ANNOUNCEMENT
We welcome…..
THOMAS W. JONES
Ph.D., CG, CGI, FASG
As our Spring
Seminar speaker

ALSO FEATURING……..

- BOOK VENDOR
- GFO SURPLUS BOOK SALE
- GENEALOGY TREASURES

More details in next Insider or on our website—www.gfo.org

SATURDAY
APRIL 2, 2011
9 a.m-4 p.m.
At the Milwaukie Elks Lodge

1. Five Ways to Prove Who Your Ancestor Was
2. How To Avoid Being Duped by the Internet
3. Solving the Mystery of The Disappearing Ancestor
4. Finding “Unfindable” Ancestors

HOSTS…..GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON, PORTLAND
WWW.GFO.ORG  503-963-1932
CHECK OUT
TOM’S TOPICS

Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS, has edited the National Genealogical Society Quarterly since 2002. He is a former trustee and a past president of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, past board member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and recipient of its 2004 Grahame T. Smallwood Jr. Award of Merit. Retired from a thirty-year career in higher education and professor emeritus at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., Tom works full time as a genealogical researcher, writer, editor, and educator. His research has encompassed records of every state east of the Mississippi, as well as Iowa, Missouri, Texas, England, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, and Wales. He specializes, however, in Georgia and Virginia and is most interested in solving “brick-wall” genealogical problems.

Five Ways to Prove Who Your Ancestor Was (Some Reliable and Others Not Reliable). Case studies will illustrate five ways—some reliable and others not—that genealogists “prove” an ancestor's identity: using information provided by others; using a single source; following a chain of evidence; correlating evidence from multiple sources; and weighing conflicting evidence. Attendees will learn how to use the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) to identify their ancestors accurately.

-How to Avoid Being Duped By the Internet.

The Internet brings increasingly bountiful amounts of information to genealogists’ desktops, some valid, some erroneous, and much of unknown accuracy. Attendees will learn practical strategies for discriminating between correct and misleading information. They also will learn how online genealogical information—even if its accuracy is unknown—can lead to valid conclusions about ancestors.

-Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor

Genealogists may be frustrated by not finding ancestors in the records and places where they logically expect them to be. This presentation will explain seven reasons why such ancestors seem to have disappeared, provide examples of each from actual case studies, and suggest strategies to help attendees find their elusive ancestors.

-Finding “Unfindable” Ancestors.

The failure of common research practices to identify ancestors does not mean they are unfindable. This session will describe and demonstrate nine approaches to locating difficult-to-trace ancestors.

PLEASE NOTE: AS SOON AS THE COMMITTEE CAN LOCK IN THE SEMINAR COSTS, REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE MARCH BULLETIN, AND MAYBE SOONER ON THE WEBSITE. KEEP CHECKING. ALSO, THERE WILL BE COPIES AT THE LIBRARY WHEN PRINTED. HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US ON APRIL 2ND!
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THE GFO MEMBERSHIP FEES OF $40 A YEAR
ARE 100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE
IN KEEPING WITH OUR 501c (3) NON-PROFIT EDUCATION STATUS

Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

It’s February, can spring be far behind? Come on, daffodils! Go away, cold weather!

February is also the month we celebrate two of our revered former U.S. presidents’ birthdays! George Washington, was our 1st president, and Abraham Lincoln was our 16th president. Both were great leaders, and role models. Join us for our February Monthly Program when the topic will be “About Lincoln”, with Duane Funk our speaker.

Here are some tidbits about our two leaders: While scanning the American Revolutionary Pension records on microfilm, several years ago at the National Archives in Seattle, while looking for my ancestor’s record in the “T’s”, I chanced upon a pension applicant of another man who had served at Valley Forge during that famous bitter cold winter. We know that their warm clothing supply was not adequate, with men in rags, and boots that needed repairs, as well as shortage of food. In the recounting of this man’s military history, he said that he served with Gen. George Washington at Valley Forge, and when things were bad due to the shortages, that Gen. Washington went without, didn’t eat any better than the rest of the men under him.

In Lincoln’s impoverished childhood, he learned to read by the light of the fireplace. When he reached maturity, he learned the trade of surveying, and then trained for the law, becoming our 16th president during an important period of history. Within months of his inauguration in 1961, the first shot was fired at Fort Sumter, and the nation became embroiled in the Civil War for four long years. Brothers and neighbors fought against each other, the North trying to abolish slavery, and the South trying to hold onto the commonly held practice.

In this issue, there is an article about Volunteer Opportunities at GFO. If you see something of interest that you would like to try or share your skills, let us know. We couldn’t operate without our volunteers.

Here’s to good research finds in this new year.

Lyleth Winther  lylaw1@frontier.com or 503-658-8018

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested in any of the following opportunities with the Genealogical Forum? If so, contact our temporary Volunteer Coordinator—Lyleth Winther, lylaw1@frontier.com or 503-658-8018

-Computer Interest Group leader or co-leaders
   Could you be an overseer, and lead or co-lead for the group.
   Can you answer average computer questions, demonstrate the family history program you are using, and schedule some of our members with other Family Tree-like software to demonstrate the highlights of their particular program. (List furnished of folks with other software programs)

-Co-Editor, join three others on The Bulletin team
   Do you have writing skills? Have you worked on a group’s newsletter or quarterly magazine?
   Are you comfortable with sharing articles online with the team, or taking the lead on an issue?

-Research Assistants/Receptionists on the Library desk
   We can always use help at the desk. Do you have a day a month or a day every week that you could be on hand answering members and guests questions who are doing research in the library. You will work with knowledgeable trainers until you are ready to be on your own.

-Volunteer Coordinator
   The person needs to matchup names of potential volunteers with the department of their interest-library, extractions, membership, help on the desk.
MOVING AHEAD
-Don Holtznagel-

The search for a new GFO home accelerated in December when the relocation committee began working with Charlotte Larson, Senior Associate Broker at Urban Works Real Estate. She identified a wide range of properties to provide a picture of the current market for space meeting our criteria. A total of 18 properties, including several recommended by members, have been reviewed so far. In addition to drive-by reviews of all sites, four of those were visited by the committee in December. A second set of possible properties was identified in early January, followed by further visits, analyses and comparisons. Following the committee work, the GFO board will conduct visits to those that appear to meet our criteria most closely.

We expect these processes to take place through February. Please note that by the time you read this, it is possible that events could have moved the process along at a faster pace, and not in coordination with Insider publication times. In order to get the most current information, please read the Insider EXTRA accessed from the GFO web site, which will have the most current information.

The current expectation of TriMet is that the notice of acquisition of our current building will be in early April. This one month delay will not affect the plan of the GFO Board to find a new location, prepare it, and move by the end of June. It seems clear at this point that for almost any property we select, modifications and enhancements will be needed to make it a rich environment for family research. Thus, it is very important for members and friends to respond to this year’s annual appeal, the resources from which are dedicated to improvements to the new property.

BRITISH GROUP NEWS

For our March 26th meeting, Duane Funk will do a program on things of interest about the United Kingdom censuses—what parts are missing, how to read them for information, etc.

All members with British ancestry are invited to join us at 1 pm in the Higgins Room of the GFO library, as we try to learn more about our ancestors’ background and solve some brick walls.

Lyleth Winther--

MEMBERS’ Favorite Websites:
www.gfo.org
www.archives.gov/aad/
www.usgenweb.com
www.rootsweb.com
www.cyndislist.com
www.familysearch.org
www.ancestry.com
www.nara.gov
www.sos.mo.gov/archives/
www.multcolib.org
www.ohs.org
www.cccgs-wa.org
(Clark Co Gen Soc)
www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/archives.html
www.genealogy.az.gov/
index.htm
www.DAR.org
www.theshipslist.com
http://abish.byui.edu/
specialCollections/westernstates/search.cfm (Western States Marriages to 1928)
www.kshs.org (Kansas)
www.ellisisland.org
www.Heritagequest online (through multcolib.org)
www.findagrave.com
www.footnote.com $ (free for 1st week)
www.genuki.org.uk
www.genealogy.com $
www.GenealogyToday.com
www.interment.net (cemetry inscriptions)
www.ObitCentral.com
www.progenealogists.com
www.genqueries.com

$ = Fee Sites
BOOT CAMP FOR GENEALOGISTS  
February 7, 2011

“Boot Camp” for Genealogists is a new 8-week series of classes being offered by the Oregon Genealogical Society, Eugene OR. It will be an interactive course with lectures, hands-on research, and individual research assistance to help anyone get started, or to jump start their research. Topics include: finding and interviewing relatives, 20th century resources, libraries and genealogical societies, online resources and databases, source citation, abstracting and transcribing records, and evaluating your research.

Classes begin Monday, February 7th, and consist of 8 three-hour sessions held from 6 to 9 p.m. every other week through May 16th. Tuition is $50 and pre-registration is required. Participants will receive forms necessary for each assignment. The first assignment is to be completed prior to the first session. There will be research assignments given at each session.

Classes will be held at the Oregon Genealogical Society Research Library, 955 Oak Alley, behind the Downtown Athletic Club and under the Overpark. Free parking is available in the Overpark parking garage at 10th and Oak St.

Please email education@oregongenealogicalsociety.org or call 541-345-0399 for more information.
2010-2011 ANNUAL APPEAL

List of Donors

Thanks to over 100 members, as of 1/3/11, the total of your annual appeal/relocation donations is $8,604. If you haven't donated yet, it's not too late. Any amount will assist us in reaching our $15,000 goal to be used for our upcoming move.

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2010-2011 Annual Appeal for the Genealogical Forum of Oregon Inc.

PO Box 42567 Portland, Or 97242-0567  Celebrating 65 years! 1946 - 2011

Yes, I want to be part of the future of the GFO! Here's my tax deductible donation of $______________

- Heritage Level $1,000 and up
- Ancestral Level $250 to $499
- Pedigree Level $500 to $999
- Sustaining Level $100 to $249
- Supporting Level $50 to $99
- Patron Level up to $49

Name:_______________________________________________________________
Member No.__________________________
Address:______________________________________________________________________________
City:_______________________________________State:_____________Zip+4:___________________

Please check this box □ If you do not want your name published.
A DNA SUCCESS STORY
by
MARLYN LEWIS

My great, great grandmother had three children, all “without the benefit of clergy”. Her first son (my ancestor) was born in 1862, another son in 1876, and a daughter in 1880. Knowing that the birth records in Tennessee didn’t exist at that time and church records were nearly non-existent, we thought there was no possible way to identify the father. It would forever be a black hole in our ancestry.

I had heard of a genetic test through Family Tree DNA (FTDNA), a test of a male’s yDNA, which would point to one’s paternal ancestry, (son to father to father to father, etc.). As this was my paternal line, I thought there was a chance I could at least find some clues. Your yDNA can be sampled for 12, 25, 37, or 67 marker sequences (a 100 marker test will soon become available). I corresponded with others who’d had the tests and decided the 37 marker test was my best shot at turning up usable clues to my ancestry.

I sent off the required payment, received back a cheek-swab kit to harvest some cells, and returned the cell samples. Within three weeks, scores began to come back for the 12-marker tests (the easiest and fastest results). Hundreds of matches came back. They were all from Scotland and Ireland, as well as other places around Europe. Clearly, this wasn’t narrowing down my search. A Pierce family representative pounced on my results and suggested that I was a Pierce descendant. Pierce families did live in the vicinity of my Lewis ancestors in Tennessee, so I didn’t dismiss the possibility out of hand. The 25 test results came in a week later, but showed that the genetic results were drifting away from the Pierce family, but not fatally so. The results of the 37 test would be definitive.

Another two weeks went by. Test results came in for the 37-marker test. The Pierce family was a bust. The genetic distance (how far one’s genetic sequences differs from another family’s) was too great. Of the 37 possible hits, that family wasn’t even close on 6 markers, even though the other 31 were within one marker or the same as mine. In a DNA sense, a clear miss.

There was one hit that agreed with my DNA in 36 of 37 markers, with the 37th marker only off by one sequence. Each marker can have as few as 7 and as many as 39 sequences. Consequently, this person must be a near match to me. Now, I begin the geographic vicinity search for a Matheson candidate.

Checking the census record for 1860 in Johnson and Carter counties in Tennessee, I quickly found Matheson families living very near my Lewis family. A quick look at my own database showed that there were Mathesons who married into the Lewis family! In fact, two Matheson brothers married sisters of my Mary Lewis. Clearly, the families were close, geographically as well as related by marriage. So, who is the best candidate?

Daniel Matheson is in the 1860 Tennessee census twice: once in Carter County in his brother’s household (his brother had married a sister of Mary Lewis), again in Johnson county in Daniel’s father’s household, two weeks apart. There were discrepancies, though. In the Carter census, he is called David and is listed as 18. In the Johnson census, he is called Daniel and is listed as 16 (this is correct). Census takers in that area were notorious for interchanging David and Daniel (even my own great grandfather is listed both ways in the 1870 and 1880 census). The age listed is only as good as the person giving the information. In the case of the Carter county census, it could have been his sister-in-law who gave the information, not his brother, or Daniel Matheson could have stated he was 18 just to appear older than he really was. Moreover, there is no Daniel in the ancestry of Mary Lewis, so where did her son’s name of Daniel come from?

(DNA: continued on next page)
And there was one final family story that pointed to Daniel Matheson as the father. The family in Tennessee was recently (the 1960s) asked to participate in capturing their ancestry as they knew it. The family story (scandal) was that Mary Matheson (eldest child of George and Elizabeth, and sister of William Matheson and Daniel Green Matheson) was really the mother of Daniel Green Matheson. And the family story adds that Mary Matheson had two other children as well (the younger Matheson children listed in the 1850 census of Johnson County, Tennessee). So, the family thinks that Mary Matheson had three children by an unknown man or men. One of the family speculated that the father was a Mr. Green, as Daniel Matheson’s middle name is Green (his first name comes from his grandfather, Daniel Matheson).

From my perspective of several years later, the family got the story and names pretty close to the truth, but made a mess of the relationships. Mary Lewis, not Matheson, had three children by a man or men unknown. Her first son was Daniel, named after his father, Daniel Green Matheson. My yDNA shows that Matheson is the father. This is all circumstantial, but solid. It could have been one of the other Matheson men, including Daniel Matheson’s brothers, William or Henry. It could even be old George William Matheson, but those aren’t likely candidates. Daniel Green Matheson would have been 18, and Mary Lewis would have been 16 when they got together. Mary’s first son was named Daniel after his father. Marriages to two other Matheson brothers occurred, so we know the families had a kinship as well as being geographically very close (across the river or a few houses away). The yDNA test proves that this is a Matheson connection. The family “scandal”, although convoluted and wrong on some points, adds to the evidence.

Consequently, DNA testing, in this case, gave me an ancestry I had no idea I’d ever be able to resolve. Unhappily, the man who is my yDNA match has never responded to e-mails, letters, or phone calls to help round out the family history.

-Marilyn Lewis- marlynrlewis@yahoo.com

2013 NGS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN LAS VEGAS.

Although, Portland and our GFO group were being courted for the 2013 National Genealogical Society Convention, Las Vegas has been chosen as the western Convention site for that year, per the new president Peri Muhich, who visited us a few months ago.
NEW LIBRARY BOOKS


*Tithables Loudoun County, Virginia 1770-1774*. Sparacio Publishing: McLean, Virginia, 1992. 975.5 L8862 Court


MOSHER COLLECTION

*Middlesex County, Virginia Deed Book 1 (1687-1750) and Miscellaneous Records (1752-1831)*. TLC Genealogy: Miami, Florida, 1992. 975.5 M627


*Order Book Abstracts of Middlesex County, Virginia 1677-1680*. Published by the author: McLean, Virginia, 1989. 975.5 M627 Court


*Deed Abstracts of Middlesex County, Virginia 1668-1694*. Published by the author: McLean, Virginia, 1989. 975.5 M627 Land

*Deed Abstracts of Middlesex County, Virginia 1679-1688*. Published by the author: McLean, Virginia, 1989. 975.5 M627 Land

*Deed Abstracts of Middlesex County, Virginia 1694-1700*. Antient Press: McLean, Virginia, 1989. 975.5 M627 Land

*Deed Abstracts of Middlesex County, Virginia 1703 -1709*. Published by the author: McLean, Virginia, 1989. 975.5 M627 Land
Genealogy:  
Getting your Best Results from [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon, the Genealogical Forum of Oregon and MJCC who are excited to bring you this exciting opportunity.

**Date:** March 13, 2011  
**Time:** 9:00 - 4:00 (sign-in will begin at 8:15)

**Mittleman Jewish Community Center**  
6651 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland, OR

Enjoy a day exploring your genealogy with Crista Cowan, Community Alliance Manager of [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

Have you seen recent TV shows focusing on family history? If so, you may be wondering how you can get started on your own family history. Or you may be a long time user of [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) and are wondering how to get more from your membership.

Crista will give a series of presentations that will demonstrate how to maximize your successful family history research using [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) a prominent genealogy tool available at local libraries and at home by subscription. You will learn about:

- Getting the Most Out of [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)  
- Immigration and Emigration Records  
- Finding your Jewish Ancestors  
- Tapping into [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) and Rootsweb Communities  
- Best Strategies for Searching [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)  
- Simplifying Online Research using Family Trees

Opportunity to get your questions answered. Option for individual consults with genealogy experts will be available at additional fee.

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**Early Bird reduced-cost Registration for this day long seminar includes a kosher buffet lunch, beverages, snacks and handouts. The fee is $18 per person in advance (deadline is February 28). Day of the seminar registration is $25 and lunch may not be guaranteed. Please submit the attached registration with a check ASAP for planning purposes. For more info write:** [JGSOregon@gmail.com](mailto:JGSOregon@gmail.com)

**NAME (S)**

**EMAIL**

**ADDRESS**

**CHECK ENCLOSED payable to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon $**

($18 per person)  
**(reminder, registration increases to $25 after February 28)**

**SEND to:** JGSO, PO Box 19736, Portland, OR 97280 (registration will be confirmed by email or phone)
The Forum Insider

Genealogical Forum of Oregon Inc.
1505 SE Gideon Street
PO Box 42567
Portland, OR 97242-0567

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 6
THE INSIDER
FEBRUARY 1, 2011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2011

6th  Sunday: 1:00 p.m. –4:30
Heritage Scrapbooking
7th  FREE MONDAY
8th  Tuesday: 6:00 p.m.
Board Meeting
12th  Saturday: 9:30 a.m.
Illinois Group
11:45 a.m. Writers’ Forum
2:00 p.m. Monthly Program
Duane Funk
“Lincoln Revisited”
19th  Saturday: 6:00 p.m. to
6:00 a.m. Sunday
All-Nighter

26th  Saturday: 10:00 a.m.
Introduction to Genealogy

MARCH 2011

6th  Sunday: 1:00 p.m. to 4:30
Heritage Scrapbooking
7th  FREE MONDAY
8th  Tuesday: 6:00 p.m.
Board Meeting
12th  Saturday: 9:30 a.m.
Illinois Group
1:45 p.m. Writers’ Forum
2:00 p.m. Monthly Program
Tom O’Brien -“The Amazing
Irish”
19th  Saturday: 9:30 a.m. TMG
1:00 p.m. Irish Group

APRIL 2011

2nd  Spring Seminar:
LIBRARY CLOSED
3rd  Sunday: 1:00 p.m.-4:30
Heritage Scrapbooking
4th  FREE MONDAY
9th  Saturday: 9:30 a.m.
Illinois Group
11:45 a.m. Writers’ Forum
2:00 p.m. Monthly Program
Peggy Baldwin - “Writing Your
Stories”
12th  Tuesday: 6:00 p.m
Board Meeting
23rd  Saturday: 10:00 a.m.
“Introduction to Genealogy”