

# A Storied Past and Vibrant Future

## *A Celebration of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon's 70 Years*

*Rachel Hayward*

In the library of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO), a patron at one of the computers searches the web for information on her German ancestors. At the various worktables, members and patrons scan books, files, and journals gathered by volunteers who contribute many hours a week helping visitors find and access records related to their ancestral research. At the reception desk, a volunteer greets newcomers and directs them to the class on Beginning Genealogy in the back. The GFO president works with a volunteer on the next *Bulletin*

before moving back to a workroom to answer emails and review progress on the new website. Volunteers behind the scenes process incoming materials and add information to the Forum's online catalog, and the website volunteer team puts the finishing touches on the new look for 2016. Volunteers move in and out as they unload 138 donated boxes of material to back rooms. Researchers, needing a break from sitting, peruse the surplus book sale shelves at the front of the library. A member of a neighborhood group stops by to look at old maps that may shed light on land donations back in the settlement years for her town. At a microfiche reader, a historian hunts for elusive clues to a family's route into and across the United States. A writer pores over photographs in hopes of identifying a daughter to the family she is portraying in a memoir. A high school student learns how to research his Norwegian ancestry for a school project. Before leaving, some patrons sign up for next month's weekend workshop on how to research Irish and Scottish ancestry.

This is typical of the activities that span many weeks at the GFO today, but it wasn't always this way. What started with three dedicated women and a stack of mag-



*The GFO Library on a busy Saturday afternoon.*

azines, genealogical books, charts, and coats of arms stored in one of their homes has developed into over 39,000 holdings and an equally dedicated all-volunteer staff of 95 at last count. The GFO has become one of the most important (and largest!) independent genealogical libraries for patrons researching their own storied pasts.

On the GFO's 70th birthday, we honor its humble beginnings. We celebrate where the GFO has been, the miles it has traveled, what it has become, and what's in store for the future.

### **AN INVITATION TO GATHER**

It was January 5, 1946. Dorothy Van Pelt hosted the Willamette Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at her home. While Mrs. Van Pelt chatted with Caroline Higley and Daisy Smith, the topic of family history came up. All three women expressed the desire to belong to a genealogy group. Seventeen days later in the home of Miss Higley, the name of the group was chosen, officers were elected, and the Genealogical Forum was off and running.

With Miss Higley serving as chairman, Mrs. Smith as secretary, and Mrs. Van Pelt as treasurer and librarian, the group of women began recording their bi-monthly

meetings held at the Portland Central Library. By July, dues were set at \$2 per year and were spent on genealogy magazine subscriptions and other materials. Four additional members joined, and the first pamphlet was published in 1949 containing a typed list of genealogical books in the Portland library. From these humble beginnings, the GFO gradually came into its own.

### CREATING THE FOUNDATION

Guiding this newly formed group out of infancy was no small task. Getting all the nuts and bolts in place was necessary to honor and uphold the vision: to create a space for people to research their family ancestry, share resources, and share findings. The GFO historians drafted their first bylaws in 1950, and decided to hold meetings twice a month, alternating between members' homes, the Multnomah County Library, and the Hostess House at the Oregonian Building. They maintained their library in member Mary Brewer's home at 1709 S.E. Ladd Avenue, which was open only one day a week. Plans to publish a regular bulletin began in 1951, and by 1952, that little pamphlet from 1949 had grown into a three-page mimeographed booklet: *The Forum Exchange*. The GFO held its first officer elections in 1958 and began to print *The Bulletin* using their own mimeograph machine.

The GFO knew it was important to find different and appealing ways to attract new members. Outreach became a focus in those early years. This was accomplished by creating interactive events for the community as well as taking on volunteer projects in order to be-



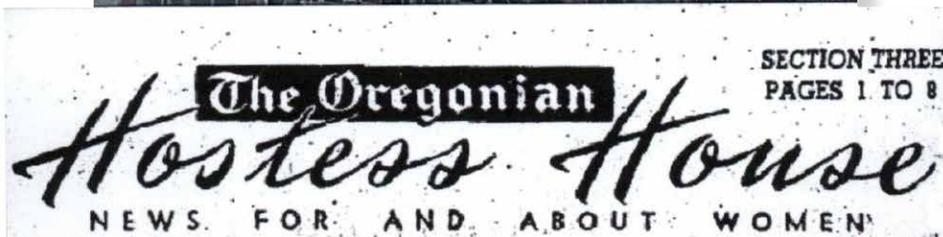
*Meier & Frank was the site of early GFO Open House events.*

come a well-known name in the field. One of their first projects was the Family Reunion and Association List. It contained a listing of all Oregon family associations and reunions, including information on family groups having annual meetings and picnics.

The tradition of the annual Open House started in May 1952 with the GFO's Family History Fair. Speakers and exhibits focused on genealogy and how to navigate the Latter Day Saints' records, how to use the public library's resources, and how to organize ancestral charts. The Open Houses were meant to attract new members, offer educational classes for current members, and to serve as fundraisers. The Family History Fairs were places genealogists could gather for socializing, sharing, and learning.

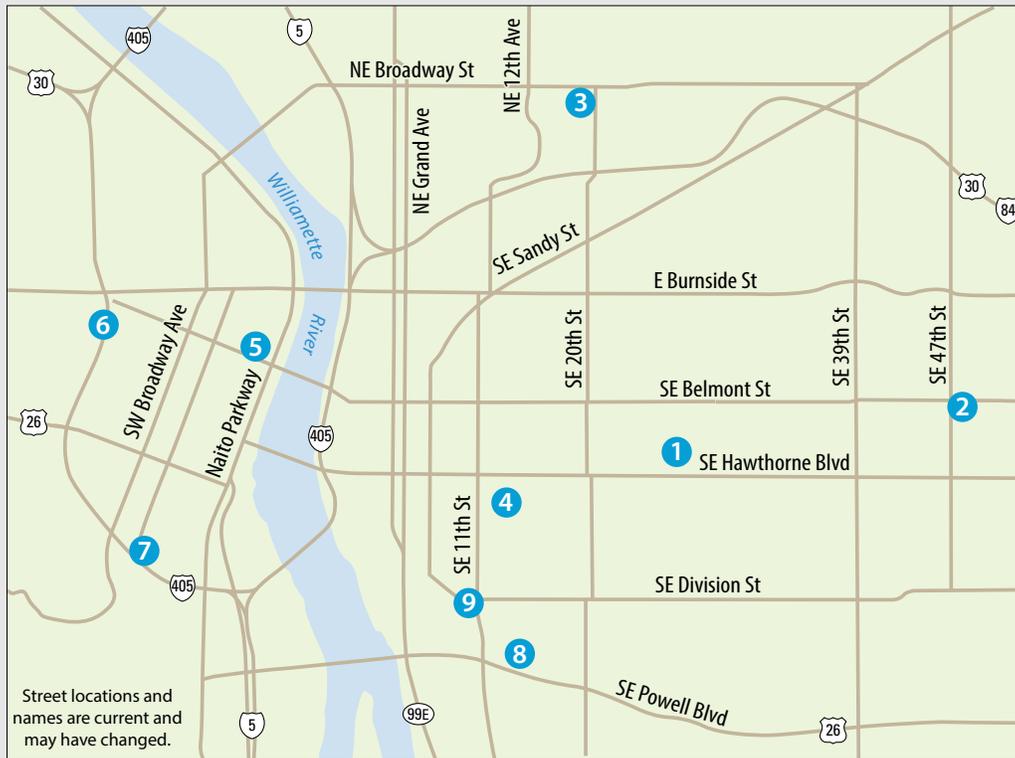
Annual Open Houses throughout the 50s continued to offer patrons classes in all the newest research advances and allowed the GFO to become a visible presence in the community. They became so popular that the GFO expanded the 1959 Open House to three days and moved it to Meier & Frank in downtown Portland. As a result, membership increased to 200 within the next few years, and the GFO was able to take on larger projects and create new offerings for the public.

In March of 1955, the GFO started The Bibliography Project for the Oregon State Library in Salem. A designated committee took genealogical compendiums, indexes, lineage books, periodicals, directories, maps, gazetteers, encyclopedias, the Oregon Collection, family histories, local histories, newspapers, microfilm,



*First "Genealogical School" on the West Coast*

## ALL THE PLACES THE GFO CALLED HOME



The GFO Library has had its own migration of sorts, and has seen the inside of some of Portland's most historic buildings.

- |   |      |                                                                                 |   |      |                                                            |
|---|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1946 | It all began in the home of Treasurer Dorothy Van Pelt at 2702 S.E. Main Street | 5 | 1968 | Governor Building, 408 S.W. 2nd Avenue                     |
| 2 | 1955 | (January) Home of Julia Waldram, 4711 S.E. Yamhill Street                       | 6 | 1974 | Neighbors of Woodcraft Building, 1410 S.W. Morrison Street |
| 3 | 1955 | (September) Home of Mrs. Robert Hacker, 1922 N.E. Weidler Avenue                | 7 | 1994 | 2130 S.W. 5th Avenue                                       |
| 4 | 1962 | Home of Mary Brewer, 1709 S.E. Ladd Avenue                                      | 8 | 1999 | Warehouse buildings, 1505 S.E. Gideon Street               |
|   |      |                                                                                 | 9 | 2011 | Historic Ford Building, 2505 S.E. 11th Street              |

county records, information on historical societies, libraries, public archives, military records, church and land records, U.S. public documents, histories of foreign countries and general history, heraldry, surnames, and place names—and catalogued them all for public use. This momentous project was the largest of its kind in this part of the country and allowed patrons a new and vast look at the genealogical resources available.

For their May 1955 Open House, the GFO hosted what is believed to be the first “Genealogical School” on the West Coast. Those who helped arrange the school were the Oregon State Archives Department (Salem), the Oregon Historical Society, the Multnomah County Library, and public schools in Portland and Vancouver, Washington. Participants gathered at the Oregonian

Hostess House for a variety of beginning classes and demonstrations on duplicating records, microfilming, lithography, mimeography, and spirit duplicating. The special speaker was Stanley MacDonald, Chief of the Multnomah County Criminal Bureau of Investigation, and he spoke about handwriting, inks and papers, and the restoration of old manuscripts.

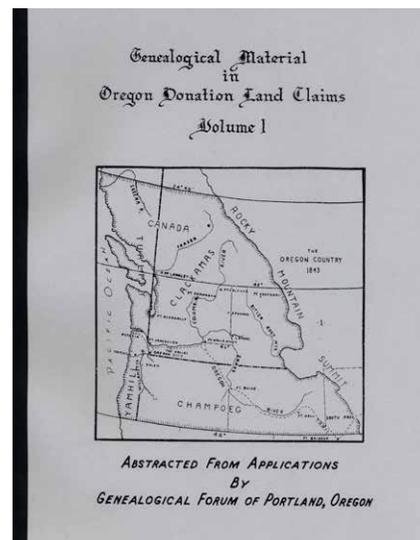
This marked a deepening and broadening of the GFO’s commitment to education . . . not just how to arrange things on paper or how to navigate a database, but to offer knowledgeable speakers and useful classes on a variety of topics for the benefit of their members and visitors. As these educational offerings increased, the GFO also began to attract partnerships in the family history field.

Cemetery research also became a noteworthy endeavor for the GFO. The first major project in this area started in 1956 when President Barbara Elkins curated a committee for the Cemetery Research Project. This group researched and compiled historical backgrounds for all the cemeteries in the state of Oregon. In February 1957, the GFO received permission to use the Oregon Historical Society's records, and in November they received permission to include DAR records. At this point in 1958, President Elkins had amassed knowledge of over 1,000 cemeteries, and wanted to add 800-900 more before she finished the project.

One of the most recognized and awarded GFO projects was published in 1957. Lauded as one of the GFO's trademark contributions, the *Oregon Donation Land Claims, Volume I* was the culmination of an incredible amount of hours and patience. Led by Lottie Gurley as research chairman, Lottie and her volunteers would venture to the Oregon Bureau of Land Management Office once a week where they searched records one at a time and abstracted the information from the land titles. Filled with 2,500 land claims, this volume received some big attention. The Oregon Donation Land Claims com-

mittee received an award from the American Association for State and Local History and was one of only ten organizations in the nation that received recognition for "regional, county, and local societies which are outstanding in the development and understanding of local history."

The Oregon Donation Land Claims committee continued working on their project, and in May of 1959, *Oregon Donation Land Claims, Volume II* was published. This volume finished cataloging the 5,289 total land records originally filed at the Oregon City Land Office. This was quite an accom-



*Donation Land Claims, Volume 1 is published*

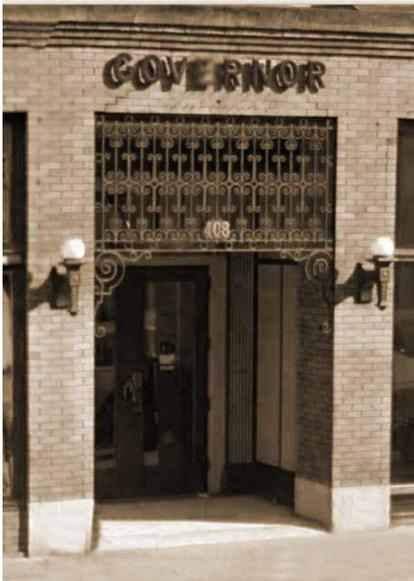
## GFO'S PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES\*

"This corporation's primary purpose shall be to educate, to record, and to preserve genealogical and historical records and information.

"The objectives of this organization shall be to instruct in research, to create an interest in genealogy, and to share, compile, and publish genealogical and historical materials."



\*First stated in 1967 in the GFO Articles of Amendment (to Articles of Incorporation) filed with the State of Oregon Corporation Commissioner and continuing, unchanged, in the restated Articles submitted April 2013.



*GFO found a new home in the Governor Building in 1969.*

plishment as each abstract showed the settler's name, place of residence, wife's name, date and place of birth, date and place of marriage, date the claim was settled, and other family information. The committee went on to abstract claims that had been filed in Roseburg, The Dalles, and La Grande. They even abstracted

the rejected claims for Idaho. The claim files were micro-filmed by the National Archives, and a set of the films is in the GFO collection. In 1990, Lottie went on to work on obtaining information about the pioneers' wives whose maiden names were listed in the land claims.

**GETTING THE DETAILS DOWN AND SETTLING IN**

Over the next two decades—the 1960s and 1970s—the GFO continued creating their foundation, establishing flow, identifying goals, and beginning traditions. The hard work from the founders and volunteers was paying off; outreach attracted new members, projects and publications brought more visibility to the GFO, and an increased engagement with the community meant that the Forum was growing and expanding.

In February of 1960, under the leadership of President Barbara Elkins, the society was incorporated as the Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon, Inc. Monthly meetings and annual Open Houses kept members informed and up to date on new technologies and information while the library was still housed in [the Brewers' home](#). Publication of Volumes III and IV of the *Oregon Donation Land Claims* occurred in 1962 and 1967 respectively. For their 21st Anniversary, the three founding members of the GFO were

given Life Membership cards. Ties with the Oregon Historical Society strengthened and both organizations worked together to assist the public with genealogical research and family history.

Due to the growth of membership and library resources, along with the Brewers moving into a smaller home, the GFO needed a new space. It was found at the Governor Building at 408 SW 2nd Avenue. The move began at the end of 1968 and was complete by early 1969. For the first time, everything was in one place under one roof. For the first time, they had a headquarters.

On June 18, 1970, the society acquired 501(c)(3) non-profit status under the leadership of Marie Davis.

In October of this same year, the Oregon Trail Project kicked off a series of events and activities which brought new information to light. Oregon Trail historian and GFO member Claire Belsher began to share her knowledge with other members and participants through various activities, such as a day-long walk along the ruts of the trail and sharing stories about the hardships the pioneers experienced. With Oregon Donation Land Claim records and her own research, Mrs. Belcher contributed to the Oregon Trail history with her knowledge about a previously unknown portion of the Trail in Troutdale, Oregon.

The GFO began thinking “move” again in the early 1970s. Space was found in the historic Neighbors of Woodcraft Building at 1410 S.W. Morrison in 1974. Here, the GFO gained an office, committee work areas, and a



*GFO's 25th Open House at Meier & Frank in 1971.*

seemed that at this time, the GFO was poised to begin a larger cycle of growth and participation with the community, earning new opportunities and recognition. It was also a time when veteran members and volunteers began to pass away, leaving room for new energy and leadership to emerge.

### **WE'RE ONE OF THE BIGGEST!**

As the GFO rolled into the 80s, a powerful realization hit: they had become one of the largest independent genealogical and local history libraries in Oregon, attracting visitors from across the Pacific Northwest. With this awareness, it was natural that the organization would continue to expand and hone their mission and message. The organization shortened their name to the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc. in March of 1986. Community members made contributions of materials and money, and volunteers gave time to projects and library upkeep . . . this dance between the organization and the community enabled the GFO to grow and thrive and remain a respected presence.

The GFO continued to offer print shop services, meeting space, and library use to other genealogical, historical, and lineage societies. The local Daughters of the American Revolution housed their collection in the library, and their members were allowed free access to those materials whenever the library was open. The GFO continued to be a gathering place for like-minded researchers, a place for sharing and expanding knowledge.

One of the most memorable projects, started in 1984, was the 1910 Oregon Census Soundex Index. This might be one of the largest genealogical endeavors completed in Oregon thanks to the participation of many volunteers and various small genealogical societies around the state. "The only [index] available at National Archives branches was a Soundex version," said Eileen Chamberlin, past President and current member and volunteer. "Oregon was a state which had not been done."

Under the project leadership of Judy Goldmann, all of the information was gathered and distributed to volunteers. Judy obtained the microfilm and paper copies, placing them in folders for each volunteer to work from. There were 672,000 names on the census.



*Eileen Chamberlin*

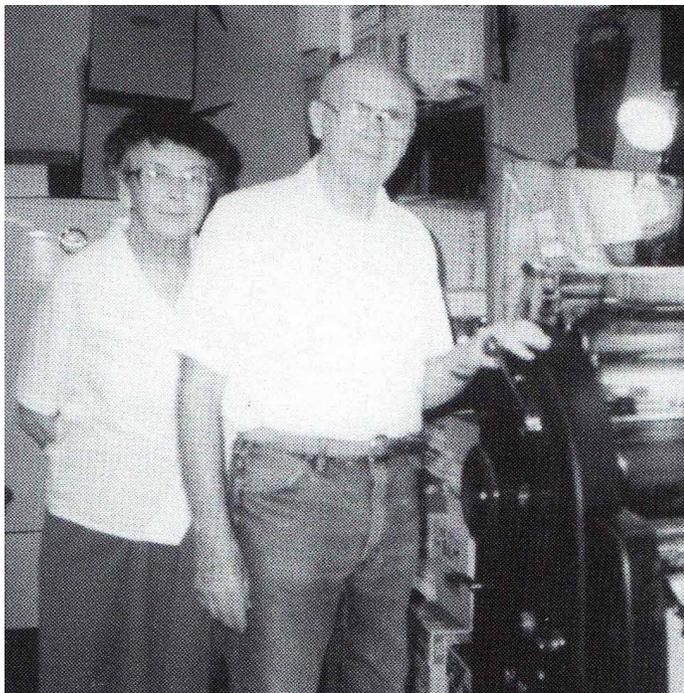


*Ian Powell / CC BY-SA 3.0 / via Wikimedia Commons*

### *Neighbors of Woodcraft Building*

large reading room. The layout for the space was particularly interesting. The reception area was in the hallway, and the majority of the library collection was housed in a vault, which was across the hall from the research room. Also on site was the print shop where Jay and Sue Balfour ran a noisy off-set press which printed much of the material published by GFO, including the quarterly *Bulletin*, meeting notices, and special projects. Various auditoriums were rented to sponsor events, including some of the first seminars featuring national speakers.

Toward the end of the 70s, the cycle of foundation building and detail work was coming to completion. It



*Jay and Sue Balfour and the offset press*

## GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON PRESIDENTS

*Compiled by Jim Morrow*

Since the fiscal year begins July 1, presidential terms are listed by the last 6 months of the first year shown and the first 6 months of the second year shown.

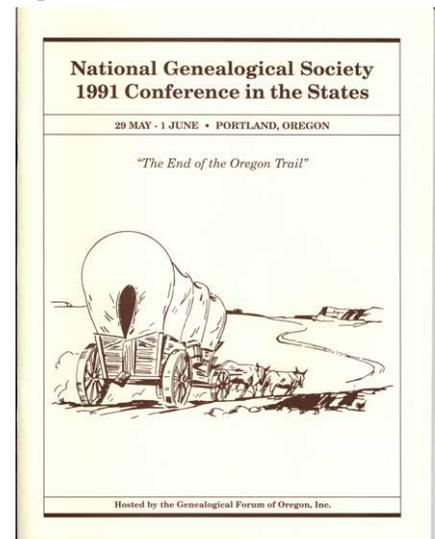
Name	Last 6 months	First 6 months	Comments
Caroline Higley	1946	1948	President full year, 1946
Nellie Eager Wise	1948	1950	
Esther Irvine	1950	1955	
Harriet Park	1955	1956	
Eva L. Stoddard	1956	1958	
Barbara Elkins	1958	1960	
Marie Davis	1960	1963	
Martel G. Philpot	1963	1964	
Harriet S. Hobbs	1964	1966	
Vanessa Master	1966	1968	
Vernon Casebeer	1968	1970	
Marie Davis	1970	1972	Second term as president
Lloyd E. Brown	1972	1973	
Sue and Jay Balfour	1973	1974	Co-presidents
James Bellarts	1974	1975	
Laura Jeanne Adams	1975	1977	
Mary Lou Stroup	1977	1979	
Wilfred Burrell	1979	1981	
Laura Jeanne Adams	1981	1983	Second term as president
Lois Lehl	1983	1986	
Imogene McConnell	1986	1988	
Lois Lehl	1988	1991	Second term as president
Stanley R. Clarke	1991	1993	
Eileen Chamberlin	1993	1995	
Ken Waite	1995	1996	Resigned
Connie Lenzen	1996	1998	Replaced Ken Waite
John Holt	1998	1999	
David Reynolds	1999	2001	
Diana Manning	2001	2002	Resigned due to illness
Eileen Chamberlin	2002	2002	Replaced Diana Manning, second term as president
David Klauck	2002	2003	Resigned, moved to Texas
Anna Leptich	2003	2003	Replaced David Klauck
David Morrison	2003	2004	
Jan Robinson	2004	2007	
Don Holznagel	2007	2009	
Lyleth Winther	2009	2012	
Laurel Smith	2012	2016	Two terms and elected to a 3 <sup>rd</sup> term ending June 2018

By 1992, when Eileen Chamberlin became president, the project had slowed. With some commitment, good volunteers, and her gentle pushing, the project was up and going again. It was sent to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City when it was finished in July of 1997. It had agreed to put the index on microfilm in return for a copy. Shortly thereafter, the 1910 census index was made available, and Judy was able to sell enough sets of the finished microfilm to make back all expenses. Everyone who was involved received many kudos for completing the project. "It was a true labor of love and was cooperatively done," Eileen said.

With such momentum, the GFO created some stellar events in the 90s. With traditions established and running smoothly in the background (Family History Fairs, Open Houses, national speakers, educational offerings), the GFO had the time and attention to launch into one of the biggest events to cross their doorstep.

From May 29 to June 1, 1991, the GFO hosted the National Genealogical Society Conference. Themed as "Come to the End of the Oregon Trail," this was the first national conference held on the West Coast. The historical and genealogical societies of Oregon and Washington assisted in the Conference, with Stanley Clarke being the local chairman. The four-day event was held at the newly opened Oregon Convention Center and offered 160 lectures and workshops, 120 exhibit booths, and attracted genealogists from all over the United States. Topics included research methodology, westward migration, computers and genealogy, ethnic and foreign research, libraries and archives, and writing and publishing.

The national group wasn't sure how the turnout would be, but with solid advertising and other marketing efforts, they enjoyed the largest attendance at any conference up to that time: over 2,500 people. The GFO facilities were open during the entire Conference and welcomed attendees arriving by bus to the Forum headquarters. Membership



*NGS 1991 Conference: End of the Oregon Trail*

rosters grew and word continued to circulate about the GFO and all they had to offer.

The 1993 Annual Family History Fair was part of the Oregon Trail Celebration. The GFO co-hosted the event along with the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers, the Genealogical Council of Oregon, the Portland Art Museum, and the Oregon Historical Society. It was billed as “the most unique reunion in the history of mankind.” Held on the third floor in the Masonic Temple Grand Ballroom on Southwest Park, pioneer descendants gathered for wagon rides through the Park blocks and a variety of other events. Among the festivities, participants could learn about pioneer history, culture, covered-wagon living, making pressed cider, old fashioned instruments and toys, grinding wheat, storytelling, and clog dancing. Films were shown and 200 quilts were displayed. The GFO offered all Oregon and Washington visitors the chance to start tracing their family roots; they sent interested visitors home with the beginnings of a five-generation pedigree chart and/or a family group sheet.

After some twenty years at the Neighbors of Woodcraft building, the GFO was given the news that the building had a new owner. Due to the changes planned for the space, the GFO again turned their efforts to finding a new home. The real estate research committee, headed by Nedra Brill, discovered 2130 S.W. 5th Avenue, Suite 220, an odd property which was made up of two buildings connected by a common hall and stairs. President, Eileen Chamberlin oversaw the move. Steel storage shelves were purchased, and Ruth Bishop donated commercial carpeting for the space. By end of summer 1994, another move was complete. Volunteers set up the library on the second floor, with resources in the concrete north building, and offices, print shop, and work spaces in the wooden south building. As a bookend to the entire moving process, the GFO received their



*Classes at 5th Avenue in 1997*

## GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON HALL OF FAME



*Jeanette Hopkins 2014 Hall of Fame recipient*

Caroline Isabell Higley	16 May 1987
Daisy Catharine Shrader Smith	16 May 1987
Dorothy Rachel Clark Van Pelt	16 May 1987
Nellie Hiday	16 May 1987
Harriet E. Strause Hobbs	16 May 1987
Wilfred Tuttle Frost	16 May 1987
Lottie Louise LeGett Gurley	16 May 1987
Esther Irvine Colyn	14 May 1988
Jay Marvin Balfour	14 May 1988
Gyneth Susan Balfour	14 May 1988
Evelyn Dibble Greenstreet	6 May 1989
Harriette Word Park	6 May 1989
Mary Glascock Brewer	19 May 1990
Willis Gregg Corbitt	29 May 1991
Mary Lou Monson Stroup	16 May 1992
Betty Marie Ray Davis	16 May 1992
Wilfred R. Burrell	13 June 1994
Elizabeth “Betty” Braun Mays	13 June 1994
Ruth Chauncey Bishop	12 June 1995
Ellen MacIntosh Collins	12 June 1995
Verlie Warner Johnston	12 June 1995
Emily Johnson Reding	12 June 1995
Maia Gundmundson Walker	10 June 1996
Bernadine Follis Lee	9 June 1997
Spencer Leonard	10 June 1998
Carole Norton Putman	14 June 2000
Nancy Compton Hacker	14 June 2000
Mattie Irene Hyde Little	13 June 2001
Eileen Eckels Chamberlin	10 June 2006
Gerald S. Lenzen	10 June 2006
Constance Miller Lenzen	10 June 2006
Julie Ann Kidd	9 June 2007
Patricia Seidler Burling	14 June 2008
Marie Hauff Diers	13 June 2009
Jim Morrow	13 June 2010
Donald Holznagel	11 June 2011
Cathy Lauer	9 June 2012
Lyleth Winther	9 June 2012
Sandi Whiteman	15 June 2013
Larry Sullivan	21 June 2014
Jeanette Kefsky Hopkins	21 June 2014
Loretta Welsh	20 June 2015

first microfiche reader/printer from member Wayne Rashdorf and IBM.

That same year, the GFO became an Oregon Historical Society Affiliate. Members of the GFO were able to enjoy certain perks at the OHS including a discount on OHS membership, the quarterly periodical, newsletters and upcoming events announcements, free admission to the OHS research library, discounts in the bookstore, and an invitation to the annual author's signing party.

Now that the GFO was in a new space, volunteer Jim Casto began some technology planning. Two office computers were in full use at this time, and Jim began to research what databases would be good to obtain and how to computerize certain collections. As preservation methods continued to change, the desire to bring things into the "digital age" began to be a focal point.

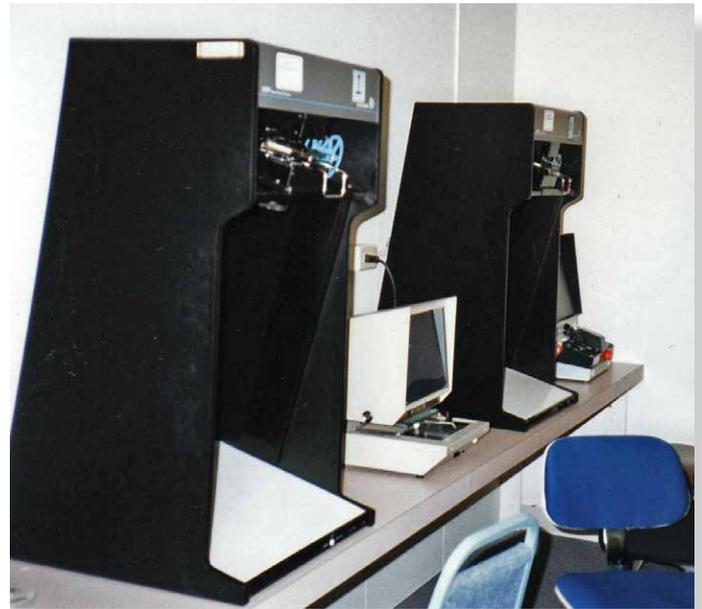
### TECHNOLOGY SURGES

Interest in changing technology sparked many new endeavors and educational opportunities. Not only was the GFO looking to upgrade technology for internal uses, but they greatly desired to enhance the experience of patrons. The year 1994 witnessed a pronounced increase in technology planning. Stated goals at the forefront of this initiative included a) providing computers and equipment for members' usage, b) collecting databases, and c) bringing files into a digital format. Jim Casto led the charge, bringing the surname file into the digital age that year.

In 1995, volunteers converted 12,000 entries from a text file into a database, and this became the computerized shelf list which made it much easier to find books. Three existing book numbering systems were also converted into the one system used by most libraries in English speaking countries. A computer interest group was started with the goal of identifying what technol-



*GFO provides computers for patrons.*



*Microfilm and microfiche readers*

ogy could help in the research process. Mentors were available to teach the use of computers for genealogical research and to assist those interested in learning genealogy programs.

The GFO quadrupled their microfilm holdings in 1996 through a purchase from the American Genealogical Lending Library's overstock. After assessing the list and removing duplicates, the GFO ultimately purchased 2,138 separate films and integrated them into their collection in 1997. Most were National Archives films, census information (including mortality records and slave schedules), passenger arrival lists, military records, and Native American records. To support this massive addition, the GFO purchased a Minolta reader and printer and three metal storage file cabinets. All fiche, CD, and periodical collections were added to the digital shelf list then placed on the patron computer that same year, and by August, there were two computers installed for researchers.

In November, the Early Settler Extraction Committee was formed. Their goal was to extract the information from Early Settlers forms filled out by GFO members over the past 25 years. The information was eventually merged into an every-name index by Fall of 1998.

The year of 1997 saw many additions, along with membership growth to over 1,300. In January, the library catalog was updated, and Julie Kidd donated five metal microfilm storage units for the growing collection. Oregon Telephone books were added to the GFO Library shelves in February, and by April, the library saw an up-tick in visitors per month. More potential microfilms

came across the GFO's doorstep in May, offered by the Heritage Quest Genealogical Library in Orting, Washington.

In July 1997, a group of volunteers began extracting the Oregon World War I draft registration cards from microfilm to create an index. By June of 1998, it was two thirds done. The material was proofed and saved onto CDs and was finally put up for sale at the NGS Conference in 2001. One month after the draft registration project began, the Census Film Project started. This project re-organized and cataloged the existing census films of 1830, 1840, and 1870.

A new donation of the PERSI (PERiodical Source Index) CD-ROM came into the GFO in November of 1997, adding hundreds of articles from genealogical and historical periodicals. Most were from the United States, but a good portion of them were from foreign publications. When FileMaker Pro software was installed in early 1998, the GFO revised the catalog and brought all the new collections, microfilms, books, and other documents and resources into that one system. In the following year, four new computers and a high speed printer were networked for patrons.

Among the technology advancements of this decade, cemetery projects continued. In early 1996, the authors, compilers, and editors of the book *Columbia County, Oregon, Cemetery Records* gave GFO the copyright to the title and the right to publish and sell it so the records could be made available to the public. The book contained 17,000 names, and each cemetery had a separate index. There was also a comprehensive index for the entire book. This printing was completed by the end of 1996.

Copyright to GFO publications became an issue. The society had not renewed the copyright on the donation land claim books, and the work went into the public domain. A large Internet-based company became aware of this. They digitized Volume One and placed it on the Internet. President Connie Lenzen rallied professional genealogists to protest, and the book was removed. A GenWeb host copied several of the GFO cemetery books and placed them on his county website—without attribution. This, too, was dealt with and the materials were withdrawn.



Connie Lenzen



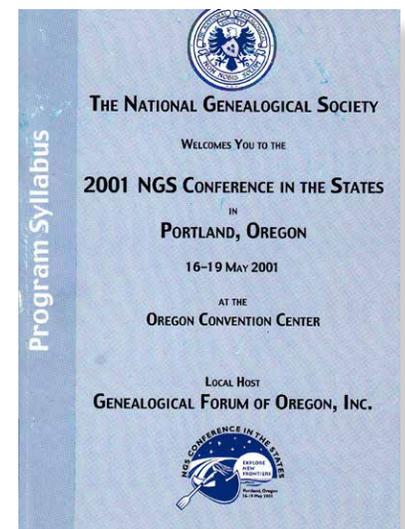
GFO's home from 1999 to 2011 at 1505 S.E. Gideon Street.

### ESTABLISHING A SENSE OF PLACE

Amidst this flurry of technology additions and data extraction projects, the GFO was once again faced with their home changing. Due to an imminent rent increase, the board decided to relocate, and the move to an old warehouse on 1505 S.E. Gideon Street was complete by August of 1999.

The new space definitely had its perks. For the first time, there was a parking lot for members. A large, un-rented room served as space for annual meetings and other purposes. And, as luck would have it, a local library was selling used shelving. The GFO purchased 400 feet of it and transferred their growing collection into a stronger and more stable system. This was certainly welcome since the book collection nearly doubled while at the Gideon location. The GFO had their first Heirloom Show there and new interest groups were formed.

If the 1991 NGS Conference wasn't enough to tout the GFO's success and visibility, how about hosting it again? In 2001, the GFO became the only genealogical organization to host the conference for a second time. It was held at the Oregon Convention Center, and once again, the GFO doors were opened to attendees. Connie Lenzen and



NGS 2001 Conference: Explore New Frontiers

Ruth Bishop were the local conference chairs.

In the fall of 2002, a GFO member caught wind that the Oregon Vital Records Office was interested in finding someone who would lead a project to type an index to their marriage licenses from 1925-1945. The State of Oregon had many records indexed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the 1930's depression. The WPA was formed by President Roosevelt to put people to work during that time. People worked in archives and libraries doing oral histories with older people, indexing and organizing the records they had, and then recording those lists. However, when the Depression ended, the marriages and divorces had been indexed only up through 1924. The state decided to continue to index, and beginning with current marriages, got back as far as 1946 before running out of funding.

After some internal discussion and investigation into what the project would entail, the GFO stepped forward to help. With the leadership of Marie Diers, the project started January 10, 2003. By 2004, the licenses for 1925-1928 were finished. The extraction group worked seven years to complete this project, and by 2010, the entire marriage license index was done. The GFO gave a copy of the database to the State in 2011.

Today, groups of volunteers continue working on indexing the divorces of 1925-1945 for which no index had been created. The group is now nearing the end of 1945, so the completion of this project is in sight. There are currently four marriage CDs at the GFO that cover the years 1925 to 1945: 1) 1925 to 1929; 2) 1930 to 1934; 3) 1935 to 1939; and 4) 1940 to 1945. Also available are three CDs completed for the divorces: 1) 1925 to 1929, 2) 1930 to 1934, and 3) 1935 to 1939. The 4th CD will be 1940 to 1945 and will be available in spring 2017.

Also in 2002, the Data Extraction Committee worked on reading gravestones in cemeteries in and around the Portland area. The Committee went to the Metro Pioneer Cemetery office and copied all of their files of individuals buried around the city in the cemeteries they managed. Back at the GFO, volunteers entered and indexed all of the information and added it to their collections. A copy of the database was given to the Pioneer Cemetery office, and they placed it on their website. As time has gone on,



*Walking the cemeteries John Holt, Eileen Chamberlin, and Jim Rogers*

they have added to it as people have passed and were buried in any of their cemeteries.

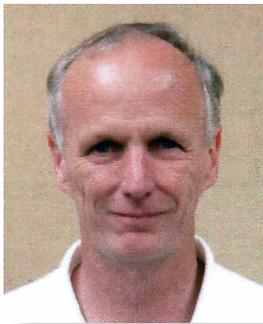
The resources of another WPA project came to the GFO from a member who was in the right place at the right time. The Historical Records Survey was one branch of the WPA, and they were responsible for documenting the inventories of records in the county courthouses. These surveys are snapshots of what documents the county courthouses had at the time the surveyors came through. The surveyors also prepared a history of the county where they were working. Some of these surveys were published, but funding ran out before all of them could be placed into print. These unpublished manuscripts were kept safe in state and university libraries, and many remain there today.

Multnomah County Library had an almost complete set of the published books. In early fall of 2004, some of them showed up at the Library's used bookstore, Title Wave. GFO member Emily Reding discovered them, and the Multnomah County Library agreed to sell them to the GFO for \$5 each. The GFO invited members to sponsor a county, and for each sponsor, GFO would purchase an additional book. The GFO now holds many of these books in their collection.

When most veteran genealogists look back, they can distinguish the time "before Internet" and "after Internet." For the GFO, 2005 marked the "after Internet" milestone when research turned a new corner. Two years later, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, and the World Wide Web were available on two computers, and many records could now be accessed easily and quickly. A new, vast

array of information and resources became available to patrons almost instantly.

The GFO website also saw a transformation when Larry Sullivan volunteered to take on the Webmaster position around 2007 after the previous webmaster stepped down. His hard work and diligence earned Family Tree Magazine's award for Best State Genealogy Website for the years 2011, 2012, and 2013. The site was recognized as one of the best genealogical sites for Oregon research in the United States. He optimized it for mobile use and provided links to other helpful websites. In 2009, he redesigned the site, which has been the face of the GFO for the last seven years.



Larry Sullivan

their projects, thanks in part to Sandi Whiteman, Library Director. Sandi helped train research assistants and aided in library acquisitions, as well as helped keep internal systems humming. One volunteer group coordinated the collection of burial records in Multnomah County to create the Oregon Statewide Burial Index of Multnomah County. The finished information is housed on the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries website. Volunteers also began organizing and cataloging the Mosher Collection, a 60-box book and manuscript donation from a Virginia research specialist, Merrill Hill Mosher, which was acquired in 2008.



Sandi Whiteman

### ROOTS ARE ESTABLISHED, AND IT'S TIME TO BLOOM!

After two years, the new property search led by Don Holznagel and his relocation committee finally came to fruition. The GFO signed a 10-year lease April 11, 2011 for space in the Historic Ford Building on S.E. 11<sup>th</sup> and



2011 Lease signing for space in the Ford Building Don Holznagel, Jim Morrow, Lyleth Winther, and Jeanette Hopkins

GFO stayed at the Gideon location for many years until a new MAX line was approved to come through where the building stood. So, in 2009, the GFO began the hunt for a new home yet again. Despite this development, the volunteers kept moving forward with

Division. Tri-Met paid for the move as well as most of the costs of adapting the new space for the GFO's use. By August, the GFO was in their brand-new historical space where they still reside today.

Now that the Ford Building had become home, energies turned toward the task at hand: to plan the Grand Opening, which was also that year's Open House. President Laurel Smith wanted to provide a month of free library access plus as many classes and workshops as they could cram into the month-long event. "The important thing was to get people in the doors to see what we have to offer," she said. And get people in she did.

On September 14, 2011, the doors opened and GFO invited genealogists and family historians alike to experience a month packed full of activities . . . all for free. Certain days were devoted to Genealogy Software Programs and DNA for genealogists; a day was set aside for genealogical societies to present information about their organizations; a Scandinavian day was planned; the GFO's Irish Group provided a weekend of activities celebrating Irish heritage; a day was dedicated to writing family stories and creating heritage scrapbooks, as well as scanning photos and digital repair; and there was a DAR workshop. "I am most proud of the 2011 Open House that I orchestrated," Laurel said. "Our goals were certainly achieved!"

Education continued to be a focal point under Nanci Remington as Education Chair. Classes for beginners were still popular, monthly programs showcased presenters, and topical issues were brought forth by



*GFO President Lyleth Winther and Trimet Agency Architect Bob Hastings cut the ribbon, officially opening the GFO's new location.*

members in order to share and discuss. Interest Groups grew to about ten and filled up most of the hours on Saturdays. Special groups met to discuss current genealogy topics of interest. National Speaker Seminars were now held twice a year in the spring and fall. These seminars were all-day events for the members of the GFO, and all fees charged were to cover the cost of bringing internationally known experts to this neck of the woods.

### **MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION PROJECT**

The GFO took on some ambitious and important projects in 2012 that are still active today. One of those was the Manuscript Collection Project. Why are manuscripts



*An elegant photo album from one of the collections.*

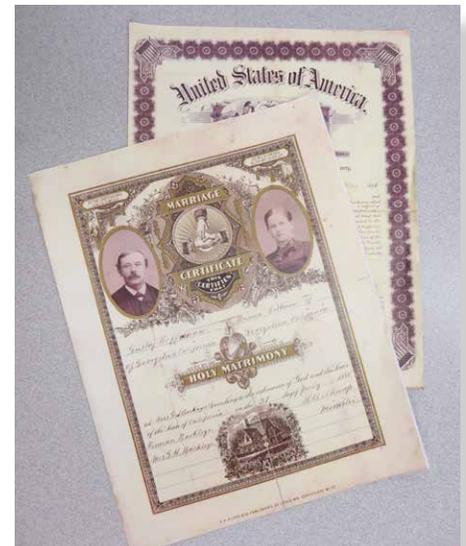
important? Because some of the most revealing—and personal—stories can be found in diaries, family photographs, first-hand stories, journals, drafted wills, original correspondence, and biographical sketches. These manuscripts

create pictures of personalities, daily life, and the thoughts of our ancestors. It truly is where the historical and personal converge, painting a colorful picture of what it was like for these individuals.

Nanci Remington volunteered to lead the effort with assistance from LauraDenise White as the digital collections consultant. A scanner, laptop computer, and software were obtained. An inventory was made of the manuscripts on hand (obtained as donations by members since the 1950s), which at that time was just over 80 individual collections. Starting tasks were to create sets of finding aides: standardize naming conventions and accession numbers to track the collections, high-level investigation to verify author and donor names, and record file folder and/or box counts. Since then, the project has entailed pulling appropriate information from the manuscripts, then digitizing the records.

information from the manuscripts, then digitizing the records.

In 2013, Nanci and LauraDenise recruited volunteers to organize the collections and begin the scanning process. While Nanci created instruction manuals for the volunteers, LauraDenise worked to develop standardized finding aides and procedures for tracking progress. Many volunteers have been trained to sort, organize, scan, and comb for metadata from each collection.

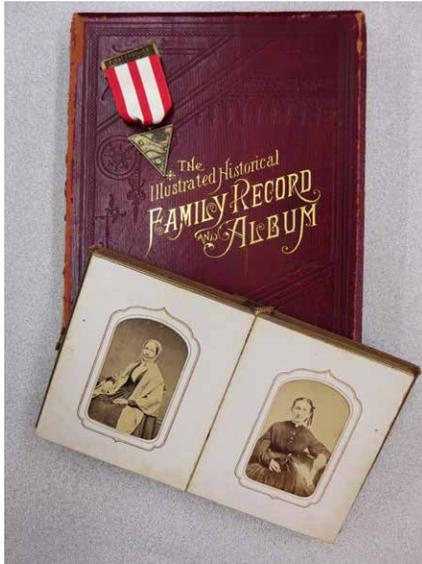


*Collections often include original documents.*

The *Digital Manuscript Collection* website ([www.gfo.org/dmc/index.html](http://www.gfo.org/dmc/index.html)) was launched in early 2014, and is continuously being updated with newly digitized content. Researchers can access this site while the committee continues to scan and add content. The Committee also developed special donation guidelines and forms dealing with any potential copyright issues. In 2015, the Committee secured an off-site backup storage vendor to

keep the precious scanned collections—and all the data surrounding them—safe.

A team of volunteers continues to scan, enter descriptions, create finding aids, find ways to deliver the information to researchers, and then do more scanning. There are now over 100 collections in total. As of this



*Momentos, diaries, and photos are often part of donated collections.*

writing, the Committee has digitized 27 of the current collections, and 13 of them have completed finding aids posted on the *Digital Manuscript Collection* website. The committee is also excited to brag about their finding aids being fully searchable via Google and other search engines. This gives researchers the ability to request copies of the collection material based on search items such as surnames, dates, material types, and locations.

With an estimated 734,700 pages of scanning to go, the committee's greatest need is for scanning volunteers, and those who assist in creating finding aids.

Treasured information has been found relating to European family roots, movements across the United

States during the early nineteenth century settlement years, vital records, and family contributions to the shaping of the early United States. One individual collection—the Jesuale Family Papers—are on loan to the GFO while digitization is being completed. “The collection contains some of my favorite pieces of correspondence,” said LauraDenise. “[The correspondence is] between the collection donor’s mother and father during their courting days from the early 1900s through the First World War while the gentleman was stationed in France and Germany.”

The committee has already responded to several inquiries and requests for online access to the digital manuscript collections. They have also had some in-person requests to view specific photographs contained within the material. “It is our greatest pleasure to be able to provide our researchers with these treasures that were nearly inaccessible before,” said LauraDenise. “It’s a joy to help them connect to their ancestors and heritage.”

### RE-CATALOGING PROJECT

In 2013, the GFO began the process to migrate the library holdings records from Filemaker Pro to the Open-Source Automated Library System (OPALS). The massive clean-up and migration was finished in January of 2014. Just last year, the GFO and volunteers started their newest re-cataloging project: upgrading the catalog records that are in OPALS to MARC (Machine-Readable Cataloging) standards under the leadership of Steve Turner.

The re-cataloging project redesigns the call number system itself and sometimes the arrangement of certain collections. It changes the call numbers on records, relocates misplaced items, and allows for more unique call numbers on individual items. The new system also allows cataloging multiple subjects on a holding; for example, a book entitled *The Smith Family*, which also covers the Roth and Shavey families, will now show up in searches for those other names. Records that had been irregular before are now more consistent. The new call number format is easier to follow, catalog records contain more refined information, and the collection is better organized . . . which means members and visitors are able to find resources within the GFO Library much easier. And the entire catalog of now more than 39,000 items is online.



*Just a few of the many manuscript collections waiting to be explored, their treasures rediscovered.*

## GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

*An Undoubtedly Uncomprehensive List*

1949	The first bulletin is published; it was made up of typed lists of genealogy books that were in the Multnomah County Library.
1951	The 1949 publication expands into a three-page mimeographed pamphlet known as <i>The Forum Exchange</i> .
1958	The GFO began using mimeograph to print <i>The Bulletin</i> .
1975	A new photocopy machine is installed.
1994	Two computers are in full use for GFO office volunteers and GFO receives their first microfiche reader/printer.
1996	The library shelf list is updated and digitized to include all fiche, CD, and periodical collections. August: A second research computer is installed in the reading room and GFO purchases a Minota Reader and Printer.
1997	The GFO receives five metal microfilm storage units for their growing collection.
1998	Filemaker Pro software is installed and the library catalog is brought into that database. A new website is created.
1999	Four new computers and a high speed printer are networked for patrons. The GFO buys shelving from a local library.
2000	Three new computers purchased for patrons, two replaced older computers. They had easy interface for CD-ROMs.
2001	A new copier is acquired late this year.
2002	Electronic delivery for <i>The Insider</i> sign-ups begin.
2004	Digital imaging begins to replace microfilm. February: A new Microfilm/scanner is purchased.
2005	Internet!
2006	February: GFO gets a laptop to use with the projector, and another desktop computer to use with the Internet. October: Trial run for <i>The Insider</i> by email.
2007	Ancestry.com is made available on two dedicated computers.
2009	A new website created.
2012	Electronic delivery for <i>The Bulletin</i> begins.
2015	 <p>New scanner! Enough funds were collected just after three months that the year-long campaign ended early.</p> <p>Online database subscriptions available to library patrons increases from one to six.</p> <p>September: Wednesday Night E-News becomes a presence in members' inboxes; short and concise reminders of upcoming events and classes, a request for help on projects, and a general update on the genealogical community's happenings.</p>

Trained volunteers are working to update each record individually. This project is alive and ongoing, and at its end, the GFO will have a better organized collection and a vastly improved catalog to offer researchers.

### AND SO, WE CELEBRATE

In crisp January of 2016, the GFO celebrated their 70th year. What a ride it has been! Through the beginnings, growth spurts, and journey of becoming, there are some constant undercurrents that have made the GFO shine no matter the date, time, or place.

### RESOURCES: From Regional to Global

The GFO has always held a commitment to obtaining the best resources to aid researchers in their projects. While the GFO certainly is strongest in their Oregon collections and materials, researchers can also find rich resources for all 50 states as well as most countries in North America and Europe. The initial commitment has expanded to include attracting and obtaining *worldwide resources*.

Researchers can find interest groups that meet at the GFO for Italy, Germany, Ireland, and many more.



Part of GFO's collection of books that take researchers beyond North America

Resource and research guides for other countries are available for use at the library. And you may just find yourself sitting next to someone who comes from the very land you're researching, one who will shed light on your own research as you both share stories.

An upgraded GFO website will be published this year and will serve as another resource for members. Some of the new functionality includes easier navigation, the ability to register and pay for events, pay for new or renewed membership, and purchase GFO publications in an online store. Members will have portals to access more content online, and the website will allow GFO's research team to field research requests more efficiently. A new logo, created by a professional designer, was also unveiled this year and alludes to the desire to broaden the GFO's regional reach and expertise into global territory.

"We have a new collection to start processing," said President Laurel Smith. "George T. Brown has donated 135 boxes of French-Canadian books and periodicals, and they are waiting for us." Laurel is committed to making the GFO a full service genealogy library. As other countries become more involved and focused on genealogical research, the GFO will do their best to add to their resources to the collection.

### **EDUCATION: All Shapes and Sizes**

From the start, the goal has been to offer a space for sharing and passing along knowledge. As the GFO added classes and workshops over the years, the goal has grown to provide educational opportunities to help build a sense of community, keep members involved, and attract new members. When people gather for classes, they have the chance to share and discuss their genealogy journeys along with others who are equally



*Dedicated to education, the GFO offers many opportunities in their library.*

as passionate. It's safe to ask questions, and participants can often find others who know how to research the very areas they are working on.

Those who wish to learn from the "who's who" of the historical research world will find them at the GFO. Some of the early high-caliber speakers who have lectured during open houses include Dr. Dorothy O. Johansen, Professor of History and Humanities at Reed College; David C. Duniway, Oregon State Archivist; Thomas Vaughan, Oregon Historical Society Director; and more recently, Carol Surrency of the Oregon Historical Cemetery Association; Connie Lenzen, Certified Genealogist; Brent Mai, Professor of Library and Information Management and Director of the Center for Volga Studies at Concordia University; and Emily Aulicino, expert in using DNA analysis for genealogical research.



*Emily Aulicino*

The GFO continues to attract nationally-known and highly-talented speakers for Open Houses, Seminars, and special events. Since 2011, visitors and members enjoy a week of free classes during the annual Open House. Those new to the genealogy arena can use these classes to get off to a solid start, while members can use them as refreshers on topics and to learn what's new and fresh in certain areas. Emerging and changing technology continues to be a popular subject, while other hot topics include strategies to break through genealogical brick walls, techniques to record and preserve family stories and keepsakes, and finding the best ways to pass that information on to the next generation.

Offering workshops, classes, and conferences has been a mainstay at the GFO because guiding patrons in their research also includes providing the knowledge of where to go and how to get there. From writing house histories and learning genealogical research techniques to how best to use equipment, the educational opportunities at the GFO are varied and abundant. President Laurel Smith wants to be sure that things are hopping and lively, and that events really showcase what the GFO is capable of.



*Liz Hinds and Cathy Lauer*

**COMMUNITY: It's Huge!**

Mrs. Dorothy Van Pelt, one of the original founding members of the Forum, wanted the name of the group to convey a feeling of round-table discussion of family history. It would be a place where people could come to do genealogical research, share resources, and request help and guidance with their projects. Today, this sense of community is what keeps people coming back and is also what attracts new members.

Since its inception, the GFO has been run by volunteers—those helpful folks who assist with research and navigate the thousands of volumes and special collections housed within its walls. These same volunteers take on special projects, show up for work parties, and still find time to work on their own family stories. They have certainly upheld the founders' intentions and vision. The library is usually full of people who know the place and its contents inside and out, have special skill-sets, and are ready and willing to help with any question. Those volunteers are also responsible for taking on and

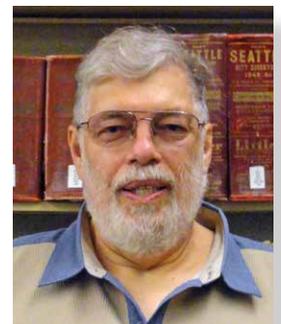


*George Brown, Gerry and Connie Lenzen*

completing GFO projects, moving donated materials, and reorganizing, updating, and maintaining the systems already in place. When not volunteering herself, Volunteer Coordinator Cathy Lauer works diligently to make sure the library is always staffed with two RAs (Research Assistants) so the doors remain open. “The people are the best thing about the GFO,” said Laurel.

The GFO community is the life breath of the organization. Those who volunteer, those who donate materials, those who give money, those organizations who partner for events . . . every one of them is intrinsic to the GFO's success.

The size of the GFO's collection owes a great deal to donations by its members. Large and small, every donation makes a difference. Many genealogical books go out of print due to small runs. As a result, they become harder to find and more expensive to purchase. Some simply vanish. Much of the donated material at GFO is irreplaceable because they could not have acquired such items any other way.



*Harold Hinds*

In addition to the George T. Brown and Merrill Hill Mosher Collections already mentioned, there are a few others of note. The Spencer Leonard Manuscript Collection is a card file of information primarily on Civil War veterans (from any state) who lived in Oregon. The card file was created from several sources. Cards may also have been created for soldiers who visited the state, perhaps for a Grand Army of the Republic convention. Spencer Leonard's descendants donated his card file and notebooks to the GFO in 1971. Spencer Leonard did not identify the rank and unit of every soldier that he

recorded, so GFO member Jim Rogers used the Internet and GFO library resources to create an Annotated Spencer Leonard File with more complete information.

The Harold Hinds Collection has been donated gradually since 2011, and is still ongoing today. As a professor of History at the University of Minnesota, he offered courses in family history. Harold was often approached by students who wanted to research their families. In order to educate himself so he could guide his students, Harold acquired a significant library of genealogy and history guides for many geographical areas. Most of these books

are now in the GFO library helping others in their research. Harold also donated materials he acquired for his own family research which centered around New York, Kentucky and Appalachia, and Virginia. “The gifts that come to the GFO are priceless,” Harold Hinds shared. “As I downsized and prepared for retirement, I wanted a home for my books. As a volunteer for GFO, I can come see them anytime, and I know there is a long-term place for them.”

#### **A FAVORITE MEMORY: The Current President Recalls the GFO’s Brush with Fame**

The GFO was brought into the spotlight in October 2014, and it has since been the most memorable experience President Laurel Smith has had. One fall morning, Laurel started to check her emails. She came across one with the subject, “Popular genealogical program wants to film at the GFO.” The producer of *Who Do You Think You Are?* had hired researcher Peggy Baldwin for a show in the upcoming season. Peggy, a GFO member, came to the Forum and found a record from one of the *Oregon Donation Land Claims* volumes as well as information from another book, then shared these with the producer, mentioning that the GFO might be a good place to film. After the producer saw the records that were found, she said she wanted to scout filming locations, and would let the GFO know when she would like to visit.

After six weeks, the producer and director finally emailed with a visit date. In the meantime, Laurel wondered if some volunteers might be able to find more resources. With only the names on the Donation Land Claim, Joseph and Comfort Dimmick, the team got to work. They started to research the family and found a map with a land claim, gravestone images and cemetery name and location, and about eight books that held information about the family. The team was eager to discover who the celebrity might be. Everyone was sworn to silence. The names of the stars in the celebrity lineup are a closely-held secret until revealed by the network.

On visitation day, the producer arrived two hours early, which gave Laurel plenty of time to show them all the additional material GFO volunteers had found. Before the show’s representatives left, Laurel found out which Dimmick child (of twelve) they were researching.



*Sarah Holmes, Karla Nutt, Kelsey Grammer, Laurel Smith, and Judith Leppert*

She went home determined to find out who the star was before the end of the night.

The following day, the show contacted Laurel and said they wanted to film at the GFO. Dates were set, then changed, then set again. Two days before filming, the producer called and asked if Laurel had figured out who the celebrity was. Laurel said, “Yes! Kelsey Grammer.” Indeed it was.

With a small group on hand to help the film crew and answer questions, the day of filming began. In a whirlwind, the crew moved tables, hooked up equipment, added props, brought in an expert, and turned the back workroom into a “green room” for the talent. Then . . . Kelsey came in. Laurel was able to chat with Kelsey, and learned that he had contacted the show since he didn’t know much about his grandmother who raised him. The family had come west to get more land because they had too small of a plot to leave anything of substance to their children. The day before, Kelsey had been in California, and had learned that one ancestor had been rather unsavory. The next day he was headed out to the actual Oregon Trail.

The crew was onsite about eight hours to film about five minutes for the show. After filming, the crew was careful to put everything back, and made sure things were in working condition before they left. Everyone associated with the show was very professional and it was a wonderful experience. The hardest part for the GFO crew was not saying anything until the show aired.

“It was cool to learn about the family, the process, and to gain exposure for the GFO,” Laurel said. “It’s one of the things I will remember the most.”

### MOVING FORWARD WITH GUSTO

The GFO hopes to create more outreach and find creative ways to inform the public about the library so people know about their treasure trove of information and research tools. They want to attract young people and to continue being a quality library for veteran researchers.

Preserving history and providing a space to bring people together for family research was, and still is, the main goal of the GFO. Over the years, the organization’s approach to achieving that goal has broadened; providing resources, sponsoring activities, providing high-quality education and well-known lecturers, having a large and passionate team of volunteers, effectively using and expanding technology, and nurturing mutually beneficial relationships within



*GFO seminars are always well attended.*

the community have all led to an expanded role in serving the public. These are also the ingredients needed to make a recipe for long-term success, and for securing many warm friendships along the way.

### SOURCES

Baker, Jean. “Genealogical Forum Moves to Ford Building,” *The Southeast Examiner*, September 2011.

Beall, William R. “Periodicals Reorganized,” *The Forum Insider*, Volume 2, Number 6. April, 1992, p. 1.

Casto, Jim. “Comments From the Computer Corner,” *The Forum Insider*, Volume 5, Number 1. August, 1994, p. 6.

Casto, Jim. “Update on Genealogical Computer Databases,” *The Forum Insider*, Volume 4, Number 7. May, 1994, p. 1.

Chamberlin, Eileen. “Re: GFO Anniversary Article.” Message to Rachel Hayward. 4 Mar 2016. Email.

“Computer Interest Group Plans Technology Meetings,” *The Forum Insider*, Volume 6, Number 4. November, 1995, p. 2.

Craig-Waldrip, Patricia. “From the Library,” *The Forum Insider*, Volume 5, Number 1. August, 1994, p. 5.

*The Forum Insider*, Volume 1, Number 2. October, 1990, p. 1.

*The Forum Insider*, Volume 1, Number 5. February, 1991, p. 1.

*The Forum Insider*, Volume 6, Number 3. October, 1995, p. 1.

*The Forum Insider*, Volume 6, Number 5. January, 1996, p. 1.

*The Forum Insider*, Volume 6, Number 8. May, 1996, p. 2-3.

*The Forum Insider*, Volume 7, Number 2. August, 1996, p. 1.

*The Forum Insider*, Volume 7, Number 4. November, 1996, p. 1.

*The Forum Insider*, Volume 7, Number 5. January, 1997, p. 1, 2.

*The Forum Insider*, Volume 7, Number 6. February, 1997, p. 1.

*The Forum Insider*, Volume 7, Number 8. May, 1997, p. 2.

*The Forum Insider*, Volume 8, Number 4. November, 1997, p. 3.

*The Forum Insider*, Volume 8, Number 6. February, 1998, p. 3.

*The Forum Insider*, Volume 14, Number 2. August, 2002, p. 1.

*The Forum Insider*, Volume 16, Number 7. April, 2005, p. 1, 7.

“Forum Will Co-Host Pioneer Reunion,” *The Forum Insider*, Volume 3, Number 4. January, 1993, p. 1.

“Genealogical Forum Becomes Oregon Historical Society Affiliate,” *The Forum Insider*, Volume 5, Number 3. November, 1994, p. 3.

The Genealogical Forum scrapbook, made by Bonnie LaDoe, facilitator of Heritage Scrapbooking Interest Group.

Gentry, Jeanne. “Oregon Burial Guide Worth the Wait,” *The Forum Insider*, Volume 2, Number 1. August 1, 1991, p. 9.

Goldmann, Judy. “1910 Census Soundex Project Report,” *The Forum Insider*, Volume 4, Number 2. October, 1993, p.3.

*Heppner Gazette Times*, July 28, 1955, Page 7. *Historic Oregon Newspapers*. Web. 29 Feb 2016.

Hinds, Harold. Personal Interview. 30 June 2016.

Leslie, Marcia. “Background of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc.” May 2002.

Lenzen, C.G.R.S., Connie. “A Two For One Opportunity to Research Your County,” *The Forum Insider*, Volume 15, Number 5. November, 2004, p.3.

Lenzen, C.G.R.S., Connie. “History of the Genealogical Forum.” 1994.

Lenzen, Gerry. "Re: GFO Anniversary Article." Message to Rachel Hayward. 18 Mar 2016. Email.

Moore, Jean. "New Logo for Genealogical Forum of Oregon," *The Forum Insider*, Volume 2, Number 1. August 1, 1991, p. 1.

Morgan, Linda. "Lottie Gurley of Cascade Locks, OR (G-4)," *The Forum Insider*, Volume 1, Number 1. August 1, 1990, p. 2-3.

Morrow, Jim. Personal Interview. 6 Mar 2016.

Morrow, Jim. "Dates in History" compilation.

"New," *The Bulletin*, Volume 54, Number 3, p. 103.

"Presidents Corner," *The Bulletin*, Volume 57, Number 2. December, 2007, p. 4.

Remington, Nanci. "Re: Article and times to come by." Message to Rachel Hayward. 19 Feb 2016. Email.

Smith, Laurel. Personal Interview. 3 Apr 2016.

Turner, Steve. "The GFO Recataloging Project," *The Bulletin*, Volume 65, Number 2. December 2015, p. 25-29.

White, LauraDenise. "Re: GFO Anniversary Article." Message to Rachel Hayward. 27 Mar 2016. Email.

White, LauraDenise. "GFO's Manuscript Collection," *The Bulletin*, Volume 63, Number 4. June 2014, p. 27-28.

Winther, Lyleth. "Looking Back at 50 Years," *The Forum Insider*, Volume 6, Number 1. August, 1995, p.1.

Winther, Lyleth. "Statewide Kickoff Weekend Event in Portland's Park Blocks," *The Forum Insider*, Volume 3, Number 5. February, 1993, p.1.