

GALLATIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

Saturday, May 11, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

- Heather Bienvenue, the vice-president, welcomed everyone to the Gallatin County Genealogical Society. She introduced a new member to the group, Chris Flynn, and had everyone introduce himself or herself.
- Tricia Thompson, the person in charge of indexing genealogical information, asked members not to use caps lock when entering information on their indexing spreadsheets because it causes problems when the information is uploaded to the GCGS website. She also asked members to check whether dates were being entered correctly when indexing, because there have been some corrupted spreadsheets submitted. If you find you have a corrupted template, please ask Tricia Thompson for a new electronic template. She also asked members to check out small bags of cards to index vital records from Montana State University as well as to sign up to index divorces at the Law & Justice Center. There have been a few problems with Volume E when indexing divorces due to the change in how the divorces were documented in the book. (The individuals who have been indexing the divorces checked with Tricia Thompson at the end of the meeting to see how to properly index the divorces.)
- Heather Bienvenue made an announcement that we need to amend the GCGS Bylaws at the August 23, 2013 meeting to include a Webmaster, Project Manager, and a State Liaison as part of the officer team. A new slate of officers was elected as follows:

President: Heather Bienvenue

Vice-President: Carol Elliott

Secretary: Bonnie Jackson

Treasurer: Norma Ardesson

Webmaster: Jenn Vieth

Project Manager: Tricia Thompson

State Liaison: Michelle Westberg

- Tricia Thompson, the treasurer, reported that the GCGS has \$211.40 in its checking account, but she still needs to deposit \$45.00. She also said that a California client had sent a check for an obituary look-up and retrieval as well as some other research. Although Tricia Thompson will not continue as treasurer, she will continue to be contacted by clients seeking genealogical research and will collect the money from these clients for their research. The money will then be passed on to the treasurer. The current statistics for our indexing efforts are as follows:

Vitals: 13,246

Divorces: 5,209

Naturalization Petitions: 778

Obituaries: 5,162

Total: 24,395

- The Montana State Genealogical Society Conference will be September 26-28, 2013 in Bozeman. It would be helpful if members begin collecting pens, notepads, etc. to put in the tote bags for the conference. There will be over 150 people that will attend the conference. If you ask a business like Staples to donate items for the conference, please let Tricia Thompson know, so that we don't duplicate efforts. We need to help with securing a speaker(s) for the banquet. Some ideas are: Quilting in the Country – how to date quilts; John Russell from the Pioneer Museum; Kim Scott (special collections) from Museum of the Rockies at Montana State University; and Christy the Wordsmith, who charges for her speaking engagements. Michelle Westberg is going to talk to Donna Dehn about table decorations for the banquet. We need to find out who will pay for the speakers, table decorations, etc.
- The officer team wanted to make sure that everyone is getting emails from Mary Pitch at the Montana State Genealogical Society. If you aren't getting her emails, please let the officer team know so they can get you on the email list for future emails.
- PROGRAM: Road Blocks: I'm Stuck
 - Bonnie Jackson asked how to go about documenting sources when you know through Y-chromosome DNA testing from a cousin that you are related to a particular person, but you can't connect your family tree to that person because you are missing a few generations. Tricia Thompson described the three types of DNA testing: Patrilineal Line, which tests father and son (95% reliable); Matrilineal Line, which tests mother and daughter (not as reliable as Patrilineal Line); and Autosomal/Cousins, which tests both male and female (reliable to 4th cousin level). She suggested using Ancestry.com for DNA testing, because they have the largest data bank of genealogical information. Bonnie Jackson just completed an Autosomal/Cousins test for \$99 and is waiting for her results from Ancestry.com. Tricia Thompson has already taken and received her results from the Autosomal/Cousins test and explained the information she received and how it was beneficial in proving an ancestral line. She suggested trying to locate family bibles, church records, probate records, and land records to connect people in a family tree. The most important thing to do is start with yourself and move back in time generation by generation through documentation. Don't start with the ancestor that came to America and try to connect him or her to you. She also mentioned using the book *The Great Migration Begins* from the New England Historical Society, which is on Ancestry.com. It is a series of books about the exodus from England for Glory, God and Gold.
 - Another member wanted help documenting a picture of her grandfather, so she can rely on the information she has found on him so far. She has contacted the genealogical society in Valentine, Nebraska and will try to find some leads in Sterling, Colorado. One member suggested she contact the FBI using the Freedom of Information Act to obtain information on her grandfather, which may be useful in finding further information about her grandfather.
 - The Halo Mouse Scanner was discussed because it was being used at a garage sale to scan the titles of the books that were for sale. This device was located on Amazon.com for \$69.98 + shipping. It may be useful in scanning genealogical documents.
 - Someone asked how D.A.R records could be accessed to do ancestral searches.

- A member wanted to know how to find a marriage from 1803 in Utica, New York. It was suggested that she Google churches in that area and find out which ones were in existence in 1803. From that information, church records might be found.
 - Someone asked how to locate where an ancestor arrived in the United States when emigrating from another country. The main ports for immigration were New York City; Philadelphia; Galveston, TX; and Canada. Border Crossing records from Canada may also be useful, but only 10% still exist. Using The World search package (costs \$299) on Ancestry.com may also be helpful for immigrations from Canada, UK (England, Scotland, Ireland), Australia, and New Zealand.
 - Tricia Thompson told the group that PBS is starting a new show called *Genealogy Roadshow*, which will start out in Austin, Texas and Detroit, Michigan. It will be similar to the format of *Antiques Roadshow*.
 - Chris Flynn asked about the Beginning Genealogy Class that Tricia Thompson offers through Adult and Continuing Education at Bozeman High School. The class is 8-weeks long and costs \$49. It is offered in the fall, winter, and spring.
- The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be August 10, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in the small conference room at the Bozeman Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Jackson
GCGS Member