You have voted with your fingers! Our latest website stats show the new members-only section is our second-most visited page. That’s impressive for a service that did not exist just one month ago.

Now, unfortunately, I’m here to temper expectations. We’ve learned that services like Ancestry and Fold3 are allowing this home access only temporarily.

We don’t know how long it will last. They are making decisions one month at a time about extending this remote access, as they see the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and whether libraries are able to re-open.

We’ll keep you advised via the weekly E-News.

Offering home access is not something they have done before. We are extremely grateful for the leeway that these database companies have shown.

Also, we are pleased to offer unlimited Lookup Services for GFO members. Dedicated volunteers will check specific resources, such as books, periodicals, microfilms, and databases that are not available through the member portal. This is a way for you to access records and images that you know exist but can’t reach because you lack access. To use the service, use the lookup form at right.

Note that as long as databases offer home access, we will not offer lookups on those. But we’re happy to check Newspapers.com, FamilySearch affiliate images, FindMyPast, the GFO collection of books, microfilms, or records in the GFO indexes.

Remember, free lookups don’t include doing research. We have a separate research team and charge a small fee for their service.

URLs

Members-only database portal:

Members-only lookup request form:
https://bit.ly/327S1bT

Subscribe to GFO’s weekly E-News:
enews@gfo.org

GFO Library Catalog:

GFO Indexes:

GFO Membership:
https://gfo.org/support-us/membership/

GFO Research Service:

Research Guide Highlights Forgotten Patriots

The Forgotten Patriots Project is an endeavor started in the 1980s with support from the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution). The project goal is to identify names of African American, Native American, and mixed-race persons who supported the Revolutionary War effort. Thousands of forgotten soldiers have been identified, and the work continues.

Initially, pamphlets on individual colonies were compiled, and later were merged into a printed research guidebook, which eventually sold out. Now the 874-page PDF research guide, Forgotten Patriots: African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War, is free to download. For more information and to download the PDF, please visit https://bit.ly/2YYu4As.
Board Member Julie Ramos Steps Down

We'd like to extend our deepest thanks to Julie Ramos for her service to the GFO.

She personally created our African American ancestry group. Then, as she handed off leadership to it, Julie agreed to serve as a Director at Large on the Board.

Due to all that is going on in the world, Julie has had to resign from the board. We will miss her voice and perspective.

The present and future need for physical distancing has prompted changes to our Spring Seminar, formerly in April. Please join us for our re-scheduled, LIVE VIRTUAL DNA SEMINAR! Your prior registration for the Spring Seminar will automatically be applied to the new dates of Aug. 8 & 9. New registrations are available online only.

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, IGHr, and SLIG.

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.
his month’s books are recommended by Pam Vestal. Pam Vestal is a full-time genealogist and lecturer in Oregon whose research extends far beyond the Pacific Northwest. She will lecture on deciphering difficult handwriting at the end of July for the GFO (for more information, see https://bit.ly/32jm54i).

Age in America: Colonial Era to the Present, edited by Corinne T. Field and Nicholas L. Syrett

Knowing an ancestor’s age can help us sort out people with the same name in the same location, but it can also provide a glimpse into the life that person lived. Age has often determined the rights he or she was granted or denied, rights that changed over time. This very readable collection of essays, each written by a different expert, addresses a broad range of issues related to age. Child labor, age-related restrictions on the emancipation of enslaved children, marital requirements over time, different rules for different genders, and where to find evidence of an ancestor’s age are just a few of topics included in this fascinating book.

This book is available in hardcover, paperback, and Kindle editions.

Women and the Law of Property in Early America by Marylynn Salmon

Historically, what women could or could not do was largely defined by law, but laws varied widely from place to place and year to year. Colonial women living in South Carolina, for example, enjoyed certain rights that were not accorded to women in Massachusetts, such as the right to have a say in whether marital property could be sold. Understanding the applicable law can aid our understanding of our ancestors and the decisions that they made. Although the content is focused between the years 1750-1830, many of the statutes in place in 1750 had existed in British Common law for centuries, and can therefore shed light on earlier colonial ancestors as well. The laws of property didn’t just determine who could own a piece of land, they defined who could sign a contract or leave an inheritance, who owned a woman’s clothing, and what options she would have if she wanted to divorce her husband. To offer a sense of what rights were available to women when the laws were so vastly different from place to place, Salmon provides an overview by surveying and contrasting the laws of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina. In addition to the laws themselves, she examines the social history surrounding the issues of concern to women, shedding light on how laws were interpreted and enforced in each area, and how women challenged or overcame the restrictions they faced. Because the author uses concrete evidence from actual women, she brings abstract legal concepts to life and makes them easy to understand.

This book is available in hardcover, paperback, and Kindle editions, and we have a copy at the GFO library.

We’d love to feature the genealogy book that you can’t live without. Please send us a brief description of the book(s) that you have at your elbow and how they have helped your research. Send your book suggestions to insider@gfo.org.
Share your records of enslaved people to AfriGeneas

Descendants can use documents from slave-holding families to crack brick walls

Finding enslaved African American ancestors in the United States prior to the 1870 U.S. Census is difficult. As genealogists know, prior to emancipation, people who were slaves were often recorded only with their first name and sometimes age and sex. Getting past the 1870 brick wall usually involves finding the last slaveholder of the person being researched.

Many genealogists uncover records of slaves while doing their (or another’s) family history. They may not know that they can add their research to a growing body of data relating to enslaved people, and thereby increase the likelihood that descendants can find their ancestors.

AfriGeneas is a website devoted to African American genealogy. On the site is the Slave Data Collection. The site was established to assist researchers in pinpointing the last slaveholder or the suspected last slaveholder of the enslaved person being researched.

Records include, but are not limited to, the following categories:

- Advertisements
- Apprenticeship
- Bible Records
- Bills of Sale
- Birth Records
- Census Schedules
- Church Records
- Cohabitation
- Court Records
- Day Books/Logs
- Death Records
- Diaries-Journals
- Inventories
- Legislative Acts
- Letters
- Litigation
- Manumissions
- Marriage Records
- Military Records
- Miscellaneous Records
- Plantation Records
- Pension Records
- Runaways
- Slave Owners
- Slave Sales
- Tax Records
- Wills

The site includes an online form to submit your research. You can also submit your research by email or postal mail.

NGS Introduces Online Transcription, Abstraction Course

Do you plan to take the GFO class, “What the Heck Does That Say? The Challenge of Difficult Handwriting” being taught by Pam Vestal at the end of July? Once you have improved your handwriting analysis skills, do you want to put those skills to use?

The National Genealogical Society has released a new, 10-part, online course on transcribing, extracting, and abstracting. In genealogy, we do not want to just find the documents of interest, we want to analyze them and glean the useful information on those documents. Transcribing, extracting, and abstracting are how we can accomplish this.

From the course overview, “This course provides detailed instructions on how to transcribe, extract, and abstract documents as well as when to use each process in your genealogical work. The goal is to teach you the skills needed so that you will be able to apply the knowledge accurately from any kind of document with confidence and success to further your genealogical research.”

The course is taught by Julie Miller, CG, CGL, and is $75 for members and $100 for non-members. The link for additional information is https://bit.ly/3gMrjtx.
MEMBER TIP

GFO member Gaye Richardson alerted us to a new resource available to patrons of Multnomah County Library. The library now provides digital access to *The Oregon Journal* from 1902-1982. According to the library, “*The Oregon Journal* was one of the major newspapers in Portland, Oregon, and for many years it was the main competitor of *The Oregonian*."


Note you must log in with your library card number.

Have a tip? Let us know at insider@gfo.org.

Please Help GFO Marketing and Fundraising

We’re asking for help. The roles of chief fundraiser and marketer have defaulted to our president.

It would be marvelous to find assistance so he can focus on the many other duties involved in his primary job.

Do you have a knack for social media? Do you have community contacts who might not know what the GFO offers?

Or perhaps you’ve helped fundraise in the past. This is an area where none of us on the board have experience, so we’d welcome your help.

Please contact president@gfo.org if you can spare some time for the GFO.

GENEALOGY
ONLINE
BOOT CAMP

14 & 15
SEPT
MEMBERS FREE
NON-MEMBERS $20
NOON - 5 P.M.

REGISTER AT
GFO.ORG/BOOTCAMP
### Upcoming GFO meetings

**ONLINE DNA SIG—BEGINNErS**
Saturday, August 1, 2020
10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Special guest speaker, Greg Wick, will give a presentation titled “What can Big Y testing do for me?”

This presentation will cover the basics of Big Y testing, including what kind of results you can expect to receive and how to apply the results in your genealogy research.

This meeting is for those who have already taken a Y-DNA test or have a general understanding of Y-DNA testing. This **free** webinar has been expanded to make room for 500 participants. Register at [https://bit.ly/3969K4Z](https://bit.ly/3969K4Z).

**ONLINE GenTalk: PERSI**
Saturday, August 15, 2 p.m.–3 p.m.

Presenter Kristin Parks will teach you about one of the largest databases you’ve rarely used: PERSI. Uncover hidden gold in an index you absolutely cannot live without. Learn how to tap into the most extensive genealogy and local history subject index on the planet. Register at [https://bit.ly/395wGkZ](https://bit.ly/395wGkZ).

**ONLINE DNA Q&A SIG**
Wednesday, August 19, 2020
1 p.m.–3 p.m.

The topic for the August 19 meeting will be “Making Contact.” We will discuss ways that will hopefully encourage your DNA matches to communicate with you and share information about their family. Email for link to the meeting: dna_qa@gfo.org.
ONLINE DNA SIG—BEGINNERS
Saturday, August 22, 2020
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Emily D. Aulicino will present “You Have Questions?” The talk will focus on various questions regarding Y-DNA, mtDNA, atDNA, X-chromosome, and admixture. Several individuals have asked how to use the various test results for their genealogy as well as the advantages and disadvantages. (Note: As Big Y will be covered in the August 1 meeting, it will not be revisited here.)

Please email Emily Aulicino at dna@gfo.org (with attention to Emily) for the link to attend and with any additional questions that you would like covered.

AUGUST Star
Stephanie Silenti

Stephanie Silenti helped the GFO at a vital time with a service essential to GFO’s online meetings and classes. She led eight hours of small-group training for all our Special Interest Group leaders and other volunteers who use Zoom for meetings online. We’re fortunate she has great experience in this area.

Her time and effort to find answers to all the questions she never imagined were generous, and we believe have helped eliminate much anxiety with the new platform.

As if that were not enough, before the pandemic came along, Stephanie stepped up to keep the Italian Special Interest Group going. When the previous leader had to step away, Stephanie immediately offered to lead the group, its third leader in a short period of time.

Thank you, Stephanie. The Board honors you as our GFO Star of the month.

EXPLORATIONS IN
Mexican Genealogy

FREE • ONLINE • ALL ARE WELCOME

SEPTEMBER 19, 2020
2:00 p.m.
Register now at bit.ly/38Rmnks
ATTENDANCE LIMITED TO 100

Author and historian JOHN SCHMAL
MyHeritage Brings Free Webinars to GFO

Daniel Horowitz, the genealogy expert at MyHeritage, is offering the GFO two free programs in August. Horowitz has been dedicated to genealogy since 1986 and, today, lectures worldwide for MyHeritage.

Get Kids Involved in Family History

Thursday, 20 August 2020, 1-2:30 p.m., Pacific

Learn how to motivate kids to identify themselves with their origins by investigating their family’s history, with dynamic and integrated mini projects and interesting research activities.


MyHeritage Unique Research Technologies to Research Your Family

Saturday, 22 August 2020, 12-2:00 p.m., Pacific

MyHeritage’s content collections and website features are constantly evolving. This session will provide an overview of the most notable new collections, website functionality, and DNA tools.

Registration: https://bit.ly/3fmsn79

Q Review July Meeting Recap

Alexa Waddle

In July, we read Melissa A. Johnson’s “Mothers for Sophie (Kanetski) Howe of Scranton, Pennsylvania.”

We managed to distinguish the two Sophies and identify their relationship. Footnotes 38 and 44 provided resources that would be helpful for anyone researching families with Polish immigrants. Polish American Encyclopedia edited by James S. Pula and Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings by William F. Hoffman could be a great addition to your library! We discussed how this particular case study dealt with several problems frequently found in genealogical research. Johnson’s methodology and clear, linear writing provide a model for how we can deal with similar genealogical problems.

Our next meeting is Thursday, August 13 at 6 p.m. We’ll be discussing LaBrenda Garret-Nelson’s article “Parents for Isaac Garrett of Laurens County, South Carolina: DNA Corroborates Oral Tradition,” from the latest NGSQ vol. 108, no. 2, June 2020. There is no link to this article, and copyright prohibits making photocopies. If you are not an NGS member, email to qreview@gfo.org, and we’ll figure out a way for you to read the article.

SCGS Jamboree Is Back for 2021

The Southern California Genealogical Society cancelled their popular Jamboree conference for summer 2020 even before the arrival of the pandemic. The society planned to use the time to reassess the Jamboree for future years.

It has now been decided that there will be a Jamboree 2021, and both the Jamboree portion of the conference and the Genetic Genealogy portion will be virtual.

Details such as dates and registration are not yet available. To keep updated on the progress of Jamboree you can check the SCGS website at https://bit.ly/309JiDx.
The Insider • Vol. 32 • No. 2
August 2020

BOARD OPENING:
Recruiting Director at Large

We have an immediate opening for a Director at Large to serve for 11 months until the usual term expires next June. Might that be you?

As a small nonprofit, our board members and committee chairs run our daily operations and help us directly serve our members.

Our Directors at Large act as liaisons to the members and have the most open-ended job description. This makes them the most flexible to take on projects meaningful to them and the organization, so we’d welcome your ideas!

The GFO Bylaws call on us to fill this position by next month. If you are interested, please email President Vince Patton at president@gfo.org.

Director at Large Job Description

Free Webinars at Legacy Family Tree in August and September

Below are just a few of the free webinars available in August and September from Legacy Family Tree. Legacy Family Tree Webinars are free to watch on the date they are live. Advance registration for webinars is required.

For the complete list, please check out https://bit.ly/39arr3w.

Getting to Know Mexican Church & Civil Registration Records

Wednesday, 19 August 2020, 11:00 a.m. Pacific
Presenter: Colleen Robledo Greene, MLIS

These records are often described as the best family history records in the world due to the wealth of genealogical information typically included in these records. Learn how to find and analyze Mexico civil and church registration collections to build out your Mexican family history. Even a non-Spanish speaker can be successful at this research.

For more information and to register, go to https://bit.ly/2DpfPh1.

Cyndi’s List in Practice

Wednesday, 9 September 2020, 5:00 p.m. Pacific
Presenter: Cyndi Ingle

Sometimes overwhelming to beginners and sometimes underused by veterans, Cyndi’s List is a research tool that is robust with resources helpful in everyone’s research. Using specific examples for beginners, as well as more advanced researchers, we will explore the site and point out how to make the most of the categories and the links found within.

For more information and to register, go to https://bit.ly/38LQA4h.

Finding Genealogical Data in the Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files

Wednesday, 16 September 2020, 11:00 a.m. Pacific
Presenter: Trish Hackett Nicola, CG

Chinese genealogical research is challenging: even names—a person could have two or three distinctly different names during a lifetime, as well as possibly an Americanized version. This webinar will give a brief history of the Act, tell where the files are located, and how to access them. Examples of the rich genealogical information found in the files will be given—interrogations, affidavits, photographs, vital records, and more. The Act was in effect for 61 years—1882 to 1943.

For more information and to register, go to https://bit.ly/38O4gMf.

The Forum Insider Seeks Your Stories

Do you have a story about your genealogy journey that you have always wanted to share? The Forum Insider, the GFO’s monthly newsletter, is delighted to receive articles written by our members about their genealogical searches, sources, and interesting findings. You do not need to be a “genealogical writer” to submit your work.

The articles should run 1/2 to 1-1/2 pages, including illustrations. Additionally, the author should be open to “gentle” editing.

Please send your article or questions to insider@gfo.org.

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Please send your article or questions to insider@gfo.org.
American Ancestors’ American Inspiration Author Series

American Ancestors in partnership with the Boston Public Library has two free online presentations in August.

Driving While Black: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights  
11 August 2020 6:00 p.m., Eastern
Gretchen Sorin, author and acclaimed historian, will discuss how the automobile allowed a level of independence previously unknown to Black Americans and how this opportunity affected the Civil Rights movement. Dr. Sorin is a distinguished professor and director of the Cooperstown Graduate Program of the State University of New York.  
Register at https://bit.ly/2OeCM8K.

How Ike Led: The Principles Behind Eisenhower’s Biggest Decision  
20 August 2020, 6:00 p.m., Eastern
Author and presenter Susan Eisenhower discusses the principles and decision-making involved in Eisenhower's leadership during the challenging times of the mid-twentieth century.  

Need Help Piecing Together Their Story?

JOIN ORFORUM
ORFORUM is the GFO’s online chat forum where users can ask for help, offer advice, share knowledge, and stay connected with local researchers.
FREE to join  
groups.io/g/orforum
Donate While You Shop with AmazonSmile

Did you know your shopping can support the GFO? AmazonSmile is a program that rewards nonprofit [501(c)(3)] organizations. AmazonSmile donates 0.5 percent of the purchase price from all eligible AmazonSmile products with no additional cost to you. For the last fiscal year, the GFO received more than $200 from the program, and every bit helps our budget.

Customers must designate the charity to receive the Amazon benefit. Please link your existing Amazon account at http://smile.amazon.com/ and select “Accounts & Lists” (toward the top right of the screen). Next, click on “Your Amazon Smile.” The link will open a page where you can enter your favorite organization. We’re listed as “Genealogical Forum of Oregon Inc.” Remember to shop at Smile Amazon each time, to ensure we receive donations from your online shopping. Have questions? Read more about it here:
http://smile.amazon.com/about.

Treasurer's Report

TREASURER: ERIN RANDALL [TREASURER@GFO.ORG]

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<th>JUNE 2020</th>
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<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net Income for the Month</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Year-to-Date Net Income</strong></td>
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Genealogical Forum of Oregon

VIRTUAL FALL SEMINAR

Lisa Louise Cooke

Most of the Genealogy Gems Podcast

Nov. 14 - 15  Save the Date!
**GFO AUGUST 2020 ONLINE EVENTS**

The library is closed until safe to reopen. All events are online.

Check the calendar for the URL to participate in online events: [https://gfo.org/calendar](https://gfo.org/calendar)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>Saturday, August 1</td>
<td>10 a.m.–12 p.m.</td>
<td>DNA: Big Y700</td>
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<td>1–3 p.m.</td>
<td>German Group</td>
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<td>Tuesday, August 4</td>
<td>10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Italian Ancestry Group</td>
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<td>Saturday, August 8</td>
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<td>Sunday, August 9</td>
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<td>Summer Seminar: DNA Puzzles</td>
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<td>Tuesday, August 11</td>
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<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Thursday, August 13</td>
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<td>Saturday, August 15</td>
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<td>Genealogy Problem Solvers</td>
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<td>12–2 p.m.</td>
<td>African American Ancestry Group</td>
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<td>2–3 p.m.</td>
<td>GenTalk: PERSI</td>
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<td>Sunday, August 16</td>
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<td>Family Tree Maker</td>
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<td>3:30–5 p.m.</td>
<td>French Canada Group</td>
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<td>Wednesday, August 19</td>
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<td>Learn &amp; Chat</td>
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<td>1–3 p.m.</td>
<td>DNA Q&amp;A: The Basics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6–8 p.m.</td>
<td>Irish Group</td>
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<td>Thursday, August 20</td>
<td>1–2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>MyHeritage: Get Kids Involved in Family History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, August 22</td>
<td>9 a.m.–12 p.m.</td>
<td>DNA Beginners</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:30–2 p.m.</td>
<td>MyHeritage Unique Technologies to Research Your Family</td>
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