

Welcome to the Holgate Branch of Multnomah County Library

Our library system offers rich resources to help you explore the history of your family, your neighborhood—maybe even your house! In this document, you'll find guides to introduce you to some of the materials available to you, whether as a researcher or just an interested reader.

Though many research materials are located only at the Central Library in Portland, Holgate Library can offer several wonderful examples of local history. Here is a sampling.

Vanishing Portland, by Ray and Jeanna Bottenberg. 979.549 B751v 2008

A history in photographs of what used to be: Vanport, businesses, streetcars, our skyline before Mt. St. Helens' 1980 eruption.

Pearl tea : historical stories of Lents, Oregon, 1861-1954, by Judith Quinlin Bunch and Joyce Quinlin Gray. 979.549 B942p 2008

An illustrated, lovingly detailed history of our own backyard.

Portland, Oregon: its history and builders in connection with the antecedent explorations, discoveries and movements of the pioneers that selected the site for the great city of the Pacific, by Joseph Gaston. R- 979.51 G25

Three volumes from 1911. A great city deserves a long title! Library use only.

A History of South Portland, by Stephen Y. Leflar. 979.549 L4938h 2010

Remember Urban Renewal? How about WWII shipyards at Ross Island?

The Portland Red Guide: sites & stories of our radical past, by Michael Munk. 979.549 M966p 2007

Portland's own People's History, carefully researched and unabashedly left-leaning.

Portland's Streetcars, by Richard Thompson. 388.46 T475p 2006

Folks intrigued by photos of the old electric cars on the TriMet buses can learn more here.

Sweet cakes, long journey : the Chinatowns of Portland, Oregon, by Marie Rose Wong. 979.549 W872s 2004

At the turn of the last century, we had the second-largest Chinese population in the U.S. This scholarly work provides an important chapter in our social history.

And for little history buffs:

Spenser goes to Portland, by Spenser and mom ; illustrated by Amie Jacobsen. jE SPENSER 2008

A small terrier with both compassion and a taste for adventure explores our area's history and geography, going to the Rose Gardens, the Oregon Food Bank, the Gorge, and, of course, Powell's.