

Get the Most from the GFO (and a GFO membership)

Laurel Smith laurel.smith@gfo.org

The GFO Mission: *"To inspire and empower every person to discover and engage with their family history."*

1. Stay informed: available free to everyone
 - a. Read the E-News every week, arrives Thursday evening
 - i. [Sign up](#). Manage your preferences via any received periodical mailing.
 - ii. Still not receiving it?
 1. Check your Spam folder and junk mail.
 2. Send a message to gfo@gfo.org and ask for help or to be "unsuppressed"
 - b. Read the *Forum Insider* (8 issues/year) delivered via email. [Insider archive](#)
[Bulletin archive](#)
 - c. Check the [calendar](#) regularly
 - d. Sign up for [ORForum](#)
 - e. Follow GFO on [Facebook](#)
2. Get help through GFO programs: free to everyone
 - a. [GenTalks](#) (about 8/year) 3rd Saturday of the month, 2:30pm Pacific
 - b. [Special Interest Groups \(SIGs\)](#)
Click on groups of interest to learn more.
To join a group, simply register to attend one of the meetings.
 - c. [ORForum](#), an online community.
 - d. Annual Open House in the spring, watch for 2024 dates.
3. Use the GFO library catalog and public pages on the website to identify resources: free to everyone
 - a. Search (upper left on GFO webpages)
 - b. GFO Library [online catalog](#) (OPALS)
 - c. [Indexes](#) (browsing indexes advised)
 - d. DigitalArchive
 - i. Bibles
 - ii. Documents Collection
 - iii. Manuscripts Collection
 - iv. Photo Collection
 - v. Vertical Files
4. Non-members can order lookups in identified resources or general research in our collection [here](#).

Resources and Services Reserved for Members

5. Use MemberSpace to access:
 - a. Databases
 - i. American Ancestors for New England research and more (temporary)
 - ii. Fold3 Library Edition for military records and more (permanent)
 - iii. HeritageQuest (permanent)
 - iv. HistoryGeo – First landholders and antique maps (permanent)
 - b. Digital Collections
 - i. Digital Journals both current and collections
 - ii. eBooks
 - iii. Indexed images, the images used to create our indexes
 - iv. Indexes, a few special resources
 - v. Manuscript Collections, donated research
6. Use MemberSpace to request lookups* and copies for:
 - a. FamilySearch Affiliate or restricted images
 - b. Newspapers.com Publishers Extra
 - c. FindMyPast
 - d. Ancestry.com World Edition
 - e. Anything in the GFO Library you would be able to see/view if you were able to be there—within reason. We must abide by copyright restrictions.

* "Lookups" means to access images or make copies of specific pages or documents you identify. It does not include doing research.

7. Also use MemberSpace to obtain discounted registration to GFO pay events, view members-only videos, and more.

Links to Resources for Online Databases

Please let me know of any broken links -Laurel

Using American Ancestors

Zoom Demo: The New AmericanAncestors.org

<https://www.americanancestors.org/video-library/zoom-demo-new-americanancestorsorg>

Using AmericanAncestors.org

<https://www.americanancestors.org/education/learning-resources/read/using-americanancestors-org>

Searching Databases on AmericanAncestors.org

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsFL2vliTGA&feature=youtu.be>

AmericanAncestors Videos on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/AmericanAncestors/videos>

Using Fold3

Ancestry Academy Researching Your Military Ancestors in the U.S.

<https://www.ancestryacademy.com/getting-the-most-out-of-fold3>

Searching on Fold3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HT5buu9wWh8>

Fold3 Videos on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/c/fold3/videos>

FamilyTree How to Use Fold3.com in 5 Steps

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/websites/fold3-guide/>

Fold3® Training Center (click on the menu items on the left to learn more)

<https://www.fold3.com/tour/>

Using HeritageQuest

HeritageQuest Online Overview

<https://share.vidyard.com/watch/jBFbBoMTZfqHNoPyuj8J4M?>

Top 5 Tips for Finding Family History with Heritage Quest Online

<https://share.vidyard.com/watch/ct1euhGEoJ6jdikchqngwR?>

Lots of YouTube videos

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=HeritageQuest&sp=EgIIBQ%253D%253D

Using HistoryGeo

64-Page PDF of details_

https://www.historygeo.com/v3/support/docs/HistoryGeo_v2.pdf

HistoryGeo.com Map Viewer Helps

<https://www.historygeo.com/v3/support/help.php>

HistoryGeo Videos on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/HistoryGeo1>

Dallas Genealogical Society Presentation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1ih0bFAGhU>