

PRESENTATION AT AFRICAN AMERICAN SIG

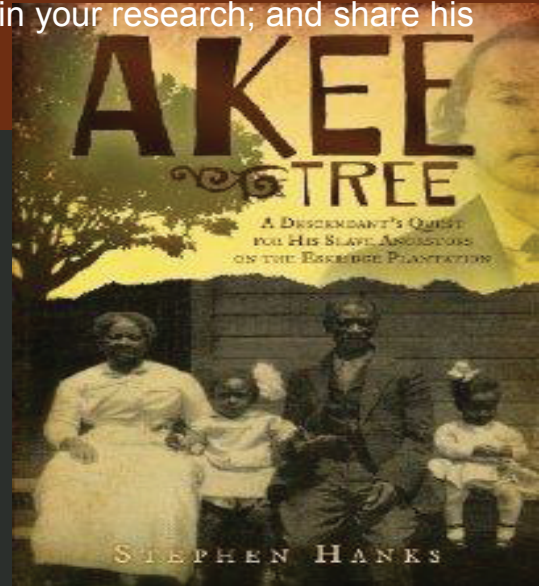
Stephen Hanks is a legal process server in the state of Oregon, and a specialist in African American genealogy, volunteering his time in helping to promote African American genealogy through his network, Genealogical Networking Services. In 2006 Hanks was a contributor to the PBS special "African American Lives—Oprah's Roots" which examined the genealogy of Oprah Winfrey. He lives in Portland, Oregon. He is the author of *Akee Tree: A Descendant's Search for His Slave Ancestors on the Eskridge Plantations*. He will discuss: helpful hints to African descent genealogy; overcoming roadblocks in your research; and share his personal family research.

January 27, 2018. 12:30–2:30 p

GFO 2505 SE 11th

503-963-1932

Free and Open to All!



31
JAN

MEMBERS FREE

NON-MEMBERS \$20

9:30 A.M. - 6 P.M.

BEGINNER'S BOOT CAMP

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 \$20 at the door. Attendees are encouraged to bring their laptops, but it is not required. Please let us know if you plan to attend by sending a message to RSVP@gfo.org. The handouts will be emailed in advance.

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE CIVIL WAR ERA

HALF-DAY WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 | 9:30 AM - NOON

GFO LIBRARY

KATE EAKMAN

Kate Eakman holds an M.A. in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to her career as a professional genealogist, Kate spent 20 years as a college history professor. Today she is a Senior Researcher for Legacy Tree Genealogists. She has taught a variety of classes on genealogical topics and has been invited to make numerous presentations around the country. Kate's article "Writing the Professional Research Report: Style and Format" was awarded the APGQ Excellence Award for 2016. She currently serves as the co-editor of the GFO *Bulletin*.



AFRICAN-AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MILITARY AND PENSION FILES

About 185,000 African-American men, both slaves and free, served in the U.S. Colored Troops during the Civil War. Their military and pension files can provide important information for their descendants today, describing their military service, identifying their family members and possibly their former owners, and tracing their lives for forty years or more after the Civil War.

FREEDMEN'S BUREAU & OTHER RECONSTRUCTION ERA RECORDS

After the Civil War's end, the Freedmen's Bureau was created to provide assistance to former slaves and impoverished whites in the South. These and other records of 1865-1872 include local censuses, marriage records, medical records, bank account records, and voting registers, providing the names of spouses, children, siblings, parents, and former slave owners, as well as places of birth and locations where an individual lived between birth and freedom.

2505 SE 11TH AVENUE, B-18
PORTLAND, OREGON 97202
503-963-1932 | www.GFO.org



Photo: Library of Congress
Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.

Register and pay online at www.GFO.org. Or complete the form below and mail it in along with your check or PayPal confirmation number to **GFO, 2505 SE 11th Ave. B-18, Portland, OR 97202.**

Name _____ Member No. _____
 Email _____ Telephone No. _____
 Check/Cash Enclosed PayPal Confirmation No. _____

HALF-DAY WORKSHOP with Kate Eakman 9:30 to noon - Feb. 25 - GFO Library	EARLY REGISTRATION By Feb. 12, 2018		REGISTRATION After Feb. 12, 2018		AMOUNT
	Member Price	Non-Member Price	Member Price	Non-Member Price	
Military Service & Pension Freedmen's Bureau	\$20	\$25	\$25	\$30	
Add paper copy of Syllabus	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$3	
Questions? Contact education@gfo.org or 503-963-1932.					TOTAL



Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State proudly presents

"Reclaim The Records: Genealogy Fought the Law and Won" (How to Use State Freedom of Information Laws for Genealogy) presented by Brooke Schreier Ganz

DATE: Monday, January 8, 2018

LDS Factoria Building
4200 124th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98006

- Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for all to enjoy the extensive JGSWS Library's genealogical resources!
- Free Wi-Fi available. Come early and network with other attendees!
- Presentation starts promptly at 7:15 p.m.
- Free admission!



ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

Tired of being told by state and local archives and government agencies that your family's genealogical records are "unavailable" to the public or only available if you visit them onsite? We were too, so we figured out what to do about it. We're *Reclaim The Records*, a new activist group that filed a first-of-its-kind Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) legal petition in the Supreme Court of New York against the NYC Municipal Archives in order to access to twentieth century genealogical records...and won! We also secured the first-ever public release of the indices to hundreds of thousands of vital records from the New Jersey State Archives. And we're filing many more requests against city and state agencies, large and small. This presentation will tell the story behind these cases, walk through the legal basics of FOIL, and teach genealogists how to file their own FOIL requests for their own records.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Brooke Schreier Ganz is the founder of *Reclaim The Records*, a not-for-profit activist group that uses state Freedom of Information requests to return genealogical records to the public. As the former Vice President of Geshet Galicia, she designed and built their website, including its innovative "All Galicia Database". The underlying search engine codebase, named "LeafSeek," was released by Brooke as a free open source project, for which she won second place in the 2012 RootsTech Developer Challenge. She further refined it to build the bilingual "All Israel Database" for the Israel Genealogical Research Association (IGRA). She lives in California.

Please visit our website at <http://www.jgsws.org> to join or to donate to JGSWS to help support the incredible speakers and workshops we bring to you, to view library listings, download handouts, or for more information. JGSWS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization. Membership dues and donations are tax deductible.



The Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Volume 29, Number 5

January 2018

ANNUAL APPEAL · 2018

Dear Members and Friends

With a new year upon us, I am asking again for your continued support of GFO. As you know, we are a **100% volunteer-reliant organization**. No one at GFO is paid a dime. GFO's volunteers work hard every day to provide resources, education, and a welcoming environment. But volunteers are only part of the equation. GFO relies on donations for our continued existence.

In addition to keeping our fantastic library open seven days a week and providing full access to seven online database subscription services, GFO also offers a variety of educational opportunities to support our members and encourage others to join us, including:

- ◆ Seminars and workshops twice a year with nationally-known speakers,
- ◆ Thirteen diverse Special Interest Groups,
- ◆ Free First Mondays, and
- ◆ An annual open house featuring 40 classes, free to everyone.

Yet GFO is facing challenges. Did you know that next year our expenses are expected to increase by 11 percent?

- Member dues cover just 24% of our budget.
- GFO's rent increases \$1,200 each year.
- Online database subscriptions cost \$4,524 per year.

Over the past two years, GFO has benefited from two generous and unexpected bequests that have helped keep our budget out of the red.

Since bequests by their very nature are unpredictable, GFO must offset rising costs with donations.

Please help GFO meet its budget by contributing today to our Annual Appeal goal of \$19,900.

- ◆ Your \$75 donation could cover one speaker's fee for a GenTalk.
- ◆ Your \$100 donation could offset one month's rent increase.
- ◆ Your \$377 donation could provide one month of database subscription services.

TOGETHER WE CAN FRAME THE FUTURE OF GFO



Every contribution you make goes directly into your library, your subscriptions, and your educational resources. GFO belongs to the Oregon Cultural Trust and has attained a silver-star rating on GuideStar.

Please give now by sending or delivering your check to the GFO. Donate safely and securely via our website at www.gfo.org or by sending your donation via PayPal to payments@gfo.org (be sure to note "AA" in the comments).

Please give what you can to keep GFO going strong. Every contribution you can give counts!

GFO provides every person who walks through our library doors, or visits our new website, abundant opportunities to research, to learn, and to discover their own unique heritage. This reflects our shared values of hard work, integrity, and empowerment—values that would make our ancestors proud!

With deep gratitude I thank you,
Laurel Smith, President



The Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical

Forum of Oregon

www.gfo.org info@gfo.org

2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B18

Portland, OR 97202-1061

(Corner of 11th & Division)

503-963-1932

Free Gen Talk

Third Saturday of most months at
2pm with an interesting speaker.

Library Hours

Monday, Tuesday, and

Thursday.....9:30am-5pm

Wednesday9:30am-8pm

Friday and Saturday9:30am-3pm

Sunday.....12 noon-5pm

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Submissions to the Insider: Send comments, corrections, news, short success stories, and announcements to Jackie Olson, editor, at insider@gfo.org or leave messages at the GFO desk, 503-963-1932. Provide submissions by the 7th of the month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

The *Forum Insider* [ISSN 1051-5666 (print), ISSN 2377-469X (online)] is the newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon Inc., 2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B-18, Portland, OR 97202-1061. The Forum is a membership organization devoted to genealogical research, preservation, and education. The GFO publications promote the field of genealogy for the professional and the hobbyist. Dues are \$44 per year for individual memberships and \$66 for joint memberships. Membership includes subscriptions to the *Bulletin* (March, June, September, and December) and the *Forum Insider* (January, February, April, May, July, August, October, and November). Material from the *Forum Insider* may be reproduced provided credit is given to the publication, the author of the article, and the Genealogical Forum of Oregon. The *Forum Insider* staff includes Jackie Olson, Editor; Loretta Welsh, Publisher; and Jim Morrow, Assistant to the Publisher. Many thanks to everyone including our proofreaders, Susan LeBlanc, Laurel Smith, Ellie Dir, April Ober, and LauraDenise White.

EVENTS & CLASSES

Genealogy Society of Wash. Co.

All at: Hillsboro Main Library
2850 NE Brookwood Pkwy
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

Habits Genealogists Must Develop

Saturday, January 13, 2018

Genealogists love to find new records that belong to their family! Wouldn't it be worth a minute or more of planning for that trip to develop a plan—a research play—to organize your search, and make sure you look for every record possible? And when you return from the trip—arms full of records—enter the information into your tree and cite your sources. Speakers: Carol Surrency and Linda Meyer, members and officers of GWSO.

Getting From Then To Now. Locating People In The Last Century!

Saturday, February 10, 2018

Learn skills to help you find those missing people in the last century. How to reassemble their lives; figure out where they went and where their children are today. We'll touch on databases available on the Internet as well as other reference sources.

Speaker: Leslie Brinkley Lawson, a full-time professional genealogist, specializes in forensic genealogy (missing and unknown heirs, probate research).

GenTalk ~ Making the Most of Your DNA Holiday Gift

Saturday, January 20, 2 p.m.

Presenter: Lisa McCullough

Perhaps you are one of the many people who received a DNA test kit during the 2017 holidays. Now your results are in! What do you do with them? What do you want to find out? Or perhaps your results yielded a surprise. Or maybe you found your long lost cousin! Lisa will help you learn how to interpret your DNA test results and plan a course for your next steps in managing your DNA matches. She will also explain how they can be used to verify your genealogy. At the GFO Library – address at left.



GFO Annual Open House

March 3-11, 2018

Come join us at the GFO Library for nine days of workshops, classes, book sales, and more! Every event is FREE and OPEN to the public. Most of the classes are posted on our calendar now. At the GFO Library – address at left.

National Genealogical Society 2018 Family History Conference

2-5 May 2018

*Grand Rapids, Michigan
Paths to Your Past*

There are 175 lectures presented by many nationally-recognized speakers, more than 80 exhibitors, and networking with over 2,000 genealogists. Registration on now.

<http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>



WANTED: EDITOR FOR GFO INSIDER NEWSLETTER

I have loved my four years researching and collecting interesting bits to make a newsletter, and have learned so much in producing it. Now it's time to step down and spend more time with my (ancestral) family, among other pursuits. The May 2018 issue will be my last. July's issue will coincide with the beginning of a new GFO presidency – an auspicious time for a change.

The *Insider* is the GFO's newsletter for members and friends presenting topical news, local stories, events, short articles, tips and ideas, and more. It's published eight times a year on a rotating schedule with the GFO *Bulletin* (two months *Insider*, one month *Bulletin*). The editor collects material from many sources, edits or may write the pieces, and lays out the newsletter in the page-layout program of their choice. (The current newsletter is produced in Adobe InDesign, but other programs such as Microsoft Word have been used in the past.)

While the position has historically been a single one, there is no reason that the editor couldn't have a co-editor or even a team of researchers, writers, and layout expertise, similar to the *Bulletin's* crew. Sharing the work has many advantages: varying interests and insights, flexibility in production timing, and employing different skill sets. Attending board meetings provides ideas of events and topics that could be included. Board meetings are held the evening of the second Tuesday of each month.

There is an eagle-eyed crew of proofers on hand to spot the big and little mistakes; we couldn't have a

Continued next page



BOARD ELECTIONS ~ 2018 Nominating Committee Forming

Here's a chance to help shape the future of GFO. Preliminary to this spring's election, we are searching for a group to form a nominating committee. Because board members are excluded from serving on the committee, the group must come from the general membership. This is a short-term assignment that will yield names for the positions of President and Secretary. If you have questions about the scope of the committee please contact Laurel Smith at president@gfo.org. And next, we will be:

Looking for Candidates for GFO Board Openings

Our next election in May will offer a slate of President, Secretary, and one Director-at-Large position. The positions begin July 1, 2018 and run for two years. If you are interested, or know someone who is, or have questions on the duties, please contact Laurel Smith at president@gfo.org. The basic duties:

President – Are you a person who could do the following?

- Represent the GFO at our events and those held outside of our library.
- Collect the committee reports and prepare the agenda for the monthly Board meetings.
- Lead the monthly board meetings.
- Be a resource and support for the GFO's committees and activities and ensure they are functioning well.

Secretary – Can you do these tasks?

- Attend the monthly Board meetings.
- Record and distribute the minutes from the meetings.
- Maintain the GFO Minutes Book for the term of office.
- Handle occasional correspondence.

Director-at-Large – Could you be a representative for the general membership on the Board? The Director-at-Large position is nominated from the floor at the March General Membership meeting.

- Attend the monthly Board meetings.
- Make decisions for the good of the GFO members.



Oregon State Divorce Records Finished!

Hot off the press! The fourth and final volume of the Oregon State Divorces from 1925–1945 has been published. The volume is number four covering 1940–1945. There are 32,822 divorces; a few divorces were recorded by the counties outside of 1940–1945 timeframe. This volume is a PDF file deliverable in three methods for \$10.00 each; a CD, a USB drive, or as a PDF file sent by email.

All volumes of the Oregon State Divorces 1925–1945 and Oregon State Marriages 1925–1945 may be purchased at our library or on our website at <https://gfoorg.presencehost.net/support-us/shop/ourstore>.

Editor Wanted—continued

polished publication without them. The current editor will be available for questions in transition.

The format and design of the newsletter are open to your style. Content includes some static elements such as the title and masthead, and standard items that recur throughout the year – the rest is up to you, and that’s where your creativity will give the newsletter its unique look.

Because of the lead time to produce an issue, the new editor should be in place by mid-May when the first requests for July’s content are sent. If you’d like to “shadow” the job for an issue or two until then, you are welcome. Past issues can be viewed at <http://gfo.org/learn/our-publications/the-forum-insider.html>

I can’t say enough about this great group I stumbled into; they have made my stint as editor a pleasure. I’ve met so many members and picked up dozens of resources and information about genealogy in general.

Are you interested? Want more information? Please contact me at insider@gfo.org. Jackie Olson

Giving Tuesday

Thank You!!



55 people



230 hours



1,000s of labels

Wonderful volunteers



GFO Bulletin Indexing

We’re on the final push to finish indexing *Bulletin* articles. Cathy Lauer says what she REALLY needs right now are proofers. She’s got several years done but they can’t go online until volunteers are found to proof them. If you can help, contact Cathy at volunteer@gfo.org.

Express Yourself

If you can have almost any length of characters in a file title, why be cryptic? You can spell out the full name, type of record, place, year, comments, etc., all to give yourself a better handle on your recordkeeping. Here’s one example: Calvert_Thomas_2GG_Death_1887_NYC_Probable. Forty-seven characters with the suffix.

Windows and Mac systems limit a file’s full name to 255 characters, so you want to subtract out the remainder of the pathname (x/y/z/). But that still leaves plenty of room. Using underscores in the name works well because they visually disappear, giving the appearance of spaces. Characters not allowed in file name? ~ (tilde) # % & * [] { } \ : < > ? / + | “ “



Today's Favorite Website

Nanci Remington

There are a lot of websites that help with your genealogy research. I routinely use the big ones and have bookmarked many local ones that are pertinent to my research. However, there are a few that fill a particular niche and are often held together by one individual with a passion for sharing their passion.

Some examples of this are:

- *Cyndi's List* by Cyndi Howells – the mega-site of genealogy links – <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/>
- *The Ancestor Hunt* by Kenneth R Marks – my go-to place for hunting down online newspapers – <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html>
- *Old Fulton Postcards* by Tom Tryniski – a quirky site with even more newspapers – <http://www.fultonhistory.com/>
- *Enhanced News Archive* by Jose A. Munoz – a better way to look for archived Google Newspapers – <https://newspaperproject2012.wordpress.com/>. The list of US papers in the Google archives by geographic area is at <https://newspaperproject2012.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/table-of-states-2-sep-2017.pdf>
- *SortedbyName* by Tom Alciere – “A curated collection of links to genealogy details mentioned on other websites, or acquired by the webmaster.” – <https://sortedbyname.com/>
- *Reclaim the Records* – <https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/>

More about SortedbyName

The GFO recently got a message from Tom Alciere, the man behind the *SortedbyName* website. Tom, who lives in New Hampshire, contacted us because he had just received a file from Metro – yes, our Oregon Metro – that included the names of all the people buried in their 14 historic cemeteries. That list had 42,796 names included – and can you guess who indexed those records? GFO! Now, you can go to Metro's website and search by name to find if and where a person is

buried in one of the cemeteries. But the spreadsheet has additional information included in a notes field that could help with further research. Two examples from the surname Stewart:

If you search for James H. Stewart on the Metro site, you find that he died 1 January 1911 and is buried at Multnomah Park Pioneer Cemetery, Block H, Lot 3-6, Burial Space 5. However, the spreadsheet also shows an alternate name, John James. Same death date, same plot.



The search for an Infant Stewart gives 6 results on the Metro site. The spreadsheet gives the same results, plus the additional information that two of the infants were the twins of M. L. Stewart. Buried in the same plot at Lone Fir Cemetery. The death dates are a year apart. This discrepancy would have been easy to overlook with just the Metro results.

Why SortedbyName is today's favorite...

It's not the cemetery list, as great as that is for local researchers, it's because the site gave me the last name of my son's biological grandmother who lived in New York City – because the site has added millions of records including New York marriages and deaths.

Tom is quick to give credit to *Reclaim the Records* (more on this later) for making many of these New York records available. But Tom has sorted them by name so they are easy to find. Although some of the information on the site can be found in other places, including the marriage record I found so valuable, *SortedbyName* provided a link to the original image on Internet Archive (www.archive.org) that other websites did not include.

SortedbyName is easy to use. Just click on the first letter of the surname then drill down to the name of interest. At this writing the names from the Metro spreadsheet had not been added. However, you can download the entire spreadsheet by clicking on the download link at the bottom of the homepage. You will see that there are also files for a few cemeteries in Australia, British Columbia, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Wyoming.

Continued next page



Favorite Website—continued

Reclaim the Records

According to their website:

Reclaim The Records is a not-for-profit activist group that uses state Freedom of Information laws to obtain copies of genealogical and archival data sets from government agencies, state libraries, and municipal archives. We then make the data available to the public for free, without any copyrights, usage restrictions, or paywalls.

Since its organization in 2015, the group has focused on records in New York, New Jersey, and Illinois but is expanding to other states. It is also putting together guides to help others work toward making records available in their areas.

Here's a related article by Judy Russell: <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2015/09/30/we-dont-always-lose/>

A Close Call

How many times have we heard of the loss of old county records in a fire? A thing of the past? Well, this fall's wildfires in Northern California came close to erasing a large archive of Sonoma County genealogical and historical materials in Santa Rosa. A combination of a fast-moving threat and lack of contingency plans for removal of masses of records, some dating back to the 1850s, nearly succeeded: the fire came within a quarter-mile of the building. Here's a link to Christi Wheeler's account in the *Argus Courier* that highlights the value of disaster plans covering all types of events: <http://www.petaluma360.com/news/7670361-181/as-fires-spread-no-one?artslide=0>

Photo Credits:

Pg 1. Barn raising in Lansing, Ontario, Alexander W1 GalBraith, 1900–15.

Pg 2. Abandoned Chernobyl village, Clay Gilliland, 2013

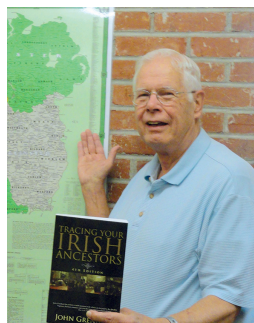
Pg 3. Dechambeau Hotel and I.O.O.F. hall, Bodie ghost town, California, King of Hearts, 2016

Pg 5. Abandoned iron mill, near Hedby, Sweden, Jackie Olson, 2016

Kolmannskop (Namibia) ghost town, old mining site, Katie Hunt, 2004

GFO Stars

Tom O'Brien



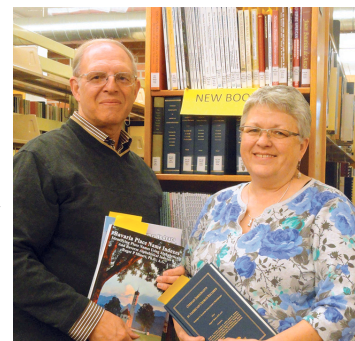
“Tom was a life saver at the fall seminar. He shared his layout map/seating chart to accommodate the record number of attendees. This meant that chairs

could be set up correctly once rather than repositioning several times; he served as the AV point man; and he offered to help at the book sales table too. A former Research Assistant, Tom now serves as a co-leader of the Genealogy Problem Solving SIG. He assisted all SIG leaders recently by sending tips for using the RootsWeb mailing list to publicize their meetings. Tom was also instrumental in helping OSP to reunite the urn of David A. Leski (found at a rest stop on I-5) with family in Illinois.

We all thank you Tom!”

German SIG

“The German SIG co-leaders Mike Rodriquez and Tia Cobb implemented a German Book Fund Drive in August 2017 to purchase a series of German books for the GFO Library. Their original goal was \$1,100. Members of the German SIG and other GFO members quickly stepped up to the plate, donating cash and several of the desired books. The three series were:



- *German Immigrants in American Church Records*: purchased 10 volumes, 4 volumes donated, and there is money to purchase additional volumes that are being published;
- *Alphabetical and Reverse German Place Names*: Library already had 2 volumes, 14 volumes purchased, 4 volumes donated;
- *Map Guides to Swiss Parish Records*: Intended to buy 5 volumes, but an additional 20 were donated by Judith Leppert, thus completing the set.

Their book drive goal was exceeded in only one and a half months! Excess funds have been set aside to purchase additional books in the series when published.”

Thank you, Mike and Tia!



Retiring Volunteer

We want to thank Sarah Holmes for her extensive volunteer efforts. She has resigned as a GFO volunteer after serving as the cataloging chair for several years and the leader of the Photoshop Elements special interest group. The OPALS system has been greatly improved by her work in cataloging, labeling books, supervising and training volunteers to assist with those tasks. We wish her the best in her future activities and hope to see her at the GFO doing some of her own genealogical research.



ling books, supervising and training volunteers to assist with those tasks. We wish her the best in her future activities and hope to see her at the GFO doing some of her own genealogical research.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report for the period ending November 30, 2017. *Richard Crockett*

November income	\$3,915.98
Annual Appeal donations	350.00
Dedicated donations (German SIG)	100.00
General Fund donations	576.19
Dividends	51.57
Memberships	1,846.00
Library income	149.20
Research	68.00
Amazon Smile commissions	36.89
Fred Meyer Commissions	144.93
Surplus books sales	593.20
<hr/>	
Expenses	\$9,813.70
Administration expenses	676.96
Facilities	4,193.04
Dedicated donations	
Swiss Parish Registers	35.21
German SIG books	193.44
Library expenses	3782.19
Two USB-to-Ethernet adapters	39.98
Spring Seminar space rental	100.00
<i>Insider</i> mailing	17.02
Copier lease	549.00
<i>Bulletin</i> mailing	83.96
Book sales expenses	142.90
Net loss for the month	\$5,897.72
Year to date net loss	\$2,719.44
Checking account balance (11/30)	\$31,110.70

Irish DNA Atlas

A recent study by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the Genealogical Society of Ireland has identified the population structure in Ireland, mapping the geographically stratified distributions and origins of 10 separate groups: 'Gaelic' Irish ancestry (7) and shared Irish-British ancestry (3). Other ancestral connections include northwest French and west-Norwegian.

The Irish Times describes the results and some intriguing potential uses for the data. The study's article, "The Irish DNA Atlas: Revealing Fine-Scale Population Structure and History within Ireland," published in *Nature*, describes the study and results.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/abroad/new-irish-dna-atlas-maps-genes-of-the-people-of-ireland-1.3331369>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-17124-4>



A Priceless Library

Liz Porter

I want to share with folks my experience and to let them know the value of our wonderful library collection. While January's snowy weather kept me inside, I worked on a brick wall in my family history. My Internet surfing repeatedly found references to a particular book that appeared to be well-sourced. I decided I needed to get my hands on a copy. In what I thought would be a long shot, I went to the GFO's online library catalog (OPALS) and discovered a copy of this exact book. I was so excited that as soon as the weather permitted, I headed to the GFO.

For the next few hours I was able to trace the Loomis family history to 1690 when they first came to the U.S. from Essex, England. This volume provided the family history in England as an introduction, then documented the different descendent lines. This was followed by addendums of "other Loomis family members with other last names," indexes for Loomis families in other areas, and finally even "Loomis families lost." This third section is where I could connect with the family history I had done from the family Bible, land records, and vital records, all of which had occurred here in Oregon.

Off to break through another brick wall. . .



Special Interest Group Meetings

Virginia SIG Meetings

Saturday, January 6, 2018

Research Plans

To begin the new year we will work to develop a finely tuned research plan. How often do we start researching without a specific goal in mind and surface hours later after going down the rabbit hole with random bits of info that don't necessarily serve to further our goals? With a well thought out research plan to follow you will be more likely to find sources, evidence, and documents that will help to break down those brick walls. Come prepared with specific questions you need to be answered and a review of what you already know. We will work together to come up with a plan to reach our goals.

Saturday, February 3, 2018

Pennsylvania Research

Saturday, March 3, 2018

Military Pension: Revolutionary war-Civil War

Saturday, April 6, 2018

Exploring the Draper Manuscripts

Website Design Changes Coming

The GFO website will undergo a design change due to the site designer's retirement of our page style. The new style will resemble the current one, and all your favorite resources will still be in place. Look for the change in January – date to be determined.

Tax Deduction

The GFO membership fees are 100% tax deductible in keeping with our 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. (Federal Tax ID #93-6026215) If you make a matching donation to the Oregon Cultural Trust, you may also be eligible for an Oregon tax credit. The OCT has the listing as "GFO."

<http://www.culturaltrust.org>

Coming in to GFO?

Weather and Holiday Closures at the Library

In case of snow, ice, or other inclement weather, be sure to check the website or Facebook, and call the GFO (503-963-1932) and speak to someone before heading in to make sure the library is open and is staying open.



Special Interest Groups <http://gfo.org/learn/special-interest-groups>

Scheduled dates may change. Always check the GFO Calendar for meeting date and time.

African-American

4th Saturdays, 12:30–2:30 p.m.;
Julie Ramos
ameliawest11@gmail.com

British

4th Saturdays in Jan., Mar., May,
Sept., 1–3 p.m.; Duane Funk
duanefunk@comcast.net

DNA – Beginners

3rd or 4th Saturday in Feb., May,
Aug., & Nov., 9 a.m.–noon; Emily
Aulicino, aulicino@hevanet.com

DNA – Advanced

4th Saturday in Jan., Apr., July, and
Oct., 9 a.m.–noon; Emily Aulicino
aulicino@hevanet.com

DNA – Q & A

1st and 3rd Wednesdays monthly,
1–3 p.m.; Lisa McCullough

Family Tree Maker

Quarterly, please check calendar for
times, 1–3 p.m.; Laurel Smith
bearpair@comcast.net

Genealogy Problem Solvers

3rd Saturdays monthly, 9:30–11:30
a.m.; Katy Daly GPS@gfo.org

German

1st Saturdays monthly, 1–3 p.m.; Mike
Fernandez cheeseandwine62@gmail.com
and Tia Cobb

Illinois and Its Neighbors

2nd Saturdays monthly (except Jul./
Aug./Dec.), 9:30–11:30 a.m.; Kristy
Gravlin hannah@teleport.com,
Harlene Patterson

Italian

Quarterly, please check calendar for
times; Keith Pyeatt
k_pyeatt@yahoo.com

Learn & Chat

1st and 3rd Wednesdays monthly,
10 a.m.–12 p.m.; Jeanne Quan
jeannequan3@gmail.com

Mexican Ancestry

2nd Fridays monthly, 11:30 a.m.–
1:30 p.m.; Vincent Ramirez
sw@gfo.org

Virginia

1st Saturdays monthly, Sep.–Jun.,
10 a.m.–noon; Judi Scott judiscot@gmail.com
and Carol Surrency
lcsurr@gmail.com

Writers' Forum

2nd Saturdays monthly, Sep.–May.,
1–3 p.m.; Peggy Baldwin
peggy@familypassages.com

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January 2018

GFO Calendar <http://gfo.org/calendar.htm>

Library Work Parties ~ every month, all welcome

Sundays 9 a–12 p: Map project on 2nd Sunday, other projects on remaining Sundays

~~~~~ **January** ~~~~~

**Mon 1/1** **Library Closed**  
 Wed 1/3 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Learn & Chat  
 1–3 p.m. DNA Q&A  
 Sat 1/6 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Virginia Group  
 1–3 p.m. German Group  
 Sun 1/7 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Library Work Party—  
 Manuscripts  
**Mon 1/8** **Free to Non-members**  
 Tues 1/9 6:10–8:10 p.m. Board Meeting  
 Fri 1/12 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Mexican Ancestry Group  
 Sat 1/13 9:30–11:30 a.m. Illinois Group  
 1–3 p.m. Writers' Forum  
 Sun 1/14 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Library work party—Maps  
 Wed 1/17 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Learn & Chat  
 1–3 p.m. DNA Q&A  
 Sat 1/20 9:30–11:30 a.m. Genealogy Problem Solvers  
 12–2 p.m. Italian Interest Group  
 2–3 p.m. GenTalk  
 Sun 1/21 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Library work party  
 1–3 p.m. Family Tree Maker for Beginners  
 Sat 1/27 Library closes at 12:45 to research;  
 these classes will be held:  
 9 a.m.–12 p.m. DNA Advanced Group  
 12:30–2:30 p.m. African-American Ancestry  
 Group  
 1–3 p.m. British Group

~~~~~ **February** ~~~~~

Sat 2/3 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Virginia Group
 1–3 p.m. German Group
 Sun 2/4 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Library Work Party - Manuscripts
Mon 2/5 **Free to Non-members**
 Wed 2/7 Open until 8 p.m.
 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Learn & Chat
 1–3 p.m. DNA Q&A
 Fri 2/9 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Mexican Ancestry Group
 Sat 2/10 9:30–11:30 a.m. Illinois Group
 1–3 p.m. Writers' Forum
 Sun 2/11 9–11 a.m. Library work party - Maps
 Tue 2/13 6:10–8:10 p.m. Board Meeting
 Wed 2/14 Open until 8 p.m.
 Sat 2/17 9:30–11:30 a.m. Genealogy Problem Solvers - A
 Monthly Support Group
 12–2 p.m. Italian Interest Group
 2–4 p.m. GenTalk
 Sun 2/18 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Library work party
 Wed 2/21 Open until 8 p.m.
 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Learn & Chat
 1–3 p.m. DNA Q&A
 Sat 2/24 9 a.m.–12 p.m. DNA Beginners
 12:30–2:30 p.m. African-American Ancestry Group
 Sun 2/25 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Workshop - African-Americans in
 the Civil War Era
 Wed 2/28 Open until 8 p