



# Local History Resources in Coos County Libraries

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## Books

Here is just a (very) small sample of the many useful books of local interest. Historians, genealogists, or just people interested in the local area should take note.

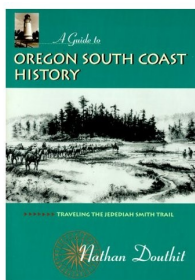
***Seeking Recognition: The Termination and Restoration of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, 1855-1984***  
**by David R. M. Beck (2009)**



Important new work on the history of these tribes and their 30-year fight with the U.S. government to have their tribal rights restored. Other works on local Native tribes include *The Indians of Western Oregon: This Land Was Theirs* by Stephen Dow Beckham and *The Coquille Indians: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow* by Roberta L. Hall (1991)

***Stars in the Dark: Coal Mines of Southwestern Oregon***  
**By Dow Beckham (1995)**

The seminal history of coal mining in coastal southwestern Oregon, from its roots in 1853, to the closing of the mines in the early 20th century. Includes many historic photos.



***A Guide to Oregon South Coast History: Traveling the Jedediah Smith Trail***  
**by Nathan Douthit (1999)**

A rich source of historical information about south coast people, places, and events, beginning with the an overview of South Coast history, the early exploration of Oregon by the Spanish, Captain James Cook, and describes roads, buildings, archaeological sites, shipwrecks, people, and more, following the route taken in 1828 by Jedediah Smith.



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***Ninety-Five Years On Coos Bay: From March 21, 1905 - March 21, 2000***  
**by Lorence William Eickworth (2000)**

Eickworth's book gives a fine, personal perspective on living and working in the Coos Bay area.

***Can't You Hear the Whistle Blowin': Logs, Lignite, and Locomotives in Coos County, Oregon 1850-1930***  
**by William A. Lansing (2007)**

Excellent, well-researched work on logging, logging companies, and railroads in Coos County, with a large selection of photographs. Other books on logging and natural resources development in the area include *Early Coos County Loggers* by Curt Beckham (1990), *Swift Flows the River: Log Driving in Oregon* by Dow Beckham (1990), and *Hard Times in Paradise: Coos Bay, Oregon* by William G. Robbins (2006)

***A Century of Coos and Curry: History of Southwest Oregon***  
**by Emil R. Peterson and Alfred Powers (1952)**

One of the key historical works about the people, places, industries and events in Coos and Curry counties. Another book on Coos and Curry County history is *Pioneer History of Coos and Curry Counties* by Orvil Dodge (1898, 1969).

***The Uncommon Life of Louis Jerome Simpson*** (BYGONES, 2003)  
**by Dick and Judith Wagner**

A comprehensive, major biography of the founder of and first mayor of the City of North Bend. This well-researched book documents the origins of the city, its region, and the shipping, ranching, and timber industries of its time. Other works on North Bend history include *Louie Simpson's North Bend* by Dick Wagner (1986) and *The Simpsons of Shore Acres* by Stephen Dow Beckham (1971).

***Ships and Ship-builders of Southern Oregon (West, 197-)***  
**by Victor West**

An invaluable local resource of annotated photographs that identify ships built in southern Oregon coastal communities, particularly in the Coos County, including ships built by Asa Simpson and the Kruse and Banks shipyards of North Bend. Another book on ships and shipwrecks in the area is *Shipwrecks of the Southern Oregon Coast* by Victor West (198-).

## Newspapers

Local newspapers serve as a fabulous resource for historical information, obituaries, or even just getting a feeling for the times. Check out these papers available at local libraries.

### **Coos Bay Times**

As the paper of record for much of Coos County, the Coos Bay Public Library keeps microfilm of the daily *Coos Bay Times* from 1906 to 1957.

### **North Bend News**

The *North Bend News* is a weekly paper that was published in North Bend from 1951 to 1986. It is a great source of information about local North Bend history as well as obituaries. This newspaper is available on microfilm at the North Bend Public Library. Original copies are also available for viewing upon request.

### **The World**

This newspaper is a daily that serves as the paper of record for Coos Bay/North Bend, much of Coos County, and some parts of neighboring counties. The Coos Bay Public Library carries *The World* on microfilm from 1957 to the present.



### **Other newspapers**

There are many other newspapers available in print and on microfilm at Coos County libraries including the *Bandon Recorder*, *Coos Bay Harbor*, *Coquille Valley Sentinel*, *Myrtle Point Herald*, *Western World*, and more.

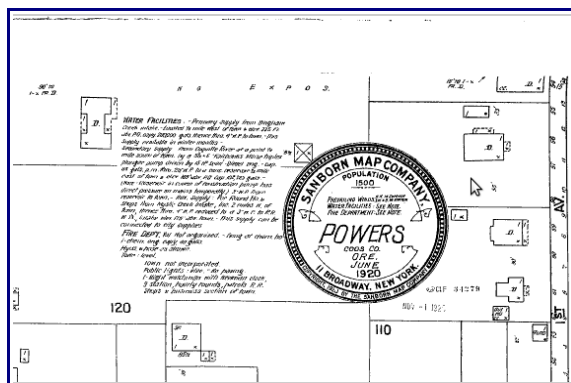
## Online resources

There's more than just print! Here are a few great online resources that we recommend checking out.

### **Sanborn Maps**

<http://www.cooslibraries.org> -> Click the link to "Electronic Resources"

Interested in checking out historical plots maps of the area from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century? Check out Sanborn Maps, a database to which the Coos County Libraries subscribe. You can see detailed maps from various periods of communities throughout the county.





### **Southern Oregon Digital Archive**

**<http://soda.sou.edu>**

Southern Oregon University has been digitizing several works of historical interest to southern Oregon. Their online archive of these materials is freely available and includes important items such as *Pioneer History of Coos and Curry County*, old maps of the area, and much more from around southern Oregon.

### **The World Online**

<http://www.theworldlink.com>

*The World* newspaper maintains an archive of stories on their website. These stories are available for free online from August 2000 to the present.

### **Other resources**

Check out some of these other unique and useful resources available to you at local libraries.

### **Living History Series**

In an effort to capture the wisdom of our elders, devoted individuals recorded oral histories and stories from many elders from throughout our communities. The cassettes of these interviews and histories are available for checkout from Coos Bay, North Bend, and the Southwestern Oregon Community College Library. These oral histories communicate people's unique perspectives and knowledge of Coos County and its communities.

### **Vertical files**

Many libraries, including Coos Bay and North Bend, have vertical files containing newspaper clippings on many local topics and special items such as the grand opening of the McCullough Bridge, North Bend's myrtlewood money, the New Carissa shipwreck incident, and more. Go to your local library and ask to view these items.

Last updated: April 9, 2010, by Buzzy Nielsen and Gary Sharp.