GFO Pivots to New Services, Faces Grim Budget

Vince Patton, President

As if many of us weren’t already addicted to online research and meetings, during the COVID-19 pandemic, computers have become our lifeline.

Our special interest groups meet online now. Many attract more people and provide a wonderful way to connect during this pandemic.

A few dedicated volunteers have offered to do lookups for GFO members, tapping into many of the resources in our library.

We also made arrangements for several of our valuable databases to extend access to you at home. GFO members can now log into a page on our website reserved for them that links to these sites.

State health authorities for all West Coast states say that physical distancing will be required during all phases of reopening, “until a vaccine or effective treatment for novel coronavirus can be developed.” That could be a long way off.

Because we must all stay six feet apart, there is no way to host events at the GFO classroom. The library remains closed, and we have canceled this year’s Open House.

Therefore, the GFO Board agreed to move all SIGs, GenTalks, workshops, and seminars online for the year. It agreed to spend the money necessary for video meeting technology, and to upgrade our website with the member portal that I just mentioned.

We still face a challenging year ahead financially. As GFO members heard at the June Members Meeting, for the first time we forecast a budget deficit, possibly close to $23,000. Our emergency reserve fund will cover us. We are so fortunate to have had prior boards who took the creation of an emergency fund seriously.

Of course, we’d love it if our projections are off. Your continued membership and support will see us through and help us thrive in whole new ways.

Online Voting Trial a Success

The pandemic has tested our flexibility from the start, and the vote for GFO Board members was one of our early challenges. Fortunately, the electronic voting forms for the board election worked well.

President Vince Patton and Director at Large Joyce Grant-Worley were reelected. Alexa Waddle was elected as our new Secretary. Each serves a two-year term ending in June 2022.

Geoff Smith was elected to continue his service on the Endowment Committee.

The board members were inducted at the June members meeting, which also took place online this year.

As an all-volunteer organization, our board members serve vital roles in maintaining the regular operations of the GFO. We thank the full board for the many hours they devote.
Memberships Extended Due to Pandemic

We’d like to say thank you in a more concrete way. Thus, the GFO Board is extending all individual, joint, and student memberships by two months.

When the coronavirus began, we extended memberships for those who would expire during the one-month closure. Then, the pandemic made it clear we’ll be closed much longer.

The GFO still has rent and other regular bills to pay. We are incurring new costs in moving group meetings and seminars online, and in taking steps to make GFO’s resources available to our members during the closure.

It would not be sustainable for us to extend memberships indefinitely.

Your support provides the community, connection, and shared learning that makes the GFO so valuable.
Jane and Mac McGarvin
Named to GFO Hall of Fame

This year, the GFO Board unanimously honored a team that is joined at the hip, naming them to our Hall of Fame.

Jane and Gerald “Mac” McGarvin have more than proven their dedication to the success of the Forum. Jane joined the GFO 22 years ago, and both became Life Members four years later.

Wearing multiple hats has become second nature for Jane. Her key role has been as Membership Chair since 2013, ensuring that memberships are processed in a timely fashion. It’s probably the most important role for the long-term health of our organization and often the least appreciated.

In addition, she has been our Disaster Committee Chair. That work paid off when we had a sudden water leak in the library. The emergency kit at the door had exactly what we needed to protect our resources.

These roles did not require her to serve on the board, but Jane has done that for years, first as an elected Director at Large and then as a Committee Chair, providing valuable guidance to the GFO as a whole.

Jane and Mac have served regularly as receptionist/research assistants, the role vital for keeping the library open (back when that was safe.) Both have been praised for being helpful, kind, and generous in assisting people with their research.

Mac joins Jane in doing all the post-print processing of the Insider and Bulletin from the printer to the mail house.

Several years ago, Mac accepted the role of Facilities Chair, and there’s nothing he doesn’t do. He built and installed hundreds of custom shelves to better support all our books. He mounted the projector and screen in the classroom, keeps our HVAC system up to snuff, sweeps the library weekly, empties the trash and recycling, and lifts heavy boxes.

Beyond his muscle, Mac has become the Library Committee’s favorite volunteer, applying thousands of new labels for holdings, creating markers to enable easier re-shelving, processing periodicals for scanning, and willingly tackling what others might consider mundane tasks. He recently reorganized all the microfilms—and that meant moving more than 5,000 boxes of film to get them all in the correct order!

As if that isn’t enough, Mac has also worked on the Data Extraction Committee and coordinates the food and beverage service at our seminars.

We are pleased to honor Jane and Mac McGarvin for their superlative commitment to the GFO.
GFO Launches Lookup Service for Members

If you’re a GFO member, you should have received a special email announcement on Monday, June 8, 2020.

A few dedicated volunteers have offered to do lookups for members, and it won’t cost you a dime. This is a GFO effort to make the resources of the GFO library available to you while the library remains closed.

Volunteers can check books, periodicals, microfilms, and of course, the databases on our computers for you. (Ancestry.com including World records, FamilySearch Affiliate, FindMyPast, Fold3, HistoryGeo, and Newspapers.com including Publisher Extra) This is a way for you to access indexes and images that you know exist, but you can’t get to because you don’t have a subscription. Just think of all those hints you receive on Ancestry.com, but you can’t see because they are World records, Fold3, or Newspapers.com Publisher Extra.

Our library catalog is a great place to start to find which sources you’d like to have checked.

Plus, you can find records that the GFO holds. Those indexes are on our website. These include Oregon Birth and Estate records, Newspaper clippings, Oregon Donation Land Claims, Multnomah County marriages, and more.

If you’re an active GFO member but did not receive the email, send a message to library@gfo.org and a copy of the message will be sent to you.

If you’re not a member, it’s another great reason to join!

URLs from this story

» GFO Library Catalog:
  https://gfo-ind.narvi.opalsinfo.net/bin/home
» GFO Indexes:
» GFO Membership
  https://gfo.org/support-us/membership/membership.html

Welcome to a new column in the Insider, On My Bookshelf. While libraries have closed, our home libraries become more important than ever. Additionally, many beginning genealogists ask, “What books do you use for your research?” Here is your opportunity to share what books are most useful for you and to see what books your fellow researchers find valuable.

Please share the book(s) that you have at your elbow while you are working or a book that increased your understanding of a specific time or place and aided your research. Send your book suggestions to insider@gfo.org.


Most of my work is American Genealogy, and this book has been invaluable to me in my day-to-day research. It is a nearly 800-page reference work with two separate sections. Part One, “Background to Research,” discusses subjects such as language and terminology, organizing and evaluating your research, libraries, computer research, and family history beyond genealogy. The largest section of the book is Part Two, “Records and their Use.” The author covers 17 different types of records including newspapers, censuses, probate, land, emigration, church, military, and cemetery.

Each chapter details the records and where to locate them, and provides samples. Understanding the history and purpose of the records has not only increased my comprehension of the time and place of the records but also helps me to better analyze the specific record when I find it.

The book is available in both paperback and hardcover from multiple sellers.
Newest SIG Explores Professional Research

Alexa Waddle

As a child, I loved reading and hearing stories from my parents and grandparents about “the Olden Days.” In adulthood, this grew into a love of researching my ancestors so I could discover the more obscure stories of how my family came to be. I also enjoyed fact-checking some of those tall tales I grew up hearing. I soon discovered that I found joy in doing the same for my friends as well. I realized that I would love to practice genealogy professionally. Towards that effort, in May 2019, I received my certificate from Boston University’s Program for Genealogical Research, and I am currently in the ProGen Study Program.

Beginners and experienced genealogists can learn so much from the articles found in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly. Reading them exposes us to a wide variety of genealogical tools and examples of how we might incorporate them into our own research and writing. The Q Review is a group where we can discuss what we read and what we learned from the articles. All are welcome.

Online meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month. Read the chosen article ahead of time and be ready to share your thoughts with the group during the meeting. For the July 9 meeting, the article is Melissa A. Johnson’s “Mothers for Sophie (Kanetkski) Howe of Scranton, Pennsylvania,” from NGSQ 103 (June 2015), found online at https://bit.ly/3gVR4zf.


Email Alexa at qreview@gfo.org for a link to the meeting and with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Free Access to NGS Monthly

The National Genealogical Society, NGS, which is the oldest national genealogical society in the country, has opened up NGS Monthly, their online publication, to the public through July 31, 2020. The April issue has articles including “Runaway Advertisements,” “The 1870 Census’s Second Enumeration,” “Taking Your First Steps Around the 1870 ‘Brick Wall’ in African American Research,” and “The Creation of the Leap Year and Its Effects on Genealogy.”

In May, the Family Tree Maker (FTM) Group met online to learn more about this dynamic software. The People Workspace and filters were explored in great detail. Attendees learned how to create a filter to find candidates in their tree who may have served in the Civil War.

The group meets online, on a Sunday, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., but the specific day can vary to accommodate the presenter’s schedule. The meeting in July will be on the 12th; be sure to always check GFO’s online calendar.

For future meetings, the first half hour will be a general overview of the program for those who are unfamiliar with the software. The remaining time will be spent looking at some feature in depth. Future monthly topics will focus on the different workspaces such as Places, Media, Sources, and Publishing.

To be added to the email reminder list, and to receive a link to the meeting, please send a request to ftm@gfo.org.

» GFO calendar

http://gfo.org/calendar
Pandemics and Censuses: A Century Apart

Carol LaBrie

For many, the curiosity trail for genealogists begins at an older age when they realize that they have no information regarding the lives of their grandparents or even their parents. As a child, I knew both sets of grandparents, but except for where they were living at the time, had no concept of their history.

I became more interested in genealogy in the 1970s but was still short on time to pursue the passion. My father had died as had most of his brothers and sisters. One of his sisters remained and lived in Vancouver, Washington. She and I became close friends during the first years of 2000, and she revealed that she had a handwritten memoir in a box in her bureau. She shared it, and for the first time, the lives of my grandparents and father were revealed. Her memoir dealt with no genealogy, per se, but shared those wonderful stories that allowed a vision of the childhood my father and his siblings led. Together, we were able to construct a book entitled The Tales of Vida.

Onto the genealogy path I went. The interesting aspect is that the path coincided with both the current pandemic and the 1918 pandemic as well as the 1920 census and current census. The first discovery was that both Hector and Addie had family who had immigrated from Quebec and were French Canadian. Below is the timeline of their lives in relation to pandemic and census. Particularly note the 1918-1920 era.

Hector LaBrie was born in 1885, died in 1981. Both were born at homes in a rural area of Minnesota, Belle Prairie. Many Quebec immigrants settled in this area at the time. They were married in 1906, and their first child was born in 1910 in Belle Prairie. At that point, Hector left to join his brother in northeast Montana to set up a homestead. Addie and Mabel (the one-month old daughter) followed soon after.

The 1910 Census, enumerated on May 2, revealed they lived with his brother Paul LaBrie and wife, Olive, in Zortman, Montana. Another brother, Louis LaBrie, also lived with the group.

The original filing for the homestead may have occurred in 1912. A requirement was to live on the land for five years and have a structure built. The theory of dry-land farming was just in its infancy. The area was fairly dry, and the railroads needed towns along the “highline” of Montana, which is where the tracks for the railroad were located. All three brothers filed for homesteads. Hector filed for land up on the bench (top of the hill) and thus was given 320 acres due to the lack of water. Hector’s homestead application was approved April 11, 1917.

The next significant discovery showed that northeast Montana had a major drought from 1916 to 1920. It was tough going on a farm that had no water.

My father was born in March 1919, and the Spanish flu had begun in 1918. Oddly enough, the Hector LaBrie family could not be found in Montana in the 1920 census. I checked with many cousins, but no one had any further information of the family’s location. The family were farmers, and we continued on page 8
thought we knew that they did not leave the farm until the depression in the 1930s.

I finally checked nationwide with Addie LaBrie’s name and found the family in Glendora City, southern California. Traveling with several children, including my father, who was nine months old, seems a major undertaking. After some family discussion, we can only surmise they had taken the train from eastern Montana to the West Coast and down to California. Addie’s sister had married a man who had a citrus grove in Azusa by Los Angeles. Hector and the family went down, rented a house, and were listed on the census as citrus workers. The comment one cousin remembers is that Hector told Addie, “Let’s get out of California and back to Montana before we all die.”

They headed home and, even with the terrible conditions, farmed until 1934. With the drought and the 1929 depression, they struggled to survive.

The Works Progress Administration project of the Fort Peck Dam was hiring, and Hector moved the family to Wheeler, Montana, a workman’s shantytown. He put the small granary they had at the farm on wheels and converted it to their living quarters. In 1936, my father’s brother, Elmer, died of smallpox only a few months after his wedding while working at the dam. The Fort Peck Dam has a museum that lists the workers, what they did, who died, etc. The list of employees was destroyed at one point, and volunteers at the museum have gathered documentation to restore the worker lists. I had my father’s ID card from the dam, and his father and brother both had information in the local papers that could be used for that documentation.

The story of the time in California would have never been known but for the 1920 census. The coincidence of the two, Hector’s illness and the 1920 census, with the current pandemic and 2020 census, made an interesting juxtaposition.

Perhaps now that we are more electronically connected, the fact that the 2020 census does not require as much information will not be a deterrent for future genealogists. However, after reviewing so many years of census documents with such interesting questions and information, I believe that the simplified 2020 U.S. census is a missed opportunity.
Free July Webinars at Legacy Family Tree

Legacy Family Tree Webinars are free to watch on the date they are live. Registration is required for the webinar. Below are some presentations for July.

Finding a Father for Molly - Using DNA
by Jill Morelli, CG
Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time

Oral tradition told the story; DNA identified the father. The case study illustrates using GEDmatch and Ancestry matches to narrow the number of candidates, developing and implementing a targeted testing plan, hypothesis development, and using documentary evidence to support the conclusion—while complying with genetic standards. The use of the X-match, not often employed is utilized as well. It’s a simple case to illustrate basic principles without jargon.


Elusive Immigrant: The Search for Dora Lühr
by Warren Bittner, CG
Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time

See the Genealogical Proof Standard applied to research on both sides of the Atlantic to prove the identity of an immigrant not found where she is supposed to be and whose name is anything but certain.


Researching a Loyalist Soldier
by Craig R. Scott, MA, CG, FUGA
Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time

Approximately one-third of the people living in the colonies at the time of the Revolution were loyal to the King. During the war, some fought in Loyalist units. By the end of the war, most were forced to leave, either north to Canada or back across the ocean. Learn about the records of their service and records of their times after the War.

Register here: https://bit.ly/3haxuIE.

Work Smarter with Free, Updated Research Log

Are you using your newfound time at home to become more organized in your research? If so, starting a research log is a best practice and a time-saver. If you do not have a log that you currently use or want to update the log you are using, Thomas MacEntee, of Abundant Genealogy has revised his free, downloadable research log. It is available at: https://bit.ly/37b4kVg.

The log is an Excel spreadsheet with tabs for date, proof point, records name, repository, record type, source citation, transcript extract, source type, clarity, information, evidence type, and proven(?)

Because it is an editable Excel spreadsheet you can customize the tabs to your own needs. He also includes a sample log, a to do list (which is great to always have with you!), 45 different source citation templates, evidence evaluation explanations, and an exhaustive research checklist.

Although the log is copyrighted, as soon as you customize your log and remove his citation tab, it is then your intellectual property which you can copyright.

Even if this log seems too detailed for you, take a look at all the resources he has gathered in one place. There is likely to be something that you will find useful.
LauraDenise White

We’d like to honor a talented, supportive, and always positive former volunteer.

LauraDenise White has stepped away after years of service. She co-chaired the Manuscripts Committee most recently, where she was instrumental in getting our work organized and online. She mentored volunteers and interns. She represented us at community events.

LauraDenise joined the GFO Board and served as secretary for a time, served on the Disaster Planning Committee, volunteered as a research assistant, edited our weekly E-News and later co-edited the Forum Insider newsletter.

LauraDenise, we are so grateful for everything you have done. You will be missed.

Nanci Remington

This month, the GFO Board agreed wholeheartedly with a nomination from a life member of the GFO. She previously worked on our publications, so she knows how hard Nanci Remington works as the Editor of The Bulletin. She was also particularly impressed with the quality of the winter 2020 edition.

Nanci, she wrote, “is very easy to work with. Having spent almost five years working on the editorial team taught me so much. I know how hard it is to organize the publication.”

Nanci has been active with the GFO for more than a decade. We’ve seen how willing she has been to wear many hats and help in a myriad of ways in that time.

Nanci replied that she wants to thank all of the volunteers who work on The Bulletin, as well as the writers who are willing to share their stories and expertise with the readers.

GFO Volunteers Create New Index

GFO Data Extraction team volunteers have completed a new online index. Newspaper Clippings II is a collection of 7,330 newspaper articles from newspapers donated to the GFO. Most clippings are from Oregon papers, although there are some from California and Washington. They cover anniversaries, births, deaths-funerals-obituaries, engagements and marriages, military news in the 1940s, and some family news articles. The dates range from the 1940s to 2014.


In addition to creating an online index, volunteers scanned each article, which means that digital images may be ordered for $5 each. These will be emailed. Printed hard copies are $7 each. These copies are letter-size, folded in thirds, and mailed in a letter envelope.

The index and order form can be accessed at https://bit.ly/3cX9OEq.
Free Guide Available for Mayflower Research

Do you know how many ancestors there are estimated to be of the original Mayflower passengers? Do you think you might be one of them?

In November 1620, 102 passengers arrived in Cape Cod. They spent their first winter on board the ship and by March 21, when they embarked, only 53 passengers remained. From those original 53 passengers, it is estimated that 35 million people are descended.


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LegacyTree offer combines discount with bonus for GFO

Feeling overwhelmed? Perhaps you’ve considered hiring a professional genealogist to help.

LegacyTree has a team of pros (including the GFO’s own Kate Eakman) available, and they’ve made a special offer to help you and the GFO at the same time.

If you use the following link, you’ll get $50 off and the GFO will receive a 10% bonus.

https://legacytree.com/gfo

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Treasurer's Report

**TREASURER: ERIN RANDALL [TREASURER@GFO.ORG]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APRIL 2020</th>
<th>MAY 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
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<td>Investments &amp; Endowment</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Memberships</td>
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<td>Seminars &amp; Other Programs</td>
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<td>Library &amp; Research</td>
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<td>Book Sales, Pubs, &amp; Misc. Income</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<th><strong>EXPENSES</strong></th>
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<td>Education Programs</td>
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<td>Facilities &amp; Equipment</td>
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<td>Library &amp; Research</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$ 6,798.75</td>
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**Net Income for the Month** | $ 35,884.60  | **Net Income for the Month** | $ 13,668.64   |

**Year-to-Date Net Income** | $ 27,319.10  | **Year-to-Date Net Income** | $ 40,987.74   |
GFO JULY 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: [https://gfo.org/calendar](https://gfo.org/calendar)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 1</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Learn &amp; Chat</td>
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<td>Tuesday, July 7</td>
<td>10:00–11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Italian Ancestry Group</td>
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<td>Thursday, July 9</td>
<td>6:00–7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>The Q Review</td>
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<td>Saturday, July 11</td>
<td>9:30–11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Great Lakes Region SIG</td>
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<td>Sunday, July 12</td>
<td>1:00–3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Family Tree Maker</td>
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<td>Tuesday, July 14</td>
<td>6:10–8:10 p.m.</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Wednesday, July 15</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00–3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>DNA Q&amp;A: The Basics</td>
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<td>Saturday, July 18</td>
<td>9:30–11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Genealogy Problem Solvers</td>
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<td>12:00-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>African American Ancestry Group</td>
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<td>2:00-3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>GenTalk: Using Civil War Pension Records</td>
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<td>Sunday, July 19</td>
<td>3:30-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>French Canada Group</td>
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<td>Saturday, July 25</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Handwriting Half-Day Workshop</td>
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