

GALLATIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES
May 10, 2014 @ 1:00 p.m.

Business Meeting:

GCGS met at the Bozeman Public Library in the large conference room. Heather Bienvenue had a guest, Melinda Benoit, introduce herself to the other 12 members present.

Secretary's Report: Bonnie Jackson presented the March and April GCGS Minutes, which were sent prior to the meeting via email, for approval. Tricia Thompson made a motion to approve the March GCGS Minutes as written and Norma Ardeson seconded the motion. Lynne Elder made a motion to approve the April GCGS Minutes as written and Tricia Thompson seconded the motion. The members unanimously approved both sets of minutes. The May 6, 2014, Executive Board Minutes were approved by the officers on May 7, 2014, and sent to the members as an informational item about the upcoming elections prior to the meeting via email.

Treasurer's Report: Norma Ardeson reported there is \$516.40 in the checking account.

Membership Report: There are currently 44 paid members. There was a brief discussion about the payment of dues and whether we should prorate them for people joining after the beginning of the membership year (September 1-August 31). This discussion will resume in the fall.

Project Manager's Report: Tricia Thompson reported the incredible progress that the group is making on indexing Gallatin County records. The numbers are as follows:

Voter Registrations: 21,262
Vital Records: 15,270
Divorces: 9,996
Obituaries: 5,880
Funeral Cards: 5,547
Naturalizations: 778
Total: 57,733

She also discussed the new *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* Vital Records Project at the Bozeman Public Library. GCGS members are currently indexing microfilmed newspapers beginning with 1979 and working backwards, since these records are more difficult to obtain for genealogists than the 1911 records. The Bozeman Public Library staff is presently indexing from 1911 and working forward. If you are interested in indexing these vital records, please call Tricia Thompson (587-0915) to arrange a 15-minute training session at the library. For those of you who have already been trained, please contact Tricia to schedule an indexing time at the library. There is a laptop available at BPL for this indexing project. Tricia will also be making arrangements with the courthouse to begin indexing wills sometime this summer.

Meeting Dates: The GCGS has been meeting the second Saturday in September, October, November, January, February, March, April, and May. We discussed eliminating the March meeting due to spring break, which has made it difficult to schedule speakers as well as for some members to attend. Jeri Devine made a motion to eliminate March as a meeting month and Norma Ardeson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; therefore, there will only be seven meetings in 2014-2015.

Elections: Nominations for officers for the 2014-2015 year were made by nomination, self-nomination, as well as nominations from the floor at the meeting. From these nominations the following individuals were elected:

President: Bonnie Jackson

Vice-President: Karen Maika

Secretary: Linda Gengenbacher (back-up Cheryll Nevin)

Treasurer: Norma Ardesson (back-up Jody Boland)

Project Manager: Tricia Thompson (back-up Jeri Devine)

Webmaster: Jenn Vieth

State Liaison: Carol Elliott (back-up Heather Bienvenue) – Due to the excellent article that Carol Elliott submitted to the *Big Sky Roundup* about the GCGS chapter and her impressive leadership during the past year, the GCGS members felt that she would make an outstanding representative at Montana State Genealogical Society executive board meetings and enthusiastically elected her as the state liaison. Since this was not a position that Carol Elliott had agreed to run for, GCGS still needs confirmation that she is willing to serve in this position.

Program: Genealogical Roadblocks and Successes

The conference room was only available for a limited amount of time, so there were only a few minutes left to share genealogical roadblocks and successes. Cheryll Nevin discussed the Montana Memory Project at mtmemory.org. She was impressed with how easy it has been to search for information on the website as well as the ability to copy information from it. Some of the topics available for look-up on the website are: art, oral history, state penitentiary, and diaries.

Susan Howe recently had a person contact her about downloading her husband's autosomal DNA to another website for comparison. She asked the group whether she should agree to release this information to this person who was a "match" to her husband for further genealogical testing. The group discussed the pros and cons of releasing this information.

Lindy Bunch asked about the types of DNA tests available, which one would be best for her, and which company she should hire to do the testing (e.g., Ancestry.com, GEDmatch, 23 & Me). One problem that has emerged with DNA testing is that some people are putting their DNA results under a different name than their own, making it more difficult to determine the relationship between individuals on sites such as Ancestry.com when there is a "cousins" match.

Next Meeting: GCGS meetings will resume in September.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Jackson
GCGS Secretary