

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 97202-1093

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Contact Info: manuscripts@gfo.org

Summary

Title: Gehrke Collection

Accession Number: 2012-30

Creator: Velma O. Gehrke (1901-1998)

Extent: 12 file folders (1295 pages)

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.

Processing History: Processing, scanning and description of the Gehrke Collection was completed in 2016 and expanded in 2025.

Copyright Status: The status of copyright in the unpublished writings and research papers of Velma O. Gehrke as contained within the Gehrke Collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17,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

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.

Finding Aid

File	Description	Prominent Surnames	Locations	Pages
1	Correspondence, family group sheets, biographical sketches, copy of <i>My Rawson Genealogy</i> by Juanita Anderson Towle, research notes	Rawson, Perne, Gehrke, Sexton, Bronson	Massachusetts, Virginia, Indiana, Iowa, Washington, Nebraska	147
2	Copies of family Bible pages	Covert, Byers		3
3	Family group sheets, obituary of Roy E. Floch	Floch, Thomas	Germany, Indiana, Washington	25
4	Copies of newspaper clippings, obituaries, funeral cards, lists from family occasions, lists of names and birth, marriage and death dates	Floch, Davis, Seiffert, Brunson, Bryant, Brown	Oregon, Iowa, Washington	69
5	Copies of newspaper clippings, lists of names and birth, marriage and death dates, family group sheets	Davis, Brown, Bryant, Seiffert, Treadwell, Green, Hale, Lord, Lewis	Oregon, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts	55
6	Family group sheets, biographical sketches	Sexton, Wright, Bird, Douglas		132
7	The descendants of George Sexton and Katherine Bird...a compilation of family group sheets, biographical sketches	Sexton/Saxton, Bird, Spencer, Adams, Brush, Hart, Stout	Ireland, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Virginia	132
8	Continuation of file 7	Sexton/Saxton, Bird, Spencer, Adams, Brush, Hart, Stout	Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio	148
9	Continuation of files 7 and 8	Sexton/Saxton, Bird, Spencer, Adams, Brush, Hart, Stout	Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Illinois	130
10	Correspondence, biographical sketches, a copy of <i>The Tree of the Saxton Family</i> by Irene B. Lenderman – a compilation of family group sheets	Saxton, Garner, Bert, Clark, Koons, Harner, Arnold	Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa	113
11	Correspondence, family group sheets, source notes	Barton, Riley, Sexton		74
12	Manuscript copy of <i>Early Sexton Roots in America</i> by Velma Odeal Gehrke, with notes and photos			267