



# THE Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon  
Volume 36 • Number 3 • October 2024

## The Power of Reaching Out

Tanya Goffman

Does that say “Smalley?” I slid my glasses on as I clicked the thumbnail of the August 2024 issue of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon’s *Insider* newsletter, which was ready for proofreading. Granted, I am waiting for an updated pair of glasses, but that PDF thumbnail did look like it said Smalley.

Sure enough, the document opened to reveal the cover article: “Meeting my Smalley Cousins” by Bonnie LaDoe. My heart raced; there were so many pictures and names! I wanted to read through that article as fast as I could to know if the author and I were related. Would I be able to speak with the author? If we were related, how and through whom? A dozen other questions ran through my mind. I forced myself to focus and do my volunteer job: to carefully read through the entire newsletter, get any corrections noted, and send off my corrections before reading that article “for fun,” as I called it in my head.

Once I let myself loose, I couldn’t read the article fast enough! I re-read it, and then skimmed the article a third time for any name that sounded familiar. There were a few, but the ones in my tree had lived in other parts of the country many years ago. I then slowed down and savored Bonnie’s story of attending a festival in 1991 in Gray’s River, Washington, and asking if anyone knew of any Smalleys. She found a few at that event! The article tells the tale of what happened next on her journey to finding a huge family she did not know she had, and demonstrates the power of reaching out.

Even though I hadn’t recognized any names from Bonnie’s article in my family tree, I thought I might follow Bonnie’s lead on asking about her family. I contacted the *Insider* editors to see how I might connect with Bonnie. After obtaining Bonnie’s approval, the editors shared her email address with



me. I quickly crafted an email with a simple outline of my male line of Smalleys as far back as I had it, to the first Smalley to come to the New World from England: Edward Sutton Smalley, born in 1589.

Bonnie immediately responded, saying it looked like we were connected via my seventh great grandfather, Jonathan Smalley (1683-1763), Edward’s great grandson, and she attached her family tree. I scoured that for additional familiar names. I found no others. I only had one son in my tree for Jonathan Smalley and his wife—my ancestor, John, born 1712 in New Jersey. Bonnie was descended from another son, Andrew. Neither of us had the other’s siblings listed. Now we were each able to add one more child to our trees, and we now knew of each other!

Every time I proofread the *Insider*, I see their mission statement on page two: “To inspire and empower every person to discover and engage with their family history.” I believe my new cousin, Bonnie, and I are fulfilling that mission, thanks to the *Insider* and the power of reaching out!”



# Genealogical Forum of Oregon

2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B018  
Portland, OR 97202-1093

## Mission

To inspire and empower every person to *discover* and *engage* with their family history.

## Contact Us

503-963-1932  
[info@gfo.org](mailto:info@gfo.org)

## Visitor Information

Library Hours  
Sunday 1–5 p.m.  
Monday & Tuesday 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Wednesday 1–5 p.m.

## Executive Board of Directors

President <b>Geoff Smith</b>	Treasurer <b>Rebecca Tait</b>
Vice President <i>Open Position</i>	Director at Large <b>Harold Hinds</b>
Secretary <b>Alexa Waddle</b>	Director at Large <b>Tina Rainer</b>

## Committee Chairs on the Board

Insider Editors <b>Geri Auerbach, AG®</b> <b>Keri Logan</b>	Online Meeting Coordinator <b>Tina Lawson</b>
Library <b>Laurel Smith</b>	Purchasing <b>Loretta Welsh</b>
Membership <b>Jane McGarvin</b>	Technology <b>Richard Crockett</b>
New Home <b>Geoff Smith</b>	Webmaster <b>Ed Vandehey</b>

## Submissions to *The Forum Insider*

Please send short stories, news, announcements, comments, and corrections to Geri Auerbach, AG®, and Keri Logan, Editors, at [insider@gfo.org](mailto:insider@gfo.org).



## In This Issue

The Power of Reaching Out.....	1
GFO Adds Another Database: NewspaperArchive.....	3
October is Family History Month: Celebrating Our Roots.....	5
Erratum.....	6
The GFO Needs You!.....	6
FamilySearch Offers New Full-Text Search.....	7
October Events.....	8
GFO Stars.....	9
GFO Special Interest Groups.....	10



Follow us



*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-018, Portland, OR 97202-1093. Dues are \$52 per year for individual memberships and \$78 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, AG®, and Keri Logan, Editors. Many thanks to our proofreaders April Ober, Tanya Goffman, and Harry Auerbach.



# GFO Adds Another Database: NewspaperArchive

If you haven't heard the news, GFO has added a new subscription database that is available both in the library and from home for members. NewspaperArchive has more than 16,000 publications from over 3,400 cities, focusing on the small-town events of the day. The available digitized materials span from 1607 to 2024.

## Launch Dates and Access

The NewspaperArchive service was up and running in the library on August 1, 2024, and accessible via MemberSpace shortly after. Library visitors will be able to conveniently search and explore a vast collection of historical newspapers from across the globe. Additionally, we are particularly excited to provide this service for members to access from the comfort of their homes. Members who have not used our online services before can learn how to make an account at the MemberSpace [access page](#). Contact [webmaster@gfo.org](mailto:webmaster@gfo.org) if you need additional assistance.



## Success of the Free Trial

This addition follows a free trial period that concluded on June 15. During the trial, we received many positive comments and feedback from members. The enthusiastic response convinced the GFO Board that NewspaperArchive is a valuable resource, worth investing in for the year ahead. We want to extend our gratitude to everyone who participated in the trial and shared their thoughts.


## Tutorials

NewspaperArchive has numerous tutorials to help you get started on its [Help](#) page. Users can read step-by-step instructions on several topics or watch video tutorials to learn how to make the best use of this incredible database.

**The Hub of the Wheel**

**How Tracing a Brother with No Children Connected Ten Siblings**

October 19, 2024 at 2:30 pm PT

 **Mary Kircher Roddy, CG®**

[Register for free at gfo.org/gentalk](https://gfo.org/gentalk)





# A Feast of DNA Topics

Sat. Nov. 2, 2024 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. PT

## 4 Sessions • Intermediate & Advanced

- Endogamy
- Genealogical Proof
- Adoption and Misattributed Parentage
- Real-World Case Studies

★ *Bonus: DNA for Beginners Friday evening* ★

with Paul Woodbury,  
genetic genealogist at  
LegacyTree Genealogists



**LEARN MORE**





# October is Family History Month: Celebrating Our Roots

The *Insider* would like to remind our readers that October is Family History Month, a time dedicated to celebrating our heritage and encouraging people to explore their ancestry. Family History Month was established in the United States in 2001, and it can be a reminder and opportunity to become reinvigorated in our own genealogy work.

There are many ways to participate in Family History Month, from starting a family tree to interviewing older relatives about their lives. Utilizing online tools like Ancestry.com and FamilySearch makes it easier to trace family roots through vital records, census data, and other historical documents. Preserving old photographs, letters, and documents is another valuable way to honor the past. Visiting historical sites, attending genealogy workshops, and using DNA testing can further enrich one's understanding of their lineage, offering both a sense of belonging and an appreciation for the diversity of family stories.

Make a point this month to more fully utilize the resources available to you at the GFO. These include:

- Our vast collection of books
- Our online indexes, records, databases, and digitized books available in [MemberSpace](#)
- Our many educational offerings

Whether you are a seasoned genealogist or just beginning your journey, October is the perfect time to



explore your family history, connect with your past, and preserve your family's unique story for future generations. Let the GFO help you in this journey.

GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON

## Library Work Parties

Last Sunday in the month  
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Please join us in the GFO Library to work on some easy tasks and visit with other volunteers. The library stays open for research until 5 p. m., so make a day of it! Contact [library@gfo.org](mailto:library@gfo.org) with questions.



## OPPORTUNITIES

- ★ Vice President
- ★ Education Committee Chair
- ★ Volunteer Coordinator
- ★ Membership Committee
- ★ Event Planner
- ★ Marketing
- ★ Special Interest Group (SIG) Facilitators
- ★ Research Assistants
- ★ Website Assistant
- ★ Open House Coordinator
- ★ and many more

# The GFO Needs You!

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon is an all-volunteer organization. We have the largest genealogical library in the Pacific Northwest. We also have a dynamic educational program of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), publications, webinars, and seminars. Our fabulous volunteers are key to providing the services necessary to keep this organization vital.

While volunteering for the GFO clearly benefits the organization, volunteering also benefits those who volunteer. In addition to the obvious benefits of personal growth and community service, our volunteers can also develop skills with research, using digital databases, and historical records. This can aid in your own expertise in genealogy and historical research.

Additionally, volunteers have the opportunity to connect with others who share a passion for history and family heritage. The sense of fulfillment that comes from helping others discover their roots and connect with their ancestral past is deeply rewarding, as it provides both the

volunteer and the recipient with a deeper understanding of their heritage.

On a broader level, volunteering plays a crucial role in preserving history and fostering a sense of community. By contributing to the GFO's projects, such as digitizing records, assisting in family history research, or organizing educational programming, volunteers help make genealogical information more accessible to the public. This, in turn, helps support individuals and families in uncovering their family history and preserving their stories for future generations.

We currently have several volunteer opportunities available, such as the chair of our Education Committee, Volunteer Coordinator, and leaders for several of our SIGs. Much volunteering can be done from home, so geography is not a barrier. And we provide training if needed.

For information, please contact [volunteer@gfo.org](mailto:volunteer@gfo.org) or any board member. Each board member's contact information is listed on page two.

## Erratum

**Library/Society Subscription Correction**—The July issue of *The Forum Insider* erroneously reported that the "Libraries/Societies" membership level includes digital publications only. In fact, Libraries/Societies subscriptions are for print publications only. Anyone may subscribe to GFO's digital publications for **free**, but subscribers do not benefit from any member service.



# FamilySearch Offers New Full-Text Search

FamilySearch Labs recently introduced a powerful new feature: full-text search, which revolutionizes how genealogists and family history enthusiasts explore historical documents. Unlike traditional search methods that rely on indexing specific fields, full-text search allows users to delve deeper into the actual content of documents. This capability enables users to find mentions of ancestors or specific events that may not have been captured in standard indexes. The tool's ability to comb through vast amounts of text and highlight relevant passages significantly reduces the time and effort needed to sift through documents manually.

FamilySearch Labs, using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software and advances in handwriting recognition, can convert text images into a format that can be read and searched in the full text of records. This can happen before these records are even indexed.



The current collections available in Full-Text Search are:

1. U.S. Land and Probate Records 1630-1975
2. Mexico, Notarial Records, 1600-1909
3. U.S. Plantation Records cs. 1700s-1865
4. Victoria, Australia Probates 1853-1976
5. Auckland, New Zealand Wills and Probates 1834-1997

Try the **Full-Text Search**.

You need a FamilySearch account to use this feature. FamilySearch accounts are free and you can sign up at **Sign Up • FamilySearch**.



## GFO VIRTUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

### *December 14, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.*

Let's celebrate our families and traditions!  
Your host for this event is April Ober,  
long-time GFO member, volunteer, and research assistance on Mondays.

Register at [gfo.org/gentalk](https://gfo.org/gentalk)








# October Events

## Tuesday, October 1

**Library open**  
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

## Wednesday, October 2

**Learn & Chat**  
10 a.m.–12 p.m.

**Register**

**Library open**  
1 p.m.–5 p.m.

## Saturday, October 5

**Virginia Roots and Vines**  
10 a.m.–12 p.m.

**Register**

**German Group**  
1–3 p.m.

**Register**

## Sunday, October 6

**Library open**  
1 p.m.–5 p.m.

## Monday, October 7

**First Monday–Library open**  
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Admission to the library is free for nonmembers. Admission is always free for members.

**RootsMagic**  
10 a.m.–12 p.m.

## Tuesday, October 8

**Library open**  
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

### **Board Meeting**

6:30–8:30 p.m.  
All GFO members are invited to attend. To receive a link to this online meeting, or request an agenda item, send an email at least 24 hours in advance to [president@gfo.org](mailto:president@gfo.org).

## Wednesday, October 9

**Library open**  
1 p.m.–5 p.m.

**Great Lakes**  
1:30–3 p.m.

## Thursday, October 10

**The Q Review**  
6–7 p.m.

**Register**

## Sunday, October 13

**Library open**  
1 p.m.–5 p.m.

**The Writers' Room**  
2:30–4:30 p.m.

**Register**

## Monday, October 14

**Library open**  
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

## Tuesday, October 15

**Library open**  
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

## Wednesday, October 16

**Library open**  
1 p.m.–5 p.m.

**DNA Q&A: The Basics**  
1–3 p.m.

**Register**

**Irish SIG**  
6–7:30 p.m.

**Register**

## Saturday, October 19

**Genealogy Problem Solvers**  
9:30–11:30 a.m.

**Register**

**African American Ancestry**  
12–2 p.m.

**Register**

## Saturday, October 19,

cont'd

**GenTalk: The Hub of the Wheel**  
*How Tracing a Brother with No Children Connected Ten Siblings*

**Register**

2:30–4:00 p.m.

## Sunday, October 20

**Library open**  
1 p.m.–5 p.m.

**Family Tree Maker**  
1–3 p.m.

**Register**

## Monday, October 21

**Library open**  
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

## Tuesday, October 22

**Library open**  
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

## Wednesday, October 23

**Library open**  
1 p.m.–5 p.m.

## Saturday, October 26

**DNA Advanced**  
9 a.m.–12 p.m.

**Register**

**German Group**  
1–3 p.m.

The meeting normally scheduled for November 2 has been moved to October 26.

**Register**

## Sunday, October 27

**GFO Work Party**  
9 a.m.–2 p.m.

**Library open**  
1 p.m.–5 p.m.





# GFO Stars

## August

### Royce F. Hostetter

Royce answered the call to index *The Forum Insider* at the beginning of the year. Since then Royce singlehandedly indexed each issue from 2012 to August 2024. That's over



56 pages of entries...and counting! The *Insider* editors asked for a title-author index with occasional notes of named people in the articles. Royce has included a brief explanation of every article. Not only that, the goal was to index back to 2008 – the issues available digitally. Royce tracked down earlier editions also. We are honored by Royce's dedication to the *Insider* indexing project. Thank you, Royce!

## September

### Jeanette Gent

Jeanette has been a volunteer for many years. Recently, when she learned of the work backlog facing the library committee due to massive donations and



volunteer absences, she stepped in to help. Since then, Jeanette has been instrumental in getting new books onto the shelves. She has been at the GFO nearly every Sunday and Wednesday, volunteering for five to six hours each day, and smiling the whole time. Thank you, Jeanette!



**Registration** for Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Interest Groups.

All times are Pacific Time.

### OCTOBER 8, 2024

1:30–3 p.m.

Family Tree Maker

### OCTOBER 9, 2024

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Genetic Genealogy

1:30–3 p.m.

Great Lakes

### OCTOBER 10, 2024

6–7:30 p.m.

Genealogy 101

### OCTOBER 11, 2024

1:30–3 p.m.

Irish

### OCTOBER 12, 2024

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Brick Wall Roundtable

### OCTOBER 16, 2024

1:30–3 p.m.

Let's Talk Genealogy



# GFO Special Interest Groups

SIG meetings occur virtually in Pacific Time. They are open to the public. Learn more about our SIGs at our [SIG page](#).

## AFRICAN AMERICAN GROUP

Led by Janice Sellers  
[african\\_american@gfo.org](mailto:african_american@gfo.org)

## BRITISH GROUP

Led by Duane Funk  
[uk@gfo.org](mailto:uk@gfo.org)

## DNA – Advanced

Led by Tim Janzen  
[dna@gfo.org](mailto:dna@gfo.org)

## DNA Q & A – The Basics

Led by Lisa McCullough  
[dna\\_qa@gfo.org](mailto:dna_qa@gfo.org)

## FAMILY TREE MAKER

Led by Johnna Waldon  
[ftm@gfo.org](mailto:ftm@gfo.org)

## GENEALOGY PROBLEM SOLVERS

Led by Katie Daly  
[gps@gfo.org](mailto:gps@gfo.org)

## GERMAN GROUP

Led by Tia Cobb  
[german@gfo.org](mailto:german@gfo.org)

## GREAT LAKES

Led by Kim Thurman  
[greatlakes@gfo.org](mailto:greatlakes@gfo.org)

## IRISH GROUP

Led by Karen Hubbard, Peg Kenaga,  
 and Erinn Sears  
[irish@gfo.org](mailto:irish@gfo.org)

## LEARN & CHAT

Led by Sandy Alto  
[learnandchat@gfo.org](mailto:learnandchat@gfo.org)

## THE Q REVIEW

Led by Alexa Waddle  
[qreview@gfo.org](mailto:qreview@gfo.org)

## ROOTSMAGIC

Led by Barry Wolff  
[rootsmagic@gfo.org](mailto:rootsmagic@gfo.org)

## VIRGINIA ROOTS & VINES

Led by Judi Scott and Carol Surrency  
[virginia@gfo.org](mailto:virginia@gfo.org)

## WRITER'S ROOM

Led by Geri Auerbach, AG®  
[writers@gfo.org](mailto:writers@gfo.org)

## The Portland Macintosh Users Group Presents:



OCT.  
**17**  
 6:30-8:00PM

# Genealogy SIG

A 'Special Interest Group' for Family Discovery

The second meeting of our new Genealogy SIG will be held on October 24th via Zoom. Long time genealogist Rich Cunningham will be leading an informal group to discuss, share and learn. Please feel free to join in, whether you are just starting out, or you are an avid genealogist wanting to connect with other like-minded folks in a smaller intimate environment.

*PMUG's Genealogy SIG meets via Zoom from 6:30–8:00pm.  
 To join in, request an invite link via: [info@pmug.org](mailto:info@pmug.org).*