

# GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON

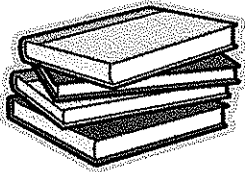


## OPEN HOUSE

3 MAY 2008

9:00 AM—3:00 PM

Used Book Sale



Join us for a tour and discover the many resources available to assist you in finding your family



Ask The Experts-Sign up for 15 minutes with a recognized expert for some insight into your brickwall ancestor



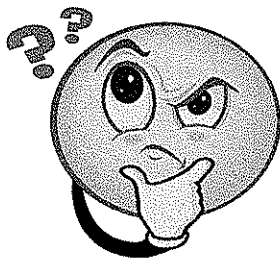
Come and enjoy refreshments and conversations with fellow genealogists



Computer Demos on the use of Ancestry.com Website



Genealogical Forum of Oregon  
1505 SE Gideon Street  
Portland, OR 97202  
Call us for information at 503-963-1932 or visit our website  
[www.gfo.org](http://www.gfo.org) for directions



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

by Kristy Lawrie Gravli

**Q:** A researcher recently sent this note asking for assistance. She said, "Their five children who died before them are all buried in that cemetery, but I can't find any sign of the parents there. It would stand to reason they would be with their children, don't you think?" (Note: This woman was not writing about our area so none of us are likely to be able to help to the point of saying, "where".)

**A:** First, I know absolutely nothing about your family, nor even about the area where you are looking. But I do know, first hand, about making assumptions and the trouble that can sometimes cause. One *must* keep an open mind and watch, everywhere, for clues. Here are some examples:

My first thought also would be that they would be with their children. But, if you cannot find actual proof of that, remember to try some alternative plans. Where else could they be? A lot of places! Some sensible; others not so much.

For example, maybe all the children died, they were heartbroken, and moved west to get away. Or moved "back" to their former residence to be with extended family who could comfort them.

Or perhaps, some of the children died, and the parents went to live with the one daughter still living. (It's always a girl so that the surname will have changed in order to make her difficult to find, of course.) She was living far away somewhere; they moved there, and died there, and were buried there, where it was easier (and cheaper) for the daughter to handle.

Or, perhaps, they went to visit a favorite old neighbor (who probably had moved to a new place rather than an old place that we could guess.) Sadly, while they were there, they died of cholera that was spreading through the town. They had to be buried quickly and could not be returned to their home for fear of spreading the disease.

Or, maybe, on the way to visit the neighbor, they were in a vehicle (buggy? car? ship?) that had a terrible accident, so bad that no one could count and/or identify the deceased.

Thus, no one knew whom they buried in Podunk near the accident...or whom to notify about the accident. Perhaps no one who would deeply care even knew where they were headed when they left home. Communication was really spotty in the early days.

Perhaps all the people of that time knew what happened, where, and what cemetery was used. Unfortunately hardly any of them wrote it down somewhere...because, of course, they **KNEW**...why would they write it down?

Consider the most obvious possibility first...perhaps there was no money for a stone...or no one who wanted to spend money for a stone. But if it cannot be proven to be the case, remember to leave that space blank on your records while you keep an eye open for other, strange-but-true, possibilities. They must be someplace. They almost always can be found...eventually.

Good Luck!

Leslie is a GFO member and longtime leader of the Illinois Group. She has moved permanently back to Illinois.



# The Forum Insider

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 8

MAY 1, 2008

## HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR WEBSITE?

[www.gfo.org](http://www.gfo.org)

## HOW TO FIND US?

1505 SE Gideon  
We're one block north of Powell Blvd, near the intersection of Powell & 12th Ave (Milwaukie Ave)  
ph 503-963-1932

## CONTACTING US.....

Feedback, news, short success stories, corrections...? Send to: Janis Bailey, Editor  
EMAIL: [jbaley172@comcast.net](mailto:jbaley172@comcast.net)

**PHONE:** Leave a message at GFO desk 503-963-1932

**Submit** articles & announcements by the 7th of the month for inclusion in the following month's issue—by email or at the GFO desk.

## What's Happening . . . .

### A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE SPRING SEMINAR VOLUNTEERS

You helped make this event the success that it was. We couldn't have done it without you!



### NEW COMPUTERS IN THE LIBRARY (Mar 30)

I want to tell everyone about the AWESOME task that some wonderful volunteers accomplished on Friday, March 21st.

A handfull, spent a LOT of their time at the GFO Library on Friday, installing new computers and moving out the old ones. As I don't have a list of names, I would really appreciate it if each of you who worked Friday would send me an email so I can record your time spent.

For everyone else, we have a TREAT for you!!! A whole lineup of new, sleek, fast computers, with internet connections, and soon to be completed databases from our CD collection, as well as a new printer and..., a whole lotta pizzazz!!

And, Loretta, I promise I will get that ugly white monitor out of there real soon really, honest I will!

What amazes me, is that 9 people spent so many hours, working so incredibly hard at tasks most of them were unfamiliar with, and doing such a splendid job! You folks were INCREDIBLE!

I never, in my wildest dreams, expected you all to be so remarkably, capable - well, capable, except kinda, sorta, maybe, except (Big Grin) for Tom, who always had



\*\*\*  
Since  
1946  
\*\*\*

another question as soon as I walked away, but then he's "of Irish descent" (so am I, so I can say that).

Don, kudos to you for finding such delightful, intelligent, dedicated volunteers! I am proud to be a member of such a wonderful group of people. Truly, the GFO has some of the most outstanding volunteers of any group I have ever worked with!

Rex Bosse B-642

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

**May 10, 2008 2 pm**  
Speaker: Peri Muhich  
"Clark County Gen. Soc. Library"

**June 14, 2008, 2 pm**  
Speaker  
Leslie Lawson  
"Doing Onsite Research"

- Volunteer Recognition
- \* Announcement of Writing Contest Winners

## Did You Know ?

### IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER ALL-NIGHTER

Have you tried attending one of our all night re-search parties? From 6 pm to 6 am you can re-search to your heart's content. With all the new computers connected to the Internet, if you find a clue to a book or on microfilm, you can do an Ancestry.com search, or Google your family name on the Internet, while looking for the next clue.

Julie Kidd hosts these events and is the contact person. There are snacks in the evening with a pizza party at Midnight.

*Our Supporters*

EMMERT INTERNATIONAL

SHILO INNS AND RESORTS

TAZO TEA

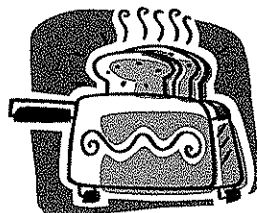
FREE GEEK





**FORUM ALL-NIGHTER Sat., May 17th, 6 pm-6 am**  
**Snacks provided with Pizza party at midnight!**  
**COME JOIN IN THE FUN! Cost: \$15**  
**Questions? e-mail Julie at "rathernut@cs.com"**  
**or check with Forum desk (503-963-1932)**

**DON'T FORGET!**  
**Saturday, May 3rd is The GFO**  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
**9:20-3:00P.M.**



**LIBRARY CLOSURE DATES FOR YEAR 2008**

Spring & Fall Seminar Days—closed	Friday, July 4, 2008—Fourth of July
Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008—New Year's Day	Monday, Sept. 1, 2008—Labor Day
Sunday, March 23, 2008—Easter	Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008—Thanksgiving
Monday, May 26, 2008—Memorial Day	Thursday, Dec. 25, 2008—Christmas

*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.

### Favorite Websites:

- [www.gfo.org](http://www.gfo.org)
- [www.archives.gov/aad/](http://www.archives.gov/aad/)
- [www.usgenweb.com](http://www.usgenweb.com)
- [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)
- [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)
- [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)
- [www.nara.gov](http://www.nara.gov)
- <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/>
- [www.multcolib.org](http://www.multcolib.org)
- [www.ohs.org](http://www.ohs.org)
- [www.ccgswa.org](http://www.ccgswa.org)  
(Clark Co Gen Soc)
- [www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/archives.html](http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/archives.html)
- [www.genealogy.az.gov/index.htm](http://www.genealogy.az.gov/index.htm)
- [www.funstuff.orgenealogists.com](http://www.funstuff.orgenealogists.com)
- [www.DAR.org](http://www.DAR.org)
- [www.theshiplist.com](http://www.theshiplist.com)
- <http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates/search.cfm>  
(Western States Marriages to 1928)
- [www.kshs.org](http://www.kshs.org) (Kansas)

### SOUNDEX CODE

Example: w350  
 1st letter of surname plus three numbers (zeroes if you run out of consonants)

- 1 b,p,f,v
- 2 c,s,k,g,j,q,x,z
- 3 d,t
- 4 l
- 5 m,n
- 6 r

**PORTLAND . . .**

**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

801 SW 10th Ave.  
 Portland OR  
 97205-2597  
 Phone: 503-988-5234  
 M-TH 9-9  
 Fri-Sat 9-6  
 Sun 1-5

**Website:**  
[www.multcolib.org](http://www.multcolib.org)  
**Catalog on-line:**  
[www.multcolib.org/catalog.html](http://www.multcolib.org/catalog.html)

**OREGON HEALTH DIVISION VITAL RECORDS**

PO Box 14050  
 Portland OR 97214-0050  
 Verify current fees?  
 503-731-4095  
 (a recording of fees)  
 Birth or  
 Death Certificate  
 (\$20, additional \$15)  
 Make checks payable to  
 DHS/Vital Records.  
 Birth records  
 after 1906,  
 Death Certificate—since  
 1903  
 Marriage records since Jan  
 1906—\$15  
 Divorce records since  
 1925—\$15  
[www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/oregon.html](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/oregon.html)  
 (check out the Oregon State Archives for Death certificates older than 50 years—see margin of page 8)

**WILLAMETTE NATIONAL CEMETERY INDEX**

Veterans-OR/ID/WA  
[www.interment.net/data/us/or/multnomah/willanat.index](http://www.interment.net/data/us/or/multnomah/willanat.index)

*Around GFO . . . . .*

**NEW EDITOR HOME FROM VACATION**

Before I transitioned into the role of the new editor of THE INSIDER I made a Spring Break trip to Costa Rica with two friends from my Spanish class and my 18 year-old Granddaughter, Kate Houlihan. This was my 5th trip to that Central American country.

It all began six years ago when a friend from Spanish class and I traveled to Monteverde for a two-week intensive language class at a school there. I was assigned a host family who owned a small lodge. I quickly became a member of the family. The two youngest boys even called me "Abuelita", little grandma. I returned the following year for another two weeks of intensive Spanish and stayed with the Venegas Mejias family again.

Following these trips, the eldest son, Eduardo, entered Portland State University for six months of intensive English study and stayed with me. We have been visiting back and forth ever since.

Our little group tries to see new parts of the country each time. This year it was to Tortuguero National Park on the Caribbean coast., such an intriguing place with its maze of fresh-water canals so close to the ocean! Our hotel's property fronted on the Rio Tortuguero with Caribbean beaches on the backside.

As we cruised through the canals in open out-board boats we spotted keel-billed toucans, herons, egrets and kingfishers. We watched the three types of Costa Rican monkeys at play in the trees; spider monkeys, howlers and white-faced. Along the way, two-toed and three-toed sloths defied my eyesight with their camouflage coloring. Most dramatic and scary were the caimans, members of the alligator family. We insisted they were crocodiles lying long there in the water with only a big eye and lots of teeth showing.

There are only two season in Costa Rica, wet season and dry. This was dry season, but we were deluged with rain one night and the next day. We had thought when we left rainy, cold Portland that we were headed only to warm sunshine. Most of the time it was lovely, if sometimes too hot and muggy, especially in Manuel Antonio National Park on the Pacific where we were sunburned and bitten by mosquitoes. But it wasn't snowing as it was in Portland. I'm not sure I would go again during spring break. It was a bit too crowded with tourists for me.

This trip was different for us older travelers, having Kate with us, watching her eyes light up when

she spotted cute young men.

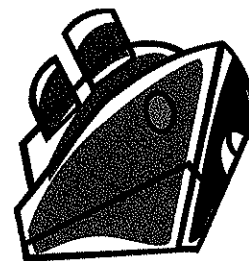
We had a young guide,, who spoke very good English and who, at one point, took on the pleasant task of teaching Kate Spanish. With her long copper-colored hair, she was the center of attention in that land of brown hair and dark eyes.

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Now that I am home, I will do my best to follow in the wake of the extremely dedicated and talented Lyleth Winther as the editor of the INSIDER. I will need the help of readers to contribute news and feature stories that will keep the newsletter lively and informative.

Please send me your ideas and comments to [jbailey172@comcast.net](mailto:jbailey172@comcast.net) or 503-281-4744.

Jan Bailey



**APRIL BOARD MEETING  
 April 15, 2008**

**After a very successful Spring Seminar, the Board believes it isn't too early to mark your calendars for the Fall Seminar, September 27, 2008, to be held at the Milwaukie Elks Club. Ann Fleming will be the guest speaker.**

# Connie's Corner . . . . .

## ARE THE SOURCES WRONG?

By Connie Lenzen

Taylor, my thirteen-year-old granddaughter, is working on a Social Studies project for World War II. She has chosen "Life on the Home Front" for her topic, and she is in the gathering information stage. The teacher's instructions say that she is to use only one Internet source, and it can't be Wikipedia because sources are rarely given on that website. Taylor has learned that the information on this website can be wrong, and there is no way to know if it is until too late. She may use published materials. While the teacher didn't say so this time, she prefers original sources.

Almost everything reminds me of genealogy, and this project is no exception. When we pick up a new line of research, we gather information, and one of the first places we go is the Internet to see if someone has already researched our family. However, few Internet genealogies have sources, and we don't know until too late if people have been linked to the wrong families.

Published genealogies have the same problem. Without sources, we don't know if people have been linked to the wrong parents. Even with sources, that can still happen. I recall one old-time Portland genealogist who was fond of interviewing the "old folks" about their families. Unfortunately, he didn't bother to verify their information before writing the family histories. He linked quite a few people to the wrong families, and undoing his work is a most difficult task.

Original sources can also have incorrect information. Taylor is using my grandmother's World War II diaries as an original source for her project. Grandma's diaries include several items about World War II that need to be verified.

Taylor's grade will be diminished if she includes incorrect information, and a genealogists' reputation will be diminished if he or she includes incorrect information. Besides, who wants to research the wrong ancestors?

So, what is Taylor or a genealogist supposed to do when they look at information in a source to keep this from happening? We need to think about who provided the information and if they were in a position to know the facts. Generally, information that comes from a person who was present at an event is best, but we all know the stories about eyewitness accounts differing.

Mark Tucker has created a nice "Genealogy Research Process Map" that visually lays out the steps that genealogists follow as they work through information to come to a conclusion. The colorful map is on his website, <http://www.thinkgenealogy.com/>, and it can be downloaded as desktop wallpaper or to be printed. In addition to the map, Mark's website has links to some interesting genealogy blogs.



## PORTLAND . . .

### OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Museum &  
Research Library  
1200 SW Park Ave  
Portland Oregon  
503-222-1741

<[www.ohs.org/collections/index.cfm](http://www.ohs.org/collections/index.cfm)> for the  
Research Library Catalog  
on-line

#### To visit museum & library:

- \$8 a day (\$7 seniors)
- \$5 youths: 6-18
- Features: unpublished journals, diaries, manuscripts of the Oregon Trail (by year)
- Also, cemetery listings by D.A.R. in 1940's, including River View Cemetery
- Also, Oregon Pioneers' registration cards (those folks who arrived prior to statehood (1859). Also, newspapers of Oregon area small towns on microfilm.
- Vertical files: view some unpublished bios, apps for historic landmark status.
- View the Street by Street house photos project of Portland.
- Huge photo collection of Portland people and city scenes.

#### LIBRARY HOURS:

Thurs/Fri/Sat: 1-5  
(Wed-members only)

#### MUSEUM:

10-5 T-W-Th-F-S  
12-5 Sundays

**SALEM**

**OREGON STATE  
ARCHIVES**

800 Summer St. NE  
Salem, OR 97310  
ph. 503-373-0701  
www.arcweb.sos.state.or.us

Hours: M-F: 8-4:45  
(Closed noon hour)

*Death certificates: 50 yrs  
or older—25cents a copy  
(you make)—more \$ if  
they make or mail to you—  
call for details)*

**OREGON STATE  
LIBRARY**

State Library Bldg.  
250 Winter St. NE  
Salem 97310-0640  
ph. 503-378-4243  
ext 221

Hours: M-F 10-5  
(Also: 2nd Saturday during  
the WVGs meeting—  
public invited, too..  
use special entrance  
—SW corner)

**WILLAMETTE  
VLY GEN. SOC.  
SALEM**

—collection is at the  
Oregon State Library in  
Capitol Mall. They hold  
meetings, create a  
newsletter and quarterly.

**SALEM FHC**

(FamilyHist.Center)  
4550 Lone Oak RD SE  
503-378-0383 ext 7  
Sun 4-7pm  
Mon—closed  
T & TH—9-9  
Wed 6-9  
Fri-Closed  
Sat-9am - 1 pm

*LOOK AHEAD*

A Southwest Neighborhood  
*"A Grand Celebration for Our  
Neighborhood"*

**Multnomah Celebrates 100 Years!**  
August 8 - 17, 2008

- \*Historic Photo Display
- \*Multnomah Art Gallery
- \*Bridge Marker Dedication
- \*Multnomah All-Classes Reunion
- \*Grand Multnomah Parade

[www.multnomahhistorical.com](http://www.multnomahhistorical.com)

*Celebration*

*Survey of Homes*

*Historic Marker Survey*

Let's photograph and document all  
markers in Southwest Portland.

Patti Waitman-Ingebretson, Pres.  
Multnomah Historical Association  
P.O. Box 19785  
Portland, OR 97280  
503-244-6540  
pattitwirler@comcast.net

*A REMINDER*

**BOTH THE INSIDER AND THE  
BULLETIN ARE PUBLISHED IN  
TWO VERSIONS:**

A print version sent by U.S. Mail  
And an electronic version.

Members automatically receive the  
print version unless they sign up with  
Cathy Lauer for the electronic  
version or mark the boxes on the  
membership or renewal form  
Each month Cathy sends a special  
"members' only" link by email to  
those on her list.

Members may choose to receive one or  
both Insider & Bulletin by computer.

Contact Cathy Lauer:  
carlauer@comcast.net

*Interest Group News*

**BRITISH GROUP NEWS**

(Ancestors from England/Scotland/Wales)

The British Group is hoping for warmer days  
so they can plan a trip this spring to the restored  
Fort Vancouver with lunch following in the  
Grant House or a trip to the McLoughlin House  
in Oregon City with lunch following at the High-  
land Still Pub restaurant. The pub, located across  
Hwy 99E from the Falls Viewing area is a new  
business that had authentic Scottish antique fur-  
nishings shipped to them from the old country,  
and according to their ad. "unforgettable fish and  
chips".

Meanwhile, we look forward to the last  
meeting of the year, which was changed at our  
last group meeting from the 4th Saturday of the  
month to the 5th Saturday (the 31st) due to the  
Memorial Day weekend conflict on the 24th. So,  
members of the group and newcomers, mark  
your calendars for We'll be Sharin' Food from  
Our Ancestors' Lands--Toad in the Hole (Eng),  
maybe, Welsh Gingerbread, Bangers and Sticky  
Toffee Pudding. Mr. Travelin' Man, Duane Funk,  
will give a presentation on his recent research  
trip to London and what new things he found,  
and we'll brainstorm some ideas for next year's  
meetings.

Contact Person: Lyleth "Lyla" Winther,  
503-658-8018, or  
[lylaw@pacifier.com](mailto:lylaw@pacifier.com)

**Computer Group**

The May meeting of The Master Genealo-  
gist Software Users Group will be taking a look  
at the newest version of the companion  
program, "Second Site".

The program takes a TMG dataset and creates  
a website. The website can either be a real web-  
site or one that can be distributed on a CD. This  
functionality allows a person to distribute their  
data in a form that resembles how it 'looks' in  
TMG. I for one, can share my data with fam-  
ily members without them needing a genea-  
logical program. In addition, beyond GED-  
COM, I can show any data type. I can go on,  
but that is what the meeting program will be  
about.

As usual the group meets the third Saturday  
at 9:30 AM in the Higgins Room.

Roger Ostrom  
President, TMG-SUG

*Interest Group News*

**Illinois Interest Group**

May 10th Sandra Stapleton will lead our group in "Newspaper Research" In the Higgins Room 9:30-11 am.

Emphasis has been on getting our surnames out on the web and in newsletters We have challenged ourselves to send in our surnames to websites and to send small articles on our families to newsletters. We will give updates to this throughout this and coming months.

June 14, Doreen Clayton will lead our group in "THE WEATHER & OUR ANCESTORS" .

As usual, we welcome anyone interested in the topic of the presentation. Having people in Illinois is not a requirement at all. Just show up and take a chair!

If you know people who are just beginning genealogy, they are welcome too. If you know people who just want to get out of the house and spend some time with nice people stretching their minds a little, bring them along. Carpool with friends and join us there!

Kristy, Doreen and Marlene: All three of us hope to see YOU!

July & August means Summer Break Enjoy your travels. Send in reports so we can enjoy your findings.

Doreen Clayton

**THE DNA GROUP**

Did everyone see the press release, "Human DNA Found in 14,300 Year-Old Feces In Oregon Cave"?

"The oldest of several coprolites studied is 14,340 calendar years old", said co-author Eske Willerslev, director of the Centre for Ancient Genetics at Denmark's University of Copenhagen.

"The Paisley Cave material represents, to the best of my knowledge, the oldest human DNA obtained from the Americas," he said. "Other pre-Clovis sites have been claimed, but no human DNA has been obtained."

*Science Dailey April 3, 2008*

The item was brought to The INSIDERS attention by Emily Aucilino, of the DNA Interest Group.

**GFO WRITERS' FORUM**

**Come and Honor Our GFO Writers**

We will honor the 2008 GFO Writing Contest participants at the GFO monthly meeting at 2 p.m. on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Even though we will award first, second, and third place, we will honor every person for the good work they have done. We will celebrate our writers for getting around to writing down at least one of their stories and leaving gifts for generations to come.

The theme this year is Saga of a Soldier, about military and war, soldier, family, community. Our participants have written some amazing stories about how they, their families, and ancestors have been touched and changed by military or war. Winning stories will be read, so come prepared to be inspired.

Come away inspired to write your own stories, and maybe you'll even enter the 2009 GFO Writing Contest. The theme of the 2009 Writing Contest will be announced, so there will be nothing to stop you from getting started

Peggy Baldwin

**PUBLICATIONS**

The 3rd in the series of 4 CDs in the Oregon State Marriage Index is now available for sale. It covers the years 1934-1939 and ,like the others, is \$10. It is available at the Forum or can be requested by mail. If mailed, add \$2.00 for postage.

Loretta Welsh, Publisher

**VANCOUVER WASHINGTON**

**CLARK CO. GEN. SOC. LIBRARY**

717 GRAND BLVD  
360-750-5688

**HOURS:**

Tues-Wed-Thurs 10-4:30

Fri 10-3

2nd/3rd Sat 10-3

Call ahead to verify "open"

www.ccg.s.wa.org

(I-5 to Vancouver, turn right on E. Mill Plain, go about 2-3 lights to Grand Blvd. Turn right (South)

on left hand side in shopping strip mall)

**VANCOUVER FAMILY HISTORY CENTER**

18300 NE 18TH St.  
Vancouver WA

(Take Hwy 14 East to 164th exit, go North to NE 18th, turn right for about 20 blocks left hand side of road)

ph 360-944-5773

**HOURS:**

M-F 10-3

T-TH 10-3

and 7-9:30 pm

1st/3rd Sat 10-1 pm

**FT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY**

1007 E. Mill Plain Bv  
Vancouver WA

360-695-1561

(call for hours)

Newspapers on Microfilm, Washington State Collection of books and films, access to Ancestry.com on computers.



**RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS**

Research recommendation: "The Mystic Seaport: The Museum of America and the Sea", In an article by Michael J. Leclerc in the New England Historical Genealogical Society Online Newsletter, March 19, 2008.

"For those who grew up in southern New England, Mystic Seaport brings back memories of school trips to the museum, spending a day on a school bus travelling down to visit the tall ships and take a ride on the Mystic River. Founded in 1929 as the Marine Historical Association, it is now called Mystic Seaport of America and the Sea and is the leading maritime museum in the United States. They are in the midst of a \$35 million renovation to improve not only the exhibit halls but the collection's research center as well. Their website, [www.MysticSeaport.org](http://www.MysticSeaport.org) contains a vast amount of information valuable to genealogists....

"The book collection contains 70,000 volumes, 2,000 rolls of microfilm and 1000 ship registries. Titles dating back to 1774 are among the 700 periodicals in the collection. There are more than 9,000 nautical charts and maps from 1650 to the present. The manuscript collection contains hundreds of distinct collections of ships' logs, ledgers, diaries, documents, business and personal papers, correspondence and design data.

Most valuable for genealogists is the E-Reference section, with several online databases. The Ship and Yacht Register lists cover registers from 1857 through 1900 and is searchable by vessel name or shipmaster. The Connecticut Ship Database, 1789-1939, comes from a WPA transcription of U.S. Customs Service records and is searchable by vessel name and type of by person/company name. There are two crew-list databases: one for New London, 1803-1878 and a second for Salem, Massachusetts, 1799 and 1879. There is also the Seamen's Protection Certificate Register Database, with information on 31,047 certificates issued between 1796-1871 at the Customs House in Fall River, Gloucester, New Haven, New London, Newport, Marblehead and Salem.

Finally, the E-Reference section also contains two browsable databases. The first contains images of many vessels used by immigrants to come to the United States, as well as general information on the ships themselves. You can order high-quality reproductions of the ship images directly from the site for a modest fee. The second is a list of items from the collections that have been digitized and are available to view online...."

Michael Leclerc

**GENEALOGICAL HELPER ORDERS**

Twenty-four members signed up for the special offer of a one year subscription to the Genealogical Helper at a special, reduced price. The order was sent to the publisher. Since the Gen. Helper is published six times a year, the next possible issue would be the May/June or July/August 2008 issue. If for any reason your issues don't show up in your (cont)

\*\*\*\*\*  
 ★ *Were your ancestors* ★  
 ★ *in Multnomah County* ★  
 ★ *before 1905?* ★  
 ★ **FIRST FAMILIES PROJECT** ★  
 ★ Check out the guidelines for ★  
 ★ submitting your proofs, send in an ★  
 ★ application plus \$20, and GFO will ★  
 ★ issue you a certificate suitable for ★  
 ★ framing. ★  
 ★ Pick up an application form from ★  
 ★ the receptionist's desk at GFO ★  
 ★ Library. Print one from the website ★  
 ★ (www.gfo.org) Or you can request a ★  
 ★ packet be sent to your home ★  
 ★ address. ★  
 ★ (See GFO phone number on first ★  
 ★ page —near the hours info) ★  
 ★ \*\*\*\*\*

*Library Collection News*

First, let me tell you about a fun event that happened in our Library the first part of April. One of our Thursday Research Assistants invited her church group to come to the Forum for a special meeting. She dressed up the Higgins Room with bright tablecloths and went out to buy pizza (cost shared by the group). After a meal and some good conversation, the Forum staff took over. Everyone got a quick introduction to the Forum before spending almost three hours researching. It was really fun!! We had plenty of helpers and several guests had great success.

It was such a success that we plan to host more of these events. To ensure that each group gets plenty of attention, we will schedule these events on Fridays when the Library is closed. The Higgins Room may be available for a potluck, pizza, or whatever the group wants to bring. Attendance is free, but we do ask that copy costs be paid.

If this sounds like a good idea for your group, please contact President Don Holznagel or Library Director Sandra Whiteman so we can set a date.

Next, we have some exciting news. The Oregon Historical Cemeteries Association has agreed to loan their collection of cemetery files, books and periodicals to our Library. The Collection will be available for use by the first of June, 2008. More next month.

Sandra Whiteman

mailbox, leave a message for our Treasurer at the front desk (503-963-1932).

# VOLUNTEERS

*Do you have spring flowers?*

*Jan Robinson*

I've been gardening for the past few days in preparation for the upcoming summer days. As I was working in the soil it reminded me of beginning my genealogy. Turning the soil and pulling the myriad weeds is a bit like the preparation and on-going work involved in building your family tree. My neighbors seem to have a yard that always looks nice and yet I seldom see any one out in the yard working or even enjoying it during the warmer months. On the other hand I seem to always be out grubbing around in the soil and pulling never-ending weeds, with little time to relax and enjoy the fruits of my labor, although I do enjoy the time spent tending the flower beds and also derive quite a bit of satisfaction from seeing a weed-free bed. When I find problems in the yard that I can't figure out with all the resources I have at home I turn to friends and other experts.

My genealogy work is sort of like gardening. I spend time re-searching the families. I spend time building the family trees and I work to try to keep the piles of unfiled paperwork to a manageable level. I spend time sorting through records and evaluating the evidence. When I find myself with a proverbial brick wall I often turn to friends and other experts to help me learn some new ways to try to unravel the mystery. The GFO even has a Special Interest Group: "Round Table", which helps you look at a genealogical problem with suggestions on how to unravel the puzzle. Another way to unravel those mysteries is to step forward and help out others and to also help out the GFO. We are looking for volunteers to help at the desk in the library, to be part of the Education Committee, to be part of the Extraction Committee with their myriad of worthwhile projects, and to help manage the GFO computer system. We are also looking for some volunteers who could help raise the visibility of the GFO in the local community. Also we are looking for folks who would commit to writing a short article for our publications on a monthly basis. Or possibly you'd be interested in stepping forward in another way.

You can volunteer on a few hours a week or a few hours a month. We can find something to fit your schedule. Volunteering is also a great way become engaged in some of the offerings at the GFO and to also meet other like-minded researchers. You can contact me on Wednesday afternoons in the library from 2-5, or via email at: [desdemonna@centurytel.net](mailto:desdemonna@centurytel.net); or you can contact our President, Don Holznel. Here's wishing you a wonderful May with few weeds in your flower beds and more ancestors in your tree!



## DONATION LAND CLAIMS INDEX.... NOW ON GFO WEBSITE!

See guidelines  
below"

Links to the right point to the first name on each of 24 index pages. Donation Land Claims were granted to settlers of the Oregon Territory who arrived prior to 1853 (see Wikipedia). The files contain considerable genealogical data. Originals of these are located in the National Archives in Washington DC. The GFO has copies on microfilm and we will copy the entire claim file for you. Use our index of claim holders to determine the office and claim number.

The cost is \$10 for the first ten pages and 50¢ for each additional page. You may request paper copies or a CD. If you'd like paper copies and a CD, please add \$1. To determine the cost for your file, please email [gforesearch@yahoo.com](mailto:gforesearch@yahoo.com) or phone the GFO at (503) 963-1932 (leave a message for Loretta). We need the index information and your phone or email.

Order a copy of a Donation Land Claim by sending your return address, index information, and the quoted price (see above) to:

Donation Land Claim Lookup  
Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc.  
PO Box 42567  
Portland, OR 97242-0567

# PEOPLE . . . . .

*We as a society couldn't exist without our many volunteers. In this continuing series, we salute them?*

## BEHIND THE SCENES WITH OUR VOLUNTEERS

By Lyleth Winther

### KENA JACOBS

Meet Kena Jacobs, another of our volunteers, who served this year as 1st Vice President on the GFO Board.

I was born in Oregon and grew up in Yacolt, WA, halfway between Portland and Mt. St. Helens. I was the second oldest of five children. My mother was a stay-at-home mom with two bachelor's degrees. My dad worked as a millwright at the local lumber mill. My siblings and I loved to listen to the old-timers talking about early logging practices in the Pacific Northwest and their adventures driving on the puncheon roads. We had four grandparents, some of their siblings, and two great grandmothers living nearby who also shared their stories with us, so we grew up loving history.

When I was 27, I decided to get serious about researching my ancestry. That was more than twenty years ago, and I've never stopped the pursuit. During my first week of research, I visited each of my grandmothers, a great aunt in Sunnyside, WA, a great uncle in Clatskanie, OR, and my mother's second cousin Agnes Nuttbrock in Milwaukie, OR. Each of them gave me lots of information and encouraged me to keep it up. Uncle Bill in Clatskanie told me everything he knew about his ancestry, and he told me what he wanted me to find out. He gave me four family mysteries to solve, and I managed to chase down most of the answers he sought before he died.

Cousin Agnes was a long-time member of the GFO and an experienced genealogist. She looked over my information and said that she could see I was serious about wanting to do the research. She gave me an old copy of the Handy Book for Genealogists and explained the correct methods for recording names, dates, and places. I lived in Spokane at that time, so I did not join the GFO until I moved back to the Portland area ten years ago.

I work full-time as a science teacher (Chemistry, Biology, and 7th grade Life Science) and fit in genealogy wherever I can squeeze it. This year, I served as Second Vice President of the GFO and arranged for the exhibit tables at the Fall Seminar. For the past four years, I have also been the newsletter editor and a frequent presenter of classes for the Scandinavian Genealogical Society (SGS) here in Portland. The SGS meets from 9 a.m. to noon the third Saturday of each month in the Finnish Room in Cramer Hall at Portland State University.

When I need a quick break during the week, my favorite place to go is Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden next to Reed College. It's a great place to

view my favorite birds; ducks of all sorts and red-winged blackbirds. Most of my research is currently on Norway. My Norwegian ancestors came from Rollag parish in Buskerud County. I also enjoy helping others trace their ancestry in Norway. Here in America, my research has focused on my SHORE, JACOBS, and POWELL ancestors (OH - Wapello and Fremont counties, IA - Mankato, KS), WOODARD's (Polk Co., MO), and the MOORE and PHELPS families of Adair Co., MO.

## *The Spring Seminar*

The Spring Seminar held Saturday, April 5th, from this participant's point-of-view, was an unquestioned success. The speaker, Pamela K. Boyer, spoke for four hours with half-hour breaks. Her Powerpoint presentations included Internet research; using Excel to supplement our favorite genealogy programs; researching military service and researching on the Library of Congress Website.

Some of the websites mentioned:

The Library of Congress—[www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)

The U.S. Patent Office—[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) and

Google Patents - [www.google.com/patents](http://www.google.com/patents)

Library of Virginia Digital Collection—[www.lva.lib.va.us](http://www.lva.lib.va.us)

Stephen Morse's One-Stop Portal—[www.stevenmorse.org](http://www.stevenmorse.org), which searches indices on the Web for Immigration portals such as Ellis Island, Castle Rock and others.

Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System

[www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss](http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss), a National Park Service site.

These are just a sampling of those sites listed in the speaker's 14 page handout provided to Seminar participants.

A luncheon buffet of hot and cold entrees I found quite satisfying along with sweet rolls and coffee during morning breaks and chocolate chip cookies straight -from-the-oven in mid-afternoon provided enough energy to keep me focused.

An additional treat for me was the silent auction. For two \$1 tickets I came home with a Motorola Cable Modem and a genealogy ink-stamp. Of course there was also the Book Store, which had a nice selection. I ended up buying 3 books: Isle Of Canes by Elizabeth Mills, the author of the genealogy reference book, Evidence Explained; Pennsylvania Genealogical Research by George K. Schweitzer and The Official Guide To Ancestry.Com by George G. Morgan.

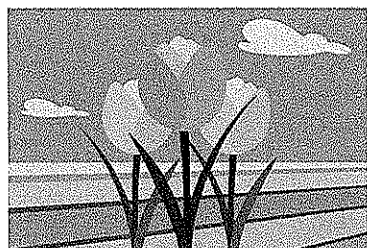
All-in-all I had a fine day. I must remember when the Fall Seminar comes in September to arrive early, so I can be nearer the front and have a table to write on.

Janis Bailey

## *The Forum Insider*

Genealogical Forum of Oregon Inc.  
1505 SE Gideon Street  
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Portland OR 97242-0567

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### THE FORUM INSIDER

## *GFO Calendar and Hours*

### *May 2008*

- 3—Saturday—GFO OPEN HOUSE  
All Day Event—tours, Ask-an-Expert  
service, Refreshments, Surplus Books  
(Library closed to researchers)
- 5—FREE MONDAY
- 10—Sat 9:30am Illinois Interest Group  
—Sat 11:45am Writers' Forum Group  
—Sat 2pm MONTHLY PROGRAM  
Peri Muhich  
“Clark County Gen. Society's Library”
- 12—Mon 1pm DNA Interest Group
- 13—Tues 5:30 GFO Board Meeting
- 17—Sat 9:30am TMG SUG Meeting  
—Sat 1pm Irish Group Meeting  
6 pm - 6 am
- ALL NIGHTER RESEARCH PARTY**
- 19—Mon 7pm Computer Interest Group
- 26—Mon MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY  
(Library Closed)

*GFO Library Hours:  
Holidays? Winter?  
Call ahead.....  
Check the website:  
“www.gfo.org”*

*Mon-Tues-Wed-Thurs  
9:30 to 5 pm  
Saturdays—9:30-3 pm  
Sun—12-5 pm*

*ph 503-963-1932  
1505 SE Gideon Street  
(1 blk N. of SE Powell)*

- 26—Mon 7pm Round Table group  
6:30pm TMG group
- 29—No DAR Meet'g in May/June/July
- 31 Sat 1pm British Group Meeting

### *JUNE 2008*

- 2—FREE MONDAY  
MON. 1 pm DNA Interest Group
- 10— TUES. 5:30 pm Board Meeting
- 14— SAT. 9:30 am Illinois Interest Group  
SAT. -11:45 am Writers' Forum  
SAT. -2:00pm Monthly Meeting  
Recognition of Volunteers.  
Speaker. Leslie Lawson “Doing  
On-site Research”  
Writing Contest Winners
- 16—MON. 7pm Computer Interest Group
- 23 —MON 7pm Round Table
- 25—WED. 6:30pm TMG SUG
- 28—SAT. 10 am Intro To Genealogy