



Garden Home History Gazette

June 2019

Website: GardenHomeHistory.com

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Mission: Enriching the lives of our community by sharing the history of Garden Home

Visit GardenHomeHistory.com for over 150 stories and 2000 photos.

FROM SWEDEN TO OREGON the immigrant experience 1850-1950



Join Ross Fogelquist for an evening learning about the Swedish immigrant experience in Oregon 1850-1950. Review the new displays at Nordia House, enjoy a slide show presentation by Ross Fogelquist, tour his Fogelbo home full of Scandinavian history, and share cookies on the deck.

Monday, June 10, 6:30-8:30 PM

At Nordia House

8800 SW Oleson Road, Portland

FREE

Sponsored by GardenHomeHistory.com

All meetings are free. All welcome. Please join us for our summer events:

Monday, June 10, 6:30-8:30 pm at Nordia House, 8800 SW Oleson Road. See the new display of Swedish pioneers in Oregon. Ross Fogelquist will share slides and then host tours in his lovely log home next door. Park in Nordia House lot. Do not park at the home. Read more at GardenHomeHistory.com/tag/Fogelquist/

Wednesday, June 19, 6-8 pm Community Night and Summer Reading Kick-off at the Garden Home Recreation Center. Summer fun for all ages. Get your summer Scavenger Hunt bag and list of great places to have fun this summer. Find the special places listed for historical Garden Home.

Saturday, June 29, 10-2 pm Expansion Celebration at the Garden Home Library!

Saturday, August 24, 10-2 pm Garden Home Mini-Market. Over 30 vendors, outback, fun for all. Our Garden Home History people will have fun games and stickers. How long have you lived in Garden Home?

Monday, September 9, 6:30pm, Show and Tell for all of you! Bring a historical item you'd like to share with us, tell a short history. At the Garden Home Recreation Center, all welcome, free. Board of Directors meeting follows. Special welcome to interested volunteers!

Missing out on all the fun in Garden Home? **Join us** to share your special skills and interests. Right now, we need a **secretary** for our monthly Board meetings. Former **teachers** for contacts with our schools? **Artists** to advise/help on bulletin boards, logos, publications? **Writers** for our publicity, website, lots of stories to develop? **Historians**? Long-time **residents**? **Photographer**? Walking tours? Growler activities at our historic Postal Safe? Work to place a monument identifying Garden Home at Shari's intersection?



Postmistress Lana Smith, 2013



Postmaster Lumen Nichols, 1890



Dorothy Johnson, 1945 (death of FDR)

A Memoir from our Postmistress, Lana Smith

You've probably all met Lana who has been our Postmistress for some 23 years at the (now) Garden Home Market Place at the intersection (formerly the Lamb's Thriftway). We asked her to write about her time at the Post Office. We are lucky to have this Post Office which was first officially established in Garden Home in 1882. Lana wrote this on the occasion of our April 18 history event at the Garden Home Growlers where the historic old safe from the Garden Home Post Office is installed. Read more at GardenHomeHistory.com/tag/post-office/

In my 23 years at the Garden Home Post Office, there is one incident that I recall. It would have changed the history of having a Post Office in Garden Home.

In the early part of the 2000's, Bob Lamb decided not to renew the contract with the Post Office. Mary Rogers and I tried to tell him that it was a bad idea, but a sign went up outside the Post Office window, announcing that it would be closed in 2 weeks. The (not so nice) calls and emails started flooding into the Main Post Office and to Bob Lamb. It got to the point that neither of them wanted to answer the phone or check their emails.

Within a week or so the contract was renewed and the closing sign came down as fast as it went up. We are here because of our faithful customers who fought City Hall and won, so to speak.

I am blessed to work at a job where I am told how much I am appreciated every day.

Sincerely, Lana Smith, Garden Home Post Office April 2019

Don Smith's mother, Margaret Scherner Smith, was the post mistress in the 1940s and 1950s. Don recalls:

Bob and Marjorie Smith owned the Red and White store. (Across GH Rd from the Old Market Pub area) When Bob died, Forrest Lamb bought the Red and White store in the early 1940s. When this store went out of business, the Post Office moved to Throckmorton's store at the southeast intersection of Garden Home Road and Oleson Road. It was also located at the back of Gus Johnson's service station on the southwest corner of the intersection. When Throckmorton's burned, Margaret moved the Post Office to Irv Huppen's pharmacy in the Lamb's Thriftway complex, first built in 1957. Aaron Frank was instrumental in keeping the post office in Garden Home when the postal service proposed to close it. He liked to stroll over to the P.O. for his mail.

The Postal Safe now located in the Garden Home Growlers was known to be used when the P.O. was in Irv Huppen's Pharmacy. Read more of Don Smith's memoir at GardenHomeHistory.com/tag/smith/

Ole Oleson and Polly Philena Patton Oleson

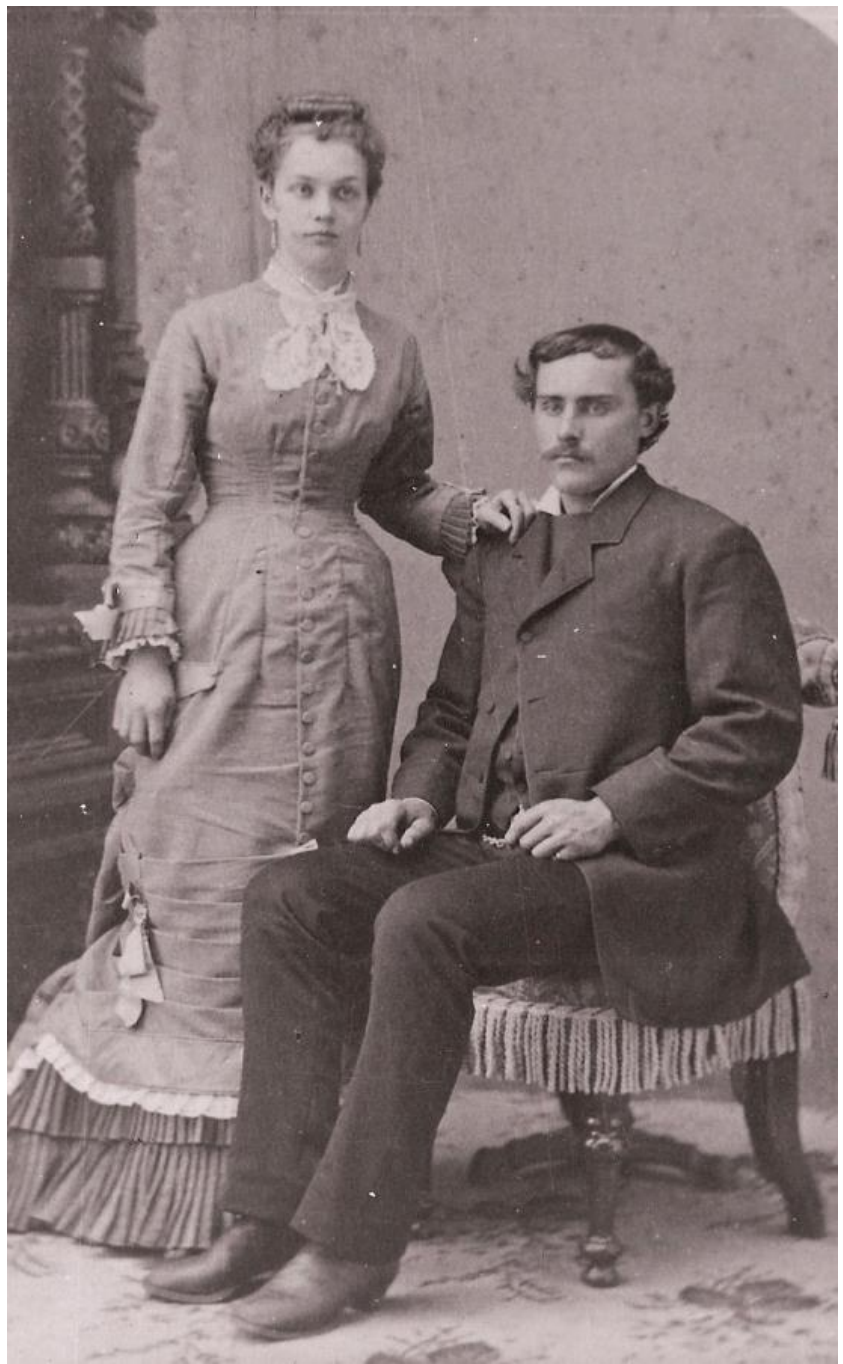
Ole Oleson, for whom SW Oleson Road was named, was born in Sweden in 1856. His family was one of the first Swedish families in Washington County. Their 1899 home is at the top of SW Ames Way east off of SW Oleson Road, north of SW Vermont Street. The following is a portion copied from the National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, 1991:

Ole Oleson was born in Sweden in 1856. Ole, his father John and his two older sisters emigrated to Kansas in 1868 and then on to Portland in 1874. John and Ole Oleson jointly acquired 103 acres of the Robert Denny Donation Land Claim in the Garden Home area from Judge E.D. Shattuck. Matthew Patton (grandfather of Ole's future wife, Polly Philena Patton) had previously purchased the land and sold it to Judge Shattuck. Ole built the home on Ames in 1889-90 to accommodate his growing family of eight children. He raised a variety of crops on their hilly property. Polly died in 1934 and Ole in 1935, both buried at Crescent Grove Cemetery.

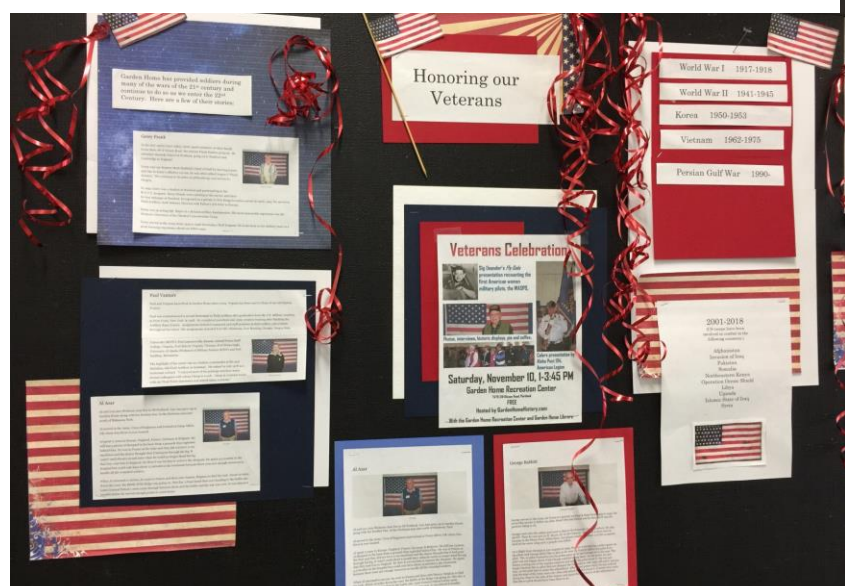
We'll be putting the more complete story on GardenHomeHistory.com

History display at the Garden Home Library hallway

Stan Houseman and Virginia Vanture have been posting interesting displays in the Library hallway (now under construction). We'll also be sharing posters of our events, a list of our donors (thank you!), our brochures and registration forms. Be sure to complete a form if you'd like to receive our quarterly newsletter (free for email, \$10 per year for printed postal mailing). Check out our displays!



Polly Philena Patton Oleson and Ole Oleson



Honoring Garden Home veterans, 2018

Garden Home History Project
7240 SW 82nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97223



Gathering the stories of our Garden Home families

The Garden Home History Project is a tax-exempt small non-profit under IRS 501(c)(3). Our 2019 officers are Co-Chairs: Elaine Shreve and Esta Mapes, Treasurer: Marie Pacella, Secretary: *volunteer needed*, Board Members: Stan Houseman, Susan Houseman, John Pacella, Jan Fredrickson, Kevin Mistler. Advisory board: Bob Cram, Sharon Cram, Tom Shreve, Mark Kajitani, Virginia Vanture, Sharon Vedder and Carole Vranizan. Thanks to all!

Garden Home History Project

Postal mailings of printed newsletter.....\$10 per year

Your donations support the activities and research of the Garden Home History Project. **Thank You!**

Name/Business_____

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Phone_____ Email_____

Please make checks payable to: **Garden Home History Project**
and mail to our Treasurer: **Marie Pacella, 7240 SW 82nd Ave., Portland, OR 97223**