

February 1 – March 1

Black History Month

OHS Digital Resources



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Digital Resources Explained

Primary and Secondary Resources at OHS

The Oregon Historical Society (OHS) provides several online resources for researching Oregon history, including expert scholarship and access to digitized primary and secondary resources in OHS's vast collections. OHS offers a range of resources that are appropriate for various grade levels, making it easy for educators to include objects, scholarly articles, exhibits, and other materials in their lessons. Online resources are the best places to [prepare for visiting OHS's research library](#) and [exhibitions](#). For an in-depth explanation of the various OHS resources featured in this guide, please access this [link](#).



Museum Collection Portal

Clear glass mustard jar honoring Joe Louis.

OHS Museum 70-191.1

Description: Clear glass mustard jar molded in the shape of a stylized African-American man's head (see Provenance); large nose and lips, short hair. Embossed text at base. Lid is not present.

Inscription: "Design Patent Pending 5".

Provenance: Made by Nash's Prepared Mustard in the 1930s, the "Lucky Joe Bank" honored world famous American boxer, Joe Louis. Originally containing mustard, the jars came with a slotted lid that could be converted into piggy banks after the contents were emptied.

[Learn More](#)

Afro-American Bicentennial Quilt.

OHS Museum 77-57.1

Description: Story style; applique; cotton. Mixed fabric. Thirty blocks depicting Black/African American history with inscriptions, scenes, and portraits of prominent Black individuals or moments in history. Blue cotton border front and reverse. White cotton backing. Blue loops for hanging across upper edge. Each block initialed by its respective artist. Multi-colored quilt top with predominant colored theme of red, white, and blue.

Provenance: In 1974, a group of fifteen Black women convened to sew a quilt honoring the heritage and contributions of the Black community in the history of the United States. Over the next two years, timed to coincide with the United States Bicentennial in 1976, these Black women from Portland sewed a quilt composed of 30 fabric squares. Each square honors a Black individual or pivotal moment in history, including famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass; America's first Black published poet, Phillis Wheatley; the Brown vs. [Board of Education of] Topeka decision, which outlawed racial segregation in education; and one square each for the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, each conferring additional rights for Black citizens. On its completion, the quilt was displayed in numerous institutions, including Harvard University and the U.S. Department of State. It was exhibited at, and then donated to, OHS by the Afro-American Heritage Bicentennial Commemorative Quilt Committee, which was composed of all the quilters.

On the night of October 11, 2020, during the "Indigenous Peoples Day of Rage" preceding Columbus Day, protestors broke the glass windows surrounding OHS's pavilion, threw flares,

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used paintball guns to splatter red paint on the trompe l'oeil mural of the Lewis & Clark Expedition that adorns the outside of the museum, and took the quilt from its temporary display. The quilt was found and returned the next morning, stained and soiled. [The quilt was professionally conserved](#), with the stained quilt backing removed (and replaced), and kept as a museum object to retain the history of the incident.

[Learn More](#)

[Ashley Robert Russell's paintings.](#)

OHS Museum 88-163.1.1,.2

Description: (.1) black girl clapping hands (dancing?), green wallpaper background; (.2) cream painted wooden frame.

[Learn More](#)

OHS Museum 88-163.2.1,.2

Description: Framed oil painting of social scene. (.1) Black piano player foreground (said to be Ella Fitzgerald's accompanist), wearing an all white tuxedo. Black hair is slicked back, drink and cigarettes resting on piano, closest to the viewer (left side) and stack of music sheets on right side. Couples (Caucasian) sitting and drinking and dancing in the background. Verso has no dust cover and has assortment of previous dust covers. Poorly secured to frame. (.2) Frame is gold painted wooden frame.

[Learn More](#)

OHS Museum 88-163.3.1,.2

Description: Pastel drawing, portrait. (.1) Dark-skinned man, sitting playing acoustic guitar; wearing green sweater over red shirt (collar is visible) and orange pants. He is sitting on the floor cross-legged and appears deep in concentration. Background is a circular swirl of beige and brown encircling him. (.2) Wood gilt frame, several mats, outer is pink and inner is white.

[Learn More](#)

OHS Museum 88-163.4

Description: Oil painting. Portrait of young Black woman wearing blue turban and short-sleeved dress with square collar, wearing gold hoop earrings. Background is dim gold and green. Signed by artist in BRC. Currently no frame.

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OHS Museum 88-163.5

Description: Oil on canvas painting. Portrait of a Black woman wearing a blue suit over a white blouse. Her blue and black fascinator style hat appears to have netting with pink dots. She is sitting facing the viewer's left with her hands in her lap, sitting atop a bluish blanket. She has red painted nails and is wearing gold hoop earrings. Background is neutral olive and brown shades. Signed BRC. No frame, canvas is stretched using colored tacks on verso.

[Learn More](#)

OHS Museum 88-163.6.1,.2

Description: Framed gouache watercolor painting. (.1) Three Black couples (male and female) dancing the jitterbug. Males are wearing checkered jackets with long pants, women are wearing knee-length, short-sleeved dresses. Plain bluish background, signed by artist in BRC. (.2) Frame is dark brown wood, mats outer gold, 2nd dark green, inner 3rd bright green.

[Learn More](#)

Provenance: The artist, Ashley Robert Russell (1922–1944) was born into a family of Oregon artists. Among them, his father, Ashley Howard Russell was an accomplished commercial artist and his aunt, Grace Russell Fountain, was a landscape painter.

Ashley Robert Russell studied at the Museum Art School and the University of Oregon. He was killed during his military service in Europe in WWII. Russell is sometimes referred to as Robert Ashley Russell and occasionally signed his artworks "Bob." Among his artworks in the OHS collection are several paintings of people and scenes he witnessed in Portland's jazz clubs during the 1930s and early 1940s, including many with African American subjects. The collection also includes sketches of his life in the military and multiple sculptures of various forms. OHS's research library houses multiple resources related to Russell, including his papers (Mss 2851) and a photograph collection (Org. Lot 654).

Donated by the artist's father, Ashley Howard Russell, in 1988.

[Pole and Sign from Barber shop founded in Walla Walla, WA by Richard Bogle.](#)

Barber Pole - OHS Museum 90-100.1

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Description: Cylindrical wooden barber pole with turned top and bottom, larger in diameter than center section. Top and bottom are painted white, center section is diagonal stripes of red, blue and white. L-bracket for hanging screwed to bottom.

[Learn More](#)

Barber shop sign - OHS Museum 90-100.2

Description: Sign hand-painted on a milled board. Black block lettering on off-white ground.

[Learn More](#)

Provenance: Used at a barber shop founded in Walla Walla, WA by Richard Bogle, a Jamaican immigrant who moved to the US in 1955 and later became a naturalized U.S. citizen. His son, Waldo Bogle, moved the shop to the Golden West Hotel in Portland between 1910 and 1920. The sign passed to the grandson of Richard Bogle, and was donated to OHS by his wife, Kathryn Hall Bogle in 1990.

Beauty shop equipment used by Inez Irene Pierce Duke Mayberry.

Chair - OHS Museum 2008-10.8

Description: Hair dryer chair with silver metal tubular pieces on the sides (making up the legs and arms), pink vinyl upholstery on the seat, back and arm rests and a pink metal hair dryer machinery unit attached to the back with a clear plastic hood above. Hood is on a pink square shaped telescoping arm. Small black rubber disk feet on ends of legs. Gray electrical cord coming from bottom of machine area on back. Two white knobs on the right side of the top of the hair dryer machine. Paper information tag (white and pink with black ink) tied with string to one knob. Circular metal label attached to left side of top of machine. Large circular vent at lower end of back of machinery cover.

[Learn More](#)

Certificate - OHS Museum 2008-10.17

Description: Rectangular cream-colored paper certificate with black printed, typed and handwritten text and circular seal in the lower left corner. Seal has sawtooth edges, and embossed design and is brown with flecks of gold. Text is mainly printed with black lines filled in with typewriter typed or handwritten words.

[Learn More](#)



Provenance:

Beauty shop equipment used by Inez Irene Pierce Duke Mayberry. Mayberry was the first Black woman to be licensed as a beautician in Oregon. She was born Irene Pierce, Nov. 2, 1897, in Cincinnati. She moved to Portland in 1917 and married Horace A. Duke. After he died in 1933, she later married William Mayberry. Inez Mayberry graduated from the Sanitary Beauty College in 1926, and then owned and operated a beauty shop for 45 years. Mayberry worked first out of her home at 1736 N Vancouver Ave. and then at We-Three-Salon of Beauty at 2940 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR. She died at the age of 99. Donated by Rachael Mateer in 2008.

Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen

OHS Museum 2014-22.1

Description: Large silver-tone metal measuring cup with flat curved handle and flat tapered edge around top; three "nodes" along body. Professional/Industrial sized.

[Learn More](#)

OHS Museum 2014-22.31,.2

Description: (.1) Croissant cutter with three large metal blades affixed to three circular metal plates. Attached to metal dowel with wooden handle on each end. (.2) Cardboard box for the croissant cutter. Yellow box with purple and white text and illustration of croissant cutter.

[Learn More](#)

OHS Museum 2014-22.4.1

Description: Magnetic rectangular sign with white face and black magnetic backing. Illustration of an African-American male's face with a chef hat on his head. Text in blue and brown paint.

[Learn More](#)

OHS Museum 2014-22.5.1

Description: Standing mixer. Beige colored metal. Flat circular base, sides jut out slightly. Empty space at center for separate mixing bowl. Above empty space is silver metal area for attachments. Large circular metal compartments at top to house motor. Metal toggle power switch, metal handle, long black rubber power cord. Metal manufacturer plate on the top.

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OHS Museum 2014-22.7.1,.2

Description: (.1) Candy thermometer affixed to a metal plate, showing temperatures down the left side, and candy texture on the right. Red wooden handle attached to the top. (.2) Box is cardboard with blue text and design.

[Learn More](#)

OHS Museum 2014-22.8

Description: Black metal scales for weighing pastry ingredients. Horizontal metal plate across the front shows numerical measurements — 0 oz to 1 cup. Metal weight hung on a bar. Two circular metal plates, horizontal at the top.

[Learn More](#)

Provenance: Hurtis Mixon Hadley, Sr., and his wife Dorothy Bishop Butler Hadley purchased the Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen in 1977, making it the first Black-owned bakery in Oregon. Hurtis Hadley began baking in the 1960s and worked at Safeway and Albertson's but was denied promotions due to being Black. At the Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen, Hurtis baked cakes, pies, donuts, and other treats while Dorothy ran the rest of the operation. The bakery closed in 1985. Donated by Hurtis and Dorothy Mixon Hadley in 2014.

Oregon Historical Society Digital Collections

[Vanport flood photographs collection, 1948, Org. Lot 131, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.](#)

Photographs of the aftermath of the flood that destroyed Vanport, Oregon, on May 30, 1948. The images depict the damage to buildings, bridges, roadways, and other structures in both Vanport and Portland, Oregon. Includes postcards and snapshots, as well as photographs taken by the Camera Art Studio of Portland, Oregon.

[Learn More](#)

[Stella Maris House Collection, 1940–1973, Mss 1585, OHS Research Library.](#)

The Stella Maris House, a lay Roman Catholic social justice group based in Portland, Oregon, was founded in 1951. The group sought to enact change through close community involvement; consequently, it established headquarters inside neighborhoods it wished to serve. The group's Portland headquarters were located at 208 NE Weidler until the mid-1960s, when it moved to 3106 NE 11th.

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The storefront facility soon branched out from the work of the Catholic Interracial Apostolate to include many educational and social causes such as education and childcare, urban renewal, and housing and employment equality. The group worked with numerous additional organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Albina Citizen's War on Poverty Committee (ACWOPC), the Metropolitan Interfaith Commission on Race (MICOR), the Albina Neighborhood Council, the U.S. Office for Economic Opportunity (OEO), the National Urban League, and dozens of small, locally based groups.

[Learn More](#)

[Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen photographs and news clippings, Org. Lot 1311, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.](#)

The collection consists of six photographs showing cakes made by the Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen, Hurtis Hadley decorating cakes, and Hadley wearing his Albertson's Bakery uniform after he closed the Pastry Kitchen. In addition to the photographs, there are 21 clippings from newspaper articles about Hurtis Hadley and Dorothy Hadley. Most of the clippings relate to the Pastry Kitchen, but some relate to Hurtis Hadley's decorating mentor, Larry Powell, or to Hadley's work at other bakeries. Materials range from 1977 to 1988.

[Learn More](#)

[Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs photographs, Org. Lot 587, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.](#)

Photographs and other materials that were assembled for the Northwest Black Heritage exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society, documenting the history and activities of the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs and its constituent groups. The photographs depict the presidents of the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs, including Katherine Gray, the association's first president; state and regional conventions; affiliated clubs; community service activities; winners of the association's Katherine Gray Memorial Scholarship; and federated girls' clubs associated with the organization. Also included is a photograph of the exhibit panel and photocopies of newspaper clippings and other materials used in the exhibit panel.

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[Rev. Lee Owen Stone Collection, Org. Lot 651, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.](#)

Photographs documenting the career of Rev. Lee Owen Stone, (4/24/1903–3/10/1977), at St.

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Philips Episcopal Church, 120 N. E. Knott St., Portland. Rev. Stone was Vicar of St. Philips from 1936 until his retirement in 1972. He was active in community agencies and the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon. Rev. Stone was a founder of the Portland Urban League. In addition, he established the St. Philips Church Cooperative (Lee Owen Stone) Preschool. Rev. Stone was Portland's first Black Episcopal priest, and his first wife, Leota A. Stone, was one of Portland's first Black public school teachers.

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[Oregon Black History Project records, Mss 2854, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.](#)

The Oregon Black History Project was a grant-funded project that conducted research on the history of African Americans in Oregon before the beginning of World War II. The project was directed by Elizabeth McLagan and culminated in her book *A Peculiar Paradise: A History of Blacks in Oregon, 1788–1940*, which was published by the Georgian Press of Portland, Oregon, in 1980. Oregon State University Press co-published a second edition of the book with Oregon Black Pioneers in 2022.

The collection consists of administrative records, research files, and photographs gathered or created by the Oregon Black History Project. Most of the research files consist of notes and quotes, photocopies, or excerpts from primary and secondary resources concerning the history of African Americans in Oregon from the late 18th century to the mid-20th century. Most of these source excerpts were assembled between 1976 and 1979. Topics include early African American emigrants to Oregon; the slavery debate in Oregon; exclusion laws and other forms of discrimination or violence against African Americans; African American business, social, and activist organizations; and early 20th-century African American newspapers such as *The Advocate*, the *New Age*, and the *Portland Times*.

[Learn More](#)

[Thomas Alexander Wood recollections, Mss 37, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.](#)

Collection consists of typescript and manuscript correspondence and reminiscences recorded by T. A. Wood from approximately 1890 to 1902. The reminiscences include typescript copies of accounts by Wood regarding his work as a Methodist minister between 1858 and 1876 and his time serving as a chaplain for the Union Army in Illinois during the Civil War between 1861 and 1862. Also included are typescript and manuscript copies of his account of involvement in

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advocacy to admit the first Black children into Portland's public schools, which resulted in the establishment of a segregated school for Black students. Also included is a letter written by Wood in 1902 containing reminiscences about his involvement in conflicts with Native peoples, which contains a list of engagement details for Indian War Veterans. The collection also contains a 1902 manuscript copy of an undated letter from E. H. Lenox to Wood requesting the names of members of an 1843 wagon train and relating a story concerning rescuing a man from drowning.

[Learn More](#)

Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church collection, Coll 189, Oregon Historical Society Research Library

The collection covers various aspects of the history of the church and one of its leaders, Rev. O.B. Williams, and his wife Willa Jackson Williams. It includes a variety of photographs, with a large percentage of the images relating to the various church groups, including choirs, youth groups, and ushers. A large collection of members' memorial cards, the pastoral anniversaries of Rev. Williams, some bibles and hymnals (many annotated by Rev. Williams, including two dated 1867 and 1890), church financial records and meeting minutes, and a collection of materials from Dr. Martin Luther King's 1961 visit are included. A small collection of the Williams' personal photographs and ephemera can also be found in collection.

[Learn More](#)

Oral History and Audio Collection

Interview with Aaron Brown, SR 24523-2, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

Aaron Brown, Jr., was born in Louisiana in 1926 and grew up in Houston, Texas. He served in the U.S. Army from 1944 to 1947. He attended Southern University, then, after one year, transferred to Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he earned a pre-med degree in 1951. After graduating, he worked as a teacher. He decided that a career as an educator wasn't for him and returned to Texas, where he worked on the railroads while attending the University of Texas part time. He attended Northwestern College of Law in Portland, Oregon, and earned his law degree in 1959. That same year, he became the first Black member of the Oregon State Bar. He and Alvencie Alford married and they later had three children. Brown became the first Black judge in the state of Oregon in 1969, when he was appointed by Mayor Terry Schrunk to pro tem judge on

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the Portland Municipal Court. Governor Tom McCall appointed him to the Multnomah County District Court in 1971. He retired in 1995 and died in 2016.

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[Oral history interview with Gladys Sims McCoy, by Linda S. Dodds, SR 9045, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.](#)

Gladys Sims McCoy was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1928. She grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee, which was then part of the segregated South. She majored in sociology, with a minor in economics, at Talladega University in Alabama. After her graduation in 1949, she took a job with the YWCA in Portland, Oregon. She met Bill McCoy, who was volunteering at the YWCA at the time, and they married in 1951. She stopped pursuing a career in social work and got involved in local volunteer activities while raising seven children. She later returned to social work, pursuing a master's degree in the subject at Portland State University. After graduating in 1967, she worked for Project Head Start in Vancouver, Washington. Funding for the program was cut a few years later, and her position was eliminated. She then taught sociology at Clark College and Pacific University. She became the first Black person elected to public office in Oregon in 1970, when she began serving on the Portland Public Schools board.

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[Oral history interview with Constance Beaty, by Rick Harmon, SR 4003, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.](#)

Nellie Constance Beaty, née Allen, was born in Portland, Oregon, in 1910. Her father, William Duncan Allen, owned the Golden West Hotel, which was the first hotel in Portland to accommodate Black people, and later the Hotel Medley. In 1951, she and Hugh B. Beaty were married. She was a pianist and organist, and she also taught music in Texas. Beaty closes the interview by talking about racial discrimination she experienced, and the impact her mother's death in 1924 had on her family.

[Learn More](#)

[Oral history interview with Russell Peyton, by Dan Malone, SR 473, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.](#)

Russell Ackerman Peyton was born in New Jersey in 1903. He was raised by his maternal grandparents in Virginia. He got involved in a successful lawsuit against Shell Oil while working at



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a service station in San Francisco, California, which led to his getting a job with the law firm Shepard & Peyton. He then attended the University of Oklahoma in 1936 and earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts. He came to Portland, Oregon, to work for the Kaiser shipyards as manager of the testing department from 1943 to 1946. After the war, he decided to remain in Oregon. He got involved with the Urban League, which led to his being hired as an investigator for the Civil Rights Division of the Oregon State Bureau of Labor. He was also involved with the Joint Council for Social Welfare for many years and was named Social Worker of the Year in 1972. He later was an executive director of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, and an award named for him is awarded each year to human rights activists. After retirement, Peyton served on the boards of numerous humanitarian organizations. He died in 1996.

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[Oral history interview with Johnnie O. Maxey, by Aaron Brand, SR 4000, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.](#)

Johnnie Obina Maxey, née Samples, was born in Kilgore, Texas, in 1919. She attended Texas College in Tyler, Texas. In 1939, she and Charles Britton Maxey were married; they later had five children. In 1943, the couple relocated to Portland, Oregon, where Charles Britton Maxey worked in the shipyards and later as a barber. After Charles Britton Maxey's first two barbershops were seized by the state for the construction of Interstate 5, the couple ran a small grocery store, called Maxey's Better Buy Grocery, with an attached barbershop in North Portland. Johnnie Maxey was active in numerous community organizations, including the parent teacher association, the Bluebirds, and La Femme.

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[Oral history interview with Charles B. Maxey, by Jim Strassmaier, SR 4001, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.](#)

Charles Britton Maxey was born in St. Augustine, Texas, in 1917. His parents separated when he was young, and he moved with his mother to Longview, Texas. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Texas College in Tyler, Texas. In 1939, he and Johnnie Obina Samples were married; they later had five children. After briefly seeking employment as a teacher in Utah, he relocated to Portland, Oregon, in 1943, where he found work in the shipyards during World War II. Johnnie Maxey followed soon after. After the war, Charles Maxey got his certification as a barber and owned barbershops in North Portland. After his first two shops and his home were seized by the

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state of Oregon for the construction of Interstate 5, he opened a barbershop and grocery store in North Portland, which the family operated for many decades.

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[Oral history interview with Mercedes Deiz, by Linda Dodds, SR 1256, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.](#)

Mercedes Frances Deiz, nee Lopez, was born in 1917 to a Czech mother and a Cuban father in New York City. She attended Hunter College in New York from 1936 to 1939, but did not graduate. While she was attending Hunter, she and Billy Owens were married in 1937; they later had one child. Deiz came to Oregon in 1948 in order to obtain a divorce, which was finalized in 1949. Although she originally planned to return to New York afterward, she fell in love with Portland, Oregon, and remained. She was inspired to get involved with the NAACP and Urban League after being refused service at a drive-in restaurant in Portland, which she described as the first overt racial discrimination she had ever experienced. She met Carl Deiz while working at the IRS and they were married in 1949; they later had two children. She worked in the law library at the Bonneville Power Administration from 1949 to 1953, then as a legal secretary for Graham Walker in 1954. Walker encouraged her to become a lawyer. Walker paid the tuition for Deiz's first semester at the Northwestern College of Law. She earned her law degree in 1959. She passed the bar in 1960 and practiced law in Portland until 1967, when she became a hearing officer for the Oregon Workman's Compensation Board, the first woman to hold that position. In 1969, Governor Tom McCall appointed Deiz to the U.S. District Court of Oregon, making her the first Black woman judge in Oregon.

[Learn More](#)

[Oral history interview with Beatrice G. Marshall, by Madeline Moore and Christine Poole, SR 9081, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.](#)

Beatrice Green Marshall, née Beatrice Mae Green, was born in Arkansas in 1921 and grew up in Illinois. She attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. She came to Oregon to work in the Portland shipyards during World War II, but racial discrimination led her to quit in 1944. She attempted to find employment in Los Angeles, California, then returned to Illinois to complete her college education. She later returned to Portland. In 1947, she and Louie Edison Marshall were married; they later had four children.

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Oregon Historical Quarterly

Barber, Hart, Jewell, Miller, and Smith. "[Invisible Walls: Mapping Residential Segregation In Portland.](#)" *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 119:3 (Fall 2018): 400-405.

This Local History Spotlight documents Portland State University students' research on how barriers to homeownership in communities of color have influenced the concentration of wealth and inequality in Portland, Oregon. The students conducted research by using crowdsourcing efforts to obtain property deed information, and partnered with other university students and local organizations to disseminate their initial findings. The authors concluded that "by documenting racially restrictive covenants, we revealed the many ways that people of color have been denied access to property in Portland, how they navigated restrictions to purchasing homes, and the ongoing legacies of housing inequality in our community."

Boykoff, Jules and Gies, Martha. "[We're Going to Defend Ourselves': The Portland Chapter of the Black Panther Party and the Local Media Response.](#)" *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 111:3 (Fall 2010): 278-311.

The Portland chapter of the Black Panther Party began in 1969, shortly after the organization was founded in Oakland, California, and proceeded to utilize the methods and tenants of the growing Black Panther movement to facilitate the advancement and protection of Portland's African American community. Martha Gies and Jules Boykoff analyze how the Portland chapter and its leaders were portrayed by the major local newspapers, the *Oregonian* and the *Oregon Journal*. They draw on detailed emerging media theory, primary media sources from the era (1969-1979), and interviews with prominent members of the Portland chapter (Kent Ford and Percy Hampton) to document and examine the Portland chapter's community survival programs, confrontations between officials and activists, and the media response to both.

Cigarran, Jane. "[The Case of Cheryl D. James and Police Violence Against Black Women in Portland, Oregon \(1968-1974\).](#)" *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 121:1 (Spring 2020): 40-67.

On January 4, 1971, two plain-clothed FBI agents who did not identify themselves entered the James family home in North Portland, Oregon, to arrest Charles James, Jr., who had been declared AWOL from the Navy. Cheryl D. James, then seventeen years old, witnessed one of the agents putting her younger brother in a chokehold; he was unable to breathe. Cheryl hit the

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agent over the head with a rolling pin and was violently arrested later that day in her home by about a dozen armed agents. Cheryl, a minor, was convicted of assault, resisting arrest, and opposing FBI agents with a dangerous weapon (a rolling pin) in April 1971 and was sentenced to eighteen months at Terminal Island prison in San Pedro, California. In this research article, Jane Cigarran documents the case of Cheryl D. James “as a microcosm of what was happening across the country at the time” and how it revealed the racial politics in Portland during the 1960s and 1970s. James’s case, Cigarran argues, “offers a glimpse into how a system of ‘law and order’ that is supposed to protect and serve proved fundamentally set up to fail Black women in Portland.”

Dennis, Matthew and Reis-Dennis, Samuel. “[‘What’s in a name?’: The University of Oregon, De-Naming Controversies, and the Ethics of Public Memory.](#)” *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 120:2 (Summer 2019): 176–205.

In this essay, Matthew Dennis and Samuel Reis-Dennis explore the significance of honorific building naming on college campuses. According to Dennis and Reis-Dennis, “questions about honorific naming opportunities...are not just academic — they are edifying.” In 2015, African American students at the University of Oregon presented university president Michael Schill with a list of demands to address racism on campus, including removing the names of Matthew Deady and Frederic Dunn from campus buildings. Deady, a prominent lawyer, judge, and president of the 1857 Constitutional Convention, held pro-slavery views and advocated for Black exclusion but also protected Chinese people who faced discrimination and violence. Dunn, a classics professor at the university from 1898 to 1937, helped lead Eugene’s chapter of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) as its Exalted Cyclops. Schill decided to rename the Dunn building but not Deady Hall, a move the authors suggest “excused the inexcusable,” and elevated Deady’s efforts on behalf of Chinese inhabitants over his racist views. (On June 10, 2020, Schill reversed his decision.)

Hancock, Christin L. “[Trudy Rice’s Story: Nursing and Race in Oregon History.](#)” *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 114:2 (Summer 2013): 204–25.

After becoming a Registered Nurse (RN) in 1968, Trudy Rice joined the ranks of thousands of professional African American women whose jobs required not only knowledge and technical skill in their chosen areas but also the ability to effectively respond to racism and prejudice in the workplace. In an interview conducted and introduced by historian Christin Hancock, Rice tells the story of her family coming to Oregon during World War II; studying at Portland Community College and becoming an RN; working in schools, hospitals, and as an inspector for the State of Oregon; and being faced with racism and responding to it with education. Hancock’s introduction

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places the story in the context of national and state history, arguing for its significance in a variety of fields.

Hawkins, Kenneth. "[‘A Proper Attitude of Resistance’: The Oregon Letters of A.H. Francis to Frederick Douglass, 1851–1860.](#)" *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 121:4 (Winter 2020): 378–415.

A.H. Francis and his brother I.B. Francis immigrated from New York to Oregon in September 1851, a time when the state’s Black exclusion laws barred them from residence and most civil rights. The brothers petitioned the territorial legislature to exempt them from exclusion — it took no action — and they stayed in Oregon to operate a prosperous mercantile store until 1864. Between 1851 and 1861, A.H. wrote letters to his friend Frederick Douglass, who published them in his newspapers in New York. In this Primary Document article, Kenneth Hawkins reproduces nine of those letters and provides context for A.H. Francis’s first-hand documentation of what life was like as a free Black person living in the region.

Johnson, Ethan and Williams, Felicia. "[‘Desegregation and Multiculturalism in the Portland Public Schools.’](#)" *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 111:1 (Spring 2010): 6–37.

Ethan Johnson and Felicia Williams trace the history of desegregation in Portland Public Schools from William Brown’s 1867 attempt to enroll his African American children into elementary school to the Portland school closings and mandatory busing programs of the late twentieth century. They tell a complex story that often mirrors and is influenced by the trends of desegregation and multiculturalism in American society at large but also illustrates Oregon’s unique and complex history in regard to race relations. Johnson and Williams rely on exhaustive research at the archives of the Oregon Historical Society, Portland Public Schools, and the City of Portland as well as contemporary newspaper accounts to unearth an important history told only sporadically before.

Lang, Melissa Cornelius. "[‘A place under the sun’: African American Resistance to Housing Exclusion.](#)" *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 119:3 (Fall 2018): 365–375.

Melissa Lang was one of three panelists at a public history roundtable at the Oregon Historical Society commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the 1968 Fair Housing Act. In this record of her presentation, Lang documents African American resistance to housing exclusion by highlighting



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stories of those Portlanders who “fought back and uplifted their community from within.” Three ways that resistance manifested included Black realtors and investors who helped circumnavigate the system of exclusionary practices and redlining; Black-owned banks and credit unions that provided loans for property upkeep; and Black activist organizations beginning in the 1940s that advocated for better housing policies. Lang argues that by “capitalizing on their industriousness,” these resisters “developed a network of realtors and investment opportunities when they were otherwise excluded, and they founded and utilized community organizations to keep the work of the city and the state in check.”

Lang, Melissa Cornelius. [“We Were Nothing but Rust’: Beatrice Green Marshall’s Wartime Experience.”](#) *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 116:2 (Summer 2015): 220–33.

Beatrice Green Marshall arrived in Portland, Oregon, in 1942 to work in the Kaiser Shipyards. Prior to arriving in Oregon, Marshall trained at the National Youth Administration to become a skilled machinist. Instead of finding work in Portland for which she was trained, Marshall was assigned to unskilled, dirty labor in the hull of boats scraping rust. Marshall explained: “There were just certain jobs Negroes were not allowed to hold, and the machine shop was one of them.” In this Oregon Voices piece, Melissa Lang introduces Marshall’s story as one “full of frustration, disappointment, and confusion.” Her World War II experience “offers a better understanding of the complexities of experiences along stories of triumph.”

Mangun, Kimberley. [“As Citizens of Portland We Must Protest’: Beatrice Morrow Cannady and the African American Response to D.W. Griffith’s ‘Masterpiece.’”](#) *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 107:3 (Fall 2006): 382–409.

The Birth of a Nation, a film about the Civil War, reconstruction, and the rise of the Ku Klux Klan, became a focal point for debate about race relations in Portland each time it played in the city, in 1915, 1918, and 1922. Beatrice Morrow Cannady was editor of the African American newspaper, the *Advocate*, and vehemently opposed the showing of the film. Historian Kimberley Mangun uses Cannady’s public contempt for the film’s portrayal of African Americans to illustrate the broader goal of Cannady, and countless others, to promote respect between whites and African Americans.

Marsh, Pearl. [“Growing Up African American in Wallowa County, Oregon.”](#) *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 119:4 (Winter 2018): 486–507.

In this Oregon Voices article, Pearl Alice Marsh reflects on growing up African American in



eastern Oregon — recalling childhood memories she describes as “warm and delicious” but that also included “hurtful encounters with racism.” Marsh’s parents moved to Wallowa County in 1939, when her father sought work cutting timber for one of the region’s lumber companies. Many of her childhood remembrances told in this essay include her experience in a lumber town and the interactions between white and African American families. Marsh attributes her strength and character to her mother and father “who challenged racial barriers that might have impeded [her] way.” Her story is an important part of Oregon’s history as well as part of a “national story of growing up African American outside the Jim Crow South.”

Millner, Darrell M. [“York of the Corps of Discovery: Interpretations of York’s Character and His Role in the Lewis and Clark Expedition.”](#) *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 104:3 (Fall 2003): 302–33.

The celebration of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial stimulated academic and public discussion about the Corps of Discovery and its exploration of the West. During the past two hundred years, much has been written about expedition members’ scientific observations, the political implications of their explorations, and the cultural consequences of contact between the Corps members and the Indigenous people they encountered. Considerably less attention has been paid to the sole Black member of the Corp — York, the slave of William Clark. Professor Darrell Millner adds to the sparse literature on York by documenting his contributions to the expedition, examining the “racial realities and dynamics of American life” at the time and scrutinizing “how York is portrayed in the scholarly and popular writing that has been published in the two hundred years since 1805–1806.” Millner incorporates recent documentation that challenges long-standing ideas regarding the status of York as a slave and his relationship with Clark in the post-expedition period.

Platt, Amy and Cray, Laura. [“‘Out of order’: Pasting Together the Slavery Debate in the Oregon Constitution.”](#) *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 120:1 (Spring 2019): 74–101.

Amy E. Platt’s and Laura Cray’s research on the Oregon State Constitution for Oregon Historical Society (OHS) exhibits and digital collections prompted this reflection essay to commemorate OHS’ 160th anniversary and the opening of its new permanent exhibit, *Experience Oregon*. Platt guides readers through Oregon’s slavery debate by examining accounts of the Constitutional Convention proceedings and select readings from the final document and draft copies held at OHS. Cray describes how those draft pages were digitized and how they reveal the physical work of cutting and pasting changes that were required to produce this guiding document. Platt describes those changes as “remnants of issues that newly arrived mid nineteenth-century

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Oregonians had been wringing their hands over since the 1840s: who could live and work in Oregon; who could own property; would Oregon be a slave state; and how was the government going to control it all?" That process of changing a word and pasting a sentence "helped create one of the most racially exclusionary states in the country."

Serbulo, Leanne. "[Small Steps on the Long Journey to Equality: A Timeline of Post-Legislation Civil Rights Struggles in Portland.](#)" *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 119: 3 (Fall 2018): 376–99.

Leanne Serbulo presented a timeline of civil rights struggles in Portland, Oregon, at a public history roundtable at the Oregon Historical Society commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the 1968 Fair Housing Act. In this record of her presentation, Serbulo documents milestones in dismantling racial discrimination between 1949 and 1990. For this timeline, Serbulo researched Metropolitan Human Relations Commission (MHRC) records held at the Portland City Archives and traces how the commission navigated the process of improving race relations in the city and Multnomah County. As Serbulo argues, "civil rights legislation was simply the first step in a long and unfinished journey toward equality." As the timeline shows, dismantling racial discrimination occurred primarily in public agencies during that time period, as "MHRC and other civil rights organizations had little influence over the myriad of diffuse transactions in the housing market, and the public agencies that were empowered to regulate those markets were reluctant to aggressively police the private housing industry."

Serbulo, Leanne C., and Gibson, Karen J. "[Black and Blue: Police-Community Relations in Portland's Albina District, 1964–1985.](#)" *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 114:1 (Spring 2013): 6–37.

As in many cities across America, the relationship between African Americans in Portland, Oregon, and the city police force was fraught with tension through the late twentieth century. Scholars Leanne Serbulo and Karen Gibson argue that Portland's African Americans, who collectively made up less than ten percent of Portland residents and were segregated into neighborhoods including those in the Albina district, experienced police as figures of colonial oppression. The authors chronicle how, over two decades bordered by African Americans' deaths at the hands of police, neighborhood activists attempted to reform the police department and met resistance. The authors conclude that transformation of the relationship between police and the Black community could have been accomplished only through strong action by elected officials.

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Smith, Greta. "["Congenial Neighbors': Restrictive Covenants and Residential Segregation in Portland, Oregon."](#) *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 119:3 (Fall 2018): 358–364.

Greta Smith, one of three presenters at a public history roundtable at the Oregon Historical Society commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the 1968 Fair Housing Act, describes her research on restrictive covenants used as early tools in Portland, Oregon, to segregate neighborhoods. In this record of her talk, Smith describes how restrictive covenants written into property title deeds were designed to protect "neighborhoods from the encroachment of economically undesirable features," such as types and locations of buildings on a property and, in the early twentieth century, the kinds of people who could inhabit a property. Enforcement of these covenants "took the work of private citizens with state support," citing quality of life concerns to maintain homogenous neighborhoods through "redlining." Smith concludes by discussing how covenants and redlining may have protected white and wealthier homeowners' property values, but they affected generations of African Americans through disinvestment and exclusion.

Thompson, Carmen P. "["Housing Segregation and Resistance: An Introduction."](#) *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 119:3 (Fall 2018): 355–57.

On Sunday, April 8, 2018, local researchers gathered for a roundtable discussion at the Oregon Historical Society to present research they had uncovered about housing segregation and resistance in Portland, Oregon. Carmen P. Thompson moderated that discussion and presented to attendees an introduction to housing segregation. In this record of her presentation, Thompson documents how housing segregation in Portland, Oregon, stems from policies and practices rooted in the enslavement of people of African descent. These policies, she attests, "instituted a national racial hierarchy of white supremacy and Black inferiority." Thompson also reflects on each of the presenters' research and draws connections to "institutional racism, Black resistance, and private citizens' silence," during this commemoration the fiftieth anniversary of the 1968 Fair Housing Act.

Trice, Gwendolyn. "["Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center: Telling the Story of African Americans in Wallowa, Oregon."](#) *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 113:2 (Summer 2012): 241–44.

The town of Maxville was once a logging town in Wallowa County, Oregon. Many African American families came from the South and Midwest to work in the Bowman-Hicks logging

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industry in Maxville in the 1920s. When the logging operation collapsed in the 1930s, the town was dismantled and disappeared. In 2008, Gwendolyn Trice—the daughter of an African American Maxville logger, Lucky Trice—founded the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center (MHIC) in Wallowa, Oregon, to recover the history of the logging community in Maxville. Today the MHIC is highly active in community life. The center hosts the Annual Maxville Gathering, maintains partnerships with regional universities, is developing a musical play about Maxville with Marv Ross, and continues to invigorate the tourism industry in Wallowa County.

Tyler, Jacki. "[The Unwanted Sailor: Exclusions of Black Sailors in the Pacific Northwest and the Atlantic Southeast.](#)" *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 117:4 (Winter 2016): 506–35.

Jacki Hedlund Tyler, a recipient of the 2014 Donald J. Sterling, Jr., Graduate Research Fellowship in Pacific Northwest History, documents little-known Pacific Northwest sailor laws and their role in racial oppression in Oregon. Tyler compares Oregon's early Black sailor laws, beginning prior to the Civil War and continuing past statehood in 1859, with Negro Seaman Acts of slave-holding states in the Atlantic Southeast. On both coasts, the laws helped "legitimize claims of authority and ownership made by white inhabitants over non-white populations" and were "linked to debates over the institution of slavery; the desire to regulate maritime trade; and efforts to prohibit the spread of 'contagion' in the form of racial hostilities." This research article is an important addition to the history of Black American sailors during the nineteenth century.

White, Martin. "[The Black Studies Controversy at Reed College, 1968–1970.](#)" *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 119:1 (Spring 2018): 6–37.

In this research article, Martin White documents Black students' attempt to implement a Black Studies program at Reed College in Portland, Oregon — a struggle that ultimately "failed to take root." In 1968, Black students at the college, many of whom had been actively recruited through a scholarship program, formed a Black Student Union (BSU) that advocated for expanding Reed's curriculum beyond its Eurocentric focus. During the next two years, Black students demanded, and ultimately established, a Black Studies Center on campus; however, lack of funding and institutional commitment undermined the program. In 2018, "the echoes of past conflicts are again being heard on the Reed campus," as students are renewing that debate. As White points out, "racial justice remains a central issue in American life," and "Reed College will decide the role it will play."



The Oregon Encyclopedia

Theme: Black History

Oregon Encyclopedia entries have been identified by theme, like with like, to guide readers to their interests (or school assignments). The theme “Black History” directs readers to entries about significant African American people, places, organizations, events, and biota in Oregon, all written by regional historians, scholars, and content experts. Encyclopedia entries include short bibliographies that direct students to other works on the topic and links to related entries, historical records, and photographs from the Oregon Historical Society collections.

The encyclopedia entries examine the history, social structure, and culture of Black folks in Oregon, including their politics, customs, and traditions. The entries cover a range of topics, including legislation and laws, significant leaders, geography, and art and culture. By making the entries available by theme, students are better able to find and access the encyclopedia's range of relevant information about the history of African Americans in Oregon.

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Primary Source Packets

The Oregon Encyclopedia has developed primary source packets to support its mission to increase student access to and understanding of Oregon history and its place in the history of the United States.

The OE Staff. “Symptoms of hostilities”: The Civil War in Oregon. 2020.

Oregonians had enjoyed statehood for only two years when the Confederacy fired on Fort Sumpter on April 12, 1861. The state was already divided politically when it voted in its first presidential election in 1860. Abraham Lincoln barely edged out his opponents, benefitting from a split in the Democratic Party and the consolidated support of Republicans, who were in the minority in Oregon. That divide was deepened during the Civil War, as Oregonians grappled with their own attitudes toward slavery, emancipation, race, and secession. Oregon newspapers, which operated as instruments of political parties, were monitored for pro- or anti-Southern sympathies. Those that supported the South were suppressed, including the *Portland Daily News* and the *Eugene Herald*. Black Oregonians watched the war carefully and celebrated the Emancipation Proclamation—an event acknowledged annually for many years after.

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The OE Staff. “Mixing the Devil’s Broth”: The KKK and the Compulsory Education Act of 1992. 2020.

On June 1, 1925, in *Pierce v. Society of Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary* (268 U.S. 510), the U.S. Supreme Court declared unconstitutional an Oregon law making public school attendance mandatory. In its ruling, the court upheld the right of private schools to exist and the right of parents to govern their children’s education. “The child is not the mere creature of the state,” the Court held; “those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations.”

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Paulson, Sara. “Admission of Colored [sic] Children to the Public School.” (OHP)

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Platt, Amy. “Innocent Fun or Social Shame?” (OHP)

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Allen, Cain. “1860 Census, Coos County.” (OHP)

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Paulson, Sara. “Act to Prohibit the Intermarriage of Races, 1866.” (OHP)

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Flores, Trudy & Griffith, Sarah. “African American Community Protests School Board.” (OHP)

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Hyatt-Evenson, Tania, Griffith, Sarah & Platt, Amy. “Albina Residents Picket the Portland Development Commission, 1973.” (OHP)

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Flores, Trudy & Griffith, Sarah. “Albina Riot, 1967.” (OHP)

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Allen, Cain. “Beatrice Morrow Cannady.” (OHP)

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Griffith, Sarah. "Bill Berry with Rose Festival Princess." (OHP)

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Allen, Cain. "Debate Over Oregon Constitution." (OHP)

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Allen, Cain. "Draft of Oregon State Constitution." (OHP)

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Binus, Joshua. "Fair Housing in Oregon Study." (OHP)

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Binus, Joshua. "Black Military Unit in Auditorium." (OHP)

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Binus, Joshua. "Bootsie Cartoon." (OHP)

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Jette, Melinda. "Broadside: Lecture by Mr. George P. Riley." (OHP)

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Flores, Trudy & Griffith, Sarah. "Central School." (OHP)

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Curd, Mary Bryan. "Child Service Centers, Swan Island shipyards." (OHP)

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Allen, Cain. "From J.T. Dizney to Eva Emery Dye." (OHP)

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Jette, Melinda. "Grand Emancipation Celebration." (OHP)

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Allen, Cain. "Harvest Hands Rest on Sacks of Grain, Moro." (OHP)

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Allen, Cain. "Haswell's Log of Sloop Washington, 1788." (OHP)

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Canty-Jones, Eliza. “HB 2930, Anti-Discrimination Bill.” (OHP)

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Unknown. “Henry J. Kaiser (1882-1967).” (OHP)

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Bevan, Dane. “KKK in Oregon.” (OHP)

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Donnelly, Robert & Binus, Joshua. “Kwanzaa.” (OHP)

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Allen, Cain. “Leaflet, Tennessee Justice.” (OHP)

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Platt, Amy. “Letter from Samuel R. Thurston to Wesley Shannon, June 22, 1850, regarding Oregon's Black exclusion laws.” (OHP)

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Binus, Joshua. “Letter to Louis Ambler, 1961.” (OHP)

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Flores, Trudy & Griffith, Sarah. “Luncheonette Sign, We Cater to White Trade Only.” (OHP)

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Unknown. “McCants Stewart (1877-1919).” (OHP)

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Binus, Joshua. “NAACP Flier Protesting the Housing Authority.” (OHP)

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Binus, Joshua. “NAREB Code of Ethics.” (OHP)

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Paulson, Sara. “News Editorial, A Disgusting Spectacle.” (OHP)

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Tucker, Kathy. "Nightshift Arrives Portland Shipbuilding." (OHP)

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Binus, Joshua. "Oregon's Civil Rights Bill, 1953." (OHP)

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Tucker, Kathy. "Portland Chapter NAACP 50th Anniversary." (OHP)

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Allen, Cain. "Proclamation Against the Ku Klux Klan, 1922." (OHP)

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