GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The Falls Newsletter

MAY 2026

Established 1975

Future Happenings

⇒ **May 7th, 2026** Acquisitions meeting 3 PM Board Meeting 4 PM

⇒ **May 14, 2026** 6:00 PM Montana Author Event at the History Museum! See you there! Montana Historian and Author Kirby Lambert helped capture the stories behind some of Montana's best-and least-known landmarks in the newly released book "A History of Montana in 101 Places: Sites and Stories from the Montana Historical Society." There is no fee involved.

⇒ **May 16, 2026** 10:00 AM —12:00 PM, Beginning Genealogy Workshop V ***Who Are the Germans From Russia*** with Dave Feist RSVP to GFGS To Save a Seat! Only 10 Available Spots!

⇒ **June 4th, 2026** Acquisitions meeting 3 PM Board Meeting 4 PM

⇒ **June 11th, 2026** 6:00 PM GFGS Members Only Visit the History Museum. Exclusive to the Members of Great Falls Genealogy Society Bring your questions and enjoy an exclusive tour of the History Museum!

⇒ **July 2nd, 2026** Acquisitions meeting 3 PM Board Meeting 4 PM

⇒ **July 9th, 2026** 6:00 PM GFGS Members Only Visit the Montana Museum of Railroad History State Fairgrounds

⇒ **July 18th, 2026** 10:00 AM —12:00 PM, Beginning Genealogy Workshop VII ***History of Fort Shaw*** with Burnette Batista RSVP to GFGS To Save a Seat! Only 10 Available Spots!

⇒ **August 6th, 2026** Acquisitions meeting 3 PM Board Meeting 4 PM

⇒ **August 15th, 2026** 10:00 AM —12:00 PM Beginning Genealogy Workshop VIII ***History of Malmstrom and the ICBM Mission*** with Troy Hallsell

May 2026 Calendar of Events

Thursday, May 7th—Acquisitions Meeting, 3 pm
Thursday, May 7th—Board Meeting, 4 pm
Thursday, May 14th— Montana Author Event with the History Museum at the History Museum
Saturday, May 16th—Learning Seminar—10:00—12:00 am, Who Are the Germans From Russia Dave Feist, Facilitator, Montana Room, RSVP to GFGS to save a seat—only 10 available spots!

Upcoming Conferences

May 9, 2026 12:00 Noon Idaho Genealogical Society—Boise, Idaho, In Person and Virtual Angie Davis, Collections-Outreach Archivist at the Idaho State Archives will provide a brief background on the archives and what the archives collects, and will provide an overview on finding and using the resources held at the archives. https://idahogenealogy.org/

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.

If anyone has a success story that you would like to share, please submit it to be published in the newsletter. A request has been made to have success stories in the newsletter but we need people to let us know their successes. I can't make them up on my own!

Membership News

Welcome to Our Newest members:

Sophia Tangum, Great Falls

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**
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	
10 September	8 October
12 November	10 December

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.

Watch us on YouTube

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.

Contents © 2026 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 April 2026

- Labor Day Souvenir Program 1948
- Burdett Prairie Trails (Alberta)
- Red Blood and Black Ink: Journalism in the Old West
- Tales From the Inns of Healing: Christian Medical Service In India, Burma and Ceylon
- To God be the Glory 1917-2017 Duchess Mennonite Church (Alberta)
- Youngstown Memories Across the Years Vol 2 2017 (Alberta)
- Genealogy and the Little Ice Age
- London and Middlesex Family History Resources Online
- Nebraska State Highway Map 2003-2004
- Ownership Map Upper Musselshell Conservation District (Wheatland County) 2004
- Harlowton Ryegate Telephone Directory January 1960
- Finding Your Polish Ancestors…
- Lake County/Polson High School Reunion 1964-1984
- Harlowton High School All-Class Reunion 1913 – 1996, 1913 - 2006
- Bulldog Spirit Through 70 Years at Carter County High School Ekalaka, Montana 1915-1985
- There Is a Way: History of the Nathanael and Volmer Lutheran Churches of Dagmar, MT 1907-1975
- State of Montana Seventeenth Annual Report of the Industrial Accident Board 1932
- Sixteenth Biennial Report of the Montana State Board of Health 1931-1932
- Report of the State Highway Commission of Montana 1932
- State of Montana Report of the Commissioner of State Lands and Investments July 1, 1930 – June 30, 1932
- Montana Directory of State, Federal and County Officials 1933-34
- A Town Founded On Hope Phillipsburg, Montana 1983
- Geology of the Great Falls Coal Field, Montana 1909
- Horseback Schoolmarm Montana 1953-1954
- 100 Years Between the Rivers: History of Glenwood, Hartley & Standoff, Alberta
- Seventh Annual Report of the Industrial Accident Board Ending June 30th, 1922
- 75th Anniversary Bagdad Temple – Butte 1911 – 1986
- Trails to Little Corner – Namaka and Districts (Alberta)
- The Catalogo, Narciso Claveria, and Thoughts on Filipino Surnames
- The Luceros: Portrait of a Cebuano Family
- History Matters and Other Snippets of Philippine History and Genealogy
- Onion Prices, Filipino Names and Genetic Genealogy
- The Sales Family of Moalboal, Cebu: An Intimate History
- Philippine History, Records, and Remembrance
- The Rizalian Trees: Lineages of Jose Rizal and His Love Interests

Check us out on facebook

We are now on Instagram!
Check us out!

Make sure to follow!

greatfallsgenealogysociety

Society Business

A History of Montana in 101 Places

- **Thursday, May 14, 2026**
- **6:00 PM 7:00 PM**

The History Museum 422 2nd St S

The Treasure State has, rightfully, been dubbed the Last Best Place. More accurately, though, Montana is not just one place but many—places large and small, natural and human-made, urban and rural, old and not-so-old.

Montana historian and author Kirby Lambert helped capture the stories behind some of Montana's best-and least-known landmarks in the newly released book "A History of Montana in 101 Places: Sites and Stories from the Montana Historical Society."

Lambert is taking the popular new book on tour this spring and summer, stopping at destinations in every corner of the Treasure State. Lambert will visit The History Museum & Research Center, 422 2nd St S Great Falls, MT on Thursday, May 14 at 6:00pm.

Lambert will give a free admission 45-minute presentation followed by time for questions and book signing.

While he won't be able to make tour stops at every place featured in the book, Lambert—who co-authored "101 Places" with fellow historians Christine Brown, Martha Kohl, and the late Ellen Baumler—will visit more than a dozen communities to talk about local history and the research, writing, and photography found in the beautiful, one-of-a-kind publication.

"Behind each of these places are unique stories that, when woven together, tell the colorful history of this place we call home," Lambert said.

"101 Places" features diverse locations that embody major cultural, economic, and political developments in the history of the state. Battlefields and government buildings appear alongside homes, schools, and taverns. Indigenous cultural sites share space with farms and mines as these places come together to tell Montana's story.

The book features stunning photography by Tom Ferris, who worked as the archival photographer at the Montana Historical Society from 1995 to 2024. Ferris' photographs have appeared in numerous magazines and books, and his work is in many private collections in the United States and overseas.

Now retired, Lambert worked for more than 36 years at the Montana Historical Society where he served in a variety of capacities—as museum registrar, curator of collections, curator of art, and director of outreach and education.

Among numerous other duties, he curated nearly three dozen exhibits on a wide variety of topics relating to Montana art and history and, for a number of years, organized the Society's annual Montana History Conference.

Lambert has co-authored several publications, including *Montana's Charlie Russell: Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society*. He is also a regular contributor to *Montana The Magazine of Western History*. Kirby received the Museums Association of Montana's Peter Yegen, Jr., Award in 2014 and the Governor's Humanities Award in 2015.

Society Business

Society Business

Society Business

News You Can Use

See You in Fort Wayne: What to Expect at NGS 2026
by Kate Penney Howard - katepenneyhoward.com

The National Genealogical Society brings its Family History Conference to Fort Wayne, Indiana, from May 27 to 30 this year. The theme is "America at 250," and the location is not incidental. Fort Wayne is home to the Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library, the second-largest genealogy library in the country after the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. If you're a genealogist and you've been meaning to make a pilgrimage, this is your year.

Here's what you should know if you're registered, and what you should consider if you're still on the fence.

Location is the gift this year. The Grand Wayne Convention Center sits in downtown Fort Wayne at 120 W. Jefferson Boulevard. The Allen County Public Library is a short walk away. You can leave a session, walk one block, and apply what you just learned to an actual record set within fifteen minutes. Most conferences put you in a convention complex far from any library. This one puts the library and the sessions on top of each other, which changes how you plan your days.

Pre-conference workshops run Wednesday, May 27. The main conference runs Thursday through Saturday, May 28 to 30. NGS has programmed an AI-in-genealogy track, a Legal Genealogist presence with Judy G. Russell, sessions on Revolutionary War and War of 1812 research, and plenary programming built around the Semiquincentennial. The full schedule sits on the conference website. Plan your personal schedule before you arrive. Popular sessions fill fast.

Pack for research, not just sitting. Bring a lightweight laptop or tablet, your current research log, a pedigree chart for each surname you plan to work on, a USB drive, and a power strip. Library staff are used to conference crowds, but plugging in ten attendees at one carrel gets tight. Bring a water bottle. Bring comfortable shoes. The convention center is compact but you'll still walk miles.

Plan your library time like a work shift. The Genealogy Center holds roughly 1.2 million print volumes and 600,000 microforms, plus digital collections. The genealogist who arrives prepared will find more in a day than they'd find in three unprepared. Have a specific target: a county history, a newspaper run you can't find digitized, a state-specific reference series your local library doesn't own. Don't try to research three surnames in three states in one afternoon. Pick one. Go deep.

The "America at 250" theme is more than decoration. The Semiquincentennial, marking 250 years since the Declaration of Independence, has generated a round of new research tools, publications, and records access initiatives. Expect substantial programming on Revolutionary War pensions, Loyalist records, early American land grants, and the records of peoples often left out of the founding-era narrative. Black, Indigenous, and immigrant histories sit at the center of the conversation now, and the sessions reflect it.

Network deliberately. Conferences can feel like a firehose. The Topic Tables Luncheon, new this year, lets you pick a conversation topic and sit with others working on it. That's a better investment than a cocktail hour for most of us. Bring business cards. Bring a short, honest answer to the question "What are you working on?" that doesn't spiral for twenty minutes.

A virtual option is available for those who can't travel. Recordings become available through the Whova app within 48 to 72 hours of each session and remain accessible through July 15, 2026.

Whether you come in person or watch from home, use the conference well. Fort Wayne has a good-sized art museum, a minor league baseball team, a growing roster of restaurants, and two rivers that meet downtown. Stay an extra day. Bring a research list. See what the library gives you.