



THE Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon
Volume 34 • Number 2 • August 2022

GFO Digital Periodicals Fully Searchable *Collection Accessible at Home for Members and at our Research Library*

Nanci Remington

The digital offerings of the GFO library are growing and should not be overlooked as a research tool. This is especially true of the periodicals from local genealogical and historical societies.

An example is *Roots and Leaves*, the periodical of the Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society. One branch of my husband's family, the Westphalens, lived in Dodge County, Nebraska, in the late 1800s. Researching the surname on the **Periodical Source Index** (PERSI) led to five articles in

Roots and Leaves. A check of the GFO catalog showed the library had copies of the periodical, so those articles were easy to find.

But PERSI only indexes titles. *Roots and Leaves* may have other articles that contain the surname Westphalen that do not show up in its title index. Paging through 188 issues would be tedious at best. If only it was searchable. Now it is!

Roots and Leaves is one of the many digital offerings in GFO **MemberSpace**. How do I know? The **library catalog** tells me (Figure 1).

Continued on **page 3**

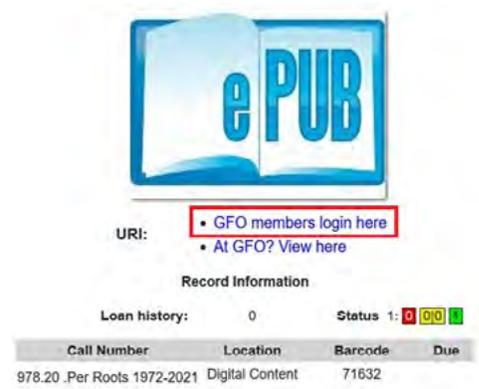


Figure 1. The ePub icon indicates a digital resource. Members accessing the resource from home can log in to view the image. From the library, use the VIEW HERE link.

Spotlight on Special Interest Groups

This month, our Special Interest Group (SIG) series focuses on two groups: the Genealogy Problem Solvers and the Italian interest group. All SIG meetings take place on Zoom and are open to the public at no cost.



Genealogy Problem Solvers

A dedicated foursome of GFO members, Katie Daly, Duane Funk, Joann Taylor, and Kristin Wingo, lead our Genealogy Problem Solvers (GPS) Special Interest Group. The GPS is a monthly support group where attendees can get help finding information about a family line. The group helps members learn to conduct reasonably exhaustive research and also

Continued on **page 4**



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.

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Submissions to The Forum Insider

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



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GFO Digital Periodicals Fully Searchable, from page 1

This particular periodical is found in groups of 10 volumes per PDF file. I searched the first file, volumes 1–10, for the name “Westphalen.” (Note that these are large files, so they may take a while to fully open). There were 28 results, most from local newspapers and record sets. Volumes 11–20 had 29 results; Volumes 21–30 had 25; Volumes 31–40 had 24; Volumes 41–47 had three. The results included feature news stories plus accounts of marriages, births, deaths, burials, and naturalizations.

The GFO has received copies of society newsletters, magazines, and journals from across the United States for decades.

Find Digitized Journals at GFO

To see if a periodical has been digitized, follow these steps:

1. Go to the **GFO library catalog** search page.
2. Under **LOCATION**, choose **DIGITAL CONTENT**. In **SEARCH TERMS**, type the name of a state (Figure 2).

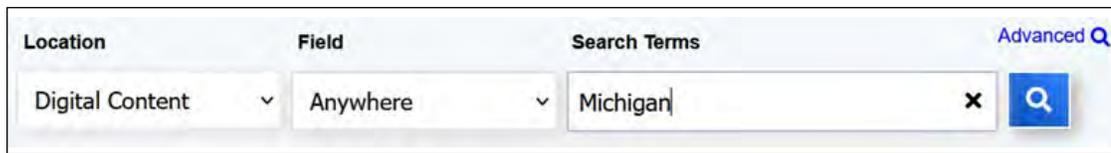


Figure 2.

My search for “Michigan” gave 38 results which can be narrowed to 28 periodicals or journals (Figure 3), including *Michigana*, which had several mentions of my Remington ancestors (Figure 4).

Note that both the periodicals I referenced were regional, not specific to a town or county. Therefore, the search by the state name was more productive than a search for a specific location. When doing your research, check the region where



Figure 3. Use the sidebar on the right side of the catalog to narrow your search.

your ancestors lived as well as those where their descendants settled.

Take the time to explore this resource made available to GFO members by our wonderful volunteers.

Periodicals in MemberSpace

To find periodicals in **MemberSpace**, first log in to your account. Next choose the following: **DIGITAL COLLECTIONS > DIGITAL JOURNALS > DIGITAL JOURNALS IN MEMBERSPACE** (listed by title or location/call number). Check the “most recent” link for the latest issues of the listed periodicals and the list below to see the newest titles added this year.

Helpful Resources

For more on using the GFO catalog, see “Sharpening the Sharpest Tool: The GFO Library, Part 1: The Catalog” by Debra Koehler (**The Bulletin, Vol. 70, March 2020**, p. 26).

The PERSI index recently returned to the **Allen**

County Public Library. For more information and tips for using it, check these sites:

- Allen Country Public Library, *RootsTech*, “**Extend your Family History with PERSI**”—Short video introduction
- Julie Cahill Tarr, *Genealogy in Action* blog, “Unearth Genealogy Treasures with PERSI: **Part 1, Part 2, Part 3**”—Detailed information on using PERSI.

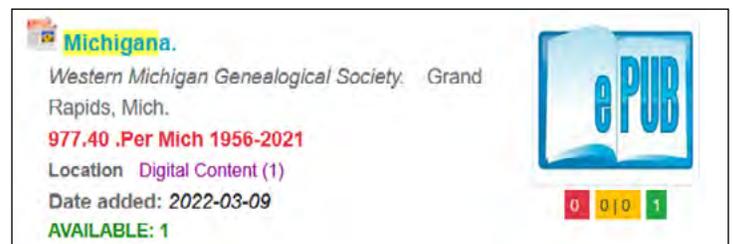


Figure 4. GFO library catalog entry for Michigana. The ePub icon indicates that it is available in a digitized format.



Historical Records in Washington State

Gerri Auerbach

In 1976, the Washington State Historical Records Advisory Board worked to compile a comprehensive list of historical records held in Washington. In 1981, *Historical Records of Washington State: Records and Papers Held at Repositories* was published. This PDF publication, **WASRAB**, available online from Washington Secretary of State, contains 6,400 descriptions of items held in 250 large and small repositories. This list does not include items held by the Washington State Archives and its regional depositories, and some “small and single-item collections” held at the University of Washington, Washington State University, and the Washington State Historical Society. The actual resources are not digitized, but their location is provided.

Many items in the collection are individual, family, and company papers. This PDF publication can be searched by word (name, location).

A search for “Thomas J. Russell” found:

7248900489

Thomas J. Russell, Papers

Washington State University Libraries

Date: 1858-1865

Volume: 1 volume

A book kept by Russell during the Civil War campaign of 1861, showing all important movements of the 3rd Regiment of Tennessee Volunteers from the time of its organization at Knoxville, Tennessee. Also other writings included.

An online search of the Washington State University Library **catalog** for that title found that the item is available and noted the location of the item in the library.

Because this guide was published in 1981, some of the included institutions are no longer in existence under the name in the guide. Some sleuthing may be required to find the successor institutions.

On the other hand, you may get lucky and find a collection that has been digitized in the intervening years. If so, we'd love to know at insider@gfo.org.

Spotlight on Special Interest Groups, from page 1

helps members develop research plans.

The focus shifts depending on the needs of the group. Beginners and intermediate researchers are encouraged to submit problems to work on. If you have hit a brick wall in your research, the GPS may be able to help. To register for the monthly online meetings (held on the third Saturday of the month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Pacific Time), visit **Genealogy Problem Solvers (GPS) Special Interest Group**.

On that same page is a form for submitting a brick wall problem to the group.

GFO Italian Special Interest Group

Curious about your Italian roots? The Italian Ancestry Group is dedicated to promoting Italian family history and genealogy through education using nationally recognized genealogical standards and practices. The Italian Interest Group can help you explore and publish your Italian family heritage.

Led by Stephanie Silenti, the groups meets quarterly on the fourth Sunday of the month from 1-3 p.m. Pacific Time. The next meeting is August 28, 2022. To learn more, please visit **Italian Genealogy Special Interest Group**.



To search large PDF files like those mentioned in the articles on page one and this page, hold down the CTRL + F key on your Windows PC or OPTION + F on your Apple device. A search box will open where you can type your search term.



Grant Awarded to GFO

In May, the GFO received a grant from Nancy and Charles Tauman through **Oregon Jewish Community Foundation**. Nancy Tauman is a retired attorney living in Portland. Having served on several Boards, she recognizes the difficulties that organizations have undergone recently, and she was happy to support the GFO's mission.

Nancy has fond memories of listening to family stories from both her maternal grandmother and great grandmother:

I was fortunate to know not only my maternal grandmother, Lela Rice Brooks, but my maternal great grandmother, Mary Etta Waterman, both of whom were born in Oregon (The Dalles) in the 1800s. My mother would put us on the train in Klamath Falls in the summer and we would get off in Salem where my grandmother and grandfather and great grandmother were waiting for us. We learned alot about our family history—the wagon train, the various homesteads they had in

Oregon before settling in 15 Mile (Dufur) and then later on a farm outside of Canby.

She was inspired to research her genealogy about 20 years ago when her mother and grandmother began researching. Nancy wrote a book about one line of her husband's family. Now she is completing research on her father's maternal line, who are descendants of an oyster fisherman who came to New England in the 1600s. She remarked, "Who knew the English liked oysters so much and that the oysters were put on a ship and sent back to England. And that 'who knew factor' is just one of the many reasons I enjoy genealogy so much."

The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation was founded in 1989 with the **mission** to "build and promote a culture of giving in Oregon and Southwest Washington that supports a thriving Jewish community now and for generations to come."

The GFO thanks the Taumans for their generous support.

Genealogical
Forum of Oregon
GenTalk

August 20
2:30 p.m. PT

GFO DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE
Presented by
Hailey Wentz

En La Capilla:
Navigating Hispanic Church Records

Free Registration: gfo.org/gentalk



Families Searched for Lost Loved Ones

“Last Seen” Site Shares Ads from Formerly Enslaved People

Keri Logan

When families were enslaved, enslavers often ruptured those families through the sale of family members to other enslavers. Mothers, fathers, and siblings were never seen again.

Between 1865 and about 1920, people who had been enslaved posted advertisements in Black-owned newspapers looking for information on their lost family members.

Catherine Robinson was separated from her daughter, Harriett Roberts, when she was just five: “It has been 35 or 40 years since I last heard from her, and the only child living.”¹ Mary Jane Gilliam sought for her brother in 1911 wondering “if he is living, or if dead; if he has any family surviving him.”²

Professor of History Judith Giesberg of Villanova University in Pennsylvania developed **Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery**. Her team collects advertisements from people searching for their family and adds them to an online, searchable database. Members of the project locate ads in newspapers identified in **African-American Newspapers and Periodicals: A National Bibliography**. The advertisements are transcribed by volunteers and reviewed by members of the project.

There are several ways to **search** the site: by name, location, or a specific term, such as “mother.” There is also an interactive map that shows locations where ads were placed and locations where family members were believed to have lived. Locations include almost all U.S. states and several other countries.



Ads may contain the name of the person placing the ad, the name of the person or persons for whom they are looking, other family members, the names of their enslavers, and locations where they were last seen, making them invaluable to family historians looking to piece together families that were forced apart.

There are several ways you can contribute to this effort.

1. After registering, you can **transcribe** available ads.
2. If you have come across an ad, you can **donate** it to the project.
3. You can **contact them** to learn the names of newspapers to search.
4. Finally, you can **support** the project financially.

Follow “Last Seen”



1. “Catherine Robinson searching for her daughter,” Letter to the editor, *Southwestern Christian Advocate* (New Orleans, LA), 14 October 1880; *Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery* (<https://informationwanted.org/items/show/4413> : accessed 5 July 2022).

2. “Mrs. Mary Jane Gilliam searching for her brother William Gilliam,” *Nashville Globe* (Nashville, TN), 11 August 1911; *Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery* (<https://informationwanted.org/items/show/3128> : accessed 5 July 2022).

NEW HOME the time has come

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN FOR A PERMANENT HOME

gfo.org/newhome



Need Help with Challenging Research?

Harold Hinds and Mark Grafe

Do you have a significant problem(s) focusing primarily on the U.S., Canada, England, or Ireland—something you've worked on, but a solution has evaded your best efforts?

Would you like to work with experienced genealogical researchers over an extended period?

On Monday afternoons at the GFO Library, we are available to assist with your research problem. If interested, email Harold at hindshe@morris.umn.edu to arrange an initial meeting, or just come in and introduce yourself and your problem(s).

Of course, we hope you are making good use of GFO's various Special Interest Groups, but our focus will not be on just problem solving, but building skills and knowledge, as well as advancing towards solutions.

We are prolific researchers with numerous publications. If you would like to sample our work, see our family histories on the shelves at the GFO Library:

- ***The Family History of Heber Radcliffe (1892–1985) & Ruth Ball (1894–1983) of Klamath Falls, Oregon*** by Mark Grafe,
- ***Crafting a Personal Family History: A Guide Plus a Case Study: Three Generations of the***



Harold Hinds, left, and Mark Grafe

Hinds Family in New York's Adirondack Mountains by Harold Hinds,

- and ***'They Were Thick as Fleas': Five Generations of Jones and Allied Kin Descended from Ambrose Jones ...*** by Harold Hinds.

In addition, Mark has several articles in GFO's *Bulletin*, most recently the excellent essay on a house history, ***"Reflections and Research: An Old House in Hillsdale, Oregon, from 1852."***

Many of Harold's articles are available online at ***"The Harold E. Hinds, Jr. Genealogical and Family History Collection."***

Financially Inclined Volunteers Sought

We are looking for four volunteers to serve on the Financial Review Committee.

The Committee's sole task is to review the GFO treasurer's records against the monthly bank statements and receipts from the prior fiscal year. In the past this has been a spot check of several months chosen at random, but the committee is welcome to review last year's report and set their own course.

This is an important task but the expected time commitment is very modest—a single Zoom meeting in early September, followed by an afternoon or two at GFO reviewing paperwork that has already been organized into monthly folders.

We're looking for at least one financial professional and three others who are comfortable with numbers. No previous experience is required for the



latter volunteers, and in fact, we definitely benefit from "new eyes" on the review each year. Volunteers should be comfortable reading bank statements and spreadsheets. Please contact president@gfo.org if you can help.



SCGS Jamboree 2022 Coming in August

This year’s Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree is all virtual and includes three different conferences.

The **Genetic Genealogy Conference** is August 19–20 and includes several nationally known genetic genealogy presenters and a variety of DNA topics.

On August 26–27, **jamboree 2022**, features 47 speakers. There are several **tracks** to follow, such as African American Genealogy, British Isles and Ireland, Spanish Diaspora, and more. Or you can choose topics that most interest you.

In addition to the live sessions, registration includes access to recorded lectures relevant to the topic

of the conference. There are optional add-ons for access to more recorded lectures. SCGS members get a registration discount, and there is a discount for registering for both the Genetic Genealogy Conference and jamboree 2022.

The final conference, **jamboFREE**, is being held August 22–24, and as the title says, it is entirely free after registering for a free SCGS account. The free conference includes several round tables with topics on DNA, British Isles and Ireland, French–Canadian, Jewish, Italian, and German genealogy. On August 24, Mark Cross is teaching a three-hour Advanced Beginning Genealogy class.

Free Registration
gfo.org/gentalk

Records for Indigenous Research

Federal, State, and Private

Sept 17 2:30 Pacific

Presented by Jewell Dunn



Put a Granny in the Gallery

Kay Cooke, CCGS Publicity Volunteer

In celebration of their 50th anniversary celebration, the Clark County Genealogical Society is seeking submissions for their Gallery of Grandmothers by August 15. People can submit a photo of a current or past grandmother from anywhere or any era. Each photo should include up to 500 words about the ancestor, including name, dates of birth and death, birthplace, where and how they lived, what they did, favorite memory, and perhaps some personal characteristics (see sample about Grandma Anna).

Digital images and descriptions can be emailed to marcia@ccgsa.org. You may also drop off photo copies (up to 5"x7") at the CCGS Library, 3205 NE 52nd Street, Vancouver, WA 98663. The library is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The 50th anniversary celebration will be held on August 27 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the CCGS Library. Come dressed like the early '70s and have a grilled hot dog. This is a great time for those interested in ancestry research to explore the library and its sources, participate in some fun activities, and chat with genealogy experts. For more information, visit Clark County Genealogical Society website.

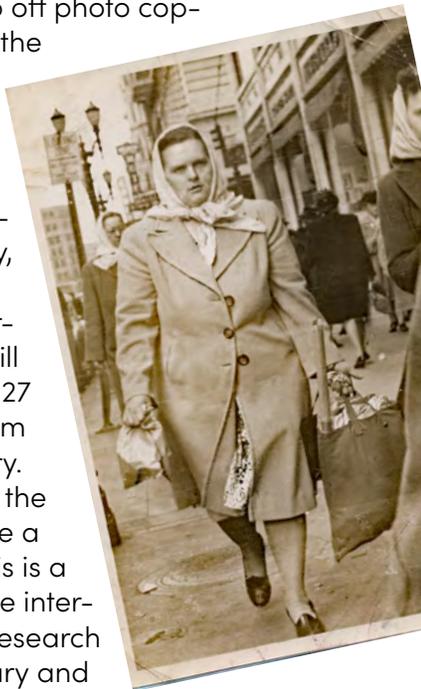


Grandma Anna (1906–1988)

Anna VanEtta March was born in 1906 in McMinnville, Oregon. She grew up with her parents and three brothers in La Center, Washington. In 1924, she married Joseph Edward Wills of Felida, Washington. They had three sons and two daughters, and lived on a small farm that was given to them by their neighbors, John and Alice Dunn. Anna was a large and sturdy woman who spoke so rapidly, I could hardly understand her. She complained a lot and often seemed angry. But, she had a funny little giggle of a laugh and she deeply loved her family. Her eldest son, Jesse, was my dad. We drove from Olympia to Woodland several times a year. On my 13th birthday, Grandma bought me a cake that was decorated with the Beatles on top. Sweet Grandpa Joe died at 62 and Anna was about 52. Grandma Anna remarried Harvey Fisher and they remained in Woodland for the remainder of their lives. Grandma was determined to provide lineage back to the Revolutionary War so that she could join the Daughters of the American Revolution. She talked to me about it in bits and pieces, and eventually gave me all of the letters she had written to Washington, D.C., plus a large collection of photos. She was never able to prove the line even though she was sure that the ancestors fought. With the start she had made in the research, I was able to prove the lineage and become a member of DAR. Grandma gave me a wonderful gift that has led me into one of the most fascinating research hobbies that one can have—searching for your roots!

—Kay Wills Cooke

Photos
courtesy of
Kay Cooke





We Need Your Opinion

Please Take GFO Education Survey

The GFO is dedicated to providing quality education to the genealogical community. It is part of our mission to “to inspire and empower every person to discover and engage with their family history.”

We provide free, live GenTalks to the public about ten times a year, and an annual free, week-long Open House featuring our Special Interest Groups and speakers on a variety of topics. In addition, we endeavor to bring one to two annual seminars, which are paid events.

The Education Committee is interested in your learning objectives for 2023. We have devised a short, six-question survey that we would love for you to fill out: [Education Survey](#).

We also welcome volunteers to serve on the Education Committee, which currently meets quarterly by Zoom. If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact Geri Auerbach at education@gfo.org.

SAVE THE DATE!!!
Coming November 12, 2022

HAVE YOU SEARCHED EVERYWHERE?
BEYOND THE BASICS

featuring Pam Vestal, Janice Sellers, and Leslie Lawson
GFO VIRTUAL FALL SEMINAR

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



Online Events for August

To learn more about the groups meeting this month, visit our [Special Interest Groups page](#).

Monday, August 1

RootsMagic
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

SIGN UP >

Saturday, August 6

German Group
1-3 p.m.

SIGN UP >

Tuesday, August 9

GFO Board Meeting
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Email president@gfo.org for the link to attend.

Wednesday, August 10

Great Lakes Group
1:30-3:00

SIGN UP >

Thursday, August 11

The Q Review
6-7 p.m.

SIGN UP >

At August's meeting, the group will discuss Nicole Gilkison LaRue's article, "A Woman of Many Names: Henrietta Dixon of Baltimore City, Maryland," NGSQ 108 (Sep 2020), p. 183-193.

Saturday, August 13

Access to GFO Resources
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

SIGN UP >

Join Laurel Smith via Zoom to learn about the resources GFO provides for everyone and about the special benefits to GFO members. Learn how to use GFO's website, library catalog, and MemberSpace to access resources:

Wednesday, August 17

Irish Group
6-8 p.m.

SIGN UP >

Saturday, August 20

Genealogy Problem Solvers
9:30-11:30

SIGN UP >

African American Ancestry
12-2 p.m.

SIGN UP >

GenTalk: En La Capilla—Navigating Hispanic Church Records
2:30-3:30 p.m.

SIGN UP >

Keywords and phrases in Spanish for reading church records and the information that can be found there will be taught. A case study will also be presented to demonstrate the use of church records in Hispanic research.

Sunday, August 28

Italian Ancestry
1-2:30 p.m.

To attend this meeting, contact Stephanie Silenti at italian@gfo.org.

Monday, August 29

RootsMagic
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

SIGN UP >

This meeting has been moved from Labor Day.





GFO Star July

Anita Lustenberger



Last month, Anita Lustenberger retired from the Endowment Committee. She served as the Endowment Committee Secretary for an amazing seven years. Despite being less experienced with equity markets than some members, she always did her best to capture the discussions in the minutes. She never hesitated to ask for an explanation for abstruse jargon when needed, and the committee's minutes benefited greatly. In her tenure the Endowment Committee progressed from its original duties of managing a very modest endowment to handling all of GFO's investments in three separate portfolios approaching a million dollars.

Know a volunteer who deserves recognition? Nominate a **GFO Star**.
(Note: Board members cannot receive this honor.)

GFO Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Group (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 Agnes Zueger
and Joyce Grant-Worley
FTM@gfo.org

GENEALOGY PROBLEM SOLVERS

Led by Katie Daly
GPS@gfo.org

GERMAN GROUP

Led by Mike Fernandez and Tia Cobb
German@gfo.org

GREAT LAKES

Led by Kim Thurman
greatlakes@gfo.org

IRISH GROUP

Led by Karen Hubbard
Irish@gfo.org

ITALIAN GROUP

Led by Stephanie Silenti
Italian@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 AND VINES

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

WRITERS' FORUM

Led by Peggy Baldwin
Writers@gfo.org



RVGS Special Interest Groups

Registration for RVGS Interest Groups

August 8, 2022	2–3:30 p.m. PT	Colonial America Interest Group
August 9, 2022	11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. PT	German Interest Group
	1:30–3 p.m. PT	Family TreeMaker Interest Group
August 10, 2022	10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. PT	Genetic Genealogy Interest Group
	1:30–3 p.m. PT	Great Lakes Interest Group
August 12, 2022	1:30–3 p.m. PT	Irish Interest Group
August 16, 2022	6:30 p.m.–8 p.m. PT	Let's Talk Genealogy Round Table



Coming October 15, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. PT

RVGS Workshop
Getting a Grip on Irish and Scots-Irish Research
 with Natalie Bodle of **Roots Revealed**

Treasurer's Report

Contact: treasurer@gfo.org

JUNE 2022 INCOME

Contributions	\$ 665.34
Memberships	\$ 3,529.00
Annual Appeal	\$ 0.00
Library & Research	\$ 106.05
Book Sales & Misc. Income	\$ 1,410.91
Interest & Dividends	\$ 1,646.63
Total	\$ 7,357.93

JUNE 2022 EXPENSE

Administration	\$ 2,776.62
Publications	\$ 37.00
Education Fees	\$ 125.00
Facilities & Equipment	\$ 5,534.98
Library & Research	\$ 526.56
Total	\$ 9,000.16

Net Income for the month	\$ -1,642.23
Year-to-Date Net Income	\$ 16,554.47

Donor-restricted Donations	\$ 14,060.00
Unrealized Gains	\$ -32,951.60
Endowment Donation	\$ 6.00
Total adjustments	\$ -18,885.60