



THE Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon
Volume 35 • Number 2 • August 2023

Small Acts of Kindness Go a Long Way

Kathy Valdez

Whenever I receive family research help from volunteer or paid staff at libraries, courthouses, universities, historical societies, city halls, museums, history centers ... even friends across the world, I like to acknowledge my thanks to them for taking the time to help me. Allow me to share with you the first call I made as a new family researcher seeking help outside my comfort zone and how this experience prompted me to show these helpers my appreciation for their service.

I had been forewarned by fellow researchers to expect a grumpy person on the other end of the line with my call being the '115th' call they'd received that day from someone looking for ancestors of 150 years ago. When I'd finally mustered the courage to call the Archive Department at City of Providence,



Photo by Daria Shevtsova via [NegativeSpace.co](https://www.negative-space.co)

Rhode Island, in search of my immigrant Irish great-great-grandmother Ellen's death record, I was

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Oregon Counties and Their Records

This issue highlights seven counties in The Forum Insider's year-long series: Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, Wallowa, Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman.

The Genealogical Records of Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, and Wallowa Counties

Geri Auerbach, AG®

Gilliam County was created from Wasco County on 25 February 1885, and in 1899, Wheeler County was formed from Gilliam County. The county was named for Colonel Cornelius Gilliam, a commander

of the Oregon volunteers.¹ Gilliam County is 1,204 square miles, which makes it the thirteenth smallest county in Oregon.² As of the 2020 U.S. federal census, Gilliam County had a population of 1,995, making it the state's third least populous county.³

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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 11 a.m.–3 p.m. beginning Aug. 5.
Monday & Tuesday 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Thursday & Friday 1–5 p.m.

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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.

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Small Acts of Kindness, from page 1

pleasantly surprised to encounter newly hired Caleb!

Fresh-as-a-daisy Caleb jumped at the chance to go on the hunt through the musty old 1894 files in the basement of City Hall! The original and rare document Caleb found for me held a treasure trove of information that catapulted me into the next 12 years of finding my Irish roots and, best of all, Irish cousins lost to our family for 140 years. What Caleb told me later when I sought other records was that Ellen’s death record was among just a few years of records that had been spared the purge of old records after they had been transcribed in the 1950s. Whew!

I sent Caleb a "thank you" card, enclosing a Starbucks gift card as a sign of my deep appreciation for his help. And so began my awareness of the importance of taking time to thank folks for their help. I often hear back how it “made their day” to be acknowledged for their service. Now, I send e-cards of thanks, attaching a gift card (being sure to email the helper ahead of time to be sure to check their spam

file for the e-card.) Also, be forewarned this practice of showing appreciation backfired in the upper Mid-West when I thanked the archivist at the University of Wisconsin with a card—no Starbucks for miles! I got smart...I use my investigative skills to find a good coffee shop nearest them. Imagine their surprise when they went into their favorite shop to find their treat had already been paid for! (Local genealogist Susan Baird sends a fresh rose in a vial of water in a mailing tube to helpers.)

So, you can see it’s a lot of fun – making folks smile and feeling appreciated in their efforts to help you learn more about your family history. In receiving/remembering your thanks, volunteer and paid staff in all these repositories will not only feel appreciated, but they’ll be also more likely to help other family researchers in the future. It’s important to recognize the human dimension in the work we do, with a spirit of gratitude.

Kathy Valdez is a GFO member who joined in 2016.

GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON GENTALK

EXPLORING PORTLAND’S CEMETERIES FROM HUMBLE TO GRAND

**AUGUST 19
2:30 PM PT**

**FREE REGISTRATION
GFO.ORG/GENTALK**

Teresa Bergen
co-author of *Historic Cemeteries of Portland, Oregon*

mike krzeszak, CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons



*The Genealogical Records of Gilliam, Morrow,
Umatilla, and Wallowa Counties, from page 1*

Morrow County was created from Umatilla and Wasco Counties in 1885. It was named for Jackson Lee Morrow, a member of the Legislative Assembly and an early settler.⁴ Morrow County is 2,033 square miles—seventeenth largest county in Oregon.⁵ As of the 2020 U.S. federal census, Morrow County had a population of 12,300, making it the state's eighth least populous county.⁶

Umatilla County was one of the 17 counties carved out of the original Wasco County. The county was created on 27 September 1862. Various boundary changes occurred with the creation of Grant, Morrow, Union, and Wallowa counties.⁷ The county was named for the Umatilla River.⁸ Umatilla County is 3,215 square miles, the state's eighth largest county.⁹ As of the 2020 U.S. federal census, Umatilla County had a population of 80,075, making it Oregon's fourteenth most populous county.¹⁰

Wallowa County was created out of Union County on 11 February 1887. Three subsequent boundary changes occurred in 1890, 1900, and 1915.¹¹ The county is named for Wallowa Lake and the Wallowa River.¹² Wallowa County is Oregon's ninth largest county at 3,145 square miles.¹³ It is the fifth least populated county in the state with 7,391 people, according to the 2020 U.S. Federal Census.¹⁴

Comprehensive Resources

- 1** [FamilySearch Research Wiki](#) for Gilliam County records
- 2** [FamilySearch Research Wiki](#) for Morrow County records
- 3** [FamilySearch Research Wiki](#) for Umatilla County records
- 4** [FamilySearch Research Wiki](#) for Wallowa County records
- 5** *NGS Research in the States Series: Oregon*, 3rd edition by Connie Lenzen—available at [National Genealogical Society](#)

Libraries

- 6** [City of Pendleton Library](#)—The library has in-library access to Ancestry.com. It houses the collection of the Blue Mountain Genealogical

Society. The library also has Umatilla County newspapers on microfilm.

Archival/Government-held Records

- 7** [Gilliam County Records Inventory](#), [Morrow County Records Inventory](#), [Umatilla County Records Inventory](#), and [Wallowa County Records Inventory](#)—List of and links to a variety of county records, including vital records, property, court, name change, and naturalization. Location of records is provided.

Genealogical Societies

- 8** [Blue Mountain Genealogical Society](#) (no website—P.O. Box 1801, Pendleton, OR, 97081)—The society meets at Pendleton City Hall. Their collection (housed at the City of Pendleton library) includes local histories, city directories, obituaries, Donation Land Claim records, cemetery, and Catholic Church records of the Pacific Northwest.

Museum and Historical Societies

- 9** [Gilliam County Historical Society and Museum](#)—The museum has yearbooks for most years of Condon High School and some Arlington High years. Other records include a card file with obituary notices, photos (buildings and people), the Condon newspaper (1901–1907 and 1914–present), a few Arlington newspapers, oral histories from various ethnic communities (German [settled in Clem], Finn [settled in Mikkalo], and Irish and Scottish histories). The museum also has a Gilliam County census for 1901 and a 2014 book listing local cemeteries.
- 10** [Morrow County Historical Society and Museum](#)—The museum has a large photograph collection of the development of Morrow County as well as hundreds of family files. The museum will also do newspaper look-ups for Heppner, Lexington, Lone, and other local towns. The society published the *Morrow County Chronicles* from 1983–2017, and issues are available for purchase.

Continued on page 5



*The Genealogical Records of Gilliam, Morrow,
Umatilla, and Wallowa Counties, from page 4*

11 Umatilla County Historical Society and Heritage Station Museum—The society publishes the quarterly journal *Pioneer Trails*, which focuses on the people, places, and events in Umatilla County.

12 Wallowa County Museum—The museum has a collection of approximately 20,000 digitized records.

13 Wallowa History Center—The center has a research library as well as an online collection of resources. The museum's online **Research Resources** collection includes a collection of digitized newspapers from Wallowa County.



1. "Gilliam County History," *County Records Guide*, Oregon Secretary of State-State Archives (<https://bit.ly/3XQN9Tj> : accessed 26 June 2023).
2. *Wikipedia*, List of Counties in Oregon (<https://bit.ly/46KdjSc> : 26 June 2023), County Information.
3. "State Profile," *Oregon: 2020 Census*, United States Census Bureau (<https://bit.ly/31BwvS1> : accessed 26 June 2023).
4. "Morrow County History," *County Records Guide*, Oregon Secretary of State-State Archives (<https://bit.ly/3OBIV6N> : accessed 26 June 2023).
5. *Wikipedia*, List of Counties in Oregon (<https://bit.ly/46KdjSc> : 3 June 2023), County Information.
6. "State Profile," *Oregon: 2020 Census*, United States Census Bureau (<https://bit.ly/31BwvS1> : accessed 26 June 2023).
7. "Umatilla County History," *County Records Guide*, Oregon Secretary of State-State Archives (<https://bit.ly/3rokCbM> : accessed 29 June 2023).
8. McArthur, Lewis A., *Oregon Geographic Names* (Portland: Oregon Historical Society Press, 1992), p. 857.
9. *Wikipedia*, List of Counties in Oregon (<https://bit.ly/46KdjSc> : 29 June 2023), County Information.
10. "State Profile," *Oregon: 2020 Census*, United States Census Bureau (<https://bit.ly/31BwvS1> : accessed 29 June 2023).
11. "Wallowa County History," *County Records Guide*, Oregon Secretary of State-State Archives (<https://bit.ly/44kYTQv> : accessed 29 June 2023).
12. Frederick Holman, "Oregon Counties: Their Creations and the Origins of Their Names." *Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society* 11(1) (March 1910), p. 59.
13. *Wikipedia*, List of Counties in Oregon (<https://bit.ly/46KdjSc> : 29 June 2023), County Information.
14. "State Profile," *Oregon: 2020 Census*, United States Census Bureau (<https://bit.ly/31BwvS1> : accessed 29 June 2023).

The Genealogical Records of Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman Counties

Geri Auerbach, AG®

Hood River County was created by the passage of a statewide initiative and was made official by the governor on 23 June 1908. Hood River's parent county was Wasco County, and the county was named for both the Hood River and Mt. Hood.¹ Hood River county is 522 square miles, which makes it the second smallest county in Oregon.² As of the 2020 U.S. federal census, Hood River County had a population of 23,977, making it the state's twenty-sixth most populous county.³

Wasco County was created on 11 January 1854. The county was named for the Wasco (Wascopam) tribe that lived in the area. Wasco County was initially the largest county ever formed in the United States.

Seventeen counties in present-day Eastern Oregon were created from Wasco County.⁴ Today it is the twenty-third largest county in Oregon at 2,387 square miles.⁵ Wasco County had 26,670 residents as of the 2020 U.S. federal census, making it the state's twenty-second most populous county.⁶

Sherman County is one of the 17 counties created out of the original Wasco County. It was created in 1889. Sherman County is named for General William Tecumseh Sherman.⁷ The county is 823 square miles and is the eighth smallest county in Oregon.⁸ Sherman County is Oregon's second least populated county with a population of 1,870 on the 2020 U.S. federal census.⁹

Continued on page 6



*The Genealogical Records of Hood River, Wasco,
and Sherman Counties, from page 5*

Comprehensive Resources

- 1** **FamilySearch Research Wiki** for Hood River County records
- 2** **FamilySearch Research Wiki** for Wasco County records
- 3** **FamilySearch Research Wiki** for Sherman County records
- 4** *NGS Research in the States Series: Oregon*, 3rd edition by Connie Lenzen—available at **National Genealogical Society**

Libraries

- 5** **Hood River Library—History and Genealogy**—The library has access to local historical newspapers, yearbooks, Polk City Directories for The Dalles/Hood River, and internment records for several local cemeteries.
- 6** **Wasco County Library—Local History and Genealogy**—The library has a genealogy collection including a card catalog for local family names, early settler information, and cemetery indexes. Early newspapers, early wills, and vital records indexes are available on microfilm.

Archival/Government-held Records

- 7** **Hood River County Records Inventory, Wasco County Records Inventory, and Sherman County Records Inventory**—List of and links to the variety of records for these counties including vital records, property, court, name change, and naturalization. Location of records is provided.

Genealogical Societies

- 8** **Columbia Gorge Genealogical Society**—The society serves the Oregon counties of Wasco, Hood River, and Sherman, and the Washington counties of Klickitat and Skamania. The society has various publications for purchase, as well as their newsletter *Tales and Trails*. The society meets at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center.

Museums

- 9** **Columbia Gorge Discovery Center**—At the center is the William G. Dick Research Library which houses a vertical file of over 8,300 topics.

The library has newspapers from Wasco County back to the 1880s, school records, city directories, phone books, obituaries, and more than 2,000 books about the history, geography, and genealogy of the area. It also has collections from local writers and historians. The center also houses the records of the Wasco County Pioneer Association.

- 10** **Wasco County Pioneer Association** (no website)—The association has various records such as meeting minutes, biographies, picture boards, and photos held at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. Association photos are online hosted by Oregon State University at **Oregon Digital**. Use the search term “WCPA” to see the collection.

- 11** **Cascade Locks Historical Museum**—The museum has an online collection catalog that includes yearbooks, some documents, postcards, and historical photos.

- 12** **History Museum of Hood River County**—The museum has a collection including documents and photographs of the history of the Hood River area.

- 13** **Sherman County Historical Museum and Society**—The society publishes (since 1983) *Sherman County: For the Record*, two times per year. The publication is indexed. The website above has information on obituaries, churches, and cemeteries. The museum has obituaries, genealogy files of local families, and books about Sherman County.

1. “Hood River County History,” *County Records Guide*, Oregon Secretary of State–State Archives (<https://bit.ly/3Oaaj2P> : accessed 19 June 2023).

2. *Wikipedia*, List of Counties in Oregon (<https://bit.ly/46KdJSc> : 19 June 2023), County Information.

3. “State Profile,” *Oregon: 2020 Census*, United States Census Bureau (<https://bit.ly/3IBwvS1> : accessed 19 June 2023).

4. “Wasco County History,” *County Records Guide*, Oregon Secretary of State–State Archives (<https://bit.ly/3JZSsqP> : accessed 19 June 2023).

5. *Wikipedia*, List of Counties in Oregon, County Information.

6. “State Profile,” *Oregon: 2020 Census*, United States Census Bureau.

7. “Sherman County History,” *County Records Guide*, Oregon Secretary of State–State Archives (<https://bit.ly/3rldo89> : accessed 20 June 2023).

8. *Wikipedia*, *List of Counties in Oregon*, County Information.

9. “State Profile,” *Oregon: 2020 Census*, United States Census Bureau.



Multnomah County Marriage Records at the GFO Now Fully Indexed

The GFO holds nearly all of the original Multnomah County marriage record books, which date back to 1855. Indexing these marriage records has been a long-term goal for our organization.

On GivingTuesday, in November 2021, 75 people joined in our first-ever virtual indexing event to kickstart the indexing of un-indexed volumes. On that day, 1,870 marriages were indexed. The work continued through the dedication of Loretta Welsh and other volunteers. The project is finally completed, and the index for all 83,864 marriages is now available. You can find the index on our website at [GFO:Multnomah County Marriages](#).

GFO members may request images using free GFO Library Lookups in [MemberSpace](#).

Non-members may order copies on the web site at the [Multnomah County Marriages](#) page. Digital images (color) will be emailed for \$5 per record. Printed hard copies (black & white) are \$7 per record.



Photo by Candace McDaniel via [NegativeSpace.co](#)

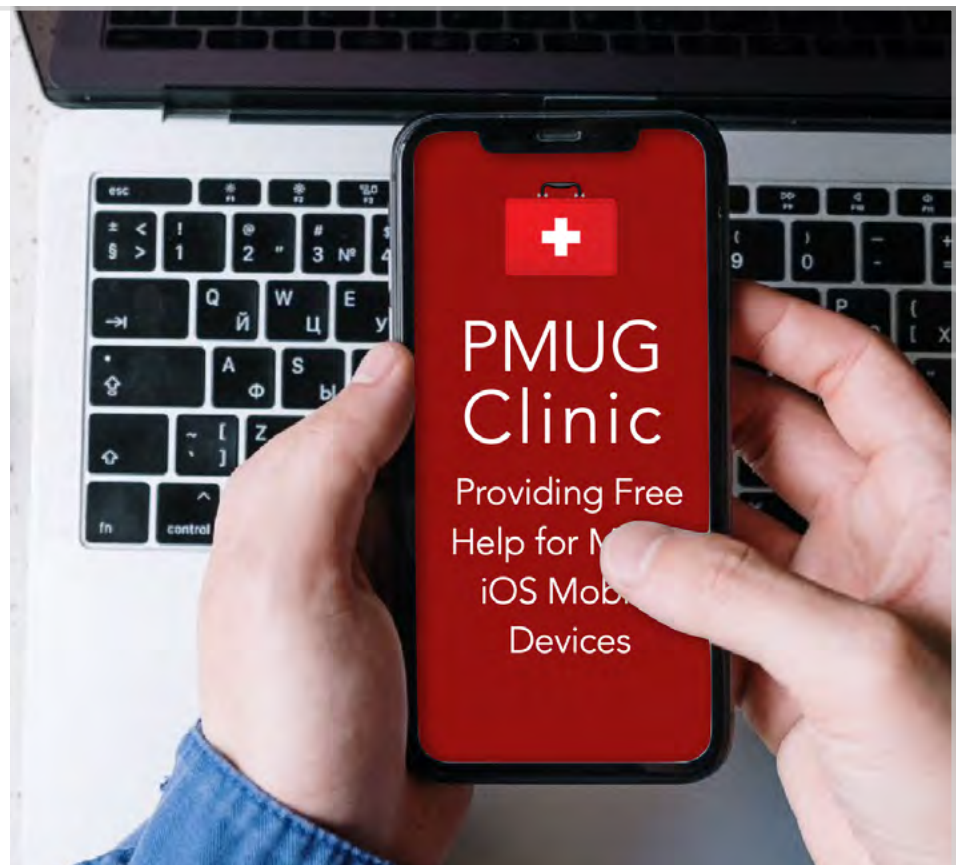


Get Help at PMUG Clinic

**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





GFO Earns Gold Seal Recognition

The gold seal is awarded by **Candid**, which under the Guidestar name is the largest source of information on U. S. nonprofit organizations. Rated nonprofits must provide updated information every year.

For nonprofits with annual budgets of over \$50,000, like GFO, the Guidestar program provides an easy way for grantors to access an organization's financials and governance information.

The 2023 Seal is the latest recognition from the program. GFO has earned a gold level recognition every year since an upgrade from silver in 2019.

Gold
Transparency
2023

Candid.

Online Events for August

Saturday, August 5

German Group
1-3 p.m.

SIGN UP >

Monday, August 7

RootsMagic
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

SIGN UP >

Tuesday, August 8

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.

Wednesday August 9

Great Lakes
1:30-8:30 p.m.

SIGN UP >

Thursday, August 10

The Q Review
6-7 p.m.

SIGN UP >

Saturday, August 12

Access GFO Resources
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

SIGN UP >

Sunday, August 13

The Writers' Room
2:30-4 p.m.

SIGN UP >

Wednesday, August 16

Irish Group
6-7:30 p.m.

SIGN UP >

Saturday, August 19

Genealogy Problem Solvers
9:30-11:30 a.m.

SIGN UP >

African American Ancestry
12-2 p.m.

SIGN UP >

GenTalk: Exploring Portland's Cemeteries, from Humble to Grand
2:30-4 p.m.

SIGN UP >

Teresa Bergen, co-author of *Historic Cemeteries of Portland, Oregon*, will talk about her favorite Portland cemeteries. She'll share stories of interesting markers and personalities she came across while researching the book. Teresa will talk about why she loves to visit cemeteries and what she thinks others can learn from these repositories of art, history, tradition and culture—as well as bodies.

Sunday, August 27

Italian Ancestry
1-2:30 p.m.

SIGN UP >

Contact facilitator Stephanie Silenti at italian@gfo.org for an invitation to the online meeting.





GFO Star

July

Tanya Goffman

Tanya answered a call for volunteers during the 2022 Open House. Since April 2022, she has been a steadfast proofreader for *The Forum Insider*, catching errors and providing a unique perspective. You see, Tanya lives in California and serves as one of our virtual volunteers. She is quick to note when our articles don't provide enough background for readers outside our immediate geographic area. Her insight has been invaluable as the GFO expands its membership throughout the nation.



Thank you, Tanya, for your efforts in making this newsletter shine.

The newsletter editors note any mistakes in the final, published version are ours alone.



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

August 8, 2023

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

August 9, 2023

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Genetic Genealogy
1:30–3:30 p.m. Great Lakes

August 10, 2023

6–7:30 p.m. Genealogy Newbies

August 11, 2023

1:30–3 p.m. Irish

August 14, 2023

2–3:30 p.m. Colonial America

August 16, 2023

1:30–3 p.m. Let's Talk Genealogy Roundtable

Shopping Is Rewarding for GFO

Gearing up for back-to-school shopping? You can help us at the GFO while you shop at Fred Meyer.

All you have to do is create a digital account at the **Fred Meyer Community Rewards** page, and select the Genealogical Forum of Oregon as the charity you'd like to help.

Once you link your Rewards Card to the GFO, Fred Meyer makes a donation to us based on your

purchases. Everything is automatic after you register your card. Best of all, it does not affect the prices you pay.

Linking your Fred Meyer Rewards card helps us to provide genealogy resources to northern Oregon and southwest Washington.

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



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

ITALIAN GROUP

Led by Stephanie Silenti
italian@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

Genealogical Forum of Oregon *GenTalk*

Adoption and Genealogy

Methods for Including Adopted Family
Members in Your Tree

SAT., SEPT. 16

2:30 P.M. PT

Join us for this free presentation
featuring Debra Williams Sorensen
gfo.org/gentalk





NGS Family History Conference to be Virtual in 2024

After a pandemic pause in 2020 and 2021, The National Genealogical Society’s annual Family History Conference was in person (and virtual) in 2022 in Sacramento, California, and in 2023 in Richmond, Virginia. In late June, the **National Genealogical Society** (NGS) notified members that the 2024 Family History Conference will be entirely virtual. In their email to members they noted:



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY®

...the meetings and events industry has not recovered from the pandemic. Challenges remain for event planners from labor shortages at facilities to attendance declines across the events industry. We must address these issues by reimagining our conference to merge the highest educational standards,

exceptional in-person experiences, and technologically advanced learning opportunities while being financially sound.

The NGS will gather a group of genealogy leaders (instructors, organizations, company leaders, and members) “to start a conversation about the future of genealogy events.”

The Forum Insider will publish more information as it becomes available.

Treasurer’s Report

Contact: treasurer@gfo.org

JUNE 2023 INCOME

Contributions*	\$ 816.73
Memberships	\$ 3,975.00
Education	\$ 0.00
Library & Research	\$ 177.25
Book Sales & Misc. Income	\$ 1,053.35
Interest & Dividends	\$ 2,159.24
Total	\$ 8,181.57

JUNE 2023 EXPENSE

Administration	\$ 651.80
Publications	\$ 365.13
Education Fees	\$ 125.00
Facilities & Equipment	\$ 5,967.55
Library & Research	\$ 432.31
Total	\$ 7,541.79

Net Income for the Month	\$ 639.78
Year-to-Date Net Income	\$ 35,935.99

Donor-restricted Donations	\$ 1,055.00
Unrealized Gains	\$ 21,315.09
Endowment Donation	\$ 100.00
Total Adjustments	\$ 22,470.09

*Includes Annual Appeal