

Oregon Ancestor

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at the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley California. Librarians have listed their holdings in a published union list available at or through your library, which tells what files exist and where they may be found. Don't be surprised if there are gaps just when you need them the most. Unfortunately newspapers are hard to use. Exact dates help or you will read and read to find the data you seek. Even then you may be disappointed, for news today was not news in your grandfather's papers.

Educational records of colleges include a matriculation record, and if they are state supported, they may require proof of residence in Oregon. Most colleges have active alumni offices to keep track of former students and their families. High school records currently include the age of the student, place of birth, number of children in the family, the names of the parents, occupation and addresses, as well as recording school achievements. Elementary school records which are similar, may be missing before the 1920's, since there was then no centralized responsibility for their administration, and in the case of the small country school they stayed in the hands of past clerks of the district. School census records in the office of the County Superintendent of Schools may begin as early as 1899. They furnish the names of children between 4 and 19, their age, their parent's names and address.

When you know where people lived and what they did, you can judge for yourself the significance of real property and tax records. These are recorded in the County Court House, and are to be traced through the indexes. The signature of a wife whose name you did not have may be important. Similarly, an estate without a will, may result in the payment of taxes annually, first by the oldest brother, then by the next, and so on until the youngest is of age. One such instance produced the names of six out of seven sons, and the youngest was identified through his own published memoirs. On the other hand the

tax rolls may show when your people left the county. For the territorial period tax rolls are at the Oregon Historical Society, in Portland, or at the Secretary of State's office in Salem.

Occupations lead to all kinds of specialized records. Lawyers are admitted to the bar. Beauticians must be licensed, and so are the barbers. Their occupational records may not reveal much in relation to their families. On the other hand, they serve to distinguish between two John Smiths, or two Fred Troxels and may lead to most interesting information about the times in which they lived, in the manuscript resources of the Oregon Historical Society and similar special collections.

Knowing where your people lived, you may want to search the U. S. Census population schedules for Oregon for 1850, 1860, 1870 or 1880, available on microfilm at the Oregon State Library at Salem, the Oregon Historical Society in Portland, and the University of Oregon Library at Eugene, and in the original in the National Archives, Washington, D. C. The State Archivist at the State Library will even furnish you full transcripts of the record. However, he charges a fee of \$1.00 per family, per county in one census searched. To help, he has compiled an index to the 1850 census which is to be published soon. The census is important to you, because it shows who were living with your ancestors, their relationship in 1880, only, their age, occupation, and where they were born. Typical is the 1880 entry for Job Arnold, aged 44, a farmer of the Toledo District in Benton County, now Lincoln county. He and his wife Mary, aged 40, were both born in Pennsylvania, her parents were born in Rhode Island, and his father was likewise born in Rhode Island, while his mother was born in New York. Their children ranging in ages from 5 to 19 were born in Minnesota. Where else could you get such a wonderful lead to origins of your family? On the other hand if you want to know what kind of a start he was making, it is shown in the 1880 original schedules of Agriculture at the Oregon State Library.

In searching the census it is important not to forget your collateral rela-