

Meeting My Smalley Cousins

Bonnie LaDoe

My son and I had just settled in under the big shade trees at Ahlberg Park to enjoy the second annual Grays River Covered Bridge Festival in Grays River, Washington. It was 1991, and although this was the land of my ancestors, I didn't know of any cousins remaining in the area. For that reason, I had earlier been asking people if they knew of anyone named Smalley. One older gentleman said he did, and if he saw them again that day, he would send them over.

As I took my first bite of the delicious fire-grilled hamburger, I noticed two very large gentlemen who seemed to be bee-lining straight for me. Were they festival police? Had I parked in the wrong spot?

They came right up to our table and one man firmly asked "You looking for a Smalley?"

"Yes", I managed to squeak.

"Well, I'm Arnie Smalley, and this is my brother, Wally. Why are you looking for us?"

Believe me, they knew we were not local. Grays River is a very small, close community and wary of strangers asking questions. Fortunately, I had brought my scrapbook of old family photos, and after explaining that I was quite sure I was a second or third



Fiftieth wedding anniversary of James and Martha Smalley in 1900. Back row, left to right: Florence (Smalley) Hansen, Frank Smalley, Edna (Smalley) Upton, and Alice (Smalley) Parcher. Front row, left to right: Edgar Smalley, mother Martha, Myrtle (Smalley) Flink, father James, and Sarah (Smalley) Larson.

cousin, I opened the scrapbook. Immediately, their demeanor changed.

"Oh," said Arnie. "I have that photo too," when looking at the 50th wedding anniversary photo of our mutual great grandparents taken in 1900.

From that moment on, we were family. Arnie directed me to the Grange booth where his sister, Barbara, was working. So now I had met three Smalley cousins in one day!

Arnie said his Aunt Ruth hired someone to have the Smalley

family tree completed and perhaps I should contact her. I knew that Ruth was the daughter of Frank Smalley who homesteaded in a local spot called Eden Valley. Frank was a brother to my great grandmother, Edna Smalley Upton. My grandfather, William Upton, was Edna's oldest son and only ten years younger than his uncle Frank.

My mom often stayed at "Uncle Frank's" as a child, and her photo albums show her with her cousins at Frank's, including Ruth, Ruth's older sister Edna (named

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Genealogical Forum of Oregon

2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B18
Portland, OR 97202-1061

Mission

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

Contact Us

503-963-1932
info@gfo.org

Visitor Information

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

Executive Board of Directors

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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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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. Dues are \$51 per year for individual memberships and \$77 for joint memberships. Membership includes digital 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 Geri Auerbach, AG®, and Keri Logan, Editors. Many thanks to our proofreaders April Ober, Tanya Goffman, and Harry Auerbach.



Smalley cousins, from page 1



1936 Smalley Family Reunion at Grays River, Washington



2023 Smalley Family Reunion at Rosburg, Washington

after my great grandmother), and their younger brother, Oris. There were older boys too, and Arnie, Wally, Barbara, (and another brother, Russell) were descended from one of them—Daniel. But my mom had indicated she did not know the older boys very well, which is most likely why I never knew of these newly found Smalley cousins.

Ruth Smalley Hartill lived in Hillsboro, and being an east Portland person, I usually got lost on the west side. So I asked my mom's cousin, who had lived in Beaverton for many years, to help me find Ruth's home. Ruth was open to our visit and showed me the Smalley family tree that she had paid a professional genealogist to complete. She insisted I take it home with me to make copies and mail back the original—which I did.

Perhaps a month later, I was attending the annual 25-year-club luncheon given by US Bank where I had worked since I was 17 years old. As I was enjoying my lunch, a lady came up behind me and asked: "Why didn't you tell me we're related?" I turned to see Loretta Sloan, a gal I had known for years from the auditing crew. Loretta explained that while visiting her Aunt Ruth, she noticed an envelope on Ruth's counter with my return address on it. Ruth then explained to Loretta that I was a cousin because my great grandmother, Edna, was Frank Smalley's sister. Loretta's mother, Ruth's older sister, was Edna Smalley Olson, named after my great grandmother.

From that day on, I went from being an only child to being embraced by this very large Smalley clan. It

could have all been solved much earlier if I had only listened to my mother. She told me about her cousin's daughter who worked at the bank: the daughter of Edna Olson named Loretta.

Of course at age 17, I was much too shy to reach out to a stranger. As it turned out, Loretta worked at the Tillamook branch and I was in Portland, so I probably would not have found her anyway.

Loretta soon introduced me to her siblings and made sure I was always invited to the Olson family reunions. Loretta, her sister ElmaRae, and I took a trip to Canada one year, and ElmaRae graciously invited me often to spend time at her Astoria home. And we began to have Smalley family reunions too at Rosburg, Washington, near the old homesteads.

That chance meeting at the Grays River picnic opened many doors for me. The Smalley reunion was last held in 2023. Loretta and ElmaRae have health issues that kept them from coming, but Barbara was there. Arnie, Wally, and Russ are gone now, but many younger descendants came to carry on the tradition of a Smalley reunion that started in 1936.

I feel the original homesteaders, James and Martha Smalley, would be proud to see how their clan has expanded and still honors them and their nine children. Frank was the only "child" to stay in the area and raise his family of nine. I am so glad he did, or I would have missed finding my Smalley cousins who have brought me so much joy these past 33 years.



Julie Kidd Leaves GFO a Major Legacy

At the end of June, we received a check for \$31,000 from the estate of Julie Ann Kidd. Julie was an extraordinarily active volunteer at GFO. She served as treasurer in 1992–1993 and editor of *The Bulletin* for approximately ten years, until 2005. She was instrumental in GFO's hosting of National Genealogical Society conferences in 1991 and 2001, and she instigated the memorable all-nighter research parties in the library. She was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2007.

This bequest comes on top of many dozens of boxes of books that her family brought to the library in 2018 and 2019, which significantly increased the size of our collection. Incredibly, more boxes continued to arrive, even into 2023. We have lost count! GFO is the fortunate beneficiary of her lifelong habit of collecting books on genealogy.

Always cognizant of GFO's financial sustainability, Julie was one of the very first donors to the Endow-

ment Fund when it was established and a champion of expanding it.

Given her decades of dedication, we probably should not be surprised to find that she allocated a percentage of her estate to GFO in her will. The GFO is so grateful to Julie for all she has done for us over the years, and for her most recent and generous gift.

If you would like to leave a legacy with GFO as Julie did, there are many ways to do so. If your family is secure and their needs met, please consider making the GFO a beneficiary in your will. We can also help with arranging a Charitable Gift Annuity or designating the GFO as a partial beneficiary of a brokerage or retirement account. Please reach out to us at give@gfo.org.

Finally, don't forget about GFO as a place to leave your family history, your research, or book collection. GFO is one of the few organizations that will accept unpublished manuscripts of genealogical relevance.

FREE REGISTRATION - [GFO.ORG/GENTALK](https://gfo.org/gentalk)

GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON GENTALK

FRIEDRICH EILER

Building an Identity from Scant Clues

 Aug. 17, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. PT

Jill Morelli, CG, CGL





Research Assistants Offer Area Expertise

GFO Library Volunteers Can Help with Your Research Problems

Are you stuck in your research? Do you need assistance with a difficult genealogical challenge? Has your research taken you to an unfamiliar area? Perhaps a willing GFO research assistant (RA) could help.

Several of the GFO Library RAs have agreed to publicly list locations in which they have considerable expertise and are comfortable with providing help to patrons.

Their names and research areas are listed in the information box. If any of these volunteers match your needs, please fill out the **contact** form. Your request will be forwarded to the appropriate RA.



BONNIE RANDOLPH

- Oregon
- St. Louis, Missouri
- Texas
- Western Tennessee
- Knox County, Indiana
- Green Bay, Wisconsin
- Alsace
- Rhineland
- Marienwerder

DOUG HENNE

- Northwest (Oregon, Washington, Idaho)
- Midwest (Iowa, Illinois)
- Germans from Russia
- Early U.S. immigrants (Pilgrims, New York Dutch, New Sweden)

APRIL OBER

- Oregon

ELAINE MEIS

- Ontario Province in Canada
- Dakota Territory
- Manitoba
- Norway
- Sweden
- Pennsylvania
- Iowa
- Washington

GEOFF SMITH

- New England

CLEARANCE SALE !!!

THROUGHOUT AUGUST

>>> GFO <<<

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Connect GFO to Your Community Rewards

It's time for summer barbecues, camping trips, and back-to-school shopping. You can help us at the GFO while you shop for supplies at Fred Meyer.

All you have to do is create a digital account at the **Fred Meyer Community Rewards** page, and select the Genealogical Forum of Oregon as the organization you'd like to help.

Once you link your Rewards Card to the GFO, Fred Meyer makes a donation to us based on your purchases. Everything is automatic after you register your card. Best of all, it does not affect the prices you pay.

Linking your Fred Meyer Rewards card helps us to provide genealogy resources to northern Oregon and southwest Washington.



Image by Xuan Duong from Pixabay

Community Rewards is easy to use. The more you shop, the more money the GFO earns!

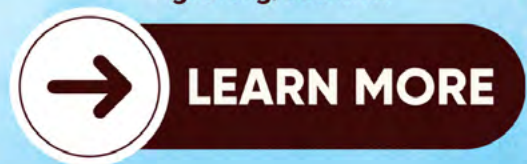
A Feast of DNA Topics with Paul Woodbury

4 Sessions • Intermediate & Advanced
Bonus: DNA for Beginners Friday evening
Sat. Nov. 2, 2024 9 a.m - 4 p.m. PT

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



gfo.org/seminar





Fritz Jeungling to Speak at Clark County Seminar

Clark County Genealogical Society will host its Fall seminar, *Behind Every Historical Event, There is Genealogy*, on September 3, 2024. This in-person event will feature **Fritz Jeungling**, PhD, AG®, AGL®, presenting the following sessions:



- Witches, Horse Thieves, Soldiers, and Regicides: Who Were Your Ancestors?
- Historical Events: How They Affect Your

Genealogy Research

Between sessions, enjoy genealogy trivia games during a catered lunch. Prizes will be awarded for the high team score, most original team name, and best team mascot.

The seminar runs from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Water Resources Center in Vancouver, Washington. Cost is \$55 for members and \$70 for nonmembers. The deadline to choose your catered lunch is August 29, 2024.

The seminar registration form is available at the Clark County Genealogical Society **Classes** page or at the GFO Research Library.

FamilyTreeDNA and MyHeritage to Merge Family Trees

FamilyTreeDNA announced on their **blog** on July 17 that they would discontinue their family tree-building functionality on September 9, 2024. As a replacement, they have expanded their partnership with MyHeritage to link your FamilyTreeDNA account with a MyHeritage tree. Users can transfer their

FamilyTreeDNA tree to MyHeritage, connect to an established MyHeritage tree, or create a new tree.

To learn more about transferring or connecting your tree, see the post "**Same Family, New Tree: MyHeritage Brings Its Family Tree Tools to FamilyTreeDNA.**"

Genealogical Forum of Oregon GenTalk

19th Century Women Settlers Confront the Far West

Sep. 21, 2024 • 2:30 pm PT

Free Registration: gfo.org/gentalk

featuring 
Dr. Janice Lovelace



August Events

Saturday, August 3

German Group

1–3 p.m.

Register

Sunday, August 4

Library open

1–5 p.m.

Monday, August 5

Free Monday at GFO Library

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

No research fees will be charged to non-members.

RootsMagic

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Register

Tuesday, August 6

Library open

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Wednesday, August 7

Library open

1–5 p.m.

Thursday, August 8

The Q Review

6–7 p.m.

Register

Sunday, August 11

Library open

1–5 p.m.

Monday, August 12

Library open

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Tuesday, August 13

Library open

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Board Meeting

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.

6:30–8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 14

Library open

1–5 p.m.

Great Lakes Interest Group

1:30–3:30 p.m.

Register

Saturday, August 17

African American Ancestry

12–2 p.m.

Register

GenTalk—Friedrich Eiler:

Building an Identity from

Scant Clues

2:30–3:30 p.m.

Register

Sunday, August 18

Library open

1–5 p.m.

Monday, August 19

Library open

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Tuesday, August 20

Library open

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Wednesday, August 21

Library open

1–5 p.m.

Irish Group

6–7:30 p.m.

Register

Sunday, August 25

GFO Work Party

9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Please join us in the GFO Library to work on some easy tasks. It's a chance to visit with others while helping get projects done.

Library open

1–5 p.m.

Monday, August 26

Library open

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Tuesday, August 27

Library open

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Wednesday, August 28

Library open

1–5 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION
FIRST MONDAYS
 Free Entry to GFO Research Library for Nonmembers*

*Members are always free.





GFO Star

July

Doris Cruickshank

The GFO Board is pleased to honor Doris Cruickshank for her unflagging assistance to GFO members through our lookup service. One member stated that Doris “has helped me obtain articles from Newspapers.com, a GFO member benefit, since I began using the lookup service in 2023. Sometimes, for whatever reason, emails from the GFO don't always get to me, but Doris has gone above and beyond to make sure I've received the information I've asked for. Not only this, but her turnaround time is so fast! I appreciate her and the member benefit of being able to continue my genealogical research through the lookup service. I believe she



is a GFO Star for service above and beyond, benefiting the GFO and its membership.” We couldn't agree more. Doris has helped members since the GFO began the lookup service during the pandemic. Thank you, Doris.

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.



Registration for Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Interest Groups.

All times are Pacific Time.

AUGUST 8, 2024
6–7:30 p.m.
Genealogy Newbies

AUGUST 9, 2024
1:30–3 p.m.
Irish

AUGUST 12, 2024
2–3 p.m.
Colonial America

AUGUST 13, 2024
11 a.m.–12 p.m.
German

1:30–3 p.m.
Family Tree Maker

AUGUST 14, 2024
10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Genetic Genealogy

1:30–3 p.m.
Great Lakes

AUGUST 21, 2024
1:30–3 p.m.
Let's Talk Genealogy



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

FRENCH CANADA GROUP

Seeking leader
president@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



Get Help at PMUG Clinic

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

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

info@pmug.org

