



THE OREGON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1898

2014 Annual Report



A Mountain Girl, Frank Branch Riley photo
Lantern Slide Collection, Oregon Historical Society, Box 6

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In 2014, the Oregon Historical Society established The Cabinet, its first junior board, which works to engage our community in Oregon's history in ways that are accessible to all ages.

Letter to Members

Dear OHS Members & Stakeholders,

For hundreds of generations, people have traveled to the land we now call Oregon in search of something. They have come from the Great Plains, the Sonoran Desert, and the Arctic Circle to trade with the native people who have always been here – and they've never stopped coming. Then, as now, new arrivals encounter deeply rooted communities, changing each other, changing the land, creating and recreating what it means to be Oregonian.

Through the loyal support of members, donors, taxpayers, civic-minded businesses, and foundations, the Oregon Historical Society is able to tell the stories of all people who have made their home in Oregon. The history of Oregon is not simple or tidy, nor can it be adequately told through a single story or point of view. This is why the Oregon Historical Society exists; because history is powerful, and because a history as deep and as rich as Oregon's needs careful preservation and interpretation in order to make tomorrow's Oregon better than it is today.

For over 115 years, members like you have donated items to our collection, giving us the privilege of serving as the state's collective memory. Thanks to your support, we now safeguard over 85,000 artifacts, millions of photographs, 12,000 linear feet of manuscripts, and more. We provide access to these pieces of history through digital platforms like the Oregon History Project and the Oregon Encyclopedia and through the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*. Visitors across the world experience history first hand in our museum and research library, which serve everyone from tenured professors to renowned authors to Oregon school children.

Whether you sent in a donation in honor of a family member, took a friend to visit our *Lincoln's Legacy* exhibit, or shared your copy of the *Quarterly* with a fellow history buff, your involvement with OHS is vital. We could not do the important preservation and educational work that we do without your support, and for this we thank you. You help us to continue advancing knowledge, and you put the power of history into everyone's hands.

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2014 in Review

Museum Exhibitions

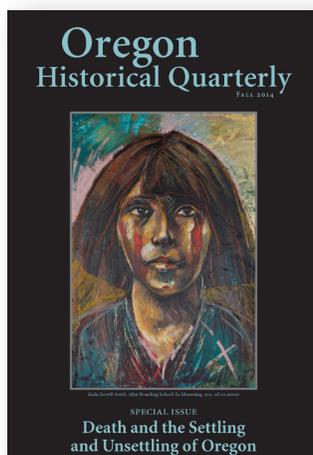
Lincoln's Legacy, Oregon Wine, & Landscape Photography

The museum staff kept particularly busy in 2014 creating three original exhibitions that highlighted Oregon history. **2 Years, 1 Month: Lincoln's Legacy** opened in April and featured stunning artifacts from the Mark Family Collection, including an official House of Representatives copy of the Thirteenth Amendment. Items from the OHS collections told the story from the Oregon perspective, and an interactive "Lincoln Challenge" game delighted visitors of all ages. **Clink! A Taste of Oregon Wine** debuted in June. Wineries from across the state supported both the creation of the exhibit and events throughout the summer, including "Willamette Week Wine Wednesdays" and special lectures with industry notables. In partnership with curator Laura Valenti from Photolucida, OHS opened **Place: Framing the Oregon Landscape** in November, an artistic representation of this land and its peoples. Works from ten contemporary photographers were juxtaposed with artifacts from the Society's collection to provide context and a deeper level of discovery.

Research Library

New Events & Recent Acquisitions

The staff in the OHS research library continued to expertly serve scholars and students from across the country, while expanding their list of public programs and processing new collections. Most notably, 2014 marked the addition of *The Skanner* and Portland General Electric collections to the Oregon Historical Society. In addition to its popular Genealogy Workshops, new lantern slide presentations took place around the Portland area. The moving images department also worked with local filmmakers on the Netflix documentary *The Battered Bastards of Baseball*, which used footage from the collection to tell the story of the legendary Portland Mavericks.



Oregon Historical Quarterly

Fall Special Issue & #OHQ115

This past year was the 115th volume year of the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, and OHS marked the occasion with a social media campaign asking folks to post a photo of their *OHQ* collection and tag it #OHQ115. In the fall, the *Quarterly* staff presented a special issue titled **Death and the Settling and Unsettling of Oregon**. Based on the scholarship generated at the 2013 symposium of the same name, this issue sought to assess the role of death in Oregon's history. "Death is a serious subject," coeditor Matthew Dennis explained, and "for Native Oregonians, as well as for newcomers, the American settlement of Oregon proved profoundly unsettling." Focusing on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, articles explore the "so-called settlement of the Oregon Territory by white pioneers" and the "devastating unsettling" of Natives.

2014 in Review

Public Programs & Special Events

Doris Kearns Goodwin

In celebration of *2 Years, 1 Month: Lincoln's Legacy*, OHS invited famed historian Doris Kearns Goodwin for a special lecture on July 21. That evening, Doris spoke to a sold out crowd at the Newmark Theater, captivating the audience with stories of “her guys” Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, and FDR.



What's It Worth?

Ever wondered if the junk in your attic has any value? You are not alone. Last August, OHS held its first annual “What’s It Worth?” event, where visitors were invited to bring in items for evaluation by local experts. From political buttons to paintings to vintage clothing, over 100 people brought in items, and a few found out that they have something extremely valuable on their hands! The event was such a success that OHS has invited even more experts to participate in the event in 2015.

History Makers Dinner

On Sunday, October 5, three individuals and one business received the Oregon History Makers Medal at the 6th annual gala. The 2014 recipients were Oregon’s musical ambassador to the world and Pink Martini band leader Thomas Lauderdale, Oregon’s first woman Governor Barbara Roberts, cancer warrior Dr. Walter Urba, and iconic Oregon business Bandon Dunes Golf Resort. This event is the largest fundraiser that OHS hosts each year, raising nearly \$200,000 in support of programs, collection efforts, educational outreach, and exhibitions.



Education & Digital History

The OHS education department hosted thousands of school children for tours of exhibitions, including tours that coincide with rotating exhibits and complying with Oregon’s Common Core Standards. OHS continues to spread its reach statewide through both educational outreach opportunities like the annual Teddy Roosevelt Roadshow and by expanding its presence on the web. This past fall, OHS launched its very first virtual exhibition on ohs.org. Now, students, teachers, and curious history buffs who cannot visit the museum in person can tour the popular 2013 presidential exhibition *Windows on America* from a computer or tablet. The virtual tour takes visitors through the exhibit to view all of the artifacts and documents that were on display, as well as listen to audio recordings of select documents read aloud and watch new behind-the-scenes videos hosted by Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk. The Oregon History Project and Oregon Encyclopedia also went through a revamp in 2014, debuting newly designed websites with search capabilities across both platforms.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

	2014	2013
Assets:		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,824,821	1,296,092
Accounts receivable	21,155	75,420
Contributions and grants received	397,743	147,968
Inventories and prepayments	390,029	274,925
Other assets	93,146	98,118
Donor restricted endowment	1,511,579	1,500,931
Un-appropriated endowment earnings	142,509	95,857
Board-designated reserves	6,006,386	3,915,995
Beneficial interest in assets held by the Oregon Community Foundation	7,753,806	7,840,860
Beneficial interest in charitable trusts	457,379	469,034
Restricted deposits and funded reserves	50,000	-
Land, buildings, and equipment	8,976,900	9,432,916
Total assets	\$ 28,625,453	25,148,116
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	442,375	337,124
Income taxes payable	1,277,213	11,691
Deferred revenue	11,236	5,563
Long-term debt	-	27,977
Total liabilities	1,730,824	382,355
Net assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Available for operations	397,880	248,255
Board-designated reserves	6,655,263	4,093,336
Cumulative endowment deficit	(153,181)	(91,245)
Net investment in capital assets	8,976,900	8,799,557
Net investment in operating subsidiary	-	718,771
Total unrestricted	15,876,862	13,768,674
Temporarily restricted	1,242,434	1,205,599
Permanently restricted	9,775,333	9,791,488
Total net assets	26,894,629	24,765,761
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 28,625,453	25,148,116

Year ended December 31, 2014, with comparative amounts for 2013

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

	2014			Total	2013
	Unrestricted	Temporarily restricted	Permanently restricted		
Public support:					
Contributions and grants	\$ 1,508,559	853,098	1,100	2,362,757	3,683,202
Memberships	227,589	–	–	227,589	236,608
Multnomah County levy	1,570,006	–	–	1,570,006	1,575,203
Other governmental funding	797,833	65,474	–	863,307	644,566
Total public support	4,103,987	918,572	1,100	5,023,659	6,139,579
Revenue and Gains					
Admissions	169,019	–	–	169,019	170,065
Product sales	215,704	–	–	215,704	256,342
Rental income	407,559	–	–	407,559	685,702
Investment earnings	233,836	82,559	–	316,395	487,408
Net change in the beneficial interest in assets held by the Oregon Community Foundation	199,696	80,178	–	279,874	891,467
Net change in the fair value of split- interest agreements	–	–	(11,655)	(11,655)	69,102
Net gain on the sale of collection items	–	14,498	–	14,498	11,072
Gain (loss) on the sale of capital assets	3,162,260	–	–	3,162,260	(5,346)
Other	231,250	–	–	231,250	149,163
Total revenues and gains	4,619,324	177,235	(11,655)	4,784,904	2,714,975
Net assets released from restrictions	1,064,572	(1,058,972)	(5,600)	–	–
Total revenues, gains, and other support	9,787,883	36,835	(16,155)	9,808,563	8,854,554
Expenses:					
Program services	4,750,752	–	–	4,750,752	4,130,093
Supporting services	1,368,737	–	–	1,368,737	1,291,164
Jefferson-Madison Corporation	1,560,206	–	–	1,560,206	625,510
Total expenses	7,679,695	–	–	7,679,695	6,046,767
Increase (decrease) in net assets	2,108,188	36,835	(16,155)	2,128,868	2,807,787
Net assets at beginning of year	13,768,674	1,205,599	9,791,488	24,765,761	21,957,974
Net assets at end of year	\$ 15,876,862	1,242,434	9,775,333	26,894,629	24,765,761

Year ended December 31, 2014, with comparative totals for 2013

*The Oregon Historical Society is a
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