GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The Falls Newsletter

JUNE 2026

Established 1975

Future Happenings

⇒ **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. You can bring a plus one. 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, Third Saturday Program ***History of Fort Shaw*** with Burnette Batista RSVP to GFGS To Save a Seat! Only 10 Available Spots!

⇒ **August 15th, 2026** 10:00 AM —12:00 PM Third Saturday Program ***From Planes to Missiles and Beyond: A History of Malmstrom AFB*** with Troy Hallsell

⇒ **September 3rd, 2026** Acquisitions meeting 3 PM Board Meeting 4 PM

⇒ **October 1st, 2026** Acquisitions meeting 3 PM Board Meeting 4 PM

⇒ **October 8th, 2026** 6:00 PM GFGS Library ***"What has been your most interesting genealogy find?"***

⇒ **October 17th, 2026** 10:00 AM —12:00 PM Third Saturday Program ***"These Riches We Contend For": Montana and the Fur Trade*** with Austin Haney

⇒ **November 5th, 2026** Acquisitions meeting 3 PM Board Meeting 4 PM

⇒ **November 12th, 2026** 6:00 PM GFGS Library—Annual Meeting and Potluck

⇒ **December 10th, 2026** 6:00 PM GFGS Library—Christmas Party

June 2026 Calendar of Events

Thursday, June 4th—Acquisitions Meeting, 3 pm
Thursday, June 4th—Board Meeting, 4 pm
Thursday, June 11th— GFGS Members Only Visit the History Museum. Exclusive to the Members of Great Falls Genealogy Society. You can bring a plus one. Bring your questions and enjoy an exclusive tour of the History Museum!

Upcoming Conferences

September 10—12, 2026 Montana Genealogical Society Conference—Montana Heritage Center, Helena. Registration live June 1. Registration form will be emailed June 1st to the membership. Conference page does have listed the hotel group block.

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.

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.

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:

Gary Morgan, Plumas Lake, CA
Carol Idland, Fairfield
Del LeVasseur, Black Eagle

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	
3 September	3 September
1 October	1 October
5 November	5 November
3 December	3 December
General 6:00 pm	
State Conference	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.

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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 May 2026

The Family of John Depue United Empire Loyalist
A History of Warren, Idaho: Mining, Race, and Environment
A Man of Denmark A Family History of Lars Christensen Nielsen (1858-1926)
Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War American Expeditionary Forces: Divisions Volume 2
ACM Photo Album Indexes
Great Falls High School yearbook 1993
The Lovsin Family 1848-1990
Whittier Elementary Yearbooks 2014-2015; 2015-2016; 2016-2017; 2017-2018; 2018-2019; 2019-2020; 2020-2021; 2021-2022
A Perfect Fit John H. Mohn and Descendants (PA)
Bound Like Grass (MT)
Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Great Falls 1997-1998 Directory
MiG Alley to Mu Ghia Pass Memoirs of a Korean War Ace
Power, Authority and the Anabaptist Tradition
Red Quarter Moon A Search for Family in the Shadow of Stalin
Bleeding Spirits A Combat Soldier's Memoir of the Vietnam War 1968-1969
The Cascade County Historical Society presents A Glimpse At the Past
The Family of John Depue United Empire Loyalist
The Famine Ships The Irish Exodus to America
Map of Poland and the Partitions of 1772, 1793 & 1795
Map of Poland Posen Province 1912
Map of Prussia 1828
Map of Prussia and the German States 1860
New Map of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania 1799
Military Pension Laws 1776-1858
Montana's Home Front During World War II 2nd Edition
A History of Indians in the Sun Valley Area
American Trading Posts/Forts 1800-1899
Another America: The Story of Liberia and the Former Slaves Who Ruled It
Army Letters From An Officer's Wife
By Cheyenne Campfires
By Grit & Grace: Eleven Women Who Shaped the American West
Children of Grace The Nez Perce War of 1877
Columbia Journals David Thompson
Enemy Ancestors The Anasazi World with a Guide to Sites
The 1st Air Cavalry Division Vietnam August 1965 to December 1969
The Forgotten War: A Pictorial History of World War II in Alaska and Northwestern Canada
Great Falls, MT Fast Times, Post-Pun k Weirdos, and a Tale of Coming Home Again
Ishi In Two Worlds
Klondike The Last Great Gold Rush 1896-1899
Lanterns on the Prairie The Blackfeet Photographs of Walter McClintock
The Last Stand of the Raven Clan
Life On the Blackfeet Indian Reservation as Recorded by John Tatsey
Letters of a Woman Homesteader
Lutheran Cyclopedia: A Concise In-Home Reference for the Christian Family
More Montana Campfire Tales
Mule Tracks: The Last of the Story (MT)
Native American History: A Chronology of a Culture's Vast Achievements & Their Links to World Events
On the Trail to Wounded Knee The Big Foot Memorial Ride
Piavinnia The Bent-Guerrier Connection
Pistol Packin' Madams: The Stories of Notorious Women of the Old West
Pretty-shield Medicine Woman of the Crows
The Reservation Blackfeet, 1882-1945 A Photographic History of Cultural Survival
Scotland Since 1688 Struggle for a Nation
So Much to Be Done: Women Settlers on the Mining and Ranching Frontier
South Pass 1868 James Chisholm's Journal of the Wyoming Gold Rush
Splendid Was the Trail
Stationed in Montana The Memoir of Great Falls Broadcast Pioneer Dan Snyder
Star Over Adobe
Tales of the Mountain Men Seventeen Stories of Survival, Exploration, and Frontier Spirit
That Was Dachau 1933-1945
The Nazi Files: Chilling Case Studies of the Personalities Behind the Third Reich
They Came to the Mountain: The Story of Flagstaff's Beginning
Westering Women and the Frontier Experience 1800 – 1915
Where the Wind Never Sleeps A Memoir from the High Plains of Montana
Who Lost? The Autobiography of a Blind Man with Great Vision
Brand of a Legend (WY)
Brave Eagle's Account of The Fetterman Fight
Flathead High School yearbook1986, 1987
Indian Trails
James Arthur Family Book
LaFountain Family Album
Metis Celebration & Conference 1998
Montana's Own
Our Only Homelands An Ecological Look at the Land of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine
Simms High School yearbooks 1961, 1962
The Black Wind (Truchot family)
The History of Bannock County Idaho
The Right to Tell a Lie: Memories of a Montana Girlhood
Trails I Have Chosen G bar M Ranch MT
Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War Vol. 1
From the Oder to the Bitterroot

Society Business

Ever wonder what database to use for a special purpose and where you can find the database? Here is a listing compiled by Pegi Palmes for some of what is used at the GFGS Library

WHAT	WHERE	WHY
Find a Grave	Free on line	Good basic info, maybe an obituary, Maybe a family tree. Hotlinks to other family members.
Newspapers	2 Patron Computers	Several search options, name, community etc. Use quotes.
Ancestry	2 Patron Computers	Family Trees. Good for first time searchers. Deaths to 2018, Births to 1940. Marriage to 1970 or so. Census Records, new million records each month. Be aware of errors
Family Search LDS Site	Free on Line	Basic Info. Research WIKI. Some information is only available through our computers as we are an Affiliate Library and have access to more information than is available in the 'free' version. Guide to County, Marriage, CAUTION: Updates often
GLO Records/BLM	Free on Line	Search by state. Counties charge. Types of Homesteads Only shows successful Homesteads. If homesteader didn't 'prove up', try Tract Books can be ordered online at NARA
FOLD 3-Military	2 Patron Computers	Filters search by war or conflict. Some non-military too. Pennsylvania Military Records are hard to find, not military
American Ancestors	2 Patron Computers	New England Society. American Center for Jewish Research. Church records were the official records until 1780 or so. They plan to add more areas in the Eastern US. NOTE: We have New England books in our library.
Genealogy Bank	2 Patron Computers	This site is updated every Monday. Has some Newspapers. All Death Records. Obits. Has Census information. Govt. Publications for folks who worked for govt like Forrest Service employees. Also has congressional records.
Genealogical.com	Patron 2 Computer (Next to the Door)	800 Books searchable. New England & Eastern Seaboard. If interested can purchase 3 months subscription at a time.
My Heritage	Patron 3 Computer	Lots of Europe and the Middle East. Full-genome DNA City/County Directories Good for creating Timelines Good for finding family members Might find old newspapers from around the world.
Find My Past	Patron 3 Computer	UK, Australia, New Zeeland, Canada. Hinky with births. Census for US, UK, Colonies, Canada, S Africa.
Nara.gov	Free on Line	Census-includes maps and charts. Links to other resources like Ancestry. Rail Road Claims and Social Security Reservation and Native American. Military before 1900 is good.

SOME INFO ABOUT OUR LIBRARY:

We have Census Books. Books on the Colonies, Cabinet 037
New England Registry, Mayflower Information, Cabinet 041 & 042
Information on Anabaptist - Mennonite faiths for entire USA Cabinet 063-04.
Entire wall of Montana County materials…55 Counties,
Right side of Library has records for Cascade County and its communities.
Indigenous Materials on 30-plus tribes.

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Society Business

PROJECTS BEING WORKED ON WITH HIGHLAND CEMETERY STAFF

By Donna White

The staff at Highland Cemetery began a project three years ago to honor those that are buried in Potter's Field. They continue to work with surveyors to find the exact location. A list was compiled from the cards in the Highland Cemetery Office of all those interred there. Diane Green and I worked with the list that Renee (Highland Cemetery Staff) compiled. The hand writing that was done in fountain pen was at times very hard to figure out. I started looking on the Find A Grave website to see if I could match up these people. The Great Falls Genealogy Society also had a list so Diane and I worked to make sure that the lists coincide with each other. We used many resources at GFGS to find a thread from the names on the list to something tangible. If it had not been for the death registry books and the funeral home records and other resources at GFGS library I'm not sure we would have been so successful. There were only a couple at the end of the day that we could not find anything for. GFGS is a wonderful resource and everyone there is so helpful.

I started volunteering for the Find A Grave website. As I was searching for gravestones requested, I noticed the old veteran section was a bit lacking in headstones. I walked the rows and wrote down the names and working with the records in Highland Cemetery office, I identified which veterans did not have headstones. I started researching for information on these veterans at home with what I have there and then went on to GFGS. When I said what I was doing a nice volunteer made me the forms to fill out and send to the National Cemetery Association. One of the resources I used was Fold 3 with Stacey's help. (She's magic) I have mailed in 58 requests and received 37 headstones so far. I could not have done this without the resources at GFGS and Stacey's wonderful help.

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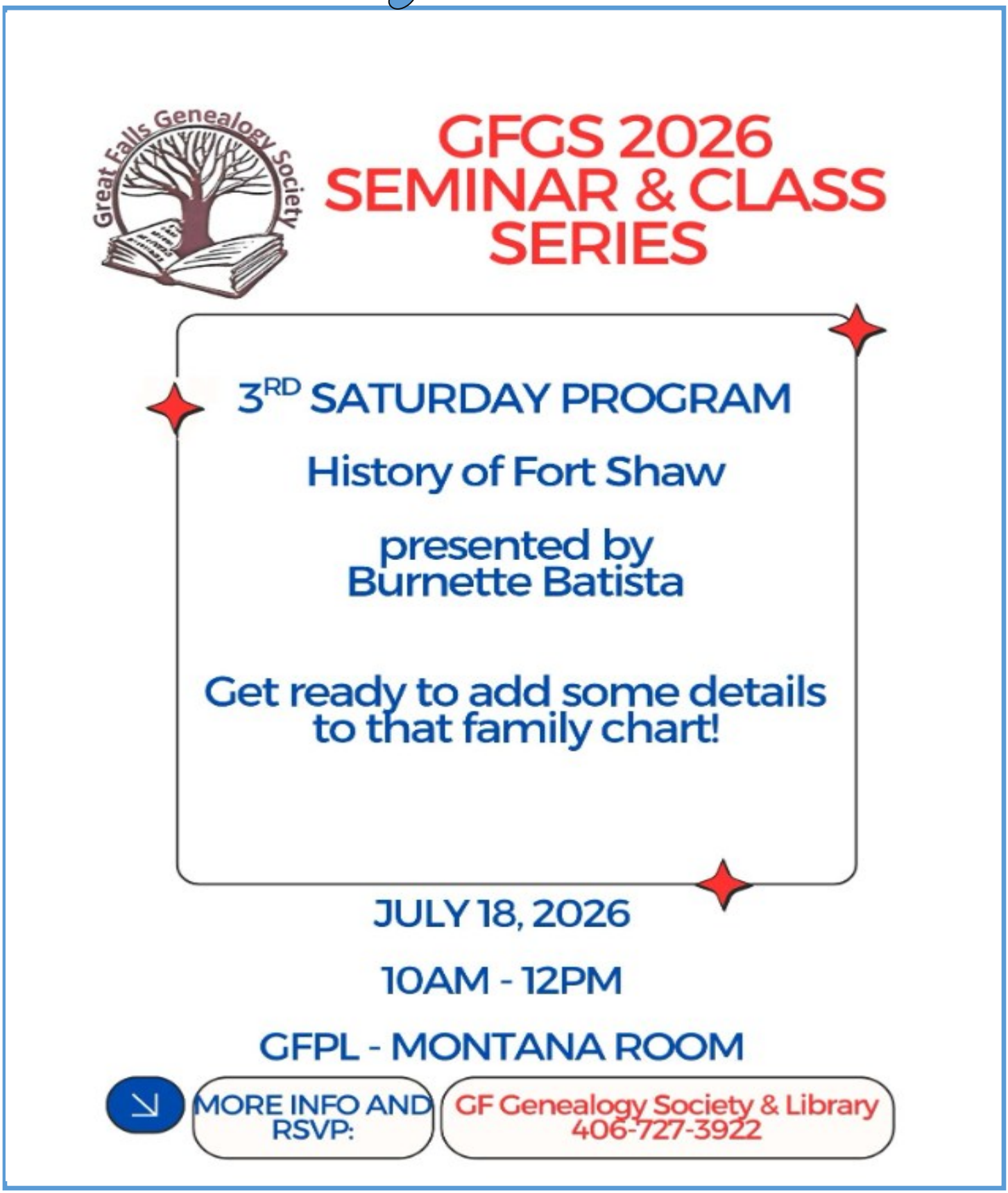

Society Business

GFGS 2026 SEMINAR & CLASS SERIES

3RD SATURDAY PROGRAM

"These Riches We Contend For": Montana and the Fur Trade

presented by
Austin Haney
Education and Programming for the C.M. Russell Museum

Come learn about some of the major players of our region's fur trade era, and how their stories helped shape the Montana we know today.

OCTOBER 17, 2026

10AM - 12PM

GFPL - MONTANA ROOM

MORE INFO AND RSVP:

GF Genealogy Society & Library
406-727-3922