



# THE Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon  
Volume 33 • Number 7 • April 2021

## Please Vote in Online GFO Board Elections

The GFO is fortunate to have a dedicated core of volunteers to accomplish everything. Our Board members double as Department Chairs who are in charge of running vital operations.

In this year's election, we have one candidate for each open position: Susie Chodorow (current Grants Chair) for Vice President, Richard Crockett (current depositor and former treasurer) for Treasurer, Ana Tangum for Director at Large (currently appointed to that position), and Erin Randall (current Treasurer) for the Endowment Committee.

In addition, the board is asking you to approve some changes to the Bylaws. The main changes are

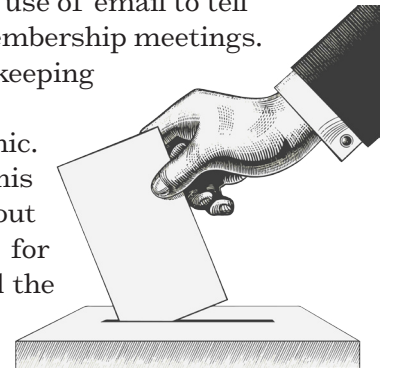
- » Allow the Board to take action by email and a majority vote; unanimity no longer required.
- » Allow three months to fill a board vacancy instead of just one.

- » Explicitly allow the use of email to tell members about membership meetings.
- » Some minor housekeeping updates.

The ballot is electronic. Please see [page 8](#) of this newsletter to learn about your candidates and for links to the Bylaws and the ballot.

Your vote is important. All active GFO members get one vote. Joint members should submit two votes online.

Voting closes at 5 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2021. If you must vote by paper, please ensure it reaches us by that deadline.



### VOICES OF OUR PATRONS: 75 YEARS SHARING FAMILY HISTORY

## Members Are Highlight of the Forum

*April Ober*

Memories of GFO bring the members to mind. I met Pat Burling in the '80s when we were both working at *The Oregonian*. We talked about going to family reunions and our Oregon pioneers. She's a life member of GFO and encouraged me to join. That turned out to be a great idea. I joined when GFO was in the Neighbors of Woodcraft building, then moved to SW 5th Avenue, over the river to Gideon

Street, and now at the Ford Building.

I've met more people as I got more involved. Genealogy people are the most helpful people and the best storytellers. We share information about our roots just like the gardeners I know who share their plants.

When I was working full-time, I helped with registration at GFO's annual spring and fall seminars, meeting people as they came in

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 4](#)



*April Ober's paternal great-great-grandparents came out on the Oregon Trail in 1852.*

## The Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon

[gfo.org](http://gfo.org)  [info@gfo.org](mailto:info@gfo.org)

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**Library Hours**

Closed for COVID-19

Many services online.

### Contents

Please Vote in Board Elections .....1  
 Members Are Highlight of Forum .....1  
 Insider Scavenger Hunt .....2  
 On My Bookshelf .....3  
 Members are Highlight, Continued ....4  
 On My Bookshelf, Continued .....4  
 GFO Virtual Open House .....4  
 In Praise of Indexing .....5  
 Special Interest Group Meetings .....6  
 Upcoming GFO Meetings .....6  
 GFO Genealogy Zoomboree ..... 7  
 GFO 2021 Candidate Statements .....8  
 Recycle and Give with Bottle Drop .....9  
 Nominations Requested for GFO  
 Hall of Fame .....9  
 Journalist Offers Insight .....9  
 Treasurer's Report .....10  
 May GenTalk: One-Step Webpages ..10  
 GFO Stars .....11  
 Author Speaks at Q Review .....11  
 Board of Directors .....11  
 Calendar ..... Back cover

Submissions to *The Forum Insider*: Please send comments, corrections, news, short success stories, and announcements to Geri Auerbach and Keri Logan, editors, at [insider@gfo.org](mailto:insider@gfo.org). Please provide submissions two months prior for inclusion in the next publication's issue.

# 127 Twenty Sixth: An Insider Scavenger Hunt

Try your hand at our 11-question online genealogical scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt is open to the public, and all answers can be found on free internet sites. If you are a member of GFO, access to *Ancestry* through the MemberSpace makes this quiz easier.

The answers to the questions must be entered correctly into our Google form to advance to the next question. Once you reach the end and submit your form, it becomes

an entry for a chance to win a free year membership to the GFO. Deadline for submission is by end of day April 10, 2021. The winner will be notified by email by April 11, 2021 and published, along with the scavenger hunt answers, in the *May Insider*.

Below are the questions. Note that the form cannot be saved mid-process so it might be helpful to find your answers before accessing the form.

### SCAVENGER HUNT QUESTIONS ACCESS FORM AT [bit.ly/3dT7Ed9](https://bit.ly/3dT7Ed9) DEADLINE: 10 April 2021



**Ernest Herman Wiegand was born 10 July 1886 in Illinois.**

1. In 1900, what year did Ernest's father state he immigrated from Germany?
2. What color did Ernest report his eyes were on 5 June 1917?
3. On the 1920 U.S. Federal Census, Ernest was enumerated in Oregon. What is the current name of the establishment where he reported employment?
4. Ernest won the Nicolas Appert Award for the development of a method for what fruit product, of which Oregon is a major producer?
5. What date did Ernest die?
6. What is located on the NW corner of the intersection of 30th Street and Campus Way?

**Ancil Milam was born 22 October 1854 in Macon County, Missouri.**

7. Ancil was enumerated on the 1910 US Federal Census. According to this census, what is the likely relationship between Ava and Ada Milam?
8. On 26 May 1918, what newspaper published an article announcing Ava Milam's upcoming speaking engagement?
9. Ava applied for a passport in 1922. Where was she going to teach?
10. Who was Ava's husband (First and Last Name)?
11. According to *FindAGrave*, what field of study was Ava instrumental in developing in multiple countries?

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# ON MY BOOKSHELF

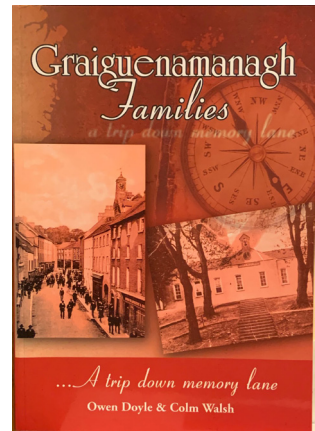
*This month's column is written by Joann Taylor. Taylor began her odyssey into genealogy 16 years ago. Originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, she has been a resident of Portland, Oregon since 1985 when a job brought her to the Portland area after completing a Ph.D. in Chemistry at RPI (Rensselaer County, NY). She obtained a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University. She is also the Editor of the GFO Thursday E-News.*

**B**ooks can mean so many things to different people. I have two that are very special to me, and they were written by the same duo. *Tinnahinch: A Village Within a Town, The Story of a Changing Village* (2003, Graiguenamanagh Historical Society, Barnaville Print & Graphics, Kilkenny, Ireland) and *Graiguenamanagh Families: A Trip Down Memory Lane* (2nd Revised ed., 2006, Graiguenamanagh Historical Society, Modern Printers: 056 7721739) were co-written by native sons: Owen Doyle and Colm Walsh. There are many reasons why these books are so special.

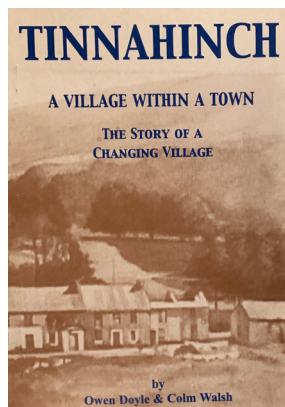
The first is rooted in my earliest genealogy work in Ireland after I had identified a townland of birth for my paternal grandfather, which had been unknown to my Dad. As an extremely green genealogist, I searched St. Mullins, Carlow, and found no trace of my family surname. I broadened the search and found a Malone across the Barrow

River in nearby Graiguenamanagh, Kilkenny. I wrote to him and sent photos including what little I had pieced together of my story. He was from far afield and not related to me at all, but in the great Irish tradition, he knew everyone in town, including the local historian, Owen Doyle. Upon reading my letter, Owen quickly facilitated getting my letter into the hands of a cousin who, indeed, still lived in St. Mullins. I quickly learned that I also had family roots that stretched to both Tinnahinch and Graiguenamanagh. Upon my first trip to visit Ireland, one of the first persons introduced to me was Owen Doyle. He gave me a big bear hug welcoming me "home" and gifted me with the above two books.

Lots of books have been written about the history of various places, but these books are different. So much of history for those of us with Irish roots are really very local stories, are often verbal, and too often, lost to time. Both of the books I have selected address these issues head on. The authors used the same approach for both volumes. The story of each town is narrated house by house and street by street by those that lived there at the time. The authors consulted a wide array of family albums and letters, newspaper accounts, and interviews, most importantly recording the verbal history of the



Cover photo courtesy of Joann Taylor.



Cover photo courtesy of Joann Taylor.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 4](#)

MEMBERS ARE FORUM'S HIGHLIGHT, FROM PAGE 1  
the door and then spending time during breaks and lunches.

I live near the airport and a bonus has been meeting our guest speakers and driving them to our seminars. A half-hour drive, alone with an expert. It turns out that we usually end up talking about Portland and its history.

GFO was the host for the 1991 and 2001 NGS conferences. I volunteered at both of them. Still a newbie at the first one, I asked for help, and members pointed me to the sessions with the best speakers or most helpful information.

Since retirement I've volunteered one day a week as

a research assistant and have met lots of people including many newbies. It's been gratifying to be able to help them as I had been helped. I've attended some of the special interest group meetings and met more people, plus learned a new vocabulary with DNA.

My thank you for memories goes to all the members whose paths have crossed with mine.

*Throughout 75th anniversary year of the GFO, The Forum Insider would like to feature your reflections on what the organization has meant to you, whether you are a long-time member or just discovered the GFO. Please send your stories, from a short paragraph to no longer than about one page, to [insider@gfo.org](mailto:insider@gfo.org).*

ON MY BOOKSHELF, FROM PAGE 3

older residents. Each book starts with an historical review and ends with a chapter of stories and poetry from its residents. The chapters in between are filled with street maps, narratives for each household, and family photos. Both books actually use 1939 as their starting points but move backward and forward in time to interweave the history and folklore that is an integral part of the stories of these places.

The aim of the book and the resulting content capture so many things that are truly intrinsic to genealogy. Not only do they capture a time and place in my own history but set an example for how we all as genealogists should strive to capture the time, stories, and spirit of the people and places we research.

.....  
*We'd love to feature the genealogy book(s) that you love. Please send us a brief description of the book(s) to [insider@gfo.org](mailto:insider@gfo.org).*



**MARCH 27-APRIL 3, 2021**

**GFO 1946-2021 75 YEARS**

**18 FREE CLASSES**

**Genealogical Forum of Oregon 75th Anniversary**  
**VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE**

Information and registration: [gfo.org/open house](http://gfo.org/open house)

# In Praise of Indexing: Tedious but Vital

Vince Patton, GFO President

If Mary Ann Taggart's descendants want to confirm details about her life, her death certificate will reveal she was born 23 May 1854 to an Irish father and a mother born in Massachusetts, and died in Portland on 30 November 1905. It includes her address, cause of death, and parents' names, among other things.

All those particulars are preserved in handwriting, rather than easily searched typed text. No digital scanners can fully decipher the scrawls that range from neatly printed to barely legible.

That's where indexers saved the day. GFO volunteers took the time to look at all 4,796 Oregon Death Certificates from 1903 to 1905 at the Oregon State Vital Records Department, and listed the names, locations, and dates of death in an index. Now all you have to do is use a computer to search that list on GFO's index, and find your kin.

Indexing may sound truly mundane, but there's no more important function to enable people to find their loved ones in the records of the past. It is also a learning experience for the indexer!

It's time to give those indexers credit for making our lives easier. Dedicated GFO volunteers have done this work for *decades*, sometimes for records the GFO itself holds and sometimes for state agencies or local cemeteries.

Consider the granddaddy of all index projects completed by the GFO. The 1910 Oregon Census Soundex Index took 13 years! Started in 1984 under the leadership of Judy Goldmann, a team of

Find the GFO index list at

[gfo.org/resources/indexes/all-indexes.html](http://gfo.org/resources/indexes/all-indexes.html)

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD  
 Variation should be carefully applied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in terms that it may be properly classified. The "Special Information" for persons dying away from home should include "instance."

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
SEX <b>FEMALE</b>	COLOR <b>WHITE</b>	DATE OF DEATH <b>NOV 30 1905</b> (Month) (Day) (Year)	
DATE OF BIRTH <b>MAY 23 1854</b> (Month) (Day) (Year)		I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <i>Nov 29 1905</i> 1905 that I last saw her alive on <i>Nov 29 1905</i> and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <i>140</i> P.M. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <i>Brain disease</i>	
AGE <b>51</b> years, <b>6</b> months, <b>7</b> days		Contributory <i>Bright Disease</i> (duration) <b>7</b> days	
SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED <b>MARRIED</b>		(Signed) <i>J. J. Guelon</i> M. D.	
BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <b>BOSTON MASS</b>		190 (Address)	
NAME OF FATHER <b>MI. COSTELLO</b>		SPECIAL INFORMATION only for Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents.	
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) <b>IRELAND</b>		Former or Usual Residence How long at Place of Death? Days	
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <b>MARY A COSTELLO</b>			
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) <b>MASS.</b>			
OCCUPATION <b>HOUSEWIFE</b>			

THE ABOVE STATED PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE TRUE TO

PLACE OF DEATH  
County of **MULTNOMAH**  
Township of \_\_\_\_\_  
Village of \_\_\_\_\_  
City of **PORTLAND** No. **129 NORTH 15TH** St.; Ward \_\_\_\_\_  
Registered No. **100**  
CENSUS OFFICE  
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH  
PORTLAND, OREGON  
N. D. FENTON

Multnomah County, Oregon, death certificate no. 100 (1905), "Mary Ann Taggart," 30 Nov 1905; image, Oregon Death Certificates 1903–1905 (<https://gfo.org/resources/indexes/vital-records/oregon-death-certificates-1903-1905.html>): accessed 24 February 2021).

volunteers indexed 672,000 names. It took until 1997 to finish, and a microfilm copy was sent to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

GFO volunteers tackled another significant project from 1997 to 2001 when they extracted names from microfilmed Oregon World War I draft registration cards to create an index.

Again, in 2002, GFO volunteers stepped up and helped the state of Oregon with a massive project. The Oregon Vital Records Office needed a typed index for their marriage licenses from 1925–1945. Under the leadership of Marie Diers, the project started in 2003 and finished seven years later in 2010.

After marriages, came the Di-

voices of 1925–1945. The GFO team finished extracting that data at the end of 2017.

We make our indexes of those hundreds of thousands of names available on our website. When we have scans of the records that pertain to those names, we're adding them to the MemberSpace, the member area of our website for immediate access. Non-members can order copies.

The work is not done. Loretta Welsh now leads our efforts to make records accessible to everyone. If you'd like to volunteer, you can do much of the work at home from digitized scans. Please contact [dataextraction@gfo.org](mailto:dataextraction@gfo.org) if you can continue this valuable service.

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

[gfo.org/learn/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](mailto:African_American@gfo.org)

### BRITISH GROUP

Fourth Saturdays in Jan, Mar,  
May, and Sep  
1–3 p.m.  
Led by Duane Funk  
[UK@gfo.org](mailto: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](mailto:DNA@gfo.org)

### DNA – Advanced

Fourth Saturdays in Jan, Apr, July,  
and Oct  
9 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Led by Tim Janzen  
[DNA@gfo.org](mailto:DNA@gfo.org)

### DNA Q & A – The Basics

First Wednesdays  
1–3 p.m.  
Led by Lisa McCullough  
[DNA\\_QA@gfo.org](mailto:DNA_QA@gfo.org)

### FAMILY TREE MAKER

Monthly, usually second or third  
Sunday. Be sure to check the GFO  
calendar.  
1–3 p.m.  
Led by Laurel Smith  
[FTM@gfo.org](mailto:FTM@gfo.org)

### FRENCH CANADA GROUP

Third Sundays  
3:30–5 p.m.  
Led by Carol LaBrie and Laura  
Mitchell  
[FrCan@gfo.org](mailto:FrCan@gfo.org)

### GENEALOGY PROBLEM SOLVERS

Third Saturdays, most months  
9:30–11:30 a.m.  
Led by Katie Daly  
[GPS@gfo.org](mailto:GPS@gfo.org)

### GERMAN GROUP

First Saturdays  
1–3 p.m.  
Led by Mike Fernandez and Tia Cobb  
[German@gfo.org](mailto:German@gfo.org)

### GREAT LAKES REGION

Second Saturdays  
(except Aug & Dec)  
9:30–11:30 a.m.  
Led by Fran Hart  
[GreatLakes@gfo.org](mailto: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](mailto:Irish@gfo.org)

### ITALIAN GROUP

Fourth Sundays in Feb, May, Aug,  
and Nov  
1 p.m.–3 p.m.  
Led by Stephanie Silenti  
[Italian@gfo.org](mailto:Italian@gfo.org)

### LEARN & CHAT

First and third Wednesdays  
10 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Led by Sandy Alto and Jeanne Quan  
[LearnandChat@gfo.org](mailto:LearnandChat@gfo.org)

### MEXICAN ANCESTRY

SEEKING LEADER  
[President@gfo.org](mailto:President@gfo.org)

### THE Q REVIEW

Second Thursdays  
6 p.m.–7 p.m.  
Led by Alexa Waddle  
[qreview@gfo.org](mailto:qreview@gfo.org)

### VIRGINIA GROUP

First Saturdays, Sept–June  
10 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Led by Judi Scott and Carol Surrency  
[Virginia@gfo.org](mailto:Virginia@gfo.org)

### WRITERS' FORUM

Second Saturdays, Sept–May  
1–3 p.m.  
Led by Peggy Baldwin  
[Writers@gfo.org](mailto:Writers@gfo.org)

## Upcoming GFO Meetings

### GFO OPEN HOUSE

The GFO Open House continues through April 3, 2021, with two free meetings each day. For more information and to register, visit [gfo.org/openhouse](https://gfo.org/openhouse).

### AFRICAN AMERICAN GROUP

Saturday, April 24, 2021  
12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

This month will feature a presentation by Judy Fambrough-Billingsley, the author of *Too Brown to Keep: A Search for Love, Forgiveness, and Healing*. She was abandoned by her parents after World War II to live in a kinderheim (orphanage) until adopted.

From an early age she knew she was an international biracial adoptee, daughter of a white German woman and a Black American soldier. Join us to hear her discussion of this memoir, which describes her quest to find both biological parents and to discover her roots.

Contact [african\\_american@gfo.org](mailto:african_american@gfo.org) for a link to the meeting.

### FAMILY TREE MAKER

Sunday, April 25, 2021  
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

This month, we'll continue with the People workspace (part 2). We'll explore the Tree view in detail including customizing your view, managing spouses and children, understanding navigation, and index: history, bookmarks, and filters.

Contact [ftm@gfo.org](mailto:ftm@gfo.org) for a link to the meeting.



APRIL 16-18, 2021

75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# Genealogy Zoomboree

3 Days  4 Speakers  8 Online Sessions

Sign up for 1, 2, 3, or all 4 sessions. Discounts for GFO Members.

## Rebecca Whitman Koford, CG, CGL

Executive Director, Board for Certification  
of Genealogists

- ▶ Courthouse Research & Indexes
- ▶ Land Records: Rich Sources  
for Your Research

## Linda Harms Okazaki

Charter Member, Nikkei Genealogical Society

- ▶ Introduction to Japanese American Research
- ▶ WWII Internment Camps: Japanese,  
Germans and Italians

## Sherri Camp, MLS

Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society,  
Past President

- ▶ African American Research Strategies
- ▶ Treasure Trove of Free Websites

## Michael Lacopo, DVM

Professional Genealogist

- ▶ Diseases and Epidemics of Our Ancestors
- ▶ Researching Invisible Ancestors



[gfo.org/zoomboree](https://gfo.org/zoomboree)

GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON



## GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON 2021 ELECTION

Members: Please vote online\* at  
[forms.gle/yorFdZ3h1FX39QG37](https://forms.gle/yorFdZ3h1FX39QG37)  
 by 5 p.m. Monday, May 3, 2021.

### *Candidate Statements for GFO Board Positions*

#### VICE PRESIDENT (two-year term)

##### **Susie Chodorow**

Several years ago, when my mother's DNA test proved a family story to be true, I turned to the GFO for help. I was welcomed into the African American SIG and will be forever grateful for the generosity of the coordinators and my fellow attendees. I'm also a member of the GFO DNA Beginner's Class and the Q Review. Recently, I took on the task of writing grants for the GFO. Prior to retirement, I worked for a state agency to strengthen and provide guidance to small nonprofit organizations in upstate New York. We provided technical assistance, such as help with strategic planning, fundraising, and board development. If elected Vice President, I hope to contribute those insights and skills and give back to the GFO and my fellow volunteers. The pandemic has shown the importance of the GFO, well beyond its physical space. The GFO's willingness and ability to embrace the Internet and provide outreach with its webinars and online SIG meetings, has provided a source of connection and comfort for many of us.

### *Amendments to Bylaws*

Amendments to the bylaws require a Yes or No vote. Changes are summarized below. For full text changes, see [gfo.org/election](https://gfo.org/election).

- » Allow the Board to take action by email and a majority vote; unanimity no longer required.
- » Allow three months to fill a board vacancy instead of just one.
- » Explicitly allow the use of email to notify members about membership meetings.
- » Some minor housekeeping updates.

#### TREASURER (two-year term)

##### **Richard Crockett**

I am happy to once again ask that the GFO membership allow me to become the Treasurer for the GFO. As my prior service demonstrated, I am a good steward of the assets of the GFO. I appreciate the changes that our current treasurer has made to our accounting system and will continue to use her methods. I would appreciate your vote of confidence allowing me to become the GFO's new Treasurer for the upcoming two-year term.

#### DIRECTOR AT LARGE (two-year term)

##### **Ana Tangum**

I have held numerous volunteer positions over the course of my two years at the GFO, and I would like to turn my interim appointment as Director at Large into a proper two-year term. Given my lifelong interest in genealogy, serving the GFO has been an educating and entertaining experience, and I look forward to continuing to contribute all that I can to our organization.

#### ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE (three-year term)

##### **Erin Randall**

After serving the past two years as your GFO Treasurer, I'm thrilled to run for a position with the Endowment Committee. I currently work in the Finance Organization for Intel as my day job, and I have more than 20 years experience in the finance and accounting industry. I'm also an active Oregon Certified Public Accountant. Genealogy has been a lifelong passion of mine, and I enjoy digging into the records to see stories of my ancestors unfold and how their lives intersect with historical events. I also assist a small genealogy group that is focused on preserving records in Barga, Italy, which is the town my ancestors emigrated from in the late 1800s. Thank you for your consideration in electing me to the Endowment Committee!

\*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, online voting is preferred. If you choose to mail your vote, please do so early to allow ample time for mail retrieval before the deadline on May 3, 2021. Include your name and your member number if known: Genealogical Forum of Oregon, 2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B-18, Portland, OR 97202-1061.



## Recycle and Support GFO with Bottle Drop Give

The GFO is pleased to now be a part of the Bottle Drop Give program. You can recycle your bottles and cans, give the proceeds to us, and skip bottle return lines at the same time!

There are two ways to participate:

Ask us for Blue Bags with our GFO barcode labels on them. Fill them with returnable bottles and cans. Drop up to

10 bags at a time at any Bottle Drop Return center. Don't stand in line. Look for the secure Bottle Drop door at the back or side of the building. Scan our label, which unlocks the hatch. Tie your bag tightly, and set



**Bottle Drop:**

[www.bottledropcenters.com/donate-nonprofits/](http://www.bottledropcenters.com/donate-nonprofits/)

it inside. Write to [bottledrop@gfo.org](mailto:bottledrop@gfo.org) to ask for Blue Bags.

Or set up your own Bottle Drop account online. Then search the participating nonprofits and choose the Genealogical Forum of Oregon to benefit from your bottle deposits. Go directly to the Customer Service desk at a Bottle Drop Center to buy Green Bags. Return them as mentioned above.

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

Bottle Drop Give is a great way to live sustainably and help sustain the GFO!

## Nominations Sought for GFO Hall of Fame Award

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 1, 2021.

## Journalist Ann Curry Offers Insight Gleaned from Past

Longtime Portlanders remember journalist Ann Curry from when she worked here at KGW-TV, before her career at NBC News. You've also seen her following her family tree on *Finding Your Roots* with Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.

As we celebrate the GFO's 75th anniversary, Ann graciously shares the following thoughts.

*Dear GFO members,*  
*The president of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon has asked me to write you this little note, as a way of encouraging you during the pandemic. We all are a bit besieged, aren't we?*



Ann Curry.  
Photo by David Shankbone, creative commons license, Wikimedia Commons.

*At least one of the delights of history is the clarity it can offer, teaching us for example, that even this crisis will end, just they have in the past and that people will rise again, as they have before.*

*Like you, I have wondered how my ancestors endured the great challenges of their times. This yearning to know something of our family histories is a way of knowing ourselves more fully, and indeed, all of humanity. As you find the buried treasures in your own story, I hope you will have as much fun as I have had.*

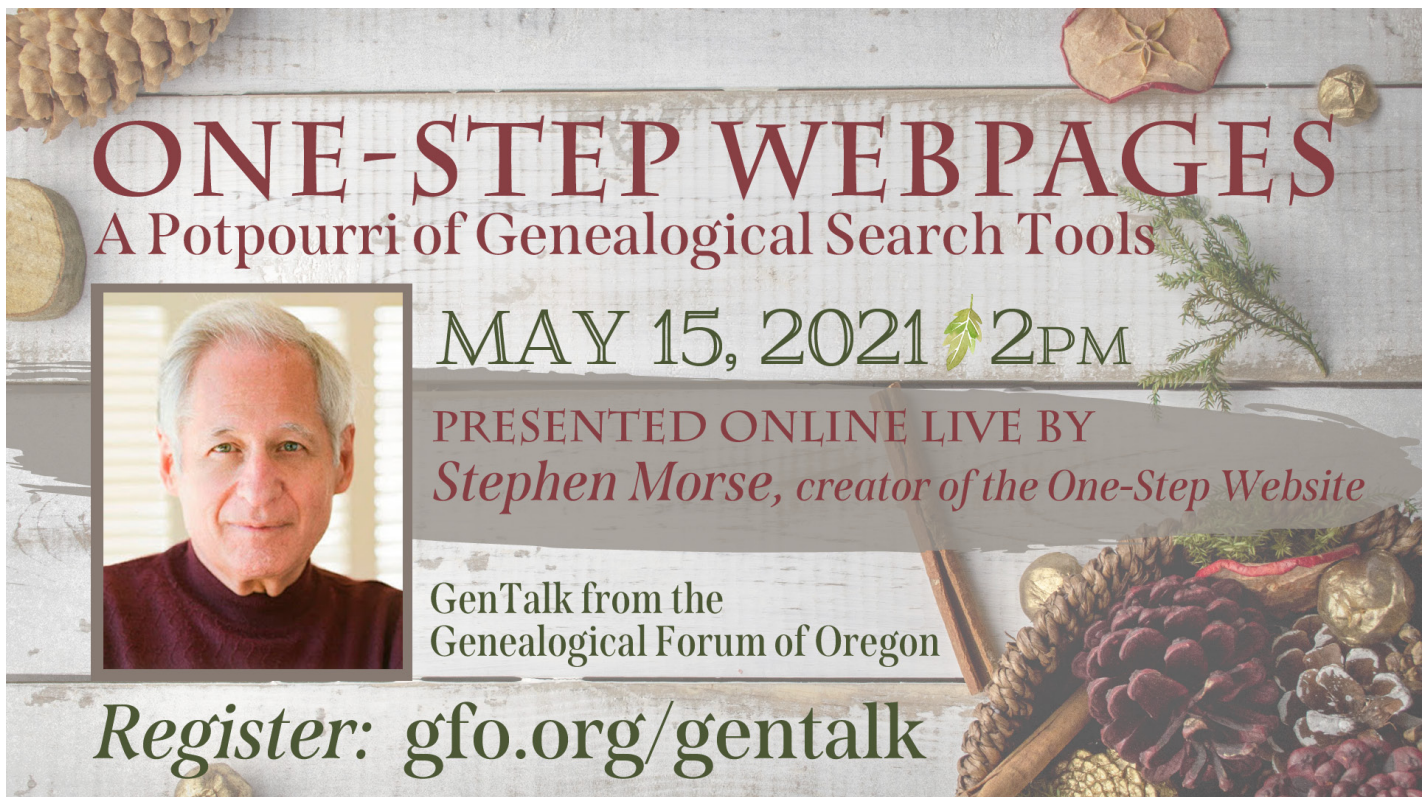
*I wish you the best in the days ahead, and encourage you to do what you can to leave your own "footprints in the sands of time," for the generations still to come, who may someday wonder about you, and how you endured the challenges we all now face.*

—Ann Curry, Journalist

# Treasurer's Report


TREASURER: ERIN RANDALL [TREASURER@GFO.ORG]

JANUARY 2021		FEBRUARY 2021	
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>INCOME</b>	
Donations	\$ 6,175.31	Donations	\$ 3,165.35
Memberships	\$ 3,391.00	Memberships	\$ 2,782.00
Seminars & Other Programs	\$ 320.00	Seminars & Other Programs	\$ 1,111.00
Library & Research	\$ 219.50	Library & Research	\$ 305.00
Book Sales & Misc. Income	\$ 440.14	Book Sales & Misc. Income	\$ 1,250.35
Interest & Dividends	\$ 248.46	Interest & Dividends	\$ 235.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,794.41</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,849.03</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration	\$ 1,625.80	Administration	\$ 1,124.31
Education Programs	\$ —	Education Programs	\$ 125.00
Facilities & Equipment	\$ 4,995.94	Facilities & Equipment	\$ 4,941.40
Library & Research	\$ 725.56	Library & Research	\$ 108.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,347.30</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,299.69</b>
<i>Net Income for the Month</i>	<i>\$ 3,447.11</i>	<i>Net Income for the Month</i>	<i>\$ 2,549.34</i>
<i>Year-to-Date Net Income</i>	<i>\$ 35,627.85</i>	<i>Year-to-Date Net Income</i>	<i>\$ 38,177.19</i>



## ONE-STEP WEBPAGES

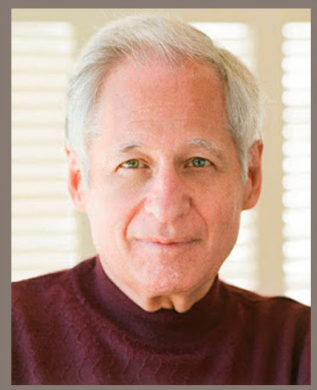
A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools

MAY 15, 2021  2PM

PRESENTED ONLINE LIVE BY  
*Stephen Morse, creator of the One-Step Website*

GenTalk from the  
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Register: [gfo.org/gentalk](http://gfo.org/gentalk)





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Contact us at  
[info@gfo.org](mailto:info@gfo.org)

# GFO Stars

## February Adele Pelletier

The GFO Board has named Adele Pelletier the GFO Star for February.

Adele has been our key Lookup Service volunteer during the pandemic. She goes into the library on her own to answer research questions for others.



A member wrote to us praising Adele. “She very patiently worked with a list of books I was interested in, by seeing if the names I was seeking were included in almost thirty books. In doing so I was able to purchase ten books that helped with my research project.”

GFO is an all-volunteer organization, and we’re so grateful to have support from people like Adele!

## March Maggie McNair

When asked, former webmaster Maggie McNair jumped in to help.

Without her assistance, we would not have been able to begin moving digital records to the GFO



MemberSpace as quickly. Her keen eye for page layout and her experience with the platform was invaluable—and she continues to post new content every week.

Maggie also prepared the December monthly report for the website and has volunteered to help the new webmaster.

Maggie is a joy!

## Author speaks at Q Review meeting

Alexa Waddle

At the February meeting of the Q Review Special Interest Group, author and professional genealogist Pam Anderson joined us to discuss her article “Indirectly Identifying Relatives of Michael Kerns of Blair County and Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania,” NGSQ 105 (June 2017), p. 85-91. She shared the original version that she had submitted to the editors so we had the unique opportunity to compare it to the edited article as it appeared in the *National Genea-*

*logical Society Quarterly*. She offered valuable insight into the researching, writing, and publishing process. It was a joy to have her at the meeting!

For the April 8 meeting, we’ll read, “Testing the FAN Principle Against DNA: Zilphy (Watts) Price Cooksey Cooksey of Georgia and Mississippi,” by Elizabeth Shown Mills (NGSQ vol. 102, Jun 2014, p. 129-152): [bit.ly/3kyXpvS](https://bit.ly/3kyXpvS). We welcome anyone interested our discussions.

## The Forum Insider

Genealogical Forum of Oregon  
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Portland, OR 97202-1061

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# GFO APRIL 2021 ONLINE EVENTS

The library is *closed* until safe to reopen. All events are online.

Check the calendar for the URL to participate in online events: [gfo.org/calendar](http://gfo.org/calendar)

## Thursday, April 1

10–11 a.m. Oregon Land Claim Records  
1–2:30 p.m. US Federal Census Records

## Friday, April 2

10–11 a.m. Freedmen's Bureau Records  
1–3 p.m. French Canada Ancestry

## Saturday, April 3

10 a.m.–12 p.m. Virginia Group  
1–3 p.m. German Group

## Monday, April 5

11 a.m.–12 p.m. Access GFO Resources

## Wednesday, April 7

10 a.m.–12 p.m. Learn & Chat  
1–3 p.m. DNA Q&A: The Basics

## Thursday, April 8

6–7 p.m. The Q Review

## Saturday, April 10

1–3 p.m. Writers' Forum

## Tuesday, April 13

6:30–8:30 p.m. Board Meeting

## Friday, April 16–Sunday, April 18

GENEALOGY ZOOMBOREE

## Sunday, April 18

3:30–5 p.m. French Canada Ancestry

## Tuesday, April 20

11 a.m.–12 p.m. Access GFO Resources

## Wednesday, April 21

10 a.m.–12 p.m. Learn & Chat  
6–8 p.m. Irish Group

## Saturday, April 24

9 a.m.–12 p.m. DNA Advanced  
12–2 p.m. African American Ancestry

## Sunday, April 25

1–3 p.m. Family Tree Maker Group