GREAT FALLS GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The Falls Newsletter

AUGUST 2026

Established 1975

Future Happenings in 2026

⇒ **August 6th, 2026 NO BOARD MEETING**

⇒ **August 13th, 2026** Acquisitions meeting 3 PM

⇒ **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

August 2026 Calendar of Events

Thursday, August 13th—Acquisitions Meeting, 3 pm

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

Upcoming Conferences

September 10—12, 2026 Montana Genealogical Society Conference—Montana Heritage Center, Helena Registration https://montanamsgs.org/conference/

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.

Membership News

Welcome to Our Newest members:
Taylor Poitra, Great Falls
Albert Ferderer, Great Falls
Randal Boschee, Solvang, California

Check us out on

facebook

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**
6 August	
3 September	3 September
1 October	1 October
5 November	5 November
3 December	3 December
General 6:00 pm	
September No Meeting 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 July 2026

* Montana State University – Northern 1994, 2006 Alumni Directory
* Index for Lewistown News-Argus Newspaper Selected Articles
* Montana Granite Industries 2007-2008 monument purchases
* Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in Western Montana
* Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea: Merchant Seamen, Pirates and the Anglo-American Maritime World 1700-1750
* Cracker Culture Celtic Ways in the Old South
* Minneapolis St. Paul Minnesota map
* Minnesota Wisconsin map
* North Dakota South Dakota map
* Australia: Beyond the Dreamtime
* The Book of Kells
* Celtic Warriors 400 BC – AD 1600
* Cutbank HS yearbook *Wolf* 1976
* The Generous Years: Remembrances of a Frontier Boyhood
* Golden Spike
* The Highland Clans
* Images of America Beartooth Mountains
* Montana High, Wide, and Handsome
* Simms HS yearbook *Tiger* 1966, 1988
* The Trial of Louis Riel: Justice and Mercy Denied
* Warriors of Rome: An Illustrated Military History of the Roman Legions
* Eureka 1887-1937 (SD)
* Have You Ever Seen a Hearse Pulling a Moving Trailor?
* Index for Beyond the Shadows of the Rockies: History of the Augusta Area
* Best AI Prompts for Genealogy Research 2026 Edition
* Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors: The Essential Genealogical Guide to Early Modern Ulster 1600-1800
* Fairfield High School yearbook *The Eagle* 1943
* Fairfield High School *The Eagle* No. 11 Vol. 5 1944
* Fairfield High School Senior Edition 1965, 1969
* Sun River Middle School/ Ft. Shaw Elementary School yearbook 1988-1989
* Sun River Valley Success Simms, MT Vol 47 Issue 12 May 21, 1968
* Alaska's Wolf Man: The 1915-55 Wilderness Adventures of Frank Glaser
* All Class Reunion 1916-2000, Baker, Montana
* Alumni Edition May, 1938 The Buffalo MU Deuteron of Phi Sigma Kappa
* Blackfeet Indians
* Cascade County Ownership Map, December 1996
* Community United Methodist Church of Richey 1914-1989
* Custer County Montana Maureen Map Revised 1978
* Destiny Team Tragedy, Teamwork, and Triumph 1939-1940 Big Timber Sheepherders
* Eastern Montana Brand Book
* Fifty-Five Years in the Alaskan Bush: The John Swiss Story
* The Forgotten War: A Pictorial History of World War II in Alaska & Northwestern Canada Vol 1-3
* Great Falls Area Grazing Lease Renewal August 2010
* Great Falls High School Roundup 50th Anniversary Class of '59
* Historic Glacier National Park: The Stories Behind One of America's Great Treasures
* In the Shadow of Eagles: From Barnstormer to Alaska Bush Pilot, A Flyer's Story
* Montana Trails and Tribulations
* Montana's Bob Marshall Country
* O'Fallon Flashbacks II
* The Piegan Storyteller – 38 issues
* We Went Westward…Ho Ho Ho (Broadus, MT)
* Wheat Basin, Montana Visions of the Past
* In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim William White of Wisbech

Society Business

President's Nook

Welcome August! Here is hoping you are having a wonderful summer. Thank you to all that have attended our two "field trips". Each were fun and a great learning experience.

June Field Trip to The History Museum

July Field Trip to the Montana Museum of Railroad History

Have you registered for the MSGS State Conference in September in Helena? If you haven't you owe it to yourself to think about attending. We will be learning about DNA, AI and Lineage Societies. On Thursday evening we will have two workshops. One will be a Genealogy Jam Session and the other will be about the Montana History Portal. After the workshops we will have a dessert social and tour of the Lewis & Clark Library to include the Genealogy Library. Other activities will include Book Frolic, Vendors and Raffle. Everyone is welcome to bring their unused genealogy books to be donated to the Book Frolic. This is a great opportunity to clear your shelves of those genealogy books you don't use anymore!

Thank you to those that have put forth their names to be on the GFGS Board. It is because of your support of GFGS that we can continue providing resources for our members and clients.

Couple reminders, we will have a 3rd Saturday program on August 15. Troy Hallsell will be speaking about the History of MAFB and the ICBM Mission and we will not be having a General Membership Meeting in September due to MSGS Conference. See you in October!!

Happy Hunting,

Doing Estate or Income Tax Planning?

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 stocks, etc. to this account you will need the name and number—Great Falls Genealogy Society, 81951477. If you just want to donate cash to this account, you can send the cash to GFGS and we will take it over to DA Davidson if you cannot. We will receive reports on who has donated to this account.

Society Business

NOMINEES FOR SOCIETY OFFICES

President—Stacey Corcino

Vice-President—Jan Thomson

Secretary—Pegi Palmes

Treasurer—Cheryl Lucas

Trustee—Dave Feist

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.

If, after the October meeting, there is only one candidate for each position, then no ballots will be necessary and the list of nominees will be considered elected by acclamation at the November meeting. If any position requires an election, ballots will be distributed to members

Bynum Memory Book Goes Online

Bynum, a Roundup of Memories, is officially available online. Anyone can now explore Bynum's history, family trees, and foundational stories completely free of charge.

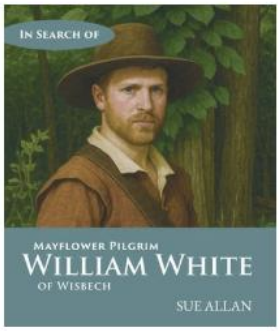
To read the book, visit https://www.mtmemory.org (the Montana History Portal) and search for ***Bynum, a Roundup of Memories***.

Courtesy of Jean Campbell Horst

Granddaughter of Fred and Pearl (Humble) Campbell on the Blackleaf

Society Business

Now Available at GFGS:



Now Available!
***In Search of* Mayflower *Pilgrim William White of Wisbech* by Sue Allan**

In this compelling biography of William White, a foundational ancestor to so many across America, Sue Allan reveals who William's father was and identifies the school William attended as a boy. She also proves that the school was once Wisbech's ancient Holy Trinity Guild Hall. In her signature style, she takes us deep into the history of Ely and the wild landscape of the Fenlands to the heart of William White's life as a young orphan in the streets of Wisbech. **Purchase Now**

BLM Debuts New General Land Office Records Website

July 14, 2026 claire kluskens

The Bureau of Land Management's new version of the General Land Office Records (GLO Records) website is now online at https://glorecords.blm.gov/s/.

I liked the old website. It was easy to use. The data was laid out well. The different pages, tabs, etc., made sense. The color scheme was nice. Was it perfect? No. Nothing ever is. But it was very good and any complaints I had about it were fairly minor.

The "new" GLO Records website does not impress. At least not today.

I chose "Advanced Search" and conducted a few name searches. I found the people I expected. The search function worked well sometimes but not other times. I think it worked better with Chrome than Safari.

Many researchers who are unfamiliar with Federal land records will be easily tempted into entering a state and county and then be very disappointed when they "don't find anything." Experienced researchers know that those fields should "always" be left blank because you don't know the state and county in which the *patentee* (the person who received the patent) chose to locate the land — and that state and county may have nothing to do with the *warrantee* (the person to whom the land warrant was issued in cases of patents issued on the basis of military service). Maybe it won't matter, however. A search using a first name and surname with the "wrong" state resulted in the "right" patent being listed first out of 1,124,751 results. LOL. Only the first result was actually the correct result even though the "wrong" state is never mentioned in patent or associated data. (No, I was not searching for Smith.)

Saving a "results" webpage for one individual as a PDF resulted in page 1 (useless), page 2 (all the data), and page 3 (useless). I know how to *only* save page 2 as a PDF so that was annoying but not a big problem.

Downloading a PDF of the land patent image was painless and fast.

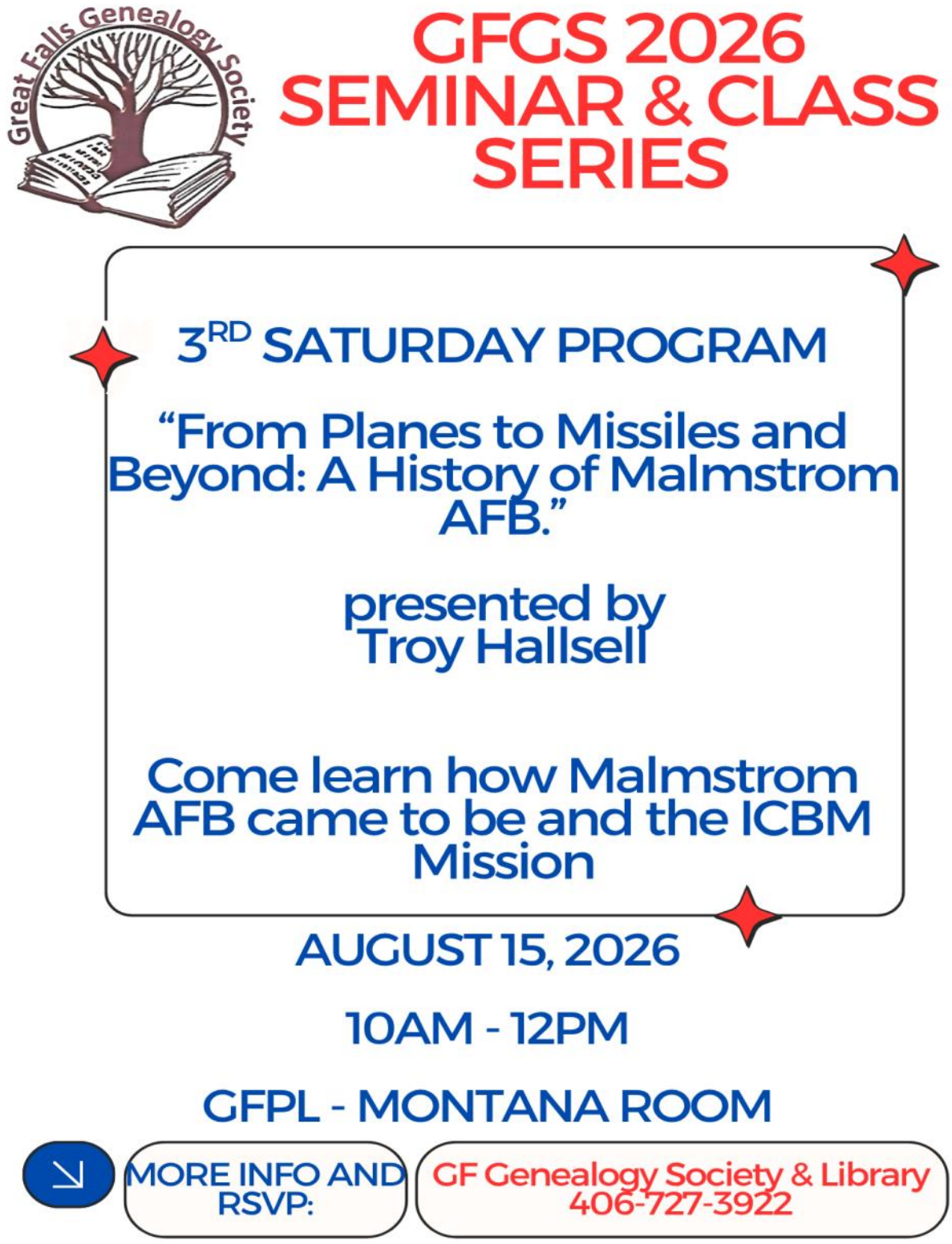
The "Related Documents" tab loaded quickly. "Related Documents" means documents for people to whom patents were issued in the same township, range, and section as your person of interest. However, there is no text to tell the researcher this, so I can imagine some people might think the "people" were related instead of the land being simply nearby to their person of interest. (Yes, of course, sometimes the people might also be related or from the same area back home.)

The "Search Using the Map" feature does not work. At least not today.

I did not log in with Login.gov so I have no comment on account features at this time.

It may be that the "new" GLO Records database/website is undergoing a "slow roll out" starting with basic features with additional features and content to be loaded over time. That approach allows for testing of the structure by real users in real time to make sure the current structure and data are stable. Then additional features are added in stages until it is all there. I make this observation because – several years ago – there was a different Federal agency that launched a new and improved website/database and it, too, was not impressive at launch – and was not impressive for months and months thereafter. Slowly, however, bells and whistles were added back in and now is pretty darn good. I hope that the same thing will eventually be said about the "new" GLO Records website.

That said, however, be sure to click the "contact us" link on the new GLO website and submit a "BLM Public Help Desk ticket" so that BLM learns about the problems you have with the new website. They need to hear from you.



Troy A. Hallsell, PhD is the 341st Missile Wing Historian at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. Before coming to the Air Force as a government service civilian, he served in the United States Army from 2005-2010 as an all-source intelligence analyst. After a stint at the National Ground Intelligence Center in Charlottesville, Virginia he entered graduate school in 2011 and earned a PhD in history from the University of Memphis in 2018. He is also member of the Cascade County Historical Society's Board of Directors and the author of several articles on military, urban, and western history topics.

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