

Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon Volume 32 • Number 5 • January 2021

"The GFO's consistent outreach offers ideas, resources, and little nudges toward action."

-Sherry Kaseberg, member since 1963

Seventy Five Years is No Small Feat

ATTLY TREE

Vince Patton, President

Happy Semisesquicentennial!

Well, perhaps that does not roll trippingly off the tongue. Let's just stick with Happy 75th Birthday!

On January 22, 1946, the GFO was born in the living room of Caroline Higley. Along with Daisy Smith

and Dorothy Rachel Van Pelt (who went by Rachel), the women held their first meeting, and Miss Higley became the first chair.

They met twice a month, either at a member's home, the Portland Central Library, or the Oregonian's "Hostess House."

Soon, another member, Mary Brewer, offered to hold the library's collection at her home in Ladd's Addition, just eight blocks from our current location.

And by 1951, the GFO began publishing a regular, three-page bulletin.

My, how we've grown in 75 years! (And without ever paying any employees.)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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VOICES OF OUR PATRONS: 75 YEARS SHARING FAMILY HISTORY

Sherry Kaseberg For more than five decades, I have looked forward to the Genealogical Forum of Oregon's regular supply of educational information, resources, and motivation in my mailbox. I've always

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Sheryl (Sherry) Kaseberg joined the GFO in 1963 and has been active in Oregon's genealogical community since the 1950s. In 2017, she launched

shermancountyoregon.com, a local history site for Sherman County, Oregon.



75th Anniversary of the GFO, from Page 1



Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon <u>gfo.org</u> <u>info@gfo.org</u>

> 2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B18 Portland, OR 97202-1061 503-963-1932

Library Hours Closed for COVID-19 Many services online.

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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*. Please provide submissions two months prior for inclusion in the next publication's issue.



Daisy Smith, Caroline Higley, and Rachel Van Pelt were the original founders of the GFO. This photo ran in the March 1967 Bulletin when they received life memberships.

And then along came COVID-19 —the worst pandemic to sweep the planet since 1918. And it forced us to reinvent the way we provide our services.

Our volunteers adapted remarkably quickly. Consider all the GFO has provided in 2020:

- » 171 classes (138 of them online)
- » At-home access to some pricey databases
- » Lookup service to provide members with access to library resources
- » Newly launched—personal research assistance services
- » Quarterly *Bulletin* (50 pages)
- » Eight months of *Forum Insider* newsletters (12 pages)
- » Weekly E-News to keep you informed

But we're not finished. Now,

we're working to move more records themselves online. This will take time. Watch for regular announcements as we add access to more GFO collections.

We hoped to celebrate our 75th in person with you but that's not safe. So please save the dates March 27 through April 2 for our Digital Open House.

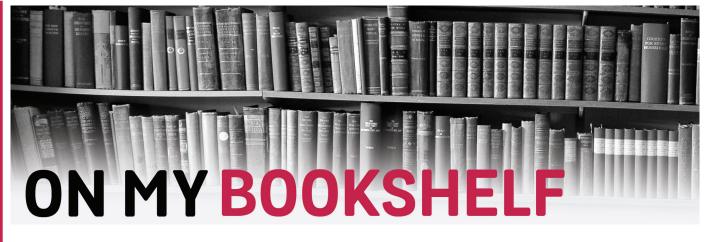
The GFO is only as strong as its volunteers and donors. We're indebted to those who help us now, and we urge all of you to give some time in addition to financial support. We need you more than ever.

We remain committed to providing access to every bit of history we collect. The story of our ancestors is here to be found.

I'm sure our GFO ancestors, Caroline, Daisy, and Rachel, would be amazed that more than 1,000 of you support us as members, and that this organization they created continues to thrive.

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 \$48 per year for individual memberships and \$74 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 and Keri Logan, Editors; and Loretta Welsh, Publisher. Many thanks to everyone including our proofreaders, April Ober, Jackie Olson, Vince Patton, and Laurel Smith.



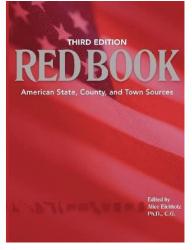


This month's column is written by Susan LeBlanc. LeBlanc began researching her family history about fifty years ago. She is a native of Portland, Oregon. In 2010, she became an Accredited Genealogist through ICAPGen in the New England region. She graduated from Brigham Young University in 2005 with a BGS degree with a focus in Family History. She has volunteered in the LDS Family History Centers in Oregon for more than 20 years.

Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources is a must-have for United States research. The third and most recent edition was published in 2004. It was edited by Alice Eichholz, Ph.D., C. G. There is a long list of acknowledgements and information about the 22 contributors. At the beginning, there is a section on how to use this book that covers vital records, census records, background sources, maps, land records, probate records, court records, tax records, cemetery records, church records, military records, and much more.

Each state is then presented by contributors for that location. After providing information on the various records for the state, there is a map showing the counties of that state. The best parts are the tables that show the county address, date formed, parent county, dates for the first birth, marriage, and death records, and dates for the first land, probate, and court records. This system of presentation is consistent throughout the book. The book is 781 pages and has a nice index.

In addition to *Red Book*, a world atlas is always nearby as I research. The ones I prefer are those



that were sold with encyclopedia sets. I wore out my first one and found the current one at a garage sale. I like them because they are not too large, and for my personal use, I can print a copy, in black or color, and then mark the towns of interest in a genealogy project. There are maps of every country and state within the United

States. For states that I am working with for a period of time, I will use a tag to mark the page.

Little tricks like these save me a lot of time when I am researching. With almost 800 genealogy books in my personal collection, I have a library of my own. Depending on the location and the time period I am researching, all my books are wonderful tools. They are inventoried and placed on shelves by locations or topics. (My best resource for books is the GFO used book sales: <u>bit.ly/31up5Kw</u>.)

Reading books on varied historical and genealogical topics helps me understand my ancestors' lives and enhances my research.

We'd love to feature the genealogy book(s) that you can't live without. Please send us a brief description of the book(s) and how they have helped your research. Send your book suggestions to insider@gfo.org.



GFO Annual Appeal Critical This Year

Vince Patton, GFO President

Past GFO Boards did a great job preparing us for emergencies. We envisioned various disasters and saved up reserves in the bank. But no one ever considered we'd be closed for months (or a year!) due to a deadly disease.

We've moved events and services online, but we had not planned for the extra costs these essential adaptations have demanded—and we still have a library to maintain.

Despite our efforts, we've seen membership drop, and we forecast a budget in the red for the first time in our history.

This year's Annual Appeal may be our most vital one ever. Membership dues cover only 36% of our annual expenses. We ask just once a year for your financial support. Now is that time.

We seek to raise \$25,000. That's less than we've asked in the past, and less than we actually need. But we know this is a tough year for everyone.

If however, through your generosity, we are able to raise more, then we won't have to dip as far into our reserves to cover predicted shortfalls due to the pandemic.

Every single dollar goes directly into providing education and preserving resources.

Please keep us strong. Give now at <u>gfo.org/appeal</u>.



LITTLE NUDGES, FROM PAGE 1

been long-distance member, a compliment to GFO's outstanding educational outreach!

Growing Interested in Genealogy

First, let's start at the beginning. Growing up in Moro, Sherman County, Oregon, my interest began during a summer visit with Grandpa and Grandma Woods at their little place near Dufur, Oregon. In the evenings, while Grandpa listened to the radio and Grandma was knitting, she encouraged me to look at family pictures. The next summer, she asked me to write the names of the people in the photographs on the back and to write "Give this to Sherry" on the back of some of them.

My first foray into research was an unexpected request from Grandma Woods for a public record. It was 1954, and I was in in high school. She wanted to go to Hawaii with her grange group, and she needed a birth certificate in order to apply for a visa. With her birth date and location in hand, 17 March 1880, Lambton, New Castle, Australia, I promised to get her birth certificate. I promised! Sweet success!

During my college years, visits with great-aunt Julia introduced me to her poetry and stories about family members!

In 1958, Larry Kaseberg and I were married and settled on the Kaseberg family farm near Wasco where he, his father, and our four boys grew up... and where my interest in genealogy and local history became a serious avocation.

The Forum's Influence

In 1963, I would discover the Forum and its regular supply of historical and genealogical information. Anita (Kenny) Drake of The Dalles, historian and genealogist, suggested that I would benefit from membership in the Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon, Inc. (GFP). (The name of the organization was shortened to the Genealogical Forum of Oregon in 1986.) I was eager to learn! And I still use GFP family group sheets!

Regular is the key. The GFO's consistent outreach offers ideas, resources, and little nudges toward action.

Through the Forum, I became aware of opportunities to contribute to local history. In 1965, I conducted a survey of Sherman County cemeteries.



Yesterday's Roll Call, Statistical Data and Genealogical Facts from Cemeteries in Baker, Sherman and Umatilla Counties, Kaseberg's survey of Sherman County cemeteries.

Through this endeavor, I discovered county elders who offered information about the relationships, origins, and occupations of those buried here.

In 1970, GFP edited and published this work in Yesterday's Roll Call, Statistical Data and Genealogical Facts from Cemeteries in Baker, Sherman and Umatilla Counties. This publication is available in the library and for purchase at bit.ly/2]CgTlh.

Some of the highlights of my work since then include

- » an award at the county fair for my genealogy in 1971
- » the printing of Kaseberg Cousins, A Family Record – Germany-Illinois-Missouri-Washington-Oregon printed for the extended family in binder format in 1975
- » the development of a 4-H curriculum on genealogy that grew from a series of Wasco Grade School enrichment classes in which I participated in 1979.

Throughout it all, regular GFO publications in the mailbox inspired websites and keeping connections. Many years ago, when asked when I would be satisfied, I said I would be happy to get all the family research to the Atlantic coast. We're not there yet and I've outgrown my little library!

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. We are interested in the impact the library has had on your pursuits, through education, resources, or friendships that have occurred as a result of our community. Please send your stories, from a short paragraph to no longer than about one page, to <u>insider@gfo.org</u> or use the form at <u>bit.ly/2L6iXCt</u>.

January 2021



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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

AFRICAN AMERICAN GROUP

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

BRITISH GROUP

Fourth Saturdays in Jan, Mar, May, and Sep 1–3 p.m. Led by Duane Funk <u>UK@gfo.org</u>

DNA - Beginners

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

DNA - Advanced

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

DNA Q&A - The Basics

First Wednesdays 1–3 p.m. Led by Lisa McCullough 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

FRENCH CANADA GROUP

Third Sundays 3:30–5 p.m. Led by Carol LaBrie and Laura Mitchell <u>FrCan@gfo.org</u>

GENEALOGY PROBLEM SOLVERS

Third Saturdays 9:30–11:30 a.m. Led by Katie Daly <u>GPS@gfo.org</u>

GERMAN GROUP

First Saturdays 1–3 p.m. Led by Mike Fernandez and Tia Cobb <u>German@gfo.org</u>

GREAT LAKES REGION

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

IRISH GROUP

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

ITALIAN GROUP

First Tuesdays 10 a.m–12 p.m Led by Stephanie Silenti *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

MEXICAN ANCESTRY

SEEKING LEADER *President@gfo.org*

THE Q REVIEW

Second Thursdays 6 p.m.–7 p.m. Led by Alexa Waddle *greview@gfo.org*

VIRGINIA GROUP

First Saturdays, Sept–June 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Led by Judi Scott and Carol Surrency <u>Virginia@gfo.org</u>

WRITERS' FORUM

Second Saturdays, Sept–May 1–3 p.m. Led by Peggy Baldwin <u>Writers@gfo.org</u>

Upcoming GFO Meetings

VIRGINIA GROUP

Saturday, January 2, 2021 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Placing Out: The Story of America's Orphan Train Children

Between 1853 and 1929, a grand social experiment was implemented—removing more than 250,000 children from city streets, orphanages, or their families, and sending them west to be "placed out." Many, if not most, of the millions of descendants of these children are unaware of their history. Learn about the history of the orphan train movement, research techniques for finding your orphan train ancestors, and the hunt for birth information of one orphan train child.

Contact the group's leaders at <u>virginia@gfo.org</u> for a meeting link.

GERMAN GROUP

Saturday, January 2, 2021 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Our speaker, Rita Coleman, will be discussing her family research, starting in Baden, Germany, traveling to join German colonies in Venezuela, and on to Texas and Louisiana. Email <u>german@gfo.org</u> for a meeting link.

GREAT LAKES REGION SIG

Saturday, January 9, 2021 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

This month Alexa Waddle, professional genealogist, will join Fran Hart to present "Who Was the Groom?" covering the revelation and disappearance of Fran's

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UPCOMING MEETINGS, FROM PAGE 6 second great grandfather. Contact <u>greatlakes@gfo.org</u> for a meeting link.

FAMILY TREE MAKER

Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:00–3:00 p.m.

The focus for our January meeting will be on the Plan Workspace. We'll explore where every new Family Tree Maker user begins, and we'll learn about syncing with Ancestry, viewing tree details, rolling back changes to the tree, managing the research to-do list, and more. There's always time for questions on any FTM subject.

To be added to the email reminder list, and to receive a link to the meeting, please send a request to <u>ftm@gfo.org</u> no later than Saturday night before the meeting.



New Member Service: Personal Research Assistance

The GFO is pleased to offer a new service for members during the pandemic. Several dedicated volunteers are willing to help you with your research!

Perhaps you've got questions like:

- » Here's what I've got, where do I look next?
- » How do I get this website to print/download/show me something?
- » What does GFO have to help answer my question?
- » How do I get started?

Log into the Member Area of the GFO website to submit a re-



search request.

You will hear from a research assistant who will coordinate directly with you about the best time to meet via Zoom video or phone.

If you can help as a research assistant, we'd welcome more help. Drop us a line through the same online form.

Volunteers Needed to Fill Board Positions

The GFO prides itself on being run entirely by volunteers. That makes its Board extremely important because directors also lead various departments.

This year, we have three very important positions to fill on our Board: Treasurer, Vice President, and Director at Large.

Our current treasurer and vice president are not running again.

Do you have experience in accounting? Would you have organizational skills to share?

The GFO needs you! These are vital roles to fill.

Board members must be members in good standing of the GFO and agree to serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2021. Responsibilities include attending at least nine of our 12 monthly board meetings each year and submitting monthly reports. During the pandemic, board meetings are virtual.

Please contact <u>president@gfo.org</u> if you would like to know more about these positions. Active and engaged members are what keep GFO thriving.

Free Series for Japanese Ancestry

Keri Logan

Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project, located in Seattle, Washington, has developed a free digital genealogy series. The Densho project aims to document oral histories of Japanese Americans who were placed in American concentration camps during World War II.

The genealogy series was created in partnership with Linda Harms Okazaki, a California genealogist who is passionate about helping the Nikkei community trace their family histories. There are 10 sessions, about an hour in length, with handouts for each session. Participants must register to access each recording: *bit.ly/3n691a0*.

Densho, according to the website, means to "leave a legacy" in Japanese. In addition to the genealogy series, the project has amassed a considerable legacy on the incarcerations and other aspects of Japanese American life. Perhaps most fascinating are the hundreds of oral histories on topics such as life in Japan, reasons for leaving, picture brides, community activities, and more. The oral histories can be browsed by narrator, topic, facility, or collection, or searched using specific keywords. There are also digital archives with photographs,



A young child on the evacuation bus set for Tanforan Assembly Center. Dorothea Lange Collection, Densho Digital Repository, public domain image.

letters, and other primary source documents, an encyclopedia on forced incarcerations, a podcast, and a resource guide with lessons plans. All is freely available to the public.





Free Online Veteran Genealogy Resources

Geri Auerbach

Fold3

(Free to GFO Members through the member portal) https://www.fold3.com/

Fold3 is well known as a military records site. Even if you have searched Fold3 before, it is worthwhile to recheck the site as they are always adding new records. Their Military Yearbooks collection was updated in November, and the War of 1812 Pension Files collection was updated in September.

Veteran Graveside Locator

gravelocator.cem.va.gov/index.html

This database, maintained by the Veterans Administration, covers veterans buried in national and state veteran cemeteries and other government cemeteries. There are also listings for veterans buried in private cemeteries if there is a government grave marker. In addition to the gravesite information, this site provides a map to the grave. Due to the size of these cemeteries, a map can be quite helpful. Family members buried in VA cemeteries can also be searched.

FindAGrave

findagrave.com/

In addition to graves, FindAGrave also has Memorial Site listings. If you had an ancestor without a grave, such as someone who was missing and presumed dead, it is still worth searching FindAGrave. These veterans may have a listing on a memorial. Often these memorials are near the site of the veteran's likely death or in a state or local memorial site.

Colonial Wars bit.ly/3goDE89

There is not a

There is not a central repository for records of those who fought in the various Colonial wars. Additionally, the records that exist are minimal and often just provide a name and location. A good place to start your research is FamilySearch's "Colonial Wars, 1607-1763."



This montage depicts portraits of Lawrence Swinyer, a veteran of the War of 1812, and his sons who all served in—and survived—the Civil War. Records for family appear in the "Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database." Library of Congress, Liljenquist Family Collection of Civil War Photographs.

Daughters of the American Revolution Ancestor Search <u>bit.ly/2EGqkxD</u>

The DAR has a robust search engine where you can search for a veteran of the Revolutionary War, as well as search for a spouse or child.

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database <u>bit.ly/31VVnow</u>

This site, run by the National Park Service, contains information on the men who served in both the Union and Confederate forces. There is also information on regiment histories, cemeteries, battles, prisoners, and more.

US Mexican War Soldiers and Sailors Database *bit.ly/32lRWPT*

As mentioned in the April 2020 *Insider*, the National Park Service has a new database that contains information on soldiers and sailors who served in the US Mexican War.

Join the GFO today at gfo.org/membership



RootsTech Convention Goes Virtual and Free

The giant annual genealogy convention hosted by FamilySearch, RootsTech, is going virtual in 2021.

"For the first time ever, the world's largest family celebration event will be entirely virtual and completely free."

It will feature four keynote speakers from the U.S., Italy, and Mexico over three days.

There will be a combination of livestreaming and recorded events. Classes will be available in several languages and include cultural demonstrations such as cooking and yoga.

A virtual marketplace will highlight companies from around the world and provide the ability to



chat in real time.

And don't worry! You will still have the opportunity to interact with other attendees. RootsTech will provide virtual gathering spaces on social media, message boards, and video chat rooms specific to the convention. How will a convention that attracts thousands handle that many people online? Let's hope they don't break in the internet!

RootsTech Connect runs Feb. 25-27, 2021.

Registration is open now: <u>bit.ly/37HXDuK</u>.

Treasurer's Report

TREASURER: ERIN RANDALL [TREASURER@GFO.ORG]

OCTOBER 2020

INCOME		
Investments & Endowment	\$	910.36
Donations	\$	2,398.00
Memberships	\$	1,548.00
Seminars & Other Programs	\$	143.50
Library & Research	\$	7.00
Book Sales, Pubs, & Misc. Income	\$	256.94
Total	\$	5,263.80
EXPENSES		
Administration	\$	758.38
Administration Education Programs	\$ \$	758.38 100.00
	~	
Education Programs	\$	100.00
Education Programs Facilities & Equipment	\$ \$	100.00 5,048.89
Education Programs Facilities & Equipment Library & Research	\$ \$ \$	100.00 5,048.89 4,147.89

NOVEMBER 2020

INCOME		
Investments & Endowment	\$	2,148.74
Donations	\$	3,130.00
Memberships	\$	1,575.00
Seminars & Other Programs	\$	88.50
Library & Research	\$	300.50
Book Sales, Pubs, & Misc. Income	\$	240.30
Total	\$	7,483.04
EXPENSES		
EXPENSES Administration	\$	704.98
	\$ \$	704.98 1,990.00
Administration	<i>P</i>	
Administration Education Programs	\$	1,990.00
Administration Education Programs Facilities & Equipment	\$ \$	1,990.00 4,939.09
Administration Education Programs Facilities & Equipment Library & Research	\$ \$ \$	1,990.00 4,939.09 439.35





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Contact us at info@gfo.org



Map of Multnomah County Landowners in 1889. HistoryGeo.

HistoryGeo: A Benefit for GFO Members

One of the resources available to GFO members from home through our member portal is HistoryGeo. The site allows you to "access interactive historic maps and land records for millions of landowners" through three sections.

The "First Landowners Project" covers 21 states and nine million records. A result displays the original landowner with the mapped property location and neighbors' properties. Information on the history of the county boundaries where the property is located is available, as is a Google Maps view. You can also access the BLM patent details and the patent image. An instructional video is on YouTube at *bit.lv/3nTKo2S*.

The "Antique Maps Collection" has a collection of maps and atlases with interactive tools to help you locate by map location and surname. A 36-minute instructional video for this collection can be accessed on YouTube at bit.ly/3fyq8yn.

The "Place-Names and Topos Project" is described by HistoryGeo as a view where "you will find search tools that assist in locating new places or old places you've already discovered and saved as either a Marker or Snapshot." Further instructions for creating snapshots, markers, and migrations are located on the "Welcome" panel on the right of the page.



The Forum Insider

Genealogical Forum of Oregon 2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B-18 Portland, OR 97202-1061



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GFO JANUARY 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

Saturday, January 2		Thursday, January 14		
10 a.m.–12 p.m.	Virginia Group	6–7 p.m.	The Q Review	
1–3 p.m.	German Group	Saturday, January 16		
Tuesday, January 5 10–11:30 a.m.	Italian Ancestry	9:30–11:30 a.m. 12–2 p.m. 2–3:30 p.m.	Genealogy Problem Solvers African American Ancestry GenTalk: Access to GFO Resources	
Wednesday, January	/ 6	2-3.30 p.m.	Germaik. Access to GI O Resources	
10 a.m.–12 p.m. 1–3 p.m.	Learn & Chat DNA Q&A: The Basics	Sunday, January 17 1–3 p.m.	Family Tree Maker Group	
Saturday, January 9		- 3:30–5 p.m.	French Canada Ancestry	
9:30–11:30 a.m.	Great Lakes Region Ancestry	Wednesday, January	y 20	
1–3 p.m.	Writer's Forum	10 a.m.–12 p.m.	Learn and Chat	
Tuesday, January 12		Saturday, January 23		
6:30–8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	9 a.m.–12 p.m. 1–3 p.m.	DNA Advanced British Group	