

The Forum Insider

VOLUME 20, Issue 3

October 1, 2008

**NEWSLETTER
of
THE GENEALOGICAL
FORUM OF OREGON**

www.gfo.org

1505 SE Gideon
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Powell and SE 12th Ave
(Milwaukie Ave).
503-963-1932

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P.O. Box 42567
Portland, OR 97242-0567

**Monthly Membership
Meetings:**
Second Saturday of each
month at 2:00 p.m. with a
speaker.

Library Hours
Mon-Tues-Wed-Thurs
9:30 to 5 p.m.
Saturdays: 9:30-3 p.m.
Sun: 12-5 p.m.
Closed Fridays

**SUBMISSIONS TO
THE INSIDER**
Feedback, Corrections, News,
Short Success Stories, and
Announcements to:
Janis Bailey, editor, at
jbailey172@comcast.net

Or leave messages at GFO
desk 503-963-1932
Submissions by the 7th of the
month for inclusion in the
following month's issue.



1946

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**THE GFO MEMBERSHIP FEES OF \$30 A YEAR ARE 100% TAX
DEDUCTIBLE IN KEEPING WITH OUR 501 c (3) NONPROFIT
EDUCATION STATUS**

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We are just a few months away from the Oregon Sesquicentennial, and the GFO has several events underway or planned. You have already seen the newly redesigned *Bulletin*, and all issues this year are being planned under the sesquicentennial theme. The Education Committee is planning all of the monthly programs for this year around the same theme. For the actual Oregon Birthday Party on February 14, the Education Committee and Board are planning an open house with a special series of educational presentations in the Higgins Room. (That activity replaces the February member meeting.) We also expect to issue the final CD in the *State Marriage Record* series in 2009.

If you haven’t already noticed, a new addition to the web site is the *Insider Extra*. This newsy column was conceived as a way to get news out in the months the *Insider* isn’t printed, but it is also a way to get information out in a timely fashion anytime.

The August Board meeting voted to implement new categories of membership aimed at providing a convenient way for members who wish to do so to make contributions above the standard membership fee. These new categories are listed in the adjoining column.

This year, the Endowment Committee is embarking on a series of educational seminars to lay the groundwork for a major expansion of the fund. Finally, we have a top-flight topic and speaker for the Spring Seminar. This will be an exciting year indeed! Please find details elsewhere in this *Insider*, and put these events in your calendar. I look forward to seeing you there.

Don Holznagel

Our Supporters

**EMMERT INTERNATIONAL
SHILO INNS AND RESORTS
TAZO TEA
FREE GEEK**

AUGUST 12th Board Meeting

New Membership Levels:

Regular—\$30

Sustaining—\$50-\$99. Receive 2 guest passes for non-members and their name in the *Insider*.

Supporting—\$100-\$249. Receive 4 guest passes for non-members and their name in the *Insider*.

Patron—\$250-\$500. Receive 6 guest passes, name in the *Insider* and 5% off merchandise and books.

These new levels will be introduced as renewal notices are sent.

Gerry Lenzen, representing the Education Committee, announced that the speaker for the Spring Seminar will be Larry Jensen, a German research specialist. The Seminar is tentatively set for April 18, 2009,

LIBRARY CLOSURE DATES FOR YEAR 2008

Spring & Fall Seminar Days—closed

Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008—Thanksgiving

Thursday, Dec. 25, 2008—Christmas

Thursday, January 1, 2009—New Year’s Day

HELP SUPPORT GFO

Shop online for merchandise and subscriptions that give GFO commissions. Go to the GFO Web Site where you will see “Support Us” on the right-hand side. Click on **Amazon, Heritage Books or Family Tree DNA** (to order a test kit for which you will receive a discount.)

Subscribe to **World Vital Record** or **Footnote.com**. These must be ordered through the Web Site for GFO to earn a commission.

If, when making purchases at **Office Depot**, you give our phone number (503-963-1932), GFO will earn a 5% commission.

The Forum Insider (ISSN 1051-5666) is the newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon Inc., PO Box 42567, Portland OR 97242-0567. The Forum is a membership organization devoted to genealogical research, preservation, and education. The GFO publications promote the field of genealogy for the professional and the hobbyist. Dues are \$30 per year for individual memberships and \$45 for joint memberships. Membership includes subscriptions to *The Bulletin* (March, June, September, and December) and *The Forum Insider* (January, February, April, May, July, August, October & November). Material from *The Forum Insider* may be reproduced provided credit is given to the publication, the author of the article, and the Genealogical Forum of Oregon. *The Forum Insider* staff includes Janis Bailey, Editor; Loretta Welsh, Print Shop Manager; Dixie Read & Jim Morrow, Printers; Shirley Durkheimer, Collating; and Agnes Nuttbrock, Mailing Labels; and David Hupp, Proof Reader.

**MARRIAGE RECORDS,
OBITS,
LOOKUPS**

**Check the GFO
records index online**
Request a photocopy
of the original record
from:

**Multnomah County
Marriage Records**
Years currently available
online:
1855 - 1904

**NW Oregon Obit Index
of area clippings
collected by
the late Lottie Gurley**
is now online! Find your
ancestor
and request a photocopy
of the obit.

FEES: for a lookup
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They do the research for
\$30/hour, billed in 10-
minute increments, \$5 for each
10 minute segment. Success
not guaranteed but payment
required regardless of out-
come. Copies: \$0.75/page.
Mailing Fee: \$5.00 for out-
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*Opinions expressed in this
Newsletter are not necessarily
those of the Genealogical Forum
of Oregon.*

NOTABLE ANCESTORS

Walter De Gray Birch

By

Georgianna De Gray Birch Thurber

Imagine my surprise and pleasure, upon reading the August *Insider*, to find that the Forum had acquired the book, *History of Scottish Seals*, written by my great-grandfather, Walter De Gray Birch. He was the son of Samuel Birch, Egyptologist for the British Museum, and was born January 1, 1842, in London.

Walter was educated at Trinity, Cambridge, and at the age of 22, entered the manuscript department in the Museum. He was made senior assistant the following year, which position he held until his retirement in 1902. He was fluent in several languages, and a handwriting expert, as were his father and grandfather. Walter translated countless ancient manuscripts, and wrote over 34 historical works, plus numerous articles on literary and archeological subjects. Some of these include: *Collection of Charters Relating to Anglo-Saxon History*, *The History of the Domesday Book*, *Catalog of Saxon Abbots*, *The Royal Charters of the City of London*, and many others. Of interest to anyone in the Mansel Family would be *A History of Margam Abbey*, written by Great-Grandfather Birch in 1897, detailing the early history of that family.

On November 1, 1862, he married Carolina de Albuquerque of Portugal. Of their ten children, only five survived past childhood. Carolina died in 1877 after the birth of her third daughter. Walter married a minister's daughter, Florence Brown, in 1878. She was related to the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, to Lawrence of Arabia's family, and to J. Brown, Q.C., a well-known London judge. Their five children include my grandfather, Eustace De Gray Birch.

To escape the cold English winters, many people went to the southern coast of France for a holiday, and that is where Walter died in 1924 at the age of 82. He lived a full and noteworthy life.

Do you have a notable ancestor?

Perhaps he or she is not famous or infamous, but worthy of note.

If so, send between 150–250 words about this person to the editor at: jbailey172@comcast.net or drop off a note at GFO's front desk for *The Insider*. Please include how you can be reached.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Jan Fenter

I thought I'd pass along this fun site for making timelines:

<http://www.ourtimelines.com/>

This internet site can help add interest to your family stories. It shows what was happening in the world during the time period you choose. It could be your own life timeline or that of one of your ancestors, and might be a useful tool when writing your family history. Use their timeline as a shell and add your own family happenings to it. The list is someone's idea of notable events and people, but add or delete what you want. Some things you could add are family births, marriages, deaths, graduations, military service and date of the soldier's homecoming, immigration dates, memorable vacations, first car, etc. Highlight and copy their timeline into your Word program, add your own family information and print it. Or just print their timeline with your name or ancestor's name at the top.

It also has a place where you can put in the month and day of birth and see what famous or infamous people were born on the same day.

There is one section where you can ask for "Peers." Use this one for yourself or your ancestors. I put in the year my great, great grandfather COOK (or KOCH) was born, 1807, and it gave me the following famous people: 1807 - Louis Agassiz: Scientist; Ice Age concept, January 19, 1807 - Robert E. Lee: US Military figure; February 27, 1807 - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: Author.



Connie's Corner

Local Histories

Have you looked at those leather-covered county and state histories that dot the GFO library shelves? In the last part of the nineteenth century, publishers sent agents into a county and invited the residents to participate in a history project. For a fee, the information submitted by residents was written up and published. The sketches often include the names of the individual's parents and grandparents, the maiden name of his wife, the names of his children, and dates and places of family births, marriages, and deaths.

County histories shouldn't be considered absolutely true and factual. There were many opportunities for errors to creep in. The subject of the biography may not have been remembered correctly, or the writer may have not been able to read the information. We need to find documents created closer in time to the events, but the histories are a wonderful starting point.

As a case in point, a 1911 biography for David M. Dunne of Portland, Oregon, includes information that probably was supplied by him.

“David M. Dunne was born in Tipperary, Ireland, October 19, 1851, a son of John and Johanna Dunne. He received his preliminary education in the national schools of Ireland and later in the United States, his parents having emigrated to this country when the subject of this review was ten years of age.”

Source: Joseph Gaston, *Portland Oregon :Its History and Builders* Volume III (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1911), 585-6.

This passage provides direct evidence of the names of Dunne's parents, his birth date and place, his literacy, and his age of arrival in the United States. Some of the information was correct, and some was not. The parish where Dunne was baptized in County Tipperary was eventually located, and his birth date and parent's names were verified. The family did not arrive in the United States when Dunne was ten years old (ca 1861). Rather, they arrived on 5 August 1864.

While the error is not serious, it could be a research stumbling block. We could be so busy looking for a Dunne family who arrived in New York City in 1861 that we wouldn't recognize the “Dunn” family who arrived in 1864. The GFO library has a good collection of histories, both on the regular shelves and in the Rare Book Room. Schedule a time when you can go to the library to see if one of your ancestors paid the fee for his biography to be placed in a history.

Connie Lenzen, CG*

*CG, Certified Genealogist is a service mark of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, used under license by board certificants after periodic evaluation, and the board name is registered in the US Patent & Trademark Office.

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.multicolib.org
- www.ohs.org
- www.ccgswa.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\(Western States Marriages to 1928\)](http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates/search.cfm(Western%20States%20Marriages%20to%201928))
- www.kshs.org (Kansas)
- www.ellisland.org
- HeritageQuestOnline (through multicolib.org)
- www.findagrave.com
- www.footnote.com \$ (free for 1st week)
- www.genuki.org.uk
- www.genealogy.com \$
- www.GenealogyToday.com
- www.interment.net (cemetery Inscriptions)
- www.ObitCentral.com
- <http://genealogy.az.gov/index.htm>
- <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>
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\$ = Fee Sites

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WORD SEARCH

F	I	L	E	S	A	C	H	U	R	C	H
M	F	T	C	A	R	M	S	H	J	T	W
D	A	S	M	N	C	U	K	Y	R	G	Y
N	M	D	U	C	H	R	R	I	R	Y	R
A	I	R	S	E	I	O	B	A	R	E	O
R	L	O	E	S	V	F	V	A	V	A	T
E	Y	C	A	T	E	E	R	I	T	E	S
K	B	E	R	O	S	B	D	A	M	H	I
R	J	R	C	R	I	E	D	E	A	T	H
A	B	H	H	L	N	P	R	O	O	F	W
M	E	T	A	C	I	F	I	T	R	E	C
M	U	R	E	F	V	S	U	S	N	E	C

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------|---------|
| ancestor | church | family | library |
| archives | data | files | marker |
| birth | death | forum | proof |
| census | DNA | grave | records |
| certificate | evidence | history | search |

Circle the words in the puzzle from the words in the list

ILLINOIS INTEREST GROUP

Oct. 11: Kristy Gravlin "ILLINOIS TWP HISTORIES". Enjoy learning about the basics of TWP Histories. How do they help us in our search?

Nov. 8: Doreen Clayton "ILLINOIS FAMILY GROUP SHEETS" also Pedigree Charts. Much needed handy tools. Many different formats to use.

Dec. Winter Break. Have a great time with Family and Friends. Take photos for family journals.

THE DNA INTEREST GROUP

The GFO DNA Interest Group will meet October 13th from 1-3 pm in the Higgins Room at the GFO Library. Everyone is welcomed and you do not need to be a member of GFO to attend. The topic will address how to use DNA testing to break through your genealogical brick walls. We will explore and discuss the various DNA Blogs and other related tutorials currently online. There will be time for any question on Genetic Genealogy, no matter how basic.

**BRITISH INTEREST GROUP
TO MEET OCTOBER 25TH**

GFO's British Group will meet in the Higgins-Room of the library on October 25th (1 pm), starting off the new season with speakers and discussions on brick walls. On August 16th, some of the members of the group met at the historic McLoughlin House in Oregon City for a guided tour, followed by lunch at the new Highland Still House Pub & Restaurant. Bangers and Mash, Beef Pasties were the order of the day.

Dr. John McLoughlin, who was chief factor at Fort Vancouver, a British Trading post, angered his superiors when he fed and supplied the American settlers who arrived over the Oregon Trail. Because he wouldn't send them packing back east with winter weather coming on, he was fired. In honor of his assistance to the pioneers, he is generally known as the "Father of Oregon" in Oregon history books.

NOTE!! The change in meeting date is to avoid conflict with the Fall Seminar September 27th.

The 2008-2009 programs will be as follows:

Oct. 25th: Gwen Newborg--Ft. Wayne & Columbus Ohio trip--slant toward British research

Nov. 1st or 3rd Sat, TBA ; trip to Fort Vancouver with lunch following.

Jan .24th: Duane Funk, Welsh Surnames,
March 28th: Guest speaker: TBA,

May 30:th: Doris Cruickshank: Following the Enumerator: looking at the UK census, observing the layout of the community. PLUS the Snacks of Our Ancestors.

All GFO members are invited to join the group if you have roots in England, Scotland, Wales or Scots-Irish. We meet on the 4th Saturdays of odd months with at least one field trip. This is a new group starting its third year. Contact person: Lyleth "Lyla" Winther, 503-658-8018 or; lylaw@pacifier.com

Genealogy Humor

Why waste your money looking up your family tree? Just go into politics, and your opponents will do it for you." -- **Mark Twain**

VOLUNTEERS

PAT BURLING, HALL OF FAME HONOREE

By Lyleth Winther

This past annual meeting in June, we honored Pat Burling as the recipient of this year's Hall of Fame Award.

Pat has well-earned it. She is a special volunteer, having served for many years in one capacity or another. Currently, she serves on the Education Committee which brings us seminar speakers as well as Monthly Program speakers who give us more information to help us in our research. She has even prepared and presented monthly programs over the years..

Pat served for 8 years as a Receptionist in the library, or Research Assistant as we now call them. She was a Co-Editor of the *Forum Insider* newsletter for 5 years, a Co-Chair for the 1991 Family History Fair, exhibits Co-Chair for the National Genealogical Society's 1991 Conference which was hosted by our group here in Portland. You name it, she's done it.

Thank you, Pat.



Pat Burling

Financial Planning Workshops

The GFO Endowment Committee is embarking on a plan to expand the Endowment Fund significantly over the next few years. It is encouraging member participation by providing free educational opportunities to members to assist them in tax and estate planning by identifying ways they can benefit themselves and reduce their tax burden through stewardship and gifting.

An informative workshop entitled **“Five Ways to Reduce Your Taxes”** will be offered free to members of the GFO. Attendees will be introduced to planning techniques to reduce income taxes and provide for retirement, education, or gifting. You will learn the many ways not to waste assets, and how to work with your accountant to lower taxes. Tax planning isn't only for the rich and famous; in fact, it may be more important for those with more modest nest eggs. The workshop is beneficial to all adults, not just retired persons.

The workshop leader will be Charles Bennett, Certified Finan-

Financial Planning (continued)

cial Planner, who is a member of the Endowment Committee and an avid genealogist. He is a partner in the financial planning firm of Bennett, Herman, Geertsen LLC, specializing in planning for individuals with modest estates. He has been a board member of several non-profit organizations in the Portland area.

The workshop is offered to GFO members only, and will be conducted in the Higgins Room at the GFO Library. Sessions are 1½ to 2 hours long depending on questions, and will be offered at the following times:

Oct. 13, 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 15, 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Attendance is limited to 24 individuals at one time, and we need a minimum of 10 people to have a successful session. On the registration coupon below, indicate at least two preferences, if you can, by numbering them in case we need to combine sessions. Mail coupon to: GFO Financial Workshop, PO Box 42567, Portland, OR 97242-0567; or turn in form at the front desk; or call the GFO at 503-963-1932.

I wish to enroll in the GFO financial planning workshop:

Name: _____

Select Preferred Session(s):

- Mon. Oct. 13, 9:30 a.m.
- Mon. Oct. 13, 6:30 p.m.
- Wed. Oct. 15, 9:30 a.m.
- Wed. Oct. 15, 6:30 p.m.

E-mail: _____



THE GFO NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

We need help at the desk in the Library; to help index some of the projects we have in place and to help with look-up requests that come into the GFO. With so many of our indexes now on our website (check-out www.gfo.org to see some of the great indexes we have put on-line) we need additional helpers to fill the requests that come in.

We also need members willing to write articles for our publications or are interested in sharing their research strategies with other members. Maybe you would like to be part of our Education Committee and help plan the GFO educational events and offerings?

If so, please contact me, Jan Robinson, on Wednesday afternoons at the Library (503-963-1932), or via email at desdemona@centurytel.net. Any GFO Board member would also be willing to talk to you about how fulfilling it is to be part of the GFO and how you can help to make a difference.

LIBRARY COLLECTION NEWS

It's book ordering time again!

Now is the time to let us know the states (and counties) or countries you are currently researching. Your requests, and added data from the most recent member surveys, will determine where we do our shopping for this year's new book purchases.

We are constantly improving our Oregon Collection. Currently, there are almost 5000 Oregon items on the Library shelves. Unfortunately, some counties have very little material. The catalog shows fewer than 25 items for each of these counties: Baker, Columbia, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Grant, Hood River, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Union and Wallowa! Even worse, Gilliam, Harney, Sherman and Wheeler counties have fewer than 10 items each!! There must be more out there, if you know of any Library materials for these under-represented counties, please let us know..

DID YOU KNOW?

Now there is an electronic version of *The Insider* called "*The Insider Extra*" blog. Just go to gfo.org and click on "Insider Extra" displayed in purple in the center column. There you will find the latest up-to-the-minute information about Forum happenings. This is especially important during the months when there is no print addition of the Insider.

Let us know what you think and keep in mind this blog is a work in progress. (jb)

Military Websites I Love

By
Sandy Sterling

Several years ago, I found two great websites for military information. And for once it's true, "we're the government and we're here to help". In this case it's the Department of Veterans Affairs Burials and Memorials and the National Park Service. The address for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Burials and Memorials is:

<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>.

This site is a grave locator for veterans buried in national cemeteries and those buried abroad. It does include some burials in private cemeteries if the VA supplied the stone and the death occurred after 1997. Civilian spouses of veterans are included in the database, too. National cemeteries date back to the Civil War so there are thousands, perhaps millions, of names in the database.

The information on the veteran includes rank, branch of service, service period (sometimes a bit misleading; my husband served in 1956-1960 and he's included in the Vietnam era), birth and death dates, cemetery name, section and grave number. The VA has added cemetery maps for the national cemeteries so you can see the area where the grave is within the cemetery.

The other great site is courtesy of the National Park Service. It is the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System. It's at <http://civilwar.nps.gov/cwss>.

Not only does the site include over 6,000,000 names of soldiers and sailors who served on both sides in the war, with their unit (ordinal), function (cavalry, infantry), rank at enlistment and at discharge, it also includes regimental histories, battles, prisoners and more.

The NPS is still adding information to preserve the records and prepare for the upcoming sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

This website led me to get the compiled records of my three Civil War veterans. One had a list of the equipment he had been issued. There was nothing on whether he had to give it back or pay for it at the end of the war. He was also detailed to the 1st Michigan Brigade as the Brigade blacksmith. My other great-great grandfather took advantage of the bonus pay and re-enlisted. He was deaf in one ear as a result of his service. And my great-great grandfather was 43 when he was drafted in 1864.



The Forum Insider

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Portland OR 97242-0567

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THE FORUM INSIDER OCTOBER 2008

GFO Calendar and Hours

OCTOBER, 2008

- 6th Monday: Free Monday
(bring a friend)
- 11th Saturday:
9:30 a.m. Illinois Group.
11:45 a.m. Writers Forum.
2:00 p.m. Monthly Program
Gerry Lenzen: First Settlers: (Pre-1849).
- 13th Monday: DNA Interest
Group 1:30 pm.
- 14th Tuesday: 5:30 p.m.
Board Meeting.
- 20th Monday: 7:00 p.m.
Computer Interest Group.
- 24th Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.
TMG Forum.
- 25th Saturday: 10:00 a.m.
Introduction to Genealogy.
1:00 p.m. British Interest Group .
- 27th Monday: 7:00 p.m.
Round Table Discussion

NOVEMBER, 2008

- 3rd Monday: Free Monday
(bring a friend)
- 8th Saturday:
9:30 a.m. Illinois Group
11:45 a.m. Writers Forum
2:00 p.m. Monthly Program:
Richard Rutherford, CSC: Christ-
ian Burial Practices
- 10th Monday: 1:00 p.m. DNA IG
- 11th Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. Board
Meeting
- 16th Saturday: 9:30 a.m. TMG
SUG
1:00p.m. Irish Interest Group
- 17th Monday: 7:00 p.m. Computer
Interest Group
- 22nd Saturday: 1:00 p.m. British IG
- 24th Monday: 7:00 p.m. Round
Table Discussion
- 26th 6:30p.m. TMG Forum
- 27th Library Closed Thanksgiving

DECEMBER, 2008

- 1st Monday: Free Monday
(bring a friend)
- 8th Monday: 1:00 p.m. DNA
Interest Group
- 13th Saturday: 9:30 a.m.
Illinois Interest Group
11:45: Writers Forum
No Monthly Program:
- 15th Monday: 7:00 p.m.
Computer Interest Group
- 22nd Monday: 7:00 p.m.
Round Table Discussion
- 24th Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.
TMG Forum
- 25th Library Closed For
Christmas
- 27th Saturday: 10:00 a.m.
Introduction to Genealogy