Please Preserve Heritage for the Future

Vince Patton, President

Through your generosity in supporting the mission of the GFO, you share our values of preserving and sharing heritage for future generations.

Your support is essential to all the resources, records, and education that the Genealogical Forum of Oregon provides.

We’re 100% volunteer. No paid staff. No paid fundraisers.

But we’re facing rising costs, some of them unexpected. A month ago, our website service unexpectedly jumped 22% to $1968 per year. Database subscriptions rose 10% to $5370 per year.

Member dues cover just 25% of our budget. So, once a year—and only once—we ask for your additional support.

Please make your tax-deductible donation now at gfo.org/appeal.

- Your $75 donation could pay for two months of our website cost increase.
- Your $100 donation would offset one month’s rent increase.
- Your $448 donation would cover one month of database subscriptions.

Every single contribution goes directly into providing resources and education.

Everyone is welcome at the GFO. We offer abundant opportunities to everyone who visits the library, searches our website, or preserves their family history with us.

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon would not be here if those before us had not valued preserving our heritage. Please honor their dedication and leave a legacy of your own. Give now!

Don’t Miss GFO’s Open House!

LauraDenise White, Insider Editor

GFO’s annual Open House will run from March 13 through March 22, 2020. That’s ten full days packed with FREE genealogical classes and access to GFO’s library, databases, and digitized resources.

This year’s class schedule is filling up and can be viewed at gfo.org/open-house.

Highlights include:
- Mexican Genealogy—Guest Speaker John Schmal
- DNA Day
- Software Day
- Irish Day
- Oregon Donation Land Claims
- Online Black Historical Newspapers

We look forward to having you join us! GFO’s Open House is also a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and make new discoveries in your research.
Library Team Launches Digitization Effort

Laurel Smith, Library Committee Chair

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon strives to provide the best in resources for our members. One of the really stellar things in our library is the periodicals collection; however, it is a collection that we rarely see used.

We understand. It’s so easy to jump on the computer to find indexes and documents these days that many researchers never make it past the research area to the books, let alone go poring over a stack of unindexed genealogical journals, page by page by page.

We’ve said it before, and it bears repeating: Most genealogical content is not on the internet.

So, the GFO Library Committee has launched a new project to help you get more out of the outstanding periodicals collection at GFO. We’re digitizing!

What this means for you: Instead of slogging through paper copies at the GFO, you’ll be able to access digitized files when you visit the library. Instead of going issue by issue, you’ll be able to open one digital file for (up to) a 10-year span and do keyword searches.

What this means for the GFO: We’re able to preserve the periodicals we have from further deterioration and protect them from disappearing from the library. Additionally, we’re clearing some much-needed shelf space, because we are putting the paper copies into storage.

The process is not as speedy as we’d like—and the Library Committee would welcome more volunteers to help—but the effort is well underway.

One of the first titles we digitized was the Redwood Researcher. On our shelves was a 50-year run of journals, four issues per year. This meant our patrons needed to manually look through 200 issues to find information.

[continued on page 3]
Library Team Launches Digitization, continued...

These have been turned into five searchable digital files and 24 inches of library shelf space.

In addition to the periodicals, there will be more digital content coming to our GFO researchers. Some of the content will be available from home and lots more will be available when you visit the GFO. Stay tuned and be sure to read the in-depth article in the March issue of The Bulletin.

How can you help? Volunteers are needed at the library to . . .

- Remove bindings, staples, tape, etc.
- Prepare items for scanning (review and identify missing material)
- Scan on high-speed scanner
- Perform processing in Adobe Acrobat Pro on GFO computers (training provided)

We are also seeking individuals who have Adobe Acrobat Pro to do processing at home.

Want to help? Please email library@gfo.org, and we’ll get you started.

Lesson Learned

Nanci Remington

In early November, Mike Fernandez sent an email to the members of the German Interest Group noting that there would be free access to the FindMyPast website over the Veterans Day holiday weekend. I thought of the site as a resource for records from the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Canada. Still, I knew they had a growing collection of United States records, and I had occasionally used the site to access the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) but had not done extensive research on it.

Since access was free and available at home, and because it was Veterans Day, I randomly plugged in my dad’s name. Surprise! The first result was a marriage record from Kentucky in March 1942. I knew my father had a brief marriage before he married my mother. I had a name and an approximate date. But this record also provided me with an image of the marriage bond and registration of marriage. The new information included the name of the woman he married (my earlier information had an incorrect spelling for her surname), her parents, my dad’s residence at the time (Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee), and his employer (Vultee, which is an aircraft manufacturer).

My dad spent most of his life working for aircraft companies, but I did not know about this job or that he had lived in Nashville. He returned to California shortly afterwards. He is listed as married when he enlisted in the Army Air Force in November of 1942. The family story is that Dad brought home “an Italian girl” and that the marriage was annulled. His wife was not Italian. I have no idea if there was a divorce or annulment. But he was single on later military records. He married my mother in 1952. And although the information was not entirely new, it does fill in a piece of my father’s story.

The description for the United States Marriages record set on FindMyPast says that the images were from FamilySearch. However, I could not find the marriage on that site or on Ancestry, even though I now had an exact location, date, and spelling of the name.

I have learned not to ignore a website just because I think I know what records it may contain. Next time I am at GFO Library, I will definitely spend more time on FindMyPast.

If you would like to see what records are on the site, you can do some preliminary searches without a subscription at search.findmypast.com/historical-records. Good luck with your research.
Shelf Place Markers at GFO

GFO’s Library Committee recently created shelf markers for your convenience. When removing a book from our stacks, simply use one of the shelf markers to keep the book’s place on the shelf.

President Vince Patton saw something similar at a library in California, and Mac McGarvin has taken on the job of creating shelf markers for us.

The shelf markers will be hanging on hooks in the aisles as shown to the right.

That process again: take a book off the shelf and insert a shelf marker, then, when you’ve had your fill of the book, reshel the book, pull the marker, and return it to the hook.

Thank you for keeping GFO’s library organized, neat, and tidy for the benefit of your fellow researchers.

Aurora Colony: A Christian Communal Society

Reprinted with permission from the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter

Nearly 600 people, almost all German and Swiss emigrants, established and lived in the Aurora Colony, a Christian communal society, from 1856 to 1883. Christian communal living in the Aurora Colony was carried out by individuals who were members of specific family groups, and this was notably unlike other Christian colonies that practiced celibacy.

Known by his followers as Father Keil and as Dr. Keil and King Keil to others, Wilhelm Keil was the leader of one of the most successful nineteenth-century utopian community experiments west of the Rocky Mountains. He was born in Bleicherode, Prussia in 1812. In 1836, he married Louisa Reiter, and the couple embarked for America soon after.

Keil went through a series of religious transformations but ultimately denounced all organized religion and sought to establish his own belief system among a group of devoted followers. In 1844, Keil sent scouts to find a location for a Christian community devoted to the Golden Rule. Later that year he established the colony of Bethel in Shelby County, Missouri.

After ten years in Missouri, Keil saw encroaching civilization as a threat to his colony, so he once again sent out scouts to find a suitable location for a new colony, this time in the Pacific Northwest. The group selected a site on the Willapa River in Washington Territory, and Keil led a group of eighty individuals there in 1855. The lead wagon was the hearse for Keil’s oldest son, Willie, who had died shortly before the trip began.

After arriving at Willapa, Keil rejected the site as it was too remote and isolated for commercial opportunities. He and most of those who came from Missouri moved to Portland, where he learned there was land available twenty-five miles to the south in the Willamette Valley. In 1856, he established a new colony there named for his daughter Aurora.

For twenty-one years, Keil led the community as it built a hotel, church, and other buildings and became successful in developing crops and orchards. The community held true to its basic Christian beliefs, but Keil’s isolationist view transformed into an understanding of the economic role the community could play in providing goods and products to the Willamette Valley’s growing population.

Among those products was the excellent food served at the Aurora Hotel and the music of the Aurora bands. Keil was instrumental in bringing the railroad to Aurora in the early 1870s as a way to connect Aurora with other cities.

Keil remained the leader of Aurora, and nominally of Bethel, until his death in December 1877. Soon after his death, efforts began to disband the two colonies, with the final dissolution taking place in 1883. (Reference note: The Oregon Encyclopedia.)

Today at the Aurora Colony Historical Society

Old Aurora Colony Museum exhibits focus on Colony families, crafts and history. Tours are offered of the buildings that house the collections of artifacts that have been passed down over the generations.

Throughout the year there are several special events that feature quilts, craft demonstrations and hands-on activities for adults and children. Please find all the visitor information at the museum’s website here: http://www.auroracolony.org.
GivingTuesday at GFO was a Great Success!

What do you get when you put together 48 energetic volunteers, four dozen donuts, a dozen bagels, 40 cups of coffee, nine large pizzas, and some delicious goodies? On December 3rd at GFO, this all added up to equal 218.5 hours of GivingTuesday volunteering filled with laughter, discovery, and library organization.

That’s what GivingTuesday was all about at GFO. Because of the volunteers who gave of their time and energy, books in our library are now much better organized and should be easier for everyone to find.

Some of the participants stated that they had not realized the depth of GFO’s library collection. Many of the volunteers said they are excited to begin digging into the various family history resources they saw during GivingTuesday.

Thank you to everyone who came to help! Efforts like these are essential to keeping the thousands of books organized. Watch for a similar event in late summer.

During the course of GivingTuesday’s work, volunteers located many missing books, but they also identified additional missing items.

If you have time to give in the coming months, GFO would love to have your help finding these items, getting labels on the unlabeled periodicals, and more. There are lots of different jobs and training available. Please send us a message at library@gfo.org if you’d like to know more about how you can help to make our library even better than it is now.
GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON

GENEALOGY BOOT CAMP

9 JAN Thursday
MEMBERS FREE
NON-MEMBERS $20

9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Join Laurel Smith at the GFO for a day of beginning genealogy. There will be sessions about the census, vital records, immigration and naturalization, discussions about genealogy software and database use, organizing your research and more – all geared toward beginners. Bring a sack lunch so the discussion can continue while we eat. GFO members may attend for free, non-members for $20.

Register online at GFO.org/bootcamp by Jan. 6. A link to the class notes and a short, pre-Boot Camp assignment will be emailed on Jan. 7.

Walk-ins unavailable, so please register online.

boot camp: 'bʊt , kamp/ noun: A training camp for new recruits, with strict discipline.

“...a marathon that was time well-spent.”

“...more than exceeded my expectations.”

“Boot Camp was rocking, wow do I regret not having it before I started...”
If it Snows, We May Close

In instances of inclement weather this winter, GFO may reduce hours or close for the safety of our volunteers and patrons. To view GFO’s possible inclement weather closures, please check your local media website’s winter closure lists. If we are closing our library due to weather conditions, we notify Flash Alert Newswire, who puts us on closure lists for local media outlets.

Please also be sure to check both the homepage on GFO’s website (gfo.org) and GFO’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/gfo.org) for closures and hour reduction updates.

If in doubt, always be sure to give our office a call at 503-963-1932. If no one answers, please don’t come in.

Generally, GFO follows the Portland Public Schools’ closure schedule for inclement weather. Be safe out there!

Intel Workers & Retirees
You Can Double-Support GFO

If you work at Intel—or at any company that offers matching funds to charitable organizations—you have the chance to double your donations to the GFO! Benevity.org can help.

If you’re unsure if your company provides matching funds to the GFO, inquire with your human resources (HR) department.

For Intel, the following people are eligible to request matching donations:

- Active US blue badge employees
- Spouses of Active US blue badge employees
- US Intel Retirees

What qualifies to be matched:

- General monetary donations to the GFO
- Membership dues

 Volunteer hours (Intel matches your hours at $10/hour)

*Tip: If you would like to reduce the amount of fees taken out of your matching donation, you can make a payment directly to the GFO and then submit a match request through Intel’s Benevity Portal. If you make a payment via PayPal or credit card through the Benevity Portal at https://causes.benevity.org, they will take out management fees of up to 3 percent.

GFO’s November Star
Kelly Thornburg

Our GFO Star for November is Kelly Thornburg. When GFO needed volunteers for its annual financial review, Kelly offered to help. She has decades of accounting experience and happens to be the mother of our incoming treasurer Erin Randall. While not a GFO member, we welcomed a set of “outside expert” eyes. She lives in Pendleton and drove over three hours (twice!) to help pore over long columns of numbers and match up receipts in working sessions of the Financial Review Committee. A million thanks, Kelly!

GFO’s December Star
Kendra Blumberg

GFO’s board voted Kendra Blumberg to be our December Star. Kendra is an organizational marvel who stepped in earlier this year to help us seek donations for our raffle from genealogy companies. She landed the largest set of donations we’ve been able to offer! This fall she helped again by scheduling speakers for the next Open House. In a whirl of efficiency, she filled most of the schedule in just two weeks.

She’s a certified Microsoft application user and will soon teach some classes on spreadsheets for genealogy. Thank you, Kendra!
Preparations are underway to transform the OHS Research Library into a more welcoming and accessible space for research, learning, and collaboration. Thanks to individual and foundation support through our FORWARD! campaign, this critical renovation will allow staff to better serve the thousands of researchers, educators, and students who access our collections and scholarly resources in person and online each year.

OHS has already begun moving collections offsite in preparation for the 2020 renovation. While the downtown library will close to the public beginning December 29, 2019, our goal is to continue to provide services to the fullest extent possible through the estimated ten-month closure. Beginning in early spring 2020, in-person research will be available on weekdays at an alternate location by appointment, and library staff will continue to answer reference requests by phone and email. Service will be limited during the final move-out (January–February 2020) and move-in phases (precise dates to be announced).

Of course, you will continue to have access to information about Oregon history and library collections through our online resources: the Oregon Encyclopedia, the Oregon History Project, the Oregon History Wayfinder, OHS Digital Collections, and the Library Online Catalog. We appreciate your patience during this period, and we look forward to unveiling our new library space by the end of 2020!

KEY DATES:

Library closed for initial collections move: November 4–13, 2019

Last day to request materials from our offsite storage: December 14, 2019

Final day the library will be open downtown: December 28, 2019

Estimated start date of research by appointment at remote location: March 2020

Estimated reopening of downtown research library: Late 2020

For updates on the renovation, visit ohs.org/libraryreno

Contact libreference@ohs.org if you have any questions or would like to make a remote reference request.
The Insider, Vol. 31, No. 5

January 2020

Treasurer’s Reports
By Erin Randall

October 2019 Income $11,832.52
Contributions & Investments $5,169.77
Memberships $3,976.00
Seminars & Other Programs $1,814.00
Library & Research $239.75
Book Sales & Publications $633.00

October 2019 Expenses $6,532.90
Administration $474.21
Education Programs $664.35
Facilities & Equipment $4,915.76
Library & Research $478.58
Net Income for the month $5,299.62
Year-to-Date Net Income $3,864.46

Special Interest Groups
http://gfo.org/learn/special-interest-groups/

African American
3rd Saturdays, 12–2 p.m.
Led by Janice Sellers.
African_American@gfo.org

British Group
4th Saturdays in Jan., Mar., May, Sept.,
1–3 p.m.
Led by Duane Funk.
UK@gfo.org

DNA – Beginners
4th Saturday in Feb., May, Aug., &
Nov., 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Led by Emily Aulicino.
DNA@gfo.org

DNA – Advanced
4th Saturday in Jan., Apr., July, and
Oct.,
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DNA – Q & A
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1–3 p.m.
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DNA_QA@gfo.org

Family Tree Maker Beginners
3rd Sundays, 1–3 p.m. Jan., Apr., Jul.,
Oct.
Led by Laurel Smith.
FTM@gfo.org

Family Tree Maker Users’ Group
3rd Sundays, 1–3 p.m., Feb., Mar.,
Led by Joyce Grant-Worley.
FTM@gfo.org

French Canada Group
3rd Sundays, 3:30–5 p.m.
(no July or August meetings)
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FrCan@gfo.org

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GreatLakes@gfo.org

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LearnandChat@gfo.org

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SW@gfo.org

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Italian@gfo.org

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Solve Puzzles with DNA

featuring nationally-respected genetic genealogy educator

KAREN STANBARY

APRIL 4 & 5

Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Spring Seminar

Saturday, April 4
10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Center for Self Enhancement (SEI)

SOLVE PUZZLES WITH DNA EVIDENCE
Learn how to manage and interpret DNA evidence, then incorporate into your existing documentary research. Receive tips from a retired Licensed Clinical Social Worker on managing conversations about unexpected DNA results.

Sunday, April 5
9:30 a.m. - noon
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

SOLVING ADVANCED PUZZLES WITH DNA
More complex puzzles require more complex DNA evidence analysis. Deepen and expand your skills.

Register Online
gfo.org/dna

Karen Stanbary, CG®, MA, LCSW, is an author and national lecturer focusing on topics related to using genetic and documentary evidence to solve genealogical brick walls.

Karen is a coordinator and faculty member at three national week-long institutes: GRIP (Chromosome Mapping), IGHR (Intermediate DNA), and SLIG (Meeting Standards Using DNA Evidence). She also received the NGSQ Award for Excellence for her complex evidence case study incorporating traditional research and DNA analysis in the June 2016 issue of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly.

Karen holds the credential Certified Genealogist from the Board for Certification of Genealogists where she serves as a Trustee and is chair of the standing DNA Committee.
**SUNDAY PROGRAM DETAILS**

**Location**
Genealogical Forum of Oregon Library
2505 SE 11th Ave. #B-18
Portland, Oregon

**Time**
9:30 a.m. to noon  •  Sunday, April 5

− Sunday Event Limited to 60 −

**Payment and Refund Details**
Register and pay online at gfo.org/dna.

− OR −

Complete registration form below and mail with your check to: GFO Spring Seminar, 2505 SE 11th Ave. #B-18, Portland, OR 97202-1061.

For cancellations received after Mar. 29, 2020, refunds will be subject to a $10 cancellation fee. Lunches must be ordered by noon on Apr. 1, 2020. Lunch fees are non-refundable if canceled after noon on Apr. 1, 2020.

**REGISTRATION FORM – OR – register online @ gfo.org/dna**
You may sign up for Saturday, Sunday, or both sessions. One form per attendee, please.

Circle price selected, enter amounts on the right, and total at the bottom.

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<tr>
<th>SPRING SEMINAR</th>
<th>EARLY REGISTRATION</th>
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<td>SOLVE DNA PUZZLES</td>
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<td>Lunch from GG’s Deli (order/cancel by 4/1)</td>
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<td>Add gluten-free bread</td>
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Electronic copy of syllabus is free with your registration. Optional paper copies will be available for $3 at the door.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY PROGRAM</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADVANCED DNA</td>
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2505 SE 11th #B18, Portland, OR 97202 • gfo.org/dna

TOTAL FOR ALL
### January 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 01/01</td>
<td>Library Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 01/04</td>
<td>10 a.m.–12 p.m. Virginia Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 01/07</td>
<td>10–11:30 a.m. Italian Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 01/08</td>
<td>Library Open until 8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 01/09</td>
<td>9 a.m.–5 p.m. Beginners Boot Camp</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9:30–11:30 a.m. Great Lakes Region Group</td>
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<td>Sun 01/12</td>
<td>9 a.m.–12 p.m. Library Work Party</td>
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<td>Tue 01/14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 01/15</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9:30–11:30 a.m. Genealogy Problem Solvers</td>
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<td>Wed 01/29</td>
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### GFO Calendar

**gfo.org/calendar**

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<tr>
<td>Sat 02/01</td>
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