

2017 Grant Awards, Washington Rural Heritage Program

Washington Rural Heritage (WRH) is a Washington State Library program supporting public and tribal libraries in the development of online digital collections of historically significant materials. Primary candidate institutions are those without the means to digitize such items without outside support. The initiative encourages collaborative efforts between libraries and community partners (e.g., museums, genealogy societies, schools, etc.).

Explore the collection at www.washingtonruralheritage.org

Total Requested: \$59,803

Total Awarded: \$47,254

Organization: Fort Vancouver Regional Library District

Award: \$6,157

Abstract: A collaborative alliance of three Fort Vancouver Regional Library (FVRL) Community Libraries (La Center, Ridgefield, and Woodland) will partner with the La Center Historical Museum, Woodland Historical Museum Society, and Charlotte Clevidence of Ridgefield, to digitize materials pertaining to the history of north Clark and south Cowlitz Counties. These items will include photographs of historical homes, local business and industry, and families, as well as primary documents including two books published by Ridgefield community organizations. At the end of the grant, FVRL will make its Mobile Digitization Station available for use to the public and for future digitization programming.

Organization: Spokane County Library District

Award: \$6,300

Abstract: The Moran Prairie branch of Spokane County Library District (SCLD) will partner with the Moran Prairie Washington State Grange #161 to digitize materials relating to history of the grange and surrounding community. Selected items will include original photographs, documents, physical artifacts, and oral histories. Many of these unique materials are currently inaccessible to the general public and are at-risk for deterioration or loss. Interpretive displays and public programming will introduce community members and SCLD patrons to the digital collection and allow them to experience an open-house event and old-fashioned grange hall dance.

Organization: Richland Public Library

Award: \$6,981

Abstract: The Richland Public Library will digitize historic photographs of Richland, Washington's buildings and businesses as they appeared in the 1940s and 1950s. Housed in the library's Richland

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Room (local history special collections), most of these photographs were taken by Robley "Ron" L. Johnson, a Hanford worker who was tapped by Colonel Franklin Thompson Matthias to become a photographer. Richland shares the distinction of being one of the three atomic cities in the United States. This project will help document a portion of Manhattan-Project-era Richland, making it readily accessible to the local community, other atomic cities, and to academics and the public.

Organization: Whitman County Library

Award: \$4,689

Abstract: Whitman County Library (WCL) will partner with the Tekoa Museum and the J.C. Barron Mill in Oakesdale, Washington to digitize photographs, documents, and cultural objects which are at risk to damage or loss. The J.C. Barron Mill is the only standing flour mill in Washington's Palouse Region, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. WCL will also be working to digitize the private photographic collections of two Whitman County citizens.

Organization: Asotin County Library

Award: \$4,500

Abstract: Asotin County Library will digitize a collection of negatives recently gifted the Library by the Nez Perce County Historical Society in Lewiston, Idaho. These photographs were taken by freelance photographer, Al Munson, and include images of community events, recreation and social life, and Clarkston, Washington businesses throughout the 1950s. The grant project will culminate with Asotin Heritage Day, a community event highlighting the Library's digital collections and encouraging citizens to contribute their own materials for digitization and digital preservation.

Organization: Whatcom County Library System

Award: \$7,000

Abstract: The Lummi Island Library (Whatcom County Library System), in collaborative partnership with its volunteer support group Friends of the Island Library (FOIL), will expand the scope of its existing digital collection, Lummi Island Heritage. FOIL has identified approximately 600 documents to be prioritized for digitization, and approximately 10 individuals willing to record oral histories about life on Lummi Island. This project will focus on materials documenting early Lummi Island schools (e.g., Beach School), businesses, and vacation resorts (e.g., Willows Resort), and will also include material from the Island Library's local history archive. Public programming and outreach to the local elementary school will ensure that Island residents are aware of the unique online resource generated with this grant.

Organization: Kalama Public Library

Award: \$6,958

Abstract: The Kalama Library, in partnership with the newly formed Kalama History House, the City of Kalama, and the Port of Kalama will digitize original documents, photographs, and ephemera provided

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by members of the community which celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2015. The project will broadly digitize material dating from the 1870s, documenting early logging, sawmills, local businesses, railroads, and fishing. Included will be documentation of community events such as the Strawberry Festival, and unique material related to the Port of Kalama, such as the famous rail ferry, "Tacoma." The Cowlitz County Museum will provide selection assistance and subject expertise.

Organization: Orcas Island Public Library

Award: \$5,669

Abstract: The Orcas Island Public Library (OIPL) in partnership with the Orcas Island Historical Society and Museum (OIHM) will digitize photographic collections documenting the Patos Island Lighthouse (1893-1975). Photographs will be collected from the people or from their families who served the Lighthouse Establishment, Lighthouse Service, and the Coast Guard and Navy who kept the important aid to navigation burning, its foghorns sounding, and its radio transmissions in the air waves. The project hopes to revive the close-knit association of the Orcas Community with the Patos Island Lighthouse and the non-profit organization, the Keepers of the Patos Light, by sponsoring an educational presentation, arranging visits to the Patos Island Lighthouse, and encouraging local citizens to volunteer for the continuing care and preservation of this important landmark.