

# Great Lakes Special Interest Group

GFO Open House – 14 March 2023



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## ABOUT THE GROUP

The Great Lakes Special Interest Group (SIG) is a collaborative group co-sponsored by the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) and the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society (RVGS). Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of even-numbered months (February, April, etc.) from 1:30 – 3:00 pm (PT). All of our meetings are free and open to the public via the Zoom platform. Meeting information and a registration

link can be found here:

<https://gfo.org/learn/special-interest-groups/great-lakes-region.html>. Our meeting content includes topical presentations and member sharing/discussion.



Figure 1 - Map CC BY-SA 3.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1255728>

## OUR FOCUS

The focus of the Great Lakes SIG is research in the area making up the original Northwest Territory created in 1787 (see Figure 1). Our participants' ancestral interests span from early pioneers with deep Midwest roots to generational migrants following the United States' westward expansion through the area.

## FAVORITE FREE RESEARCH RESOURCES (IN STATEHOOD ORDER) (Links verified on 15 February 2023)

### Ohio (1803)

*Archives, Genealogical, and Historical Societies*

Ohio History Connection - <https://www.ohiohistory.org>

Ohio Memory - <https://www.ohiomemory.org>

Ohio Genealogical Society - <https://www.ogs.org>

### *FamilySearch*

Research Wiki - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Ohio,\\_United\\_States\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Ohio,_United_States_Genealogy)

### *Comprehensive Link Websites*

Cyndi's List - <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/oh/>

Linkpendium - <http://www.linkpendium.com/oh-genealogy/>

### *Newspaper Research*

Chronicling America (LOC) - <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/ohio/>



Ohio Memory - <https://ohiomemory.ohiohistory.org/newspapers>

#### *Maps*

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries – Ohio - <https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/pages/Ohio.html>

#### Indiana (1816)

##### *Archives, Genealogical, and Historical Societies*

Indiana Archives and Records Administration - <https://www.in.gov/iara/>

Indiana Genealogical Society - <http://www.indgensoc.org>

Indiana Historical Society - <https://indianahistory.org>

#### *FamilySearch*

Research Wiki - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Indiana,\\_United\\_States\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Indiana,_United_States_Genealogy)

#### *Comprehensive Link Websites*

Cyndi's List - <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/in/>

Linkpendium - <http://www.linkpendium.com/in-genealogy/>

#### *Newspaper Research*

Chronicling America (LOC) - <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/indiana/>

Hoosier State Chronicles - <https://newspapers.library.in.gov>

#### *Maps*

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries - <https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/pages/Indiana.html>

#### Illinois (1818)

##### *Archives, Genealogical, and Historical Societies*

Illinois State Archives - <https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/archives/>

Illinois State Genealogical Society - <https://www.ilgensoc.org>

Illinois State Historical Society - <https://www.historyillinois.org>

#### *FamilySearch*

Research Wiki - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Illinois,\\_United\\_States\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Illinois,_United_States_Genealogy)

#### *Comprehensive Link Websites*

Cyndi's List - <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/il/>

Linkpendium - <http://www.linkpendium.com/il-genealogy/>

#### *Newspaper Research*

Chronicling America (LOC) - <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/illinois/>

Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection - <https://idnc.library.illinois.edu>

#### *Maps*

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries - <https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/pages/Illinois.html>



## Michigan (1837)

### *Archives, Genealogical, and Historical Societies*

Archives of Michigan – <https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/archives>

Michiganology – <https://michiganology.org>

The Making of Modern Michigan - <https://mmm.lib.msu.edu>

### *FamilySearch*

Research Wiki - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Michigan,\\_United\\_States\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Michigan,_United_States_Genealogy)

### *Comprehensive Link Websites*

Cyndi's List - <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/mi/>

Linkpendium - <http://www.linkpendium.com/mi-genealogy/>

### *Newspaper Research*

Chronicling America (LOC) - <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/Michigan/>

Digital Michigan Newspapers (Clarke Historical Library) - <https://digmichnews.cmich.edu>

### *Maps*

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries - <https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/pages/Michigan.html>

## Wisconsin (1848)

### *Archives, Genealogical, and Historical Societies*

Recollection Wisconsin - <https://recollectionwisconsin.org>

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society - <https://wsgs.org>

Wisconsin Historical Society - <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org>

### *FamilySearch*

Research Wiki - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Wisconsin,\\_United\\_States\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Wisconsin,_United_States_Genealogy)

### *Comprehensive Link Websites*

Cyndi's List - <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/wi/>

Linkpendium - <http://www.linkpendium.com/wi-genealogy/>

### *Newspaper Research*

Chronicling America (LOC) - <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/Wisconsin/>

Old Newspaper Research - <https://www.oldnewspaperresearch.com/blog/wisconsin-online-historical-newspapers>

### *Maps*

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries - <https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/pages/Wisconsin.html>



## Minnesota (1858)

### *Archives, Genealogical, and Historical Societies*

Minnesota State Archives - <https://www.mnhs.org/preserve/records/>

Minnesota Genealogical Society - <https://mngs.org>

Minnesota Historical Society - <https://www.mnhs.org/research>

### *FamilySearch*

Research Wiki - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Minnesota,\\_United\\_States\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Minnesota,_United_States_Genealogy)

### *Comprehensive Link Websites*

Cyndi's List - <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/mn/>

Linkpendium - <http://www.linkpendium.com/mn-genealogy/>

### *Newspaper Research*

Chronicling America (LOC) - <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/Minnesota/>

Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub - <https://www.mnhs.org/newspapers/hub>

### *Maps*

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries - <https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/pages/Minnesota.html>

## GREAT LAKES REGION RESEARCH TOPICS

### *Maritime*

Historical Collections of the Great Lakes - <https://greatlakes.bgsu.edu>

NARA Port of Entry digitized records - <https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/ports>

NARA Maritime Records - <https://www.archives.gov/research/maritime>

National Museum of the Great Lakes - <https://nmgf.org>

Wisconsin Marine Historical Society - <https://wmhs.org>

Wisconsin Maritime Museum - <http://www.wisconsinmaritime.org/collections/>

### *Indigenous People*

Native Peoples of the Great Lakes Region - <https://www.eekwi.org/...>

First Nations Surrounding the Great Lakes - <https://greatlakes.guide/...>

Great Lakes History: A General View - <https://www.mpm.edu/content/wirp/ICW-21>

Indians in the Great Lakes Region - <https://project.geo.msu.edu/geogmich/paleo-indian.html>

### *Canals*

Erie Canal - <https://eriecanalway.org/learn/history-culture>

Illinois and Michigan Canal - <https://iandmcanal.org/about-this-place-history/>

Ohio & Erie Canal - <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/history-of-the-ohio-erie-canal.htm>

Wabash & Erie Canal - <https://wabashanderiecanal.org/wabash-erie-canal-history-delphi-in/>

Miami & Erie Canal - [https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Miami\\_and\\_Erie\\_Canal](https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Miami_and_Erie_Canal)