History of Portland & Oregon
A Selected Bibliography

CITY OF PORTLAND
BUREAU OF PLANNING

Historic Resources
Research Guide Series  
No 1
Revised 09/10/2008
History of Portland & Oregon

A Selected Bibliography

This bibliography lists books, theses, articles and other sources on the history of the city of Portland, the state of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. It is intended for a wide audience, including historians, students and the general public; it is especially hoped that it will be useful in conjunction with its companion bibliography, Architecture, Architectural History & Historic Preservation in Portland & Oregon, to researchers and preservationists documenting the contexts and significance of Portland area historic resources. The citations are organized into the following sections:

1. Portland History
   - Books, Theses & Monographs
   - Articles in Scholarly Journals & Edited Collections
   - Articles in Popular & Trade Journals

2. Oregon & Pacific Northwest History
   - Books, Theses & Monographs
   - Articles in Journals & Edited Collections

3. Portland Area & Pacific Northwest Native Peoples & Archaeology

4. Portland & Pacific Northwest History: Reference Works
   - Books, Articles & Other Sources
   - Portland & Pacific Northwest “Mug Books”
   - Portland City Directories
   - Local History Methods & Practices

While the emphasis is on secondary sources, many published works more strictly classifiable as primary sources are also listed. A special effort has been made to include graduate theses and dissertations, which often explore topics not well covered in published sources and constitute an under-utilized body of local historical research. A number of undergraduate theses have also been cited, including several from Reed College, which in many cases approach (or exceed) the quality of graduate work. Sources not generally listed here include oral histories, newspaper articles, and unpublished documents in manuscript and archive collections. Most sources focusing on architecture and the built environment are listed in a separate bibliography.

Many of the cited sources may be found in the Multnomah County Library: http://catalog.multcolib.org/ or the Research Library of the Oregon Historical Society: http://librarycatalog.ohs.org/WebOPAC/. Some of the more elusive works may be found using the Orbis Cascade Alliance’s Summit union catalogue, which joins the online catalogs of over 30 Pacific Northwest college and university libraries: http://summit.orbiscascade.org/search/. Copies of most of the documents prepared by or for the City of Portland are held by the Stanley Parr Archives and Records Center, and may be identified through the online Efies database: http://www.portlandonline.com/auditor/index.cfm?c=269788. A small but growing number of out-of-copyright works listed here are available as full-text downloads through online sources such as Google Book: http://books.google.com/ and Project Gutenberg: http://www.gutenberg.org/ and others. Some have been transcribed in whole or in part and posted on various genealogy and history web sites such as Multnomah County GenWeb: http://www.rootsweb.com/~ormultno/ and A Place Called Oregon: http://gesswhoto.com/.

This bibliography will be revised on an occasional basis; corrections and additions may be sent to: Nicholas T. Starin, Portland Bureau of Planning, 1900 SW 4th Ave., Suite 4100, Portland, OR, 97201; nstarin@ci.portland.or.us.
1. Portland History

Books, Theses & Monographs.


Bonnin, Gunther M. *A Survey of Wartime Public Work in Multnomah County, Oregon*. B.A. Thesis, Reed College, Division of History and Social Sciences, 1943.

Boston, Clarinér Freeman. *An Historical Perspective of Oregon's and Portland's Political and Social Atmosphere in Relation to the Legal Justice System as it Pertained to Minorities, with Specific Reference to State Laws, City Ordinances, and Arrest and Court Records during the Period 1840-1895*. M.S. Thesis, Portland State University, Dept. of Administration of Justice, 1997.


Chamberlin, Clara Wilkins. *Survey of Juvenile Delinquency in Portland from September 1, 1929, to June 1, 1930.* [Eugene, 1931].


Cloninger, Avery M. *Port Development of Portland Oregon.* M.B.A. Thesis, University of Oregon, School of Business Administration, 1941.


Dimon, Elizabeth F. 'Twas Many Years Since: 100 Years in the Waverly Area, 1847-1947. Milwaukie, OR: E.F. Dimon, 1981.


Famous Families and Their Work. [Portland]: Edward Holman & Son, 1930.


First Presbyterian Church. A Pioneer Church: The First Seventy-Five Years of the First Presbyterian Church, Portland, Oregon, 1854-1929. [Portland: Berncliff Printers, 1929].

——. History and Directory of the First Presbyterian Church, Corner of Adler and Tenth streets, Portland, Oregon .... [Portland: First Presbyterian Church]. 1889.


Freeman, Professor [Bernard Freimann]. Freeman of Stamboul: Being the Memoirs of Professor Freeman. Sydney, Australia: Angus & Robertson, 1934.


Gerlinger, Mrs. George T., comp. *A History of the Doernbecher Memorial Hospital for Children; and a History of the Doernbecher Hospital Guild.* Portland: [s.n.], 1931.


---. *A Sanitary Survey of the Willamette River from Sellwood Bridge to the Columbia River.* Corvallis: Engineering Experiment Station, Oregon State Agricultural College, 1936.


Goudy, Edward E. *Portland Mortgages.* Portland: [1914].


Hawley, A. T. *Portland, Oregon: The Metropolis of the Pacific Northwest.* [Portland]: Oregon Immigration Board; West Shore, [1888].


Helbock, Richard W. Portland Area Postal History. Lake Oswego, OR: Raven Press, 1983


Lampman, Ben Hur. At the End of the Car Line: Editorial Sketches, Essays and Verse Selected from the Oregonian Files of Several Years. Portland: Binford & Mort, [1942].


Mercer, Robert C. *Little Italy: The Italians of South Portland.* [Portland?: s.n., 1979?]. Prepared for Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.


Muller, Richard H. *The Property Tax Exemption in Multnomah County, Oregon.* B.A. Thesis, Reed College, Political Science Dept., 1956.


Oliver, Charles. History of the Water Bureau to 1930s. Typescript in Portland Water Bureau Technical Library.


——. Portland, Oregon. [Portland?]: Oregon Immigration Board, [1891].


*Picture Story of Northwest Flood*. Portland: Davis Printing Co., [1948?].


——, City Council. Public Auditorium: A Description of the Public Auditorium, its History and Uses ... Portland: [The Ivy Press], 1920.


——. Portland, Oregon: City of the West. [Portland: Portland Chamber of Commerce, 1923?].

——. Portland, Oregon, the Major Jobbing Center of Zone 13, the Pacific Northwest. Portland Chamber of Commerce, [1926?].


Portland Vice Commission. Report of the Portland Vice Commission to the Mayor and City Council … Being a Compilation of All the Reports Made by the Commission on Various Phases of What is Commonly Known as the “Social Evil.” Portland: 1913.


——. Progress of the State of Oregon and City of Portland from 1870 to 1885. Portland: [W. Reid? , 1885].


Rowe, H. S. Portland as a City. [Portland?: s.n., 1901].


Sears, Alfred F. Report Upon a System of Sewerage for the City of Portland, Oregon. [Portland], 1883.


Smith, Courtney M. The History of the Origin and Growth of the Multnomah County Hospital, Portland, Oregon. [Portland?]: 1933.


——. We Claimed This Land: Portland’s Pioneer Settlers. Portland: Binford & Mort, 1989


*Souvenir Views of Portland's Great Flood*, June, 1894. [Portland]: Peaslee Bros., [1894?].


Ullberg, Alan. The Board of County Commissioners of Multnomah County, Oregon. B.A. Thesis, Reed College, Political Science, 1954.


——, Works Progress Administration, Federal Writers' Project. Fire Prevention in Portland (1914 to 1938). Portland: [1938?].


——, ——. Historical Records Survey of Oregon [?]. Transportation items from the Weekly Oregonian, 1852-1865. [Portland: 193-?].

——, Work Projects Administration, Writers' Program. History of Portland, Oregon. [Portland? 1940?].

——, ——, ——. A History of the Portland Woman's Club. [Portland, 1941].


*Woodlawn History: The Town and the Schools from the Beginning*. [Portland]: Woodlawn Parent-Teacher Association, [1965].


**Articles in Scholarly Journals & Edited Collections**


*The Architect and Engineer*, 56 (March, 1919). Entire issue devoted to Portland architecture and planning.


Chamberlin, Clara Wilkins. “Survey of Juvenile Delinquency in Portland from September 1, 1929, to June 1, 1930.” Commonwealth Review, 13, 3 (July, 1931).


Coldwell, O. B. “Early days of Electricity in Portland.” Oregon Historical Quarterly, 42 (December 1941).


**Articles in Popular & Trade Journals**


Hinton, George. “Portland, the Optimistic, the Vigorous and Thriving City on the Pacific Coast.” Harper’s Weekly, (May 1913).


Jones, Michael P. “The History of Third and Burnside is the History of the North End.” Metropolis (January 1975).
Winton, Roy W. “Portland and the Paradox.” The Playground, 17 (June 1923).

2. Oregon & Pacific Northwest History

The citations in this section are generally limited to works that focus on the state or region as a whole, areas near or significantly associated with Portland (for instance the Willamette Valley); and/or topics or themes of particular relevance to Portland and Oregon history. Thus, sources focusing on, for instance, Eastern Oregon or the city of Roseburg would not generally be listed here.

Books, Theses & Monographs


Armstrong, A. N. *Oregon: Comprising a Brief History and Full Description of the Territories of Oregon and Washington ... Together with Remarks Upon the Social Position, Productions, Resources and Prospects of the Country, ... and a Full Description of the Indian Tribes of the Pacific Slope...*. Chicago: C. Scott, 1857.


Bliss, Lucia A. Early History of Oswego, Oregon. [ca. 1944]. Photocopy, 1961 by Lake Oswego Public Schools, OR.


——. Settlement of Willamette Valley. Salem, OR, 1878.


——. Jernbane-jord i det Vestlige Oregon til Salgs for Billige Priser og Lang Credit; Stor Fordeel for Udvandrere. [San Francisco: European and Oregon Land Co.]: 1872.


Friedman, Ralph. *In Search of Western Oregon*. Caldwell, ID: Caxton Printers, 1990.


——. "A Survey of Municipal Finance in Oregon." [1929?]


Himes, George H. Wallamet or Willamette. Portland: G.H. Himes, 1875.


Hines, Gustavus. [Life on the Plains of the Pacific]. Oregon: It’s History, Condition and Prospects; Containing a Description of the Geography, Climate, and Productions, with Personal Adventures Among the Indians During a Residence of the Author on the Plains Bordering the Pacific While Connected with the Oregon Mission…. New York: C.M. Saxton, 1859.


——. *Oregon Literature*. Corvallis, 1899.


Kelley, Hall J. *Geographical Sketch of that Part of North America Called Oregon: Containing an Account of the ....* Boston: J. Howe, 1830.

Kelley, Joseph ["Bunko"]. *Thirteen Years in the Oregon Penitentiary.* Portland: s.n., 1908.


Kincaid, Harrison R. *Political and Official History and Register of Oregon.* [Salem]: 1899.


MacDonald, James. *Food from the Far West: Or, American Agriculture, with Special Reference to the Beef Production and Importation of Dead Meat from America to Great Britain*. New York: Orange Judd Company, 1878.


Mills, Hazel E. The West Shore as a Source for Pacific Northwest History and an Index to Volumes I-VI, August 1875-December 1880. [Portland!]1953.


Oregon (State of), Advisory Board for the Blind. *A Survey of the Blind in the State of Oregon Conducted by the Advisory Board for the Blind …* [Portland, 1934?]


—. Real Estate Department. History: Oregon Real Estate Department. Salem: Oregon Real Estate Department, 1964.


Stanbery, V. B. *A Study of Migration into Oregon, 1930-1937.* [Salem?): Oregon State Planning Board, [1938].


Articles in Journals & Edited Collections


Ball, John. “Across the Continent Seventy Years Ago.” Oregon Historical Quarterly, 2, 1 (1902).


Bracher, Frederick. “How It Was Then: The Pacific Northwest in the Twenties.” Oregon Historical Quarterly, 84, 4 (Winter 1983); 85, 1 (Spring 1983); 85, 2 (Summer 1984).

Brayer, Herbert O. Insurance Against the Hazards of Western Life. Mississippi Valley Historical Review, 34, 2 (Sept., 1947): 221-236.


Thomas, Ellen S. “Scooping the Local Field: Oregon’s Newsreel Industry, 1911-1933.” Oregon Historical Quarterly, 90, 3 (Fall, 1989), 229-304.


3. Portland Area & Pacific Northwest Native Peoples & Archaeology

Note: This is a selection taken from the more extensive list of sources contained in Native Peoples & Archaeology of the Portland Area & Lower Columbia Region: A Selected Bibliography, Portland Bureau of Planning Bibliography Series, No. 8.


### 4. Portland & Pacific Northwest History: Reference Works

#### Books, Articles & Other Sources


*Bibliography for History of the Pacific Northwest*. [Seattle?: s.n., 1989?].


——. "Sources for History of Blacks in Oregon." Oregon Historical Quarterly, 73 (September, 1972), 197-211.


History of the Pacific Northwest and Canadian Northwest: Microfilm Reel Index and Table of Contents. New Haven, CT: Research Publications [1967?].


Judson, Katharine Berry. Subject Index to the History of the Pacific Northwest and of Alaska as Found in the United States Government Documents, Congressional Series, in the American State Papers, and in Other Documents, 1789-1881. Olympia: Washington State Library, 1913. For supplements, see entries for: Cranford, Theodore Nelson; Green, Sylia Joy; Hoover, Elizabeth Seip; and Hunter, David A.


List of Hotels, Boarding Houses and Rooming Houses in Portland that Will Entertain Visitors during Exposition Period, with Capacity, Location, Rates and Other Information. Portland: General Press Bureau, Lewis and Clark Exposition, [1905?].


Miller, Larisa K. “Studying the West in Federal Court Records.” Western Legal History, 10, 1 and 10, 2.

Mills, Hazel E. The West Shore as a Source for Pacific Northwest History and an Index to Volumes I-VI, August 1875-December 1880. [Portland?]:1953.


Scott, Leslie M. *Memoranda of the Files of the Oregonian, 1850-1910.* [Portland,: 1930?]


**Portland & Pacific Northwest “Mug Books”**

These historical and biographical reference works were usually funded through paid subscriptions and relied heavily on information provided by the individuals or businesses featured in them. Though they contain useful information, they should be treated with caution, especially the often separate “biographical” sections or volumes, as they can be overly flattering in tone and generally avoid subject matter that might have shed negative light on prominent institutions, individuals and subscribers.


**Portland City Directories**

City directories provide a wealth of historical information, including summaries of contemporary events, economic data, illustrations, advertisements, and classified lists of businesses, institutions and residents, with addresses. They have been issued in Portland more-or-less annually since 1863 by the following publishers:
S. J. McCormick: 1863 - 1869, 1871 - 1875, 1877 - 1880
L. Samuel: 1873[?] - 1875[?]
A. G. Walling: 1876
F. L. McCormick: 1881
J. K. Gill: 1882 - 1884
R. L. Polk: 1885 -

A variety of other directories contain sections devoted to Portland, for example those that cover groups of Oregon and Pacific Coast cities, such as the Classified Business and Combination Telephone Directory of Portland and Neighboring Cities and Towns in Oregon and Washington, published by the Foster Directory Company in the early 20th century. Specialized directories are also helpful, for example the Wells, Fargo & Company Directory of Chinese Business Houses: San Francisco, Sacramento, Oakland, San Jose, Marysville, Los Angeles, Portland, Virginia City, Victoria, 1878-1882. Related sources such as street directories, reverse directories, blue books, and “society” directories have valuable information sometimes overlooked by researchers concentrating on the more familiar standard City Directories.

**Local History Methods & Practices**

The following works may assist those who are unfamiliar with the methodologies of historical research and writing. David Kyvig and Myron Marty's Nearby History: Exploring the Past Around You and the books in the Nearby History Series, published by American Association for State and Local History and the AltaMira Press, are particularly useful starting places for people learning to explore the history of their local environment.


McFadden, David L. “Legal Research for Historians.” *Western Legal History*, 10, 1 and 10, 2.


— Compiled by: Nicholas T. Starin, City Planner II, Historic Resources Program
City of Portland, Oregon, Bureau of Planning, Historic Resources Program
Research Guide Series

History of Portland and Oregon: A Selected Bibliography (No. 1)
Architecture, Architectural History & Historic Preservation in Portland & Oregon: A Selected Bibliography (No. 2)
History of African-Americans in Portland & Oregon: A Selected Bibliography (No. 3)
Women’s History of Portland & Oregon: A Selected Bibliography (No. 4)
American Architecture, Architectural History & Historic Preservation: A Selected Bibliography (No. 5)
Location List of Sanborn Insurance Maps Covering Portland, Oregon (No. 6)
Maintenance, Preservation & Restoration of Historic Structures: A Selected Bibliography (No. 7)
Native Peoples & Archaeology of the Portland Area & Lower Columbia Region: A Selected Bibliography (No. 8)