

GALLATIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

Saturday, August 10, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

(approved on September 14, 2013)

- Introductions: Heather Bienvenue, the president, welcomed everyone to the Gallatin County Genealogical Society meeting in the small conference room at the Bozeman Public Library. She introduced the new officers and asked members to introduce themselves and tell about their interest in genealogy or the society. Sixteen individuals attended the meeting.
- Secretary's Report: Bonnie Jackson summarized the GCGS May 2013 Minutes and the GCGS Executive Board July 2013 Minutes that were distributed via email earlier in the week. Tricia Thompson moved to accept both sets of minutes. Karen Maika seconded the motion. Both sets of minutes were unanimously approved.
- GCGS Bylaws: Heather Bienvenue told the group that we announced our intent to amend the GCGS Bylaws to include a Webmaster, Project Manager, and a State Liaison as part of the officer team at our last meeting in May 2013. Karen Maika moved to make the change to the GCGS Bylaws. Pat Paynich seconded the motion. The GCGS Bylaws change was unanimously approved. The new slate of GCGS officers for 2013-2014 are 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

- Treasurer's Report: Norma Ardesson reported that the GCGS has \$276.40 in its checking account. The audit of the 2012-2013 financial records showed the books balanced per the last bank statement.
- Project Manager's Report: Tricia Thompson reported the status of the society's indexing projects. Since forming 13 months ago (June 2012), the group has indexed over 34,200 records and placed the information on the GCGS website in the following databases:

Divorces: 10,000

Funeral Home Cards: 1,600

Naturalization Petitions: 780

Obituaries: approx. 5,400

Vital Records: 12,768

Voter Registrations: >3,600

Approx. Total: 34,200

Tricia checked out funeral home cards to be indexed. She told the group that funeral home cards offer rich genealogical information that may not be available in other places, since the

funeral home often works with the family to pull together information for the funeral or memorial, including the program. Even if you find that a funeral home listed on a death certificate has gone out of business, an operating funeral home in the area may have purchased that funeral home's records or knows where to find them.

- Webmaster's Report: Jenn Vieth was absent, so she did not give her report.
- State Liaison's Report: Michelle Westberg was absent, so she did not give her report.
- Beginning Genealogy Class: Tricia Thompson announced that her *Beginning Genealogy* class at Bozeman High School will meet Thursday, September 26, 2013 through Thursday, November 14, 2013 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (8 weeks). Registration begins at the Willson School on Monday, September 16, 2013 and costs \$49.00. Only 10 people can register for the class, so sign up early.
- GCGS Scholarship: Tricia Thompson shared a thank you card from Vincent Kesperich, a member of the GCGS, for the \$100 GCGS Scholarship (from private donations) he received to attend graduate school in Iowa. Vincent has spent numerous hours during the past year indexing Gallatin County records.
- GCGS Membership Dues: The GCGS membership dues for the 2013-2014 year (September 1 to August 31) are due in September. Tricia Thompson moved to waive the 2013-2014 membership dues for Vincent Kesperich, who will be attending graduate school in Iowa this fall. Vincent has been an outstanding member and has plans to index records for the society during his school breaks. Norma Ardeson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- Montana State Genealogical Society Conference: Carol Elliott passed out brochures to members to sign up for the Montana State Genealogical Society Conference, if they hadn't already received them in the mail. The conference will be held September 26-28, 2013 in Bozeman, MT at the Holiday Inn.
 - Volunteers Needed for the Conference: Heather Bienvenue announced that volunteers were needed to help with activities at the conference, since the Gallatin County Genealogical Society is the host for the conference. Tricia Thompson emphasized that each activity is as a helper, not as a chairperson, so the responsibilities will be minimal. You don't have to attend the conference to volunteer for an activity at the conference. Please contact Bonnie Jackson at bjackson57@mac.com to sign up to help at the conference (see the sign-up sheet for available times).
 - Additional Discussion: Our society's table, tote bag donations, and table decorations were discussed. Lindy Bunch asked how the Book Frolic at the conference works. Since no one at the meeting has actually attended a state conference before, we weren't able to say with certainty how it operates. However, we think that members from across the state (including you) will donate new or used items of genealogical or historical interest, such as annuals, directories, county histories, genealogy books, tapes, videos, DVDs, and software. These donated items will then be sold via a silent auction. The highest bidder

for each item at the silent auction will get the opportunity to purchase the item at the end of the conference. The proceeds from the silent auction, which is a major fundraiser, will go to the MSGS to help fund future conferences. Carol Elliott said she would supply a box to donate whatever items aren't sold at the silent auction to the Bozeman Public Library, if the MSGS is not going to keep them for future sales. Bonnie Jackson said she would talk to Terri Dood about the Bozeman Public Library donating genealogical themed materials they have received and do not have plans to keep or sell at their future book sales for the MSGS silent auction.

- Sunset Hills Cemetery Tour: Tricia Thompson told the group that Derek Strahn, a Bozeman High School history teacher, has agreed to lead an hour-long Sunset Hills Cemetery tour on Saturday, October 12, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m., if weather permits. This is in lieu of our regular October monthly meeting at the Bozeman Public Library.
- Ideas for Future Programs:
 - Ancestry.com – Tricia Thompson will show members some of the basics of using Ancestry.com.
 - MSU Library Tour - find out more about the collection of resources available for genealogical research at the MSU Library
 - Copyright laws regarding the use of historical and genealogical resources, publication of materials using those resources, and the posting of those resources online (e.g., DAR records for personal use vs. being posted on Ancestry.com)
 - Museum of the Rockies – how to date photographs including the opportunity to bring your own photographs to date them – Carol Elliott will check with the appropriate person at MOR to offer this program at the November 9, 2013 meeting at 11:00 a.m.
- Worthwhile Programs on TV: Bonnie Jackson told the group that The Learning Channel (TLC) is airing new episodes of *Who Do You Think You Are?* on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. Tricia Thompson said PBS is planning a new program called *Genealogy Roadshow* based on its program *Antiques Roadshow*.
- Anna Mae Hanson Award: Cheryll Nevin moved that we nominate Tricia Thompson for the Anna Mae Hanson Award for dedicated service in the genealogical community at the MSGS Conference per the solicitation of nominees in the July 2013 MSGS Big Sky Roundup. Bonnie Jackson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. A nomination letter needs to be sent to the Awards Committee Chairman, Mardi Whitmore, PO Box 1111, Livingston, MT 59047 or emailed to her at mardellaw@juno.com, so she has it by September 10th. This award will be presented at the MSGS banquet on Friday evening, September 26, 2013.
- Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Saturday, September 14 @ 11:00 a.m. in the small conference room at the Bozeman Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Jackson

GCGS Secretary