



THE OREGON
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Special exhibit at the Oregon History Museum features local students' heritage projects

-Thursday, March 25 - Sunday April 4, 2010-

Portland, OR – March 19, 2010 – Beginning Thursday, March 25, the Oregon History Museum will host selected student projects from Jackson Middle School history classes. For the last 20 years, over 230 students work each spring to research their heritage and ancestry through a project called *Peopling the Nation*. This project was designed to give eighth grade students an opportunity to research their ancestries and find out how their parents, grand parents and great grandparents impacted history.

Students spend weeks researching diaries, photographs, letters, genealogies and more while researching their families. The completed projects, which are compiled in an essay and presented on a display board, are extremely diverse. Students have written about a variety of cultures from Kenya to Germany to Pakistan, and have delved into subjects including immigration, internment camps, and stories of survival. While all of the projects are displayed in the Jackson Middle School library, teachers also select 40 of these projects to display in the Pavilion of the Oregon History Museum.

While these projects are on display, the Oregon History Museum is also hosting a Smithsonian Institution exhibit titled *Becoming American: Teenagers & Immigration*, a selection of photo interviews by Barbara Beirne. Beirne's images capture first-generation immigrants and children of immigrants, revealing a diverse array of teenage responses to the immigrant experience. These two exhibits make us consider our own ancestry and immigration story, and how we all have in some way "become American."

Becoming American: Teenagers and Immigration opens March 20 – May 30, and Peopling the Nation will be displayed from March 25 – April 4.

About the Oregon Historical Society

For over one hundred years, the Oregon Historical Society has been an important fixture in the Portland area, dedicated to interpreting and educating others on Oregon's history in new ways. OHS has an extensive collection of historical pieces, including over 85,000 artifacts, and houses a Research Library with one of the most comprehensive collections of books on state history.