



THE Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon
Volume 35 • Number 5 • January 2024

Please Help GFO Remain Strong!

GFO is fortunate to have endured the pandemic while maintaining our educational programs and even managing to strengthen the library through many book donations and targeted purchases.

Our membership dues make this possible, but they do not cover all of GFO's operating expenses. To keep dues reasonable, once a year we ask members and friends of GFO, who can do so, to contribute the final third of our annual budget.

In 2023, our amazing volunteers have

- Added 3,300 new holdings to the collection – bringing our total to more than 60,000. (GFO operates the largest genealogical library in the Pacific Northwest!)
- Provided more than 140 classes, talks, and SIG meetings that attracted 3,500 participants online.
- Conducted two successful seminars that exceeded our attendance targets.
- Continued the tradition of publishing the quar-



terly *Bulletin*, *The Forum Insider*, and the weekly *E-News*.

- Launched the Digital Archive section on the website.
- Purchased and deployed three new computers in the research area.

We want to continue offering a first-rate library and full range of educational programs.

We need your support!

Earlier this year, we set a goal to raise \$30,000 to close the budget gap, the same goal as last year. We just need a few more donations to reach it!

Please contribute to help us keep the Forum operating and improving. As always, GFO is completely volunteer run—there is no paid staff and no professional fundraising! Your contribution goes further because every dollar goes directly toward our programs, which help participants discover and explore their genealogy.

Please make your tax-deductible donation now at gfo.org/appeal.

New Board Director Announced

The GFO Board is happy to announce the selection of Christina “Tina” Rainer to fill the vacant Director-at-Large position. The appointment was made at the November board meeting.

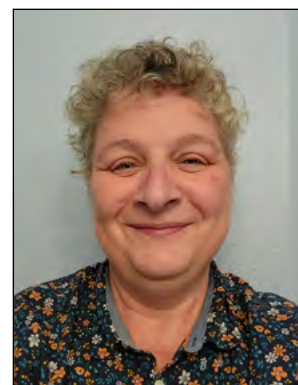
Tina has worked on the Library Committee for the last couple of years in various capacities, mostly in accessioning books into our collection. A few months ago, she joined the Book Selection Subcommittee.

In 2022, she graduated from the International Institute for Genealogical

Studies with a Professional Certificate in Genealogical Studies—German Records. This brings a depth in foreign records that is much appreciated on the subcommittee.

“The GFO is important to me. I love what we do, what we offer to members and non-members. I want to be more involved in this organization and maybe bring in another point of view.”

Please join us in welcoming Tina to the Board!



Tina Rainer



Genealogical Forum of Oregon

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

Mission

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

Contact Us

503-963-1932
info@gfo.org

Visitor Information

Library Hours
Sundays 1–5 p.m.
Mondays & Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Wednesdays 1–5 p.m.

Executive Board of Directors

President Geoff Smith	Treasurer Rebecca Tait
Vice President Geri Auerbach, AG®	Director at Large Harold Hinds
Secretary Alexa Waddle	Director at Large Tina Rainer

Committee Chairs on the Board

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

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.



In This Issue

- Please Help GFO Remain Strong!1
- New Board Director Announced.....1
- The Women in My Life 3
- NJ Visitor Finds Grandfather at GFO.....6
- RootsTech 2024 Will Be in Person and Virtual6
- GivingTuesday Brings More Books.....7
- Volunteer Needed to Create Index8
- GFO Wins Manuscripts Grant.....9
- Nominations for Open Board Positions Due9
- Online Events for January..... 10
- GFO Stars..... 11
- Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Interest Groups..... 11
- GFO Special Interest Groups.....12
- Treasurer’s Report 13

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-18, Portland, OR 97202-1061. Dues are \$51 per year for individual memberships and \$77 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.



The Women in My Life

Bonnie LaDoe

I was blessed to have four strong women in my life, and to have them all in one photo is a treasure. Taken about 1910, the photo on the right shows my 28-year-old grandmother, Ethel Kessell Upton, in what is most likely a cotton plaid dress with a bow at the throat. Seated on the porch next to her is her youngest child, my mother, Irene, in her sweet cap and lace-trimmed dress. Next is Irene's older sister, Lorna, with a light-colored dress, button-up shoes, and a very big hair bow. On the right, in the gingham dress, with her hair in pigtails, is Ethel's youngest sister, Clara Kessell.

The three girls, all four years apart in age, grew up together. Although Clara did not live in the same household, she was much more like a sister than an aunt to Irene and Lorna. They all lived in Grays River, Washington, a small farming community near the mouth of the Columbia River.



Ethel Kessell Upton, Irene Upton, Lorna Upton, and Clara Kessell. Photo courtesy of Bonnie LaDoe.

Ethel Kessell—Early Years

Ethel was only two years old when her parents came to Grays River to homestead in 1884. She had nine siblings, with Clara being

the last. Clara was born on their parents' farm in 1900.

Ethel met and married William Upton in 1901, and for a short while, they lived in Hood River, Oregon, near William's parents. Lorna was born there in 1904, but they moved back to Grays River by the time Irene came along in 1908.

Clara Kessell

Clara, perhaps the first to head out on her own, worked as a domestic for the W. A. Tyler family across the Columbia River in Astoria, Oregon, in the early 1920s. At that time, being a cook or maid was the only employment path for a young female with little education. In the late 1920s, Clara came to the Portland area and remained



Clara in service to the Tyler family in Astoria, Oregon, in the 1920s. Photo courtesy of Bonnie LaDoe.

Continued on page 4



there for the rest of her life. She did not marry and continued to support herself with various jobs, including working for the William Nash family in the West Hills of Portland. Lastly, she worked for Farmers Insurance in their headquarters building on NE 18th and Sandy Blvd as a janitor, cleaning one full floor each evening. She took great pride in her work and often chastised her co-workers on other floors for being sloppy. In the early 1950s, Clara purchased a large home at 2308 NE Davis, renting out the upstairs rooms for extra income. While working for Farmers Insurance, she purchased a smaller home at 2225 NE Everett and walked to work each evening. Her hours were 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Clara was 4 feet 11 inches and never weighed much more than



Lorna in Astoria, Oregon. Photo courtesy of Bonnie LaDoe.

The Women in My Life, from page 3

100 pounds. Yet, she never felt unsafe walking home in the early hours of the morning. She was a loyal employee and received annual bonuses the same as other employees.

I fondly remember Clara's love of Pinochle. On weekends, she would take the bus to my house on 77th Avenue off Sandy Boulevard to play cards until she walked the four blocks to get the "owl" bus for home at midnight. She never learned to drive and always relied on public transit. Although today we would undoubtedly be uneasy about her walking and taking public transit at midnight, in the 1950s in Portland, no one was concerned, especially Clara.

Lorna Upton

Lorna also headed to Astoria, and most likely held domestic jobs there, but her employment history is basically unknown. Perhaps she tried to emulate Clara's work ethic, but probably failed because Lorna really liked the boys! By 1925 at age 21, she snagged her first husband, Leland McFarland. She married a second time by 1935 to William Meyer, but marriage apparently did not mean she did not have to work for a living. The 1940 census shows she was a chambermaid in a hotel. In 1947, she married Arnold Smith, and they were married until she died in 1972. Lorna loved a party and loved her beer. And she was the best cook ever! I called her "Auntie" as did my son. Since she did not have children, we were blessed to be her "kids" and treated with much love and affection.



Irene before polio, 1912. Photo courtesy of Bonnie LaDoe.

Irene Upton

Irene (Mom) did not leave home until she married in 1931. She contracted polio at age four in 1912 and was very sheltered by her parents. They would not allow her to go to Astoria and work like the other girls from the area. They did buy her a typewriter, and she was a good typist. She wrote for the local newspaper and typed up many books of poetry. She made scrapbooks and photo albums that survive today. When her father hired a handsome young man to help him with the fish traps on the Columbia River,

Continued on page 5



The Women in My Life, from page 4

William Scott gained more than employment. He also found a wife. He and Irene were married in November 1931, and I was their only child born six years later in 1937.

Some years ago, I wrote mom's story called "While She Could Stand", referencing a photo she had given me that was taken when she was four years old, before she had polio. She said it was the last photo taken while she could still stand unaided. Mom and Dad were divorced after 19 years of marriage, and she bravely struggled to survive. She not only survived, but was the best "Nana" ever to my son, basically raising him while I worked for our living.

Ethel Kessell Upton—Later Years

Ethel (Grandma) lived almost all of her life on the Lower Columbia, and it was there that I got to know her best. Beginning in about 1946, I spent my summers with my grandparents. Country life was so much fun for this little city girl. Their house was on a

pier on Grays Bay where stray logs that had broken loose from log rafts found their way to their doorstep. What fun to walk on the logs and play all day (until the tide came in and the logs began to float—then I had to call for help!)

The house had been what was known as a "tar house" where fishing nets were

tared. When my grandfather lost his fish trap business, they converted the tar house into their home. The front door, a heavy sliding barn door, put you right into the kitchen and the warmth of grandma's cook stove. And what wonders came from that stove! Hot oatmeal every morning and warm gingerbread in the afternoon—with real whipped cream from the top of the milk bottle. Grandma and I would pick little wild blackberries, and she would make pie or



Ethel Kessell Upton in December 1958. Photo courtesy of Bonnie LaDoe.

“And what wonders came from that stove! Hot oatmeal every morning and warm gingerbread in the afternoon—with real whipped cream from the top of the milk bottle.”

cobbler. And I would follow her across the road to where they kept the chickens and gathered the eggs. Grandma did not cuddle or hug, but I always felt warm and wanted in her presence.

So now you know the women who shaped my life. All my holidays were spent with Mom, Lorna, and Clara. (Grandma lived 100 miles from Portland, so we spent only an occasional holiday there.)

But more than holidays, Lorna and Clara were always there to support us. Lorna took me to doctor appointments and anywhere else I needed to go since Mom could not physically take me. And she was generous with her wonderful homemade goodies! Clara offered financial support, like purchasing our first TV and taxi rides to her home for visits. Mom, of course, was my rock. In later life, she lived with me, cared for my son, cooked wonderful meals, did laundry, ironing, housekeeping, and gardening, and never asked for a thing. Although she walked with a limp, she was never handicapped.

Mom has been gone 35 years now and the others went before her. Sometimes the little girl in me comes to the surface and wishes she could be embraced by them all again. Maybe if I'm a really good girl, I will be.



NJ Visitor Finds Grandfather at GFO

Research Assistants

Maggie and Richard Hunter came from New Jersey to Portland to spend Thanksgiving with their son and his family. Since they were in Portland, Maggie and Richard decided to visit GFO to see if they could find any information about Maggie's maternal grandfather, Gottfried Ziegerli.

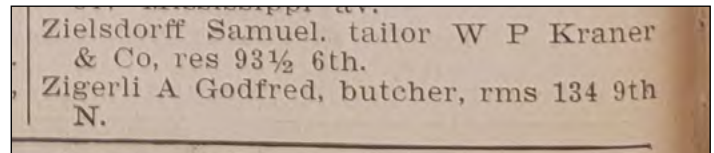
Maggie knew he was from Switzerland and had visited the U.S. The family has kept letters he wrote about the places he lived, including Portland. He married after leaving Portland and had hoped to return. However, his wife became ill, and they returned to Switzerland where they ended up raising their family.

The key fact that Maggie knew was that her grandfather was in Portland prior to his marriage in 1905. The research assistants started the search in the Portland City Directories and quickly found "Zigerli A Gottfred butcher" in the 1903 volume. Maggie confirmed he was a butcher, among other occupations. The directory showed he roomed at 134 9th N, which was then located on maps of early Portland.

Maggie was so pleased that she joined GFO, and Richard has begun to research the boarding house at that address.



The Hunters with GFO's research assistants. From left, Richard Hunter, Maggie Hunter, Sheryl Swope, April Ober, and Susan Bowmer. (Not pictured: Judith Leppert)



Clipping from Polk's Portland City Directory, 1903

RootsTech 2024 Will Be in Person and Virtual

RootsTech is the world's largest genealogy conference, and the 2024 conference is coming this Spring from 29 February to 2 March. Last year's conference (2023) was the first time that attendees had the option of either in-person conference attendance in Salt Lake City or virtual attendance. RootsTech 2024 is also offering these options.

Last year there were over three million conference attendees from all across the globe. This year, there will be sessions in over 26 languages. The conference will have hundreds of new classes, some of which will be exclusive to in-person attendees. RootsTech enlists keynote speakers from the genealogy, entertainment, sports, and business communities. Keynote sessions are able to be viewed live by all attendees.

To register for either the in-person or online conference, visit <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>





GIVING TUESDAY



Rich Cunningham from Rogue Valley Genealogical Society (center) presents books to GFO President Geoff Smith and Library Chair Laurel Smith.



Member and Research Assistant Bonnie Randolph helps Rich with book selections.

GivingTuesday Brings More Books

Our GivingTuesday project this year was focused on offering surplus books to other Northwest genealogy societies. Many libraries sell their surplus books but typically at a price that is not affordable for some societies. (GFO also sells surplus books at “bottom-of-the-market” pricing.)

On November 28, 2023, we opened our doors to neighboring societies. Representatives had the opportunity to choose from more than a thousand free books for their shelves. Our goal was to get surplus books to locations where they could do the most good.

The prize for the most enthusiastic society goes to Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, 270 miles south of us. They not only called ahead, but their representative, Rich Cunningham, brought nine boxes of books as a donation to GFO. We suspect that they left us more books than they took!

We extended GivingTuesday into the following week, added even more books, and opened the



On GivingTuesday, GFO offered 1,100 books sorted by state and topic to local societies.


giveaway to GFO members. Twenty-two members attended over three days, some of whom had not been to the library since before the pandemic. Books on Ireland and Washington proved to be the most popular in the extended session.



2024 Member Meetings

General Membership Meeting • March 9 • 2:00
Announcement of Candidates

Annual Membership Meeting • June 15 • 2:30
Election Results, Approval of Annual Budget



Volunteer Needed to Create Index

Do you occasionally want to consult an article or tutorial published in *The Forum Insider* but can't remember in which issue it was featured? It happens to us too! That is why we are seeking a volunteer to create a title and author index for the issues that appear online: 2008–2023.

Skills needed to complete the index include the ability to use Google Sheets spreadsheet app and attention to detail. The index can be created in the comfort of your own home. We will provide the spreadsheet and instructions. If you have a few hours to devote to the creation of the index, please email Keri Logan at keri.logan@gfo.org.

Save the date

2024 GFO

OPEN HOUSE

March 16-23
Events in house & online



GFO Wins Manuscripts Grant

The GFO is pleased to be the recipient of a grant from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation as part of its Research Libraries Program.

The grant provides up to \$17,400 in funding to systematize the acquisition, processing, and cataloging of manuscript materials to make them accessible for researchers.

This grant came about due to some fortuitous timing. Last spring, Addie Dyal Rickie asked her son to place her genealogical books and papers from over 30 years of research at GFO. Schedules eventually matched up, and a group of nine members picked 104 boxes in Dallas on October 7. While GFO is accustomed to receiving manuscript materials, this was an exceptional amount to receive all at once.

In the meantime, we learned of the foundation's program aimed at research libraries, with its current focus on archival and manuscript sources. As the largest genealogical research library in the Pacific Northwest, we felt that we might be a good candidate for a grant, especially with such a significant influx of material. We included the story of the Addie Dyal Rickie collection in the application. We were gratified to learn that we had won the grant in November.

While the grant is dedicated to a single project, and thus does not help with GFO's operational expenses, we expect it to be very beneficial in improv-



Half of the Dallas Pickup crew pose in front of the Addie Dyal Rickie collection. From left, Tom O'Brien, Jeanette Gent, Judith Leppert, Richard Crockett, Chris Wubbenhurst, Eileen Chamberlin, and Gene Chamberlin

ing GFO's collection in the long run.

We are looking forward to working on the collection. Work will begin in earnest in late January. We must identify, categorize, and arrange relevant material, write finding aids for the materials, and either scan or otherwise preserve both documents and photographs.

If you are interested in helping on the Manuscripts Committee, please contact volunteer@gfo.org.

Nominations for Open Board Positions Due

The GFO prides itself on being run entirely by volunteers. That makes its Board extremely important because several of the directors also lead various committees. This year, we have several key positions to fill on our Board: president, vice president, secretary, director at large, and an endowment committee position. Board members must be GFO members in good standing and agree to serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2024. No prior nonprofit



experience needed.

Responsibilities include attending at least nine of our twelve monthly board meetings each year and submitting monthly reports. The GFO's virtual board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month.

Please contact GFO Secretary Alexa Waddle at secretary@gfo.org if you would like to know more about these positions or to submit your nomination. Self nominations are encouraged. Please do not submit a nominee who has not agreed to run.

Active and engaged members are what keep GFO thriving.



Online Events for January

Wednesday, January 3

Learn & Chat

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

[SIGN UP >](#)

Saturday, January 6

Virginia Roots and Vines

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

[SIGN UP >](#)

This month's meeting will focus on the the Battle of Blue Licks, often called the last battle of the Revolutionary War. It was fought in Fayette County, Kentucky, on the Licking River, when a group of Indians and British loyalists ambushed local militiamen including Daniel Boone.

German Group

1-3 p.m.

[SIGN UP >](#)

Reboot your research for the New Year! Take the time to clean up your existing research records and maybe establish a new process that will help you consolidate some of that mess you have been hanging on to. We will have some Q and A time if you have any particular brick walls you would like to bring down.

Monday, January 8

RootsMagic

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

[SIGN UP >](#)

Tuesday, January 9

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.

Thursday, January 11

The Q Review

6-7 p.m.

[SIGN UP >](#)

Saturday, January 13

Access GFO Resources

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

[SIGN UP >](#)

Join Laurel Smith via Zoom to learn about the resources GFO provides for everyone and about the special benefits to GFO members. Learn how to use GFO's website, library catalog, and MemberSpace to access resources.

Sunday, January 14

The Writers' Room

2:30-4:30 p.m.

[SIGN UP >](#)

Wednesday, January 17

DNA Q&A: The Basics

1-3 p.m.

[SIGN UP >](#)

Saturday, January 20

Genealogy Problem Solvers

9:30-11:30 a.m.

[SIGN UP >](#)

African American Ancestry

12-2 p.m.

[SIGN UP >](#)

Sunday, January 21

French Canada

3:30-4:30 p.m.

[SIGN UP >](#)

Kate Bradley (French Institute, Assumption University, Worcester, MA) will give a short "pitch" talk of 15-30 minutes to introduce the Franco-American Digital Archive, a new initiative of a five-university collaboration rolled out in 2022.

Saturday, January 27

DNA Advanced

9 a.m.-12 p.m.

[SIGN UP >](#)

British Group

1-3 p.m.

[SIGN UP >](#)

GFO Inclement Weather Policy

In case of inclement weather, the GFO Library follows the Portland Public Schools guidelines for closure or delayed opening. If it is a day when school is not scheduled, check the GFO website (gfo.org), and call the GFO at (503) 963-1932 to speak with a Research Assistant to make sure that the library is open and will remain open.

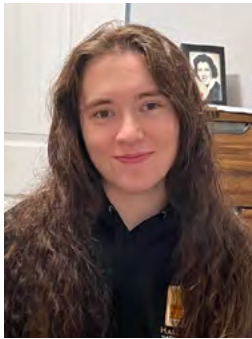


GFO Stars

November

Ana Tangum

Ana Tangum worked on the library committee for many years cataloging books. She is probably best known for her work in membership, sending out renewal reminders every month and putting together the donor list for the December Bulletin each year.



She was a regular volunteer, who was always behind the scenes. Ana was unfailingly ready to fill in, particularly whenever we needed a quick substitute for anything technical, and even handled E-News for a short period. She is moving on to

finish a challenging certificate program, but we hope to see her back in the future!

December

Anne Voegtlin

When we reopened the library after the pandemic, Anne used her experience as a long-term research assistant to develop orientation training for the research assistants, (RAs). She has trained every RA since 2021.



Last month, she completed a complete revamp of the Research Assistant's Handbook which has dramatically improved its usability. Anne also writes the descriptions for the Surplus Book of the Week column in E-News.



Registration for Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Interest Groups
All times are Pacific Time.

JANUARY 9, 2024

11 a.m.–12 p.m. German
1:30–3 p.m. Family Tree Maker

JANUARY 10, 2024

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Genetic Genealogy

JANUARY 11, 2024

6–7:30 p.m. Genealogy Newbies

JANUARY 12, 2024

1:30–3 p.m. Irish

JANUARY 13, 2024

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Brick Wall Roundtable

NOMINATE A STAR!

Has someone with the GFO gone above and beyond to help you? We'd love to know!

Nominate a GFO Star to be selected by the Board.

Submit your nomination here: Be sure to include your name, the name of the volunteer you're nominating, and a short description of what they did so well.

Please note that Board members are not eligible.



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

BRITISH GROUP

Led by Duane Funk
uk@gfo.org

DNA – Advanced

Led by Tim Janzen
dna@gfo.org

DNA Q & A – The Basics

Led by Lisa McCullough
dna_qa@gfo.org

FAMILY TREE MAKER

Led by Agnes Zueger, Johnna Waldon,
and Joyce Grant-Worley
ftm@gfo.org

FRENCH CANADA GROUP

Led by Robert Dupuy, Laura Mitchell,
and Bob LaMarche
frcan@gfo.org

GENEALOGY PROBLEM SOLVERS

Led by Katie Daly
gps@gfo.org

GERMAN GROUP

Led by Tia Cobb
german@gfo.org

GREAT LAKES

Led by Kim Thurman
greatlakes@gfo.org

IRISH GROUP

Led by Karen Hubbard, Peg Kenaga,
and Erinn Sears
irish@gfo.org

LEARN & CHAT

Led by Sandy Alto
learnandchat@gfo.org

THE Q REVIEW

Led by Alexa Waddle
qreview@gfo.org

ROOTSMAGIC


Led by Barry Wolff
rootsmagic@gfo.org

VIRGINIA ROOTS & VINES

Led by Judi Scott and Carol Surrency
virginia@gfo.org

WRITER'S ROOM

Led by Geri Auerbach, AG®
writers@gfo.org





Get Help at PMUG Clinic

**Every Tuesday Evening
6:00 – 7:30 pm on Zoom**

- Get Free Help for your Macintosh, iPhone, iPad, iPod or Apple Watch
- For info on how to attend, contact us at:

info@pmug.org