

# Introducing the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO)

Resources | Education | Community

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The GFO has a [rich history](#). Founded in 1946, it is now the largest genealogical research library in the Pacific Northwest. And for 76 years, the GFO has been run entirely by volunteers—there has never been a paid staff member! [Volunteer](#)

A private non-profit, financially supported entirely by:

- [Memberships](#) (\$49/year)
- [Donations](#)
- [Surplus book](#) and [publication](#) sales
- Visitor fees (\$8/day)
- [Research fees](#) and non-member lookups
- Fundraising events, like seminars (none currently scheduled)

Located in the historic Ford Building at 2505 SE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Portland, Oregon, previously open 7 days a week—and reopening four days a week soon! [Visit Us](#) (location and hours)

## Resources

- Award winning website [gfo.org](http://gfo.org)
- Online [library catalog](#) with about 55,000 holdings
- Research library with:
  - Wi-Fi
  - Computers with access to
    - Ancestry.com
    - Find My Past
    - Newspapers.com
    - Fold3
    - HistoryGeo
    - NEHGS (American Ancestors)
  - Printer, copier, and flatbed scanner
  - Microfilm/microfiche reader/scanner

*You are welcome to bring and use your own computer, scanner, and camera*

- Books, periodicals & more!
  - Atlases and maps
  - Cassettes (national conference presentations)
  - City directories and telephone books
  - [Family histories](#) (about 5,000)
  - [Manuscripts](#) (digital collection)
  - Member's pedigree charts
  - Microfilm and microfiche
  - NW Schools yearbooks (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska)
  - Oregon cemetery records (waiting to be digitized)
  - [Oregon and Washington Donation Land Claims](#)
  - [Spencer Leonard Collection](#) (partially digitized)
  - [Vertical files](#) (going digital and found in OPALS (library catalog))
  - GFO Digital Collection (Available to GFO members in MemberSpace and to visitors to the library.)

## Education

### [Seminars and Classes](#)

- Full-day seminars once or twice a year with a nationally known speaker.
- Annual Open House, typically in March.
- Access to GFO Resources, about once a month.

[Free GenTalks](#) about 8 times a year on the 3rd Saturday of the month

[15 Special Interest Groups!](#) Open to all and free to attend. Each has its own page. Click to see more.

African American

British

Chat & Learn

DNA Beginning, Advanced, and DNA Q&A

Family Tree Maker

French Canada

Genealogy Problem Solvers

German

Great Lakes Region (on hiatus)

Irish

Italian

Learn & Chat  
Virginia  
Writers' Forum

### **Our publications**

[The Bulletin](#)—quarterly, members only

[The Insider](#)—8 times a year, free to anyone on our email list

*eNews*—weekly to everyone on our email distribution list

[Sign up online](#) and receive all three for free!

You'll receive about 5 emails/month.

*Your personal information is not shared with anyone.*

[Facebook](#) - great content to inspire and inform. Follow us so you never miss an important GFO event—and we hope you'll "like" us too!

### **Community**

A place where you can meet people who share your interest in genealogy and have a sense of connection and shared experience.

The people who volunteer in our library, on our committees, and on the board are GFO's greatest asset.

## The GFO Website, Library Catalog, and Digital Collections ... LIVE!

1. Stay informed: free to everyone
  - a. Read the E-News every week (Thursday evening)
  - b. Read the Insider (8 issues/year)
  - c. Check the [calendar](#) regularly; you can adjust the view
  - d. Follow GFO on Facebook
  
2. Get help through GFO programs: free to everyone
  - a. GenTalks (about 8/year) 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month (see calendar)
  - b. Special Interest Groups ([SIGs](#))
  - c. Annual Open House March 26 – April 2, 2022
  
3. Use the GFO website to identify resources like vital records and donation land claims.
  - a. Search (upper left on most pages, searches only public pages)
  - b. [Indexes](#)
  - c. GFO Library online catalog ([OPALS](#))
  
4. Use [MemberSpace](#) to access:
  - a. Databases
    - i. American Ancestors (temporary)
    - ii. Fold3 Library Edition (ongoing)
    - iii. HeritageQuest (ongoing)
    - iv. HistoryGeo (ongoing)
  - b. Digital Collections
    - i. Digital Journals
    - ii. eBooks
    - iii. Indexed images (images used to create the indexes)
    - iv. Indexes
    - v. Manuscript Collections

- c. Library lookups\* to access anything available in the GFO Library:
  - i. Books and periodicals
  - ii. City directories
  - iii. Microfilm and microfiche
  - iv. FamilySearch Affiliate images
  - v. Newspapers.com Publishers Extra articles
  - vi. FindMyPast records
  - vii. Anything in the GFO Library collection you would be able to see/view if you were physically in the library—within reason. We must abide by copyright restrictions.

*\*Lookups means accessing images or making copies of specific pages or documents you identify. It does not include doing research.*

- d. Obtain discounted registration to GFO pay events, view members-only videos (occasionally), and more.