



THE Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon
Volume 32 • Number 4 • November 2020

GFO's Biggest Plan Ever: A Permanent Home

We're a small organization with a very big idea. The GFO Board believes we should consider buying a building as a permanent home.

Our friends at the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society in Medford inspired us. They bought a former restaurant with ample room for research and classes.

By about 2026 or 2027, our monthly rent will reach roughly the same amount as a mortgage payment. Wouldn't it be nice if those payments went into our own investment?

A permanent home would free the GFO from rent increases. It would give us stability, a known space, and control of our future. Acting now could guarantee our future 25 years or more from now.

To do this will be a monumental task. We are not suggesting buying a building free and clear. That would require \$1.5 to \$2 million.

We would need to raise \$400,000 to \$500,000 for a down payment on a mortgage and additional funds to cover required renovations by early to mid-2025. After

raising the funds, we would find a building, remodel it, and move by late spring 2026.

And yes, we'd still have to raise money in our Annual Appeal to keep paying for year-to-year operations.

Frankly, we're not professional fundraisers. We need help.

We hope you saw our special email or letter about this grand plan. If you have not yet responded to our survey, please offer your thoughts on this survey: bit.ly/33rjDsO.

The Oregon State Archives

A Great Resource, Especially Now

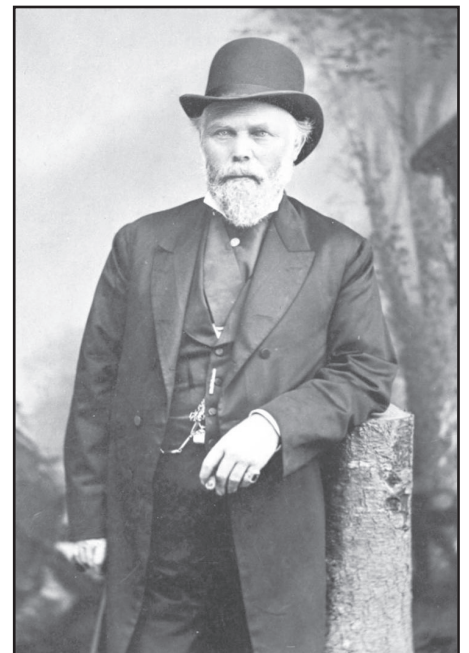
Geri Auerbach

Although the Reference Room at the Oregon State Archives may be closed, you can still access many of their records from home.

The archives has three indexes that are particularly useful to genealogists: "Early Oregonians" database, the "Oregon Historical Records Index," and the "County Records Inventories."

The "Early Oregonians" database (bit.ly/2HFrt9R) attempts to document all persons who lived in the state prior to Oregon's statehood in 1859. The information about a person can include name, gender, date and place of birth, date and place of death, burial, parents, spouse, date of arrival to Oregon, and more. The database also lists census events for the person. The amount of information documented on an individual can vary.

The "Oregon Historical Records Index" (genealogy.state.or.us/) contains a wide-ranging variety of records. On the linked page, go to the "Record Type" drop-down box to see the more than 40 record types that may be available for your searched person. If you find a record of interest, follow the link that says "Order Record #." Fill out the form to



John Whiteaker was the first governor of the state of Oregon. He served March 3, 1859–September 10, 1862. The Oregon Archives, Salem Public Library Historic Photograph Collections, Salem Public Library, Salem, Oregon.

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The Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical
Forum of Oregon

gfo.org  info@gfo.org

2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B18
Portland, OR 97202-1061
503-963-1932

Library Hours

Closed for COVID-19

Many services online.

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Submissions to *The Forum Insider*: Please send comments, corrections, news, short success stories, and announcements to Geri Auerbach and Keri Logan, editors, at insider@gfo.org.

Vital Records Free for Fire Victims

If you or someone you know was affected by Oregon's devastating wildfires, the state is offering free duplicate copies of vital records.

The State Vital Records office "will provide up to three certified copies of a birth, death, marriage, divorce, domestic partnership or dissolution of domestic partner-

ship free of charge if the record is requested in connection with Executive Order 20-35 related to wildfire response."

This applies only to fires in Oregon. Forms may be ordered by mail, phone, or online. The fee waiver lasts until March 1, 2021.

Full details are online at the following link: bit.ly/3jLONkj.

THE OREGON STATE ARCHIVES, FROM PAGE 1

which you are directed. It has a place for you to submit a telephone number so that you can be reached to arrange payment. A Basics Records Request is \$5.00 for in-state residents and \$10.00 for out-of-state residents.

A Basic Case File Request is \$10.00 (\$15.00) and includes up to 10 photocopies and postage. Additional pages are 75 cents. If you have search requests beyond the basic records listed here, there is a Services and Fees list available at bit.ly/30fxPmx. In my recent experience with the Oregon State Archives, they called me for payment within 48 hours of my request for a Basic Case File. I received the requested documents within a week of payment.

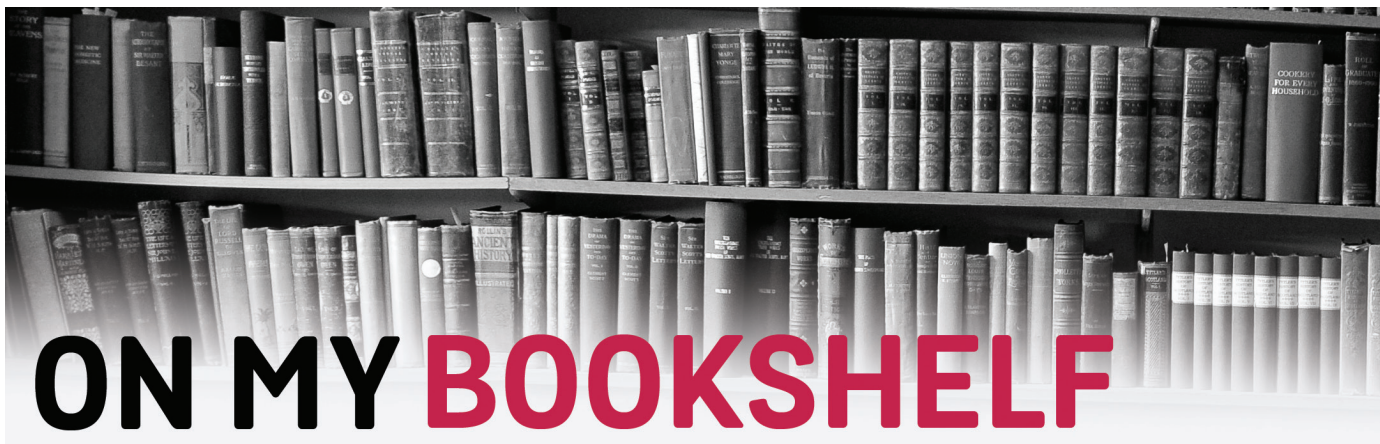
The "County Records Inventories" (bit.ly/30g3LaA) is a clickable map of Oregon counties, with a list of all the county record



types inventoried. When you go to your county of interest and click on the type of records of interest, a list with the time frame and location of the records is given. Generally, the location will be the physical location of the records, but also may include records available at FamilySearch.org. If the county has the record you seek, the main county website and the physical addresses of the relevant county departments are available on the page listed above.

For information beyond these records, investigate the Oregon Historical County Records Guide webpage (bit.ly/2GdiBrc). On this page, you can access county histories, scenic images, historical county offices and duties, and Oregon maps. These sources can help inform your understanding of the times and places your ancestors lived.

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.

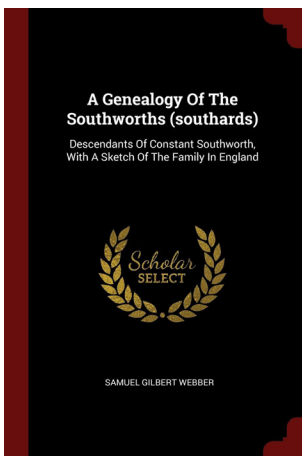


Tricia Oberndorf completed her application to prove Mayflower ancestors this year, the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower. We asked her to share a book recommendation from that process.

If I had to pick one book, it would probably be a book about my family that Samuel Webber wrote long ago: Webber, Samuel G. *A Genealogy of the Southworths (Southards), Descendants of Constant Southworth, The Fort Mill Press, Samuel Usher, 176 to 184 High Street, Boston, Mass. 1905* (bit.ly/2HXDWFZ).

I accessed it from GoogleBooks, and one of the attributions say it was digitized by Google. Originally, I found it in more than one library, including Salt Lake, but finding it online was great, especially when the coronavirus shutdown occurred.

In addition, when I had to follow some very indirect routes to establish time and location for the death of one couple in my direct line as well as the wife’s maiden name, I discovered another family genealogy on a collateral line that helped me put all the pieces together. I was fortunate that it was also available online: *Genealogy and Family History of the Uphams*, compiled by F. K. Upham, and printed for private circulation in 1887 (bit.ly/33rbtAG).



Of course, my starting point for the application was the magnificent “silver books” (*Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* series). By consulting the series for my target starting point (John Alden and Priscilla Mullins), I discovered the first five generations had already been traced and established. Thus, I was able to start with this knowledge rather than repeating the great research completed by the Society.

So, if my “one book” can be a book category, I would say it’s all the books people have done for us over the past 150 years! Of course, some may have errors, and you need to check things out. But the head starts and hints that they provide are invaluable. In fact, I would not have known where to look for that couple if it weren’t for one throwaway line in the Webber Southworth genealogy.

Tricia is a professional genealogist and speaker. In July 2020, she presented a GFO GenTalk titled “Using Civil War Pension Files.” The resource hand-out from this talk is available on our website at bit.ly/33GXd73.

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

Attending FGS Live Leads to Breathtaking Discovery

Laurel Smith

Attending genealogical conferences—whether in person or virtual—is always educational, but this morning I got a real shock. I was watching the presentation by Jenn Utley titled “The Journey to ‘Roots Less Traveled.’” A mother and son were taken on an emotional journey of discovery about their ancestor, a man named Larkin Ford, who was freed by his slaveholder in the 1840s. The show originally aired April 2020 on NBC’s *Roots Less Traveled*, Season 1, Episode 4, “Connecting to a Landmark Court Case.” As the story unfolded, it was revealed that the family had been in Tennessee

I recalled that I had a Ford line in my tree ... I wondered if they had been in Tennessee. I haven’t done much research on this line.

As the television show continued playing, I opened my family tree in my computer database. There were the Fords, with a bit of the bare bones information that I had.

The show mentioned that the research had taken them to Washington County, Tennessee.

My Fords were in Washington County, Tennessee, around that time. I wondered if their Fords, enslaved, connected with my Fords, who were slaveholders.

The show continued. It revealed that the slaveholder who freed the featured Ford family ancestor was Lloyd Ford.

My fifth great-grandfather is a Lloyd Ford!

The television show’s Lloyd Ford died in 1843.

My Lloyd Ford is said to have died in Washington County, Tennessee, in 1843!

The show went on to detail how Lloyd Ford’s sons contested their father’s will, which freed the enslaved Ford family (as well as three other families and one individual) and gave them the land. The case went all the way to the Tennessee Supreme Court, which after many years, affirmed the will, giving the land and freedom to the enslaved Ford family members.

This was all waiting out there for me to find—but I had not begun to research Lloyd Ford.

Then, wow! All this was revealed to the mother and son, and to me, watching a presentation on FGS Live.

Genealogical Forum of Oregon

VIRTUAL FALL SEMINAR



Lisa Louise Cooke

Host of the **Genealogy Gems Podcast**

NOV. 14 - 15

Register gfo.org/lisa

BIG DISCOUNTS FOR GFO MEMBERS

GFO to Celebrate Seventy-Five Years in 2021

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon’s 75th Anniversary is 2021. We have started planning ways to celebrate this wonderful milestone. We would love to hear your GFO memories or how the GFO has helped you uncover a family secret, expand your family tree, or complete a research goal. Please share these successes by submitting small stories or even short videos (with express permission to publish these).

We understand that the pandemic will greatly affect our ability to have traditional celebrations, and we would appreciate your thoughts on activities that would be meaningful to you.

Please submit these small stories, short videos, or celebration suggestions to insider@gfo.org.



GFO Seeks Input for Inclusion Committee

In June, the GFO Board issued a statement in support of Black lives and acknowledged the history of Eurocentrism in genealogy.

We expressed deep thanks for those who have helped us to expand offerings to Black and Mexican American researchers. We also said we can do better.

To help get us where we need to go, the Board wishes to create a new inclusion committee. While we use “inclusion committee” as the current shorthand, we intend to give the new committee an open-ended in-

itation to choose its own name and examine any aspects of what we do.

What should such a committee do for the GFO?

How can we encourage participation from the people who have been underserved?

We are seeking input from you, our members, about how this committee should function and be formed. Please make your thoughts known at our survey: bit.ly/3dfsVLM.

Only by working together will we see more clearly how to improve our organization.

TIMELINES & RESEARCH CHECKLISTS

21
Nov.

Presented by: Katherine R. Willson

Live | Online | 2pm

GenTalk at the GFO

Free!



REGISTER: GFO.ORG/GENTALK



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
FrCan@gfo.org

GENEALOGY PROBLEM SOLVERS

Third Saturdays
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

First Tuesdays
10 a.m.–12 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
qreview@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

Upcoming GFO Meetings

VIRGINIA GROUP

Saturday, November 7, 2020
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

November's topic will be the Library of Virginia Digital Archives.

Virginia research is difficult, even in the best of times. Records have been destroyed, and many of those that remain have limited access. The Library of Virginia is a premier resource for Virginia genealogical research, even during these stay-at-home times. The archive has an amazing digital collection. But, it's not always easy to find those records. And now, they have changed their search process.

In this meeting, we'll discuss a selection of the records available online and how to find others. We'll also talk about some of the other resources available to help your research.

Register in advance for this meeting: bit.ly/35fgUDW.

FAMILY TREE MAKER

Sunday, November 22, 2020
1:00–3:00 p.m.

This month, we'll focus on the Plan Workspace. We'll explore where every new Family Tree Maker user begins, and we'll learn how many experienced users go there to sync with Ancestry, view details about their tree, roll back changes to it, manage their research to-do list, and more.

There's always time for questions on any FTM subject.

If you are not already on the email reminder list, and you want

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UPCOMING GFO MEETINGS,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

to attend, please send a request to ftm@gfo.org no later than Saturday night before the meeting.

DNA BEGINNER SIG

Saturday, November 28, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

This month's meeting will feature Genetic Genealogist Traci Barela, who will be speaking on DNA Painter and WATO for beginners.

For those of you unfamiliar with DNA Painter see dnapainter.com.

For those of you who are asking, "What the heck is WATO?" please read: dnapainter.com/tools/probability.

SIG leader Emily Aulicino would appreciate questions sent early in the month so there is time to incorporate your concerns into the presentation and get a description published. Send questions and requests for meeting link to dna@gfo.org.

Feast and Support the GFO

You can help the GFO while you shop at Fred Meyer for Thanksgiving or any other time.

All you have to do is link your rewards card to the Genealogical Forum of Oregon as the charity you'd like to help.



Once linked, Fred Meyer makes a donation to the GFO based on your shopping. Best of all, it does not affect the prices you pay or your own rewards.

If you'd like to participate, please link your card to Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Account #PB444.

You'll help us to preserve and share genealogy resources.

Community Rewards is easy to use, and the more you shop, the more money the GFO earns!

Link to program:
www.fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards

Happy Holidays

**Do you have a friend or relative interested in genealogy?
Give a GFO membership and get two FREE months for yourself!**



GFO DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE

Gift
Membership

to *from*

Order by December 10*
Get details at gfo.org/gift

If paying by check, send with gift form to GFO Membership, 2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B18, Portland, OR 97202. Holiday gift memberships begin January 1, 2021.* Purchasers receive a two-month extension on their own membership. Questions? Contact membership@gfo.org.
*Please allow seven days for processing. Different start dates may be requested.

Opportunities for Home-Based Volunteering Abound

The GFO Library may be closed, but there's still plenty of ways you can help us from home. We're currently recruiting volunteers to help with these projects.

Bibles

This project includes transcribing the genealogy information found in old Bibles, researching the family, and doing a short write-up about what you find. These are published in the *Bulletin*. We have a few images from the original Bibles and many more that were given to us as transcripts without the images of the Bible pages. If you'd like to help with Bibles, please contact Nanci Remington: manuscripts@gfo.org.

Data Extraction

The Data Extraction group is working to index GFO's old *Bulletin* quarterlies. Is this something you would like to do from home? If so, Loretta Welsh can send the indexing rules, the Excel spreadsheet for the volume, and a volume for you to index. It is interesting going through the old *Bulletins*. Loretta has even found some ancestors in them! Contact dataextraction@gfo.org if you'd like to help.

Find A Grave

GFO holds thousands upon thousands of records with death and burial information. Volunteers will add photos and information to Find A Grave using the GFO Find A Grave account. The goal is to use the popular site to preserve and share information, leave a bread crumb trail back to the GFO, and/or a trail to the original source of the information (book, periodical, etc.)

It was rewarding to see the very first suggested edit adopted quickly, attaching Basil Browning's existing memorial to spouse and son (bit.ly/34nPIB9), and including a bit of biographical information credited to the society that published it.

Sound fun? Contact Laurel Smith library@gfo.org if you'd like to get involved.

Manuscripts

For the last few years, our volunteers have been organizing, scanning, and creating finding aids for the many papers that have been donated. Some collections predate computer research. Often, the most interest-

ing part is the correspondence because it is unique and includes information that cannot be found in other sources. We need volunteers to create finding aids for the collections that have been scanned. This involves going through the digital images and recording basic information onto a spreadsheet. Volunteers are not expected to read the material, just skim through it to pull relevant data. Procedures and examples can be found at bit.ly/30KsRyo. If you'd like to help with the manuscript collection, please contact Nanci Remington: manuscripts@gfo.org.

PDF Processing of Digital Scans

This requires the software Adobe Acrobat Pro. If you have this software already, and would like to help, please contact Laurel Smith: library@gfo.org.

Proofreaders

We are looking for editors and proofreaders for the GFO *Bulletin*. Although it is published quarterly, the editing process is ongoing, averaging two to three articles per month. It helps to have a background in writing and/or proofreading. Procedures and a style guide are available. If you would like more information, send an email to bulletin@gfo.org.

Hey GFO Members!
Need something from the library?

Let the
**Lookup
Service**
retrieve it for you!



Find the form at
gfo.org/login/members-login/



Don't Forget to Cast Your Ballot This Month

One hundred years ago, the ratification of the 19th Amendment expanded the vote to some women throughout the United States. In Oregon, the right for some women to vote was granted eight years earlier.

Abigail Scott Duniway was the first woman to register to vote in Multnomah County. Duniway, along with two other White women, Maria Hendee and Mrs. M. A. Lambert, and one Black woman, Mary Beatty, attempted to cast ballots in 1872, sparking the suffrage movement in Oregon. Oregon and other Western states were on the forefront of the movement, and their early laws provided momentum for ratification of the federal amendment.

This anniversary coincides with a presidential election, so celebrate your ancestors' victory by making your voice heard.



Abigail Scott Duniway signs the precinct voter registration book while County Clerk John B. Coffey looks on. This photograph ran in the Oregonian on February 15, 1913, with the caption, "Pioneer Suffragist who is first woman to register as voter in Multnomah County." Photo: Oregon Historical Society.

Upcoming Free Webinars on Veteran Genealogy

As a reminder, the webinars at FamilyTree Webinars and the Southern California Genealogical Society are free when you have preregistered and watch live.

Deeds Not Words: Finding Your Merchant Marine Ancestors

Wednesday, November 11, 2020, 5:00–6:30 p.m. PST
Michael L. Strauss, AG, Legacy Family Tree

The Merchant Marines have always played a pivotal and important role in American history. Without their efforts and sacrifice, the wars of the twentieth century could have turned out very differently. Many genealogically valuable records can be searched to find your merchant mariner ancestors.

Register at bit.ly/2HIqKEZ.

Bounty Land: It's Complicated

Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 6:00–7:30 p.m. PST
Annette Burke Lyttle, Southern California Genealogical Society

Bounty land was offered as compensation for soldiers who fought in the Revolution, War of 1812, and Mexican War, but veterans of these wars didn't simply take up residence on their land grants. Some did, but many people who weren't veterans ended up with these lands. Learn about the laws, all the people who got involved, and where to find the records.

Register at bit.ly/3mY8yqQ.

Early Military Resources at NEHGS: Colonial Wars to War of 1812

Ongoing Availability

David Allen Lambert, American Ancestors

Do you have ancestors who served during the Colonial Wars, the American Revolution, or the War of 1812? Learn about the resources at New England Historic Genealogical Society and other repositories. GFO members have access to NEHGS resources through the American Ancestors link in our Member Portal. View anytime at bit.ly/2FELnB2.

Q Review Explores Writing and Editing Process

Alexa Waddle

In September, we had a great discussion regarding Jean Atkinson Andrews' "Indirect Evidence for the Identity of Richard Andrews (1748-1824) of Stark County, Ohio," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 103 (March 2015). Some of the conclusions the group reached were that timelines can help readers follow the evidence in a logical progression to the author's conclusion. However, incorporating a subject's FAN club (Family, Associates, Neighbors) can make it very difficult to structure a timeline. Incorporating so much evidence from so many individuals may require multiple timelines.

Furthermore, the group considered the question of what differences may have appeared in the author's original work versus the published article. Because articles published in the NGSQ undergo a series of



edits, the group felt it would be helpful to better understand the process that a submitted work undergoes before being printed. To that end, the author for October's article has been invited to speak at the October meeting.

Finally, a group member recommended Jill Morelli's blog, *Genealogical Certification: My Personal Journal* (bit.ly/3nBwLDJ), as a helpful resource for writers, readers, and those pursuing certification. Two blog posts from 2013, "Analyzing 10 NGSQ Articles, Part 1" (bit.ly/2GNwA7D) and "Part 2," (bit.ly/36QTB4d) discuss some of her observations regarding NGSQ articles. A post from 2014 includes great questions to ask yourself as you are reading genealogy articles: bit.ly/37gXzDp.

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Holiday Shopping Time?

Doing your holiday shopping online this year?

When you buy at Amazon, please do us a favor. Give us a boost at the same time.

Go to smile.amazon.com, and AmazonSmile donates to Genealogical Forum of Oregon at no cost to you! Just be sure to select the GFO as the charity tied to your Amazon Smile purchases.

Thanks so much for supporting our efforts to preserve and share heritage since 1946.

Rogue Valley Fall Webinar

Rogue Valley Genealogical Society in Medford, Oregon, will host "21st Century Research for the Everyday Genealogist" on Saturday, November 7, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Annette Burke Lyttle, professional genealogist, will present several classes: "Genealogical Proof for the Everyday Genealogist," "How Research Plans Can Up Your Genealogical Game," "Find Your Family History in Free Online Newspapers," and "Chasing Uncle William Through the Wilds of Cyberspace." Cost is \$45 for members and \$55 for nonmembers.

Treasurer's Report

TREASURER: ERIN RANDALL [TREASURER@GFO.ORG]

SEPTEMBER 2020

INCOME

Investments & Endowment	\$	1,811.06
Donations	\$	2,958.00
Memberships	\$	1,430.00
Seminars & Other Programs	\$	114.00
Library & Research	\$	812.24
Book Sales, Pubs, & Misc. Income	\$	1,397.95
Total	\$	8,523.25

EXPENSES

Administration	\$	662.43
Education Programs	\$	—
Facilities & Equipment	\$	4,939.07
Library & Research	\$	123.49
Total	\$	5,724.99
Net Income for the Month	\$	2,798.26
Year-to-Date Net Income	\$	4,256.09



Executive Board of Directors

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Technology

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Webmaster

Anita Marks

Contact us at

info@gfo.org

Q REVIEW, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

For October, we had the pleasure of hosting Melinda Henningfield, the author of the article, “A Family for William Gray of New Madrid County, Territory of Missouri,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 101 (September 2013): 207–228. She demystified the NGSQ editing process for us. It may not be as intimidating as it seems; the editors’ goal is to help improve your submitted work and make it the best it can be.

She stressed the importance of thorough, exhaustive research. She also gave us some helpful writing tips. Avoid repetition and the passive voice; keep verb tenses consistent; and stay focused on answering the research question. I’m so grateful she met with us. This discussion gave us, as readers, great insight into the writing and editing process. It also gave us all very useful tools to improve our own writing as well. It was a joy to have Melinda lead the discussion!

For our meeting on Thursday, November 12, please read “DNA Identifies a Father for Rachel, Wife of James Lee of Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania,” by Patricia Lee Hobbs, found at bit.ly/3doZirn.

Help Recruit GFO Board Candidates

Our board election is not until next spring, but we already need your help. GFO’s bylaws require us to appoint three to five members, who are not currently on the Board, to serve on a Nominating Committee. This committee shall nominate candidates for offices in the next election by January 31, 2021.

Next year, we will have positions for



Giving Tuesday

Support GFO's Annual Appeal

In past years, we’ve celebrated Giving Tuesday with significant hands-on volunteer events at the library, but this year, COVID makes that impossible.

So, this Giving Tuesday, December 1, we’d like to ask you to support us in another way: please give to our Annual Appeal.

We’ve executed a dramatic pivot to services this year, switching many of our resources online so you can access them at home while the library remains closed. When we do reopen, we’re going to face significant expenses to put personal protection measures in place.

The GFO campaigns for financial support only once a year. Now is that time. Member dues cover only 24% of our budget. Due to this year’s pandemic closure, we may not have sufficient income to cover expenses and be forced to use our emergency reserve funds.

We hope to raise \$25,000 in this campaign, less than we’ve sought in previous years. But it may be enough to safeguard our reserves.

Please give now at our safe, secure website: gfo.org/appeal.

Vice President and Treasurer on the ballot. Neither of the current officers are running again. These are very important positions that we must fill.

Would you be willing to help us find candidates? Please contact president@gfo.org if you can serve on the Nominating Committee, or are interested in running for VP or Treasurer.

The Forum Insider

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

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GFO NOVEMBER 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: gfo.org/calendar

Tuesday, November 3

10:00–11:30 a.m. Italian Ancestry

Wednesday, November 4

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Learn & Chat
1:00–3:00 p.m. DNA Q&A: The Basics

Saturday, November 7

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Virginia Group
11:00–3:00 p.m. German Ancestry

Tuesday, November 10

6:30–8:30 p.m. Board Meeting

Thursday, November 12

6:00–7:00 p.m. The Q Review

Saturday, November 14

9:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Fall Seminar with Lisa Louise Cooke
1:00–3:00 p.m. Writer's Forum

Sunday, November 15

1:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Fall Seminar with Lisa Louise Cooke
3:30–5:00 p.m. French Canada Ancestry

Wednesday, November 18

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Learn & Chat

Sunday, November 21

9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Genealogy Problem Solvers
12:00–2:00 p.m. African American Ancestry
2:00–3:00 p.m. GenTalk: Timelines & Research Checklists

Sunday, November 22

1:00–3:00 p.m. Family Tree Maker Group

Tuesday, November 24

6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Who's in Your Neighborhood? Meeting the Diverse Research Needs of Your Community with Linda Harms Okazaki

Saturday November 28

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. DNA Beginners