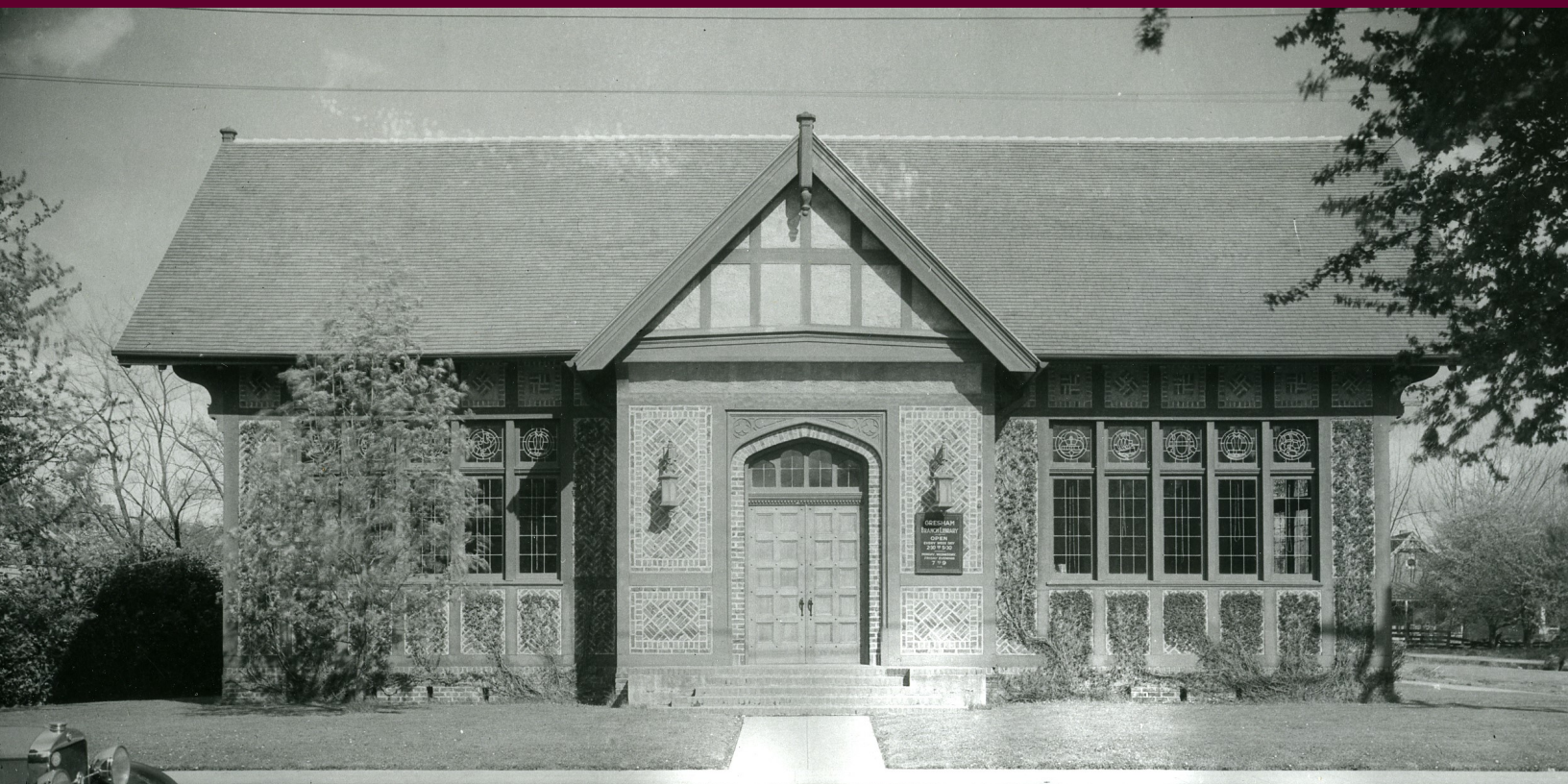




The
ARCHIVE



Quarterly of the Gresham Historical Society

WINTER 2021-2022

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President's Letter

Greetings Friends and Members,

The worst of the fire damage is behind us, and the Gresham Historical Society reopened to visitors over the holiday season. As of Monday, October 25, all building repairs that our insurance will cover were completed, and the museum looks better than ever. We have taken this opportunity to replace our carpet and lights and to add air conditioning, which will dramatically improve conditions for our historic collections (not to mention guests!) during the warm months. There is still more work to be done, and funds to raise to complete the restoration.

We are profoundly thankful for the help of the Gresham Fire Department, our volunteers, contractors, and the community. It was amazing to see everyone come together. Many thanks to those who have supported us through this difficult time.

After a successful reopening and Christmas at the Museum program (see pg. 9), we look ahead to the new year, when the museum will reopen to the public with brand-new exhibits on Gresham's history.

Thank you, as always, for your invaluable support.

Sincerely,

Carol Nielsen, President



President Carol Nielsen ✦ **Vice President** Martin Stone ✦ **Treasurer** Leslie Radke ✦ **Secretary** Rose Marie Noojin
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Pete White ✦ **Emeritus** Utahna Kerr

Museum Director
Silvie Andrews

A History of Gresham in 100 Objects

As many of you know already, the Gresham Historical Society has a storage problem. A large part of our collection is stored offsite in a basement, where it was taken when we lost our space in Old City Hall (torn down in 2018—R.I.P.). In the process of moving and inventorying these historic items, we found a number of treasures that haven't seen the inside of the museum in years, or in some cases, ever.

With the long-term suitability of this storage situation in question, we're bringing many of these objects to the museum, where we will uncover their history and meaning in an interactive exhibit that you and your children (or grandchildren, or nieces and nephews) will be able to enjoy beginning this February.

A History of Gresham in 100 Objects will get you thinking about the meaning of the everyday objects around you. What do we save? What do we throw away? Does an object by itself have meaning, or is it the stories we attach to it that give it value?

What do a barber chair, a wagon wheel, a cigar mold, and a pump organ have in common? Answer: All will be on display at the Gresham Historical Society next year. We hope to see you then, and stay tuned for the announcement of our opening reception.



Visit the Museum Store

Is your New Year's resolution to learn more about where you live? Do you have a history lover in your life with a birthday coming up? The Gresham Historical Society Museum Store has you covered. Now located at our south entrance on 4th street, the Museum Store will remain open in January during exhibit preparation. We supply books of history and other topics of local interest, as well as jewelry, notebooks, and branded merchandise. If you're looking for a place to spend the cash you got for Christmas, look no further.



Building Fire Recap

You, our community, rallied around us when we needed it the most after the building fire this summer, and we are grateful beyond words.

The Day of the Fire

Volunteers **Claudia Andrews, Mike Andrews, Kim Buerger, and Scott Forrester** helped evacuate damaged textiles from the storage location where the fire occurred.

The **Oregon Historical Society** loaned us three barrels of disaster supplies.

CRDN and **Kennedy Restoration** arrived on the scene quickly and worked to dry the building and the historic collections.

Target Fairview Store donated a \$250 gift card for the purchase of cotton towels, which we used to dry damaged textiles and other items. As a bonus, we were able to keep the towels in case of future emergencies at the museum or at one of our partner museums.

Most importantly, the **Gresham Fire Department** and **Gresham Police Department** arrived immediately to suppress the fire and ensure that the building was safe for us to enter and begin our work.

After the Fire

CRDN dried hundreds of historic objects that were soaked by sprinkler water. They and **Art Work Fine Art Services** stored our collection until we were able to bring it back in late November.

The **Registrars Committee: Western Region** selected us for CSI: Registrars, an annual volunteer day. Museum professionals from across the western United States used photos to write descriptions and condition reports for dozens of items damaged in the fire. RC:WR also donated \$1000 in collections supplies.

Board member **Lon Shiiki** volunteered countless hours to oversee contractors.

Numerous individual and business **donors** gave generously to fund projects related to fire

Star Contractors

The board would like to thank the following contractors, whose talents, resources, and hard work turned our world around.



All-Clean!/Clearly
Amazing for washing
the windows.



Art Work Fine Art
Services for storing
and transporting our
historic collections.



Core General
Contractors for adding
insulation and
plywood flooring in
the attic.



CRDN for
transporting, drying,
and storing our
historic collections.



Portland Security
Alarm for work on
our alarm systems.



Jacobs Heating and
Air Conditioning for
installing our new
HVAC system.



Kennedy for
overseeing
restoration efforts.



Liberty Mutual, our
insurance company.

Jose Navaro for
sheetrock and paint.

River Flooring for
carpet and VCT.



TRC for hygienic
services.



WFJ for construction
cleaning.



Wyatt Fire Protection for
fixing our sprinklers.



M2 Integration for
electrical work.



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From the Archives

William Walch in World War I



*GHS 2018.023.0004,
William Walch in infantry
uniform, c.1917.*

over nearly two months of action on the front with no rest—a total of three battles that stretched from September 3 to October 28, 1918. William Walch was killed on October 10.

The Walches were far from the only local family that suffered loss during World War I. What is remarkable



GHS 1156, Hillsview School c.1900.

is that they chose to preserve the record of their loss in the form of William's belongings, saved for 100

years in his uniform pocket. Through this family's experience of grief, we can learn about the local impact of World War I not only on the veterans who came home but on the families of those who did not.

In 2018, the Gresham Historical Society received a very unusual donation. It was a small collection of belongings of William Walch, an Austrian-American who had grown up on the family homestead in Hillsvie, southeast of Gresham. The Walches were farmers. William's father, Lorenz Walch, a first-generation Austrian immigrant, died in 1919 and is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery. William, who had died the previous year, was buried in France.

The Walch donation was small. Most of it fit inside a woolen, olive drab pocket that had been cut from William Walch's army uniform when he was killed in action during the grueling last months of World War I. His worldly belongings, which consisted of a pocket watch, compass, nib pen, and assorted buttons and insignia, had been sent home to his family packed inside the pocket and had remained there over the ensuing century. His niece, Margaret Dahne, was the donor.

Before the war, William Walch had led a life typical of farming families in this area. He and his siblings, Joseph, Herman, and Paulina Walch, had received their primary education at Hillsvie School. William became a timber faller and was working in Carlisle, Washington when he registered for the draft in 1917. He trained in Camp Lewis near Tacoma (now Joint Base Lewis-McChord) along with other Oregon soldiers and was assigned to L Company, 361st Infantry Regiment, 91st U.S. Army Division. The 91st was sent to France, where the unit endured a 70% casualty rate



*GHS 2018.023.0001, U.S. Army uniform
pocket and contents.*

Support Our Work

Dear Friends,

This holiday season, we hope that you will take a moment to reflect on what local history means to you. Perhaps it deepens your sense of connection to the community. To some people, it is a refuge from turbulent times, or a way of making sense of current events. Others approach it as a source for academic and family research.

Local history is many things to many people, and so is the Gresham Historical Society. A museum, an archive, and a community gathering place, GHS serves the fourth-largest city in Oregon, as well as visitors and researchers from around the world. Housed in Gresham's historic former public library, we carry on a century-long legacy of knowledge-sharing. In times rife with uncertainty, this service is more critical than ever.

As a nonprofit, we rely on the generosity of our members and benefactors to carry our mission forward. This spring, Multnomah County voters generously passed the Oregon Historical Society levy, which also benefits GHS and other East Multnomah County historical societies. We are hoping to build on these funds in order to provide you with stronger exhibits, more dynamic events, and better storage conditions for the historic materials in our care. It is for these reasons and more that we are asking you to consider including GHS in your charitable giving this winter.

The museum fire on July 2 was a sobering reminder that disaster can strike at any time. It was as a direct result of this that we have since added considerable upgrades to our HVAC system, sprinklers, and collections storage areas. While necessary to the long-term preservation of our building and the historic materials within it, these repairs were not covered by insurance. We are seeking donations to cover \$30,000 in fire-related expenses.

With this and many other projects on the horizon, we are excited about the future of the Gresham Historical Society. Your contribution will help us preserve history and share it within Gresham and beyond for many years to come.

With warm wishes for a happy New Year,

The Staff and Board of the Gresham Historical Society

Become a Member

7



THE OREGON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1898

Oregon Historical Society Joint Membership Offer

Until March 31, all new and renewing members of the Gresham Historical Society will also receive a complimentary one-year membership to the Oregon Historical Society! Benefits include free admission to the OHS Museum; an annual subscription to the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, the Society's journal, and *The Historian*, its newsletter; a 10% discount in the Museum Store, invitations to members-only events, including exhibit openings, as well as first notice on lectures and other public programs; and complimentary membership in Time Travelers, a network of historical societies and museums across the country. An individual membership secures these benefits for one adult, and a family membership for two adults and all children or grandchildren in the household.

The value of an OHS membership is \$60 for individuals and \$80 for families.

If you choose to enroll in this generous joint membership offer, your \$20 individual membership to GHS has a value of \$80, and a \$30 GHS family membership has a value of \$110.

For more information, visit www.ohs.org/join/individual-family-membership.cfm.

Not a member already? Becoming a member is easy! Fill out the form below, bring it to the museum, or mail it to us at PO Box 65, Gresham, OR 97030. Make checks payable to the Gresham Historical Society.

Membership at the Gresham Historical Society supports the continued preservation and sharing of our local history. Now, more than ever, we rely on member support to continue our mission.

For more information, contact us at (503)661-0347 or info@greshamhistorical.org.

Membership Enrollment/Renewal Form

Member or Family Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

I wish to receive the quarterly newsletter in the following format(s): Print _____ Email _____

Choose Your Membership

Each membership includes a member card, a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, and invitations to members-only events throughout the year.

- ☐ **Individual** \$20 membership for one adult
- ☐ **Family** \$30 benefits for two adults and all family members under 18
- ☐ **Business** \$100 two membership cards for any employee
- ☐ **Business Plus** \$200 two membership cards for any employee and your business logo in the Quarterly of the Gresham Historical Society
- ☐ **Patron** \$1000 annual parking pass to the Gresham Historical Society lot on 4th Street

I wish to make an additional donation in the amount of \$ _____

- ☐ **Yes, I wish to enroll in a complimentary annual membership to the Oregon Historical Society.**

Payment Information

Payment method (circle one): Cash Check (payable to Gresham Historical Society)

Please charge my credit/debit card \$ _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____ CVV _____

Signature _____

Ways to Give

Gifts and contributions to the Gresham Historical Society support the continued preservation and sharing of our local history.

Monetary Contributions

Your unrestricted gift supports the daily operations of the Gresham Historical Society and the maintenance and preservation of the Historic 1913 Gresham Carnegie Library.

Recurring Donations

Your unrestricted recurring gifts provide the predictable, ongoing support that allows the Gresham Historical Society to perform necessary financial planning.

Gifts in Memory or Tribute

Each year, the Gresham Historical Society receives gifts in memorial and tribute. Honor the life and achievements of those in your life through legacy giving.

Appreciated Securities or Stock

Charitable gifts of stock are a wonderful way to provide ongoing support for the Gresham Historical Society. Check with your tax adviser for details.

Planned Giving

Include the Gresham Historical Society in your estate planning and be a part of Gresham's legacy.

Give History a Home

Make an optional contribution to support the preservation and sharing of historic collections.

The collections of the Gresham Historical Society encompass every era of this city's development. In order to provide the highest standard of care for this invaluable resource, we are raising funds to purchase archival materials that will ensure their accessibility and preservation for future generations. Mark the quantity next to the item(s) you wish your donation to be used for:

- ___ \$5 **Large photo envelope** houses one large photo
- ___ \$15 **Small archival box** houses up to 200 small documents or photos
- ___ \$15 **Document box** houses up to 500 documents
- ___ \$17 **Large document box** houses up to 1000 oversized documents or photographs
- ___ \$30 **Textile storage tube** houses one flag or other large textile
- ___ \$35 **Box of archival envelopes** houses 50 historic photographs or negatives
- ___ \$635 **Flat file** houses up to 500 maps or posters
- ___ \$784 **Epson SureColor Photo Printer** prints high-quality photo reproductions for exhibit and sale

Memorial Contributions

I wish to make a gift of \$ _____ in honor of _____

Recurring Contributions

I wish to make a monthly gift of \$ _____ to be charged to my credit/debit card (please add information below).

Payment Information

Payment method (circle one): Cash Check (payable to Gresham Historical Society)

Please charge my credit/debit card \$ _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____ CVV _____

Signature _____

Thank You, Donors!

Contributors \$1-\$99

Marilou Bohmann
Mark D. & Bonnie E. Brandt
Linda L. Brixey ✦
Janice Crowley
Rachael Cunliffe
Dorothy & Doug Douglas ✦
Robert Estes
Robert Estes & Mary Jeanne Oliva
Monica J. Ford ✦
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We wish to thank our anonymous donors, who contributed a total of \$5378 in 2021.

✦ Donors who gave in support of museum fire recovery.

2021 Donors of Historic Materials

April Lindstedt for VFW of Sandy	Bonnie R. Jepsen
Deseri Cerruti for the Gresham Outlook	Cindy Johnston
Lon Shiiki	Carla C. Piluso
Rich Duval	Sandra Anderson
Beverly Russell	Edward J. McMahon
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Donor Levels

Contributor	\$1-99
Patrons	\$100-249
Associate	\$250-499
Steward	\$500-999
Grantor	\$1000-4,999
Benefactor	\$5000-9,999
1913 Carnegie Fellow	\$10,000+
(Monetary or in-kind value)	

Emma Zimmerman's Journey

We wrote several years ago that GHS board member Eellitta Stone had solved the decades-old mystery of Emma Zimmerman, an unidentified girl whose gravestone was found by a landscaper in a blackberry patch east of Gresham. While GHS volunteers had tried for years to find records of Emma's burial in Multnomah or Clackamas Counties, it turned out that she had lived and died on the Oregon Coast, and her grave was actually located in the Nehalem Cemetery, along with those of her parents, Wilhelm and Albertine Zimmerman.

This fall, the journey of the headstone finally reached its resolution. Tom Campbell, president of the Nehalem Valley Historical Society (NVHS), traveled to Gresham and picked up the headstone for display in the Society's museum in Manzanita, Oregon. The following excerpt, taken from an article that NVHS contributed to the *Tillamook Headlight-Herald*, sheds light on the Zimmerman family's significance to the region's history:

The Zimmerman family, headed by Wilhelm and Albertine, were one of the Nehalem Valley's first homesteader families. They came from Bremen, Germany settled in Wisconsin and then came across the country to stake their claim in what is now Wheeler. The Zimmermans were a successful family. The Hotel Rector was located in the Zimmerman building in Wheeler and Wilhelm was a primary part of the marketing company, The Nehalem Company.

Wilhelm and Albertine had seven children but only three survived to adulthood. Of them, one was included as an incorporator of the City of Wheeler and served as an original alderman on the city council in 1913. The family burial plot is in the Nehalem Cemetery. Wilhelm and Albertine are both interred there and Emma, born in 1885, is next to Wilhelm.

NVHS has not yet decided whether to retain the headstone in the museum for display and safekeeping, or to replace it in the Nehalem Cemetery. They hope to reach a solution that is respectful to Emma and her family, as well as the cemetery and the cities of Nehalem and Wheeler.

The headstone likely traveled farther from the Nehalem Valley than Emma Zimmerman ever did in life, so the questions remain: Why was it removed? How did it end up in Gresham? We may never find out the answers, but we are happy that the headstone is once again back where it belongs.



Executive Director Pat Stone posed with the headstone for an Oregonian article in 1993.



Close-up of photograph embedded in the headstone, showing Emma Zimmerman circa 1893.



Tom Campbell (left) loaded the headstone into his truck with the help of Silvie Andrews and Lon Shiiki.



After Thanksgiving, the museum opened for the first time since the fire on July 2. With large collections of snowmen and nutcrackers, a remarkable showing in the gingerbread house competition, and a winter village donated by Providence Festival of the Trees, Christmas at the Museum drew in hundreds of visitors. Thank you to all who helped bring this event to fruition and everyone who visited us this season!

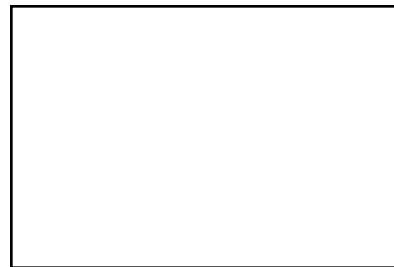


Thank you to our event sponsors!





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www.greshamhistorical.org

Email: info@greshamhistorical.org

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The Gresham Historical Society is a private, non-profit organization that manages the Gresham Historical Museum and special collections library and archive, located in the historic Carnegie Library building in Historic Downtown Gresham.

Founded in 1976 and funded through donations from the community, the Gresham Historical Society was run exclusively by volunteers for the majority of its history.

In 2010, Multnomah County voters passed a property tax levy to support local history. Those levy funds pay for exhibitions and for us to have a full-time staff member which helps keep us free and open to the public.

Our mission is to collect, preserve, and share our local history.



We're Under Construction!

The Museum Store on 4th Street will be open Wednesday through Sunday beginning in January. Stop in to say hello and to get a preview of our new exhibit, opening in February 2022. See pg. 3 for details.