



SOUTHERN OREGON

HERITAGE

VOL. 9, NO. 1

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Today



ART, BONES & ODDITIES
Inside the SOHS Collection

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Published by the Southern Oregon Historical Society
P.O. Box 1570, Jacksonville, OR 97530
(541) 773-6536 • www.sohs.org

Dear SOHS members and friends,

As the Southern Oregon Historical Society begins its 61st year in operation, we face some difficult financial times – but I believe our ability to weather those challenges is greater now than it has been in years. The Jackson County Budget Committee, struggling to deal with a \$20 million-plus general fund deficit, has announced its intention to end all support for historical societies throughout the county, including SOHS. Difficult choices lie ahead. That is a harsh blow to us all, but one that we have anticipated for some time.



Although an end to county funding will restrict this historical society's ability to continue some programs and other activities, it will not fatally wound us. In the past several years, SOHS has been transitioning to a much leaner, more efficient and downsized organization. We are now generating about half of our budget internally, through various forms of earned and contributed income, including the support of members and supporters like you. We hope you will continue to support SOHS in the future at even higher levels. Our reliance on grants, donations, bequests, membership dues, sponsorships, and other forms of private and community support will continue to grow in coming years.

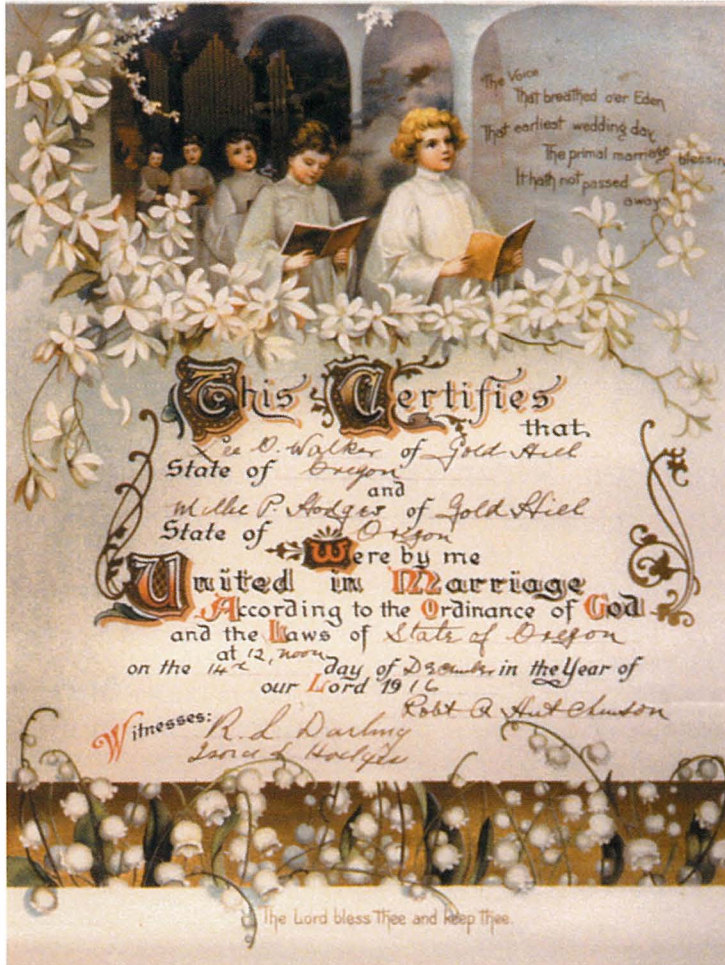
We also are putting in place business plans to make Hanley Farm and our collections archive and oral history programs new profit centers, and we have an aggressive fundraising plan already in place. In addition, we are now looking at other sources of historical and preservation funding for SOHS and all members of the Jackson County History Museums Association.

Due to Jackson County's funding crisis there undoubtedly will be more belt-tightening in coming months at SOHS. We hope you – our valued members and supporters – will bear with us as we go through this difficult and uncertain time. We will do everything we can to minimize the effects of any changes on our members, our supporters, and the community at large.

Meanwhile, we hope you enjoy this special issue of *Southern Oregon Heritage Today*. It focuses on one of the most amazing aspects of SOHS – the Society's permanent collection. For decades, individuals and families in Southern Oregon have been entrusting us with many of their most precious belongings. In some cases, artifacts and documents come to us almost accidentally. Whatever the provenance, those items in our collection are safe and securely stored, on display in one of our exhibits, or in our Historical Research Library. Welcome to an insider's look at the collection.

On behalf of the entire staff at SOHS, may you have a peaceful and happy new year.

HERITAGE *Today*



One of the SOHS Research Library's documents: An Oregon marriage certificate dated 1916. The happy couple was from the Southern Oregon town of Gold Hill.

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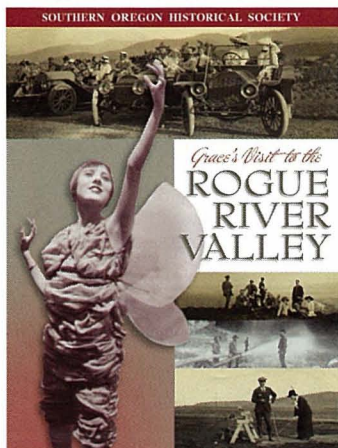
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ON THE COVER:

A sampling from the nearly one million estimated artifacts, documents, and photographs in the SOHS collection (clockwise): A still life by renowned Jacksonville artist Dorland Robinson; early 1900s silk evening dress (see page 7 for details); "Ner-A-Car"— an early motorcycle, ca. 1924.

Lomakatsi at Hanley Farm

IN NOVEMBER, staff from the Lomakatsi Restoration Project along with more than a dozen youth volunteers from Crater Connections and the Job Council, planted over 500 trees at Hanley Farm. The project was designed to rid an area along Jackson Creek of blackberry bushes which have been encroaching on the native vegetation. Volunteers planted conifers and a diversity of native plants including ocean spray, mock orange, ninebark, red flowering current, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, incense cedar, and others. Lomakatsi is an Ashland-based group that organizes communities in the restoration of native ecosystems. KOBI TV's Ron Brown (far left in photo) was on hand to cover the event. The project was funded by a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.



Grace's Visit to the Rogue River Valley

THANKS TO A GENEROUS GRANT FROM FORMER SOHS EMPLOYEE WILLIAM ALLEY, we are producing a DVD that will be on sale soon. The 44-minute silent movie was filmed in 1915 to promote Southern Oregon at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition (PPIE), a world's fair held in San Francisco that year to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal. Since the early 1960s, a restored 35mm print has been meticulously stored and preserved by SOHS. In addition to a version of the film with an original score by Ashland composers Robin Lawson and Todd Barton, the DVD features a 1965 television broadcast of *Grace's Visit* with live commentary by A.C. Allen and Grace Fiero, the film's photographer and star respectively. To order your copy, see the ad on page 22.

Holidays at Hanley a Big Hit

NEARLY 400 VISITORS BRAVED the cold and came to historic Hanley Farm for our annual holiday event. A dozen food and craft vendors were on hand, providing free samples and last-minute holiday shopping opportunities. Entertainment included sing-a-longs with Banjo Bill, holiday tunes from Chris n' Dom (pictured) and the Old Time Fiddlers, bluegrass with the Goldman Family band, and traditional Jewish folk and Chanukkah songs with Steve Berman. Visitors also enjoyed wagon rides and tours of the house, which was decorated in full holiday splendor. Thanks to all our staff, volunteers, and visitors for making it a special holiday occasion.

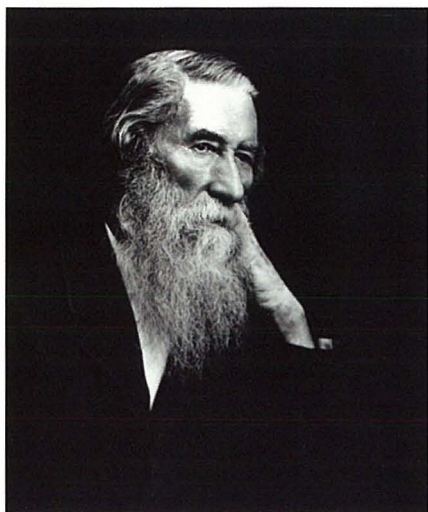


Victorian Christmas at the Beekman House

FOR TWO WEEKENDS in December, the C.C. Beekman House greeted a steady stream of holiday visitors—over 200 in all. Cookies, mistletoe, and a hardy dose of Victorian charm were all part of the experience. Also on hand was Joyce Stevens playing holiday music on the Beekman piano.

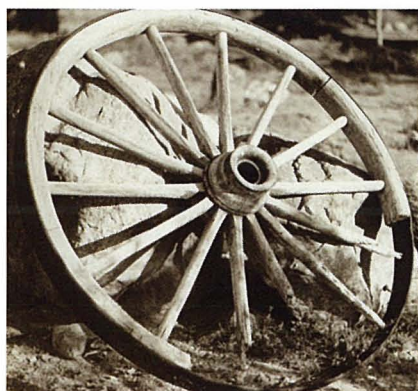
Exhibits

NOW AT THE JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM



Peter Britt: The Man Beyond the Camera

COME EXPERIENCE our most innovative exhibit to date, featuring nearly 400 artifacts and images from the Society's extensive Peter Britt collection, many of which are on public display for the first time. See the many interesting facets of Peter Britt's life in a contemporary, entertaining format with items ranging from Britt's personal diaries, which date from 1859 through 1905, to some of his earliest oil paintings, photographic gear, and the 1872 Steinway square grand piano he bought for his daughter Mollie.



Toward the Setting Sun: Traveling the Oregon Trail

OUR NEWEST EXHIBIT is filled with artifacts such as pioneer diaries, clothing, tools, and furniture, as well as photos, interactive components, and a documentary entitled "A South Road to Oregon: The History of the Applegate Trail," produced by Southern Oregon Public Television. Don't miss it!

Jackson County Milestones

THEY CAME TO JACKSON COUNTY looking for treasure, and carrying some with them. In this fascinating exhibit, you'll discover how immigrants to this area changed it forever and see many of the artifacts that they brought with them. You'll also get to know the farmers, miners, loggers, merchants, railroad workers, and their families who fueled the growth of towns such as Ashland, Phoenix, Jacksonville, and Medford. It truly is "history in the making."

Miner, Baker, Furniture Maker

UPSTAIRS IN THE FORMER courtroom of the Jackson County Courthouse, underneath the soaring 20-foot ceilings, you'll discover an adventure of yesteryear. MBF, as we often call it, is more than just an exhibit—it's a portal waiting to transport you to an earlier time when life was a bit rough around the edges and work called for strong backs and calloused hands. Discover the tools, architecture, agriculture, and fraternal organizations that shaped Southern Oregon.

INSIDE THE SOHS COLLECTION

Mission statement of the Southern Oregon Historical Society:

“To make history come alive by collecting, preserving, and sharing the stories and artifacts of our common heritage.”



THE SOUTHERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COLLECTION is important because it represents the ways and customs—the “lifewalk” if you will—of people who came before, and it serves us well to honor them. Their objects, and the stories that accompany them, can be powerful teachers, ultimately adding depth to our understanding of the world and the many different ways we have lived on the planet—and in Southern Oregon—over time.

At SOHS, making history “come alive” occurs on a daily basis. We have educational programs for children so they learn how to think about history. We partner with other organizations and collaborate in exhibits, classes, and presentations that target students and the general public. We attend and host seminars that assist us in learning the latest trends in museum and exhibit development. All of these efforts usually happen away from public view and that means that many do not understand what kind of commitment, passion, and effort it takes to present our history and honor our mission statement.

There is much to be learned from studying the past and the artifacts that represent it. Does knowledge reside in those artifacts themselves? Perhaps, but an artifact says so much more if there is a story attached to it. It is these stories that connect us and continue to teach and help us in our own lives. In addition, such stories often influence our

decisions about how an exhibit should be designed or how an artifact might best be interpreted.

There are many newcomers to Southern Oregon whose history with the area begins when they arrive. Do they know who came before or what took place here? Can we make it important enough for them to become curious about finding out the history of this remarkable place?

That is our job at SOHS: to interest people, to pull them in, to give them new thoughts and help them discover a sense of place. If we are successful in piquing their interest, their lives likely will become richer, they may care more about where they are, they may take ownership of the stories—and this place—and pass them on to their family members and friends. In that journey, the stories continue to nurture and assist us in becoming part of the fabric of the land and all of its possibilities.

Suzanne M.M. Warner
Curator of Collections

Garments



Mrs. Helen Burrell Voorhies owned this heavily spangled black silk evening dress, ca. 1903-1907. It still carries the original dressmakers label of the Held Sisters of Montreux-Territet, Lake Geneva, Switzerland.
SOHS #1989.28.6



Representative of mid-stage mourning wear, this black silk broche day dress was worn by Sally Rood Doolittle in 1857, following the death of her husband Reuben. Their son, James Rood Doolittle, was a senator (R-WI) during the Civil War.
SOHS #1957.21



This pina cloth and taffeta dress was made in 1877 for Helen Throop, to wear at a friend's wedding in Corning, New York. Mrs. Throop was a relative of Charlie Adams, a former Medford Chief of Police.
SOHS #1976.13

Home and Kitchen



*Above: An assortment of irons.
Clockwise from upper left: SOHS
#354, #58.56.155, #83.3.56,
#60.118.1*

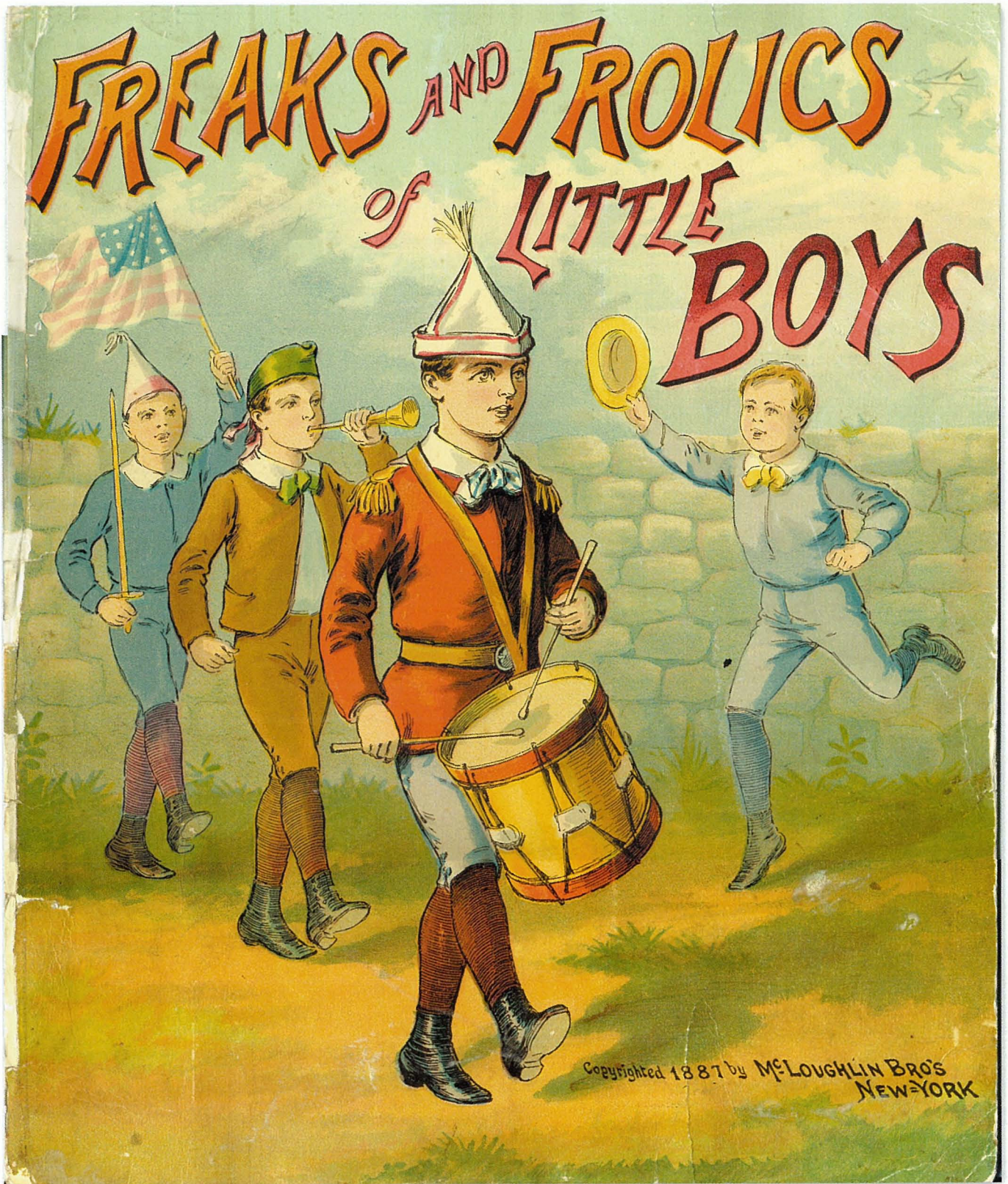
*Left: This ornate sewing machine
belonged to the Peter Britt family
and dates from the 1860s.
SOHS #B152*



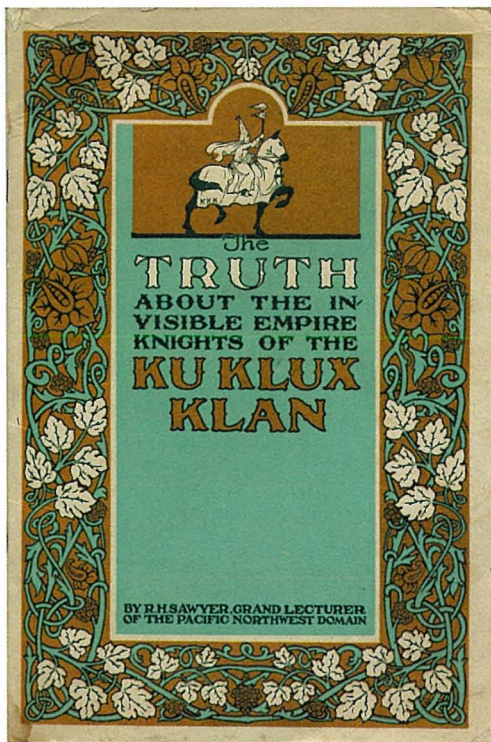
Top: With the technological advances of the Industrial Revolution continuing into the 19th century, manufacturing techniques allowed inexpensive decorative elements to become accessible to the masses. Consumers showed a marked preference for decoration; even on utilitarian surfaces such as pickle jar labels, tea tins, and juice reamers.

Bottom: Developing technology also offered new glass-making processes. This was the beginning of the American art glass movement. Glass artists experimented with new forms, colors, and techniques. Color technology reached its peak in the last quarter of the 19th century, resulting in a wide range of new hues, textures, layering, and heat-struck shading.

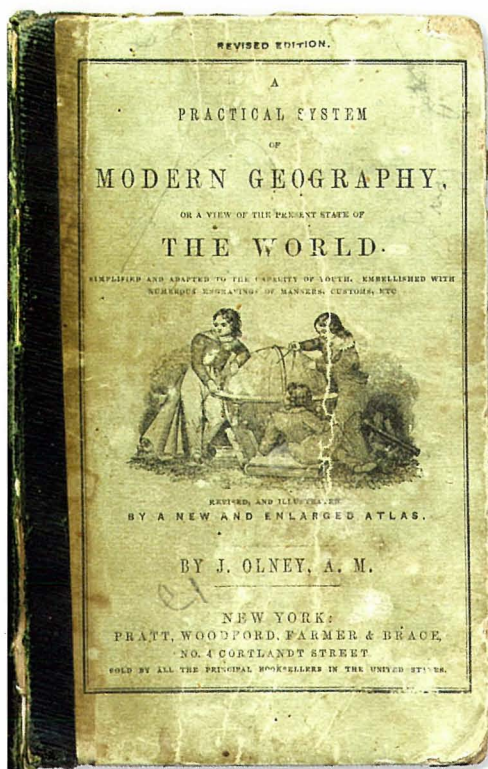
Shown (l to r): Hobnail pitcher, jack-in-the pulpit vase in the Tiffany style, a pair of peach-blow vases with Mat-Su-Noke decoration, enamel decorated amethyst glass vase, mercury glass vase with stain and cold paint, and stained and engraved ruby glass pitcher in imitation of the Bohemian style.



Published in 1887 by McLoughlin Brothers of New York, this colorful children's book is filled with illustrations and poems about the antics of boys named Whining Willie, Gunpowder Jim, and Inquisitive John—just to name a few. SOHS #91.10-5



This 1922 booklet contains a lecture delivered by R.R. Sawyer, Grand Lecturer of the Pacific Northwest Domain, No. 5, Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, at the Municipal Auditorium in Portland, on December 22, 1921. It states there were 6,000 people in attendance. SOHS #2006.11



An 1855 copy of J. Olney's "A Practical System of Geography or a View of the Present State of the World Simplified and Adapted to the Capacity of Youth" (often referred to simply as "Olney's Geography") in which the Oregon Territory (Oregon did not become a state until 1859) is described as "...a large territory, distinguished for its mild climate, fertile soil, its vast forests and numerous animals." SOHS #3326

The Historical Research Library: More than Just Books

By Carol Harbison-Samuelson

The Southern Oregon Historical Society's Research Library plays an important role in the life of the Society. At its essence, the library collects and preserves local history, makes information accessible to the public, and assists its users in answering questions about the history of Southern Oregon.

But the Research Library is much more than simply a collection of books, pamphlets, maps, manuscripts, tape recordings, oral histories, microfilm, newspapers, photographs, periodicals, and ephemera. It is where you'll find the collected memories of preachers and poets, photographers and gold miners, storekeepers and bartenders. It is home to minorities and majorities who have written and told their stories in numerous ways for more than 150 years. It is the interaction between staff and collectors, researchers and scholars, elementary school students and senior citizens. The Research Library is partnerships, friendships, and community.

The Research Library exists thanks to people who considered the things they owned important enough to save, preserve, and share. Rare and useful documents, photographs, and books have been entrusted to our care. Through the combined efforts of countless individuals, the Research Library has played an important role in the preservation of our cultural heritage and contributed immeasurably to the historical research interest in the Rogue Valley and Southern Oregon area.

A visit to the Research Library can be an emotional journey. Many of our visitors experience their own heritage in historic photographs of their ancestors and of homes or maps of the land on which they once lived. Some have discovered poetry written by a grandfather, drawings penciled in elementary school by a grandmother. They have read handwritten or published documents that reveal facts about an unhappy marriage, the death of a loved infant, the tale of a trek across the Plains.

The Research Library collection allows architects to find blueprints for the purpose of restoring or remodeling houses and commercial buildings in the area. Genealogists learn how to fill in the foliage of their family trees. Employees of environmental agencies study maps in an attempt to locate toxic waste sites or problems related to a possible building site.

Research Library users learn how to preserve family heirlooms and how to properly house precious photographs and letters. They learn how to conduct oral histories, how to contact historical societies and museums in other areas for the purpose of making donations or conducting research, and learn about artifacts in our collection that cannot be replaced or found anywhere else.

Whether you are a long-time resident or have just moved to the area, learning about this region's history firsthand can be an exhilarating experience. And the SOHS Historical Research Library is the place to start.

The Historical Research Library is located at 106 N. Central Avenue in downtown Medford. For hours and information call 541-858-1724.

Medical Items



A standard issue U.S. Army first aid kit from World War I. Manufactured by the Outing Mfg. Co. of Elkhart, Indiana. SOHS #1993.8.17

Surgical kit used by Dr. David Marcus Brower of Ashland. Includes amputation and trephining instruments manufactured between 1860-1894. SOHS #1972.67.1



Home medical device used for "electrotherapy," a popular practice in the late 1890s in which electric currents were run through the body in order to cure nervous diseases. SOHS #1958.96.1



Native American Artifacts



Top: Made of white, brain-tanned deer leather and seed beads, these gauntlet style gloves are from the Colville Reservation in Eastern Washington, where the donor's father was an Indian agent in the late 1880s-early 1890s. Members of several tribes were living on the reservation at the time, and it is thought that these are either of Cree or a Northern Plains tribe design. SOHS #1965.68

Bottom: Hand-painted hide playing cards, ca 1900. While their exact origin is not known, early catalog records speculate they might be from the Rogue River area. SOHS #83



This wooden Indian and horse sculpture is probably from the 1930s or '40s. The rider is wearing a buckskin shirt and trousers and its head is covered with actual human hair. The horse is covered with horse hide and its eyes are made of glass.
SOHS #81.3.4



A cornhusk bag with dyed wool woven design, ca. 1880. Although the exact origin is unknown, it is believed to be from the Plateau Region.



Native American bags and purses: (top row, l to r) Beaded purse or belt decoration, Plains or Plateau design, ca. 1900. SOHS #72.40.21; beaded bag, woodland style, ca. early 1900s. SOHS #61.147.5; beaded purse or belt decoration, Plains or Plateau design, ca. 1900. SOHS #70.40.22;



(bottom row, l to r) Tecuqui or Texuexe beaded bag from Guatemala. SOHS # 3671; small, round coin purse, date and tribe unknown. SOHS #64-159.2.

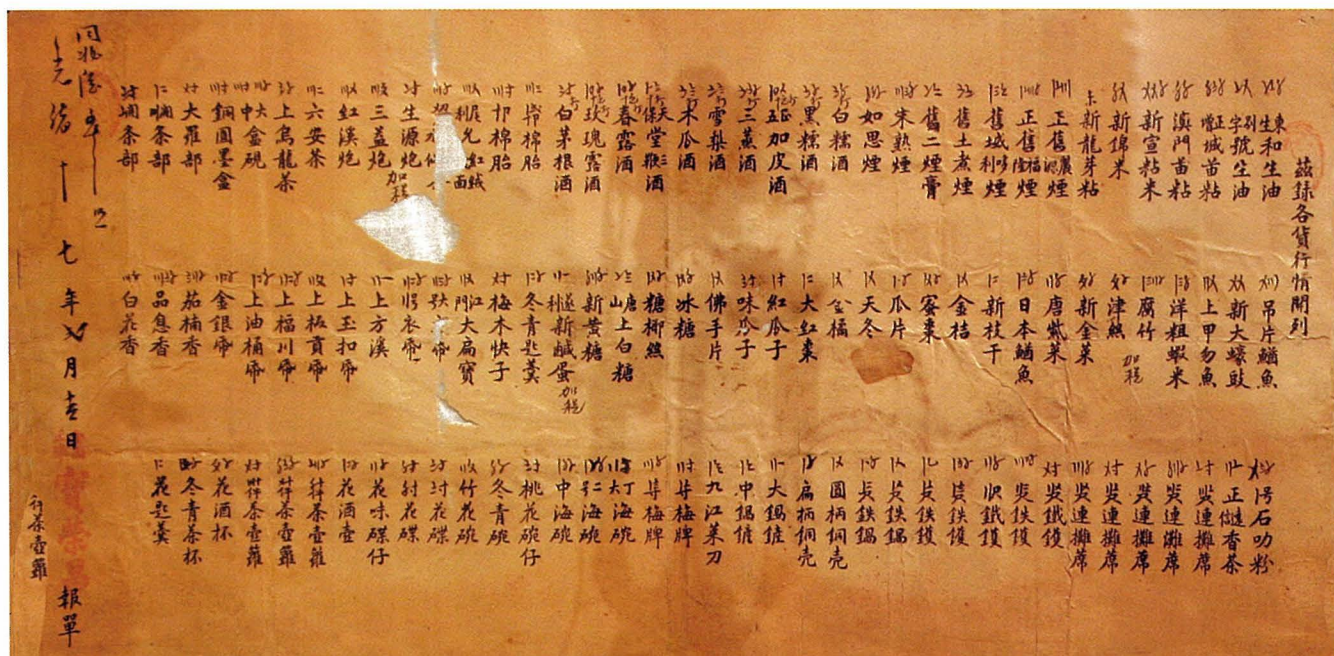
Chinese Artifacts



The Imperial Nine Dragon robe probably dates from between 1820 and 1850. It took an average of eight years to complete one dragon robe, incorporating over six million hand stitches. This robe was worn only once, and only as an undergarment. SOHS #1979.3.75



This beautiful Chinese Court robe was entirely hand-stitched. The symbols represent the "Eight Treasures of Buddhist" legends. The gold stitching along the hem represents the sea and waves with mountains rising from the water. Symbolizes unification of the people. SOHS #1980.113.1



Top: This writing, dating from the 1800s, appears to be a list or inventory, possibly used by the owner of an apothecary or general store to restock certain supplies. Among the many items listed are shrimp and wine.
Photo by Sol Blechman.



Left: Red lacquer Chinese fan made from a wooden panel attached to a bamboo handle, ca. 1880-1890. The two cut out sections, with diagonal strips of bamboo, are meant to symbolize clouds. Photo by Sol Blechman.

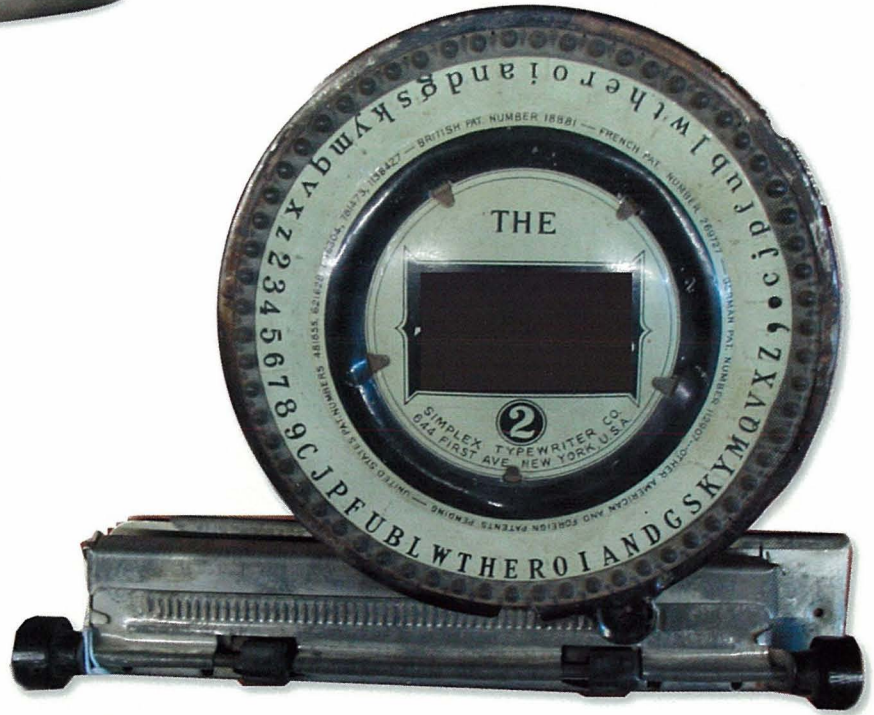
These over-shoes were used by the Chinese in the gold mines of Jacksonville. Fashioned from galvanized tin, they were held together by heavy wires. SOHS #334



What is It?



A.



B.



C.



D.

- A. Mastodon tusk unearthed by Bob Cook along
 Foots Creek in Jackson County, SOHS #552
 B. Simplex typewriter from the 1890s, SOHS #58.113.3
 C. Killing Permanent Waving Machine, SOHS #63-177
 D. Crosey Icyball Refrigerator Unit. When heated on a gas
 or oil stove, it would remove heat from the interior of a
 refrigerator cabinet.

What is the SOHS Acquisitions Policy?

OBJECTS OR DOCUMENTS MAY be added to the collections by means of gifts, bequests, purchases, exchanges with other nonprofit institutions, or any other transactions by which title to the objects or documents passes to the Society. Accessioning is the formal process used to accept and record an object or document as part of the Society's collections.

Natural history objects are to be collected only if a direct relationship to the cultural history of Southern Oregon can be demonstrated. Natural history objects collected in the past need not be deaccessioned.

In establishing criteria for determining whether an object or document should be added to the General History Collection, the following points shall be considered:

- Is the object or document consistent with the collection goals of the Society?
- Is the object or document so unusual that it presents an exceptional opportunity for the Society and, therefore, should be given preferential consideration?
- If the object or document is offered for sale, might it, or a comparable object or document, be obtained by gift or by bequest in the future?
- Can the proper care be given the objects or documents? The Society must be in a position to properly care for the proposed acquisition.
- Will the object or documents be utilized in the foreseeable future?
- Is the history and provenance of the object or document satisfactory?
- Is the object or document encumbered with conditions imposed by the donor regarding the use or the future disposition? As a general rule, objects or documents shall not be accepted with attached conditions. The Society must strictly observe all conditions related to use or disposition of any object or document in its collection.
- Is the use of the object or documents restricted or encumbered by intellectual property rights (i.e., copyright, patent, trademark or trade secret) or by its nature (i.e., obscene, defamatory, potentially an invasion of privacy, physically hazardous)? If the item is restricted or encumbered, can a license to exploit

be obtained from the holder of the intellectual property rights or can a waiver of any such rights be obtained? When will such rights lapse?

- Will the acceptance of the object or documents result in significant expenses for the Society?
- No human remains will be accessioned into the collections in accordance with ORS Chapter 97.745.
- No object or documents should be accepted unless they are destined for a particular collection. Exceptions to this rule should be rare and will be granted only after careful consideration, which includes satisfactory arrangements for disposition of unwanted objects or documents that are not accepted into a collection (such as a trade with another nonprofit institution).
- The Society will not acquire, by any direct or indirect means, an object or document it has reason to believe has been unethically or illegally collected or that has been collected in violation of international agreements or federal, state, or local laws, including but not limited to the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Items deemed not suitable for the General History Collection may be considered candidates for the Historic Register of Education/Prop Collection. Recommendations to accession objects or documents into the Society's three collections are made by a collections team consisting of professional staff members appointed by the Executive Director. The final decision on acquisition shall be made by the Board of Trustees, and shall take into account the recommendation of the staff collections team.

It is sometimes impractical to evaluate all material at the time of acquisition. Upon evaluation, some material may be declared expendable. This situation may hold particularly true of large collections destined for the Research Library and should be considered part of the normal course of acquisition processing, not of deaccessioning.



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- Free admission to SOHS museums and sites.
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Member Profile

CATHERINE MULLALY TURSO, daughter of dedicated SOHS members and volunteers Larry and Alice Mullaly, embodies the profound impact that the Southern Oregon Historical Society can have on young people. As you will read below, Catherine's teenage experiences as a living history interpreter at Beekman House inspired her to pursue a career as a history teacher. Catherine was so successful in this calling that in 2006 she was named New York State History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and Preserve America! Congratulations, Catherine.

Why is Catherine so passionate about history? Here is her response:

"I've devoted the last five years to teaching American history to my 11th grade students at Baruch College Campus High School in Manhattan. 'You really love history, don't you?' they say to me, usually as I finish telling some obscure story about cooking before the invention of gas stoves, or top 40 hits of the Civil War era. The funny thing is, if they had asked me that question when I was in high school, I would have responded very differently. So where did my love for history come from?

"Until recently, I would have said that I have grown to love history because of the joy I get from teaching it to my students. Then, on a field trip to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum in Manhattan last month, memories of another inspiration came flooding back.



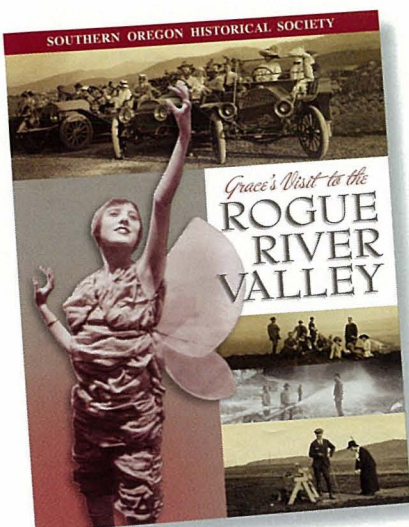
"The museum educator started our tour by asking if my students knew anything about 'living history.' Wait a minute, I thought. I know all about living history. I can still take myself back to Jacksonville, Oregon, where, during one summer vacation, I learned how to cook on a wood stove while portraying Louise, a maid in the 1911 home of Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Beekman. It was quite the struggle keeping that stove going while getting tea on the table for Mrs. Beekman and welcoming those frequent, though oddly dressed, visitors from the future who came to the kitchen door.

"A year or two before that, I had spent a summer dressed in my fashionable hobble skirt, practicing Stephen Foster's 'Beautiful Dreamer' over and over again on the piano in the Beekman's

front parlor. In fact, I spent all my summers as a teenager volunteering and later working in living history programs for the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

"Today, in my American history classroom, it is social history, the stories of regular people and how they lived, that still interests me most. I am certain that my summers immersed in 1911 Jacksonville for the Southern Oregon Historical Society deserve much of the credit for my being able to answer my students, 'Yes, I really do love history.'"

What inspires *you* to support SOHS? Please let us know your story by calling Richard at 541-773-6536 ext. 226, or e-mailing development@sohs.org.



GRACE'S VISIT TO THE ROGUE RIVER VALLEY

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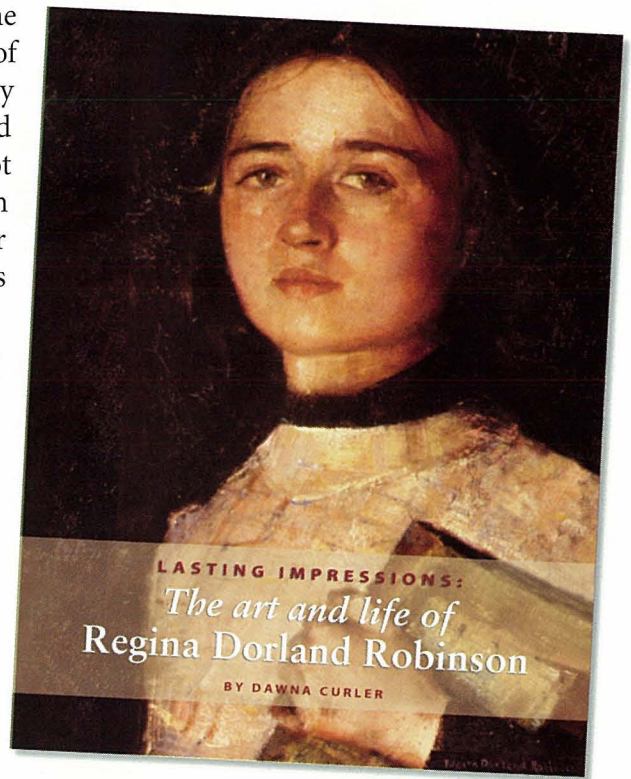
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The Southern Oregon Historical Society is proud to present: *Lasting Impressions: The Art and Life of Regina Dorland Robinson*, a full-color, 112-page, coffee-table style book, written by Dawna Curler, featuring more than 75 images of Dorland's work — from her earliest known examples to masterfully produced oils and pastels created during the last year of her life.

Lasting Impressions will be available in Spring 2007, but SOHS Members who pre-order now through March 1, 2007 will receive 10% off the \$34.95 retail price. Order yours today for \$31.45 (plus shipping/handling) and when the book becomes available, it will be shipped directly to you (if you have pre-paid the shipping/handling costs) or you may come pick up your copy in person (we will notify you when the books arrive).

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*One of the largest artifacts in the SOHS collection is this 1850s barn at Hanley Farm.
Photo by Margaret LaPlante.*

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