

Great Lakes Special Interest Group

GFO Open House – 14 March 2023



Kim Thurman, Facilitator
Contact: GreatLakes@gfo.org

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

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

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

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

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>

FamilySearch

Research Wiki - https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Wisconsin,_United_States_Genealogy

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

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

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

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