



THE Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon
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The Forgotten

..... A Special Issue of The Forum Insider

Genealogy most often focuses on those who married and had children. Many factors impact a person's decision or ability to have a family. Sometimes it is circumstance; sometimes it is tragedy. Too often these people are "forgotten," either accidentally or intentionally left out of the family story. **The Writers' Room Special Interest Group** took on a project this year to document the lives of some of our forgotten ancestors. We are publishing five of these profiles. We hope you enjoy these personal sketches, and perhaps they will motivate you to document the life of a forgotten ancestor in your own family.

Uncle Otto Benjamin Eggers (1899–1919) A Forgotten Ancestor

Roberta Bear

My first thought when I got that leaf on Ancestry.com was that this was a mistake, this stranger, "Otto Benjamin Eggers." He must have been inaccurately attributed to my mother's Eggers family branch. It was another example of sloppy research, imported from some poorly documented family tree. I had never heard anyone, including my mother, speak of a brother Otto Benjamin. And he doesn't appear in the family portrait taken around 1919. But I later concluded, from the documented family trees posted by numerous cousins combined with my own detective work, that he was indeed my mother's older brother.

The first document I found for Otto Benjamin was his death certificate. He was living on farmland in Benton County, Oregon, with his older brothers, Henry, William, and Paul. Around 1918, the four brothers had moved to Oregon from the German Lutheran community in Missouri where my mother was born in 1912; she was the youngest Eggers family member. Henry and William

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OREGON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH CERTIFICATE OF DEATH			
1 PLACE OF DEATH County <u>Benton</u> State <u>Oregon</u>		State Registered No. <u>12</u> Local Registered No. <u>7</u>	
Township _____ or Village _____ City <u>New Corvallis</u> No. <u>5 miles South</u> St. _____ Ward _____		(If death occurred in hospital or institution, give its name instead of street and number)	
2 FULL NAME <u>Otto Benjamin Eggers</u>			
(a) Residence No. _____ St. _____ (If nonresident, give city or town and state)			
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.			
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3 SEX <u>Male</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	5 Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word)	
6a If married, widowed, or divorced SURVIVED by (or) WIFE of _____			
7 DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) <u>Apr 23</u>			
8 AGE Years _____ Months _____ Days _____ If less than 1 day... hrs. _____ or... mts. _____			
9 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work <u>Farmer</u>			
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) _____			
(c) Name of employer _____			
10 BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Mo.</u>			
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) <u>Mo.</u>			
12 MARRIED NAME OF MOTHER <u>Ida Waechter</u>			
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) <u>Mo.</u>			
14 Informant <u>Paul E Eggers</u> (Address) <u>Camp Lewis Hwy</u>			
15 Date <u>Jan 17</u> 19 <u>19</u> <u>New Corvallis Mo</u>			
16 DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <u>Jan 16 1919</u>		17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>Jan 16 1919</u> to <u>Jan 16 1919</u> and that death occurred on the date stated above, at _____	
The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>Pneumonia</u>			
CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary) <u>Influenza</u>			
18 Where was disease contracted? _____			
19 PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION OR REMOVAL <u>Hitterberg Mo</u>			
20 UNDERTAKER <u>MSBoore</u>			
21 ADDRESS <u>Corvallis</u>			



Genealogical Forum of Oregon

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Mission

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

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Please send short stories, news, announcements, comments, and corrections to Geri Auerbach, AG®, and Keri Logan, Editors, at insider@gfo.org.



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Uncle Otto Benjamin Eggers, from page 1

were in their mid-twenties, and both were married with young children when they registered for the World War I draft in 1917; they received exemptions as farmers and married men with dependents.

Paul and Otto Benjamin both registered for the draft in 1918, immediately after the eligible age was lowered to 18. Paul went to Camp Lewis in Washington State, where he prepared to join the fighting in France. The war ended before he was sent overseas and before Otto Benjamin was called up.

According to his death certificate, Otto Benjamin was seen by a doctor on January 12, 1919. He died on January 16. He was 19 years old. The cause of death was recorded as pneumonia with influenza as a contributory cause. The informant was his brother Paul, who gave his address as Camp Lewis.

The *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, on January 18, 1919, reported Otto's death

after a brief illness from influenza-pneumonia.... The body was forwarded to Wittenburg, Missouri, where funeral and interment will take place. The body is being taken to Missouri by Paul E. Eggers, a brother of the deceased, who

has recently been stationed at Camp Lewis.

I am moved by Otto Benjamin's story. Not just his brief life, nor how his life and death place my mother's family history in the center of those monumental events of 1918-1919—World War I and the great "Spanish flu" epidemic—but even more by his apparent disappearance from their lives. I wonder why his story was so completely unknown to me until that leaf appeared.

And I wonder how Otto Benjamin was exposed to influenza. He was living in relative isolation on a farm in rural Oregon. Perhaps other family members, especially those living in close proximity to him, had the "Spanish flu." Early in the pandemic, the military camps were the focus of its spread. Did Otto Benjamin have any contact with Paul after Paul went to Camp Lewis? Was Paul able to provide information for the death certificate because he was on leave from Camp Lewis? Was he visiting his brothers when Otto Benjamin fell ill? So many questions I will never be able to answer, but by asking them I feel like I'm bringing Otto home to the family.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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A Feast of DNA Topics

Sat. Nov. 2, 2024 9 a.m - 4 p.m. PT

4 Sessions • Intermediate & Advanced

- Endogamy
- Genealogical Proof
- Adoption and Misattributed Parentage
- Real-World Case Studies

★ *Bonus: DNA for Beginners Friday evening* ★

with Paul Woodbury,
genetic genealogist at
LegacyTree Genealogists



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Forgotten Ancestor ... Remembered

Karen Hubbard

Velma May Cook, eldest daughter of Ethel Ella Elizabeth Smith, known as Ella, and James Lester Cook, was born in Bridal Veil, Oregon, on July 20, 1916. Velma's mother, Ella, came from a large family of fifteen siblings. Her eight brothers worked at Palmer Mill and the Bridal Veil Lumber Company.

Oregon was luxurious with dense old-growth forests. Trees were so large the trunk diameter was wider than three men with their arms extended. It was dangerous and back-breaking work, and the companies had to hire logging camp cooks to keep their lumbermen fed and working. So little Ella grew into a bunkhouse cook for the lumbermen, and it's likely how she met James Lester, the company's blacksmith. Ella (age 16) and James (age 19) married in December 1911 at the Brower, Oregon, homestead of Ella's parents. Velma was born three years later.

Being so far from a town, lumber company men made their own entertainment, and Velma and her parents often walked through the forest, around the log pond to attend company events. In December 1917, the log pond was cold and still, with ice around the edges. Velma rode on her father's shoulders. Somehow, she slipped off his shoulders and into the log pond. Frantically, her parents, and everyone within earshot, searched for her. After 30 minutes Velma was found, blue and cold. They worked to resuscitate her over the next 24 hours. When Velma awakened a few days later, her outer layer of skin sloughed off, and she could only wear very soft flour sacks after covering her raw body with baked flour until her skin healed. She had to learn how to walk again. She survived!

Her sister June, born in 1921, was a beautiful young toddler when she contracted pneumonia. With high fevers, increasing fluid in her lungs, and no antibiotics available, she died at 18 months of age. The third child, born in 1923, to Ella and James Lester was my father, James Robert Cook.

James Lester planned to open the first auto repair shop on the brand-new Columbia River Highway. Already a blacksmith, James Lester taught himself auto mechanics and was able to repair any car,



Today Oregon is one of the few states with no state institutions for intellectually or developmentally delayed residents. Oregon does provide in-home care, residential care, and support services.

A federal investigation uncovered systemic abuse at Fairview Training Center, where Velma M. Cook lived for more than 30 years. Fairview finally closed in 2000. For more information on Fairview Training Center, see [In the Shadow of Fairview from OPB](#).

Photo, "Fairview Training Center in Salem, Oregon, ca. 1920s" courtesy of Oregon State Archives, Secretary of State, OSS0123.

tractor, truck, or trailer. He even created the first tow truck in the area.

Seven-year-old James Robert, my father and Velma's brother, delighted in his family's move to Troutdale. He loved to fish, and with his new home right on the banks of the Sandy River he was overjoyed. The Sandy was famous for its yearly smelt runs which drew 5,000 people to the waters edge to dip smelt. Even more exciting for James Robert, he discovered he could fish in his home's flooded basement! With no dams on the Columbia or Sandy at the time, the water table rose often and by the light of a single bulb fish found their way into the basement and onto his hook.

Sadly, his father, James Lester, enjoyed drinking too much, and Troutdale had many more taverns than ice cream stores—even during prohibition. When he became abusive, Ella had enough and threw him out, which started a very long and ugly divorce. Ella was left with an even more pressing dilemma: how would she earn money and feed her family?

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Forgotten ancestor ... remembered, from page 5

Velma had just turned 14. She attended school with my dad but was not making progress. In 1930, in what must have been a heart-wrenching decision, Ella chose to place Velma in the Fairview Training Center in Salem, so Velma could get educational assistance while Ella worked.

Ella had been bookkeeper for the garage and taught herself how to repair each of the vehicles. She finished collecting repair payments, sold the business, and moved into Portland's Hawthorne area about 1936, so that my dad could attend Benson High School. But because of the Great Depression, jobs were scarce. Ella worked as a presser, laundress, custom tailor, and a tailor for a furrier. What made it possible to survive was the duplex she bought in the Hawthorne area. The renters paid their rent on time, and she was able to stay afloat.

Velma did not like the Fairview Training Center: residents stole her things, staff bullied her, and she did not receive good health care. Conditions for other "inmates" were no better because caregivers were overworked and understaffed. In 1985, a United States Justice Department investigation determined that many inmates endured forced sterilizations, lobotomies, systemic abuse, and faced life-threatening conditions. Velma survived!

Velma did learn to read, write, and count money. Ella and my dad would go to Salem every other weekend to visit Velma and take her out to lunch. On holidays, my dad would bring her to visit our home. Most of the time things went well, but when she became anxious or ate too fast, she would throw up at the table.

In the 1960s, when mainstreaming folks with mental illness was first considered, Velma was moved to the Mid-Columbia Hospital and Training Center in The Dalles, which she liked better. Ella and I would drive up to visit her and get lunch and ice cream. Mid-Columbia, also known as Columbia Park, was Oregon's first hospital devoted exclusively to chronically ill and geriatric patients. The Oregon State Legislature established the facility in 1959 in the former Eastern Oregon Tuberculosis Hospital in The Dalles, Oregon.

Geriatric patients from Fairview and other facilities in Oregon were transferred to the facility.



Velma and her sister, June, are buried at Douglass Pioneer Cemetery, in Troutdale, Oregon. Photo by mizlorrie, [FindaGrave](#), memorial no. 51599214.

The institution underwent many changes in name and purpose, gradually becoming the primary care facility for adults with developmental disabilities who would not benefit from the education or other special services at the Oregon Fairview Home. Columbia Park closed in 1977.

In my junior year of nursing school, my parents called and anxiously asked me to visit Velma in the Cardiac ICU—what had happened? My dad said she had bad heartburn, and they were going to operate. It turned out that a very careful resident at the Columbia Park Hospital and Training Center in The Dalles examined her and then sent her to OHSU for further tests, which revealed Velma had a dissecting aortic aneurysm. At the time, the surgery had a 40% to 50% survival rate. Prepared for the worst, I was allowed to see her. Velma was sitting up in bed and asking for the Jello she was promised after the open-heart surgery! She survived!

There was yet one more beat to Velma's story. When the push came in the later 1970s to place folks with mental health challenges in the least restrictive environment, Velma was placed in a group home with a family that enjoyed her and treated her as one of their family. She was much happier and lived a full life, dying on the fourth of November 1982. She was 66 years, 3 months, and 24 days old. She is buried with her sister June at Douglass Cemetery in Troutdale, Oregon.



A Lost Uncle

Wendy Negley

My grandfather, Walter L. Peterson, told me many stories of his Swedish immigrant family. But he barely mentioned his uncle, Anders Wilhelm Ludvig Almquist, who was his mother's older brother. I have a wedding picture of Anders and his wife, Julia, and a picture of Julia with their three children but no Anders. Naturally, I researched him along with all the members of the family. I found him in the Swedish birth records, the household records, and the emigration records. I found him on a passenger manifest traveling to the United States and arriving December 6, 1879. I found him in the 1880 U. S. census in Minnesota and in the Minnesota state censuses in 1885 and 1895. In 1885, he was living in Cokato, Minnesota, with his wife, and in the 1895 Minnesota state census, he was living in Cokato with his wife and three children. So far, so good.

But, then, in the 1900 U. S. census, I found him in the Fergus Falls, Minnesota, State Hospital for the Insane! In the 1905 Minnesota state census, he was in the Anoka State Asylum for the Insane and in the same place in the 1910 U. S. census. Finally, according to the Minnesota Death Index, he died in Anoka, Minnesota, on May 30, 1918. Now I knew why my grandfather never mentioned him, but what had happened?

As I continued to research, I found a newspaper



Julia and Anders Almquist at their wedding on 30 May 1880 in Cokato, Minnesota. Photo courtesy of author Wendy Negley.

article that shed light on the situation. A brief mention in the *Princeton Union*, a newspaper for Princeton, Minnesota, stated that "A.W.L. Almquist, dealer in general hardware at Cokato, made an assignment to G.P. Olson." Researching this terminology, I discovered that an assignment is done when a business fails and someone else is assigned to handle the creditors. The article is dated 28 September 1893. So, Anders (or Andrew as he was now called) had gone bankrupt.

In addition, 1893 is the year that the family records say that Andrew's father, Nils, died. He lost his business and his father in the same year. This could push someone over the brink. However, in the Minnesota State census of 1895, he lived with his wife and three children still in Cokato. A careful

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Julia Almquist surrounded by her children (from left) Amy, Walter, and Raymond, circa 1895. Photo courtesy of author Wendy Negley.



A Lost Uncle, from page 7

reading of the census, though, shows that in the column asking for the number of months employed in the past year, the answer was “none.” He apparently had not fully recovered from his financial losses, and he had no new income source.

Asking myself what may have been happening that contributed to his dilemma, I discovered that the “Panic of 1893” had occurred that year. Lasting four years, the depression that began in 1893 led to the failure of tens of thousands of businesses across the United States. We can speculate that his business was one of those. Then I discovered that there was a “Panic of 1896” that followed the first. Andrew was probably hit again just as he was struggling to recover. Likely, it was just too much, and his mental health was affected.

By 1900, he was in the State Mental Institution at Fergus Falls. Yet, in 1905, he was in the Anoka State

Asylum for the Insane. Why the switch? Looking into this, I discovered that the Anoka Asylum was opened in 1900 to handle overcrowding in the state mental institutions. In 1905, a number of patients were transferred from Fergus Falls to Anoka. Andrew was one. He remained there until he died.

What happened to his wife, Julia, and the children? In 1900, they lived in Owatonna, Steele, Minnesota. This is directly south of Anoka but with three counties in between. In 1910 (when Andrew was still alive in Anoka), Julia and her daughter, Amy, lived in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Julia was listed as a widow. Their sons had left home by this time. Julia had made a new life for herself, although she never remarried.

That is the story of my grandfather’s lost uncle—not lost but never mentioned by the family. A sad story, but surely not one to be ashamed of.

William Andrew Gillen 1919–1966: Never the Less

Mary Nelson

My uncle, William Andrew Gillen, also known as Billy, was born at home at 1006 Beverly Road, Brooklyn, New York, on December 30, 1919. He was born to Thomas Gillen and Helen Madera. Helen Madera Gillen developed serious complications following the birth. Because it was thought that Billy was dead, he was placed in a corner, and his head was covered, according to my late mother. They tried to save Helen. She was transferred to a hospital where she died on January 3, 1920. The people who were working on Helen turned to Billy to get him ready for burial. That is when they discovered he was alive.

It was later discovered that he either was born with a mental disability or developed one due to the circumstances of his birth. The full degree of his disability I do not know, but according to a cousin who met him, Billy could not even talk. His Aunt Helen (his father’s sister) was his caretaker and refused to have him tested or get any training. In fact, according to my mother, Aunt Helen ran off with Billy at one point to make her point clear.

The only records that are online are the 1920, 1940, and 1950 censuses as well as his draft registration

card. In the 1940 census, he is listed as living with his Aunt Helen, my mother (shortly before she married), and a servant. In the 1950 census, he is listed with the same aunt and a servant. The most interesting record is the draft registration card. The card is not filled out by him, but by his Aunt Helen. She stated on the card that he is physically and mentally incompetent to even sign the form.

Aunt Helen and Billy lived together in Sea Cliff, Long Island, New York. I do not know the year, but I think it was the winter of 1965/66 when a major snowstorm locked them in the house together. A problem developed when Aunt Helen fell and broke a bone and could not move or do anything to take care of both of them. Due to the lack of training, Billy could not do anything to help in the situation. When they were finally rescued, Billy was transferred to the Willowbrook State Hospital, a placement facility for mentally disabled children and adults.

According to his death certificate, he fell in the bathroom at the hospital and broke a right femur, which was repaired at Bellevue Hospital. But he developed pneumonia as a result and died on March 21, 1966. He is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery in Brooklyn.



Lawrence Angelo Grassini

A Biographical Sketch

Maureen Vega

“He died while he was working on the Bay Bridge,” I recall being told when I was a child. Wow, I thought. How sad. I wasn’t given any other information about him. Many decades later, I began to wonder about this great-uncle I never met. I learned that he did die a terrible death at a young age, but not while working on the Bay Bridge.

Lawrence Angelo Grassini was born on Sunday, March 3, 1912, in Santa Cruz, California. His older sister, Alvera, later insisted they were born in Davenport, which was a very small town north of Santa Cruz, but no evidence has been found to substantiate that. His parents were Italian: Peter (Pietro) Grassini and Mary Perano. Peter, who was born in 1882, immigrated to the United States from Italy in 1900, and Mary was born in 1883 in New York City to parents who were born in Italy. By 1910, Peter Grassini was a laborer at the cement plant in Davenport. Mary stayed home to take care of her three children from her first marriage and the two children she and Peter had together. Peter’s younger brother, Angelo, and his wife, Clotilda, lived nearby. Angelo also worked at the cement plant. No doubt Lawrence’s middle name was in honor of his uncle, Angelo.

In 1914, the family welcomed a little girl, Helen. The three Grassini children were baptized on Saturday, October 21, 1916, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Santa Cruz. Lawrence’s godparents were Giulio and Maria Passerino. The Passerinos also lived in Santa Cruz, and Giulio and Peter worked together at the cement plant.

By September 1918, the young Grassini family was living in San Francisco (as were the Passerinos). They moved from one rental to another, but mostly lived in the neighborhood called Potrero Hill, which was on the east side of the city. At the time, the sunny neighborhood was a low-income area populated with mostly immigrants. Peter worked as a laborer at the Western Sugar Company.

The 1920 census states that Peter was a helper in a



Alvera, Lawrence, and Helen Grassini were baptized at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Santa Cruz, California (pictured above), on Saturday, October 21, 1916. Photo by Eugene Zelenko, courtesy of [Wikimedia Commons](#).

sugar refinery, and Mary was a packer in a can works. In 1922, the Grassini family welcomed a boy, George Washington.

Tragedy struck the family in 1925, twelve days before Christmas. Mary Grassini was crossing a wooden railroad trestle shortly before 7:30 pm. It was dark, and for reasons unknown, she fell to the Southern Pacific railroad tracks below. A Santa Fe train ran over her, and she died from her injuries shortly thereafter. An inquest was conducted. It was determined that her death was accidental, and she had not committed suicide.

The young Grassini family must have been devastated. Lawrence was 13 years old, his oldest sister was 16, his youngest sister was 11, and his baby brother only three years old. Peter Grassini apparently decided that he could not take care

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Lawrence Angelo Grassini, from page 9

of his children by himself and sent the children to live elsewhere. Lawrence was sent to live with his older half-sister, Lillian, who was married and lived outside of San Francisco with her family.

The 1930 census lists Lawrence as living with Lillian's family. He was 18 years old and working in construction as a welder. By early 1934, he lived in West Berkeley and worked for the Berkeley Construction Company. On Wednesday, May 2, Lawrence and another employee went to the Western Pipe and Steel Company in South San Francisco. Shortly after 6 pm, as they were driving west to reach the Bayshore Highway to get back to Eastbay, their small coupe was struck by a southbound Southern Pacific train at the Butler Road Crossing. The train dragged the car over 200 feet. The driver of the car died at the scene. Lawrence was taken to the South San Francisco Hospital with serious injuries to his head. Lawrence lived for ten hours before succumbing to his injuries without gaining consciousness. He was only 22 years old. Once

2 BAY BOYS KILLED IN CROSSING CRASH

Headline from page one of The Oakland Post Enquirer in Oakland, California, on Thursday, May 3, 1934.

again, the Grassini family was traumatized by the tragic loss of another family member in a train accident.

An inquest was held, and it was determined that the driver of the car was driving within the speed limit but did not hear the train whistle. The train flagger at the crossing had already left for the day, and there were industrial buildings within 60 feet of the tracks that made it difficult for the locomotive fireman who was on the left side in the engine to see the car.

On Saturday, May 5, 1934, Lawrence was buried with his mother at the Italian Cemetery in Colma, California, following a funeral Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in San Francisco.

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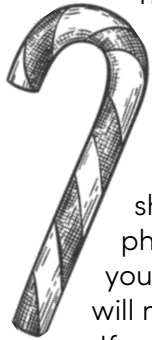
GFO DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE

NEXT CLASS: NOVEMBER 9 AT 10 AM PT



Join the Forum's Virtual Holiday Party

You are invited to our GFO Virtual Holiday Party at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, December 14, 2024. Stay at home and join our social hour while you wrap gifts or address cards. We



hope you will share your family stories and favorite holiday recipes with us. Do you make eggnog or fudge? How old is your menorah? Does anyone have a good lebkuchen recipe?

You can change your background to show us your holiday décor. Do you have photos of favorite or vintage ornaments that you can share? Holiday sweaters and eggnog will make it festive.

If you would like to share a recipe or any photos, please send it to april.ober@gfo.org. We'd like to include photos during the party and share recipes in a handout. Register to attend at GFO **GenTalks**.



Ober Family Christmas tree. Photo courtesy of April Ober.



GFO VIRTUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

December 14, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.

Let's celebrate our families and traditions!
Your host for this event is April Ober,
long-time GFO member, volunteer, and research assistance on Mondays.

Register at gfo.org/gentalk





Genealogical Collections Abound at Gresham Historical Society

Keri Logan

In October, several members of the Oregon chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists visited the **Gresham Historical Society** (GHS) for a tour of their museum and collections, with an eye toward genealogical gems. The tour was conducted by the Museum Director, Silvie Andrews.

GHS was founded in 1976 when federal funds were being offered to communities for lasting historical

works created in honor of the country's bicentennial. The society's collections are housed in a former Carnegie library building, at 410 N. Main Street in Gresham. The library building was constructed in 1913 to serve the needs of the burgeoning com-

munity. Silvie, the museum director, and numerous volunteers toil to make its resources accessible.

The museum collections include textiles, artifacts, and manuscript collections for Gresham, as well as current and former communities east of Interstate 205, such as Rockwood, Centennial, Orient, and Pleasant Valley, to name a few. Some of the key collections for genealogists include more than 130 oral histories; over 5,000 photographs (with identified individuals); every issue of *Gresham Outlook*, the local paper; a nearly complete collection of the Gresham High School newspaper, *Argus*, which was started in 1916; land-use files from the 1980s; manuscript collections from families and businesses; and digitized maps. Some of the **GHS collections** have been digitized and are accessible through a partnership with **Northwest Digital Heritage**, the Pacific Northwest hub for the Digital Public Library of America.

The digitized collection represents only a small portion of what is available at the Gresham His-



First-grade class photo, circa 1953, from West Gresham Grade Schools *scrapbook*. Courtesy of the Gresham Historical Society.

torical Society. In the museum, they have an online database, accessible only at the museum, that can be searched for nearly any item in the collection. It can be searched by name or subjects. Members of the public can access the in-house database by making an appointment. The website has a **contact form** that can be used to make an appointment, or interested researchers can call (503) 661-0347 or email info@greshamhistorical.org.

A current goal for the society is to transcribe their oral history collection in order to make it easier for researchers to locate topics or names of interest. Toward that end, a transcription workshop will take place in the museum on Tuesday, November 12, from 5-7 p.m., for interested volunteers to learn more about the project. After the training, volunteers will be able to work from home. To learn more or RSVP for the event, visit the museum's **Events Calendar**.

Photo courtesy of author.





November Events

Friday, November 1

Fall Seminar:
DNA Intro Session
6:30–7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 2

Fall Seminar:
A Feast of DNA Topics
9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Join us for a full day DNA seminar featuring intermediate and advanced techniques with Paul Woodbury.

[Register](#)

Sunday, November 3

Library Open
1–5 p.m.

Monday, November 4

Library Open—First Monday
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
First Mondays are free to research in the library for nonmembers.

RootsMagic
10 a.m.–12 p.m.

[Register](#)

Tuesday, November 5

Library Open
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Wednesday, November 6

Learn & Chat
10 a.m.–12 p.m.

[Register](#)

Library Open
1–5 p.m.

Saturday, November 9

Access to GFO Resources
10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Learn about the resources GFO provides for everyone and special benefits to GFO members.

[Register](#)

Sunday, November 10

Library Open
1–5 p.m.

The Writers' Room
2:30–4:30 p.m.

[Register](#)

Monday, November 11

Library Open
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Tuesday, November 12

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, November 13

Library Open
1–5 p.m.

Thursday, November 14

The Q Review
6–7 p.m.

[Register](#)

Saturday, November 16

African American Ancestry
12–2 p.m.

[Register](#)

Sunday, November 17

Library Open
1–5 p.m.

Monday, November 18

Library Open
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Tuesday, November 19

Library Open
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Wednesday, November 20

Library Open
1–5 p.m.

DNA Q&A: The Basics
1–3 p.m.

[Register](#)

Sunday, November 24

GFO Work Party
9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Library Open
1–5 p.m.

Monday, November 25

Library Open
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Tuesday, November 26

Library Open
9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Wednesday, November 27

Library Closed for Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 28





Registration for Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Interest Groups.

All times are Pacific Time.

NOVEMBER 8, 2024

1:30–3 p.m.
Irish

NOVEMBER 9, 2024

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

NOVEMBER 12, 2024

1:30–3 p.m.
Family Tree Maker

NOVEMBER 13, 2024

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Genetic Genealogy

NOVEMBER 14, 2024

6–7:30 p.m.
Genealogy 101

GFO Star

October Barry Wolff

Barry Wolff leads the RootsMagic Special Interest Group (SIG), a group so successful that at least one additional study group has broken off for further research exploration.



He developed an extensive handout for RootsMagic users, which is available on the SIG website. He has presented at two GFO Open Houses. He always has helpful comments at the SIGnals meetings, which are collaborative meetings for GFO SIG facilitators. Barry's dedication is even

more exceptional because he is not in the Northwest—he lives on the East Coast and makes our time zone work for him!

NOMINATE A STAR!



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.

**FREE ADMISSION
FIRST MONDAYS**

Free Entry to GFO Research Library for Nonmembers*

*Members are always free.





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

LEARN & CHAT

Led by Sandy Alto
learnandchat@gfo.org

THE Q REVIEW

Led by Alexa Waddle
qreview@gfo.org

ROOTSMAGIC

Led by Barry Wolff
rootsmagic@gfo.org

VIRGINIA ROOTS & VINES

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

WRITER'S ROOM

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

The Portland Macintosh Users Group Presents:



NOV
21
 6:30-8:00PM

Genealogy SIG

A 'Special Interest Group' for Family Discovery

The second meeting of our new Genealogy SIG will be held on November 21st via Zoom. Long time genealogist Rich Cunningham leads an informal group to discuss, share and learn. Please feel free to join in, whether you are just starting out, or you are an avid genealogist wanting to connect with other like-minded folks in a smaller intimate environment.

*PMUG's Genealogy SIG meets via Zoom from 6:30-8:00pm.
 To join in, request an invite link via: info@pmug.org.*