

# CLAIRE MCGILL LUCE WESTERN HISTORY ROOM

Harney County Library  
80 West D Street, Burns OR 97720  
541.573.6670  
[www.harneycountylibrary.org](http://www.harneycountylibrary.org)

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Claire McGill Luce Western History Room provides access to three special collections that most universities would envy.

The content consists of approximately 2,500 books, cataloged and indexed, including many rare and first edition collector's volumes; 110 hardbound volumes of the Oregon Historical Quarterly (1900-present); 80 reels of microfilm; over 500 audiocassette tapes and 155 videocassette tapes from oral history interviews; assorted CD/DVDs; and a collection of over 250 soft cover booklets and pamphlets. Other miscellaneous materials are available as well.

Titles of many publications available in the Western History Room are cataloged in the library's online catalog system. The items in the special collections are not in circulation and can only be accessed in the Western History Room.

Photocopies and scans are available for a small fee.

*The Walter McEwen collection* is comprised of rare and valuable volumes collected over a lifetime. A complete set of the Bancroft books and numerous first edition publications focusing on the early exploration and settlement of the Northwest are featured. Subjects include

- Mountain Men, Fur Traders and Trappers
- Hudson's Bay Company
- Lewis and Clark Expedition
- Oregon Trail
- Native Americans



*The Edward Gray collection* is comprised of the working research library of the author who has researched and published several historical books on people and places in Central and Southeast Oregon. This collection focuses on the exploration and settlement of Oregon, particularly the Central, Southern and Eastern regions of the state. Subjects of local significance include

- Meek's Lost Wagon Train
- Ranching- Cattle and Sheep
- Paiute and Bannock Cultures and the Indian Wars of the late 1800's
- Homesteading
- Timber, Logging, and Sawmilling
- plus research notes, interviews, photographs and more

Local authors, *Doug and Cathy Jory*, have recently donated an extensive research library built up over years of compiling a series of books about the history of rodeo. This collection includes books, news articles, trade periodicals, photographs, and other rodeo memorabilia. Subjects include

- Pendleton Round-Up
- Rodeo Hall of Fame
- PRCA and it's predecessors
- Rodeo Champions
- Cowboy Poetry

The Western History Room also features numerous publications detailing the history and settlement of Harney County. Topics of special significance include:

- Ranch History- including P Ranch, Double-O Ranch
- Edward Hines Lumber Company
- Camp Harney
- Basque Heritage and Culture
- Sagebrush Symphony Orchestra and Mary Dodge
- Harney County Fair, Rodeo and Race Meet
- Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and John Scharff
- Steens Mountain
- Schools, Post Offices and Settlements
- Wild Horses
- Historic Houses and Buildings



### MICROFILM ARCHIVE

Harney County newspapers including the East Oregon Herald, the Burns Times-Herald, the Harney County News and the Crane American are available on microfilm. Hardcopy issues of the Burns Times Herald newspapers from 1995 through the present are also available.

Other records available on microfilm include:

- Returns from Military Posts- Fort Harney, OR Aug 1867- June 1880
- Records of the General Land Office- Abandoned Military Reservation File for Fort Harney, OR
- Medical History of Camp Harney- 1875
- Records of the Adjutant Generals Office Pertaining to Camp Harney
- Fred Otley Diaries- 6 reels from 1888-1930
- Harney County Census- 1900 and 1910
- Grant, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, and Linn County Census- 1870
- Baker, Clatsop, Curry, Benton, Columbia, Douglas, Clackamas, and Coos County Census- 1880

Patrons may request microfilm from other libraries and/or historical societies for viewing on the microfilm reader located in the Western History Room.

### HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

The Western History Room provides access to historic photographs of Burns, Hines, and the people and communities of Harney County.

Over 1,500 photos are currently indexed in a searchable database, which is continually expanding. Early photographers include John McMullen, Rufus Heck, A.D. Browning and Bob Lemons.

### ORAL HISTORIES

Over 500 oral histories focusing on Harney County settlement and pioneers are available as printed transcripts, PDF files, original audiocassettes and digital audio files. Select oral history interviews are also available on VHS and DVD. The oral history project began in the 1970s and continues to add new interviews with Harney County residents.



#### GENEALOGY RESOURCES

Over 150 individual and family history files include diaries and genealogical information relating to past and current residents of Harney County. Other genealogical resources include indexes of birth, death and marriage announcements dating from the late 1800s, census records of Harney County from 1880-1930, and burial listings for all of the cemeteries in Harney County. Access to Ancestry.com is provided on one of the dedicated research computers in the room.

#### RESEARCH FACILITIES

The Western History Room provides three computers and a printer for research use along with worktables and a comfortable reading area. A microfilm reader is available for viewing and printing from the newspaper microfilm collection.

Visit the Harney County Library website [www.harneycountylibrary.org](http://www.harneycountylibrary.org), call (541) 573-6670, or e-mail Karen Nitz, archivist, [westernroom@harneycountylibrary.org](mailto:westernroom@harneycountylibrary.org) for more information about the contents of the collection or for research requests.