

Pinot Pioneers: Women in the Early Years of Willamette Valley Wine



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Summer 2012 Collaborative Research Project
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Description



- ✧ This project grows out of the past two summers' research into the beginnings of the Oregon wine industry and the history of the IPNC. The proposed project continues and grows Linfield's partnership with the IPNC; supports Linfield's growing archives and promotes access of those archives by students for their projects and through the posting of interviews and final products in the DigitalCommons@Linfield. The research conducted sheds light on an often overlooked aspect of the Willamette Valley's early wine industry – the role of women in all aspects of wine production.

Proposal and Goals



- ❧ Conduct archival research and oral history interviews on the Role of Women in Oregon's early wine industry. In addition, students will begin research into the history of the Oregon Wine Growers Association and the two other wine growing regions in the Northwest – Walla Walla and the Umpqua Valley. For the College and the Center for the Northwest, the goals are to:
 - ❧ 1) Grow the ties between the campus and the wine community.
 - ❧ 2) Continue to establish Linfield as a vital place for the Northwest's wine industry to deposit family and business archives.
 - ❧ 3) Make visible the current archival holdings at Linfield to the public via exhibition.

Oregon Wine History Project



❧ The Oregon Wine History Project™ began in the summer of 2010 as a collaborative research project under the auspices of the Linfield Center for the Northwest. Focusing on the Willamette Valley, the project has collected oral histories and artifacts from pioneer winemakers to help document the history of wine in Oregon.



Research



- ❧ We researched, designed, and produced an exhibition about female roles in the Willamette Valley Wine industry.
- ❧ The project spotlighted two other Oregon wine regions: Walla Walla and Umpqua Valley.
- ❧ Our primary focus was the Northern Willamette Valley and collecting oral histories from pioneer winemakers in the valley.



Oral Histories



- ❧ We researched and developed interview questions around exhibit themes such as: general background, family life, and community support.
- ❧ Interviews were conducted and recorded onsite around Yamhill county with pioneer winemakers.
- ❧ All text researched and written for the exhibit, images, maps, charts, graphics, and interviews conducted as part of the research will be available via the campus' online DigitalCommons@Linfield portal and in the college's archives for future researchers to access.

Formatting and Design



- ☞ We compiled information for the exhibit panels from our general research, interviews, and archival holdings.
- ☞ The informative panels were designed to highlight the unique experiences from each winemaker and incorporate quotes from the interviews.



Exhibit



- ❧ The exhibit consisted of seven text panels, two American Viticultural Area (AVA) maps, a variety of donated artifacts, and found archival materials in three display cases.
- ❧ We installed the exhibit in the Nicholson Library at Linfield College during the summer of 2012.
- ❧ The exhibit remained open for the Annual International Pinot Noir Celebration.



Sources / Collaborations



- ❧ Linfield Center for the Northwest
- ❧ Yamhill County Historical Society
- ❧ Linfield College Archives
- ❧ International Pinot Noir Celebration
- ❧ Oral History Interviews conducted with :
 - ❧ Diana Lett
 - ❧ Susan Sokol Blosser
 - ❧ Nancy Ponzi
 - ❧ Ginny Adelsheim

Sources/ Collaborations (cont.)



- ❧ Ballard, Tom, "David Lett Tasting Wine from Barrels" (2010).
Willamette Valley Archival Photos - Eyrie. Image. Submission
14. http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/eyrie_photos/14
- ❧ "Bill Blosser with Susan and Alex Sokol Blosser, 1978" (1978).
Willamette Valley Archival Photos - Sokol Blosser. Image.
Submission 5.
http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/sokol_photos/5
- ❧ Lett, Jason, "1975 South Block Reserve Pinot Noir" (2006).
Willamette Valley Archival Photos - Eyrie. Image. Submission
9. http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/eyrie_photos/9