



THE Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon
Volume 36 • Number 7 • April 2025

GFO's New Website Is Unveiled

If you have been on our website in the last month, you will have noticed the improved design. This redesign work, which took countless hours, was done by GFO's Webmaster, Ed Vandehey. Ed's



Ed Vandehey, GFO Webmaster

technical skill, his ability to work with the vendor, and his dedication to the goals of the GFO were invaluable to this needed update. Like all the work done on behalf of the GFO Board, Ed did this as a volunteer. We are all so fortunate

to have such a talented, dedicated webmaster. Thanks, Ed!

We put several questions to Ed about the new website, and we are pleased to share his answers with you:

Why did we need a website redesign?

Technical support for our existing website design theme is due to expire in the first quarter of 2025, so we had little choice but to redesign the site using a new theme. For the most part, the structure of the website has remained intact, but with the new design, we're able to take advantage of some new features that help to "freshen up the place."

How do the old and new websites compare?

One of the most obvious enhancements with the new site is the use of color! Dark background colors with contrasting fonts give it some pop. Movement has also been added to the pages – with everything from dropdown menus, slide-in highlights of mouse-clickable items, and circular rotating text.

What behind-the-scenes work did you do to make it happen?

Over a four-month period, I worked with support staff and the design team at our website host vendor, Firespring. The Firespring company specializes in providing website and hosting services

Continued on page 3

Voting Opens for GFO Elected Positions

The GFO Board and Endowment Committee contain talented and dedicated volunteers who run vital operations for our organization. For the 2025 election, there are three open Board positions that are up for election—Vice President, Treasurer, and Director at Large. Those elected to the Board will serve for two years. In addition, there is one position for the Endowment

Committee up for election. The term for the Endowment Committee is three years.

The GFO is your organization. Please vote! All active GFO members get one vote. Joint members should submit two votes online. Voting closes at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

If you must vote by mail, please ensure it reaches us by that deadline.

See the candidates' statements and find the ballot on **PAGE 4.**



Genealogical Forum of Oregon

2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B018
Portland, OR 97202-1093

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
Sunday 1–5 p.m.
Monday & Tuesday 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Wednesday 1–5 p.m.

Executive Board of Directors

President Geoff Smith	Treasurer Rebecca Tait
Vice President <i>Open Position</i>	Director at Large Harold Hinds
Secretary Alexa Waddle	Director at Large Tina Rainer

Committee Chairs on the Board

Insider Editors Geri Auerbach, AG® Keri Logan	Purchasing Loretta Welsh
Library Laurel Smith	Technology Richard Crockett
Membership Jane McGarvin	Webmaster Ed Vandehey
	Zoom Administrator Tina Lawson



In This Issue

- GFO's New Website Is Unveiled.....1
- Voting Opens for GFO Elected Positions1
- GFO Candidate Statements and Ballot.....4
- Nominations Sought for GFO Hall of Fame.....5
- May Marks Last Issue of *The Insider*6
- NGS Conference Coming in May6
- Rogue Valley Interest Groups6
- April Events.....7
- Support GFO During Earth Week Give 20258
- GFO Star8
- Five Oaks Museum Closes.....9
- GFO Special Interest Groups.....10

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.

Follow us



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GFO's New Website Is Unveiled, from page 1

for nonprofit organizations. The GFO may not be their largest customer, but we have one of the most robust websites they host. Our website has hundreds of resources in our public pages and thousands of resources available to our members in MemberSpace.

The redesign project was a tall order, but Firespring was responsive to our needs.

How many visitors do we get, where do they come from, and where do they go?

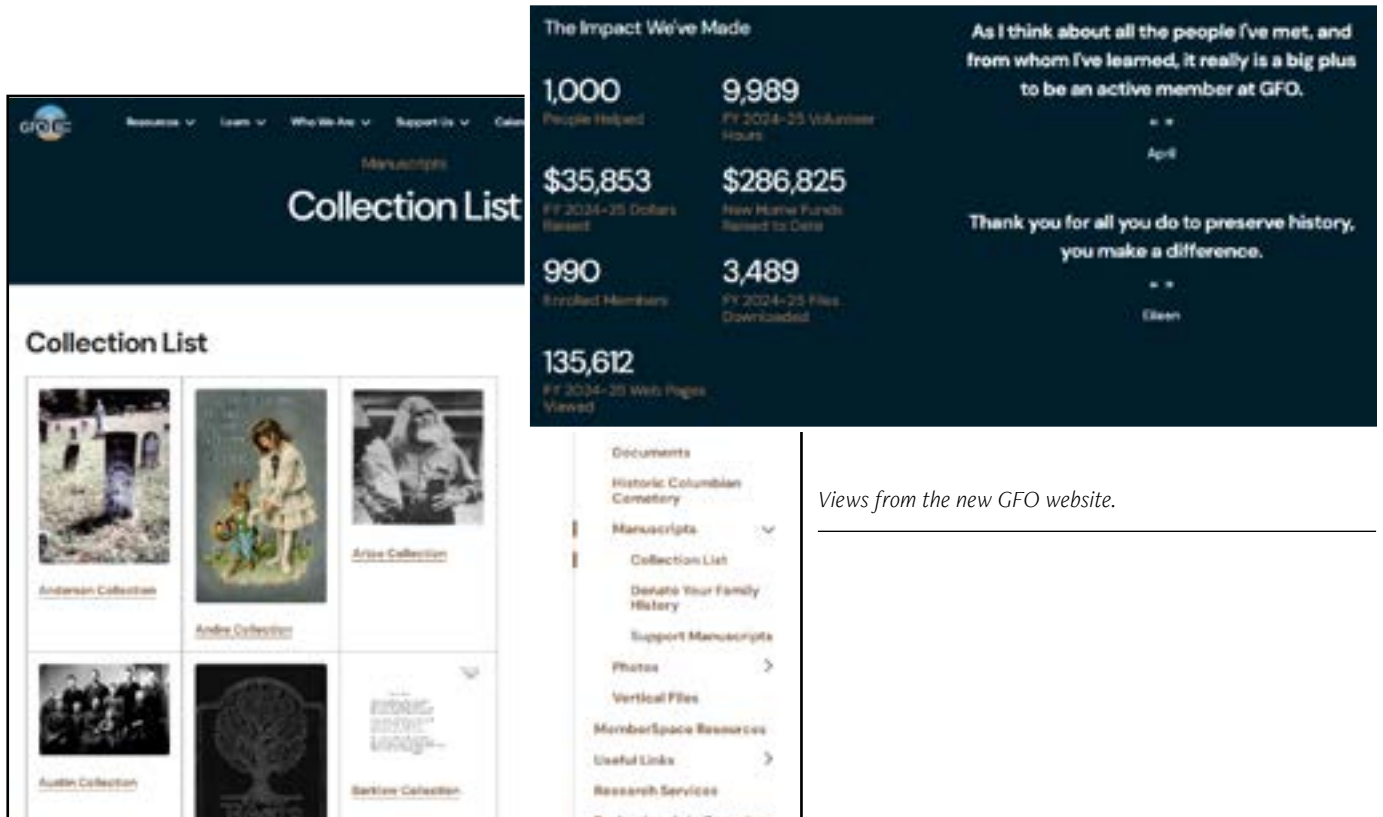
We average about 4,000 visitors to our website each month. Most of our U.S. website visitors are from the West Coast, with Texas, New York, Virginia, Georgia, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina rounding our Top 10. Besides the United States, we often have visitors joining us from Russia, Canada, China, the U.K., Germany, Australia, the Netherlands, and Poland. Our vast collections, online resources, and welcoming special interest groups are a big draw and provide us with diverse demographics.

The highest source of forwarded links is often

Google, Facebook, the State of Oregon Archives, ConferenceKeeper, and FamilySearch. Our highest source of outbound links are to the genealogy databases we access through **MemberSpace** (Newspaper Archive, Fold3, HistoryGeo, HeritageQuest, and American Ancestors), our online library catalog **OPALS**, and our **online meeting registration** links at Zoom.

What do you think are some of your favorite aspects of the new website?

My favorite aspects of the new website are the impact statistics and testimonials that appear on some of the public pages. It really helps to highlight all the GFO has to offer. We're helping people with their research; we're highlighting our hard-working volunteers; and we're being transparent with our fundraising efforts and financials. We're making a difference, and we're staying true to our mission statement – "to inspire and empower every person to discover and engage with their family history."



Views from the new GFO website.



GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON 2025 ELECTION

Members: Please vote **online***
by 5 p.m. PT, Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

Candidate Statements for GFO Elected Positions

VICE PRESIDENT (two-year term)

No one has declared candidacy. If you are interested in this position, contact President Geoff Smith at president@gfo.org.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE (two-year term)

Richard Crockett

I have decided to run for the two-year Director at Large position. I cannot claim any specialized knowledge in any location or in any surname area, but I will look forward to identifying a project that will be helpful to the membership.

TREASURER (two-year term)

Bridget Nickerson

I recently answered a call to volunteer for a financial review board for FY23-24 and discovered the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO). As someone who has been passionately researching my genealogy for the past few years, I was thrilled to learn about GFO's mission "to inspire and empower every person to discover and engage with their family history." When I heard about the upcoming opportunity to serve as Treasurer, I knew I wanted to offer my support and expertise to this organization.

I bring over 20 years of experience in financial management, complemented by an MBA with dual emphases in Accounting and Healthcare Administration. My professional background includes working with several nonprofit organizations. These roles have strengthened my financial expertise and fueled my commitment to community service through meaningful work.

Continued on page 5

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE (three-year term)

Marty Krauter

Hi, I'm Marty Krauter, and I am applying for a three-year term as member of the Endowment Committee.

I have been a member of the GFO since 1996. I joined the Endowment Committee in 2008, and since 2009 I have been elected to the Chair position each year by that committee.

My personal investing experience dates to 1985, encompassing 40 years. I am a life member of the American Association of Individual Investors – (AAII) since 1985. I am retired now, after spending my life in Manufacturing Accounting, mostly running Accounting Departments as a Plant Controller. I am certified as a Management Accountant.

I am comfortable holding my own with investment discussions with a wide range of people. I have a good idea of how to maintain conservative investments to best pilot the funds managed by the Endowment Committee managing risk and return. The committee now manages three portfolios: Endowment, New Home, and General (surplus) funds. I am a strong believer in managing the portfolios according to the appropriate time horizon of each.

After this upcoming term, I plan on retiring from this position. But in the meantime, I would like to pilot the Endowment funds through the New Home Transition.

*Online voting is preferred. If you choose to mail your vote, please do so early to allow ample time for mail retrieval before the deadline on April 30, 2025. Include your name, your member number if known, and candidate choice (You may write in a candidate if desired): Genealogical Forum of Oregon, 2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B-18, Portland, OR 97202-1061.



*Bridget Nickerson Candidate Statement,
continued*

In addition to my nonprofit experience, I've recently launched my own business, Bright Krystal Bookkeeping, where I assist small businesses with their financial needs. I am a Certified Intuit ProAdvisor with Level 1 and 2 QuickBooks Certifications, bringing a strong foundation in bookkeeping, financial reporting, and organization.

My skills and enthusiasm align well with the responsibilities of GFO Treasurer. My experience managing nonprofit finances and my passion for genealogy and community service make me confident that I can contribute effectively to GFO's mission. I would be honored to have your support in electing me as Treasurer, and I look forward to the opportunity to give back to an organization that inspires and empowers so many.

Nominations Sought for GFO Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame Award is our way of honoring GFO members who have performed outstanding service to the Forum. Recipients have a well-documented history of service, leadership, and accomplishment in more than one facet of the GFO over a significant period of time.

A nomination may be made by any Forum Member, and the recipient will be selected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

To see previous winners, visit our Hall of Fame [web page](#) or look for the plaque hanging in the GFO Research Library.

Send your nominations to secretary@gfo.org by May 1, 2025.



A GFO GenTalk with Sydney Lybrand, hydrometeorologist with the National Weather Service's Office of Water Prediction

Register for free at gfo.org/gentalk





May Marks Last Issue of *The Insider*

As we bring you this April issue of *The Forum Insider*, we are mindful of the saying that change is the only constant in life—and so it is with our publications at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO). April marks the second-to-last edition of *The Insider*, with our farewell edition coming in May when the current editors retire. While we cherish our shared history and fond memories of this newsletter, we are equally excited about the ways the GFO continues evolving to meet the needs of our genealogical community.

The trusted weekly E-News newsletter remains your

reliable companion, widely read for its timely news and updates. *The Bulletin*, our quarterly magazine, continues to be published in March, June, September, and December. *The Bulletin* offers research articles, enriching features, and book reviews.

Moreover, our newly revised website—visited by nearly 4,000 users each month—provides an intuitive gateway to explore our monthly calendars, educational opportunities, and library holdings. The spirit of *The Insider* will live on in these vibrant avenues, ensuring our GFO community continues to thrive.

NGS Conference Coming in May

Mark your calendars for the upcoming National Genealogical Society (NGS) Family History Conference taking place May 23–26 in Louisville, Kentucky. Participants will enjoy a diverse lineup of presentations as well as optional workshops and optional pre-conference tours.

This year’s NGS conference will be held exclusively in person, providing attendees a chance to network directly with fellow genealogists and experts. For more information and to register, visit <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>.



Registration for Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Interest Groups.

All times are Pacific Time.

APRIL 8, 2025

1:30–3 p.m.

Family Tree Maker

APRIL 9, 2025

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Genetic Genealogy

1:30–3 p.m.

Great Lakes

APRIL 10, 2025

1:30–3 p.m.

Colonial America

6–7:30 p.m.

Genealogy 101

APRIL 11, 2025

1:30–3 p.m.

Irish

APRIL 16, 2025

1:30–3 p.m.

Let's Talk Genealogy

APRIL 22, 2025

11 a.m. –12 p.m.

German



April Events

Tuesday, April 1

Library open

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Wednesday, April 2

Learn & Chat

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

[Register](#)

Library Open

1 p.m.–5 p.m.

Friday, April 4

Access GFO Resources

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Join Library Chair Laurel Smith via Zoom to learn about the resources GFO provides for everyone and about the special benefits to GFO members.

[Register](#)

Saturday, April 5

Virginia Roots

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Daniel Morgan successfully reflects Early Colonial Frontier life, including a successful Revolution, and subsequent minor issues: Daniel Morgan (c. 1736 – July 6, 1802) was an American pioneer, soldier, and politician from Virginia. One of the most respected battlefield tacticians of the American Revolutionary War of 1775–1783, he later commanded troops during the suppression of the Whiskey Rebellion of 1791–1794.

[Register](#)

German Group

1–3 p.m.

[Register](#)

Monday, April 7

First Monday

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

First Mondays at the Research

Library are free for nonmembers. Members can always visit the Research Library for free.

RootsMagic

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

[Register](#)

Tuesday, April 8

Library open

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

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, April 9

Great Lakes SIG

1:30–3 p.m.

[Register](#)

Thursday, April 10

The Q Review

6–7 p.m.

At our next meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 10, we will discuss Tom Jones's article, "Mitochondrial DNA and an Inferred Conclusion: Revisiting Eleanor (---?---) Tureman Crow Overton in Culpeper and Madison Counties, Virginia," *NGSQ* 112 (Jun 2024), p. 85–101. Contact qreview@gfo.org if you need help finding a copy of the article.

[Register](#)

Sunday, April 13

Library Open

1–5 p.m.

The Writers' Room

Moved one week earlier due to Easter

2:30–4:00 p.m.

[Register](#)

Monday, April 14

Library Open

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15

Library Open

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16

Library Open

1–5 p.m.

DNA Q&A: The Basics

1–3 p.m.

[Register](#)

Irish Group

6–7:30 p.m.

[Register](#)

Saturday, April 19

African American Ancestry

12–2 p.m.

[Register](#)

GenTalk: The Impact of Weather on Your Family's Story

2:30–3:30 p.m.

Weather-related events altered the lives, and livelihoods, of our ancestors while weather also formed the backdrop to special events and routine days spent in mundane activities. Please join us as we look into some of the many resources and ways that we can gain new insights into weather of the past.

[Register](#)

Sunday, April 20

Library Open

1–5 p.m.

Monday, April 21

Library Open

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Continued on page 7




GFO Star

March

Michelle Haynes



Michelle took the initiative to sort through hundreds of maps the GFO collected over the years, decide (based on library criteria) which maps to keep and which to discard, organize and inventory them by geographic location, and create catalog records for them. The maps are now available to researchers in the GFO library. Thank you, Michelle!

Has someone with the GFO gone above and beyond to help you? We'd love to know and shine a spotlight on them. [Nominate](#) a GFO Star to be selected by the Board. Be sure to include your name, the name of the volunteer you're nominating, and a short description of what they did so well. Please note that Board members are not eligible.

April GFO Calendar, from page 6

Tuesday, April 22

Library Open
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Wednesday, April 23

Library Open
1–5 p.m.

Saturday, April 26

DNA Advanced
9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Register

Sunday, April 27

GFO Work Party
9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Monday, April 28

Library Open
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 29

Library Open
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30

Library Open
1–5 p.m.

Support GFO During Earth Week Give 2025

The GFO is pleased to be part of the Bottle Drop's fourth *Earth Week Give* campaign. The GFO will earn a 20% match for donations made from April 15–26, 2025. There are two ways you can participate:

1. Ask us for Blue Bags with our GFO barcode labels on them. Fill them with returnable bottles and cans. Drop your bags at any Bottle Drop Return center. Look for the secure Bottle Drop door on the back or side of the building. Scan our label, which unlocks the hatch. Tie your bag tightly and set it inside. Please write to bottledrop@gfo.org to ask for Blue Bags.

2. Set up your own **Bottle Drop account** online. Search the participating nonprofits to choose the



Genealogical Forum of Oregon. Buy Green bags from the Customer Service desk at a Bottle Drop Center. Return them as mentioned above.

Note: Bags cost 20 cents each, plus a 40-cent processing fee when returned. The GFO pays those fees for Blue Bags. You pay the fees for Green Bags, though if you return your Green Bags to a retailer instead of a Bottle Drop Center, the retailer pays the processing fee.



Five Oaks Museum Closes

Economic hardship plagued former Washington County Museum

Established in 1956, the Washington County Historical Society began with the mission to collect and preserve artifacts significant to the region's history. Over the years, the museum found homes in various locations. As the museum's collection grew substantially over the decades, larger spaces were needed, and the museum moved finally to the PCC Rock Creek campus in 1983. This move allowed for expanded exhibits and educational programs and solidified the museum's role in the community.

The rebranding to Five Oaks Museum in 2020 signified a shift towards embracing a more inclusive narrative, reflecting the diverse cultures and histories of Washington County. Named after a historic gathering place of the local Kalapuyan people, the museum aimed to serve as a communal space for art, culture, and storytelling. Despite these efforts, financial instability led to an indefinite closure starting 29 December 2024, with the entire staff furloughed as the institution faced a cash-flow shortage. The situation is detailed in an article on [OregonLive](#)



The old Washington County Jail, a log building that was in use as a jail from 1853 to 1870, in front of the Washington County Museum, on Portland Community College's Rock Creek Campus, 2018. Photo by Steve Morgan, courtesy of [Wikimedia Commons](#).

published on 25 February 2025.

The future of the museum's extensive archives, which include artifacts, photographs, and documents including the print archives of the *Hillsboro Argus* newspaper is unknown at time of this printing.

GFO GENTALK

FREE REGISTRATION
GFO.ORG/GENTALK

Accessing

FREE DIGITAL RESOURCES

for research in

OREGON & WASHINGTON

MAY 17 ▶ 2:30 P.M. PT

DAWN CARLILE

GFO DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE



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 Johnna Waldon
ftm@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 Dawn Carlile
irish@gfo.org

LEARN & CHAT

Led by Sandy Alto
learnandchat@gfo.org

THE Q REVIEW

Led by Alexa Waddle
qreview@gfo.org

ROOTSMAGIC

Led by Barry Wolff
rootsmagic@gfo.org


VIRGINIA ROOTS & VINES

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

WRITER'S ROOM

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





Get Help at PMUG Clinic

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

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

info@pmug.org