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NEWS RELEASE

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Free Public Lecture in Portland June 7 Features Historic Conservation Photographers

Portland, OR – June 5, 2017 – Photos and manuscripts by noted conservationist William L. Finley, his wife Irene, and Herman T. Bohlman helped in establishing wildlife refuges in Oregon. Now those photographs, manuscripts, and other documents are becoming available online and will be shown at a lecture at the First Congregational Church (1126 SW Park Avenue, Portland) June 7 at 6:30pm. Admission is free and open to the public.

William L. Finley's interest in wildlife conservation began when he and his boyhood friend, Herman T. Bohlman, began photographing birds around Oregon at the turn of the twentieth century.



William L. Finley photographing beside his car near Island Ranch, Harney County, Oregon, 1919. Oregon Historical Society Research Library, Org. Lot 369, Finley D1991

The [Oregon Historical Society Research Library](#) and [Oregon State University Libraries' Special Collections and Archives Research Center](#) are collaborating to make more than

40 years of photographs, manuscripts, publications, correspondence, and other materials created by William Finley, Irene Finley, and Herman Bohlman available online. The project, "Reuniting Finley and Bohlman," is funded in part by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Oregon State Library.

The project began in July 2016 and will be completed by June 30, 2017. This digitization effort allows the collection, which is physically divided between the Oregon Historical

Society in Portland and Oregon State University in Corvallis, to be united in its entirety for researchers and conservationists to access in a single digital space. Many of the photographs and documents are already available on the Oregon Historical Society's newly launched Digital Collections website (<http://digitalcollections.ohs.org>) and on Oregon State University's digital collection website (<http://oregondigital.org/sets/finley-bohlman>).



William L. Finley seated in front of an umbrella taking notes on the 1905 Klamath expedition with several small birds perched around his legs. Oregon Historical Society Research Library, Org. Lot 369, Finley A1600

The entire digital collection will include approximately 6,500 photographs and 8,600 pages of manuscript material. The photographs include Finley and Bohlman's trips to Malheur Lake, the Klamath Lakes, and Three Arch Rocks on the Oregon coast – and, these photographs played a key role in President Theodore Roosevelt's decision to create wildlife refuges at those locations. A fourth wildlife refuge near Corvallis was named in honor of William Finley. More information about Finley can be found on [The Oregon Encyclopedia](#). Press images available online at <http://bit.ly/2p8eMIG>.

About the Oregon Historical Society

For more than a century, the Oregon Historical Society has served as the state's collective memory, preserving a vast collection of artifacts, photographs, maps, manuscript materials, books, films, and oral histories. Our research library, museum, digital platforms & website (www.ohs.org), educational programming, and historical journal make Oregon's history open and accessible to all. We exist because history is powerful, and because a history as deep and rich as Oregon's cannot be contained within a single story or point of view.