

Gehrke Collection  
2012-30

Scanning and Finding Aid by GFO Manuscripts Committee Volunteers



Manuscripts Committee  
Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc.

2505 S.E. 11th Ave., Suite B-18  
Portland, Oregon 97202-1061

copyright 2020

Contact Info: [manuscripts@gfo.org](mailto:manuscripts@gfo.org)

## Summary

**Title:** Gehrke Collection

**Bulk Dates:** 1781-1977

**Accession Number:** 2012-30

**Creator:** Velma O. Gehrke (1901-1998)

**Extent:** 10 file folders

**Language(s):** English

**Abstract:** The Gehrke Collection contains genealogical and family history information gathered by the author. The collection's content primarily spans the early 18th century through the early 20th century, with correspondence dating to 1982. There are copies of newspaper clippings that cover more recent events. There are three folders that contain material that seems to be unique to this collection. The first has copies of the family Bible pages for the Covert/Byers family. The others contain handwritten lists of names and dates for births, marriages, and deaths as well as lists of people who attended family events such as reunions and anniversary celebrations. The primary surnames include Sexton/Saxton, Bird, Garner, Floch, Davis, Bryant, and Rawson.

## Administrative Information

**Provenance:** The manuscript collection of Velma O. Gehrke was acquired by the Genealogical Forum of Oregon before 2012.

**Retention and Access:** Scanned images of the collection are currently retained by the GFO Manuscripts Committee in three separate digital storage locations and can be accessed at the GFO library or by contacting [manuscripts@gfo.org](mailto:manuscripts@gfo.org).

**Processing History:** Processing, scanning and description of the Gehrke Collection was completed in 2016. The collection has been kept in its original order as created by its author and their file keeping methods.

**Copyright Status:** The status of copyright in the unpublished writings and research papers of Velma O. Gehrke as contained within the Gehrke Collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

**Preferred Citation:** Gehrke Collection. Acc. 2012-30. Digital Manuscript Collections, Genealogical Forum of Oregon (Portland, OR). Box number, File number, Page number.

## Biographical Note

Velma O. Gehrke was born on 8 April 1901 in Bozeman, Gallatin County Montana. Her parents were Frank Mason Sexton and Ida May Pyle. According to her obituary, she taught in a one-room schoolhouse in Montana before moving on to Spokane, Washington and later to Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. Most of the material contained in the files relates to the Sexton family. In addition to these files, the GFO has three books authored by Mrs. Gehrke: *Early Sexton Roots in America* and *Story of a Sexton Family, Volumes 1 and 2*. She died on 22 July 1998, and is buried at Skyline Memorial Gardens in Portland, Oregon.

## Finding Aid

File 1	Correspondence, family group sheets, biographical sketches, copy of My Rawson Genealogy by Juanita Anderson Towle, research notes
	<b>Surnames</b> Rawson, Perne, Gehrke, Sexton, Bronson
	<b>Locations</b> Massachusetts, Virginia, Indiana, Iowa, Washington, Nebraska
	<b>Dates</b> 1133-1982
File 2	Copies of family Bible pages
	<b>Surnames</b> Covert, Byers
	<b>Locations</b>
	<b>Dates</b> 1822-1950
File 3	Family group sheets, obituary of Roy E. Floch
	<b>Surnames</b> Floch, Thomas
	<b>Locations</b> Germany, Indiana, Washington
	<b>Dates</b> 1781-1961
File 4	Copies of newspaper clippings, obituaries, funeral cards, lists from family occasions, lists of names and birth, marriage and death dates
	<b>Surnames</b> Floch, Davis, Seiffert, Brunson, Bryant, Brown
	<b>Locations</b> Oregon, Iowa, Washington
	<b>Dates</b> 1813-1977
File 5	Copies of newspaper clippings, lists of names and birth, marriage and death dates, family group sheets
	<b>Surnames</b> Davis, Brown, Bryant, Seiffert, Treadwell, Green, Hale, Lord, Lewis
	<b>Locations</b> Oregon, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts
	<b>Dates</b> 1695-1982
File 6	Family group sheets, biographical sketches
	<b>Surnames</b> Sexton, Wright, Bird, Douglas
	<b>Locations</b>
	<b>Dates</b> 1656-1978
File 7	The descendants of George Sexton and Katherine Bird as noted within a compilation of family group sheets and biographical sketches
	<b>Surnames</b> Sexton/Saxton, Bird, Spencer, Adams, Brush, Hart, Stout
	<b>Locations</b> Ireland, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Virginia
	<b>Dates</b> 1618-1908

File 8	Continuation of file 7	
	<b>Surnames</b>	Sexton/Saxton, Bird, Spencer, Adams, Brush, Hart, Stout
	<b>Locations</b>	Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio
	<b>Dates</b>	1792-1904
File 9	Continuation of file 7 and 8	
	<b>Surnames</b>	Sexton/Saxton, Bird, Spencer, Adams, Brush, Hart, Stout
	<b>Locations</b>	Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Illinois
	<b>Dates</b>	1828-1926
File 10	Correspondence, biographical sketches, a copy of The Tree of the Saxton Family by Irene B. Lenderman, and a compilation of family group sheets	
	<b>Surnames</b>	Saxton, Garner, Bert, Clark, Koons, Harner, Arnold
	<b>Locations</b>	Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa
	<b>Dates</b>	1824-1980

**Published resources included in this collection:** The author of this collection has included notated and partial copies of various published genealogical resources among her research notes. All of these resources retain the copyrights of their original publishers. Researchers wishing to site or use the information from these sources within the Gehrke Collection should seek permission from the original publishers.