Coronavirus Closes GFO
Events Cancelled or Rescheduled to Keep Patrons Safe

Vince Patton

The world is paying attention to the spread of the highly contagious coronavirus, and so are we at the GFO.

We want to keep the library safe and our patrons healthy. Therefore, the GFO has closed the library to everyone until April 1. We will re-evaluate its status as the outbreak evolves. If any membership expires during the time we are closed, the member will still be considered active for one month after the library re-opens.

Governor Kate Brown of Oregon has instructed all groups in the state to cancel events hosting 10 people or more in high-risk populations (see http://bit.ly/3cZwEfK). Adults over 60 are considered high risk. A large percentage of our members and SIG participants are older.

Therefore, we also have taken these actions:

» Canceled Special Interest Group meetings
» Canceled GenTalk about PERSI on Mar. 21, 2020
» Rescheduled the Open House to Sept. 25-Oct. 4, 2020
» Rescheduled the DNA Seminar with Karen Stanbary to Aug. 8-9, 2020

Those who have registered for the DNA seminar remain registered for the future dates. All registered attendees have received direct email about refunds if they need them.

Thank you for your understanding as we make these difficult decisions.

Want to stay linked to GFO?
Join GFO at Groups.io to Connect with Other Members

Nanci Remington

Did you know that the GFO has an online community of members who can help answer your genealogy questions or suggest the best places to find the resources that you need?

For over 20 years, this group has shared their knowledge and helped one another over bumps they encounter in their research. Known as ORForum, this mailing list was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
Amnesty Offered for Missing Books

I write this article with sadness. I’m trying to resist sounding like a scold.

But our library’s massive inventory project has revealed an ugly truth: 230 items are missing from our holdings, and some of them were deliberately stolen.

For instance, we found a periodical where someone very carefully sliced out several pages with a razor blade.

Why didn’t they just take a picture of the pages? Instead, they ruined this historical record for everyone coming after them.

It’s also possible that one of our books ended up at the bottom of a stack of research and someone took it home accidentally. More than 200 times.

We’d just like GFO materials to return to the GFO. If you bring something back, we’re offering complete amnesty and no overdue fines (which date back to the days when we used to check out materials.) Look inside the covers. If it’s ours, you’ll find the GFO stamp inside.

We pride ourselves in making many hard-to-find resources available for everyone. Our library committee is exploring better security options for the future.

Please return GFO materials after the library re-opens—no questions asked.

—Vince Patton, President

A list of missing items is available at http://bit.ly/3agcA72
In Memoriam

Ann Alee (Bell) Rogers, joined the GFO in 1986 and became a life member in 1995.

Donald Guy Houk (1932-2020), life member of the GFO since 1991.

GROUPS.IO, FROM PAGE 1

hosted by Rootsweb. That site is now owned by Ancestry, who recently decided they could no longer support these mailing lists. Many of the genealogy groups, including the GFO, have moved to Groups.io. In many ways, this presents an opportunity to expand and grow. Groups.io is more stable and has many new features.

Technically a mailing list, this new platform works through email or directly from the website (see ORForum URL above). My favorite feature of the new site is the ability to add images and attachments. So, if you cannot read a name on a census or a cause of death on a certificate, you can snip it and send it to the group.

Messages can be read by the public, but you must join to post and answer questions. To see current discussions on the website, scroll down to “Message History” and click on the number below the current month. The easiest way to follow threads is to choose the “Topic” option from the drop-down view menu.

To participate, click on the “Join This Group” button. The only information you need to provide is an email address. If you don’t have an account with Groups.io, you must respond to a confirmation email (if you don’t get one, check your spam folder). Choose how you want to receive messages that other people post. This could be every time somebody sends a message (individual messages), as a digest, or as a daily summary. You can always change this option later. Note that if you choose “No Email,” you visit the site to see and participate in the discussions.

Once you have created an account, you can manage it from the menu on the left side of the screen (to navigate the site) or from the accounts button under your username. Many people will stick with the default settings, but if you want to explore all of your options, you can watch a short video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHSmVlInCc.

If you are interested in this community, please join our group!
No More Searching by Hand

Vince Patton

If your research told you that someone in Fresno, California, had written an article about her ancestor Ruprecht Lammer from 1500s Feuerbach, Germany, you’d face a long slog to find it.

The GFO has dozens of issues of the Ash Tree Echo, published by the Fresno County Genealogical Society. But you’d have to search every issue manually to uncover that story. It could take hours.

Until now.

We’re making every single copy of the Ash Tree Echo that we own searchable on GFO computers. Lammer’s story appears on page 903 in Volumes 40–49. A single “Control-F” (Find) with a word search would help you find it in seconds.

Library Chair Laurel Smith has launched one of our most ambitious efforts to modernize GFO’s collections. She has corralled a team of volunteers to scan and digitize every single periodical in the library. Yes, every one.

As they finish a set, the paper version gets boxed and stored. This frees up shelf space for our ever-expanding holdings.

The digitized version sits inside our library catalog. If you find an “E-Pub” logo next to a holding, you’ll know it’s an electronic holding that you can view inside the library. These holdings cannot be viewed outside the library due to copyright restrictions.

Read more about how to take advantage of this incredibly valuable digitizing in the latest Bulletin published in March. Or ask a research assistant the next time you’re in the library.

It’ll take years to scan all the periodicals, but we have tens of thousands of pages converted and searchable already. We will announce in our weekly E-News as new sets are scanned and available.
Online Votes must be received by 5 p.m., Monday, May 4, 2020 to be counted.

Paper ballots, used in the past, likely will not reach us during the coronavirus shutdown. Therefore this year's voting has moved online.

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Candidate Statements For Board Positions
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**President (2-year term)**

**Vince Patton:** I am asking you to re-elect me for a second term as President. The GFO plays an important role in preserving local history and in assuring it remains accessible. We must remain relevant in our increasingly digital world, and I think we are positioning ourselves well for that. In the last two years we have increased membership by 17% to near record levels. We have expanded the databases we offer, become a FamilySearch affiliate library, and continue to offer stellar educational experiences throughout the year. Internally, I have worked to professionalize our record keeping with a focus on security and insuring backups. I’ve also put my experience as a journalist to work landing us more local news coverage than the GFO has had in many years, and gaining a reputation for the GFO as an organization willing to speak up about local issues (like terrible train traffic), and national ones (like the National Archives Seattle closure, and outrageous USCIS fee hikes.) I know the ropes now. The role of president feels comfortable. Please allow me to continue leading the GFO.

**Secretary (2-year term)**

**Alexa Waddle:** After a childhood of loving to read and hear my family’s stories, followed by years of researching our genealogy and that of my friends, I finally decided to delve into genealogy as a profession. I received my certificate from the Boston University Program for Genealogical Research in May of 2019 and have been taking clients since June. I love bringing my clients the opportunity to learn about their family’s history. Genealogy offers new perspective and context not just to our ancestors’ lives, but to ours as well. As a research assistant at the GFO since January 2019, I am amazed at what a valuable resource the GFO, its members, its groups, its classes, and its informational materials are to the larger genealogical community. I, Alexa Waddle, would be honored to enthusiastically serve the GFO as its Secretary.

**Director at Large (2-year term)**

**Joyce Grant-Worley:** I would like to serve again as a Director At Large - SIG Liaison. I was appointed to this position about one year ago and have learned much about GFO from simply being on the board. I would like to serve you another two years. Currently, I am also a member of the Data Extraction team, have worked the raffle table during the last few seminars, facilitate the quarterly Family Tree Maker user group, and volunteer as a Research Assistant on two Wednesday evenings a month. I attend many of the classes and seminars. This summer, I’ve somehow become the lead on the Grant Family reunion to be held in Portland, and many of my family members expect me to act as the genealogy expert and provide family charts. I’ve learned so much by being an active member of the GFO and appreciate all the hard work and expertise of our many members.

**Endowment Committee:** Geoff Smith has also agreed to run again for another 2-year term.
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

https://gfo.org/learn/special-interest-groups/

AFRICAN AMERICAN GROUP
Third Saturdays
12–2 p.m.
Led by Janice Sellers
African_American@gfo.org

BRITISH GROUP
Fourth Saturdays in Jan, Mar, May, Sept
1–3 p.m.
Led by Duane Funk
UK@gfo.org

DNA – Beginners
Fourth Saturdays in Feb, May, Aug, and Nov
9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Led by Emily Aulicino
DNA@gfo.org

DNA – Advanced
Fourth Saturdays in Jan, Apr, July, and Oct
9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Led by Emily Aulicino
DNA@gfo.org

DNA – Q & A
First and third Wednesdays, Sept–June
1–3 p.m.
Led by Lisa McCullough
DNA_QA@gfo.org

FAMILY TREE MAKER
Beginners
Third Sundays in Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct
1–3 p.m.
Led by Laurel Smith
FTM@gfo.org

FAMILY TREE MAKER
Users’ Group
Third Sundays in Feb, Mar, May, Aug, and Nov
1–3 p.m.
Led by Joyce Grant-Worley
FTM@gfo.org

FRENCH CANADA GROUP
Third Sundays (no July or August meetings)
3:30–5 p.m.
Led by Bob LaMarche
FrCan@gfo.org

AFRICAN AMERICAN GROUP
Third Saturdays
12–2 p.m.
Led by Janice Sellers
African_American@gfo.org

GENEALOGY PROBLEM SOLVERS
Third Saturdays (except July)
9:30–11:30 a.m.
Led by Katie Daly
GPS@gfo.org

GERMAN GROUP
First Saturdays
1–3 p.m.
Led by Mike Fernandez and Tia Cobb
German@gfo.org

ITALIAN GROUP
First Tuesdays
10 a.m.–12 p.m
Led by Stephanie Silenti
Italian@gfo.org

GREAT LAKES REGION
Second Saturdays (except Jul, Aug, Dec)
9:30–11:30 a.m.
Led by Fran Hart
GreatLakes@gfo.org

IRISH GROUP
Third Wednesdays in Feb, Apr, June, Aug, and Oct
6–8 p.m.
Led by Karen Hubbard
Irish@gfo.org

LEARN & CHAT
First and third Wednesdays
10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Led by Sandy Alto and Jeanne Quan
LearnandChat@gfo.org

MEXICAN ANCESTRY
Second Fridays in Feb, Apr, June, and Oct
11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Led by Vincent Ramirez
SW@gfo.org

VIRGINIA GROUP
First Saturdays, Sept–June
10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Led by Judi Scott and Carol Surrency
Virginia@gfo.org

WRITER’ FORUM
Second Saturdays, Sept–May
1–3 p.m.
Led by Peggy Baldwin
Writers@gfo.org

Member Pens Book, Donates to GFO

GFO member Phyllis Naish has finished her book, *Westward Ho The Williams: On The “1841 Team” To Oregon*, and for each book purchased by a GFO member or friend, she’s generously offering to donate 10% of sale price.

For the GFO to receive the donation, send a copy of the receipt to Phyllis at pnaish@aol.com and mention the GFO in the email subject line.

The book offers a “daily view of the pioneers on the 1841 wagon train from Missouri to Oregon. It shows how they lived and what they endured through five long months of walking over 2000 miles in the heat and cold.” It’s available on Amazon: [https://amzn.to/37ii52X](https://amzn.to/37ii52X)

Please don’t forget to shop via [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and set the GFO to receive a donation each time you shop.
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

**Saturday, August 8**
10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Center for Self Enhancement (SEI)

**SOLVE PUZZLES WITH DNA EVIDENCE**
Learn how to manage and interpret DNA evidence, then incorporate into your existing documentary research. Receive tips from a retired Licensed Clinical Social Worker on managing conversations about unexpected DNA results.

**Sunday, August 9**
9:30 a.m. - noon
Center for Self Enhancement (SEI)

**SOLVING ADVANCED PUZZLES WITH DNA**
More complex puzzles require more complex DNA evidence analysis. Deepen and expand your skills.

**Register Online**
gfo.org/dna

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**Genealogical Forum of Oregon Summer Seminar**

**Karen Stanbary, CG®, MA, LCSW,** is an author and national lecturer focusing on topics related to using genetic and documentary evidence to solve genealogical brick walls.

Karen is a coordinator and faculty member at three national week-long institutes: GRIP (Chromosome Mapping), IGHR (Intermediate DNA), and SLIG (Meeting Standards Using DNA Evidence). She also received the NGSQ Award for Excellence for her complex evidence case study incorporating traditional research and DNA analysis in the June 2016 issue of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly.

Karen holds the credential Certified Genealogist from the Board for Certification of Genealogists where she serves as a Trustee and is chair of the standing DNA Committee.
The new year has brought the library new genealogical treasures, starting with two valuable print collections. The first comes from an estate in North Carolina comprising materials that primarily focus on Washington County, Indiana. The second collection has contributed significantly to our African American resources. In addition to these and other exceptional donations, the GFO continues to make key purchases that further our mission to connect members with their ancestors, such as several volumes on Oregon’s history. Furthermore, volunteers are working hard to modernize our existing periodical collection through digitization (see No more searching by hand on page four). The complete acquisitions list for January and February is too extensive to publish fully here. The new collections mentioned and other new print titles can be found at http://bit.ly/3aKP8io

Digital Periodicals
- Adams Addenda
- Ag Newsletter
- Alabama Heritage: The Alabama Statehood Bicentennial Issue
- Alden Letter
- Alee’s All Around
- Alexander Agenda
- Alton-Alton-Aulton Family Association Newsletter
- Ancestors West
- Anderson Album
- Arkansas Family Historian (Arkansas Genealogical Society)
- Arthur Family Newsletter
- Ash Tree Echo
- Ashley Addenda Annual
- Ashleys Of America
- Babb Family Association News And Notes
- Backenstoss Family Association Of America
- Baker Family Newsletter
- Baldwin By-Lines
- Ball Beginnings
- Ballew Family Journal
- Barnard Lines
- Barner Family Newsletter
- Barnett Banner
- Barney Family News
- Barrett Branches
- Beall News
- Beatty Clearinghouse
- Bell Family Newsletter
- Bell-A-Peal
- Bensonian
- Berkshire Family Historian
- Berry Bulletin
- Bilyeu Blood Lines
- Bilyeu By You
- Bishop Families In America
- Blauvelt News
- Blois Voice
- Bo
- Boggess Family Association Newsletter
- Bogg Newsletter
- Bolles Family Association Newsletter
- Boulder Genealogical Society Quarterly (Colorado)
- California Central Coast Genealogical Society Bulletin
- Canfield Family Association Newsletter
- Cariboo Notes, Quesnel Branch, British Columbia Genealogical Society
- Circuit Rider (Sangamon County, Illinois)
- Daughters Of The Utah Pioneers: Enduring Legacy And Pioneer Pathways
- Day To Remember (Aday)
- Diablo Descendants [Contra Costa County, California]
- Diggers Digest (Sutter & Yuba Counties, California)
- Digital Digest (Eastern Washington Genealogical Society)
- Elkies Eagle
- Elkies Family Exchange
- Epistle [Batchelder, Carpenter, And Rice]
- Forge: The Bigelow Society Quarterly
- Francis Ball Bulletin
- Genealogical Goldmine (Paradise, California)
- Genealogy News About Our Members, For Our Members (British Columbia Genealogical Society)
- Genie (Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas)
- Headhunter (Redondo Beach, California)
- Johnson County [Kansas] Genealogist
- Kansas City Genealogist
- Kern-Gen [Kern Co., California]
- Last Leaf (Montana)
- Lifeliner [Riverside, California]
- Livermore Roots Tracer
- Mountain Memories (Page County, Virginia)
- Ohio Cross Road Of Our Nation
- Petticoat Gazette 1957-1959 (Seward, Alaska Newspaper)
- Pioneer, Douglas County [Kansas] Genealogical Society
- Quicksilver Diggin’s [Santa Clara, California]
- Redwood Researcher (Northern California)
- Root Cellar Preserves, Sacramento Genealogical Society
- Root Digger (Solano, California)
- Roots ‘N’ Gold Dust [El Dorado County, California]
- Roots And Leaves (Eastern Nebraska)
- San Diego Leaves And Saplings
- San Francisco Historical And Genealogy Bulletin
- Santa Clara County Connections
- Santa Maria Valley Genealogical Society Quarterly
- Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Summer Journal
- Sonoma Searcher
- Valley Genealogist Of Hemet-San Jacinto
- Willamette Valley Genealogical Society News

Digital Books
- Cemetery Records And Tombstone Inscriptions Of Benton County, Oregon, Index To Volumes 1-5
- Day By Day With The Utah Pioneers
- History Of The Development Of Bridal Veil, Oregon
- Idaho Statesman Clippings 1967-1970
- Inscriptions In St. Mary’s Churchyard, Tickhill, Yorkshire, England
- Marriage Records, Douglas County, Oregon: Book 1 (1852-1871) And Book 2 (1871-1879)
- New Mexico Prenuptial Investigations
- Pennsylvania In The American Revolution (DAR)
- Portland City Auditor Street Re-Numbering Report
- Portrait Of An English Parish Church: St Mary The Virgin, Tickhill, Yorkshire
- WPA Historical Records Survey: Benton County Commissioners’ Journal, 1850-1855, Probate Book A
- WPA Historical Records Survey: Benton County, OR Cemetery Records
- WPA Historical Records Survey: Benton County, Oregon Churches
Join Laurel Smith at the GFO for a day of beginning genealogy. There will be sessions about the census, vital records, immigration and naturalization, discussions about genealogy software and database use, organizing your research and more – all geared toward beginners. Bring a sack lunch so the discussion can continue while we eat. GFO members may attend for free, non-members for $20. Attendance limited to 20 people.

Register online at GFO.org/bootcamp by May 27. A link to the class notes and a short, pre-Boot Camp assignment will be emailed on May 28.

Walk-ins unavailable, so please register online.

boot camp: 'bɔtˌkamp/ noun: A training camp for new recruits, with strict discipline.

"...a marathon that was time well-spent."

"...more than exceeded my expectations."

"Boot Camp was rocking, wow do I regret not having it before I started..."
### Treasurer’s Report

**JANUARY AND FEBRUARY**

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### Nominations Sought

The Hall of Fame Award is our way of honoring GFO members who have performed outstanding service to the Forum.

The award is limited to one person per year, except in the case where a pair of members has worked together or if the Board waives the limitation. A nomination may be made by any Forum member, and the recipient will be selected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

The recipient must have a well-documented history of service, leadership, and accomplishment in more than one facet of the GFO over a significant period of time. Please include examples of how this nominee fulfilled all three categories. Please be sure to send your nominations to [secretary@gfo.org](mailto:secretary@gfo.org) before May 1st.

### National Park Service Releases New Database

US Mexican War Soldiers and Sailors Database is new and free from the National Park Service.

The US Mexican War began on 8 May 1846 and ended 2 February 1848 and involved over 150,000 combatants. This database covering the war was compiled with the partnership of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. There are over 89,000 records included.

The library is *closed* until April 1, 2020, and events have been canceled or rescheduled.

See inside stories for details.

*Check the GFO calendar or website for any updates or changes during the coronavirus outbreak.*