

Washington County, Oregon Genealogy Research

By Susan Olsen LeBlanc, AG®, Emeritus

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Oregon Historical County Records Guide – Oregon Secretary of State Office

County Records Inventories

Access Note, five pages of titles found in collections, County Archivist 503-846-8844

County Histories

Oregon Scenic Images

Oregon Maps

Inventory Background

Oregon Historical County Records Guide Appendix

Provisional and Territorial Records Guide Home

County Boundaries

1843, 880 men, women and children, broad territory of four counties

1849/1851, Oregon Territory, 8903 white residents, ten counties, Washington Co.

1853, Oregon Territory, 29,000 white residents, twelve counties, Washington Co.

1859, Oregon Territory, 53,000 white residents, eighteen counties, Washington and Columbia counties

<https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/records/county/Pages/default.aspx>

Oregon State Archives Building – current building opened 1991

Contact information

Oregon State Archives

800 Summer St. NE

Salem, OR 97310

Phone: 503-373-0701

Fax: 503-378-4118

TTY: 503-378-3760

[Reference.Archives@oregon.gov/archives/Oregon genealogy listserv](mailto:Reference.Archives@oregon.gov/archives/Oregon_genealogy_listserv)

Hours 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday–Friday except state holidays

Services and fees

Archival Records

Early Oregonians Database

Historical Photographs Collections

Oregon Historical Records Index

David C. Duniway Reference Room

Stacks or Storage Areas, Vaults

County Records Guide - County Records Inventories - County Inventory – Click on map

Redbook at ancestry.com – provides information on every U.S. State and county details. Available at [https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php/Oregon County Resources](https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php/Oregon_County_Resources)

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Oregon Historical Society – founded in 1898

1200 SW Park Ave, Portland, OR

<https://ohs.org>

Davies Family Research Library

libreference@ohs.org

503-3065240

Search the Catalog or Get Research Help

Genealogical Forum of Oregon – founded in 1946

2505 SE 11th Ave. Suite B-18, Portland, OR 97202

(503) 963-1932

GFO.org

An outstanding genealogy library and online catalog

Indexes to many of the records they hold

A website with links to valuable resource

Access to one of a kind manuscript collections

Look up services

Professionals

Special Projects / Programs

Search page – tips for catalog, basic guide, GFO website

Washington County Museum – current building dedicated in 1983

17677 NW Springville Rd, Portland, OR 97229

(503) 645-5353

www.washingtoncountymuseum.org/home/

Washington County Heritage Online

<https://www.wccls.org/research/washington-county-heritage-online>

8,000 images online

General Research Library Information / Manuscript Collection

Research@WashingtonCountyMuseum.org

Research Library Information

Library Fees and Charges

Researcher Information

Research Info

Researcher Walk-In Hours: Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Research requests: research@washingtoncountymuseum.org

Museum Archives can be accessed by appointment only.

Mailing Address:

Washington County Museum

3300 NW 185th Ave, Ste. 260

Portland, OR 97229

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Washington County Oregon – 10 History Roundtable partners

Aloha Historical Society - www.alohahistory.org

Beaverton Historical Society - <https://historicbeaverton.org/resources/>

Cedar Mill Historical Society - cedarmillhistory.org

Friends of Historic Forest Grove - www.fhfg.org

Helvetia Community - helvetiaheritage.org

Hillsboro Historical Society - www.hillsborohistorical.org

North Plains Historical Society - <https://www.northplains.org/community/page/historical-society>

Sherwood Heritage Center - tualatinvalley.org/business/sherwood-heritage-center

Tigard Historical Association - www.tigardhistorical.org

Tualatin Historical Society - www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org

Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) 16 Libraries

Aloha Community Library, 17455 SW Farmington Rd, Ste. 26A, Aloha, OR 97078 – Phone (503) 259-0185

Banks Public Library, 42461 Market St, Banks, OR 97106

Phone · (503) 324-1382

Beaverton City Library Main, 12375 SW Fifth St, Beaverton, OR 97005-9019 - (503) 644-2197

Beaverton City Library, 11200 SW Murray Scholls Pl, Beaverton, OR 97007

Phone: (503) 644-2197

Bethany Library, 15325 NW Central Dr, Suite J-8, Portland, OR 97229-0985 – Phone (503) 617-7323

Cedar Mill Library, 12505 NW Cornell Rd #13, Portland, OR 97229

Phone · (503) 644-0043

Cornelius Public Library, 1370 N Adair St, Cornelius, OR 97113

Phone - (503) 357-4093

Forest Grove City Library, 2114 Pacific Ave, Forest Grove, OR 97116

Phone - (503) 992-3247

Garden Home Community Library, 7475 SW Oleson Rd, Portland, OR 97223-9019

Phone - (503) 245-9932

Hillsboro Public Library Brookwood, 2850 NE Brookwood Pkwy, Hillsboro, OR 97124

Phone - (503) 615-6500

Hillsboro Public Library Schute Park, 775 SE 10th Ave, Hillsboro, OR 97123-4784

Phone - (503) 615-6500

North Plains Public Library, 31334 NW Commercial St, North Plains, OR 97133-6215

Phone - (503) 647-5051

Sherwood, 22560 SW Pine St, Sherwood, OR 97140

Phone - (503) 625-6688

Tigard Public Library, 13500 SW Hall Blvd, Tigard, OR 97223

Phone - (503) 684-6537

Tualatin Public Library, 18878 SW Martinazzi Ave, Tualatin, OR 97062-7902

Phone - (503) 691-3074

West Slope Community Library, 3678 SW 78th Ave, Portland, OR 97225-9019

Phone - (503) 292-6416

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Genealogical Societies and other resources with information on Washington County, Oregon
Genealogical Society of Washington County, Oregon meets second Saturday of the month at the Hillsboro Public Library at Brookwood, calendar available at website.

GSWCO
PO BOX 2123
HILLSBORO, OR, 97123
<https://www.gswco.org/>
Contact person - Carol Surrency 503-640-4431

Familysearch.org
Washington County, Oregon Genealogy, Research Wiki
 Overview Information and Links
 Contents or Index
 Oregon Online Records
 Catalog under Search tab

Google Search – Washington County Oregon Genealogical Societies

Washington County, Oregon Genealogy Records – Good overview of records available
<https://www.genealogyinc.com/oregon/washington-county/>

Oregon Historical and Genealogical Societies - Oregon Genealogy – List of over thirty societies
www.oregongenealogy.com/societies.htm

Washington County Oregon Genealogy Trails – Free resources for Washington County
genealogytrails.com/ore/washington/

Washington County, Oregon Genealogy Guide - Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness
<https://raogk.org/oregon/washington-county/>

Research Resources: Genealogy | wccls.org – Washington County Cooperative Library Services
<https://www.wccls.org/research/subject/62>

Oregon Genweb – Free resources for all Oregon Counties
<http://www.orgenweb.org/washington/>

Case Study of the family of John Philip and Julia Brown Olsen, both of Norwegian ancestry. Olsen Family members lived in Portland, Multnomah County; Reedville/Orenco, Bonita, Monroe, and Sherwood, all in Washington County and Hubbard in Marion County. Living in Reedville/Orenco 1895 to 1915 and Sherwood from 1920 to the present.

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