

GALLATIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

Saturday, January 11, 2014 @ 11:00 AM

The January meeting of the Gallatin County Genealogical Society was held at the Bozeman Public Library in the small conference room with 27 members and 3 guests present. Heather Bienvenue had guests and new members introduce themselves to the group. Tricia Thompson made a motion to approve the November 2013 GCGS Minutes submitted earlier by Bonnie Jackson via email. Jeri Devine seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved as written. Norma Ardeson read the Treasurer's Report indicating that there is currently \$476.40 in the checking account, but she needs to pay \$15 to the Montana Secretary of State to maintain our status as a non-profit organization for 2014. There are currently 38 paid members according to Bonnie Jackson, who has been maintaining a membership database.

Tricia Thompson gave a database update for the society's indexing efforts. There are:

Voters – 13,927 records
Obituaries – 5,731 records
Vitals – 13,787 records
Divorces – 9,991 records
Naturalizations – 778 records
Funeral Homes – 4,547 records
Total – 48,761 records

Carol Elliott, who was recently given materials for the 1979-1985 Gallatin County Genealogical Society, presented the original charter document and the By-Laws of the earlier group to Heather Bienvenue, the current president of GCGS. Carol is still sifting through the boxes of materials that were recovered from the Family History Center of the Church of Later Day Saints, where the group use to meet.

Michelle Westberg shared a card from the Montana State Genealogical Society, thanking GCGS members for their exceptional help at the 2013 state conference in September.

Tricia Thompson spent the remainder of the meeting answering questions about using Ancestry.com. Some of the questions asked were: how to save an actual image from the 1940 U. S. Census; how to save an image only once, but attach it to as many ancestors that it applies to so as not to clutter the Media Gallery; how to set the home person in a tree; how to view other people's trees; and how to use tutorials on Ancestry.com. She also reported that the Social Security Death Index has been blocked for the next three years for individuals who aren't at least 100 years old. This law was passed without an opportunity for public comment. The rationale for the law is consistency with the Privacy Act. Unfortunately, this law will make it more difficult to document many family lines, since parents names and other valuable information are on the SSI form.

The next meeting is Saturday, February 8, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. at the Bozeman Public Library in the large conference room. The guest speaker will be Terri Dood, head of Reference and Adult Services. Her topic is "Genealogical Research at the Bozeman Public Library," which will include conducting online research, available print materials, and using the resources in the Montana Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Jackson
GCGS Secretary