



# THE Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon  
Volume 35 • Number 6 • February 2024

## GFO Annual Appeal Surpasses Goal

*Geoff Smith, President*

Our Annual Appeal was successful! Thank you to everyone who supported our 2023 Annual Appeal with your contributions. We met our goal with a modest margin.

Your contributions ensure that the GFO will be able to continue to deliver first-rate support for our members through the largest genealogical library in the Pacific Northwest, the growing resources available on our web site, and our educational program of talks, classes, and seminars.

Several members took the initiative to make additional—and unexpected—contributions of \$9,500



**103%** **\$30,000.00**  
**We have raised \$30,791.39 of our goal!**

to the New Home Fund and the Endowment Fund during the Annual Appeal. While these contributions cannot be used for operational expenses (they are “restricted funds” in IRS parlance), they are a welcome investment in GFO’s future.

Thank you, donors!

## Nominations Sought for GFO Hall of Fame

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon has established the Hall of Fame Award as a way to honor members who have performed outstanding service and shown exceptional leadership skills on behalf of the Forum. The award is limited to one person per year, except in the case where a pair of members has worked together.

A nomination may be made by any Forum member, and the recipient will be selected from the panel of nominations by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The recipient must have a well-documented history of service, leadership, and accomplishment in more than one facet of the Forum over a significant period of time.

### Procedure

Any member may nominate another member for the award in writing. A nomination must be submit-

ted to the **Forum President** and should include the following:

1. Name and member number (if known)
2. List of services, activities, positions, and accomplishments.
3. A narrative describing the nature of their work in terms of its importance to the success of the Forum.
4. A short biography.

All areas of service will be examined and may include, but not be limited to, serving as an officer or Board member, chairing a major committee, special interest group, research committee, or data development committee, serving as a research assistant, or performing other responsibilities. Other important activities to present might include publishing their own books, teaching, giving presentations, and developing publications or electronic GFO products



*Continued on page 3*



# Genealogical Forum of Oregon

2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B18  
Portland, OR 97202-1061

## Mission

To inspire and empower every person to *discover* and *engage* with their family history.

## Contact Us

503-963-1932  
[info@gfo.org](mailto:info@gfo.org)

## Visitor Information

Library Hours  
Sunday 1–5 p.m.  
Monday & Tuesday 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Wednesday 1–5 p.m.

## Executive Board of Directors

President

**Geoff Smith**

Treasurer

**Rebecca Tait**

Vice President

**Geri Auerbach, AG®**

Director at Large

**Harold Hinds**

Secretary

**Alexa Waddle**

Director at Large

**Tina Rainer**

## Committee Chairs on the Board

Insider Editors

**Geri Auerbach, AG®**

**Keri Logan**

Online Meeting

Coordinator

**Tina Lawson**

Library

**Laurel Smith**

Purchasing

**Loretta Welsh**

Membership

**Jane McGarvin**

Technology

**Richard Crockett**

New Home

**Geoff Smith**

Webmaster

**Ed Vandehey**



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## Submissions to *The Forum Insider*

Please send short stories, news, announcements, comments, and corrections to Geri Auerbach, AG®, and Keri Logan, Editors, at [insider@gfo.org](mailto:insider@gfo.org).

Follow us



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*Nominations Sought for GFO Hall of Fame, from page 1*

such as online databases or CDs. The Board will review the information on all nominees and may consider nominations carried forward from a previous year.

The Board will select the one which, in their judgment, is the most deserving. The Board may decline to select a recipient if the available nominations are found to be inadequate or if no nominations are received. Information submitted for nominees who are not selected for the award will be retained by

the Secretary for possible use in future years by the Board.

An honorary life membership is given to the recipient. An official biography will be prepared from the data submitted and will be presented to the recipient for verification prior to the publication of the award.

To see the Hall of Fame recipients from previous years, visit the **Hall of Fame** web page. Please submit nominations to the GFO President by March 31, 2024, by email ([president@gfo.org](mailto:president@gfo.org)) or in person.

# Candidates Needed for GFO Board Positions

The GFO prides itself on being entirely run by volunteers. This year, we have four positions up for election: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Director at Large.



The GFO needs you!

These are vital roles to fill. Active and engaged members keep GFO thriving. Board members must be GFO members in good standing

and agree to serve a two-year term beginning on July 1, 2024. Responsibilities include attending at least nine of our 12 monthly board meetings each year

and submitting monthly reports. Currently, board meetings are virtual. No prior nonprofit board experience is necessary.

Please contact our **President** if you would like to know more about these positions. If you would like to attend a Board meeting to experience how the Board conducts the business of the GFO, please send an email to our secretary, Alexa Waddle ([alexa.waddle@gfo.org](mailto:alexa.waddle@gfo.org)) to receive a Zoom link to that month's meeting. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Nominations are due by March 8, 2023.

## WINTER IS HERE

### GFO Inclement Weather Policy



In case of inclement weather, the GFO Library follows the Portland Public Schools guidelines for closure or delayed opening.

If it is a day when school is not scheduled, check the GFO website ([gfo.org](http://gfo.org)), and call the GFO at (503) 963-1932 to speak with a Research Assistant to make sure that the library is open and staying open.



# Trunk Treasures No. 2

Karen Hubbard

Grandfather John Tuthill's well-used steamer trunk came to my mother after his passing. Inside, a four by nine inch envelope caught my eye. In my grandfather's handwriting, it said "Do not throw away." The return address was from the State Tax Commission, Salem, Oregon, postmarked May 25, 1950. Thinking a tax return would be quick and interesting, I spread out the contents. There were tax returns from 1947 and 1948 when John and Agnes Tuthill owned a dairy farm on Nehalem Bay. An audit of their 1947 state taxes noted an extra \$400 of state tax was due. The second letter noted the state auditor agreed that the federal return expense of \$225 for repairs and maintenance had not been copied to the state return by the tax preparer, and no additional tax was owed! Whew!

It took hard work to make a living from their dairy farm. In 1947, they sold two cattle, one pig, 15 chickens (\$370), and \$6,222.49 of dairy produce. They claimed depreciation for two horses, a frame barn, water irrigation system, farm truck, and a steel silo, and they listed dates of acquisition and cost basis. Their 1947 net farm income was \$1,205.83, tax owed \$3.00. In 1948, their net farm profit was \$1,603.09, tax owed \$41.20.

John worked outside the farm in both years, listing 1947 wages of \$46 from Waterfront Employers of Portland and \$39.75 in 1948 from then San Francisco-based Pacific Telephone and Telegraph. Both were new genealogical nuggets,



A postcard sent to the author's grandfather John Tuthill in 1914. Courtesy of Karen Hubbard.

as I had not known he worked for either company! The rest of the envelope's contents are even more interesting!

A handwritten letter in pencil from John to his wife Agnes was a touching discovery. Agnes was in Sparta, Illinois, with their two children, likely visiting family. It was poignant to hear John missing his "little midget" (Agnes stood 4' 9" tall), and the kiddos. The letter discussed train schedules to come home and plans to lift their house to place plumbing beneath the first floor.

There was also a single-page mortgage contract for land in Portland with following criteria: "It is understood and agreed that the premises shall not be occupied, except as servants, by anyone not of the Caucasian race." I wish I could say this shocked me, but the Ku Klux Klan was building membership in Oregon, and our constitution sought only Caucasian citizens for Oregon.

Two postcards were included. One sent directly to "John Tutthill" in 1914, captioned "I unexpectedly met an old acquaintance" with an illustration of a bear chasing a man. Could the sender be reminding John of an actual bear encounter?

The second postcard was sent in 1907, postmarked Excelsior, Minnesota, to John's mother, Julia, by her friend Mrs. McAnnulty to have Mr. McAnnulty send her swimsuit from the old steamer trunk. The postcard had a photo of the Steamer Harriet on Lake Minnetonka, sailing from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Finally, there were the following:

- four receipts (John and Agnes increased insurance premiums before marrying)
- a vehicle loan
- invitation to Warren township High School 1921 graduation in Gurnee, Illinois

*Continued on page 5*



*Trunk Treasures No. 2, from page 4*

- 1928 initiation into the Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America
- Local 72 Mechanics dues and insurance payments from Nov 1942 thru Nov 1943
- Three selective service cards for WWII (John served in WWI)
- 1951 payment to Lundberg & Sons Funeral Directors and Ambulance for Agnes' funeral expenses
- a letter and Christmas card from H.L. Tuthill (John's uncle Harry)!
- A total of 21 (!) new addresses to research and many variations in John's use of surnames and middle names!!!

Both John and Agnes have passed. But the chance to time travel with the help of one envelope was a surprising way of finding new information. Melding this with their timeline gave a glimpse of John and Agnes' lived experience!

All from one 4" x 9" envelope!



*A postcard of the steamer Harriet sent to the author's great grandmother, Julia, in 1907. Courtesy of Karen Hubbard.*

So glad we followed Grandpa Tuthill's note, "Do not throw away." At least don't toss without looking carefully inside!

# 2024 GFO OPEN HOUSE

*Presentation Topics*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latin-American Research</li> <li>• African-American Research</li> <li>• Mexico</li> <li>• Germany</li> <li>• Scandinavian</li> <li>• Great Lakes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New York State</li> <li>• RootsMagic</li> <li>• Family Tree Maker</li> <li>• House History</li> <li>• DNA</li> <li>• Lineage Societies</li> </ul>
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## Coming March 16-23



# French Canada SIG Seeks New Leader

The GFO's French Canada Ancestry Group is an active and friendly Special Interest Group (SIG) that meets at least quarterly. The group discusses topics of interest in French Canada as well as Acadian genealogy and history.

The group is in need of a new leader. If you have an interest in French Canada and/or Acadian genealogy, consider volunteering as the new SIG leader. No experience is needed, and we will provide training on using the Zoom platform. For more information contact Geoff Smith at [president@gfo.org](mailto:president@gfo.org).



## GFO General Meeting Coming in March

Our general membership meeting will be held on March 9 at 2:00 p.m. Per our bylaws, the candidates for elected office will be announced along with any other announcements the board feels are appropriate. The meeting, which is expected to last about 15 minutes, is followed immediately by our March GenTalk: The New Deal Programs of the 1930s, presented by Katherine R. Willson. To register, visit the [GenTalk](#) page.

GFO General Meeting ▲ March 9 ▲ 2 p.m. PT

followed at 2:15 p.m. by

### THE NEW DEAL PROGRAMS OF THE 1930S



Presented by Katherine Willson

FREE REGISTRATION: [GFO.ORG/GENTALK](https://www.gfo.org/gentalk)



# Online Events for February

## Saturday, February 3

*Virginia Roots and Vines*

[SIGN UP >](#)

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Pennsylvania Research—Although we don't think of Pennsylvania as a border state of Virginia, it definitely was prior to the creation of West Virginia. There was quite a bit of movement between the two states, particularly among the Germans and the Scots-Irish. This presentation will summarize the information contained in two week-long genealogy institute courses on Pennsylvania research and will include information about the overlapping area claimed by both states.

*German Group*

[SIGN UP >](#)

1-3 p.m.

## Monday, February 5

*RootsMagic*

[SIGN UP >](#)

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

## Wednesday, February 7

*Learn & Chat*

[SIGN UP >](#)

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

## Thursday, February 8

*The Q Review*

[SIGN UP >](#)

6-7 p.m.

## Sunday, February 11

*The Writers' Room*

[SIGN UP >](#)

2:30-4:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, February 13

*Board Meeting*

6:30-8:30 p.m.

All GFO members are invited to attend. To receive a link to this online meeting, or request an agenda item, send an email at least 24 hours in advance to [president@gfo.org](mailto:president@gfo.org).

## Wednesday, February 14

*Great Lakes Interest Group*

[SIGN UP >](#)

1:30-3:00 p.m.

## Saturday, February 17

*Genealogy Problem Solvers*

[SIGN UP >](#)

9:30-11:30 a.m.

*African American Ancestry*

[SIGN UP >](#)

12-2 p.m.

## Wednesday, February 21

*DNA Q&A: The Basics*

[SIGN UP >](#)

1-3 p.m.

*Irish Group*

[SIGN UP >](#)

6-7:30 p.m.



## Uncovering Oregon's Black History

12-1 p.m.

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Loucks Auditorium

Explore Oregon's Black History with Oregon Black Pioneers and the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society.

People of African descent have lived and worked in Oregon since before English-speaking settlement in the Americas. Discover key individuals and events in Oregon's centuries-old Black history.

Free. First-come, first-seated.





# GFO Special Interest Groups

SIG meetings occur virtually in Pacific Time. They are open to the public. Learn more about our SIGs at our [SIG page](#).

## AFRICAN AMERICAN GROUP

Led by Janice Sellers  
[african\\_american@gfo.org](mailto:african_american@gfo.org)

## BRITISH GROUP

Led by Duane Funk  
[uk@gfo.org](mailto:uk@gfo.org)

## DNA – Advanced

Led by Tim Janzen  
[dna@gfo.org](mailto:dna@gfo.org)

## DNA Q & A – The Basics

Led by Lisa McCullough  
[dna\\_qa@gfo.org](mailto:dna_qa@gfo.org)

## FAMILY TREE MAKER

Led by Johnna Waldon  
[ftm@gfo.org](mailto:ftm@gfo.org)

## FRENCH CANADA GROUP

Seeking leader  
[president@gfo.org](mailto:president@gfo.org)

## GENEALOGY PROBLEM SOLVERS

Led by Katie Daly  
[gps@gfo.org](mailto:gps@gfo.org)

## GERMAN GROUP

Led by Tia Cobb  
[german@gfo.org](mailto:german@gfo.org)

## GREAT LAKES

Led by Kim Thurman  
[greatlakes@gfo.org](mailto:greatlakes@gfo.org)

## IRISH GROUP

Led by Karen Hubbard, Peg Kenaga,  
and Erinn Sears  
[irish@gfo.org](mailto:irish@gfo.org)

## LEARN & CHAT

Led by Sandy Alto  
[learnandchat@gfo.org](mailto:learnandchat@gfo.org)

## THE Q REVIEW

Led by Alexa Waddle  
[qreview@gfo.org](mailto:qreview@gfo.org)

## ROOTSMAGIC

Led by Barry Wolff  
[rootsmagic@gfo.org](mailto:rootsmagic@gfo.org)

## VIRGINIA ROOTS & VINES

Led by Judi Scott and Carol Surrency  
[virginia@gfo.org](mailto:virginia@gfo.org)

## WRITER'S ROOM

Led by Geri Auerbach, AG®  
[writers@gfo.org](mailto:writers@gfo.org)

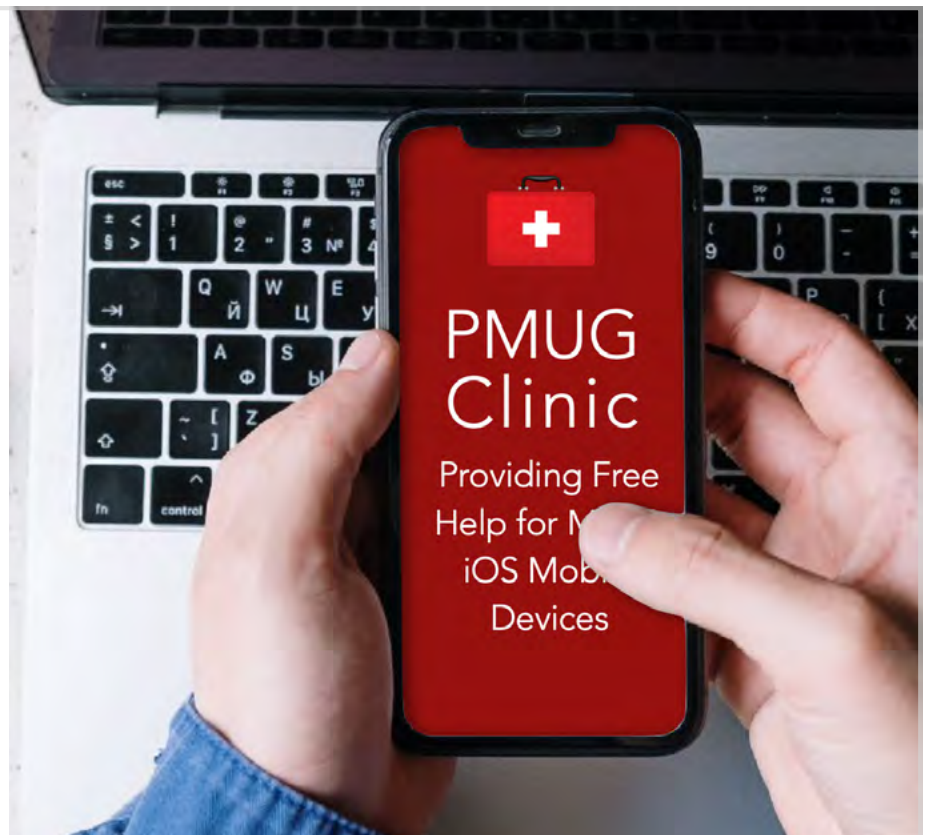


## Get Help at PMUG Clinic

**Every Tuesday Evening  
6:00 – 7:30 pm on Zoom**

- Get Free Help for your Macintosh, iPhone, iPad, iPod or Apple Watch
- For info on how to attend, contact us at:

[info@pmug.org](mailto:info@pmug.org)







# Treasurer's Report

Contact: [treasurer@gfo.org](mailto:treasurer@gfo.org)

## OCTOBER 2023 INCOME

Book Sales & Misc. Income	\$ 1,818.34
Contributions	\$ 1,611.63
Education	\$ 2,657.08
Interest & Dividends	\$ 1,110.42
Library & Research	\$ 325.33
Memberships	\$ 4,738.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,260.80</b>

## OCTOBER 2023 EXPENSE

Facilities & Equipment	\$ 5,157.60
Administration	\$ 1,407.32
Other	\$ 125.00
Publications	\$ 29.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,719.91</b>

Net Income for the Month	\$ 5,540.89
Year-to-Date Net Income	\$ -4,032.50

Donor-restricted Donations	\$ 978.00
Unrealized Gains/Losses	\$ -9,423.07
Endowment Donation	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>\$ -8,445.07</b>

## NOVEMBER 2023 INCOME

Book Sales & Misc. Income	\$ 906.54
Contributions	\$ 1,135.21
Education	\$ 1,185.00
Interest & Dividends	\$ 1,189.26
Library & Research	\$ 119.92
Memberships	\$ 2,676.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,211.93</b>

## NOVEMBER 2023 EXPENSE

Facilities & Equipment	\$ 9,732.60
Administration	\$ 612.07
Other	\$ 750.00
Publications	\$ 38.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,132.81</b>

Net Income for the Month	\$ -3,920.88
Year-to-Date Net Income	\$ -7,953.38

Donor-restricted Donations	\$ 2,393.00
Unrealized Gains/Losses	\$ 38,923.12
Endowment Donation	\$ 23.00
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>\$ 41,339.12</b>



## Registration for Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Interest Groups

All times are Pacific Time.

**February 8, 2024**  
6–7:30 p.m. Genealogy  
Newbies

**February 9, 2024**  
1:30–3 p.m. Irish

**February 12, 2024**  
2–3:30 p.m. Colonial America

**February 13, 2024**  
11 a.m.–12 p.m. German  
1:30–3 p.m. Family Tree Maker

**February 14, 2024**  
10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Genetic Genealogy  
1:30–3 p.m. Great Lakes

**February 20, 2024**  
1:30–3 p.m. Oregon Blue Book

**February 21, 2024**  
1:30–3 p.m. Roundtable: Let's Talk Genealogy

# Treasurer's Report

Contact: [treasurer@gfo.org](mailto:treasurer@gfo.org)

### DECEMBER 2023 INCOME

Book Sales & Misc. Income	\$ 1,058.80
Contributions	\$ 1,227.00
Grants (unrestricted)	\$ 3,000.00
Interest & Dividends	\$ 3,276.56
Library & Research	\$ 152.35
Memberships	\$ 3,492.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,206.71</b>

### DECEMBER 2023 EXPENSE

Facilities & Equipment	\$ 633.26
Administration	\$ 1,280.02
Other	\$ 3,928.42
Publications	\$ 39.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,881.05</b>

Net Income for the Month	\$ 6,325.66
Year-to-Date Net Income	\$ -1,627.72

Donor-restricted Donations	\$ 24,198.61
Liabilities (restricted grant)	\$ 17,415.00
Unrealized Gains/Losses	\$ 18,826.62
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>\$ 60,440.23</b>