



THE Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon
Volume 32 • Number 8 • May 2021

New Home: The Time Has Come

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon Board of Directors has resolved to establish a dedicated fund to purchase a permanent home. We need a space we can control.

After the last year, we long to return to seeing you in person at the library for research and classes. You might remember one thing about our classroom: it's crowded. We need more shoulder room. The GFO has now topped 53,000 holdings. To preserve resources for the future, the library requires more space. Also, we want to find a location with better parking!

A permanent home would not only solve some of the problems

we have now, it would give us financial stability. Instead of facing steady rent increases in an incredibly expensive city, we want to invest our monthly payments in GFO's future.

By early 2025, we seek to raise \$500,000 for a down payment on a mortgage, and the costs of renovating the new space. Our hope is to find a building, renovate it to our needs, and move in by late spring 2026.

We're confident this is the best course. In fact, we're already 20 percent of the way to our goal because the GFO Endowment has committed to loan \$100,000 to the



The GFO classroom was packed for Irish Day during the 2019 Open House.

New Home Fund.

This a big request. We're a small organization. Will you invest in a stable future for the GFO and the genealogists following in our footsteps?

Please give to the GFO New Home Fund now at gfo.org/newhome.

VOICES OF OUR PATRONS: 75 YEARS SHARING FAMILY HISTORY

Finding People Can Save a Life

Eileen Chamberlain

When I first came to visit the GFO in 1989, I was greeted by Mary Ann Latham, who was the chief recruiter and trainer of new receptionists. She approached me to be a receptionist on my second visit as soon as I agreed to become a member. I do recall telling her about not having any experience as a researcher, but she assured me I would learn. And she was right. I found there were always a few people in the library with much

more knowledge than I had who were willing to offer helpful suggestions about where to look next.

Within a short time I was told there were letters written to the GFO asking for assistance by persons who were not in the area, and the person who normally answered them was ill. Would I help?

Again, I reiterated I was a veritable novice in the area, and again Mary Ann assured me there were folks who would help, and again, she was right.

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Eileen Chamberlin served as President of the GFO from 1993 to 1995 and again in 2002.

She is most proud of the extraction projects that she has worked on and helped complete for the GFO.





The Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical
Forum of Oregon
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Library Hours
Closed for COVID-19
Many services online.

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Submissions to <i>The Forum Insider</i> : Please send comments, corrections, news, short success stories, and announcements to Geri Auerbach and Keri Logan, editors, at insider@gfo.org .	
Please provide submissions two months prior for inclusion in the next publication's issue.	

SAVING A LIFE, FROM PAGE 1

One of the first letters I read was from a young man who lived in the Sacramento area, and he wrote asking for help to find his biological parents. I knew this was way over my head, but he went on to say that doctors had told him he had a rare form of cancer, which would likely take his life, and perhaps that of his young daughter, if he could not locate a relative from whom he might be able to get some life-saving bone marrow. I would admit to being almost frightened by the lack of knowing what to do and worrying that, with the length of time the letter sat waiting at the GFO, maybe he had passed in the interim. Nevertheless, I went on.

With the information he had shared, I started in the city directories looking for a man who owned a small print shop but did not find anyone with the surname he was given. I continued for about six hours that day, really pressing to find something for this young family.

I finally gave up for the day and started home. When I jumped off of the freeway at my exit, a light bulb went off: I realized I had been searching for the name he gave me, not for a misspelling of the name.

I hopped back on the freeway and drove back into town. Since it was an evening the library was open late, I got back into the directories again. Then I found him! Next, I scoured the microfilm of marriages, and sure enough, the father and mother had later married. Now I had more info. I also found

on the social security death index that both parents had passed.

I was dreading writing that part, but further in his letter, the young man noted that his wife worked for the telephone company. They had agreed if he found any information, they would use all the telephone directories they had to try to find a relative. He wrote back and thanked me for all my efforts, and that was that.

About a month later, a letter came to GFO addressed to me, and it contained a newspaper article in which this young man told his story to a local reporter about how a lady in Portland, Oregon, helped him to find a half-brother in Cleveland, Ohio. His half-brother agreed to share his bone marrow, and now he actually had family, thanks to me.

I cried grateful and happy tears. Sometimes the efforts we put into helping someone come back twice as much. I was amazed how much I had learned in the process of helping others to find their families.

Throughout 75th anniversary year of the GFO, The Forum Insider would like to feature your reflections on what the organization has meant to you. We are interested in the impact of the library, through education, resources, or friendships as a result of our community. Please send your stories, from a short paragraph to no longer than about one page, to insider@gfo.org.

The *Forum Insider* [ISSN 1051-5666 (print), ISSN 2377-469X (online)] is the newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon Inc., 2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B-18, Portland, OR 97202-1061. 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 \$48 per year for individual memberships and \$74 for joint memberships. Membership includes digital subscriptions to *The Bulletin* (March, June, September, and December) and *The Forum Insider* (January, February, April, May, July, August, October, and 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 Geri Auerbach and Keri Logan, Editors; and Loretta Welsh, Publisher. Many thanks to everyone including our proofreaders, April Ober, Jackie Olson, Vince Patton, and Laurel Smith.



Cautious GFO Budget: Dues Nudge Up a Bit

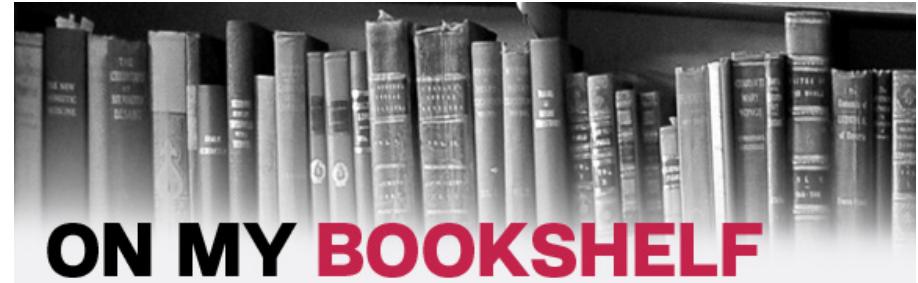
Last year was the first time that we forecast a deficit budget, anticipating the pandemic would hurt membership and donations. We were happy to be wrong on both counts! Your generosity made our Annual Appeal the most successful ever.

However, one important revenue source for us is down: paid seminar attendance. We rely on these events to make more money than they cost in order to help pay for other services we provide during the year. We hope this trend will end when we're able to meet in person again; people really value getting together.

With that in our forecast, the board anticipates expenditures in 2021–2022 of \$99,538 and revenue of \$85,275, leaving us \$14,263 in the red. The Board's past wise money management has ample reserves to cover that.

Therefore, we are continuing our tradition of just barely bumping up membership dues. On July 1, 2021, individual memberships will rise \$1 to \$49, joint memberships by \$2 to \$74. Print memberships increase by \$3 due to higher postage.

Life memberships increase to \$980 for one person and \$1520 for two people.



This month's column is written by Doris Cruickshank, a longtime GFO member. "My maiden name is Miller, and I grew up in Portland. Both my parents were only children, and I grew up thinking cousins were rare things other kids had. My family did not talk about family. I did not get started [researching] until the older generations had all died and I found some family records when going through my mother's house. I have been seriously researching for 25 plus years. The Forum has been essential for resources and the helpful and knowledgeable members."

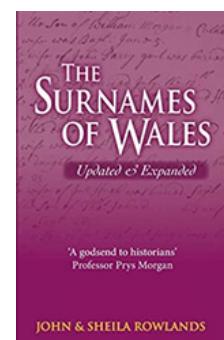
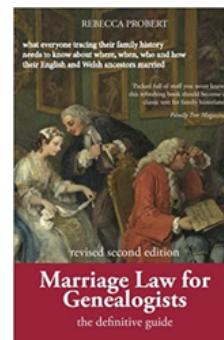
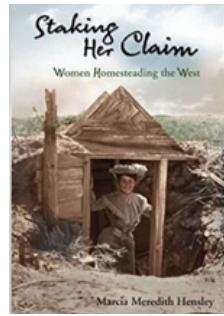
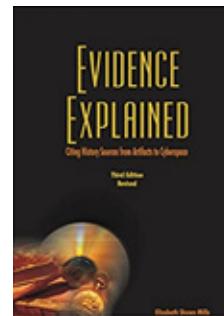
The reference book I grab most often would have to be that well-known volume, *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace* by Elizabeth Shown Mills.

A few books that I have found very useful for understanding a particular subject or time are the following three books.

Staking Her Claim: Women Homesteading the West by Marcia Meredith Hensley, has been invaluable to understanding the life of my great aunt who homesteaded. This book has stories of women who homesteaded in the West at the turn of the 20th century in letters and articles.

Marriage Law for Genealogists: The Definitive Guide by Rebecca Probert is a helpful in comprehending British marriages of the past.

The Surnames of Wales by John and Sheila Rowlands has been especially useful in that



I'm half Welsh, and surnames from Wales are a challenge.

We'd love to feature the genealogy book(s) that you can't live without. Please send us description of the book(s) and how they have helped your research to insider@gfo.org.



Genealogical Forum of Oregon BY THE NUMBERS

75 
YEARS

3 Founders


1,052
MEMBERS



8
locations
before
the Ford
Building

1952
First Open House

Resources from
50
states


15 Special
Interest
Groups

Resources from
54
countries


86
digitized collections
in the MemberSpace

672,000
names indexed for Oregon 1910 Soundex

1
visit from a
Hollywood
actor



VOLUNTEERS
donated
7,586
HOURS
in 2020



1958
Award of Merit from
American Association for
State and Local History

53,000+
holdings


Hosted
2
NGS Conferences


Best State Website
for
3




Doris Cruickshank wins 127 Twenty Sixth: An Insider Scavenger Hunt

Thank you to all 30 people who completed entries to our scavenger hunt, and congratulations to our winner, Doris Cruickshank, who will receive a year's membership to the GFO.

We hope you had fun finding out more about two notable Oregonians (and maybe you found a new record set or source for future research.) We would also like to thank the Special Collections and Archives Research Center at the Oregon State Library for permission to publish the photos of Professors Wiegand and Milam in the scavenger hunt form.

By the way, 127 Twenty Sixth is the address in Corvallis that both Ernest Wiegand and Ava Milam Clark shared in 1920.

As promised, here are the answers to the hunt and one path to get there. (You may have found the answer another way.)

Scavenger Hunt Questions and Answers

Ernest Herman Wiegand was born 10 July 1886 in Illinois.



- 1.** In 1900, what year did Ernest's father state he immigrated from Germany?

ANSWER: 1867

Use FamilySearch > 1900 US Federal Census to look for Ernest Wiegand born 1886 in Illinois. The census shows his father's stated year of immigration.

- 2.** What color were Ernest's eyes, as reported on 5 June 1917?

ANSWER: Brown

1917 is a clue that this was reported on a WWI draft card. A general search at FamilySearch for "Ernest Wiegand," born in Illinois in 1886, retrieves his U.S. WWI Draft Card as the third result.

- 3.** On the 1920 U.S. Federal Census, Ernest was enumerated in Oregon. What is the current name of the establishment where he reported employment?

ANSWER: Oregon State University

Using FamilySearch > 1920 US Federal Census, search for

Ernest Wiegand, location "Oregon." Next, use Google to search for "OAC" and "Corvallis."

- 4.** Ernest won the Nicolas Appert Award for the development of a method for what fruit product, of which Oregon is a major producer?

ANSWER: Maraschino Cherry

Use Google to search for "Wiegand" and "Appert Award."

- 5.** What date did Ernest die?

ANSWER: 30 April 1973

Use FamilySearch > Find a Collection > type "Oregon" in the Collection Title box and the drop-down box has "Oregon Death Index, 1903-1998" > search for "Ernest Wiegand."

- 6.** What is located on the NW corner of the intersection of 30th Street and Campus Way?

ANSWER: Wiegand Hall

Search an online map of Oregon State University.

Ancil Milam was born 22 October 1854 in Macon County, Missouri.

- 7.** Ancil was enumerated on the 1910 US Federal Census. According to this census, what is the likely relationship between Ava and Ada Milam?

ANSWER: Twin sisters

Use FamilySearch > 1910 US Federal Census to search for Ancil Milam in Missouri. Both Ava and Ada were 25. The twin relationship is verified on additional documents.



- 8.** On 26 May 1918, what newspaper published an article announcing Ava Milam's upcoming speaking engagement?

ANSWER: Rogue River Courier

Search "Historic Oregon Newspapers" online at oregonnews.uoregon.edu for "Ava Milam" and the date, 26 May 1918.

- 9.** Ava applied for a passport in 1922. Where was she going to teach?

ANSWER: China

Use FamilySearch general records search for Ava Milam,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

gfo.org/learn/special-interest-groups/

AFRICAN AMERICAN GROUP

Third Saturdays
12–2 p.m.
Led by Janice Sellers
African_American@gfo.org

BRITISH GROUP

Fourth Saturdays in Jan, Mar, May, and Sep
1–3 p.m.
Led by Duane Funk
UK@gfo.org

DNA - Beginners

Fourth Saturdays in Feb, May, Aug, and Nov
9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Led by Emily Aulicino
DNA@gfo.org

DNA - Advanced

Fourth Saturdays in Jan, Apr, July, and Oct
9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Led by Tim Janzen
DNA@gfo.org

DNA Q & A - The Basics

First Wednesdays
1–3 p.m.
Led by Lisa McCullough
DNA_QA@gfo.org

FAMILY TREE MAKER

Monthly, usually second or third Sunday. Be sure to check the GFO calendar.
1–3 p.m.
Led by Laurel Smith
FTM@gfo.org

FRENCH CANADA GROUP

Third Sundays
3:30–5 p.m.
Led by Carol LaBrie and Laura Mitchell
FrCan@gfo.org

GENEALOGY PROBLEM SOLVERS

Third Saturdays, most months
9:30–11:30 a.m.
Led by Katie Daly
GPS@gfo.org

GERMAN GROUP

First Saturdays
1–3 p.m.
Led by Mike Fernandez and Tia Cobb
German@gfo.org

GREAT LAKES REGION

Second Saturdays
(except Aug & Dec)
9:30–11:30 a.m.
Led by Fran Hart
GreatLakes@gfo.org

IRISH GROUP

Third Wednesdays in Feb, Apr, June, Aug, and Oct
6–8 p.m.
Led by Karen Hubbard
Irish@gfo.org

ITALIAN GROUP

Fourth Sundays in Feb, May, Aug, and Nov
1 p.m.–3 p.m.
Led by Stephanie Silenti
Italian@gfo.org

LEARN & CHAT

First and third Wednesdays
10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Led by Sandy Alto and Jeanne Quan
LearnandChat@gfo.org

MEXICAN ANCESTRY

SEEKING LEADER
President@gfo.org

THE Q REVIEW

Second Thursdays
6 p.m.–7 p.m.
Led by Alexa Waddle
greview@gfo.org

VIRGINIA GROUP

First Saturdays, Sept–June
10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Led by Judi Scott and Carol Surrency
Virginia@gfo.org

WRITERS' FORUM

Second Saturdays, Sept–May
1–3 p.m.
Led by Peggy Baldwin
Writers@gfo.org

SCAVENGER HUNT, FROM PAGE 5

born in Missouri. The second result is her passport application. She was traveling to many countries but only teaching in China.

- 10.** Who was Ava's husband (first and last name)?

ANSWER: Jesse Clark

FamilySearch has a Find A Grave listing for Ancil Milam that lists as a survivor, Ava Milam Clark. Ava Milam Clark's Find A Grave page lists Jesse Clark as her husband. A general search for Ava at Ancestry is quicker and brings up the marriage record in California.

- 11.** According to FindAGrave, what field of study was Ava instrumental in developing in multiple countries?

ANSWER: Home Economics

Search FindAGrave for Ava Milam Clark.

Upcoming GFO Meetings

VIRGINIA GROUP

Saturday, May 1, 2021
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

The topic for the May meeting of the Virginia SIG is parish records, processioning returns, road orders, and order books. What are they, and why would I want to know about them? Where can I find them, and how can they help my research? Register for the meeting at bit.ly/35fgUDW.

GERMAN GROUP

Saturday, May 1, 2021
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Russell Francis will present research on his German “Iburg” family. Contact german@gfo.org for a meeting link.

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Serendipity in a Salt Mine

Duane Funk

In 2014, I was on a tour of Eastern Europe. As part of the tour, we visited the Wieliczka Salt Mine near Krakow, Poland. No longer a working mine, it now serves as a major tourist attraction. One of the reasons for its popularity are the works of art carved in the salt by the miners over the centuries of its existence.

While I had not been planning to do any genealogical research in a salt mine, I nevertheless made an interesting find some four hundred feet underground. During the tour, we came to a diorama about the legend of Princess Kinga. I had never heard the story before and was surprised to hear the guide mention King Bela IV of Hungary, my 22nd great grandfather! I descend from his son King Stephen V, the only one of his children I knew of at the time. Now the guide was telling me this princess was a great aunt!

As the story goes, she was about to be married to Bolesław V, the Prince of Kraków. As part of her dowry, she asked her father, Béla IV of Hungary, for a lump of salt, since salt was valuable in Poland. Her father took her to a Hungarian salt mine, where she threw her engagement ring from Bolesław into one



Wieliczka Salt Mine, Krakow, Poland.

Photo courtesy of Duane Funk.

of the shafts. In Kraków, she asked the miners to dig a deep pit until they come upon a rock. These miners turned up a lump of salt, and when they split it open, they found the ring she had lost back in Hungary. Kinga thus became the patron saint of salt miners around the Polish capital.

Later research proved that she was indeed my 21st great aunt. While a salt mine might not be high on the list of repositories, genealogy is where you find it.

UPCOMING GFO MEETINGS, FROM PAGE 7

GREAT LAKES REGION GROUP

Saturday, May 8, 2021
9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Presenter Garry Rossing will speak on early Norwegian immigration to Wisconsin, the factors contributing to immigration, how immigrants arrived, and where they settled. He will also discuss research related to his Norwegian ancestors in Lafayette County, Wisconsin, which resulted in a book he and his twin brother published in December 2020. Contact GreatLakes@gfo.org to request a meeting link.



AFRICAN AMERICAN GROUP

Saturday, May 15, 2021
12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

In May, Melissa Barker, Certified Archives Manager and public historian currently working at the Houston County, Tennessee Archives, will present “Digging into Finding Aids: The Road Map to Any Manuscript Collection.” This presentation will help genealogists read, follow, and use a finding aid to find their ancestors in archives. Contact african_american@gfo.org for a meeting link.

FAMILY TREE MAKER GROUP

Sunday, May 16, 2021
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

In May, the group will explore the Places Workspace. We’ll look at dif-

ferent ways to view the space, how to resolve, change, and ignore place name warnings, and then we’ll play around with the different views available. To be added to the email reminder list and receive a meeting link, contact ftm@gfo.org.

DNA BEGINNERS

Saturday, May 22, 2021
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

The May topic is “My Adventures with DNA.” DNA testing, one of the most helpful tools in genealogy, can sometimes yield surprising results. Those surprises can be delightful or devastating. Join us as Laurel Smith shares her personal adventures in DNA testing. There is no handout for this session. Request a link at dna@gfo.org.



June Annual Member Meeting Followed by GenTalk

We have an Annual Membership Meeting and superb GenTalk coming in June. Once again, we'll meet online. At this brief meeting, GFO members are asked to approve our budget for the next year. Without member approval at the June meeting, the GFO will not have a budget for the new fiscal year, which begins on July 1, 2021. We need **your** participation.

At the meeting, you'll also see next year's officers installed to serve on the Board of Directors, and if a Hall of Fame recipient has been selected this year, you will hear the announcement.

There's another great reason to join us! Immediately following the meeting, Kate Eakman, Senior Researcher and Team Lead for Legacy Tree Genealogists, will present a free GenTalk, "The Professor Was a Revolutionary."

Eakman holds an MA in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She spent 20 years as a college history instructor, during which time she created a genealogically based study of U.S. History. She is the author of two articles for the *APG Quarterly*, as well as "Discover the Story of Your Civil War Soldier Ancestor" (2013).

For this presentation, her task began simply enough. The client provided photographs and stories of his grandfather, census reports, a marriage certificate, and a mystery to solve: Locate the birth and death certificates for the client's grandfather, born in England in about 1865. Twenty years of research had failed to uncover any reference to his grandfather before the birth of his children. Using a 100-year-old mystery, we walk through the process of performing thorough analysis and correlation, and learn how paying close attention to one word on one document unlocked a family secret.

Kate Eakman

The online meeting and GenTalk are scheduled for Saturday, June 19, 2021. The meeting will begin at 2:15 and last about 15 minutes.

Access the registration form at the following link: gfo.org/gentalk.

ONE-STEP WEBPAGES

A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools



MAY 15, 2021  2:30 PM PST

PRESENTED ONLINE LIVE BY
Stephen Morse, creator of the One-Step Website

GenTalk from the
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Register: gfo.org/gentalk



Q Review Tackles NGS Contest Winner

In March, we discussed “A Love Story Proved: The Life and Family of Laura Lavinia (Kelly) Combs of Atlanta and Augusta, Georgia,” by Paul K. Graham (*National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vol. 101, Dec 2013, p. 245–266).

In 2012, this article won the Family History writing contest offered yearly by the National Genealogical Society. (For more information on the contest, see bit.ly/39NXo3a).

Graham presented a detailed argument solving the identity of the first Black landowner in Atlanta. The landowner was mentioned in the 1894 book, *The Black Side: A Partial History of the Business, Religious, and Educational Side of the Negro in Atlanta, Ga.* by Rev. E. R. Carter (digitized version available at HathiTrust: bit.ly/39QxcVj).

This article provides insight into freedmen records and laws for free Blacks in antebellum Georgia. For a more in-depth review, a four-part YouTube series on the article was produced by Kay Rudolph, a researcher in Florida: bit.ly/3a0VfRF.

Join us June 10, 2021, at 6 p.m. for a discussion of Jan M. Joyce’s “Susan Gliddon of Bridgerule, Devon, England; and Summit County, Ohio: One Person or Two?” NGSQ 105 (Dec 2017), p. 281–292 (article link: bit.ly/3s6Zu4u).

The Bulletin Needs You

Our sister publication, *The Bulletin: A Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon*, needs volunteers to write obituaries of members. We honor our members who have passed in the magazine, and it is a wonderful way to contribute to *The Bulletin* and the GFO.

Additionally, *The Bulletin* is looking for articles to publish. Articles do not need to be Northwest focused. Many types of articles, including problem-solving articles, articles on family history travel, memoirs, personal essays, and book reviews, are requested. Share your wonderful family research with the rest of our members. For information on volunteering and/or contributing articles, please contact bulletin@gfo.org.

GFO Virtual Open House Attracts Hundreds Per Day

In March, the GFO hosted its first-ever virtual open house with 18 free classes over eight days. It proved to be our most successful Open House ever! More than 2,100 participants attended classes. (Yes, many attended more than once.) Our average attendance was 121 people per class. More than 40 new members joined, and numerous others renewed their membership.

A tremendous thank you to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring this event to fruition, including our incredible speakers, meeting moderators, and behind-the-scenes technicians.

If you are one of our new members, Laurel Smith regularly teaches a free class on accessing GFO member resources from home. It's a great way to get familiar with all we offer. Upcoming May classes are May 10 and May 29. Register for classes on our website: bit.ly/3dfYJlv.



Get Help at PMUG Clinic

**Every Tuesday Evening
6:00pm – 7:30 pm via Zoom**

- Answers + Free Help for Your Macintosh, iPhone, iPad, iPod or Apple Watch
- For info on how to attend, contact us at:

info@pmug.org



Four Reasons to Keep Conference Syllabus Files

Marian Burk Wood

Wood is a genealogy blogger at ClimbingMyFamilyTree.blogspot.com and author of Planning a Future for Your Family's Past. Originally published on her blog 12 Nov 2020.

Do you have old syllabus files from conferences you attended in past years? Here are four very good reasons to hold onto them and keep them handy. Note: Mine are all digital, taking up no room on my bookshelf and yet easy to find and review in a matter of moments.

REFRESH YOUR MEMORY

Sometimes I can't absorb all the key points from a session even with the handout in front of me. This is especially true for topics that are new to me or techniques I use only very occasionally.

For instance, Pamela J. Cooper's "Railroad Trilogy" session at the 2013 FGS conference got me started researching my husband's ancestors who worked on the railroad. She had so many great ideas! I've returned to her handout in the syllabus more than once to remind myself of occupational words (like gandy dancer) that suggest a railroad background, and for how to obtain employee and pension records.

In 2014, I attended Maureen Taylor's NGS session about "Photo Detecting 101" and got educated on the basics of photo identification. Her handy chart comparing the daguerreotype, the ambrotype, the tintype, and cartes des visite has been such a treasure as I sort my family's old photos for dating and captioning. I refresh my memory on the differences as often as needed.

LESS RELEVANT THEN, MORE RELEVANT NOW

In 2013, I had no idea I would find so many ancestors in my husband's family tree who worked for railroads. Back then, I was thinking primarily about the background of my husband's grandfather, Brice Larimer McClure, who worked as a machinist for the "Big Four" railroads in Wabash, Indiana at the turn of the 20th century.

Since that conference, I've discovered some of hubby's ancestors were station agents ... some were railroad machinists ... and on and on. Having the syllabus available with a few clicks allows me to return to Pam's handout and see it with fresh eyes, getting more out of it because I know more about family his-

tory than I did back then. In short, the session is even more relevant to my genealogy research today than in the past.

SOURCES, TECHNIQUES, AND TIPS ARE TIMELESS

Nearly all of the info in my syllabus files (even the oldest, from 2013 and 2014) has stood the test of time, particularly methodology and tips. The basics are sound and remain valuable. The syllabus files provide quite an education and allow me to expand my knowledge well beyond the sessions I attended.

Some speakers included web addresses in their handouts. A few led to "404 Not Found," but the vast majority are still working and still helpful. In fact, some of the links led to pages that are being updated on a regular basis. I was delighted to see that Pam's link to Jim Sponholz's page on "Locations of Railroad Genealogical Materials" was very much alive—Jim

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Treasurer's Report

TREASURER: ERIN RANDALL [TREASURER@GFO.ORG]

MARCH 2020

INCOME		
Donations	\$	1,281.89
Memberships	\$	3,770.00
Seminars & Other Programs	\$	1,423.00
Library & Research	\$	326.00
Book Sales & Misc. Income	\$	489.35
Interest & Dividends	\$	1,382.86
Total	\$	8,673.10
EXPENSES		
Administration	\$	671.12
Education Programs	\$	125.00
Facilities & Equipment	\$	4,995.94
Library & Research	\$	502.86
Total	\$	6,294.92
Net Income for the Month	\$	2,378.18
Year-to-Date Net Income	\$	40,555.37



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Contact us at
info@gfo.org

GFO Star

April **Ed Vandehey**

Ed Vandehey stepped in to become our webmaster and has instantly be-



come a superstar volunteer. He processes new member access within a day (or even hours) so new members can reach the Member-Space immediately, and patiently helps them with login troubles.

He has reformatted several of our pages to make them clearer and more

visually appealing.

But wait, there's more!

He attended 17 of the 18 Open House classes, pitched in to serve as a co-host, monitored chat questions, and answered many of the queries. Within hours after the Open House wrapped up, he compiled attendance and donation numbers in an easy to read chart.

On top of this, he has agreed to be a backstop administrator of our Facebook page.

Thank you, Ed, you have quickly become our MVP.

FOUR REASONS TO KEEP SYLLABI, FROM PAGE 9

updated it just a few weeks ago!

Talk about timeless: I should put Maureen Taylor's "Photo Detecting 101" handout from NGS 2014 on speed dial. Having connected with more cousins in recent years, I refer to her tips and techniques often as I investigate each new family photo.

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FROM OLD SYLLABUS FILES

Like browsing a library's shelves in search of a good book to read, clicking through old syllabus files can lead to fresh ideas and inspiration. Just now, I

was clicking through the 2014 NGS syllabus and stopped at the handout for Elizabeth Shown Mills's session "War Is Hell." She not only suggested a strategy for researching military claims made by ancestors, she included a detailed list of sources to check for claims related to each war or conflict. This is an angle I didn't even consider when examining hubby's Civil War ancestors, but now will try to investigate.

Old syllabus files are the gift that keeps on giving, year after year. If you haven't opened one lately, find a quiet moment to take another look. You're sure to notice something you can use in your current genealogical situation!



**We bring the
library to you.**

GFO Lookup Service

Lookup Forms Available in the MemberSpace

gfo.org

The Forum Insider

Genealogical Forum of Oregon
2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B-18
Portland, OR 97202-1061

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GFO MAY 2021 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: gfo.org/calendar

Saturday, May 1

10 a.m.–12 p.m.	Virginia Group
1–3 p.m.	German Group

Wednesday, May 5

10 a.m.–12 p.m.	Learn & Chat
1–3 p.m.	DNA Q&A: The Basics

Saturday, May 8

9:30–11:30 a.m.	Great Lakes Region Ancestry
1–3 p.m.	Writers' Forum

Monday, May 10

10 a.m.–12 p.m.	Access GFO Resources
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Tuesday, May 11

6:30–8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
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Thursday, May 13

6–7 p.m.	The Q Review
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Saturday, May 15

9:30–11:30 a.m.	Genealogy Problem Solvers
12–2 p.m.	African American Ancestry
2:30–3:30 p.m.	Gen Talk: One-Step Webpages

Sunday, May 16

1–3 p.m.	Family Tree Maker Group
3:30–5 p.m.	French Canada Ancestry

Wednesday, May 19

10 a.m.–12 p.m.	Learn & Chat
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Saturday, May 22

10 a.m.–12 p.m.	DNA Beginners
1–3 p.m.	British Group

Sunday, May 23

1–2:30 p.m.	Italian Ancestry
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Saturday, May 29

11 a.m.–1 p.m.	Access GFO Resources
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