

Genealogical Forum of Oregon Open House 2018

Saturday - March 3

10:00-12:00 **Virginia Group – *Military Pension: Revolutionary War-Civil War***

Military pensions were awarded by the United States government and some state governments to veterans, and in some cases, their widows and children. Pension records frequently contain information and documents of great genealogical value, sometimes documents that exist nowhere else. We'll discuss the history and laws pertaining to pensions and go beyond the customary pension database files available on Fold3 to explore numerous resources for pension files and related documents.

1:00-3:00 **German Group**

Bob and Kathy Plantz will present a program on their genealogy trip to Germany, Prussian in research in Poland and cruise to St. Petersburg. Also, Barbara Forster will explain how her son set up a genealogy webpage for her.

Sunday - March 4

9:00-5:00 ***Beginning Genealogy Boot Camp*** – Laurel Smith and Barbara Schrag

Join Laurel Smith and Barbara Schrag for a day of beginning genealogy. There will be classes about the census, vital records, immigration and naturalization, discussions about genealogy software and database use, organizing your research and more--all geared toward beginners. Only a half hour will be set aside for lunch so we suggest you bring a sack lunch. Limited to the first 50 to register by sending a message to RSVP@gfo.org. A link to the class notes and a first assignment will be sent out on February 28th.

Monday - March 5 – Irish Research

10:00-12:00 ***Finding My Way Home***

Kathy Valdez shares the story of how she broke through ancestral mysteries to fulfill her lifelong dream of going home to Ireland.

1:00 ***Online Irish Research – Tom O'Brien***

A look at some of the online resources described in John Grenham's "Tracing Your Irish Ancestors," 4th edition.

2:30 ***Irish Resources at the GFO – Tom O'Brien***

4:00 ***Are You Really Stuck? Probably Not! Suggestions for increasing your success – Harold Hinds***

Learn some of the basic concepts of brick wall busting with Harold Hinds, Ph.D., one of the leaders of GFO's Problem Solvers Group.

Tuesday - March 6 – Keith and Darlene Pyeatt

10:00 *U.S. Land Records: The Public Land Survey System, or Homage to The Square*

The Public Land Survey System is the method developed and used in most of the United States to plat, or divide, real property for sale and settlement. This presentation will teach you how locate or describe a parcel of land using this survey system. You will no longer be intimidated by a land description like NE1/4, SW1/4, Sec. 5, T3W, R12E of the 6th P.M.

11:30 *U.S. Land Records: Where to Find Them and How to Organize Your Research Findings*

Most beginning genealogists underestimate the importance of using land records in their research. Learn where to find land records and how to organize the information to help solve your research problems.

1:00 *U.S. Land Records: A Case Study of Using Deeds to Follow Your Ancestor*

This case study demonstrates how land records were used to solve a common research problem, searching for an ancestor when all that was known was that they were born about 1788 in Virginia.

2:30 *Case of the Mystery Dad*

Researching a close family member from which one has been separated at an early age can seem overwhelming, but not impossible. Learn how much detail can be uncovered through a variety of historical records. Follow one case of discovery, posthumously piecing together the life of a father his child never knew.

Wednesday - March 7 – Focus on Writing

10:00 **Learn and Chat**

Always focusing on sharing and support, join us to hear from four members, about how they unfold their family stories – what tools, what approaches: *A Case Study Based On Solid Sourcing; Newspapers, She Loves 'Em!; Vital Records and Oral Interviews*; and *Storytelling through Things We Live With*. There will also be a generous amount of Q&A where so much of the *really* good stuff happens.

1:00 *Write It Up!* – Marti Dell

Get some help to identify just one thing you really need to share with others, then write it up! Because you won't get everything written up until you get one thing written down.

2:30 *Good Writing Starts with Good Sources* – Kristin Parks

5:00 *Personal Archiving* – LauraDenise White, MARM (Masters in Archives and Records Management)

Learn not only how to preserve some of your family heirloom papers and photographs, but also see how you can put together wonderful family history gifts with these fabulous items. **Attendees are encouraged to bring in a sample of items of their very own to work on during this interactive session.** We'll work on them together while discussing ways to keep them safe, as well as ways to share them with family.

Thursday - March 8

10:00 *HeritageQuest Resources* – Nanci Remington

Thrifty researchers can access some Ancestry databases using HeritageQuest for free through the Multnomah County Library website. In addition to the Ancestry databases, HQ provides research aids and guides.

11:30 *PERSI* – Kristin Parks

The Periodical Source Index - Uncover hidden gold in an Index you absolutely cannot live without. Learn how to tap into the most extensive genealogy and local history subject index on the planet. Will include a case study.

1:00 *Using a Research Timeline* – Nanci Remington

Learn how timelines can help you define your research goal, organize and review your previous research to see gaps, conflicts and missed opportunities, and develop a framework for a written narrative.

2:30 *Sharing Your Genealogy* – Nanci Remington

Explore ways to share what you have learned with family and other researchers. We will talk about Internet options such as online trees and blogs. There will be a short lesson on how to give your tree to the GFO library.

Friday - March 9

10:00 *Google for Genealogy* – Cherie Pacheco

11:30-1:30 **Mexican Group** - presentations by Cherie Pacheco

Intro to Mexican History for Genealogy

- Basic Spanish Vocabulary for Genealogical Research
- Basic Mexican History
- Examples of Handwriting and Abbreviations

Intro to Mexican Records

- Types, Formats & Where To Find Them:
- Catholic Church Records (1500s-1900s)
- Civil Records (Beginning in 1859)
- Case Study

2:00 *Make the Most of Your Time* – Laurel Smith

Your time is valuable, so make the most of every visit to the GFO. Learn how to use GFO's website and online library catalog to plan your visit. Find out how PERSI, WorldCat, and other online tools can help you discover hidden treasures within the GFO Library. And become familiar with ALL the resources GFO has to offer.

DNA DAYS!

Saturday, March 10th - Beginners

9:00 - 10:00 ***Comparing Testing Companies*** –Emily D. Aulicino

Learn the differences between the major testing companies and why you may wish to test with all of them.

10:30 - 11:30 ***Y-DNA and mtDNA Basics*** – Narda Faust

Understand the inheritance and terminology of mitochondrial DNA and Y-DNA. Discover how it helps your genealogy.

11:30 - 12:30 ***Lunch***

12:30 - 1:30 ***Interpreting Your Autosomal DNA Test Results*** – Lisa McCullough

Did you just receive your DNA test results and you're not quite sure how to interpret them? Are your results what you expected? Confused by the terminology of centi-Morgan, matching segments and X-Match? These questions and more will be answered in this class. Some important triangulation techniques and an introduction to chromosome mapping will also be covered. Handouts regarding techniques and terminology will be available.

2:00 - 3:00 ***Organizing Data and Contacting Matches*** – Emily D. Aulicino

With so much data and regardless of the type of test, learn how to organize your matches' information into spreadsheets and add columns that fit your needs. Discover what to include in your emails to matches and how enhancing your genealogy can help.

3:30 – 4:30 ***DNA and Uncovered Secrets: Help and Support*** – Richard Weiss and Christine Kahr

DNA testing is uncovering misattributed parentage, donor children, adoptions, and other secrets every day. How to best handle these secrets is not new. This presentation provides key concepts that enable the best possibility for a positive outcome by leveraging the lessons learned over the last 50 years by the adoption search community as well as providing reputable resources to turn to for help.

4:30 – 5:00 ***Q&A***

Sunday, March 11th - Advanced

9:00 – 10:00 ***Convincing Family and Strangers to Test and Why*** – Emily D. Aulicino

There are several reasons to have family members and even complete strangers do DNA tests. Learn how to convince them to test, and how it benefits your genealogy. For all levels.

Sunday, March 11th – Advanced (continued)

10:30 – 11:30 *The Four Autosomal DNA Testing Companies* – Tim Janzen

This presentation will help you maximize your experience with each of the four major autosomal DNA tests available: Family Tree DNA's Family Finder, 23andMe, AncestryDNA, and MyHeritage's DNA test. Family Finder, 23andMe and Ancestry.com's AncestryDNA test are the three leading autosomal DNA tests used for genealogical purposes and MyHeritage has also recently entered this market. Genealogists need to know the pluses and minuses of each of these tests and how to best apply the test results to their personal genealogical research.

11:30 - 12:30 *Lunch*

12:30 - 1:30 *Examples of How Autosomal DNA Testing Solved Genealogical Problems* – Tim Janzen

Autosomal DNA tests can help you verify your family tree and also allow you to discover new ancestors. This presentation will provide multiple examples of how autosomal DNA testing was used to tackle genealogical research puzzles that could not be solved using traditional genealogical research. Some of the case studies will demonstrate how autosomal testing can reliably establish close genealogical relationships while other examples will describe how genealogical relationships 5 or more generations back in time were confirmed.

2:00 - 3:00 *The Power of GEDmatch, a Third Party Autosomal DNA Tool* – Lisa McCullough

GEDmatch.com is a third-party website that has many useful tools for comparing autosomal DNA test results from the various DNA testing companies. GEDmatch accepts autosomal data from the four major testing companies; however, if you have tested with AncestryDNA, this website is vital in helping you see which DNA segments you share with others. This presentation will cover the basic tools and site navigation of GEDmatch.

3:30 – 4:30 *Introduction to DNAGEDCOM* – Richard Weiss

DNA analysis requires the use of third party tools to be effective. This presentation is an introduction the tools at DNAGEDCOM including the DNAGEDCOM Client, Autosomal DNA Segment Analyzer, GWORKS, JWORKS, and KWORKS. *This topic is not recommended for DNA beginners.* The attendees will have: 1) an understanding of what each tool is used for, 2) how to set up each tool for use, and 3) where to get help.

4:30 – 5:00 *Q & A*