genealogy research trip to Edinburgh from June 13-20, 2026. The tour includes seven nights hotel and seven breakfasts, 3 days of supported research at Scotland's People, a day-long bus tour out of the city, a closing night dinner with Scottish music, and pre-trip information and guidance. Enjoy the company of other family history buffs while you deepen your knowledge of your roots in the country of your ancestors. For this inaugural trip, Kathy is offering genealogy society members who register by March 15 a $200CAD discount. Simply mention your genealogy society membership in the "anything else you'd like us to know" section of the registration form. Details and registration at https://scottishgenealogy.ca.