

## DD Timeline:

### A History of Developmental Disability-Related Policy

#### Benton County Developmental Diversity Program

#### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1971-2021)

“The great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are unconsciously controlled by it in many ways, and history is literally present in all that we do. It could scarcely be otherwise, since it is to history that we owe our frames of reference, our identities, and our aspirations.”

- James Baldwin

#### (Oregon History in Bold)

**Prehistory:** Before recorded history, the First People in this area and around the world include people with developmental and other disabilities as integral members of their communities. There is evidence that the earliest humans care for people with disabilities both in their families and with support from the community, and that people with disabilities contribute to the well-being of the whole community. Most Indigenous languages have no word that equates to “disability”. Everyone has value and something to share with the community in a reciprocal relationship.

Use of signed language is widespread among Indigenous people in the Americas. Plains Indian Sign Language is widely used among many people from what is now Canada to México and the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains.

**Kalapuya** people live in the Willamette Valley for millennia and are a very stable and successful society that suffers extreme stresses with the coming of Europeans and European Americans. They live at peace with their neighbors before and after Europeans come to the valley.

The **Kalapuya** burn the valley leaving fire resistant trees and bulbs. Europeans disrupt the careful management of land over generations. Without annual burning, fires that are more destructive, burn hotter, and lead to losses that are

more devastating. More floods happen when there is loss of trees and vegetation to hold riverbanks. Worse fires destroy the next generation of growth and resistant trees. The burning of the valley preserves the oak savannah. The newcomers force them to stop burning, without understanding how it helps agriculture and wildlife. Farmers later resurrect the practice to keep down pests and renew the soil. Forest management has begun to adopt Indigenous practices to promote healthy forests and prevent devastating wildfires.

The silt deposits of the Missoula floods and thousands of years of controlled burns make the soil of the Willamette Valley very rich and productive. The Kalapuya have lived here since time immemorial, which includes a collective memory of gathering atop Mary's Peak when the Missoula floods inundate the Willamette Valley 15,000 years ago. The Kalapuya continue to love and live with this land as they have since time immemorial.

**“Some of the oldest unambiguous evidence of humans in the New World is human DNA extracted from coprolites - fossilized feces - found in Oregon and recently carbon dated to 14,300 years ago.” - Guy Gugliotta**

There is indirect evidence of human habitation in North America from a mastodon-hunting site in California from 130,000 years ago. There is evidence in México of human habitation 30,000 years ago.

**“Long ago among our Tribes of Indians, we were not poor, compared with now. Long ago, only Indians lived in this country. They did not labor so as to find food. It merely grew on the prairies, in the hills. We got our food there. But we never ploughed the earth. That is what we do now. Our way of living long ago was good...We took care of our hearts.” - William Hartless (Kalapuya)**

**“The reverence for their homeland, for *duh-neh*, their place, is so complete, so profound, that their religion has no heaven apart from earth. When people pass on, they simply remain here, in their paradise.” - Charles Wilkinson**

Early history: The transition from hunting and harvesting to intensive agriculture and especially animal husbandry leads to new diseases and social structures that decrease life expectancy, increase workloads and associated injuries, increase socio-economic inequality, and lead to a less diverse and less plentiful diet which contributes to higher rates of disease and disability in much of the world.

“The increase and concentration of human populations and the development of agrarian societies brought with them an increase of certain diseases and the

appearance of new disabilities.” - Gershon Berkson

Three of the earliest known sites for the development of agriculture in the world are in the Americas. In the Americas, people practice agriculture along with forms of game management rather than animal husbandry for obtaining animal food sources. This helps prevent many of the endemic diseases found in the rest of the world.

“Most of the infectious diseases that have plagued agricultural and industrial societies (such as smallpox, measles, and tuberculosis) originated in domesticated animals and were transferred to humans only after the Agricultural Revolution. Ancient foragers, who had domesticated only dogs, were free of these sources.” - Yuval Noah Harari

There has been no new major plant or animal domestication in the last 2,000 years.

325: The Council of Nicaea decrees that each Christian village should establish a hostelry for the sick, poor, and vagrant.

1500s: Europeans come to lands in the Americas in an attempt to find an alternate route to trade with Asia when the Byzantine Empire falls to the Ottoman Empire and Muslims gain control of Mediterranean trade routes. Christopher Columbus (Cristóbal Colón) leads the first government sponsored European conquest in the Americas. He reaches the Caribbean islands but does not set foot on the continent. Europeans begin a systematic and brutal conquest of the lands, resources, and people of the Americas to enrich themselves with gold, silver, and slavery.

The Indigenous people of the Americas have many diverse cultures that include sophisticated arts, commerce, spirituality, philosophy, oratory, stories, medicine, technological advances, and well-honed lifeways that are sustainable in their environments with responsive governments and effective science, technology, and agriculture. The land Europeans come to is more of a garden and a park, than a wilderness. It has cities larger than European cities. There are more people in the Americas than in Europe. Tenochtitlán in México is one of the largest cities in the world. The Inca road system is the largest road system in the Americas until the US builds the interstate highway system in the 1950s. The people manage the land sustainably for millennia. Most Indigenous communities have communal food storehouses that are accessible to all people.

“I have found a continent more densely peopled and abounding in animals than our Europe or Asia or Africa.” - Amerigo Vespucci in 1503

The Jamestown colonists in Virginia write in their journals of the Powhatan people:

“We shall enjoy their cultivated places.”

“Now their cleared grounds in all their villages (which are situated in the fruitfulest places of the land) shall be inhabited by us.”

When John Smith goes from Virginia to Massachusetts to assess prospects for colonization there, he finds much of the same. He finds farmers, “all planted with corn, groves, mulberries, savage gardens”. The Wampanoag, like the Powhatan, have large fields of corn. They have a representative government and economic specializations in agriculture, woodwork, and leatherwork.

Europeans find homes, roads, and cleared land and farms. They bring death and disability to the Americas through violence and disease. They bring smallpox, measles, influenza, bubonic plague, cholera, whooping cough, malaria, scarlet fever, typhus, diphtheria, mumps, chicken pox, and other disease agents. Most diseases derive from livestock not present in the Americas. The main killers such as smallpox and measles derive from cattle, which are not present in the Americas. Europeans have developed some immunity after centuries of devastating epidemics. Perhaps even more significantly, the invaders create the conditions for epidemics through extreme disruption that imbalances the land and people.

The earliest conquistadors are from the Iberian Peninsula (Portugal and Spain) which is a meeting place of Muslims, Christians, Jews, Europeans, Africans, and Asians. It has long gathered diseases from around the world and the people who survive to adulthood, especially in port cities, have developed some level of immunological resistance from many years of exposures and epidemics. Culturally, bathing is discouraged, clothes are infrequently changed, and fleas and ticks on human bodies are common. There is poor sanitation in Iberian cities in handling solid waste and water. Europeans die young and disabilities are common.

In the Americas, people practice more frequent bathing and there is better hygiene and sanitation. Many of the cities have advanced sanitation and water filtration and purification systems using methods still in use in modern cities today. The Maya use quartz and zeolite for water purification. Modern filtration systems still use them.

One of the more deadly forms of malaria, yellow fever, and the mosquitos to spread them come from Africa on slave ships. Most of the major deadly diseases originate in Europe such as smallpox, measles, typhus, whooping cough, bubonic plague, malaria, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, and influenza.

Environmental destruction, war, violence, starvation from disrupted food supply and trade networks all increase stress, and decrease immunological resistance leading to more death and disability. More death and disability lead to fewer caregivers to treat the sick and fewer workers to hunt and farm for food leading to even more death, disability, and disease. Diseases disable survivors. Violent conflict disables others.

People become deaf or blind. They are missing limbs, or left with disabling chronic conditions.

In the 1520s, smallpox from a Spanish sailor in the Dominican Republic rips through the continents of the Americas. The Indigenous people of North America know the diseases are coming from the south and from the Europeans. The Europeans know and use it as a threat and a tactic of war. When they meet with Natives, Europeans bring small bottles and threaten to open them to release smallpox if the Natives do not agree to what they want. Europeans intentionally use disease agents to afflict Indigenous people. There are many documented incidents of Europeans knowingly spreading disease among Indigenous people. The Romans spoke of defending Rome by fever if not by sword. Europeans have long been aware of the military application of disease and have long used it. Colonial deforestation leads to increased flooding and higher temperatures and decreased game for hunting.

It is thought that the people of the Americas were among the tallest, healthiest, and longest living people on earth prior to European colonization. They had few endemic diseases.

“They live a long life and rarely fall sick.” - Giovanni Da Verrazano

The people remain. Some live on reservations. Some manage to evade the roundups to remove people to the reservations. They hide or blend in. Some join the mainstream culture. Others live in tribal enclaves off the reservations but still on ancestral land. The Seminole remain in the swamps and bayous of Florida. Many become ranchers. Communities remain in the Northeast. Many are Christians. Some go to church. Some go to longhouse. Some go to both.

Many Iroquois remain in settlements they establish such as Niagara Falls, Rochester, and Syracuse in New York. In the Southwest, the Diné, Tewa, and Apache still speak their languages. Kivas are still in use. The Plains Indians maintain their culture and other lifeways. The people of the Great Lakes still hunt and fish and trap in the same lands and waters as they always have.

**In the Pacific Northwest, people travel, trade, and work in timber, agriculture, and fisheries. They still speak Chinuk Wawa. The tribes maintain government-to-government relations with the state of Oregon. They help to guide policy on use of the land and waters, education, healthcare, housing, social services, and other crucial issues. They still model love and care for the places they have always lived.**

Many tribes confederate to create new tribal identities by necessity if not always by choice. Some remain in their ancestral lands; others face removal and survive in new

homelands. Some confederate to preserve land and culture in the face of disease and war. European plantations seize lands for forced labor camps worked by enslaved Africans.

“If Europeans in the United States were immigrants, they would have joined the existing societies in the New World. Instead, they destroyed these societies and built a new one that was reinforced by later waves of settlement.” - Mahmood Mamdani

1500s: France and Spain are early leaders in Deaf education in Europe having encountered widespread use of signed language among Natives in the Americas. Spanish monk, Pedro Ponce de Leon is credited with introducing Europe's first manual alphabet.

1526-1865: African and Indigenous people in North America resist enslavement through every means possible. Some use legal means to achieve legal emancipation from the legal institution of slavery. They live as legally free people with diminished civil rights in the colonies and later the US. Some people hide in plain sight. They integrate into towns and villages. Many covertly maintain their cultural traditions amidst attempts at suppression. Some freedom seekers use whatever means available to them, including armed rebellion, to liberate themselves and escape into mountains, forests, and swamps inaccessible to other settled communities. These are autonomous self-governed communities outside the sovereignty of Britain, Spain, the US, and Portugal.

In 1526, the first Spanish attempt to colonize what would later become the southeast US, ends in failure as enslaved Africans rebel and leave to live among the Native people. The Spanish retreat back to colonies in the Caribbean. Throughout the 1500s, there are near constant rebellions by Africans and Natives against the cruelty of the Spanish colonists in South, Central, and North America. Freedom seeking Africans and Natives flee to the interior mountains and forests to live together away from the British, Spanish, and Portuguese colonizers.

The people in these communities are known as Maroons. Maroons living in the mountains outnumber Spaniards seven to one on Hispaniola in the 1500s. Maroon communities in South and Central America sign peace treaties with Britain, Spain, and Portugal to maintain their independence. There are Maroon communities in México, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, Virginia, Jamaica, Brazil, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Guiana, and Suriname. In Guiana and Suriname, 15% of the population live in Maroon communities.

Resistance to English colonization leads to the successful Maroon Wars in Jamaica between 1728 and 1739. The British Empire signs peace treaties recognizing Maroon sovereignty. Africans escape into the Great Dismal Swamp in North Carolina and

Virginia beginning in the 1700s. When Union soldiers enter after the Civil War, they encounter people and communities who have never seen a white person.

The Seminole are a successful Maroon community of freedom seeking African and Indigenous people in the Everglades of Florida. They fight several successful wars against the US military between 1816 and 1858. They never surrender and refuse demands by the US to return people who escape slavery. The Seminole enter formal relations with the US in 1957. In 1962, the Miccosukee branch of the Seminole become federally recognized as a tribe and have their lands acknowledged in a reserve. Some Seminole remain independent and do not accept relations with the US government. They demand return of land that they never ceded to the US. They speak the Mikasuki language and teach it in schools to this day.

“I felt safer among the alligators than among the white men.” - Tom Wilson

“Maroon autonomy shattered the racist view of Black people as incapable of taking care of themselves.” - Sylviane Diouf

1543: Spain outlaws Indigenous slavery. Slavery becomes racialized as African and Black. The smaller transpacific slave trade of Asian people ends in the 1600s as Asians are treated legally the same as Indigenous people in the Spanish colonies. The Spanish are not supposed to enslave Christians. Many of the Africans are Christians, but the Spanish don't ask, don't want to know, and often don't speak the same language.

1562: Britain enters the transatlantic slave trade. Europeans capture 10 million Africans and enslave them in the Americas. Millions more die from violence and disease during capture, captivity, and transport to the Americas.

1565: The first known Christian marriage in what would become the continental US is an interracial marriage between a free woman from Africa and a free man from Spain, Luisa de Abrego and Miguel Rodríguez in Florida.

**1579: The English sea captain, privateer/pirate, and enslaver Francis Drake comes by Coos Bay as he circumnavigates the globe. The Greek sailor, Ioannis Phokas working for the Spanish crown and known as Juan de Fuca sails into Northwest waters in 1592. Russia, Spain, and Britain vie with each other to lay claims to the Pacific Coast in the 1780s and 90s as the US is sorting out the business of nationhood on the Atlantic Coast. Two-thirds of the US population lives within 50 miles of the Atlantic Ocean at the time of independence. Russia and Britain come to the Northwest looking for furs in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.**

1600s: In the Plymouth Colony, men who return from war with disabilities are cared

for and supported by the colony. “Children, idiots, distracted persons, and all that are strangers or newcomers” are given “allowances and dispensations”. The city is responsible for the care of “lunatics” and “idiots” if the family cannot care for them. “Strangers or newcomers” are given a year of support, before they are expected to support themselves. Puritans think that sin causes disability, but everyone sins so it is not necessarily shameful. Cotton Mather stutters and he attributes it to his sin and punishment for sin.

In New England, the city is responsible for most support of residents. In Pennsylvania, the county is the responsible jurisdiction. After the US becomes a nation and the Northwest Territories become states, most follow the Pennsylvania model of county support for the health and well-being of residents, including relief programs. County-based behavioral and public health become the norm in most states.

1600-1800: One million Europeans and 2.5 million Africans come to British America. Virtually all the Africans come enslaved. Three-quarters of the Europeans come neither enslaved nor free as indentured servants, convicts, or debtors. British America includes both continental North America and the Caribbean.

1619: The *White Lion* brings Africans the British captured from a Spanish slave ship to the colony of Virginia in the first documented enslavement in the colony. 32 enslaved Africans are already there, undocumented.

1638: Massachusetts colonists sell Indigenous people into slavery in the Caribbean and buy enslaved Africans in return.

1643: The first income tax in what later becomes the US is instituted in the New Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts.

1662: Virginia passes legislation that a child inherits the status of being enslaved or free from the condition of the mother. Most other statuses are typically derived from the father. Children are enslaved if their mothers are enslaved. Christians are allowed to enslave other Christians, breaking with practice from England and most of Europe.

“It is hereby enacted and declared that baptism of slaves doth not exempt them from bondage; and that all children shall be bond or free, according to the condition of their mothers.” - Virginia General Assembly

1669: The Virginia Legislature defines enslaved African people as “property”. People are not charged for murdering or raping their “property”.

1673-1683: The British share of the slave trade increases from one-third to three-quarters. Britain becomes the dominant slave-trading nation. The Royal Africa



Company is a trading monopoly with Africa to benefit the British royal family. The crown uses private charter companies to colonize North America in order to circumvent public oversight from Parliament and to enrich wealthy families. The Royal Africa Company and other private charters have the power to fight wars, raise troops, and build forts.

The crown directly administers Spanish and Portuguese colonies. English and Dutch colonies are joint stock companies of private wealthy individuals with charters approved by the crown. The purpose of the colonies is explicitly to turn a profit for their shareholders. The colonies are founded to make money for investors. The charters given are for land between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The European claims are grandiose. When they see a bit of land, they claim the whole North and South American continents. Many claims conflict with each other.

Britain largely privatizes and outsources the colonization of the Americas. Most colonies are proprietary or charter colonies, which means a private individual, family, or company rules them. The British crown charters them, but not necessarily under the same laws and jurisdictions as Britain. Within reason, they can make their own laws and rules. They act as the “English nation” and have to make payments to Britain, usually one tenth of the profits. They have to promote settlement in the colonies, trade only with Britain, and swear allegiance to the monarchy.

1688: Quaker converts from Dutch and German Mennonites in Germantown, Pennsylvania submit a petition to end slavery in Pennsylvania based on the fundamental humanity and human rights of all people.

1691: Virginia passes legislation that the Black child of a free white mother is to be enslaved and the mother banished. Black children are enslaved regardless of the status of the mother and slavery is racialized.

1700s: The colonies pass laws to prevent immigration by people who are “poor, vicious, and infirm”. Sea captains have to post bonds and if any passengers have disabilities and cannot support themselves, the sea captain has to return them at his expense. Full citizenship in the Colonial period excludes women, Indigenous and African Americans, and people with disabilities.

**1700s: Among the Kalapuya, in the late 1700s and early 1800s, malaria outbreaks hit. The death toll is so high and so few people survive that it is difficult to maintain burial rituals. Anthropologist Robert Boyd calls it Oregon’s “single most important epidemiological event”. When Lewis and Clark come west, they find deserted villages devastated by smallpox and malaria.**

**1707: A Spanish galleon shipwrecks at Nehalem Beach. The Native people take in the castaways and they live the rest of their lives together. They are probably the first Europeans to live in what would become Oregon nearly a century before Lewis and Clark visit the area.**

1710: British king George I offers 50-acre land grants and a transportation subsidy to non-Catholic German and Swiss immigrants to the British colonies. The British treat them as equals and not as foreigners. The land west of the Allegheny Mountains is to remain Indigenous land. The king gives land from the Lenni Lenape on the northeast coast to immigrants over the protests of the Lenni Lenape people.

1720s: There are more jails than schools or hospitals in the North American colonies.

1751: The first general hospital in what would become the US opens in Philadelphia.

1763: King George III issues the Royal Proclamation forbidding all settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains, which is designated as an Indian Reserve. The land whose waters drain into the Atlantic Ocean are to be settled by Britain. The land whose waters drain into the Mississippi River are to be an Indian Reserve.

The Proclamation intends to prevent colonists from provoking costly and unnecessary wars with the Indigenous people that Britain has to fight. France cedes its North American territorial claims to Britain after the Seven Years' War. King George III issues the Proclamation to take a break from colonial wars. He enacts the Stamp Act to help raise funds for the costs of colonists violating the Proclamation.

1770s: There are epidemics every decade for a century. Smallpox, measles, malaria, gonorrhea, typhoid, tuberculosis, and other diseases come wave upon wave. Repeated studies show the losses of Indigenous people to disease at 90-95%. There are high rates of disability caused by disease and violence. Violence and disrupted lifeways impair recovery from disease.

1772: In *Somerset v. Stewart*, the British court decides that chattel slavery is not supported by English common law and not authorized by statute.

1773: Colonial naturalization of foreigners is forbidden by Britain along with a ban on royal land grants. The colonial land speculators such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson want more land and more people to buy it. They protest this restriction.

1773: The first asylum in what would become the US for "idiots, lunatics, and other persons of unsound minds" is founded. People are whipped, confined, and chained to walls in institutions. Medical treatments include bleeding, purging, and blistering. Williamsburg Hospital, later Eastern State Hospital, continues operation as a hospital

until 1968 and continues to provide outpatient mental health treatment to this day. The hospital building is a mental health museum at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia.

1776: The Second Continental Congress ratifies the Declaration of Independence declaring “certain unalienable rights” such as “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” It asserts government deriving its power from the “consent of the governed” and the rights of the people to “alter or abolish” government. It references opposition to the events of 1763, 1772, and 1773 in this timeline. Among the motivations for the Revolutionary War which remain prime objectives afterwards in US policy are that the new nation wants to seize land from the Indigenous people, sell it to new European immigrants, farm it with forced labor from enslaved Africans, and trade directly for goods from the wealth of Asia. Stephen Hopkins, who has cerebral palsy, signs the Declaration of Independence.

1783: The Treaty of Paris ends the Revolutionary War. The British Crown cedes claims to Indigenous lands to the new US government, without protection.

1783: 80% of the world’s economic activity is in China and East Asia. One of the first orders of business for the new US government is to open direct trade with Asia, which Britain prohibited. It is a grievance listed in the Declaration of Independence.

Even before the Treaty of Paris is signed ending the war with Britain, the future United States sends a ship to China to trade North American ginseng for Chinese trade goods. The *Harriet* leaves Boston in December of 1783. The Treaty of Paris ending the Revolutionary War is signed in January of 1784.

The *Empress of China* leaves New York in February of 1784 as the first ship to China under the US flag. The venture is so profitable; the investors remain wealthy for generations afterwards. Trade with China is a major impetus for westward expansion. San Francisco, Astoria, and US influence in Hawaii all start with business interests seeking trade with China. One of the expressed aims for the Lewis and Clark expedition is for “purposes of commerce with Asia”.

The success of the US Revolution unleashes the annihilation of the Delaware, Cherokee, Muskogee, Seneca, Mohawk, Shawnee, and Miami people and the expansion of US settlement across the mountains. The land east of the Mississippi River is ethnically cleansed by 1850 with the forced relocation of Native people.

The Land Ordinances of 1784 and 1785 are among the first orders of business for the new US government. Land is surveyed east of the Mississippi so it can be seized and auctioned off. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 leads to the military annexation and occupation of lands in what was then the northwest, the Ohio Territory.

Before the Revolution, George Washington is known among the Indigenous people

as “Town Destroyer” for his merciless attacks. He leads the Virginia militia in an illegal armed surveying mission into Ohio country. He is a successful land speculator and enslaver. The economic model is to seize land and work it with enslaved people. It is the basis of his wealth and that of the colonies. The Washington family motto is “Exitus acta probat” or “The end justifies the means”. Washington is one of the richest men in the country. He owns 33,000 acres in five states, Washington D.C., and the Northwest Territories (later to become states) when he dies. There are 317 enslaved human beings on his estate.

1786: The first reservation for Indigenous people in the US is established. People are forcibly removed from their lands when they refuse to give up their lands “voluntarily”.

1787: The Northwest Ordinance passes. It outlines how territories will become states. Before the Revolutionary War, Britain prohibited settlement west of the Appalachians and Allegheny Mountains in 1763. The new law is a blueprint for taking over the previously British-protected Indian Territory. Land south of the Ohio River will allow slavery. Land to the north will not.

1788: The United States Constitution is ratified. The Bill of Rights are not included until 1791.

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

- Preamble to the US Constitution

“The problem is whether the American people have the honesty enough, loyalty enough, patriotism enough to live up to their Constitution.” - Frederick Douglass

1789: George Washington becomes the first president of the United States. The US Constitution counts enslaved people as three-fifths of a person for the purposes of taxation and representation in Congress and the Electoral College. The South gains representation due to people who cannot vote or exercise any civil rights. This advantage leads to 32 of the first 36 years of the new republic having an enslaver from Virginia as president. John Adams is the only exception. Without the three-fifths compromise, the North would have held the advantage in representation and won the presidency and Congress.

1790: The Naturalization Act guarantees citizenship to immigrants after two years of residency who are “free white persons” of “good moral character” and who take an oath of allegiance to the Constitution. The act is amended several times to adjust the

length of residence, but the restriction that naturalized citizenship is restricted to “free white persons” is upheld in legislation and Supreme Court rulings until legislation in 1952 and 1965 give relatively more equal access to immigration and naturalization.

Limiting citizenship to “free white persons” means that European indentured servants and convicts, enslaved or free Africans, all Asians, and Indigenous people are not eligible for naturalized citizenship. “Good moral character” excludes people with disabilities and mental health conditions, political dissidents, the economically disadvantaged, and gay and lesbian immigrants from naturalized citizenship.

1790: After the Revolutionary War, the Office of Indian Trade is established in the War Department. Indian Intercourse Acts beginning in 1790 regulate and institutionalize trade. In 1824, the Office of Indian Affairs is established within the War Department. It later becomes the Bureau of Indian Affairs after moving to the Interior Department.

1790: Robert Gray completes the first US circumnavigation of the world.

**1792: Robert Gray on his second voyage comes to and names the Columbia River after his ship. He attacks several villages of Pacific Northwest Indigenous people on his journey.**

1793: British explorer Alexander Mackenzie reaches the Pacific Ocean overland through Canada 10 years before Lewis and Clark.

1793: A yellow fever epidemic orphans 191 children in Philadelphia when their parents die. In the absence of government action, volunteers build a home and hospital for them. Two-thirds of the volunteers and staff for the home are from the Black community’s Free African Society.

1793: The US Constitution contains a provision requiring the return of freedom seekers who escape slavery. The US Congress passes the Fugitive Slave Act in 1793.

1796: Massachusetts law allows people with “madness” to live in local jails often for years. Almshouses, prisons, jails, and asylums are generally multipurpose institutions for the confinement of “undesirables” and moral transgressors such as unwed mothers, “drunkards”, “idiots”, “the insane”, and “epileptics”.

In the colonial period, jails typically do not house people convicted of crimes. They hold people before trial. After the trial, punishment is beating, whipping, fines, or execution, instead of time in jail. If people cannot pay the fine, often they remain in jails, which become de facto poorhouses. Even today, two-thirds of inmates in jails have not been convicted of a crime and are held pre-trial often because they cannot afford bail.

1796: The state of New York abolishes slavery and creates its first state prison on the same day.

1798: Edward Jenner develops a vaccine for smallpox that would become the first widely available vaccine in the western world. It will be another century before vaccination against smallpox is made available to Indigenous people devastated by the introduced disease. Smallpox is a weapon of war and vaccination becomes available to Native communities only after major wars with Indigenous nations end in the 1890s.

Inoculation against smallpox is introduced to the Americas by an enslaved African, named Onesimus. Onesimus describes to Cotton Mather in Massachusetts how his people inoculate themselves against smallpox in sub-Saharan Africa, probably Ghana. Inoculation is a widespread practice throughout Africa. Mather advocates for inoculation in the smallpox outbreak of 1721 and cites Onesimus as his source. Many doctors and officials oppose inoculation citing the danger of infecting healthy people, the immorality of interfering with God's will, and the folly of trusting enslaved Africans who are probably plotting to poison all white people. The inoculated people in Boston have a seven times higher survival rate than the non-inoculated.

People in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East practice vaccination and inoculation. Mary Wortley Montagu introduces inoculation to Britain when she learns about it from her time in the Ottoman Empire. The first record of smallpox inoculation is in China. Perhaps as early as the 10<sup>th</sup> century, healthy people would inhale powdered smallpox scabs through their nose to develop a mild case of the disease and immunity. Reports of the Chinese practice reach London by 1700. The Indigenous people in the Americas use syringes long before European colonization. Ancient India also practices inoculation against smallpox.

It is discovered that exposure to cowpox gives immunity to smallpox and it becomes the basis for the successful vaccination developed by Edward Jenner. The Vaccine Act of 1813 ensures that safe smallpox vaccines are available in the US. Northern Europe largely eradicates smallpox through vaccination by 1900. Smallpox is fully eradicated in 1980 with the last known death in 1978 in England, apparently from a smallpox sample encountered in a research lab. Smallpox becomes the first and so far only infectious disease entirely eradicated through vaccination.

The average life expectancy in the world is below age 50 until the 1950s when vaccination for various endemic diseases becomes widespread.

**1800s: Smallpox hits Oregon in 1836-7, measles in 1847-8, and smallpox again in 1853.**

1800: The rich agricultural lands seized by squatters have been worked and maintained for thousands of years by some of the earliest agricultural societies in the world. The Mississippi Valley is one of the birthplaces and cradles for the development of world agriculture. Land sustainably managed for over 10,000 years is quickly depleted by intensive monocrops like cotton and tobacco for export markets. As land becomes depleted, more is demanded to expand slavery and monocrop cotton.

By 1800, there are 100,000 enslaved people in the Mississippi Valley. By 1860, there are 750,000.

Corn (maize), potato, and cassava produce more calories per unit of land than any other crop. All are native to the Americas and are brought to Europe. Corn and potatoes fuel population booms in many European countries and in the US. Maize needs lime to release niacin. This is known to the Indigenous people in the Americas, but not to Europeans. Many European Americans suffer from pellagra due to niacin deficiency. B vitamin deficiencies such as pellagra and beriberi can result from overreliance on grains such as wheat, rice, and corn in the diet. Kenneth Kiple writes that they are “particularly prevalent among institutionalized populations – for example, slaves on plantations, prisoners, children in orphanages, and inmates of asylums.”

1803: The US purchases France’s claim to the Louisiana Territory. The Indigenous people living in the Territory do not recognize either the US or France’s claim. The US Constitution has no provisions for acquiring new territory. The US claims land that would more than double its size. The US is in negotiations with France to purchase New Orleans and gain control of the mouth of the Mississippi River.

France fails to suppress the revolts in Saint-Domingue (soon to become Haiti). France faces renewed war with Britain. The Haitian Revolution leads France to abandon its colonial ambitions in the Americas and war with Britain requires funds. France makes the surprising offer to sell its claim to the entire Louisiana Territory that it has recently acquired from Spain in 1800 with a promise not to sell it to a third party.

In 1803, the US purchases France’s claim to the Louisiana Territory for \$15 million. The US government’s total revenues are \$10 million. Spain protests France’s illegal sale that violates their treaty and French law requires that the French legislature approve, which they do not.

Before the Civil War, the non-Indigenous demographics of New Orleans are one-quarter French speaking Catholic white residents, one-quarter English speaking white residents, one-quarter free mixed race Creole mostly Spanish speaking residents, and one-quarter enslaved African residents. There are more Indigenous people in the

territory than all the other groups combined. These demographics are concerning for President Thomas Jefferson. Instead of becoming a territory, he puts the area under military rule.

The US does not purchase the land. It purchases the claim to the land. The US recognizes that there are already people living on the land and their claim would need to be extinguished by treaty before the US government can actually take possession of the land.

1804: The Haitian Revolution against slavery and colonialism begun in 1791 ends with independence for Haiti. It is the largest uprising of enslaved people since Spartacus' unsuccessful revolt against Rome. It effectively ends French ambitions in the Americas and leads to the Louisiana Purchase from France. The enslaved defeat their enslavers and form an independent country. This gives inspiration and hope to oppressed people throughout the world, including in the US. It strikes fear in enslavers and oppressors. The US gives money and weapons to the French planters and do not support the revolutionaries in their call for independence from a colonial power. The war leaves economic destruction in Haiti.

After independence, Haiti is a small country surrounded by the hostile world empires of Britain, the US, Spain, and France. None aid, all sabotage. The US Congress bans trade with Haiti. France blockades it. France forces Haiti to pay compensation to enslavers for their "loss" at a cost of 10 times Haiti's annual revenue to end the Western embargo by countries including the US.

With Haitian independence, the center of the Caribbean sugar industry shifts to Cuba. International recognition of US independence set the standard to follow in Haiti. It is not followed. A yellow fever outbreak hits the French Army. Yellow fever originates in Africa and comes to the Caribbean on slave ships. It is a curse of slavery and hits the southern slave states in the US and the Caribbean the hardest.

**1804: The Lewis and Clark expedition sets off to explore the newly claimed Louisiana Territory in hopes of finding a water route to the Pacific Ocean and trade with China. The expedition is part of future claims by the US to the Oregon Territory.**

**Sacagawea is a tremendous asset in assuring people that the expedition is not a war party. She is a pregnant 16 year-old Lemhi Shoshone when she joins the expedition. She was kidnapped from her home near the continental divide on what is now the Idaho-Montana border area when she was about 12 years old. She was sold into a non-consensual marriage with a French-Canadian trapper when she was about 13 years old. She encounters Lewis and Clark in North Dakota. The expedition is eager to have a Shoshone speaking guide though**



they do not pay or compensate her for her service.

**The Sacagawea River in Montana is named after her to commemorate when she dove into the river to save the records and journals of the expedition. Her selection of the pass through the Rocky Mountains is recognized as one of the most optimal routes and becomes the path of the Northern Pacific Railway through the continental divide to the Pacific Northwest.**

**1807: When Meriwether Lewis returns from his expedition to Oregon, he settles in St. Louis, Missouri with his reward of 1,600 acres of land and is appointed governor of the Missouri Territory in 1807. The last governor of the Missouri Territory is his partner William Clark who serves from 1813 to 1821.**

1807: Britain abolishes the slave trade within the British Empire. In 1808, the US bans the transatlantic slave trade, but maintains a domestic slave trade. The unenforced transatlantic ban allows trade to continue illegally. By 1817, Spanish Latin America north of the equator bans the slave trade. By 1820, Spain outlaws the slave trade. With a reduced supply, the cost of enslaved human beings increases. Enslavers in Central and South America seek to supplement or replace enslaved labor with less expensive indentured servants from India and China. Both enslaved and indentured workers typically only survive a few years in the brutal working conditions.

The transatlantic slave trade is the largest forced migration in human history. It is estimated that about 12 million people are forced from Africa to the Americas and over two million people die in route. During this time, about 400,000 people from Africa come to what is now the US.

**1811: Astoria is founded as the first US settlement west of the Rocky Mountains. The Pacific Fur Company establishes a trading post envisioned as a port for trade with China. The Pacific Fur Company is left isolated by the War of 1812 and is forced to sell its holdings to the North West Company that later merges with the British Hudson Bay Company. British warships claim Oregon during the war. Astoria is renamed Fort George after the king of England in 1814.**

Fort Vancouver sets up on the north bank of the Columbia River in anticipation that the Columbia River will be the eventual boundary between the US and British Canada. Currently, the border between the US and Canada is the longest shared border in the world. Britain and the US work out a power sharing agreement for northwestern North America in 1818. Furs (sea otter and beaver) are the main interest of both until they are largely depleted and timber becomes a focus.

**1811: The first Native Hawaiians settle in the Pacific Northwest. Many come as employees of the Hudson Bay Company. Several place names in Oregon such as Owyhee (Hawaii) River and Canyon memorialize their presence.**

1812: At the time of the Revolutionary War, German is spoken widely across Pennsylvania with 38 German language newspapers and a bilingual German education program at the University of Pennsylvania. It is proposed as a second official language for the US at the Constitutional Convention. The US has no official language.

Dutch is spoken throughout the Hudson River Valley. Louisiana becomes a state in 1812. Most of its residents speak French. Louisiana publishes all laws and documents in both English and French for over 100 years, changing in the 1920s. The courts, schools, and the legislature are bilingual English and French. New México conducts schools and the legislature mostly in Spanish into the 1870s.

The Cherokee build schools in Oklahoma that are bilingual English and Cherokee. Their students have higher English language proficiency than European American students in their neighboring states of Texas and Arkansas. The US government sends Cherokee kids to residential schools that result in high rates of illiteracy in any language (40%), high dropout rates (75%), and high death rates (50%).

Later the US government tries to force English language in Puerto Rican schools, courts, and government for 50 years, but fails.

Indigenous languages and Spanish are not “foreign” languages in the US. Both predate the use of English in North America. The US is one of the few countries that does not recognize language rights for linguistic minority populations. In most countries in Europe, the use of one’s language of choice in public and private is an inalienable right. The US does not recognize this right and people have been fired from jobs for speaking a language other than English in the workplace without protection under the law.

The US is the fifth most linguistically diverse country in the world. The first US census finds that 9% of the population speaks German as their first language. This is around the same percentage for Spanish 200 years later. German remains a significant language minority until the two World Wars. In 1900, 600,000 children learn in German language public schools. Today, over 300 languages are spoken in the US. Almost 300 languages are spoken in México.

1817: The American Asylum for the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut becomes the first disability specific institution in the US. It is later known as the National Deaf-Mute College then Gallaudet University. Many Deaf people later identify as a language

group, not a disability group. The first woman, Agatha Tiegel, graduates in 1893 as the valedictorian. The first African American, Andrew Foster, graduates in 1954 following the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision on desegregation. The school excludes African Americans for most of its history.

Agatha Tiegel becomes a teacher and marries a Deaf Swedish immigrant who is an architect and president of the National Association of the Deaf. They live most of their lives in Seattle. They oppose Oralism, which is widespread from the 1900s to the 1970s. Oralism believes that Deaf people should learn lip reading and to speak oral language rather than use signed language.

Most Deaf people favor American Sign Language, but educational institutions for the Deaf oppose it. It becomes a language of resistance. Like Indian Residential schools, which ban Indigenous languages, Deaf schools start to ban the use of signed language.

**1818-1846: Both the US and Britain claim and occupy Oregon (and of course it is already the home of many Indigenous peoples). Both the US and Britain are prohibited by treaty from instituting any government or administrative structures that would imply current or future sovereignty. Russia and Spain also claim the territory. Spain relinquishes its claim and settles on a border at the 42nd parallel in 1819. Russia maintains claims to Alaska but relinquishes claims to the Oregon Territory and sets a boundary at 54 degrees 40 in 1824. The Oregon Territory rests between Russia to the north, Spain then México to the south, and Britain and the United States to the east. Much of its non-Indigenous population is French speaking.**

1819: The Canadian government refuses to cooperate with the US government in apprehending and returning refugees from slavery in British Canada.

1819: Congress passes the Civilization Fund Act to providing funding mostly to religious societies to assimilate Indigenous people in schools.

**1820s: Retiring fur traders with the Hudson Bay Company begin to stay in the Willamette Valley with their Native wives and near their wives' families. Many settle in French Prairie, named because many are French-Canadians, often with mixed European and Indigenous parentage, usually French and Iroquois. They join an existing Kalapuya village and gathering site at Champoeg. The Kalapuya help to build the town and establish farms.**

1820: The Missouri Compromise allows Missouri to enter the union, as a state that allows slavery and Maine as a state that does not. It prohibits slavery north of Missouri's southern border for future western states, including Oregon. The Missouri state constitution bars entry to the state by free Black residents, like Oregon's will in

1859. It is changed and left vague in the compromise.

**1821: México becomes an independent nation apart from Spain. The southern border of the Oregon Territory is now with México.**

1821: Men under guardianship are denied the right to vote in Massachusetts. In 1830, Virginia denies any person of unsound mind the right to vote. If deemed unable to handle property, people cannot to vote. This includes women and people who are enslaved, indentured, Indigenous, or disabled.

1823: The Supreme Court rules in Johnson v. M'Intosh that Indians can occupy and control lands within the US, but cannot hold title to those lands. The Northwest Ordinance in 1787 assumes that land occupied by Native people can be occupied, given away, or sold by European American settlers. The 1823 Supreme Court case rules that Native peoples have occupancy rights, not ownership rights or title to land. Private citizens are not allowed to buy lands from Native people. Lands must be acquired through treaties with the US government.

The 1830 Indian Removal Act forces people off their lands and compels them to live in Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River. Even Indian Territory is later seized and sold. Indigenous people are not allowed to buy land in the US for the next century, until 1924.

1825: Before 1825, the US Supreme Court refers to mental illness as a “most calamitous visitation of providence”. After 1825, it is referred to as a “disease”.

1829: México abolishes slavery.

1829: Braille is invented as a tactile writing system for people who are blind or visually impaired. The St. Louis School for the Blind is the first to teach Braille in the US beginning in 1860.

**1830s: Methodist missionaries come to Oregon. They bring a disease epidemic that kills 70% of the Kalapuya population.**

1830: The Indian Removal Act defies the Supreme Court and forcibly removes Indigenous people from the southeastern US to west of the Mississippi River.

1833: The British Empire abolishes slavery, including in Canada. Britain financially compensates enslavers. The enslaved receive no compensation or reparation.

**1833: Between 1782 and 1833, an estimated 90% of the Kalapuya die from diseases such as smallpox and malaria brought by Europeans. The Klickitat migrate south from the Columbia Basin into present-day Benton County during this time. In addition to not having immunity to imported diseases, the**

population is more susceptible to disease due to disruption of trade networks and traditional food production resulting in widespread malnutrition and starvation. Similarly, during the Holocaust, more Jews and people with disabilities in concentration camps die of starvation and disease than are killed by other means. In all of the Americas, the Native population decreases by 90% within 100 years of European colonization. Many who survive experience disabilities due to disease and violence.

1834: In 1834, the Methodist Church sends Jason Lee to Oregon. In 1836, the Presbyterians send Marcus and Eliza Whitman to Washington. In 1838, the Jesuits send François Blanchet and Modeste Demers to the Northwest. The Native people taught Christian love, are perplexed as to why the Methodists, Presbyterians, and Jesuits do not get along.

When asked why they did not want missionaries, Chief Joseph replies, “They will teach us to quarrel about God, as Catholics and Protestants do on the Nez Perce Reservation and other places. We do not want to do that. We may quarrel with men sometimes about things on earth, but we never quarrel about the Great Spirit. We do not want to learn that.”

1836: Marcus and Narcissa Whitman come to bring the Native people Christianity, education, intensive agriculture, disease, and 1,000 white settlers. The Cayuse, upon whose lands the Whitmans settle, do not seem to want any of these things. There are many causes for grievance and it is not entirely clear why the Whitmans are killed. Perhaps the Cayuse blame them for bringing a measles epidemic or for poisoning 200 Cayuse. Years later, white militias still seek further punishment for the Cayuse and instigate the Cayuse War in 1847-50, which ends with innocent Cayuse being executed for a murder they clearly did not commit. They sign a treaty in 1855 and are today part of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla in Oregon.

1836: Samuel Colt patents the revolver. It is a gun with no hunting use and designed solely for human-to-human violence. Gun ownership doubles in the years leading up to the Civil War. The West and South are the main gun owning regions. Intentional and unintentional gunshot wounds cause significant increases in disabilities. Today, one-third of the US population own guns. Three percent of the population own half of all guns. Gun owners possess an average of eight guns.

1836: The US Congress passes a gag rule that prohibits mentioning slavery for the next nine years.

1840s: During the Irish famine, over one million people, 15% of the population of Ireland die of starvation between 1846 and 1855. Two million people emigrate. One-

third of the Irish population is either dead or gone within a decade. The Irish are the largest immigrant group to the US in the 1840s. The Quechua people in the Americas cultivate hundreds of varieties of potatoes. The Irish cultivate only one of these varieties from the Americas and a blight devastates it. The British government refuses to provide relief saying it would create “dependence”. The British export meat, butter, and other foodstuffs from Ireland to England during the famine.

1840: The US Census adds a question to count “insane and idiot” residents.

1840: The monetary value of enslaved people in the US exceeds the value of all other property combined, including all gold, all real estate, and all bank reserves.

**1840: In 1840, the non-Indigenous population of the Willamette Valley is 137 people. By 1850, there are 12,000 non-Indigenous people in the Willamette Valley.**

1841: Dorothea Dix is appalled to discover that people with intellectual disabilities, mental health disabilities, criminal offences, substance abuse issues, and economic insufficiency are housed together in jails and almshouses under horrible conditions. She begins to advocate for better conditions and for special care facilities, schools, and hospitals for people with intellectual, mental health, and sensory disabilities. She plays a role in the founding of 32 mental hospitals, 15 schools for “the feeble-minded,” and a school for the blind. About 10% of the population of almshouses or poorhouses are people with intellectual disabilities and about 20% have mental health disabilities.

After a brief period of smaller specialized facilities for educational and custodial care for distinct disabilities, by after the Civil War, most states build large congregate care institutions with both educational and custodial programs on the same campus in separate “cottages” to make them feel, or at least sound, more home like.

Many communities give relief to poor families to help them in difficult times. Later policy shifts to supporting the poor in poorhouses, partly as a deterrent to asking for help. One of the deterrents is family separation. Authorities send parents to poorhouses and children to orphanages or foster homes. Some of this is intentional by policymakers who think parents are a bad influence on their children.

Poorhouses become all-purpose institutions until policy shifts towards specific institutions for “lunacy”, “idiocy”, children, and the able-bodied poor. Many poorhouses gradually transition into old age homes. The majority of poorhouse residents only stay for a few weeks, usually in the winter, during difficult times. Poorhouses are one of a long line of attempts that continue today, to hide rather than to solve social problems.

1841: The Preemption Act allows squatters on unsurveyed federal government lands

to purchase the land for \$1.25 per acre before it is offered for sale to the public. This allows people to claim public land as private property. It encourages squatters to occupy Native lands before treaties are signed or land ceded to the federal government. At the same time, Native people are not allowed to purchase or own land even the land they have inhabited for thousands of years and currently inhabit.

**1841: Squatters meet in Oregon to try to settle the estate of Ewing Young who dies with no will. They agree to elect a Supreme Judge, a clerk/public recorder, a high sheriff and three constables, and four justices of the peace. They appoint a seven person constitutional committee that apparently never actually meets. Ewing Young grew wealthy driving horses, cattle, and sheep into the Willamette Valley from California to break the Hudson Bay Company monopoly. He kills Native people along the way, especially in southern Oregon. One time, he kills Indigenous people to prevent reports of illness in his party from reaching tribes in the area. Born in Tennessee, Young moves to Missouri then California and eventually the Willamette Valley.**

**1842:** The Florida Armed Occupation Act sponsored by Senator Thomas Hart Benton grants 160 acres to settlers in Florida who cultivate at least five acres of land for five years. It requires settlers to be armed members of a militia to force Indigenous people off the land and to capture people who escape from slavery. It is devastating to Florida's Indigenous people. This legislation is the model for the **Oregon Donation Land Act of 1850.**

“Armed occupation was the true way of settling a conquered country.” - Thomas Hart Benton

**1842:** The Chinese government expresses it has no need or desire to trade with the British Empire and resists British attempts to import and sell opium to the Chinese people. The ensuing Opium Wars lead to severe displacement and immigration from China to the US and around the world. Similarly, the US government provides free and low cost alcohol to Native communities to weaken health, social cohesion, and resistance. Alcohol is the leading preventable cause of intellectual disability. It is a leading cause of other preventable developmental disabilities such as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

**1842:** The Latimer Law, named for freedom seekers George and Rebecca Latimer, passes in Massachusetts. It prohibits local authorities from participating in the enforcement of the federal Fugitive Slave Act to return freedom seekers to enslavement. **In concept, it is very similar to Oregon's Sanctuary law in 1987.**

**1842-3: Squatters on Indigenous land in the Willamette Valley meet to decide if they want to form a new country or join the US. The meeting favors waiting**

for the US to annex Oregon. They meet again in 1843 in Champoege. The total non-Indigenous population at the time is under 500 people. 1,000 more US immigrants would come later that year. They discuss bounties on wolves, cougars, and bears. They pay Indigenous people half the amount for bounties paid to white people.

They vote on the status of the territory. The vote in favor of forming a provisional government is not recorded, but later accounts in 1866 give it as 52-50. US settlers mostly vote in favor with British and French-Canadians voting in opposition. Two French-Canadians, however, end up as the tie breaking votes in favor. Another later account by someone who was there registered the vote as 55 to 50.

Many contemporaries criticize the proceedings. There is no roll recording who was there. Indigenous people are not included in the vote or the proceedings. Under US and international law, the Provisional Government has no standing and the Indigenous people legally retain all rights and claims to the land. The settlers are legally squatters. The US squatters remain loyal to the US republic and the British and French-Canadians remain loyal to their monarchs. It is not truly an independent state of government.

In what seems to be a clear violation of the 1818 treaty that prohibits the creation of any governmental structure that implies sovereignty, the preamble to the Organic Laws in 1843 reads, "Until such time as the United States of America extend their jurisdiction over us." They send a memorial to Congress asking for US jurisdiction over Oregon, citing the potential trade with Asia and the Pacific. They claim territory that stretches north of México, south of the Columbia River, and west of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

The founders of the Provisional Government are encouraged to meet with Commodore Charles Wilkes of the US and John McLoughlin of the British Hudson Bay Company. Both oppose a provisional government and both tell them to wait for Britain and the US to decide sovereignty. Wilkes describes their motives as getting "settlers to flock in, thereby raising the values of their farms and stock." An additional motive seems to be that many, like Jason Lee, are in debt to the Hudson Bay Company and want to escape their jurisdiction.

**1843:** The newly formed Provisional Government passes the Organic Act establishing a government with a three member executive committee, a secretary, a treasurer, and a nine member legislative committee. They replace the three person executive committee with one person as governor in 1845. The nine person legislative committee rarely meets. People from the US fill all



offices.

The act gives 320 acres of land to any white man in the region who is at least 18 years old and 640 acres to married couples. No country or government in the world recognizes the Provisional Government as legitimate. The judicial branch consists of one Supreme Court judge and two justices of the peace. It is more of a club than a government. The territory is divided into four districts.

1843: Any justice of the peace in Oregon can declare someone a “lunatic” and care is contracted to private individuals who bid to care for the person. The contract goes to the lowest bidder. Early justices of the peace act as present-day county commissioners. Originally, family, friends, and neighbors attest to disability and the need for support. Later, doctors have to determine and diagnose disability. This system is poorly regulated, underfunded, and ripe for abuse. The motivations for care are not always good or about care. Often the person is used as enslaved labor or abused in other ways. It is common for people to be locked away in homes or chained in barns. If a private home cannot be found, the individual is housed in a jail or a poorhouse along with other “unfortunates” with criminal offenses, addictions, mental health issues, or other difficulties.

1844: The Provisional Legislature passes the first taxes in Oregon, a poll tax and a property tax. They create the Oregon Rangers as a militia to police the Indigenous population. In 1847, the Provisional Government sends troops to fight in the Cayuse War.

1844: The Provisional Government of Oregon passes a “lash law” that bans slavery and excludes any Black residents from Oregon. They are to be whipped and expelled. It is amended later to replace whipping with forced labor. Peter Burnett, who introduces the law, later becomes the first governor of California.

The law calls for African Americans who are banned from settling in Oregon to be whipped every six months until they leave the state. Oregon votes to prohibit slavery and gives Oregon enslavers three years to free anyone they have enslaved. Free Black people are not permitted to settle in Oregon under the law so upon being freed they have to leave the Territory. Men have two years to leave and women have three. The law is repealed as too harsh a year later. Peter Burnett leaves to chase gold in California in 1848 and does not return to Oregon.

1844: In 1844, Letitia and David Carson set off for Oregon. David is an

immigrant from Ireland who has just been granted US citizenship. Letitia was born enslaved in Kentucky. She is not eligible for US citizenship despite being born in the US. Their daughter Martha is born in 1845 along the South Platte River on the Oregon Trail. They claim 640 acres under the Provisional Government in the Soap Creek Valley just north of Corvallis. Under the 1850 Donation Land Claim Act, the government reduces their claim to 320 acres because Letitia and David cannot legally marry since Letitia is Black and because Black people are not eligible for claims under the act.

Letitia gives birth to a son Adam in 1849. In 1852, David dies from an illness. Letitia and her two children are excluded from the estate settlement and their wealthy white neighbor, Greenberry Smith, is named executor. He claims she is property herself and incapable of owning property. Smith auctions off Carson's possessions. She has to buy back her own bed and kitchen supplies at the auction. She files a lawsuit against Smith stating David intended her as his sole heir. She asks for compensation for her lost property and seven years of labor on the land. She asks for \$7,450 and is awarded \$300 by the court in 1855. Later, a neighbor testifies that he was complimenting David on his fine cattle and heard David say that the cattle were Letitia's from a cow she purchased on the Oregon Trail with her own money. A federal court in 1856 awards her \$1,399.75 for the loss of her cattle.

Letitia moves with her children to Cow Creek Valley in southern Oregon where she works as a midwife among other jobs. When Oregon becomes a state in 1859, its constitution bans Black people from coming to the state, owning property, voting, and suing in court. When the Homestead Act passes in 1862, the law does not prohibit claims based on race as the 1850 act did. She files a claim for 154 acres on South Myrtle Creek in 1863.

In 1869, President Ulysses Grant certifies her claim. She is the only Black woman in Oregon to file a successful claim under the Homestead Act. She lives there the rest of her life, another 20 years, in which she builds a two-story house, granary, barn, and smokehouse along with a fruit orchard and of course, she had cattle. Nearby Letitia Creek is named for her.

In 2021, the Corvallis School District renames Wildcat (formerly Wilson) Elementary School as Letitia Carson Elementary in her honor.

1846: President James Polk orders the invasion of México to start the Mexican-American War.

1847: Joseph C. Avery petitions with over 100 signatures to create a new county from part of Polk County, which is named for President James Polk. Benton

County, named after Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton (see 1842), is created by the Provisional Government of Oregon out of land inhabited for millennia by the Kalapuya. No land is legally ceded by the Kalapuya until 1855. At its formation, Benton County stretches west to the Pacific Ocean and south to the México border (now the California border after the Mexican-American War).

**Benton County exists within the ancestral lands of the Ampínefu or Mary's River band of the Kalapuya within the Mary's River watershed. Of Oregon's 36 counties, 10 are named after the Indigenous people of the area. 19 Oregon counties are named after white men who have been involved in the death and displacement of Indigenous people through military and/or political actions. One Oregon county, Josephine, is named after a woman.**

1848: Samuel Gridley Howe founds the Massachusetts School for Idiotic Children, later renamed Walter Fernald State School after its third superintendent who advocates for eugenics and subjects children to cruel experiments, punishments, and treatments. It is the first residential institution for people with intellectual disabilities in the US and in the Western Hemisphere. Howe successfully shows that children with intellectual disabilities can be educated, leading many to advocate that they should stay at these residential schools permanently. Howe opposes this idea and advocates for the rights of people with disabilities and their integration into the wider community.

The Massachusetts State Legislature funds the school. It closes in 2014 after decades of lawsuits regarding abuse and neglect. The early founders of special schools and institutions often blame parents for their children's conditions. Part of the solution is removing children from their parents for "treatment" in institutions. The stigmatization and shame of families and the lack of support in their communities also leads them to hide their children in institutions.

1848: The Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments calls for equal rights, including voting rights, for women.

**1848: Oregon becomes a territory of the United States. The British surrender their claims, but the US still does not possess the land. The Indigenous people hold legal possession of the land.**

**Joseph Lane is appointed the first governor. US law and government is extended to Oregon. In 1860, the pro-slavery Southern wing of the Democratic Party selects Lane as vice-president on the ticket running against and losing to Abraham Lincoln. Lane supports slavery in all the territories, including Oregon. He supports the secession of the Confederacy. His son leaves the West Point Academy to fight for the Confederate Army. Lane County is named**

for Joseph Lane.

**The US secures Oregon without war with Britain, which allows President Polk to secure California and a lot of other Mexican territory for the US through war with México. Oregon does not have enough people to qualify for statehood so it becomes a territory. Most non-Indigenous people live in the Willamette Valley, but the Oregon Territory includes present day Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. The US territorial statute affirms that Indigenous people retain their land rights until extinguished by a ratified treaty.**

1848: The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is signed ending the Mexican-American War. **The US takes almost half of México's land (600 million acres) including Oregon's current neighboring states of California and Nevada.** The treaty guarantees citizenship rights to those who are already living in these areas and the right to continue using the Spanish language, including in education. The treaty guarantees that Mexicans living in newly acquired US territory from México have "all the rights of citizens of the United States". Instead, many lose their lands and are segregated in neighborhoods, schools, stores, restaurants, and businesses in what is known as "Juan Crow".

The law in California, acquired in the war with México, excludes Mexican American citizens from voting. Voting is for whites only. Mexican and Indigenous people are lynched into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Their land is seized and they are forced from towns leaving them few places to live. There is a massive violent transfer of land and wealth from Mexican and Indigenous people to Anglo Americans. Two-thirds of Latin Americans in the US today are of Mexican descent. Mexican Americans are among the earliest settlers in parts of the US even before the areas were part of the US. They are also among our most recent arrivals. Many of their ancestors were here before the US or México existed as nations.

1848: Two weeks before the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ending the war with México, gold is discovered in California. The non-Indigenous population of California increases fivefold with immigrants from the US, México, Australia, Hawaii, Asia, and South America.

**Experienced Mexican and South American miners and cooperative efficient Chinese miners are generally more successful than the inexperienced gold-fevered Americans, which includes most of the non-Indigenous male population of Oregon at the time.** This leads to a foreign miners tax on non-US miners. There are many attacks and lynchings of Mexican and Chinese miners. Indigenous people are killed and forced off mining claims on Indigenous lands and waters, which are destroyed by mining. Californios (Spanish Mexicans whose homes

and lands just changed from México to the US) are also driven off their lands by miners. Currently, one-third of the US has had Spanish speaking residents longer than it has had English speaking residents.

1849: The Department of the Interior is created by consolidating the Bureau of Indian Affairs, General Land Office, Geological Survey, and Territorial Office. It is charged with the contradictory mission of protecting Indian land rights while assessing, dividing, and distributing those lands to settlers to create states and territories.

**1849: The 1844 lash law is repealed in 1845 and is replaced in 1849 with another exclusion law that allows existing Black residents to stay, but bans African Americans from moving to Oregon. Ship owners can be fined if their Black crewmembers jump ship and remain in Oregon.**

**1849: Most of the non-Indigenous male population of the Oregon Territory leave for the California gold mines. There are many massacres of innocent Indigenous people. Many of the California tribes are completely wiped out.**

**1849: Most new arrivals to the West go to California rather than Oregon. The 1850 Oregon Donation Land Claim Act incentivizes European Americans to come to Oregon for free land. The 1850 Indian Treaty Act requires the US to obtain formal agreements from the Indigenous people to cede land to the US and to move the Native people over the mountains to eastern Oregon. When negotiators are unable to convince Indigenous people to move east, they agree to reservations in western Oregon. Congress rejects the treaties and refuses to ratify them. Negotiators argue that the Native people are useful to the settlers if they stay and many settlers agree. They send letters attesting to the good character and usefulness of their Native neighbors.**

**Anson Dart negotiates 19 treaties on behalf of the US government and Congress ratifies none of them because squatters had already illegally occupied lands set aside for reserves. Authorities do not want to anger the white squatters by asking them to leave, even though they were notified not to settle in those areas. Joseph Lane, as the Oregon Territory delegate to Congress, opposes any reservations in the Willamette Valley.**

**Even though treaties are not ratified and land not legally available, land claims are allowed to go ahead. The Indigenous people have no access to lawyers and the courts to enforce their legal rights. They lose their lands without receiving any of the compensation promised in the treaties they sign. The presence of our neighbors at Grand Ronde in the Willamette Valley on Yamhill/Yamel Kalapuya land is a triumph over the intended policies of complete removal from the valley.**

**1850s:** Chinese immigrants begin coming to Oregon and the West Coast to work on railroads, canneries, laundries, mines, restaurants, service industries, farms, timber, saw mills, and as street vendors. US immigration laws prohibit most Chinese women from immigrating so women stay in China. Chinese men outnumber Chinese women somewhere between 20 or 30 to one. Oregon laws prohibit them from marrying white women.

Farms recruit agricultural workers from China from the 1850s until the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882. Japanese workers are recruited from the 1890s until the 1920s when they face increased restrictions with the 1924 Immigration Act. Filipino workers are recruited in the 1920s and 1930s until the 1934 Tydings-McDuffie Act restricts them. From the 1930s until the 2000s, Mexican workers are recruited while facing increased restrictions in immigration laws in the 1980s and 1990s. In recent years, Central Americans, especially Indigenous peoples, are performing much of the agricultural work in the West.

**1850:** Mexicans are first recorded in the Oregon census, the first census as a territory even before statehood. Mexican mule packers provide most of the transportation of goods and supplies and are essential to Oregon commerce between Oregon and California before the railroads. Mexican vaqueros from California bring cowboy culture to Oregon after the Civil War. Willamette Valley farmers contract with Indigenous workers from Grand Ronde and Siletz as early as the 1850s. Chinese laborers are contracted until the 1880s. The Mexican border is just south of Ashland, Oregon until 1848. Mexican laborers are also contracted.

**1850:** The Oregon Donation Land Claim Act is enacted by Congress and legalizes the prior land grants of the Provisional Government. It grants free land to “whites” in the Oregon Territory. Existing residents, who are not white, are unable to claim land even if they already have deeds to the land and have been living on it.

Over two million acres of land is given away free to white settlers before any of the land has been ceded by the Indigenous nations. The first treaty ceding land in the Willamette Valley is not ratified until 1855. The act encourages settlers to force Indigenous people off their lands with the support of the US government and military. With only white people allowed to own land, Black residents prohibited from entry, and Native people forced onto reservations, the vision of Oregon as a white homeland becomes embedded in public policy.

The law is modeled upon earlier legislation authored by Senator Thomas Hart Benton (see 1842). The Oregon Donation Land Claim Act is one of the most

devastating pieces of anti-Black and anti-Indigenous legislation. It gives land explicitly to white people and encourages them to force Indigenous people off land that is legally and rightfully theirs to be seized by white squatters before any treaties ceding the land are ratified. All land claims made before treaties are ratified, are illegal. There is no prosecution and no compensation paid for their illegal occupation.

White squatters often provoke conflict with Indigenous people to create a pretext to steal their land and resources and deny their rights. By 1851, there is no unclaimed land in the Willamette Valley even though squatters are instructed to hold off until treaties can be ratified. No treaties are ratified before 1855. Most of the land designated for reservations is already claimed by European Americans. Many of the claimants call for the genocide of the Kalapuya people as a “solution”. The western settlers come literally seeking a huge government handout.

“There is no difficulty, I take it, in Oregon in keeping men off the lands that are owned by white men, but when the possessor happens to be an Indian, the question is changed altogether.” - Senator William Fessenden of Maine

1851: Marysville, later renamed Corvallis in 1853 to avoid confusion with Marysville California, is designated as the county seat for Benton County.

1851: The Luckiamute Kalapuya are removed to a reserve along the Luckiamute River near present day Helmick State Park under a treaty that was never ratified by Congress so they are later removed again to Grand Ronde.

1851: The Francis brothers Abner and Isaac, known as A.H. and I.B. Francis, are targeted for expulsion from Oregon under the 1849 exclusion law and resist after being ordered to leave the state within 40 days. They are successful business owners in Portland. 225 white Oregonians sign a petition to allow them to stay. A.H. Francis writes letters published in Frederick Douglass’ *North Star* newspaper about the conditions in the West for Black people.

Some argue that Oregon’s exclusion law is unconstitutional because rights are protected in all states and the law has no provision for a jury trial. A.H. Francis is an advocate for the West and for Black migration to the West. He lives and works in both San Francisco and Portland. Ultimately, he moves to Victoria, British Columbia in Canada where he feels he has more freedom and is able to pursue his political interests.

1851: Jacob Vanderpool, owner of three businesses in Salem, is ordered to leave within 30 days and is expelled under the exclusion law because of his

skin color.

**1852:** Gold is found near Jacksonville. It rapidly becomes the largest town in Oregon with 1,000 people. In 1850, Oregon City has 933 people and Portland has 805. Jackson County has eight land claims in 1851, 53 in 1852, and 129 in 1853.

**1852:** Massachusetts passes the first compulsory education law in the US. The government funds public schools, but attendance is voluntary. If taxpayers are compelled to pay for schools, lawmakers reason that students should be compelled to attend. The stated goals of public education are to reduce crime and poverty and increase morals and social mobility. Mississippi becomes the last state to pass a compulsory education law in 1912. Mississippi lawmakers see the enthusiastic attendance by Black students and fear white students will be left behind.

**1853:** Robin and Polly Holmes of Polk County win their lawsuit against Nathaniel Ford in the Oregon Territorial Supreme Court. In 1844, Ford brought the Holmes family to Oregon from Missouri as enslaved people with a promise to free them. In 1850, Ford finally agrees to free Robin and Polly Holmes but keeps their children enslaved. The parents sue for their children's freedom and finally win in 1853. The ruling removes any legal support for slavery in the Oregon Territory. Oregon quickly passes a law prohibiting Black and Native residents from testifying against white residents in any legal action.

One of the children, Mary Jane Holmes, would later marry Reuben Shipley and move to Benton County to farm near Philomath. Nathaniel Ford makes Reuben Shipley pay him for Mary Jane Holmes who he still considers his "property". Reuben Shipley and Mary Jane Holmes Shipley donate the land for Mount Union Cemetery in Philomath in 1861 as a racially integrated final resting place.

**1853:** John Beeson was born in England and comes to the US in 1828. He farms in Illinois and is a stop on the Underground Railroad where he harbors and helps freedom seekers escaping from slavery. He moves to Oregon in 1853 with a Donation land claim in southern Oregon. The treatment of Indigenous people by his fellow white neighbors appalls him. He advocates for Indigenous rights.

Beeson sees white residents threaten Native families, destroy their property, and commit random murders. He sees his neighbors repeatedly violate the terms of the 1853 Table Rock Treaty, trespass on the reservation, and terrorize the Natives. He speaks out against Oregon's failure to protect Native people.



He has to flee his homestead in 1856 under threat of death with a military escort. He publishes an article urging readers to deal fairly with the Indigenous people and to “do good, love truth, be just and fair to all.” He relocates to New York and writes *A Plea for the Indians* in 1857, which is a defense of Oregon Indians. He works for the Indian Aid Society based in Philadelphia. He returns to Oregon in 1865.

**1853:** Obed and Charlotte Dickinson arrive in Oregon. They come to minister to the First Congregational Church in Salem. Obed presides at weddings for Black couples and holds receptions at the church. Charlotte teaches Black children in school. Obed becomes a trustee at both Pacific and Willamette Universities. Their abolitionist views and social inclusion of Black and white parishioners in the church are controversial among their fellow white Oregonians. Black parishioners are welcomed, baptized, married, and taught in the church alongside white parishioners. Asahel Bush attacks him for his “anti-slavery and negro sympathy” in *The Oregon Statesman* newspaper.

**1853:** The Washington Territory is created to sign treaties, settle land disputes, and survey land for the transcontinental railroad. It is carved out of the Oregon Territory.

**1853:** Louis Southworth arrives in Oregon. He was born enslaved in Tennessee in 1829. In 1858, he buys his freedom for \$1,000 (equivalent of \$33,000 today). He makes money goldmining and playing the fiddle. He lives near Monroe then later in Buena Vista in 1870. He marries Mary Cooper in 1873. He learns to read and write at the Buena Vista Academy with his stepson. In 1879, he and his family homestead in the Alsea Valley. He donates land for the area’s first school and serves on the three-person school board. He has a park, a road, and a creek named for him in Lincoln County. He votes in the 1880 election and is famous for his fiddle playing. In 1910, he buys a house in Corvallis. When his health and finances decline, community members help with his mortgage. He marries again in 1913 and dies in 1917. He is buried in the Crystal Lake Cemetery in Corvallis.

**1853:** Mary Ann Shadd Cary founds *The Provincial Freeman* newspaper to advocate against slavery and for temperance. She moves from the US to Canada after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850 and advocates for other African Americans to emigrate. In 1848, when Frederick Douglass’ North Star newspaper asks readers what can be done to improve life for African Americans, her response includes “Do more, talk less”. She becomes the first Black woman publisher in North America and the first woman publisher in Canada. She advocates for women’s rights in the US and Canada.

**1854: Petitions from 128 signers prevent the deportations of Morris Thomas and Jane Snowden under Oregon's Black exclusion law.**

1854: Kansas is opened to settlement by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which stipulates that Kansas have a popular vote about slavery. European American squatters illegally occupying the land derail the extensive plans made to resettle Native people in an Indian reserve in Kansas. Missouri pro-slavery gangs try to influence the vote by intimidating anti-slavery Kansans. Many "border ruffians" from Missouri vote illegally in Kansas to elect pro-slavery candidates to the Kansas Legislature.

In 1854, of the 2,800 ballots cast in Kansas, Missourians cast 1,700 fraudulently. In 1855, 4,000 Missourians vote illegally in Kansas. There are 6,307 votes cast at a time when Kansas has 2,095 eligible voters. The "border wars" in "bleeding Kansas" presage the Civil War. Four constitutions for Kansas are sent to Congress before one is approved as a compromise. Kansas becomes a free state in 1861 on the eve of the Civil War.

**1855: The Kalapuya cede land in Benton County to the US in the Treaty of Dayton. They are promised, "Whatever you may desire, he (the US President) will make it." Promises of money, supplies, health care, and protection are largely not kept. They are forcibly resettled to Grande Ronde and the Coast Reservation. During the treaty negotiations, the Indigenous languages are translated into Chinuk Wawa then into English then back into Chinuk Wawa then into the Indigenous languages. The final treaty is only in English, which the Native treaty signers are not able to read. Legally, treaties are to be interpreted as the people would have understood them, not by their precise legal meanings, which were not conveyed to the treaty signers.**

Tribes receive about three cents per acre for the Willamette Valley. The Native people of the Willamette Valley by all accounts greet the newcomers with hospitality. They generously share food, lodging, and needed information. They feed and house people without question. Anyone in need is cared for, including the white foreigners. Their kindness is ultimately not reciprocated, though many reports of very positive relationships between Indigenous and European Americans attest to genuine respect and affection among many.

**"It doesn't appear that our ancestors resisted settlement to the point that they thought all foreigners needed to be kept out, but instead tried to accommodate settlers who were respectful." - Robert Kentta (Siletz)**

Even though federal policy is to remove all Indigenous people from western Oregon and relocate them east of the Cascades, it is also clear that many local officials and settlers see peaceful co-existence as possible and want the Native

people to stay. Some settlers give letters to the Native people expressing support for their good characters and the desire for them to remain as neighbors. The Natives express willingness to allow friendly settlers to remain in their lands, but not hostile and violent ones.

After the 1855 treaty, 11 temporary reservations are set up in the Willamette Valley on local farms. The Kalapuya live and work with farmers for a year before moving to Grand Ronde in 1856. The Kalapuya integrate on the reservation with between 29-35 other tribes and bands to become the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. Some go to other reservations as well. Some work as loggers and farm workers. For the first winter at Grand Ronde, the people have only canvas tents to live in.

When the first treaties are signed, Natives outnumber non-Natives. Attitudes towards the treaties and what is agreed to change after non-Natives outnumber Natives. Not long after the reservations are agreed and established, non-Natives set about trying to reduce the holdings of Natives. They argue cost savings by reducing the size of the reservations.

Because they are agreed by treaty, reductions have to have the consent of the Native tribes and the US Congress. Negotiators often lie that they have consent when they do not or obtain “consent” by threatening Natives with disease, rape, and murder by non-Natives. Often consent means forced compliance.

The Native people consistently refuse money for their land. The money and services guaranteed under treaty are not to purchase the land. It is to compensate Natives for the loss of their livelihood in losing use of their lands. Many, especially with the Coast Treaty, never receive compensation because the treaty is not formally ratified by Congress. The Native people do not know this since they have an agreement with someone claiming to represent the US and the president.

As soon as the reservations are established, non-Natives want the land opened to farming, mining, timber, and fishing. They feel the Natives are not sufficiently exploiting the resources and are “wasting” the land, even though many like the Klamath have successful timber operations. The Siletz ask the federal government for permission to operate a cannery, but are denied. A private non-Native cannery is approved on the reservation instead. Overfishing and timber operations by non-Natives greatly diminish the salmon and lamprey runs the people depend upon for food.

Indian agents are actively involved in giving away Indigenous land, even after

it has been reserved by treaty. Indian agents have business entanglements with land speculators and developers. They have profitable relationships with companies that are supposed to supply the reservations through government funding. Most of the funds are taken by agents and contractors before reaching the reservations.

1855: The Coast Reservation is established along the Oregon Coast encompassing over one million acres. The Coast Reservation stretches from Cape Lookout to the north and the Siuslaw and Umpqua Rivers in the south. It is 105 miles long and 23 miles wide in the south and 12 miles wide in the north. The county line between Benton and Lincoln County is the original boundary of the Coast Reservation.

“Our chief [US president] thinks it best to have a country of their own, where no whites will be allowed to live among them.” - Superintendent Joel Palmer to the Coast tribes

Grand Ronde is originally an extension of the Coast Reservation. It is for the Willamette Valley tribes with Coastal people going to the Coast Reservation. With the Rogue Wars, southern Oregon Indigenous people are sent to each site with no apparent logic or choice when squatters take over the Table Rock Reservation in southern Oregon. President Buchanan designates Grand Ronde for Willamette Valley tribes.

The Oregon treaties are part of a change in federal Indian policy. Rather than pursue extinction, Native people will have permanent homelands with assistance to transition to an agricultural lifestyle on lands largely unsuitable for agriculture. The Natives think the reservations should mean it is their country and their rules, but the US government still makes the rules. Instead of Indians needing passes to leave the reservation, Tyee John thinks soldiers should need passes to enter the reservation since it is his country. According to the US Supreme Court, reservations are not a granting of rights to Indigenous people. They are a granting of rights from Native people and a reservation of Native rights on Native land.

The Coast Reservation is agreed to by treaty and reserved about one-third of the Oregon Coast for Indigenous people. Even though the treaty is not ratified by Congress, it is agreed to and implemented which can be seen as de facto ratification. The Coast Reservation has no major port and poor prospects for agriculture. The US Soil Conservation Service declares it “generally unsuited to cultivation”. It is chosen because it does not have a deep-water port and is unsuitable for agriculture like Grand Ronde.

The people survive by hunting, fishing, and gathering. When people relocate to the Coast Reservation, there is little food, and no shelter, not even tents to help them through an exceptionally wet and stormy winter. A December shipment of supplies is lost in a shipwreck. A Department of Interior report says that by April, “The Indians were in a state of starvation.” Because the treaty is never ratified, much of the promised support never comes.

Some Tillamook people are removed to Siletz, others to Grand Ronde. Some stay in their lands without land rights. The Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw people go to Siletz. Many stay in southern Oregon and later gain federal tribal recognition. The Alsea Agency is forced to close and the Alsea people are relocated to Siletz.

100 years later, the Alsea decision of the special court of claims and the Supreme Court rules to compensate the tribe at the 1855 value of the land with no interest and no adjustment for inflation. When the claim is settled, it is an insult to the people that a few hundred dollars is compensation for the loss of land and culture for a century.

The many tribes confederated on a reservation become one tribe. Traditional culture, ceremonies, language, family, and connections to the land offer experiences unmatched in the non-Native world.

1855: Corvallis is briefly the capital of the Oregon Territory before Salem is selected as the permanent seat of state government. The Legislature meets in a building on the northwest corner of Second Street and SW Adams Avenue in Corvallis.

1855: Pro-slavery forces advocate forming a new state in southern Oregon and northern California. Californians reject the idea.

1855: An anti-Indian meeting is held in Jacksonville where a plan put forth by the territorial representative, James Lupton, to exterminate all Native people living off reservations is approved. The next morning self-described “Exterminators”, seven parties of over 100 volunteer men each, attack Indian camps and kill the inhabitants, including women and children. The principal chief, Toquahear, refuses to fight. The US military remove him and 400 of his people and force them to walk to the Grande Ronde reservation.

Some non-combatant Indigenous people of southern Oregon are shipped by steamship. Many fear the soldiers will throw them overboard. The average passenger load for the steamship is 100 passengers. 700 Native passengers are crowded aboard. They are seasick, terrified of the rough sea, and

overcrowded. Some try to jump overboard and swim back. They are exposed on the decks with no blankets in the cold wind and rain. The ship lands in Portland and the people walk to Grand Ronde.

After the massacre, many Native people flee and are pursued by the US Army. After several battles, Tecumtum and 600 of his people surrender in 1856 along with two bands from the south coast. The US military forces them to walk for 33 days to reach the Siletz and Grande Ronde reservations. Many die along the way. Many are not allowed to travel by steamship and are force-marched from southern Oregon. 125 men, women, children, and infants are force-marched by 90 US soldiers, even though the steamship was cheaper and faster. Others are marched overland for over 250 miles to the Coast Reservation before there are roads or bridges. They have to swim across rivers in winter without shoes or warm clothes while many are sick.

Some manage to hide or escape from the reservations and later work in white communities and stay in their homelands in the Cow Creek and Rogue River areas or in towns. Federal officials insist that all Indians stay on reservations. Those who hide out are constantly pursued for the next 20 years. Some sympathetic families hide Native people from authorities. Native women married to white men are allowed to stay. If their husbands are gone, such as on military duty, the wives are often rounded up and sent to a reservation then their husbands have to go retrieve them.

There are two major forced marches from southern Oregon to the reservations in the north. One lasts a month and the other takes two months. People die along the way from sickness and murder by vigilantes. Both marches are in the winter. One march of the Rogue River and Umpqua people is early in the Rogue River war and is for those who do not fight. The second march at the end of the war is for those who do fight. People who refuse to go are killed in front of their families. Removal is not optional. Natives are told removal is for their safety and that they can return when the war is over. They are not allowed to bring their possessions. They are not allowed to return when the war is over.

The people of southern Oregon are used to a warmer and drier climate and different foods than they find on the reservations at Siletz and Grand Ronde. More than one-third die upon arrival at the reservations. They lose more people on the reservation than they do in the war. At first, most people congregate together with their own tribe on the reservation. For many, they are living on land that is not their land with people who are not their people with governance that is not their governance. The schools and churches are

foreign to them.

Miners instigate the violence leading to the Rogue River Wars. A few hundred mostly unsuccessful miners who move on to the next gold rush and do not stay in Oregon lead to the death and displacement of the Indigenous people of southern Oregon who have lived there for many millennia. White mobs ignore official agreements of peace and friendship and commit atrocities, massacres, and lynchings of Native people. The Natives and the settlers had largely achieved a live and let live truce and peace until the miners came.

“The cause of the present difficulty in southern Oregon is wholly to be attributed to the acts of our own people...The Indians in that district have been driven to desperation by acts of cruelty...that would disgrace the most barbarous nations of the earth.” - Joel Palmer, superintendent for Indian Affairs

Mining disrupts salmon runs by sending tons of gravel, debris, soil, and sediment into the rivers and destroying spawning grounds. Hogs brought by miners dig roots and eat acorns that Natives depend upon for food. Mules graze in prairies and trample camas fields and other foods and medicines. Fenced and plowed fields make hunting and harvesting areas off limits.

The tyees (Indigenous leaders) in southern Oregon work hard to keep peace while miners and settlers talk about “extermination” and “extinction”, not peace. *The Oregon Spectator* newspaper writes, “Extinction of the entire race in that region is the almost unanimous sentiment.” The editorials in all the major Oregon newspapers call for the extermination of the Indigenous people.

The first Rogue River War begins in 1851 when Captain Tichenor kills about 30 Natives at Battle Rock. A curious crowd gathers to see his steamship come into Port Orford harbor. The crew fires a cannon on land into the crowd.

The death toll from the Rogue River Wars was probably about 600 people with the tribes losing between 400 to 450 people. The settlers lost 182 people out of a total population of 2,000. It is the deadliest war in the Northwest. Losing close to 10% of the Oregon population now would be like losing 400,000 people. The Native people lost about 400 out of 2,000 people or 20% of their population. That would be like losing 800,000 Oregonians.

The Takelma, Athapaskan, and Shasta meet with Oregon and US representatives for a peace treaty at Table Rock, which leads to the first ratified land treaty in the West in 1853. “Bad Bostons” (white US squatters) break the treaty and invade protected lands for mining and harass the inhabitants

leading to another war. Peaceful Natives are invited to a feast then locked in a house while a white mob guns them down.

**1855:** The Yakama Treaty is agreed in 1855, but before it can be ratified by Congress, gold is found. Two miners on Yakama land rape a Yakama woman and are killed by Yakama men. The Yakama War lasts until 1858.

**1855:** Half of Oregon's non-Indigenous population is from Missouri.

**1855:** Massachusetts has the first officially legally racially integrated public schools. Many wealthier white families send their children to segregated private schools.

**1855:** The Government Hospital for the Insane opens in Washington D.C. as the first federally operated psychiatric hospital in the US. After the Civil War, it is known as St. Elizabeths Hospital. It is a segregated facility largely serving African Americans. At its peak, it houses 8,000 people in the 1950s. Dr. Luther Robinson becomes its first African American superintendent in 1963. He pioneers mental health treatment for the Deaf. The campus is designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1990 and the west portions currently serve at the headquarters for the Department of Homeland Security. The District of Columbia Department of Mental Health operates the east campus.

**1856:** Grand Ronde is the largest population center in Oregon. After the Indigenous people are removed from southern Oregon, the population of the reservation at Grand Ronde is bigger than Portland or Salem. Fort Hoskins, Fort Siletz, Fort Yamhill, and Fort Umpqua are charged with preventing Indians from escaping back to their homelands and to prevent Indian attacks that never come. The soldiers' letters and journals mostly report extreme boredom and poor weather. The Natives are required to stay on their reserves and when they leave, the soldiers catch them and return them. During the Civil War, the forts are understaffed by volunteers and do little to pursue civil complaints such as Natives leaving their reserves.

Farmers in the Willamette Valley are increasingly interested in having Native workers on their farms. Many Native workers live on farms for several months and are paid to work. Many farmers store possessions for traveling Native workers. In time, it becomes common for Native workers to leave the reservation, especially in summer to work on farms in the Willamette Valley. They harvest hops, beans, berries, walnuts, and cherries. It is common for farmers to segregate living spaces by race. Not only Grand Ronde and Siletz people work in the valley, but also Klamath, Warm Springs, and even Native people from Arizona work on local farms.



The Natives receive passes from the Indian agents that allow them to leave the reservation. Police or military can detain them if they do not have their passes. They are not US citizens until 1924. They are seen as foreigners visiting from another country. State laws do not apply on the reservations. Occasionally, Natives become citizens through military service. Offers of US citizenship are usually contingent on giving up tribal membership. Their remarkable quality and quantity of service in World War 1 for a country that rejects them leads to calls for citizenship that are granted in 1924.

1856: Joel Palmer, the Indian Commissioner in Oregon, is dismissed. He is replaced by James Nesmith, who advocates for the extermination of the Chetco people on the southern Oregon coast as superintendent for Indian Affairs for the Oregon and Washington territories. He fights in the Cayuse, Yakama, and Rogue River Wars as a captain of the militia. William Tichenor becomes an Indian agent. He commits what Joel Palmer calls “an atrocious massacre of peaceable and friendly Indians” when his men kill 30 Indigenous bystanders with a cannon in 1851. Later he kills 19 Native people supposedly for trying to escape during a forced march to a reservation.

1856: Oregon’s oldest public university, Western Oregon University, is founded as Monmouth University. It is later known as Oregon State Normal School, Oregon College of Education, Western Oregon State College, and now Western Oregon University. In 1882, the Oregon State Legislature approves it to become a state-supported teacher training school, Oregon State Normal School. Normal schools train teachers for the public schools. Protestant white women who have completed the eighth grade or are thought able to and who commit to teach for two years are given free tuition and books to complete a two-year degree.

1857: The city of Corvallis is incorporated.

1857: The US President creates the reservation at Grand Ronde by executive order. Polk County white residents hold a meeting to oppose the arrival of Rogue River Indians to Grand Ronde. Superintendent of Indian Affairs James Nesmith orders agents to hunt down encampments of Natives hiding in the Coast Range to force their removal to the reservation. Most treaties allow Natives to continue their customary lifeways of hunting and fishing both on and off the reservation, but in practice, they are not allowed to leave the reservations.

“From the beginning, the Territory’s pioneering lawmen did less to suppress crime in any conventional sense than to force open lands for Anglo-American

settlement.” - Robert Perkinson

**1857:** The Oregon Constitution is written prohibiting slavery, but also prohibiting the residence of African Americans and prohibiting their entering into contracts or owning real estate. They are denied the right to vote, serve on juries, or to sue in court. Though voided by the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> amendments to the US constitution after the Civil War, prohibitions are not repealed until 1927.

As part of the vote on the Oregon Constitution, there are also provisions for a popular vote on slavery and residency of “free Blacks”. 75% of Oregon voters oppose slavery. 89% of voters oppose residency in Oregon of free Black people. Only white men are allowed to vote.

**1857:** The Supreme Court’s Dred and Harriet Scott decision seems to support the Oregon Constitution by ruling that because Dred and Harriet Scott are Black, they cannot be citizens and have no right to sue. Justice Roger Taney writes that since African Americans are “regarded as beings of an inferior order...they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect; and that the Negro might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery for his benefit. He was bought and sold and treated as an ordinary article of merchandise and traffic, whenever profit could be made by it.” The ruling opposes the Oregon Constitution in ruling that prohibiting slavery in the territories is unconstitutional.

The US Supreme Court rules that no Black people can be citizens or have rights anywhere in US. There is no right to restrict slavery in states or territories, including Oregon. The ruling invalidates the Missouri Compromise of 1820 that allowed Missouri to become a state. The Dred and Harriet Scott case originates in St. Louis, Missouri where they sued for their freedom. The decision has never been overruled by the Supreme Court, but is invalidated by the passage of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments after the Civil War.

**1857:** The Rebellion of 1857 against the British East India Company is crushed in 1858. Many people in India leave their country. Many flee arrest or poor conditions. **Later activists from India come to the US, including Oregon (see 1913 and 1923), to study its success as a model for throwing off the yoke of the British Empire.**

**1858:** Japan prohibits the emigration of its people overseas until 1858. Japan tries to protect itself from incursions from Europe. It trades only with China and the Netherlands. The US sends warships in 1853 to Edo Bay in Japan and threatens to use force unless Japan opens its ports to trade with the US. The US forces an unequal trade treaty upon Japan in 1854. This trade includes people. Labor recruiters and

traders from the US come to Japan. They recruit laborers for Hawaiian sugar plantations. The workers are treated so badly, the Japanese government halts emigration until 1885 when better terms are negotiated.

**1858: Mother Joseph of the Sisters of Providence founds the first hospital in the Northwest in Vancouver, Washington. It becomes the Providence Medical Centers. She is a French-speaking Catholic nun.**

**1859: Oregon becomes the 33<sup>rd</sup> state. It is the only state admitted to the union with an African American exclusion clause in its state constitution. The Oregon Constitution excludes Black people from residing in Oregon. It is illegal for them to own property, make contracts, vote, or use the legal system. After the 15<sup>th</sup> amendment granting Black men the right to vote in 1870, Oregon institutes a Black poll tax.**

**It is illegal for white people to marry anyone who is Black, Asian, Pacific Islander, or more than half Indigenous. It is illegal to perform these marriages and punishment includes fines and prison time. Black workers are recruited to come to Oregon as cowboys, miners, loggers, and railroad workers then expected to leave when the job is done.**

**“Pharoah doesn’t want you, but he needs you.”**

**- Roberta Flack**

**Even before statehood, Oregon passes exclusion laws against African descended people. These laws are based on similar laws in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, Iowa, and other states. Oregon votes to outlaw slavery, but gives a three year grace period to free enslaved people, so technically slavery is briefly legal in Oregon and there are people owning people in communities long after since enforcement is largely non-existent.**

**The white opposition to slavery in Oregon is not of the abolitionist type. It is largely racist in not wanting a diverse community and economic in that small farmers have a hard time competing against large forced labor camps in Missouri and the South. They want a better life in Oregon. The exclusion laws that pass when Oregon becomes a state are extensions of earlier exclusion laws passed as a territory that explicitly state that the framers fear Black seamen jumping ship, mixing with the Indigenous population and fomenting hostility against the white population.**

**1859: Charles Darwin publishes *On the Origin of Species*. He opposes slavery, the abuse of Indigenous people, and “ranking the so-called races of man as distinct species”. He asserts the equality of mental and emotional capacity among all human groups.**

He dies a year before his cousin Francis Galton coins the term “eugenics”. Supporters of eugenics would claim the support of Darwin’s theories in what they call “Social Darwinism”. Herbert Spencer, not Darwin, invents the term “survival of the fittest”. The confusion over “Darwinism” and “Social Darwinism” obfuscates the debate over evolution and the roles of science and religion in society.

**1860s: Many people from Asia, mostly China, come to Oregon to work in mines and to build railroads as contract laborers. These work environments have almost exclusively male workers. Male Chinese entrepreneurs challenge gender stereotypes of US and Chinese culture to provide laundry and cooking services. They make money by offering services often provided without compensation by women in both cultures.**

**1860: Oregon’s non-Indigenous population is 52,465. This is less than the current population of Corvallis. 60,000 people are required to petition for statehood under the Northwest Ordinance. Government math can be fuzzy when we need it to be.**

1860: Seven states secede between Lincoln’s election in November 1860 and his inauguration in March 1861. Four more secede between March and June. Lincoln’s predecessor, pro-slavery James Buchanan, does nothing. He actively intervenes with the Supreme Court in support of the Dred and Harriet Scott decision and actively supports Kansas entering the union as a slave state. Lincoln runs on a platform of limiting the expansion of slavery in the western territories, not its abolition. Still, southern states secede in response to his election by repealing their state’s ratification of the US Constitution. Slavery is not declining as an institution. There are more enslaved people in the US at the time of the Civil War than at any time in US history.

**Oregon’s Joseph Lane is the vice-presidential candidate for the Southern Democratic Party running against Lincoln and in support of slavery. Oregon does not support him and votes for Lincoln by a narrow margin. The vote is split across four candidates and Lincoln receives 36% to win in Oregon. Lincoln and the Republicans do not win a single southern state and forge a coalition of northern and western states, which holds for six consecutive elections.**

**The expansion of the West in alliance with the North, breaks the stranglehold southern enslavers have upon US politics. It is Oregon’s first presidential election after gaining statehood in 1859. All seven of the first states that secede vote for the Breckenridge/Lane ticket. Lincoln wins the presidency with only 40% of the vote since the Democratic Party splits with a northern and southern candidate. When only white men can vote, we have a Civil War. Diversity**

does not mean division and conflict. People from diverse backgrounds care about their homes and communities usually in very similar ways.

**1860:** Southern sympathizers in Oregon and California propose seceding and joining the Confederacy encompassing parts of southern Oregon and northern California.

**1861:** The Knights of the Golden Circle open chapters in many Oregon communities with a goal of seceding from the US and creating a pro-slavery Republic.

**1861:** The 1861 flood of the Willamette River is so high that ships can run Willamette Falls in Oregon City. Across Oregon, floods destroy towns such as Champoege, Robins Nest, and Orleans (across the river from Corvallis). Logging deforests the banks of the Willamette River and tributaries leading to worse floods. 90% of the banks of the Willamette River are originally forested. By 1990, only 37% are.

**1861:** Louis Pasteur in France publishes his germ theory proving that microorganisms cause disease. Robert Koch in Germany proves the theory experimentally in 1878.

The Persian Muslim physician, Ibn Sina, proposes germ theory in 1025, but Europe largely dismisses it. Many diseases thought to be caused by moral failings are discovered to have a biological cause. “Pasteurized” milk leads to safer milk for children and decreased child mortality.

**1862:** The State of Oregon contracts with a private institution, Hawthorne Asylum in East Portland, to serve as the Oregon Hospital for the Insane. Hawthorne Boulevard in Portland is originally named Asylum Avenue. Oregon’s first institution opens at the corner of Hawthorne and 12<sup>th</sup> Street in what is now Portland. The state of Oregon gets into this business within three years of becoming a state and in the midst of the Civil War. Services for people with disabilities is central to the duty of the state.

Dr. Hawthorne and Dr. Loryea win the bid with the state. Governor Gibbs says, “No other persons applied for the contract, and none other desired it to my knowledge.” Dr. Hawthorne holds the contract for over 20 years until he dies. There is scandal in the contracting out to private entities of public institutions, most notably the State Penitentiary when all the inmates escape. By 1877, the state is paying Dr. Hawthorne \$70,000 per year, which is over half the state’s revenues and equivalent to over \$1.8 million today.

**1862:** Oregon passes a “race tax” requiring all Black, Hawaiian, Chinese, and “Mulatto” (mixed race) residents to pay an annual tax. Failure to pay the tax

is punishable by forced labor to build and maintain state roads.

**1862: Oregon passes a law prohibiting marriages between white people and people of African, Asian, or Pacific Island descent or anyone with more than half Native American ancestry. This is another way of preventing people of color from accessing or inheriting wealth and property and is justified by eugenic theories. This law is in place until the 1950s.**

1862: The first Homestead Act passes. Over 300 million acres are taken from Indigenous estates and given to white settlers. Though intended to support family farming, most of the land is taken by land speculators and large operators such as mining and timber companies. While most of the land is given to white Americans and white European immigrants, the Black people who had worked land in the South for generations are denied any claim or access to land in the South after the Civil War as it is returned to their former enslavers.

**The offer of free land leads to violence, war, and genocide against Indigenous people and the violent seizure of land that is explicitly promised to remain for the use of the Native people, here in Oregon and across the West. Hundreds of millions of acres of land is seized from its rightful inhabitants and given to white people. To qualify, applicants have to be citizens.**

**During most of the time the land is available, people descended from Africa, Asia, Hawaii, and even Native Americans do not qualify for citizenship. Asians are not allowed to become naturalized citizens. Most of the land is taken before most people of color become eligible. The institution of slavery has not been abolished at the time of the act so enslaved people have no recourse to it. In Oregon, non-white settlers are excluded by law, which prevents land claims by people of color in Oregon.**

Large businesses and speculators use the Homestead Act to control water, oil, timber, and mining resources even though the intent is to promote farming. The claims are never really evaluated and related family members claim nearby lands to build up large estates, which is not the intent. They are intended to be small enough to prevent plantations.

Cattle and timber interests pay people to put up prefabricated shacks and claim land then sign it over to ranching and timber companies. Individuals, not companies, are allowed to make claims, but there is no limit on the number of claims an individual can make. It is estimated that half the claims are fraudulent. Half of the legitimate claims do not prove up and are lost. Even with free and low cost land, many take out loans for supplies. Banks foreclose and take land when debts are not paid. Most homesteading ends by the 1920s and most homesteading laws are repealed in 1934.

Laws are not fully repealed until 1976 and continue in Alaska until 1986. The last homestead claim is finalized in Alaska in 1988.

At the time of the Civil War, 19% of Northerners are foreign born. Only 4% of Southerners are foreign born. White southern politicians fear the demographic trends before the Civil War. The North is gaining population and a population that can vote. Southern politicians disenfranchise voters and fear their votes.

The Homestead Act passes in 1862, during the Civil War, to encourage European immigration to the North and West to help with the war effort, which needs both farmers and soldiers. The immigrant advantage held by the North is probably decisive in the war along with allowing Black soldiers to serve for the North, which turns the tide.

There is no land redistribution in the postwar South as land is returned to the plantation owners while land is redistributed in the West.

“We weren’t given a thing, but freedom.” - Mary Gaffney

“Few groups of rebels in history have been treated more leniently than the defeated Confederates.” - Eric Foner

1862: The Morrill Act allocates over 10 million acres of land violently seized from Indigenous people to be used as Land Grant Colleges mandated to teach agriculture to the farmers who obtain land taken from Indigenous people through the Homestead Acts. The Morrill Education Act mandates land grant colleges to teach agriculture, science, military science, and engineering.

**Oregon Agricultural College, later Oregon State University, is founded in 1868 as a land grant college. Over 17 million acres are taken from Indigenous people to form land grant colleges across the country. Another act passes in 1890 to include the former Confederate states. They are required to show race is not an admissions criterion or to form separate institutions for people of color.**

**Oregon State University is coeducational from the beginning, but classes and living arrangements are gender segregated. Most women are encouraged to study “household economy”.**

Many historically Black colleges and universities become land grant colleges under the act. The 1890 act grants money rather than land to form colleges.

1862: **The first Pacific Railroad Act passes. The Pacific Railroad Acts give nearly 200 million acres of Indigenous land to private companies. The**

**transcontinental railroad is Oregon's economic lifeline making it possible to move people and goods more quickly and efficiently. A six-month arduous journey becomes a week in a sleeper car for people or a railcar for products.**

The railroad is built in the West mostly with Chinese laborers who are poorly compensated. They are slightly better compensated after they go on strike. Three private companies are given land by the government and financing through government bonds to build the railroad.

The Secretary of War for the US, Jefferson Davis, conducts surveys for the railroad in 1853. Jefferson Davis later becomes the president of the Confederate States of America. The siting of the railroad is a cause of disagreement before the Civil War. The South wants connections to run through their region in a southern route. They block all other options presented in 1855. The secession of the South ends opposition to a central route.

The railroad is the first time the federal government gives land grants directly to corporations and private businesses instead of through the states. They grant the railroads 10 square miles of land for every mile of track built in alternate sections on each side of the track. Between 1850 and 1871, railroads receive 175 million acres of public land. That is bigger than the state of Texas. It is one tenth of the land in the US at the time. The railroads sell the land at a profit.

“25,600 acres of land for the building of one mile of railroad. And this is given to a corporation, not for building a railroad for the Government or the people, but for building a railroad for themselves; a railroad which they will own as absolutely as they will own the land – a railroad for the use of which both the Government and the people must pay as much as though they had given nothing for its construction.”

- Henry George

1862: Ida B. Wells-Barnett is born enslaved in 1862. She is a teacher turned journalist who co-owns *The Memphis Free Speech* newspaper. The People's Grocery Store has 10 Black co-owners who pool resources. Three of the owners are lynched. When Wells-Barnett writes about it, the *Free Speech* office is burned. She later founds the National Association of Colored Women in 1896. She is the foremost anti-lynching campaigner in the US and an advocate for women's rights.

Anti-lynching bills have been introduced since 1918, but as of 2021, none have passed both houses of Congress. She works to obtain voting rights for all women. Many lynchings stem from false allegations of rape and sexual assault of white women by Black men. She exposes the political and economic motives behind lynching to exploit and suppress Black communities. She writes about the sexual violence of



white men against Black women. Her autobiography is called, *Crusade for Justice*.

Wells-Barnett is part of the Great Migration of African Americans fleeing racist terror in the South and moving to northern cities. The Great Migration represents the failure and abandonment of Reconstruction after the Civil War. The Counter Reconstruction of racist terror and segregation forces many to flee for safety and any hope of opportunity. It is one of the largest mass migrations of people in US history, bigger than the California Gold Rush.

Between 1916 and 1970, six million Black migrants leave the southern US. The Urban League is founded in 1911 to help Black migrants from the South find jobs and housing in the North.

“The way to right wrongs is to shine the light of truth on them.” - Ida B. Wells-Barnett

1862: The federal government begins providing pensions to Civil War veterans. Before this time, relief is the domain of cities, counties, and states.

1862: The US establishes its first federal income tax.

1862: President Lincoln signs the DC Emancipation Act to end slavery in the District of Columbia. The act pays enslavers \$300 (the equivalent of over \$8,000 today) for each person they enslaved. The enslaved can receive \$100 (the equivalent of about \$2,700 today) only if they agree to leave the US permanently for another country.

1863: The Invalid Corps is formed consisting of disabled Union soldiers who continue to serve.

1863: President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation to free enslaved people in states engaged in active rebellion against the US. It does not free enslaved people in states that remain in the union. A week earlier, he ordered the execution of 38 Dakota people in the largest mass hanging in US history.

Though it does little to actually free any enslaved people, it is significant in making emancipation an explicit goal of the war and in recruiting needed Black soldiers who are no longer excluded from service. It is a change in strategy due to Congressional actions against slavery, a military stalemate, the desire to prevent European intervention, the need for Black soldiers, and the numbers of freedom seekers fleeing to Union lines to escape slavery.

1864: Congress makes it illegal to instruct Indigenous people in their Native languages. Children as young as four years old are taken from their parents and sent to boarding schools far from home. By separating children from their families and

forbidding them to speak any language besides English, children lose connections to their families and cultures.

**1864:** Corvallis residents build a road from Corvallis to Yaquina Bay in the Coast Reservation. Corvallis residents advocate with their state and federal representatives to remove Yaquina Bay from the Coast Reservation. Yaquina Bay has a useable harbor. Oysters, salmon, and timber are harvested and some gold is found. In 1864, men from the Willamette Valley open a passable wagon road from Corvallis to Yaquina Bay. They continue to improve upon it as of this writing.

Tourists and miners use the road to encroach upon the reservation and to transport goods from Yaquina Bay to Corvallis and the Willamette Valley. Oyster harvesters descend upon the reservation. Farmers begin pressuring to use Yaquina Bay as a port so they do not have to transport products to Portland to ship out of the Columbia River. Settlers push for a town at Yaquina Bay, now Newport. They want to take the harbor and the oyster beds from the Native people of the Coast Reservation.

**1865:** Only 10 years after it is established, the Coast Reservation suffers its first reduction when President Andrew Johnson with an illegal executive order removes the area from Yaquina Head, just north of Newport south to Waldport and the Alsea River and Alsea from the reservation. It is illegal because power to make treaties is vested in Congress by the Constitution, not the president.

The treaty says the president can designate a reservation for their permanent home. The president did and only Congress with the agreement of the tribes can change it. Natives live in Yaquina and are displaced by the order, despite false reports to the contrary by James Nesmith and others. They have homes and farms that are taken from them by force by non-Indians after they were encouraged to build houses and farm with promises of federal protection.

“The whites rushed in upon the tract, seized upon the Indian farms, occupied their houses...by force, and immediately commenced the settlement of the country. The effect was deplorable. The Indians were dispossessed of their homes and property...The whole treatment of the government towards these Indians has been full of bad faith.” - Superintendent of Indian Affairs, J.W. Petit Huntington

James Nesmith becomes a US Senator who supports eliminating two-thirds of the Coast Reservation and opening it to non-Indians. He falsely attests that there are no Indians in the area to be removed. He fought in three wars with the Natives and was the former superintendent of Indian Affairs. He knows

better. He lived and farmed in Rickreall in Polk County. He is one of only two Democratic Senators to vote for the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to end slavery.

In response to Oregon's request, federal investigators come to assess the situation and find that the Natives at Siletz and the non-Native residents at Yaquina Bay both support the rights of the Native people to stay and keep their reservation lands. The push to eliminate the reservation is driven by a few land speculators wanting to profit from Indigenous lands. They want a rail line from Corvallis to Yaquina Bay and the lucrative federal land grants that come with the railroads.

Oregon Senator John Mitchell is convicted of bribery for railroad and timberland deals while he is in office between 1873 and 1905. He forces through legislation in 1875 to reduce the Coast Reservation by two-thirds. 700,000 acres are taken from the Coast Reservation and the Siletz people by Congress. It is falsely reported to Congress that the Natives had "consented" when they had not. This legislation lops off the northern and southern portions of the Coast Reservation. Tillamook and the Nestucca River to the north and Alsea, Yachats, and the Siuslaw River to the south are taken from the Coast Reservation.

The remaining reservation along the Siletz and Salmon Rivers is taken by allotment in the 1880s. Two-thirds of the reservation is lost by congressional action. The Allotment Act removes two-thirds of what remains. The Siletz boarding school is closed and the land sold to non-Natives. The land is divided into town lots for the city of Siletz. The Siletz Agency is closed in 1925 leaving the tribe with virtually no federal support. There is one clerk at the Chemawa Indian School to serve both the Siletz and Grand Ronde people. They have no federal support for health care, food, or general welfare.

1865: Henry Highland Garnet becomes the first African American to officially address the US Congress. He calls on Congress to abolish slavery and to enfranchise Black people as citizens.

1865: The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution abolishes slavery, except as punishment for a crime. It is the first time the federal government takes a major role in protecting the rights of individuals. Slavery makes clear that states, not just the federal government, can be a threat to individual rights. Many enslaved people with disabilities remain effectively still enslaved and unable to change their conditions without support and enforcement.

"Disabled slaves remained enslaved." - Jim Downs

Enslaved people cannot legally marry, learn to read or write, assemble privately or publicly in groups. Their children are bought and sold. They have no rights to their own children. They have no standing for redress in most courts. Perpetrators can rape or murder them with no consequences. They have no right to own property. They have no inheritance to give or receive. They themselves are assets of the wealthy that are passed on as inheritance to others and used as collateral for loans. The enormous wealth generated by enslaved labor who are often worked to death is passed from generation to generation among a few extraordinarily wealthy white families.

The South was home to some of the richest people in the world. The Mississippi Valley was home to the most millionaires per capita of anywhere in the US. Their wealth derived from stolen land, stolen labor, and cheap credit backed by enslaved people and stolen land as collateral. Wall Street was the site of the New York City slave auction.

The Women's Loyal National League founded by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony initiates the campaign for the 13th Amendment. They see ending slavery as crucial to women's rights.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment legally abolishes slavery after over 250 years in North America. It is only eight years between the Dred Scott decision that rules African Americans are property with no rights until the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment abolishes slavery. Even after the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, planters can evict someone from their property, have them arrested and convicted for vagrancy or for not having employment. They can then be forced to work as prison labor on the same plantation. The "except as a punishment for crime" language in the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment as a loophole leads to de facto re-enslavement for many in the South. In 1850, only 1% of the Alabama prison population is Black. By 1880, 85% of the Alabama prison population is Black.

A former enslaver can evict a formerly enslaved person, have them arrested for vagrancy or failure to sign a labor contract, pay the fine for the person then make them work until the debt is paid then repeat. Many states in the South institute the convict-lease program. Black people are arrested on flimsy charges or "crimes" of poverty like not having a home or a job or traveling for an unknown purpose. They are convicted then leased as laborers on plantations where they may have previously been enslaved. It is a return to servitude. Conviction of a crime is used as a reason to lose their right to vote and is used to take Black voters off the rolls.

Southern authorities remove Black children from their parents to "apprentice" them to white families for unpaid labor, ostensibly to teach them job skills.

Many formerly enslaved people remain bound to former enslavers through debt from

sharecropping. 75% of sharecropper debt is for medical expenses.

“Black voting, landowning, contract negotiating, retailing, self-defense, and simple unemployment or leisure could lead to a long sentence of hard labor on a prison farm, in a coal mine, or on a road crew.” - Khalil G. Muhammad

### **Four Oregon legislators vote against ratifying the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment and against an expression of sympathy for the death of President Lincoln.**

1865: Disabled Civil War veterans are given preference in hiring for civil service jobs.

1865-1870: The Freedmen’s Bureau expands health care and education in the South to both Black and white residents.

1865: William Tecumseh Sherman meets with Black religious leaders in the South about what they want for their future and issues Special Field Order #15 granting 400,000 acres to the formerly enslaved as reparations. Most Americans of all backgrounds want land. With land, they have what they need to take care of themselves. When asked if they want to live with white people or on their own, they say they want to live on their own and govern themselves because there is too much violence and discrimination with white people. 40,000 Freedmen flock to the 400,000 acres. The Union army lends them decommissioned mules. This leads to the call for “40 acres and a mule”. It seems to be a very reasonable request given that the Homestead Acts give four times that amount, 160 acres, to mostly white settlers in the West.

**The Oregon Donation Land Act of 1850 gave eight times that amount, 320 acres, to white settlers in Oregon and legitimized the 640 acres given to married couples under the Provisional Government beginning in 1843. 640 acres is one square mile. The generous offer of free land is for the first three years. One just had to be a white man and show that the land was settled and farmed for four years. Later, it would be the cheap price for public lands, \$1.25 per acre.**

As the Homestead Acts are implemented, Harriet Tubman says, “Uncle Sam is rich enough to give you all a farm.” President Lincoln signs the order from Sherman. President Johnson rescinds it and gives the land to the former enslavers and forces the residents to sign leases with them. The Port Royal experiment ends. Enslavers receive reparations for their loss of “property”, but no reparations are received by the enslaved for centuries of stolen labor and abuse. President Andrew Johnson in 1866 says, “This is a country for white men, and by God, as long as I am president; it shall be a government for white men.”

Post Civil War (after 1865): Many jurisdictions pass “Ugly Laws” which ban people

with visible disabilities from public settings where others may see them. **Portland bans begging in public spaces by anyone “crippled, maimed, or deformed.”** Freak shows are popular. They are demeaning, but are a source of income and community for some people with disabilities. Many laws pass prohibiting people from appearing in public “in a dress not belonging to his or her sex.” Laws requiring people to dress according to their sex or class status date back to the 1690s. Lower income people can be arrested for wearing pearls or fancier clothes, for example.

After the Civil War, the term “homosexual” is coined as part of the growing scientific study of the topic. Those who think it is natural begin to assert they should also have equal rights. Those who think it is a choice continue to condemn it and pass laws to restrict and discriminate against people. The scientific study of homosexuality makes it a medical condition and a disease. It goes from becoming an activity that people engage in to a pathological psychological condition.

The social purity aspect of eugenics frowns upon non-reproductive sex from homosexuality to masturbation. Graham crackers are invented by social reformers in the temperance movement as part of an effort to prevent lust and masturbation and thereby, supposedly and erroneously, eventual disabling blindness. The sexually transmitted disease of syphilis is a leading cause of blindness in the US at the time.

1866: The first health department in the US is founded in New York City.

1866: The US Congress passes the first civil rights act guaranteeing equal protection under the law. President Andrew Johnson vetoes the bill. The bill becomes law as both houses of Congress override the presidential veto. It is the first major bill to pass by overriding a presidential veto. The precariousness of its passage leads to calls for the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

**1867: Oregon passes an anti-miscegenation law that prohibits white people from marrying anyone who is Black, Chinese, Hawaiian, or more than half Native American. Violators face three months to a year in prison.**

1868: The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution is adopted. The due process clause prohibits the denial of life, liberty, or property without due process. The equal protection clause requires equal protection under the law. These two clauses become important protections for people with disabilities. It is the basis of the Civil Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment is one of the most frequently contested in the Supreme Court and is the basis of the Olmstead decision, Brown v. Board of Education, Roe v. Wade, and the legalization of same sex marriage. The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, adopted after the Civil War, will become the cornerstone for civil rights nearly a century after its

adoption. It is the foundation for civil rights for African Americans, women's rights, marriage equality, disability rights, transgender rights, and other struggles for a more just and equitable country. It grants birthright citizenship to anyone born in the US, which opens a pathway to the US born children of Asian descent whose parents are denied citizenship through naturalization.

The one exception to birthright citizenship is Native Americans who have been here the longest. All persons count for representation regardless of citizenship, except "Indians, not taxed". The US Constitution gives no definition of citizen or citizenship. By stating, the president must be a "natural born citizen" it introduces the idea of birthright citizenship.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution is the basis for much of the legislation to achieve equal rights in our country. It guarantees equal protection under the law, but equal protections are not put into law for almost another 100 years until the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Protections for people with disabilities are left out of the Civil Rights Act. It takes another 26 years of advocacy to be included.

The Americans with Disabilities Act builds upon the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in its protections against discrimination based upon disability and the 1973 Rehabilitation Act that develops the idea of "reasonable accommodation" in its proactive accessibility provisions. 1973 is also the year Oregon finally ratifies the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, over a century late.

"No change in the Constitution since the Bill of Rights has had so profound an impact on American life as the Fourteenth Amendment." - Eric Foner

The section of the US Constitution that has been most contested before the US Supreme Court is Section One of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment which states,

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the states wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

After the Civil War, Black men vote in postwar biracial governments and elections. Seven southern states that voted against ratifying the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, vote in favor after the 1866 elections when many Black men can vote.

"Without Black suffrage in the South, there would be no Fourteenth Amendment."

- Eric Foner

**1868:** The Oregon Legislature votes against the ratification of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

**1868:** Horatio Seymour runs for president against Ulysses Grant. Seymour wins Oregon with a campaign slogan of “This is a White Man’s Country; Let White Men Rule.” Grant wins the presidency with a campaign slogan of “Let Us Have Peace.” White voters split and Black voters are the margin of difference to elect Grant. Efforts to suppress Black voting rights increase in the 1870s.

**1868:** Corvallis College becomes the Agricultural College of Oregon as part of the Morrill-Land Grant Act of 1862. It becomes Oregon’s first state-supported institution of higher education. Classes and living arrangements are segregated by gender and race.

**1868:** The Oregon Legislature restricts ownership of firearms to white men over the age of 16. Many Native people and other Oregonians of color depend on hunting for their livelihood but are denied the right of gun ownership.

**1869:** Oregon’s first public high school opens in Portland.

**1869:** The first patent for a wheelchair is granted in the US.

**1869:** The first transcontinental railroad is completed. In the famous photos of its completion, there are no Chinese workers pictured despite being 90% of the workforce in the West.

**1869:** Massachusetts establishes the first Board of Health to regulate slaughterhouses, food and milk, drinking water, and vaccination.

**1869:** The Oregon and California Railroad is granted 3.7 million acres by the government to build a rail line from Portland to California. The railroad then sells the land alongside the rail line to settlers in 160-acre parcels at the low price of \$2.50 per acre. Land speculators are eager to buy the cheap land and resell it at a profit. Much of it is not suitable for settlement, but timber companies eagerly purchase it.

Speculators round up men from the saloons and take them to the land office to make claims on the land then transfer it to the speculator who sells it to timber companies. A timber company bookkeeper exposes the scheme to an *Oregonian* reporter. An Oregon Senator and two Congressional representatives are indicted. In 1915, after the scandal, 2.4 million acres are reclaimed and are now managed by the Bureau of Land Management.



1870s: After the war, people look for lost relatives separated by slavery. They marry and have children, build churches, schools, and communities. Almost half of the elected office holders in South Carolina from 1867-1876 are Black which is appropriate because over half the population is Black. White politicians falsely accuse them of corruption to remove them from office.

Many of the Black elected leaders support taxes and spending on education and infrastructure to rebuild the economy and society of the South after the devastating war. White politicians are more often against taxes and public spending on education or other community needs. White politicians successfully disenfranchise and prevent Black voters by the 1876 election. Despite massive suppression of Black voters, South Carolina records 101% voter turnout in 1876. Southern “rifle clubs” intimidate and murder Black voters and business owners. They use their gun rights to suppress the civil rights of African Americans. They force Black voters away from the polls and burn ballot boxes.

They seek to restore white power and control through fraud, lies, perjury, and violence. There are white riots and mob violence against any sign of Black progress such as land ownership, business ownership, election to office, or an improved standard of living. They destroy churches, schools, homes, and businesses, kill people, and seize and steal land and property. Black people have little recourse to courts or police who cooperate and participate in white mob violence as part of a campaign of racist terror. Black people and their white allies are assassinated when they try to vote, get an education, run a business, or express an opinion in a newspaper. Black progress is strangled by white efforts to restrict them economically and force them into debt to white people and institutions. White mobs attack Black businesses that compete with white businesses, especially those that supply essentials to the Black community such as grocery stores.

Violence against the Black community is not simply raw racial hatred. It is an organized armed robbery of their land, labor, livelihoods, and lives. Many western outlaws are former Confederate soldiers waging an insurgency against the US. Any figures given on the losses are almost certainly underestimates. Many murders, robberies, and other crimes go unreported still. Many of the crimes are legitimized and encouraged by law enforcement and legal authorities. Few are reported, investigated, or solved.

There are still people in the US being killed or dying from neglect that are largely forgotten, unacknowledged, and unreported.

“Gun ownership has always been a tool to secure power – racist white power.”

- Kellie Carter Jackson

**1870s: Public schools begin in earnest in Oregon. Often the schools are one room for first through eighth grade and offer a four-month session. Many schools try to segregate racially and run separate schools for students of color and white students. Most find it not to be economically or logistically feasible and integrate the schools.**

**1870:** The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution is ratified granting Black men the right to vote. **Oregon votes against its ratification. Federal law overrides the ban on Black voting rights in the Oregon State Constitution. Oregon senators support Black voting rights but fear the amendment opens the door to Chinese voting rights, which they oppose.**

Black voters make the difference in electing Ulysses Grant president in the 1868 election. The need to enfranchise Black voters is clear. The exclusion of women in the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment splits the women's suffrage movement. Susan B. Anthony sees the amendment as a "humiliation" that leaves women "the only human beings outside of state prisons and lunatic asylums adjured incompetent" to vote. She joins Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the National Women's Suffrage Association in opposing the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The American Women's Suffrage Association led by Lucy Stone supports the amendment.

**1870:** The census counts Black people as people for the first time after over 250 years in North America. The US Constitution counts enslaved people as three-fifths of a person for the purpose of representation in Congress and the Electoral College. With the end of slavery and counting people as whole people, southern states have increased representation even as they suppress Black voting.

**1870:** The US Department of Justice is established to prosecute crimes by the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) in the South when state law enforcement refuses to intervene in their post-Civil War insurgency.

**The Department of Justice will later be instrumental in closing institutions such as Fairview Training Center for civil rights violations (see 1980, 1985, and 1989) and ending sheltered workshops in the Lane v. Brown lawsuit (see 2015).**

**1870:** Hiram Revels is elected to the seat once held by the president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, as the senator from Mississippi. Revels is the first Black senator in the US. Other senators object to seating him, arguing he had not been a US citizen for nine years as required in the Constitution. Of course, he had lived his entire life in the US, but is denied citizenship solely based upon his race. He was born a free person in 1827, but still denied citizenship. He served as a teacher and minister and in the Union Army before being elected senator. Hiram Revels and Blanche Bruce are the first Black men in the US Senate and would be the last for the

next 80 years, from 1881 until 1967. Revels is elected in 1870 and Bruce in 1875.

There would not be another African American senator elected until Edward Brooke of Massachusetts takes office in 1967. Blanche Bruce is the only US senator to have gone from being enslaved to serving in the US Senate. He works for veteran's benefits, desegregation of the Army, Indian equality, and opposes the Chinese Exclusion Act (see 1882). 2013 is the first year there is more than one Black Senator serving in the US Senate.

Black officials during Reconstruction advocate for more equitable tax laws, instituting public schools for all children, and prohibiting discrimination in housing, transportation, and public accommodations. In the end, white southerners benefit more from these policies than Black southerners do.

**1870: Three students become the first graduates of Corvallis State Agricultural College, later to be known as Oregon State University.**

**1870: Oregon's first women's suffrage societies form in Albany and Salem to advocate for voting rights for women.**

**1870: The Oregon Legislature petitions the US Congress to terminate the Coast Reservation.**

**1870: The Oregon Legislature establishes the Deaf and Mute Institute, later the Oregon School for the Deaf, to provide free education for Deaf and hard of hearing students. It is one of the oldest continuously operating public schools in Oregon.**

1871: The Indian Appropriation Act declares that no groups of Indians are recognized as a nation having sovereignty and designates all Indians as individual "wards" of the federal government.

1871-2: Federal prosecutions end the KKK. Many flee to Canada to escape prosecution. 2,500 are prosecuted. They are not charged with rape or murder which are state crimes. They are charged with the federal crime of violating the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The KKK will revive decades later in 1915.

1872: The American Public Health Association is founded.

**1872: Oregon initiates its first public elementary schools.**

**1872: Mary Beatty, one of the first Black women in Oregon to advocate for women's suffrage, attempts to vote along with Abigail Scott Duniway claiming their rights under the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments. She presents an essay at the Oregon State Women's Suffrage Association in 1873. She dies in 1899 before**

women gain the right to vote in Oregon in 1912.

**1872:** Kintpuash, also known as Captain Jack, leaves the Klamath Reservation with over 50 other Modoc men to return to their homeland in northern California. They had been violently removed to a reservation in Oregon and forced to live with their traditional enemies, the Klamath. They are surrounded by over 1,000 US Army troops under the command of General Edward Canby and Oregon Militiamen. Kintpuash kills General Canby and is pursued for four months by an additional 1,000 troops. Kintpuash is captured then hanged at Alcatraz Island. Circuses around the US exhibit his corpse.

The Modoc resisters despite dispersal to Oklahoma survive today in California as the Pit River Nation.

In 1873, the US Supreme Court rules in the Modoc Indian Prisoners case, “All the laws and customs of civilized warfare may not be applicable to an armed conflict with the Indian tribes upon our western frontier.” The court declares Indian combatants, “homo sacer”, which is a concept drawn from ancient Roman law meaning a person subject to sovereign power but exempt from legal protection. Someone who is considered homo sacer can legally be killed by anyone. They can be killed legally, but if they defend themselves or kill others they can be charged with murder and be held legally accountable. They are a “nonperson” or person with no legal rights, only legal responsibilities.

In 2003, assistant attorney general John Yoo drafts the “Torture Memo” which outlines the right of the government to detain and torture without charges people deemed “unlawful combatants” in the “War on Terror” citing the 1873 US Supreme Court case as legal precedent.

Kintpuash and the Modoc are captured at Tule Lake which later becomes a concentration camp to hold Japanese Americans during World War 2 in violation of their civil and human rights.

Canby, Oregon is named for Edward Canby. Sheridan, Oregon is named for another US Army general, Philip Sheridan who said, “The only good Indians I ever saw were dead” which is often quoted, as “The only good Indian is a dead Indian.” Sheridan urges the destruction of the bison herds to starve the Plains people. Sherman and Crook counties are also named for US generals who fought in Indian wars.

**1873:** Depoe Bay is named for Depoe Charlie who was a leader in the Warm House Dance Movement brought in 1873 by Bogus Tom and John Smith to Siletz and Grand Ronde. It promises the return of ancestors lost to war and

disease and the return of sovereignty and autonomy. Bogus Tom is a Shasta from California.

There are Warm House dances at Grand Ronde and Siletz and off the reservation in Corvallis and other towns. The dancing and feasting lasts a week at a time. It continues in some form in Oregon from the 1870s into the 1930s. Bogus Tom (Tom Smith) lives to be 105 years old and dies in 1924. Dream dances start before Warm House dances and continue afterwards. Dream dance songs come in dreams. Indigenous religion is suppressed by law until 1978 with the passage of the Indian Religious Freedom Act.

**1873:** Portland organizes its first board of health.

**1873:** The Oregon School for the Blind opens in Salem. It provides free education to blind and visually impaired students from kindergarten until high school through a residential and a day school. It closes in 2009.

1874: The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children forms. It is a “charitable” organization that largely “protects” children by removing them from their parents. Many parents refer to the organization as “The Cruelty”. The Society supports institutionalizing children in orphanages. The largest orphanage in New York has over 3,000 children living there at any given time. The majority of children in orphanages have at least one living parent. The average stay in most orphanages is 18 months and 75% of children return to their parents.

Most orphanages are run by religious organizations and charity workers are careful to try to match the religion of the parents with the religion running the orphanage. Much of the funding comes from churches, but the government also funds orphanages leading to complaints (mostly from Protestant voters) of public money going to Catholic churches.

1875: The US Congress passes the Civil Rights Act guaranteeing equal treatment in public accommodations. The Supreme Court finds the law unconstitutional in 1883. Many of the provisions become law in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Justice John Marshall Harlan is the only dissenter on the Supreme Court and asserts that the state and federal governments have the same powers to protect civil rights that they had to protect slavery. The enforcement provisions of the 1875 Civil Rights Act are modeled on the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act. There would not be another civil rights act passed until 1957.

1875: The US Supreme Court rules in *Minor v. Happersett* that the privileges of citizenship do not include voting so that certain citizens, such as women, are not guaranteed the right to vote by the US Constitution. Women are citizens, but not

voters. The US Constitution does not grant the right to vote. Once the right or privilege is granted, it cannot be abridged due to race, sex, or age (over 18) due to subsequent constitutional amendments.

Through much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, 22 states and territories allow non-citizens (mostly white male European immigrants) to vote. Voting rights are more often tied to property ownership or paying taxes than citizenship. In 1926, Arkansas becomes the last state to revoke voting rights for non-citizens.

1875: The Page Act effectively bans all Chinese and East Asian women from immigrating to the US.

1876: Post-Civil War Reconstruction is dealt a crushing blow by the US Supreme Court in the *US v. Cruikshank* decision that holds that the Bill of Rights and the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment do not apply to state governments or private entities. *US v. Cruikshank* also holds that “The right to bear arms is not granted by the Constitution.”

After the Colfax Massacre of over 100 Black people and 3 white people in Louisiana, federal charges are brought against some members of the murderous mob. The Supreme Court overturns the charges and the convictions. It holds that constitutional protections only bind the actions of the federal government, not states or private individuals. The decision opens the door to racial terror by white mobs and hostile state governments with no federal protection.

The KKK and rifle clubs operate like slave patrols, except more deadly because they no longer need to pay compensation to enslavers when they kill Black people. White mobs violently suppress Black votes to regain control of state governments where they are the minority of eligible voters. The former Confederate states pass laws to disenfranchise Black voters. They pass poll taxes and literacy tests to restrict voting and pass grandfather clauses that exempt people whose grandfather had the right to vote (white people before the Civil War) from the requirements so white voters do not have to pay poll taxes or take literacy tests, but Black voters do.

1876: Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone. Bell invents the telephone after years of work and experimentation in Deaf education. Both his mother and wife are Deaf. He supports the full integration of Deaf people in all aspects of community life. He supports both oralism (see 1817) and sign language, making him controversial in the Deaf community. He signs his last words to his wife, Mabell.

**1878: All Oregon taxpayers, including women and non-citizens, are allowed to vote in school elections.**

**1878: The US Congress passes the Timber and Stone Act to sell western timberland that is “unfit for farming” for \$2.50 per acre in 160 acre sections.**

**Large corporations acquire fraudulently 90% of the several million acres privatized under the act.**

**1879: The Portland Colored Immigration Society forms to encourage African Americans to move to Oregon. There are much larger and better funded efforts to attract northern European immigrants (see 1880s).**

1879: The Carlisle Indian Industrial School is founded as a model for forced assimilation. Children are given European haircuts, forbidden to speak their Native languages, given European names, converted to Christianity, and follow rigid military schedules and routines. Children are taught “life skills”. Children sent to residential schools often have no contact with their families. Parents who refuse to send their children have food, clothes, and money withheld or are jailed. Officers forcibly kidnap some children. Half the kids sent to residential schools die. Children are at high risk for disease from malnutrition, overcrowding, poor sanitation, and overwork. Physical and sexual abuse of students is widespread.

**1880s: Italian, Scandinavian, Basque, and Jewish immigrants begin arriving in Oregon in larger numbers. Many Scandinavian loggers come from the Midwest. Basque shepherds come to eastern Oregon. Business interests actively recruit migrants to the state with pamphlets in German, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, and even Welsh. Chinese migrants come to work in mines and on railroads. By the 1890s, these jobs begin to fade away. Anti-Chinese riots by white mobs in Seattle and Tacoma drive many to relocate to Oregon, especially the Portland area.**

**1880s: White mobs drive Chinese immigrants out of several Oregon communities including Oregon City, Mount Tabor, and Albina. In 1887, 34 Chinese gold miners are ambushed and massacred in Wallowa County. No one is ever held accountable for the crime, even though the perpetrators are identified. The site of the crime is still known as Chinese Massacre Cove. The US Congress passes the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, which prohibits immigration, makes Chinese people ineligible for citizenship, and bans them from several professions and redress in the courts.**

**1880: The state legislature appropriates funds for the Oregon State Hospital as a temporary solution for addressing the mental health needs of Oregonians. It remains open today.**

1880: The National Association of the Deaf is founded.

**1880: Chemawa Indian School opens as an elementary school in Forest Grove. It moves to its current location outside of Salem in 1885. It currently operates**

**as a residential high school. Some reformers at the time think Indian residential schools are progressive in that they are based on the radical notion that Indians are fully equally capable human beings. They are not progressive in that the vehicle to achieve equality is the destruction of their culture.**

Parents convey culture to children, so to destroy the culture; children are cruelly separated from their parents and removed to residential schools. The schools are supposed to infect them with white culture, but many are infected with other fatal diseases and half the children die at the schools. The risk of death for children at residential schools is six times higher than other kids in the US. When children are sick, often parents are not told, either because they cannot communicate in the same language or because no efforts are made.

The students live in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions and suffer from disease, malnutrition, overwork, and abuse. The children are given European American names, haircuts, and clothes; forbidden to speak their language, required to convert to Christianity and go to church, and suffer physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. The Civilization Fund Act of 1819 funds mainly religious societies to assimilate Native children in schools.

**The Chemawa School near Salem is the second oldest residential school and the oldest continually operating Indian boarding school in the US. Carlisle (see 1879) and Chemawa are the models for the Indian residential boarding school system with its goal to “kill the Indian, and save the man”. Carlisle is founded in 1879 as a model of forced assimilation built on a model of military training, rules, and routine. Chemawa follows in 1880 and has 1,000 students by 1926.**

By 1885, 106 Indian schools are established. 367 will be established. The goal of the schools is ostensibly to prepare Indians for the non-Indian world by teaching essential life skills. After graduation, they are supposed to go out into the wide white world. The schools perceive returning to the reservation and one's people as disappointment and failure. The schools teach skills for vocational trades and provide an opportunity for Natives from different tribes to mix. There is some solidarity built, but there is much punishment, abuse, assimilation, and loss of culture and language.

**Chemawa is named for the Chemaway or Chemawa Village near Keizer, Oregon where the school resides. The Chemawa people never sign the Willamette Treaty to cede their lands. The prefix “Che” means “place of” and “wawa” means talk. Chemawa is a place of talking or meeting.**

In 1895, 19 Hopi fathers are imprisoned on Alcatraz for refusing to send their children to boarding schools. For some families facing starvation on the reservation,



boarding school is a desperate way to save their children. It is not until the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act that parents are allowed to refuse school placements. In 1973, there are 60,000 Native children in boarding schools in the US.

Culture is transmitted socially not genetically. In an attempt to eradicate culture, many blame failures on perceived genetic traits. They underestimate the cultural imprinting and transmission in the early years of life and influence from peers. For girls, getting pregnant is one way to be sent home and escape boarding schools.

**Many risk institutionalization as unwed mothers at Fairview or the Oregon State Hospital.** At the schools, the students learn English and lose their Native languages making it difficult to communicate across generations with their families. Shared stories and cultural traditions are lost. Often the children do not go home.

The schools run on child labor often with poorly trained and abusive teachers. The students are malnourished, overcrowded with poor ventilation and inadequate sanitation, such as nonfunctional toilets, sinks, and laundries.

John Oberly, the commissioner of Indian Affairs, says in 1888 that the Indian “must be imbued with the exalting egotism of American civilization so that they will say ‘I’ instead of ‘we’, and ‘this is mine’ instead of ‘this is ours’.” This is the thinking behind the Allotment Act or Dawes Act (see 1887), which passes without any consultation with Native people even though its impact upon them is devastating.

**Since the 1980s, the Chemawa School has changed significantly through greater involvement with Oregon tribes.**

1882: The Chinese Exclusion Act bans Chinese people from immigrating to the US. People with disabilities and anyone perceived to need any form of public support are also barred from entry, including people with job offers and letters of family support in hand. People considered to have “lunacy” or “idiocy” are prohibited entry under the law. Lawmakers blame immigration for the prevalence of “idiocy” and “lunacy” in the US.

The Chinese Exclusion Act creates “illegal” immigration. There are no federal restrictions or crimes associated with immigration prior to 1882. The Chinese become the first “illegal immigrants”. The act introduces undocumented immigration and deportation. It includes both exclusion and expulsion of Chinese immigrants. The act creates immigration agents to inspect new immigrants and widespread domestic surveillance of Chinese activities. The Chinese are the first group to need passports for travel in and out of the country and to have to carry papers to prove they are legally in the country. They are the only group to need passports until 1924.

In 1893, all Chinese residents have to register for certificates of residence and

certificates of identity. They can be arrested and deported without them. They are the only residents required to have them until 1928. After 1940, these cards are known as “green cards”. Discriminatory laws to force Chinese people to leave by excluding them from employment, neighborhoods, property ownership, and basic rights and freedoms compound the situation. The Chinese Exclusion Act is intended as a temporary measure to cool tensions in the West created by white mob violence. It lasts for 61 years. It is extended several times and made permanent in 1904. It is finally replaced in 1943 during World War 2 when China, a US ally, is occupied by Japan.

In 1882, George Frisbie Hoar, US Senator from Massachusetts, opposes the Chinese Exclusion Act. He advocates for African American civil rights, Indigenous treaty rights, and voting rights for women. He denounces “race privilege” and advocates for people to be able “to go everywhere on the surface of the earth that his welfare may require.” White politicians fear the completion of the transcontinental railroad (by Chinese workers) will make it too easy for West Coast Chinese residents to come east. This fear leads to the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 when the Chinese population is 0.2% of the total US population. At the time of the Chinese Exclusion Act, only 4% of all immigrants to the US are from China.

Frederick Douglass supports migration from China in his speech entitled, *The Composite Nation*. He also supports Indigenous rights, women’s rights, religious freedom, and civil rights for African Americans. He says,

“There are such things in the world as human rights. They rest upon no conventional foundation, but are external, universal, and indestructible. Among these, is the right to locomotion; the right of migration...A liberal and brotherly welcome to all who are likely to come to the United States is the only wise policy which this nation can adopt.”

The act prohibits the Chinese immigrants already in the country from obtaining naturalized citizenship. New Asian immigrants mostly come through Angel Island in California where they face intense interrogations and long detentions. Ellis Island in New York is a symbol of welcome to European immigrants who pass through in a few hours. Angel Island is a symbol of exclusion to Asian immigrants who are stuck there for many weeks and months. One reported detention was for over two years.

The Coolie Trade Act of 1862 and the Page Act of 1875 restrict most Chinese immigration before it is halted by the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882. The 1868 Burlingame Treaty actually encourages immigration from China to secure laborers for the railroads. It amends the Treaty of Tientsin between the US and China. It grants China most favored nation status in regards to trade, establishes formal friendly

relations, gives citizens reciprocal access to education in each other's countries, and lifts immigration restrictions on the Chinese. Industrialists and businesses seek Chinese workers to fill a post-Civil War need for labor.

1882: The first mention of the public charge rule in federal legislation is part of the 1882 Immigration Act. Public charge laws are used to exclude people with disabilities and the poor. They are used as an excuse to discriminate against certain groups, including people with disabilities and people deemed by immigration agents as unable to do hard labor. In the East, they are used to exclude Jewish entrants and in the West to exclude South Asian entrants. It is a way to exclude German Jews without excluding Germans and British Indians without excluding the British. Ironically, both Jews and South Asians have been among the most successful immigrant groups in educational and economic attainment in the US.

1883: There are 350 orphanages in the US, 276 of them do not accept Black children. Nine orphanages are exclusively for African American children.

**1883: 372 patients transfer from the Oregon Hospital for the Insane to the Oregon State Insane Asylum at its current location in Salem. Present day Center Street in Salem was then known as Asylum Avenue. By 1887, only four years after its opening, it is already overcrowded. Over the next several years, they admit more than 5,000 people, over 20% of the patients die in the Asylum. It is located at a rural site. Like residential schools, poorhouses, and reservations for Indigenous people, agriculture is seen as a civilizing and productive activity for people with mental health conditions and developmental disabilities.**

The position of superintendent of the hospital is directly appointed by the governor and seen as a path to political advancement. Several superintendents become mayor of Portland, state senators, and US senators.

1884: Oregon's statewide railroad system connects all regions of the state. 12,000 of Central Pacific Railroad's 13,500 employees are Chinese immigrants. They work 12-hour days six days per week and have to provide their own food and tents. White workers receive food, shelter, and a higher wage.

1884: Oregon holds the first of six votes on the issue of women having the right to vote. Only 28% (of men) vote in favor of a woman's right to vote.

**1885-6: White mobs drive Chinese workers out of many towns and workplaces in Oregon. The Anti-Chinese Congress in Portland calls for all Chinese to leave Oregon for San Francisco.**

1886: The US war against the Apache Nation ends. It is the last of the major military

conflicts with Indigenous people in North America. It is the longest war and counterinsurgency campaign in US history, lasting from 1850-1886, with some conflicts into the 1920s. It is longer than the US war in Afghanistan from 2001-2021. The war in Afghanistan costs the US government \$300 million per day for 20 years. About 175,000 people are killed in the war and countless people suffer disabling injuries. Four times as many US service members die by suicide than by combat.

1886: In *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad*, the Supreme Court rules, “Corporations are persons within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment.” As government entities try to tax and regulate corporations, corporations argue that using the term “person” instead of “citizen” in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment includes corporations in the definition and protects them from government oversight. In subsequent decisions, the US Supreme Court agrees with this interpretation and uses the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment primarily to protect the rights of corporations against state and federal attempts to tax and regulate them. It contributes to the legal precedent that 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment protections are not limited to citizens.

1887: The Dawes Act seeks to end communal ownership of land by Native Americans in favor of individual allotments leading to large-scale displacement and disruption of Indigenous communities. Natives can only own land allotments if they are deemed competent by the government. Competence is determined by a number of accepted “scientific” techniques such as percentage of European blood quantum (more European=more competent), and phrenology (larger skull=larger competence). For the record, Neanderthals had bigger skulls and brains than modern humans. Through measurements of blood and skulls, some Indians are deemed competent and receive allotments. The government has to determine if someone is competent to have their land taken away. They are often generous in their assessments.

US policy is a persistent and relentless campaign against Indigenous people becoming a communal land-based people. There are assaults on the community and seizures of the land. The act sees communal land ownership as “primitive” even though the US government holds land in common for the people. Most of the land moves from communal ownership by the tribe to communal ownership by the US government then distributed to private entities. Lawmakers see individual landownership as more “civilized”. It is easier to rob an individual than a community. It is an attack on the culture and spirituality of a people to weaken and break them in order to take their land.

John Wesley Powell at the Smithsonian Institution pushes for allotment knowing clearly how devastating it would be. He writes to opponent Senator Henry Teller,

“The Indian religion is localized. Every spring, creek and river, every valley, hill and

mountain as well as the trees that grow upon the soil are made sacred by the inherited traditions of their religion. These are all homes of their gods. When an Indian clan or tribe gives up its land it is not only surrendering its home as understood by civilized people but its gods are abandoned and all its religion connected therewith, and connected with the worship of ancestors buried in the soil; that is, everything most sacred to Indian society is yielded up...Such a removal of the Indians is the first step to be taken in their civilization.”

**The framers and supporters of the Allotment Act are not ignorant of its effects on Native people. Oregon Senator Joseph Dolph knows Indians will be tricked, cheated, and forced out of their lands through allotment.**

Allotments cannot be inherited. They have to be sold to prevent intergenerational wealth for Natives according to the “Dead Indian Act” of 1902. The Burke Act of 1906 allows the Bureau of Indian Affairs to take land out of trust and sell it with or without the knowledge and consent of the person the land is held for. Indigenous ideas of use rights to land are different from European ideas of private property.

Theodore Roosevelt says, approvingly, that allotment is “a mighty pulverizing machine to break up the tribal mass.”

The minority report of the House Indian Committee states, “The real aim of this bill is to get at the Indian lands and open them up for settlement.”

**In Oregon, the federal case for allotment is undercut by the failure to compensate Native people for the loss of Table Rock, Yaquina Bay, Tillamook, and Alsea. Federal negotiators repeatedly encounter skepticism that the government will actually compensate this time or just take land again.**

State and local governments support allotment because it opens the land to being sold and taxed. Many Natives, as many of us still today, do not understand the complexities of land sales, liens, and taxes. Many lose their lands because they cannot pay the taxes. It is auctioned off to non-Natives. Their domestic economy is largely based on barter and few have money for taxes. There are few opportunities for paid employment on the reservation and people are forbidden to go off reservation so finding cash for taxes is difficult.

Land that is deemed unsuitable for farming is declared “surplus” land. Sacred sites, hunting and fishing areas, and forests are deemed “surplus” and sold to non-Native miners, timber companies, and land speculators. Indigenous people lose land the size of Oregon and Washington combined. Of the 138 million acres reserved for Indigenous people, 90 million acres are lost under the allotment acts.

**“Surplus” land accounts for 80% of the Coast Reservation, 179,000 acres. The**

government does not need the land so it is taken from Natives and given to non-Natives. Timber companies in Oregon are major beneficiaries of allotment. Tribes are compensated for some surplus land at \$0.80 per acre. The land is then sold to timber companies at \$2.50 per acre. The tribes ask for \$1.25 per acre and are refused. Dummy homesteaders are recruited by land speculators to file land claims for timberlands. The land is then sold to timber and mining companies and speculators.

**1887: 34 Chinese miners are murdered in eastern Oregon at what is now known as Chinese Massacre Cove in Wallowa County. Perpetrators are identified, but no one is punished for the crime.**

1888: The Scott Act revokes the right of Chinese workers to return to the US after visiting China. This is renewed in the 1892 Geary Act which adds that even though they are no longer allowed to leave and return, Chinese residents still need to register with the government and can be arrested and deported if they are caught without their “certificate of residence”. These certificates are only required for Chinese residents but are similar to passes required for free Black residents, traveling enslaved Black residents, and off reservation Indians. The US Supreme Court affirms that all Chinese residents are presumed illegal and deportable without their certificates.

1889: Hull House is founded by Jane Addams, considered a founder in the field of social work, as part of the settlement movement to assist low-income residents in US cities with food, housing, jobs, education, health care, and daycare.

**In 1904, the People’s Institute Settlement Work forms in Portland modeled on Hull House. The Institute later forms the Portland Free Dispensary in 1907 to provide free health care. It operates until 1931 when it becomes the Outpatient Clinic for the University of Oregon Medical School.**

Settlement houses are a movement of mostly college educated reformers living in poor urban neighborhoods to “bridge the gulf that industrialism had created between rich and poor, to reduce the mutual suspicion and ignorance of one class for the other, and to do something more than give charity” according to the first settlement, Toynbee Hall, in East London founded in 1884.

In the US, the settlement movement focuses on the environmental, economic, and political origins of social problems. Charities send “visitors” to poor neighborhoods. Settlements require “residence in a poor section of a great city.”

90% of settlement residents have a college education. Half have attended graduate school. Many college educated women work in the settlements with few other job opportunities available to them. The average length of stay is three years and the

average age is 25. Most settlements are white and segregated.

**1890s: Chinese exclusion laws contribute to an increase in Japanese immigration to Oregon. Mostly young men without their families arrive to work on railroads, farms, timber, and canning.**

1890s: Grade levels and report cards are widely adopted in elementary and secondary schools with the idea that every student should be taught the same basic subjects in a set order.

1890s: Able-bodied unemployed men are taken in as “lodgers” in police stations in cities across the US. Lodgers typically outnumber inmates. They sleep on floors and any available spaces. Police stations shelter more people than poorhouses. Many localities designate the police with care of vagrants so the police station becomes the shelter.

1890s: African Americans flee racial terror in the South. 7.5 million African Americans leave the South fleeing oppression in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Great Migration is the largest relocation of people in US history. People move north and west. Most of the people coming to the West Coast leave from Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas. Before the migration, 90% of African Americans live in the South. Afterwards, 47% live in the North and West. They shift dramatically from rural to urban areas.

“They were seeking political asylum within their own country, not unlike refugees in other parts of the world fleeing famine, war, and pestilence, only they were fleeing Southern terror.” - Isabel Wilkerson

1890-1910: The specific bacteria causing most major diseases are identified. Effective vaccinations begin to be developed. Public Health initiatives are successful in reducing death and disease, reducing infant and maternal mortality, improving sanitation, and improving the safety of food and water.

They are effective because they have clear goals that the public support. They have effective tools such as vaccination, sanitation, and pasteurization. The interventions are not class specific and do not get bogged down in who is deserving and who is not. They largely do not challenge the economic power structure, and when they do, such as with child labor and universal healthcare, they lose. Public Health takes steps to address prevention using scientific discoveries. Many private physicians oppose preventive measures fearing loss of patients and income.

“Physicians, at first skeptical, often resisted even scientific innovations longer than the public.”

- Michael Katz

1890: Between 40-45% of railroad workers are injured every year often leading to lifelong disabilities. Industrialization contributes to increased disability due to injuries and accidents in unsafe working conditions. In 1907, there are 12,000 deaths per year of railroad workers. Legislation passes to limit their workday to 16 hours. Poisonings and cancer from industrial plants lead to disease, disability, and death.

Helen Keller is a socialist and sees many disabilities as caused by class issues. Industrial accidents and lack of medical care make disabilities more prevalent among the poor. She helps found the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), supports the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and backs Socialist Party candidate Eugene Debs for president. She is a noted disability rights, women's rights, and anti-war activist.

In 1904, at the age of 24, Keller graduates from Radcliffe College at Harvard University. She is the first Deaf-Blind person in the US to earn a Bachelor's degree. She was born in 1880. She becomes deaf and blind at 19 months of age from an unknown illness. She lives until 1968.

1890: The State Care Act in New York passes and is soon replicated by many states. It influences states to build large institutions for the "incurably insane" to free up smaller institutions for the "curable insane". States run most large institutions. Counties run most mental health treatment programs. The state institutions fill up quickly, but county programs remain overcrowded and still serve the majority of people. County programs argue that they are more humane and community integrated than the large state institutions.

Most of the early criticism of large institutions aims at their cost. They are more expensive to build and maintain than luxury hotels. They often have lavish living quarters for their superintendents, much like a plantation.

**1891: The state of Oregon creates a special board to investigate conditions at state, county, and local institutions. It issues a report detailing deplorable conditions in 1892. The board is abolished in 1893 never to issue another report.**

1891: Kentucky becomes the last state to move to a secret ballot also called an Australian ballot. Before the secret ballot, people often vote with their feet by standing in a designated area for their candidate. The vote is done by a head count. "Poll" means the top of the head. In other places, people put a ball in a box designated for their preferred candidate. "Ballot" means a little ball. Later, partisan newspapers print lists of candidates that people turn in to vote for their preferred list.



The secret ballot is introduced as a reform to prevent bribery and intimidation of voters, which was common. It requires literacy, which excludes participation by many voters.

1893: The devastating depression of 1893 makes clear that poverty is a failure of the economic and political systems, rather than a personal moral failing. Programs for the relief of unemployed workers proliferate.

**1893: Lincoln County incorporates on land taken from the Coast Reservation.**

1896: The US Supreme Court rules in Plessy v. Ferguson that racial segregation is legal. Homer Plessy, a white passing Black person who speaks French and English, boards a train in Louisiana in the white only section. He is arrested when he tells them he is African American. The case goes to the Supreme Court and becomes the landmark Plessy v. Ferguson ruling that establishes the separate but equal doctrine allowing racial segregation and denying equal rights to public accommodations. The 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision overturns this decision.

The court sees whiteness as a form of property that needs protection from being devalued by associating with Black people. John Marshall Harlan is the lone dissenting judge in the decision. He predicts, “The judgement this day rendered will, in time, prove to be quite as pernicious as the decision made by this tribunal in the Dred Scott case.”

1896: Texas has an 88% voter turnout rate. They implement a poll tax to prevent poor African, Mexican, and Anglo Americans from voting. Voter turnout remains below 40% until the poll tax is found unconstitutional and repealed in 1966. Texas implements some of the strictest voter suppression provisions in 2021. The non-Hispanic white population of Texas is below 40% in the 2020 census, but they are over 60% of the 2021 state legislature.

1896: Swedish scientist, Svante Arrhenius coins the term “greenhouse gases” in his work discussing the climate impact of coal burning. He becomes the first Swedish Nobel laureate when he wins the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1903.

1896: Connecticut bans marriage of “defectives”.

1898: The US v. Wong Kim Ark Supreme Court case affirms birthright citizenship regardless of race is guaranteed under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Wong Kim Ark was born in the US and is denied reentry into the US after a visit to China. He is a citizen, but the reason given is that his parents are not US citizens, even though they are legal residents who are ineligible for naturalized citizenship under US laws discriminating against Asians.

1899: Cook County in Illinois establishes the first juvenile court system. By 1925, every state, except Maine and Wyoming, have juvenile justice systems. Before separate courts for juveniles, children over age seven are often imprisoned along with adults. Juvenile courts suspend most civil rights and constitutional protections for children and their parents.

1900: Before 1800, there are over 60 million bison. In the 1870s, 5,000 bison a day are killed. By 1900, there are 541 left. 60 million bison are reduced to a few hundred in a genocidal campaign to starve the Plains people. Train passengers are loaned rifles so they can shoot bison out of train windows as they travel across the Plains. Meanwhile, the Plains people are disarmed, starved, and put in concentration camps separated from their children who are sent to residential boarding schools.

“Kill every buffalo you can! Every buffalo dead is an Indian gone.” - Colonel Richard Dodge

1900: Nearly 95% of the original Indigenous population has been lost by 1900. Between 1860 and 1900, populations on reservations drop 80%. Native people begin to recover from European introduced epidemics, but are still vulnerable due to starvation, malnourishment, violence, and poor living conditions.

1900: Three white male bankers control interests in 341 directorships in 112 corporations worth more than the assessed value of all the land west of the Mississippi River. Today, two white men control as much wealth as over 130 million Americans combined.

1901: The *Downes v. Bidwell* decision by the US Supreme Court rules that the rights and protections conferred by the US Constitution do not extend to US territories, like the newly acquired US territories of Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Guam, and Cuba.

**1901: The Oregon Legislature initiates public high school education statewide.**

**1902: The Oregon Legislative Assembly approves a process for initiatives and referendums to allow voters to direct legislation. It is known as the Oregon System.**

**1902: Crater Lake becomes a national park. It is the only national park in Oregon and the fifth oldest in the US. It is the deepest lake in the US.**

1902: The Newlands Reclamation Act provides federal funding for irrigation projects across the West to make more land available for agriculture and homesteading. It leads to further displacement of Indigenous people from even the marginal lands they have been forced onto. The West becomes one of the leading agricultural producers in the world. Dams built for irrigation become a source of electricity for both urban

and rural development.

**1903: The Oregon State Board of Health is founded to protect the public against disease epidemics.**

1903: The Canton Indian Insane Asylum, also known as the Hiawatha Insane Asylum, opens in South Dakota as one of two federally operated insane asylums. It closes in 1933. Most inmates are not insane. They are culturally misunderstood or politically opposed to powerful vested interests. Of the 350 residents, 121 die. It is one of two federal insane asylums. The other is St. Elizabeths Hospital (see 1855), which is a segregated facility in Washington D.C. for African Americans. Both are founded upon similar flawed logic: Black people could not handle freedom and went insane. Indian people could not handle civilization and went insane.

1904: Old age is declared a disability for the purposes of collecting a pension as a Civil War veteran. People become “disabled” at age 62.

**1904: Oregon law establishes that a school term (“year”) must be at least four months long.**

**1904: Chief Joseph dies. In-mut-too-yah-lat-lat (thunder traveling over the mountains) is also known as Chief Joseph. His people are promised a permanent homeland in their ancestral lands of the Wallowa (winding water) Valley. Neither Chief Joseph, nor his father, also known as Chief Joseph, nor any of their Wal-lam-wat-kain band of the Chute-pa-lu (Nez Perce) ever agree to cede their lands.**

**Chief Joseph’s father clearly marks their boundaries so it is clear to settlers. Squatters invade their territory, but police and military will not enforce the boundaries and the courts are inaccessible to Indians. They endure the incursions without resorting to violence and try to live in peace with the invaders.**

**When other bands of the Nez Perce sign treaties, Chief Joseph’s band is removed to the Lapwai Reservation in Idaho. This would be similar to my neighbor selling my house to someone else without my agreement, yet still having to move out even though I did not agree to sell and received no payment.**

**Finding the conditions intolerable at Lapwai, Joseph leaves with his people to seek refuge with Sitting Bull in Canada. Though they never agree to a treaty nor to their removal and never declare war on US troops, they are pursued by US soldiers as they make their retreat to Canada, because they are not allowed to be off the reservation.**

Joseph and his father refuse to sign treaties both because they do not want to lose their homelands and because they do not want to lose their freedom of movement. They surrender 40 miles from the Canadian border after a 1,200-mile journey. Some make it across the border, but most of the women and children are removed to Oklahoma. Chief Joseph and many of his people eventually end up at the Colville Reservation in Washington where Chief Joseph dies in 1904.

He is a brilliant orator who articulates the plight of Native people and gains wide sympathy in the press and among the US public. He offers a very cogent history of his people and their trials. Their first contact is with French trappers who come looking for furs and do not settle among them.

He speaks positively of Lewis and Clark. The Nez Perce saved the Lewis and Clark expedition when they arrived starving and sick. He says, "These men were very kind...All the Nez Perce made friends with Lewis and Clark." Next, the missionaries come, then the settlers. At first, they allow the newcomers to live among them, but the white people become greedy. The Nez Perce are careful never to accept any gifts or payments from the government that might imply an exchange has been made.

When gold is found in the Wallowa Valley, miners flood in. They steal horses and cattle from the Nez Perce and mistreat the women. The Nez Perce have no recourse to law enforcement or courts. Joseph says, "When the white men were few and we were strong we could have killed them off, but the Nez Perce wished to live at peace." He adds, "Some of these were good men, and we lived on peaceful terms with them, but they were not all good."

Despite the intolerable encroachments, the Nez Perce do not resort to violence. They endure as best they can. Joseph says, "We only ask an even chance to live as other men live. We ask to be recognized as men. We ask the same law shall work alike on all men."

He offers a vision that seems to resonate with many when he says,

"Let me be a free man- free to travel, free to stop, free to work, free to trade where I choose, free to choose my own teachers, free to follow the religion of my fathers, free to think and talk and act for myself- and I will obey every law, or submit to the penalty...Whenever the white man treats the Indian as they treat each other, then we will have no more wars."

1905: Alfred Binet and his associates develop the Binet-Simon scale, which forms the basis for future IQ tests, such as the Stanford-Binet, which is the most popular IQ

test for decades. Binet does not believe the test measures intelligence or that intelligence can be measured due to the diversity of intelligences and the need to approach it qualitatively not quantitatively. The intention of the test is to identify and assist students who might need extra support after France extends public education to all children. Binet calls later uses of IQ testing “brutal pessimism”.

American psychologists Lewis Terman and Henry Goddard use the test as a tool for eugenics. An IQ test measures a range of skills and abilities we presume to be intelligence, but we actually have no accepted definition of what intelligence is. The American Psychological Association in its report, *Intelligence: Knowns and Unknowns* states, “When two dozen prominent theorists were recently asked to define intelligence, they gave two dozen, somewhat different, definitions.” The report concludes that no definition of intelligence “commands universal assent”.

IQ measures something, but we are not sure what. It measures how close people are to the norm on whatever it is that it is measuring. It provides a bell curve with 95% of people falling within two standard deviations of the norm and a small percentage on each side falling outside of that norm. We know it does not measure social or emotional intelligence since they are not domains on the test. The idea that intelligence is even a measurable thing is not universally accepted by science. Science has been trying to find a genetic basis for intelligence for over 150 years. As of today, they still have not found one.

1905: Ju Toy is a Chinese American US citizen who was born in the US and therefore not subject to either the Chinese Exclusion Act (see 1882), or the Scott Act (see 1888). When he attempts to return to San Francisco after a trip to China, he is denied entry and ordered deported by immigration officials.

In 1905, the US Supreme Court rules that Ju Toy is not entitled to any relief from the courts since the findings of immigration officials are not subject to judicial review and Ju Toy is subject to deportation. Even though he is a citizen, immigration officials get to determine who is a citizen without review and can deny a citizen their citizenship or deport a citizen. This leads to a separate immigration judicial system that we largely still have today.

1905: Jane Addams becomes the president of the National Conference on Charities and Corrections. In every public opinion poll in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century before World War 1, Jane Addams ranks as the most admired American woman and often the most admired American. She loses popularity after her opposition to World War 1. In 1931, she becomes the first US woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

**1905: The Lewis and Clark Centennial brings 1.6 million visitors to Portland from 16 states and 21 countries over four months. A large increase in people**

moving to Oregon follows over the next several years. Portland's population increases from 161,000 in 1905 to 270,000 in 1910. Oregon sees its population double over the next 20 years.

The motto of the Exposition is "Westward the course of empire takes its way." Many are proud of the growing US empire as evidenced by the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition motto, but there are inherent conflicts with ideas of equality and justice that are hard to ignore (see 1901).

**1905: Most of Oregon's Congressional delegation is indicted in a fraudulent scheme to transfer railroad land grants meant for individuals to timber companies.**

1906: The US Congress designates age 62 as a "permanent specific disability" for the purposes of distributing veteran's pensions. Veteran's pensions are the second largest federal government expense after debt payments. Pensions support three times more people at 10 times the cost as poorhouses and other institutions. Older people live with adult children if they have them. Poorhouses become old age homes for people without children to support them.

1907: Indiana becomes the first state with a forced sterilization law for people perceived as disabled. It provides for involuntary sterilization for "confirmed criminals, idiots, imbeciles, and rapists." It is widely believed to be the first eugenics sterilization legislation in the world.

In 1909, Washington and California follow. **Oregon passes a forced sterilization law in 1917. Oregon has 2,341 known forced sterilizations.** California has over 20,000. People are sterilized for a wide range of perceived "inadequacies" including poverty, homosexuality, and substance use. Other "degenerates" with physical, emotional, cognitive, sensory, or other disabilities are also sterilized. Women who become pregnant out of wedlock, even from rape or incest are blamed for their condition and sterilized. There is much overlap between perceived disability, degeneracy, and immorality. Sterilization becomes a more viable option with improved surgical techniques.

Advocates for eugenics believe that IQ, criminality, morality, sexuality, and poverty are genetically inherited traits and promote positive eugenics to encourage people perceived to have "good" genes to birth lots of children and negative eugenics to forcibly sterilize people thought to have "bad" genes. Public health, public education, minimum wage, safe working conditions, safe food and water, safe housing, are all opposed by eugenicists as propping up the weak with artificial support. Somehow, free land, tax breaks, and government incentives and giveaways to the rich are not seen in the same light.

Eugenicists see inequality and hierarchy as “natural” rather than being socially constructed and politically maintained. They do not think society is improved with rights and social programs; it is improved by selective breeding of the “right” people, like farm animals. Criminality, lunacy, poverty, and disability are seen as inherent genetic conditions not the result of social and political conditions. Eugenics is an elaborate ideology to blame the victims of social problems for causing social problems.

“When men oppress their fellow men, the oppressor ever finds, in the character of the oppressed, a full justification for his oppression.” - Frederick Douglass

**1907:** The Legislative Assembly creates the Oregon State Institution for the Feebleminded as "an institution for the training, care and custody of feeble-minded, idiotic and epileptic persons." It is renamed Oregon Fairview Home in 1933, Fairview Hospital and Training Center in 1965, and Fairview Training Center in 1979.

**1907:** Esther Lovejoy becomes the first woman to be a Health Officer in a major US city (Portland). She is a physician and suffragist. She is an early organizer of international medical relief and an unsuccessful congressional candidate. She is credited with bubonic plague prevention, improved milk and food safety, improved garbage collection and sanitation, and health inspections for schoolchildren. Her son’s death was attributed to contaminated milk.

**1908:** 39 people with developmental disabilities transfer across town from the "asylum" (Oregon State Hospital) to Fairview. The "inmates" move into two dormitories at the rural site on 672 acres two miles southeast of Salem.

**1908:** Sara Josephine Baker (see 1917) becomes the first chief of the first Bureau of Children’s Hygiene in the nation in New York City.

**1908:** Oregon passes the first minimum wage laws in the US. They apply only to women, set a minimum wage of \$8.25 per week, and a maximum 10-hour workday.

In this period, the Supreme Court interprets the Reconstruction Amendments to support business. They interpret the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to mean that regulating industries is unconstitutional, but racial segregation and regulating social interactions is permissible. They find laws about workplace safety and health and regulating wages and hours to be unconstitutional restrictions on the liberty of businesses. They use eugenic arguments to suggest that employers and employees should battle it out among themselves without

government interference and let the strongest survive.

Laws requiring sterilization and racial segregation are supported under the government's protective authority and somehow not a restriction upon liberty. Oregon uses this logic to pass the first wage and hour laws. Women and children do not have rights, so they are subject to state protection. The state claims to have an interest in protecting women due to their inferiority, weakness, and need to produce children for the state. This allows for limits on their hours of work under the state powers of police protection.

In 1906, the Oregon Supreme Court upholds wage and hour laws for women and children, not as rights under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, but under the state's power of protection. In 1908, the US Supreme Court agrees in *Muller v. Oregon* because it only applies to women. The law institutes a 10-hour workday for women in factories and laundries.

Josephine Goldmark prepares a 113-page social science brief in support of Oregon's case presented by Louis Brandeis who President Wilson later appoints to the US Supreme Court as the first Jewish justice. The case sets the precedent for introducing social science research that will prove decisive in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* case.

Catholic nun, Caroline Gleason known as Sister Miriam Theresa, completes a study of women's working conditions in 1912, which forms the basis for new laws. She becomes the executive secretary of the Industrial Welfare Commission created by Governor Oswald West.

After women gain the right to vote nationally in 1920, the women's movement splits between those who advocate for equal rights and those who fear the loss of protections. Some want to preserve legal protections, like those introduced in the *Muller* case, and oppose full equal rights. They argue women may lose alimony and mothers' pensions, advantages in child custody, employment and safety protections, and may be drafted into the military.

The Equal Rights Association introduces an equal rights amendment for women in 1923 that still is not ratified, largely because of these ongoing divisions. Over the years, the women's movement encounters divisions over race, class, sexuality, and gender identity that impede struggles for rights.

1909: Washington and California both pass forced sterilization laws. In California, over 20,000 people will be forcibly sterilized.

1910: 90% of African Americans live in 14 states, mostly in the South. Only 20% live in cities. By 1970, nearly 50% live in the North and 80% live in cities. At this time,



organizations form to oppose racial terror. The NAACP forms in 1909, the Urban League in 1911, and the Anti-Defamation League in 1913. Six million Black migrants flee racial terror in the South and follow economic opportunities, especially in wartime industries. When the interstate highway system makes domestic travel easier after World War 2, many populations shift towards cities and manufacturing jobs and away from rural areas and agriculture.

The interstate highway obliterates many Black and poor neighborhoods forcing them to relocate. The highway itself becomes the dividing line between Black and white, rich and poor neighborhoods. This is largely intentional and planned. The car gives rise to increased mobility at a time people are encouraged to move for jobs and economic opportunities. Before industrialization, most people work at home as farmers or in home-based industries. With industrialization, people need to live within walking distance of factories. Transportation options increase job and housing options.

Cars give private space for people who may not have had it in intergenerational housing or other multi-person housing arrangements. It affords some privacy for activities that may not enjoy social approval. In the North, Black communities challenge housing and job discrimination and school segregation. In the South, Black communities challenge rape, murder, and lynching by white community members and police brutality. Movements, North and South, unite against discrimination and police brutality. A second great migration takes place during and after World War 2.

**The first Great Migration of African Americans takes place in the 1890s and brings people to Oregon to work with the railroads.**

During both World Wars, there is a decline in immigration from Europe. Black Southerners fill vacant jobs in the North and West. In 1919, during what is known as the Red Summer, more than three dozen US cities erupt in rioting by white mobs perpetrating violence against Black workers.

**In the second migration, people come to work in the wartime industries such as shipbuilding in Portland. Vanport is hastily built to accommodate the migrating workers. It becomes the second largest city in Oregon and over one-third of its residents are Black. After the war, it is converted to public housing. It is the largest public housing project in the US at the time.**

**Portland's population doubles during World War 2. Rural areas lose population as people move for wartime jobs or duties. Kaiser Shipyards, who builds Vanport, recruits African Americans from the South. 38,000 come on special "Liberty" trains. The African American community in Portland quadruples during the war. 30% of the workforce at the Portland Kaiser**

**shipyards are women. It is the highest percentage of any shipyard in the country. The health plan created for Kaiser workers continues as Kaiser Permanente and is the largest managed care organization in the US.**

This migration encounters housing shortages and discrimination. Black renters have to pay 2-3 times the rent of white renters. White workers strike against accepting Black workers. There are 240 known major racial clashes in the US in 1943 alone. During World War 2, the population of African Americans in the West triples as they come to work in shipyards and wartime industries.

**1910: Voters approve an initiative to create Eastern Oregon Insane Asylum, later renamed Eastern Oregon Training Center.**

**1910: In St. Johns, nearly 200 white residents, including the mayor and the police chief, are charged with rioting against their Asian neighbors. Only one man is convicted. Oregon's leaders seek to benefit from the racial violence against Asians in California, Washington, and British Columbia by attempting to create a safe refuge for Asian workers whose labor is needed to support Oregon industries. These leaders publicly oppose white violence against Asians even as they impose restrictions on Asians in the realms of marriage, voting, and property ownership.**

**Oregon makes attempts, though inadequate, to prevent and prosecute hate crimes against Asians allowing them to be relatively safer in Oregon than in neighboring states. The message is very clear that Oregon policymakers want Asian labor, not Asian citizens.**

**1910-1925: Mexican workers are contracted to work on sugar beet farms and railroads in Oregon. Many families settle permanently.**

**1911: The Dillingham Report ranks the desirability of immigrant types for US policy. The report finds Scandinavians to be "the purest type". Italians are "highly imaginative and impracticable" which is meant to be pejorative. It prefers Mexicans to fill labor shortages over "undesirables" who pose a "threat" to American society from central and eastern Europe or Asia.**

**1911: Missouri and Illinois become the first states to offer mothers' pensions. Most payments go to widowed mothers. Divorced mothers are not eligible for the pensions. Mothers' pensions later become Aid for Dependent Children (AFDC) in the Social Security Act of 1935 and later known as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). High rates of disease, disability, and death from illness and industrial accidents create many widows, orphans, and step families.**

**1912: German psychologist William Stern coins the term "IQ" from the German**

“intelligenzquotient”.

1912: The US Congress creates a federal Children’s Bureau. It has no authority and a budget of \$25,000, but it serves as a valuable source of research and information. Ex-Hull House resident, Julia Lathrop, heads it. She is the first woman to head a US government bureau. The Bureau advocates for trained care for children with disabilities. It works to reduce infant and maternal mortality and improve child health. Lathrop supports a national health insurance program, cash allowances for pregnant women, and ending child labor. The American Medical Association, which limits its membership to white men, opposes her.

**1912: The Portland Vice Scandal exposes the gay subculture in Portland and leads to calls for anti-sodomy laws, eugenic sterilization laws, and heterosexual sex education in public schools.**

**1912: Hattie Redmond is founder and president of the Colored Women’s Equal Suffrage Association. Her work on voting rights helps lay the foundation for a civil rights movement in Oregon. As a child, she grows up in Hood River before moving permanently to Portland.**

**1912: Women in Oregon gain the right to vote on the sixth try. Our neighbors in Idaho pass it in 1896, Washington in 1910, and California in 1911. Laws denying citizenship and voting rights to Asian immigrants and Native Americans results in not all women in Oregon having the right to vote.**

1913: The 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution is ratified. It allows for a federal income tax. The US Supreme Court in the *Pollock v. Farmers’ Loan & Trust* case finds a federal income tax unconstitutional in 1894. Justice John Marshall Harlan again dissents in the decision. Previous rulings find the income tax to be constitutional, but the 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment removes all doubt. **Oregon votes to ratify the amendment in 1911.**

1913: Isaac Rubinow, a Jewish Russian born physician and immigrant to the US, publishes *Social Insurance* to advocate for a national “sickness insurance” as a means to eradicate poverty. He writes *Quest for Security* in 1934 in an attempt to include national health insurance in New Deal legislation.

Germany passes national health insurance in 1883. Studies cite Germany’s low poverty rate and the health of its population, especially its soldiers, as a result. US politicians label national health insurance as “made in Germany” to oppose it during the two world wars with Germany in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. After the wars, opponents tie it to the Soviet Union (Russia). *The Journal of the American Medical Association* writes that it is a question of “Americanism versus sovietism.”

**1913:** Eastern Oregon Insane Asylum opens in Pendleton. The Oregon State Insane Asylum in Salem is renamed the Oregon State Hospital.

**1913:** The Board of Asylum Commissioners is replaced by the Board of Control to provide centralized administration of state institutions in Oregon. Institutions proliferate and are built on a “colony plan” with “cottages” housing up to 50 people with their “superiors”. Institutionalization is also called “colonization”.

**1913:** The Oregon Legislature passes eugenics legislation. The Anti-Sterilization League based in Portland gathers signatures and forces a referendum where voters strike down the law. It is the first and only referendum on eugenics in the US.

Oregon has the only Anti-Sterilization League in the nation. They oppose eugenics because they see it as biased, lacking scientific backing, and inappropriately harsh and malicious. They use the success of Australia, a former penal colony, as a rallying point. They are led by activist Lora Little who says these laws “are asked for by persons who think they can set themselves apart from their kind and make themselves dictators over their less fortunate fellows.”

The eugenics law’s main supporter is Bethenia Owens-Adair. She is married at 14, a mother at 16, and divorced and a single mother at 19. She manages to earn two medical degrees to become the first woman in Oregon to practice as a licensed physician. She is a tireless social reformer who advocates for the rights of women and against the abuse of alcohol. She is also the state’s foremost advocate for eugenics, which is the idea that we can improve society by promoting reproduction among people with “good” genetics and sterilizing people with “bad” genetics. She considers this a progressive, evidence-based, scientific position. She manages to get the Oregon Legislature to pass eugenics legislation. The plan is to sterilize people with intellectual and mental health disabilities, convicts, and gay men who are in state custody.

Lora Little opposes the law. Her only child, Kenneth, dies at age seven due to complications of a compulsory smallpox vaccine that is required for him to attend public school. She does not trust the medical and scientific experts. She works to end mandatory vaccination and advocates for patient rights and for many alternative health practices including yogic breathing techniques, diets minimizing meat consumption, and other approaches that are common today. She founds the Little School of Health in Mt. Scott.

Lora Little helps to organize the Anti-Sterilization League in Portland. It is the

only organized opposition to eugenics sterilization in the US. They force the first and only public referendum on eugenics. They win with a 56% majority of the popular vote despite major newspapers strongly supporting the sterilization law. The league reminds people that Australia and Virginia were largely settled by people sent there as criminals and they seem to be doing okay now.

**1913:** Oregon beaches are declared a public highway allowing public access.

**1913:** The Ghadar Party is formed to liberate India from the British Empire. It is founded in Astoria, Oregon during a meeting of Sikhs from India at the Finnish Socialist Hall. It is easier for them to organize in Oregon than in San Francisco or Vancouver, Canada where they face greater persecution. With the outbreak of World War 1, more than 4,000 men leave the West Coast of the US for India joined by allies from the Philippines and Singapore.

Their plan is to spark a mutiny among Sikhs serving in the British military to initiate a general insurrection and end British rule in India. Though not initially successful and most of the leaders are executed in India and others are tried and convicted in San Francisco, many see their efforts as a precursor to eventual independence for India in 1947.

**1913:** President Woodrow Wilson re-segregates federal government service that had been desegregated after the Civil War.

**1914:** Beatrice Morrow Cannady and J.N. Merriman found the first and oldest continuously operating NAACP chapter west of the Mississippi River in Portland. Beatrice Morrow Cannady is an editor of *The Advocate* newspaper. She organizes a successful referendum in 1925 to repeal the Black exclusion clause in the Oregon Constitution.

**1914:** Marian Towne becomes the first Oregon woman elected to serve in the state legislature.

**1914:** The Eugenics Records Office publishes two reports from the Committee to Study and to Report on the Best Practical Means to Cut Off the Defective Germ-Plasm in the American Population. They are influential in promoting eugenic attempts to suppress “cacogenic varieties of the human race”. Eugenics is from the Greek meaning “good genes” and cacogenics similarly means “bad genes”. These policies include segregation from society for life or for the reproductive years, forced sterilization, restrictive marriage laws, eugenics education, eugenic mating, polygamy, and euthanasia.

Concepts of eugenics derive largely from livestock management. Similarly, they are only effective if the movement, reproduction, and self-assertion of people is restricted

to the degree it is with farm animals. “Good genes” usually means “people like me” and “bad genes” usually means “people not like me”. “Superiority” is typically self-defined.

“We find any kind of biological determinism a particularly dangerous and reactionary basis on which to build a politic.” - Combahee River Collective

1915: The Chinese American Citizens Alliance is founded to advocate for civil rights and civic engagement.

1916: The number of farms and farmers in the US reaches its all-time peak and begins to decline significantly and continuously.

**1916: Umatilla, Oregon has an all-male seven seat city council until local women launch a stealth write in campaign and elect seven women to the city council. Laura Starcher beats her own husband to become mayor. The new city council improves water and lighting services, initiates garbage collection, undertakes street and sidewalk projects, puts up railroad crossing signs for safety, founds a library, and acts to address an influenza pandemic.**

**1916: Oregon voters reject repealing the state’s ban on voting rights for African Americans even though it is unconstitutional after passage of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment. A majority of voters in Benton County vote against Black voting rights. The ban is finally officially repealed in 1927.**

**1917: The Oregon Legislative Assembly creates the State Board of Eugenics, which can order the sterilization of institutional “inmates”. An appeals process is added in 1919 and it becomes codified in Oregon statute in 1920. The onset of World War 1 blunts opposition to the law.**

By the 1960s, more than 65,000 Americans are forced to undergo sterilization. Our neighbor California has the most forced sterilizations of any state. They are based on the false notion that IQ, criminality, morality, sexuality, and poverty are all genetic traits that are inheritable. Sterilization is seen as a cheaper alternative to sequestering people in institutions past breeding age. In reality, many people are both sterilized and institutionalized for life.

Eugenics is used to justify wealth and poverty and to ignore social and economic dynamics. It attempts to portray race, gender, disability, and class as permanent unchanging traits and statuses. Eugenics promotes the idea that the species as a whole does not evolve, only classes or races within the species evolve.

Eugenic ideas are still very prevalent in our society despite the compelling case made by the Nazis in Germany for why we should reject them. They are the basis for white

supremacy and colonization. They promote the idea of pure white women who should not sully themselves with paid work and should devote themselves to producing and raising as many genetically superior children as possible. Meanwhile, women of color should devote themselves to serving white families through sacrificing their own families and forgoing having children so they can dedicate themselves fully to low wage supportive labor.

Eugenics is used to justify US colonialism and imperialism, racial segregation, exclusion laws against Asian immigrants, and residential schools for Indigenous children in addition to institutionalization and sterilization of people with various disabilities. Often the victims of oppressive systems are blamed for their condition instead of those who perpetuate the systems.

**1917: A commitment law passes to ensure priority for people who are “feeble-minded” in admission to Fairview. The law imposes an age limit of five or older for admission. The age limit is removed in 1921. Between the years 1917 and 1928, 53% of Fairview residents are sterilized. Sterilization is usually a precondition for release back to the community. Two-thirds of the people sterilized are women.**

1917: The Immigration Act prohibits entry of immigrants who are, “induced...to migrate to this country by offers or promises of employment” and “immigrants over 16 who could not read in any language.” It also imposes a head tax. The law greatly expands the list of “undesirable” immigrants. Homosexuality, physical and mental illness, disability, immorality, political dissent, poverty, illiteracy, and Asian descent are all causes for exclusion.

1917: The Immigration Act creates the “Asiatic Barred Zone” to formally exclude South Asians along with most people from Asia and the Pacific Islands. The US does not want to anger Japan by legally excluding them and does not feel the need to since they are informally excluded by diplomatic agreement. Essentially, all “Asiatics” are excluded in one way or another. It includes Indonesia and Turkey to exclude Muslims.

1917: The US requires English language proficiency for citizenship. At the same time, the US makes Puerto Ricans US citizens even though they primarily speak Spanish and would prefer independence from the US.

1917: After trying to show the supposedly dangerous inadequacy of recent immigrants using IQ testing that show the vast majority as “mentally deficient”, Henry Goddard and Lewis Terman turn their attention to IQ testing for new soldiers during the World War 1. After testing over one million recruits, they determine the average mental age of an 18 year old soldier is a below average 13 or equivalent to an IQ of

72. IQ of 70 or mental age of 12 or below is considered a “moron” in the range of “mental deficiency”. That the average is significantly below average is clearly nonsensical, but it is seen as a fault in those being tested rather than the test.

We still use IQ tests to predict educational and job success when no correlation has been found. There are studies showing that higher SAT scores (which is based on IQ) do not correlate to later academic success. Many schools are abandoning use of these tests.

Lewis Terman revises the Binet IQ test, which comes to be known as the Stanford-Binet IQ test since he is a researcher at Stanford University. It is in its fifth revision and is still in use today. Binet’s IQ test is a comparison with similar age peers and under Terman that score becomes standardized as a mental age. The mental age compared to the chronological age is the IQ score.

Later in his career, Terman turns his attention to the other end of the bell curve to study geniuses. He is disappointed that his geniuses end up doing no better in school or work than others of their social class. Many end up doing menial work and two future Nobel Prize winners are excluded from his study because they do not test as geniuses.

Eugenicist psychologist, Henry Goddard, invents the term “moron”. Goddard brings refinement to the medical term “feeble-minded” by creating classifications of “moron, imbecile, and idiot” as the scientific terms for mild, moderate, and profound intellectual disability. He does much to popularize the new test. It is used for several racist political ends. One of those ends is to support laws that restrict immigration.

Early testing reveals that immigrants have low IQs, which gives support to laws to exclude them. Among immigrants tested, most are found to be “feeble-minded”, including 83% of Jews, 80% of Hungarians, 79% of Italians, and 87% of Russians. Northern and Western Europeans are found to have the highest IQs and Southern and Eastern Europeans along with almost all people of color are found to have lower IQs.

There are laws that permit the deportation, confinement, and forced sterilization of immigrants. They want to sterilize criminals until the courts are unable to distinguish between white-collar crime and other crime so that initiative is dropped. Even today, wage theft by employers involves more money than all robberies, burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and larcenies combined. If caught, and taken to court, which rarely happens, it is a \$1,000 fine for failing to pay minimum wage or required overtime.



Not much of a deterrent to prevent wealthy people from committing crimes against working people. It is certainly far short of forced sterilization.

The scientific terms of “moron, imbecile, and idiot” to denote mild, moderate, and profound intellectual disability derive from the Greek. “Moron” means “foolish, dull, stupid, or sluggish”. “Imbecile” means “feeble, ineffective, weak, or weak-minded”. “Idiot” means “personal, own, distinct, or peculiar”.

Many of the leaders of the eugenics movement are prominent doctors and psychologists. Terman is president of the American Psychological Association. Doctors and psychologists in the eugenics movement often head institutions. The movement wants to segregate certain people from the general population and sterilize certain people they believe have defective genes. Institutions become tools for the eugenics movement.

Eugenics is the theory that we can improve the human race by improving our gene pool. We can improve our gene pool by segregating and sterilizing people thought to have inferior genes. Some go as far as to advocate for their extermination, politely called euthanasia. Lewis Terman is a member of the Human Betterment Foundation based in California that promotes compulsory sterilization.

Some in the eugenics movement in the US call for local gas chambers to euthanize people. One state institution gives patients milk infected with tuberculosis reasoning that those with better genes will live and those with worse genes will die. About 40% die. Medical associations advocate for the right to euthanize “imbeciles”.

California eugenicists send literature to and visit German scientists and doctors. The Rockefeller Foundation funds German eugenics programs based on the California model including one where the Nazi physician known as the “Angel of Death”, Josef Mengele, works. A leader of the California eugenics movement brags upon his return from a visit to Germany that they played “a powerful part in shaping the opinions of the group of intellectuals who are behind Hitler in this epoch-making program”. Another American receives an honorary doctorate from Heidelberg University for his work on the “science of racial cleansing”.

Eugenics is an attempt to maintain the genetics of the dominant group in a society by the powerful elites who benefit from their position and try to justify it with a claim of genetic superiority and entitlement. Globally, working women of color are more the norm than wealthy white men. With eugenics, the norm is not really the norm, the average is not really the average, good is not really good, and bad is not really bad. The role of the American eugenics movement in the rise of Nazism is swept under the rug after the war, which unequivocally reveals the true horror of eugenics. However, white supremacy and colonialism continue to prove resilient and adaptable

in the US.

In 1937, two-thirds of Americans support sterilization of “mental defectives”. In 1928, 376 US universities teach eugenics. Many progressive organizations and many prominent leaders support eugenics. There are prohibitions on marriage for “epileptic, imbecile, and feeble-minded” people. It is part of the rationale for banning interracial marriages.

American academics influence Nazi Germany to support ideas of racial inequality and racist treatment. Before the war, German academics influence Franz Boas and W.E.B. Dubois in the US to support their ideas of racial equality and just treatment. W.E.B. Dubois is one of the few major public voices opposing eugenics in the US before World War 2.

Eugenicists see the large families of “inferior” people as a threat and encourage “superior” people to have large families. “Inferior” people instead should focus on work, not family. Interestingly, prominent eugenicists like Francis Galton, Henry Goddard, Madison Grant, Charles Davenport, and Richard Dugdale have no children of their own.

1917: Sara Josephine Baker finds that babies born in the US have a higher mortality rate than soldiers in World War 1. She says it is “six times safer to be a soldier in the trenches of France than to be a baby born in the US.”

She later says of her work, “The way to keep people from dying from disease, it struck me suddenly, was to keep them from falling ill. Healthy people don’t die. It sounds like a completely witless remark, but at that time it was a startling idea. Preventive Medicine had hardly been born yet and had no promotion in public health work.”

1917: The first Bracero program suspends the head tax and literacy test for Mexican workers so they can provide needed agricultural labor during the war.

1918: In March, more than 100 soldiers at Camp Funston in Kansas become ill with influenza. Within a week, cases quintuple. In May, US soldiers are deployed in Europe. In September, a second wave of the flu hits Camp Devens in Massachusetts. The second wave is the most deadly. The flu pandemic causes over 20 million deaths worldwide and about 675,000 deaths in the US. Reports of the flu are suppressed by wartime press censorship to boost morale for the war effort. Spain is neutral in the war and reports on the pandemic. The disease, first identified in the US, becomes known as “Spanish flu”.

1918: Secondary education is reorganized on the federal level in response to child labor and truancy laws so that schools can provide a custodial role in caring for children. It assumes only 20% of students need preparation for college.

**1919: Boards of Realty in Portland and other communities adopt a code of ethics that prohibits realtors from selling property or providing mortgages to people of color seeking to buy homes in predominantly white neighborhoods. The code changes in 1956.**

**1919: Oregon passes the first gasoline tax in the nation to help pay for roads. It continues to fund transportation infrastructure.**

1919-1921: The Palmer raids by US Justice and Immigration deport resident immigrants based on their political views.

1920s: The “bell curve” distribution for grades becomes popular and widespread.

**1920s: Alien land laws pass all across the West to restrict land ownership and even leasing of land by people “ineligible for citizenship” (i.e. Asians, though it includes Native Americans and all non-white immigrants). These laws pass in Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Colorado, Arizona, and Texas. The 1924 Immigration Act bans immigration for people “ineligible for citizenship”. Canada and Latin America follow the US lead on restrictive immigration laws to prevent the redirected flow of immigrants from coming to their countries.**

**The restrictions on Asians lead to increased Mexican migration to Oregon and the West in the 1920s. Asians face discrimination in employment from private and government employers and labor unions. They face alien land laws that restrict their ability to own and lease property. They need the covert cooperation of white friends and neighbors to hold property for them so they can run businesses and access housing. Some are able to transfer property to US born citizen children or form holding companies until prohibited by subsequent legislation.**

**1920s: 35,000 Oregonians are members of the Ku Klux Klan, thought to be among the highest per capita memberships in the US.**

1920: The Smith-Fess Act establishes a civilian vocational rehabilitation program with funding matched 50-50 between the state and federal governments. People with intellectual disabilities and mental illnesses become eligible classes in 1943.

1920: The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution prohibits denying the right to vote based on sex. Women gain the right to vote in federal, state, and local elections. Many women of color still do not have the right to vote because of the denial of citizenship rights for Asian and Native American women and voting restrictions such as poll taxes and grandfather clauses imposed on Black and Latino voters.

One of the main opponents to voting rights for women is the alcohol industry, which

fears women will vote to ban alcohol. The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment prohibiting alcohol in the US passes in 1917 as a war measure, which helps clear the path for the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment three years later. Many advocates for women's voting rights are also advocates for the prohibition of alcohol. Carrie Nation, one of the foremost advocates for the prohibition of alcohol, blames her daughter's disabilities on the father's use of alcohol. Among the goals of banning alcohol are ending poverty, domestic violence, and family dissolution.

Politicians calculate that women will vote against war. When Wilson runs as the anti-war candidate in 1916, 10 of the 12 states where women can vote, vote for Wilson.

**Oregon is one of the two states that do not vote for him.** Weary of war and with alcohol banned, women gain the right to vote in 1920.

1920: The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is founded to protect civil rights. Helen Keller and Jane Addams, among many others, are founders. It is the first major national civil rights organization that does not represent a particular group of people.

The ACLU emerges from the National Civil Liberties Bureau founded in 1917 to protect the free speech of anti-war protestors and the rights of conscientious objectors to World War 1.

**1921: Marion Circuit Court strikes down Oregon's eugenics law as unconstitutional in Cline v. Oregon State Board of Eugenics.**

1921: The Emergency Quota Act introduces numerical restrictions on immigration. The 1924 Immigration Act follows, which excludes and restricts immigrants based on race and ranks the desirability of immigrants according to the tenets of eugenics. It tries to reset the racial composition of the US prior to 1890. The 1924 law gives Northern Europeans 87% of US visas. It denies Asians admission and they are ineligible for naturalized citizenship.

The only Asian exception is the US controlled Philippines. It denies admission to Africans. The focus is upon "colonial stock" which arguably should include Africans who are numerous in the colonial era. They are 20% of the colonial population, the highest percentage in the nation's history. The goal of encouraging colonial levels and composition of new arrivals does not apply to Africans, only Europeans.

In 1925, immigration decreases by 50%. Most of the immigrants are from Europe so the 50% decrease is largely Europeans. The continued demand for labor leads to increased unsanctioned immigration from México. Asian nations see the total ban on Asians as an act of hostility by the US against them. It hampers diplomatic efforts by the US as the world lurches towards war again.

1921: The US Congress funds the Sheppard-Towner Act, which is the first federally funded social security program. The act funds public health nurses, visiting nurses, clinics, and conferences with a goal of decreasing infant and maternal mortality. It distributes educational materials and regulates the licensure of midwives. It provides states with federal matching funds to establish prenatal and child health care centers run by women. The legislation fails in previous attempts, but the proven success of programs in cities, the poor health of US soldiers during World War 1, and the fear of newly enfranchised white women voters, leads to its successful passage.

The American Medical Association opposes the act. They successfully kill it in 1929 citing the fear of socialism and the Red Scare. They support the privatization of preventive and public health, under private white male AMA doctors, not public health centers run by women. While it is in effect, it creates 3,000 health centers, mostly in rural areas.

**1922: The Compulsory Public School Attendance Bill passes in a ballot initiative by Oregon voters. Proponents, including the KKK, want to eliminate Catholic schools. The Catholic Archdiocese of Portland sues in District Court and wins. The state of Oregon appeals to the US Supreme Court. The Supreme Court applies the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment for the first time to protect individual rights in *Pierce v. Society of Sisters* to strike down the Oregon law.**

**1922: Sarah Helmick State Park on the Luckiamute River becomes Oregon's first state park.**

1922: The Cable Act legislates that US women who marry non-citizens can lose their citizenship. This mostly targets women who marry Asian men who are ineligible for naturalized citizenship. Her marital status largely determines a woman's citizenship. Much of jurisprudence does not see women, children, and the enslaved as citizens because they cannot own property, vote, or otherwise participate in civic life. It is not until 1952 that race and gender discrimination is prohibited in naturalization.

1922: Edna Dessery's research thesis entitled, "A Study of the Mental Inferiority of the Italian Immigrant" finds that those Italians classified by schools as "mental defectives" become "efficient, successful workers" "leading normal and entirely satisfactory lives" and are "not hopelessly inferior but potentially of great promise."

1922: The US Supreme Court rules in *Ozawa v. United States* that Takao Ozawa who was born in Japan but lives in the US for 30 years is ineligible for naturalization and citizenship under the law, which limits citizenship to "free white persons" or "people of African descent". Ozawa argues that he is "white" based upon skin color. The Court finds that Ozawa is "in every way eminently qualified under the statutes to become an American citizen" except that he is not "white". The Court decides that

“white” is defined as being a member of the Caucasian race (see 1923).

Takao Ozawa comes to the US as a student of the University of California at Berkeley when he is a teenager. He is married to an American educated wife with two children in US schools. They speak only English and attend church. He has no ties to Japan. He applies to become a naturalized US citizen. He claims people of Japanese descent are “free white persons” and should be allowed to become citizens. Even though it is admitted that a “common man” would judge his skin to be white, he is denied when the Supreme Court rules that “white persons” means people of the “Caucasian race”.

**1923: The US Supreme Court denies citizenship to Oregon World War 1 veteran, Bhagat Singh Thind. A previous ruling (see 1922) affirms the immigration law referring to “white” means “Caucasian”. Anthropologists define the people of the Punjab state in India as “Caucasian”. The Court rules that even though Punjabi Indians are considered “Caucasian” according to science they are not “white” based on a “common understanding” and not eligible for naturalization and citizenship.**

**Bhagat Singh Thind, a Sikh from Punjab in India who identifies as an Aryan, and who anthropologists classify as “Caucasian”, brings his case for naturalized citizenship to the US Supreme Court. Anthropologists agree that he is Indo-European where people from northwestern Indian states and Europeans share a common ancestry. He serves in the US Army during World War 1 and earns a PhD in theology and English literature from the University of California Berkeley.**

**Thind receives citizenship in Washington State in 1918 only to have it rescinded four days later, even though he is still in the military. He is granted citizenship in Oregon in 1920, but the federal Bureau of Naturalization opposes it. He argues that according to the Ozawa case equating “white” with “Caucasian” that he is both Caucasian and white. He does not challenge the racial hierarchy and argues he would also be repulsed to marry a woman of the “lower races” just as white Americans would be as evidenced by laws against interracial marriage.**

**The court rules that despite his “purity of Aryan blood”, he is not white in the “common understanding” and not eligible to be naturalized as a US citizen. Justice Sutherland cites a passage in the 1910 Encyclopedia Britannica on Hinduism as his only source to claim admixture with dark-skinned Dravidians. Thind is Sikh, not Hindu, and born in Punjab.**

**The Encyclopedia Britannica of that same year explicitly states that the Aryans of the Punjab state are part of “the white race”. Many Punjabis come to**

California and Oregon in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the men marry Mexican American women. Many of the men are Muslims or Sikhs.

Both Thind and Ozawa look white (in the common understanding) and identify as white, but do not meet the American legal and social construction of whiteness that excludes them from the rights of citizenship, marriage, property ownership, and other civil rights. Ozawa meets the common understanding of being white, but is judged not Caucasian. Thind meets the Caucasian standard of being white, but is judged not to meet the common understanding of whiteness.

Thind had been naturalized, but he and many others of Asian descent become de-naturalized after the Supreme Court decision. For many South Asians, de-naturalization makes them subject to the Alien Land Acts that prohibit them from owning property. Many lose their homes, businesses, properties, livelihoods, and sometimes their lives.

**1923:** The Oregon Legislature passes a new eugenics law after the previous law is found unconstitutional.

**1923:** Oregon passes the Alien Land Law that prevents first generation Asians from owning or leasing land. The Oregon Business Restriction Law allows cities to refuse them business licenses.

1923: Carl Brigham publishes his influential book, *A Study of American Intelligence*. He uses data from the IQ tests of soldiers to assert the intellectual superiority of US born Americans over immigrants and of the “Nordic Race” over everyone else, especially “the American Negroes, the Italians, and the Jews” who “were genetically ineducable”.

Brigham argues against their admission to colleges because, “It would be a waste of good money to try to give these born morons and imbeciles a good Anglo-Saxon education.” He devises college admissions tests including the SAT in 1926 for the College Entrance Examination Board, which later becomes the Educational Testing Service. Brigham later repudiates the validity of IQ testing.

1923: During World War 1, Nebraska bans school instruction in any language except English, targeting the German language, which is widely spoken in many communities. After the war, the Supreme Court overrules the ban in the 1923 Meyer v. Nebraska case citing 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment protections.

1924: The Snyder Act grants citizenship to Native Americans. Not all Native people want citizenship, but the law does not deny tribal sovereignty or require a renunciation of tribal membership as a condition of accepting US citizenship as

previous initiatives had.

**1924:** Kathryn Jones Harrison is born in Corvallis the same year as the Snyder Act (above). Her mother is of the Eyak people and her father is Mollala. She is orphaned at age 10 when her parents die in a flu epidemic. She lives in an abusive foster home for four years before escaping to the Chemawa Indian School where her father was valedictorian. She is trained to be a servant before running away prior to graduation. She marries and works as a migrant farmworker while raising 10 children.

By age 50, she earns a degree in nursing from Lane Community College and works as a nurse in Lincoln City. In 1954, her tribe is terminated. She receives a check for \$35 but loses health care and education services. She is elected to the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians and is instrumental in the restoration of federal recognition to the tribe in 1983. She and her children testify to the US Congress in 1976 and 1983.

She also assists in efforts to restore federal recognition for the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, her father's tribal home. She serves on the Grand Ronde Tribal Council from 1983 until 2001. She is a key figure in establishing the Spirit Mountain Casino in 1995 and the Spirit Mountain Community Fund in 1997, which as of 2021 has donated over \$85 million to nonprofit organizations in 11 Oregon counties.

In 2021, the Corvallis School District renames Jaguar (formerly Jefferson) Elementary School as Kathryn Jones Harrison Elementary in her honor. She has the rare distinction of having a school named after her while she is still living.

1924: The Oriental Exclusion Act prohibits immigration from Asia including foreign-born wives and children of US citizens of Asian ancestry. The Johnson Reed Act establishes quotas for immigration based on national origin and eliminates "Far East" immigration. The Nobel Prize winning author Rabindranath Tagore says, "Jesus could not get into America, because, first of all, he would not have the necessary money, and secondly he would be an Asiatic."

1924: The US establishes the Border Patrol to limit immigration from México, especially Chinese migrants entering from México.

1925: Diphtheria anti-toxin is delivered by dog sled to Nome, Alaska from Fairbanks to prevent an epidemic. The Iditarod dog sled race commemorates this event.

**1926:** Oregon repeals its Exclusion Law, which prohibits African Americans from the state. Beatrice Morrow Cannady (see 1914) sponsors a referendum to



repeal the clause from the Oregon Constitution. She is an editor of *The Advocate*, the state's largest African American newspaper. She is co-founder and vice-president of the Portland Chapter of the NAACP. She is the first African American woman in Oregon to graduate from law school and becomes the first to practice law. She is also the first to run for the state House of Representatives in Oregon. She works to integrate school districts.

**1926:** Carrie Halsell becomes the first African American graduate of what is now Oregon State University. She is not allowed to live on campus in a residence hall. Now, a residence hall at OSU bears her name.

**1926:** *The Statesman Journal* in 1926 writes, "The Indians had a large village where Salem now stands, before the occupation of the country by white settlers, calling their village 'Chemeketa, our old home'. Their burying ground was within the present boundaries of Wilson Avenue, Salem's public park."

Wilson State Park is the site of the Oregon State Capitol Building. Our state Capitol Building with the golden pioneer on top may be standing on a Native burial ground.

**1926:** 17 Oregon counties operate poor farms for people in poverty. Conditions are intentionally harsh to ensure only the neediest will go there. Poor farms begin to phase out after World War 2 as people increasingly disperse into specialized institutions. There is no statewide supervision as with other institutions. They are under the authority of the county judge.

The Multnomah County Poor Farm, now Edgefield, operates from 1911-1946 and is the largest county-funded relief organization in Oregon. Other counties give cash assistance or contract care with private individuals. The Benton County Poor Farm is in a private home in Corvallis. They are supposed to be self-supporting through agriculture, but most able-bodied workers leave for other work in the summer and the highest population is in the winter, which is a bad time for agriculture. Compassionate care and deterrence become mutually exclusive goals and abysmal conditions predominate.

Most poor farms are on the same site as the public hospital. They are for poor sick people and avoided whenever possible by most everyone. They serve the poor almost exclusively. Public county and city hospitals serve the poor and private hospitals serve the wealthy.

"The expansion of asylums was driven by the incapacity of the US government to generate systemic solutions in the problem of poverty." - John Sutton

**1927:** The Oregon Constitution is amended to remove restrictions on Black and

## Chinese voters.

1927: The US Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of eugenics and forced sterilization of people with disabilities in *Buck v. Bell*. The court sides with “experts” that “the feeble-minded” are a “menace” to society and “sap the strength of the state.” No subsequent ruling has ever overturned this decision. Carrie Buck bears a child after she is raped in foster care. She is sent to an institution for sterilization as an unwed mother.

After the decision and her sterilization, the institution releases Carrie Buck. She marries and works as a homemaker. The relatives of the people she cares for describe her as a capable and helpful person that they trust with their loved ones. She plays the role of Mary, the mother of Jesus, in her church Christmas pageant shortly before she dies in 1983, the year Oregon repeals its sterilization law.

In the decision, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes declares, “Three generations of imbeciles are enough” referring to Carrie, her mother, and her daughter. Carrie’s daughter Vivian is an honor student when she dies of complications from an infectious disease at age eight.

It is estimated that 64,000 people were forcibly sterilized in the US. Many are sterilized with forced consent tied to receiving health care or welfare benefits or in a language they do not understand. Two-thirds are women. Many are sterilized because they do not adhere to the sexual norms of the day. Many are institutionalized for the sole purpose of being sterilized and later released.

Middle and upper class white women are pressured to have more children and to focus on the home rather than work. They are often denied access to birth control, the choice of sterilization, and jobs. Theodore Roosevelt sees white women as soldiers for the race as they risk their lives to birth as many children as possible. He backs a failed constitutional amendment to place marriage and divorce under federal authority to encourage reproduction. Birthing is a public service equivalent to military service and deserving of pensions and tax breaks, which he supports.

Many state fairs have “Better Baby”, “Scientific Baby”, and “Fitter Family” contests where children and families are “scientifically” rated against the norm. They are judged like other livestock at the fair. Babies start at 100 or 1,000 and lose points for everything that is below average. ***The Woman’s Home Companion* magazine co-sponsors the contests, including the one at the Oregon State Fair in Salem.** Children of color are not allowed to enter.

The justification for sterilization shifts from the heritability of conditions by the children (which is unproven) to the capability and morality of the parent (which is

highly subjective). “Sexual delinquency” becomes the most cited reason for involuntary sterilization.

There are institutions for white women “morons” who might “pass” as “normal” and perpetuate “inferior” genes by seducing or being seduced by unknowing men. They have to be “segregated” in institutions. The language and concepts are drawn from racialized US policies.

Sterilization is cheaper than confining people for decades during their reproductive years and it frees them for menial labor.

1927: The US Supreme Court rules in *Lum v. Rice* that a Chinese American student cannot attend a segregated school for white children in her town and must attend a school for “colored children” even though there is not such a school in her community. Asians are considered “colored” in most states and children have to attend segregated “colored” schools.

The *Lum v. Rice* decision holds that excluding a child of Chinese descent from a public high school is allowable and does not violate the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The Supreme Court approves segregation of schools by race. Gong Lum does not challenge segregation per se, but he asserts that his Chinese daughter is wrongly classified as “colored”. His child is required to go to school, but is denied entry to the local “white” school and there is no “colored” school in their community. Chief Justice and former US president William Howard Taft writes the opinion. The 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision effectively overrules *Lum v. Rice*.

1928: 376 US universities teach eugenics as a “progressive” science for improving society. Advocates include people like the presidents of universities like Harvard and Stanford. There are opponents too such as Jane Addams who advocates for women, immigrants, and is a founder of the field of social work. Jane Addams struggles for immigrant rights and support. She is active in the American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born and the American Civil Liberties Union.

1929: The Japanese American Citizens League is formed to advocate for civil rights and civic engagement.

**1929: A Fairview manual notes that more than 300 residents were sterilized.**

**1930s: Institutions such as Fairview that had been built to train, habilitate, and release persons, become places where people go to live for the rest of their lives. Those who have severe forms of disability are seen as custodial, and efforts to teach them are largely abandoned. Those in the institution who are seen as “higher functioning” and “trainable” receive training, but largely to become uncompensated labor to work on the institution’s grounds. Few are**

## **actually released back into the community.**

Conditions at institutions across the US deteriorate further during the Depression. Dehumanizing conditions include lack of privacy, gross overcrowding, restrictions on movement and freedoms, unsanitary conditions, inadequate medical care, fire and safety hazards, improper use of medications, physical and chemical restraints, poor nutrition, lack of staffing, neglect, physical and sexual abuse, involuntary sterilization, and forced unpaid labor.

Between 1930 and 1950, the number of state institutions increase by 50% and the number of people institutionalized more than doubles. The increases are attributable more to an increase in economic distress than prevalence of disabilities in the population. The numbers of people on institutional waiting lists often exceeds the number of people in the institution.

1930s: The US government deports more than 500,000 Mexicans and Mexican-Americans, including many US citizens who have never been to México before. Mexicans and Mexican Americans are 1% of the US population, but 46% of deportations. The deportations are race based and many US citizens are deported. 20% of the Mexican and Mexican American population is expelled. 60% are birthright US citizens. Mexican Americans are deemed “white” when it comes to serving in the military and sometimes voting, but they are segregated and not deemed white in many communities for housing, education, jobs, and public accommodations.

The policy is justified with arguments to prioritize jobs for white workers and to prevent government expenditures for social welfare. The policy deports business owners and professionals who employ many white workers who then lose their jobs. Families who are US citizens must turn to public support when the family wage earner is lost to deportation. In 2005, the state of California apologizes for its role in the deportations.

“The Mexican repatriation of 1929-1935 was the largest involuntary mass migration under American auspices up to that time.” - Walter Nugent

1930s: 44% of Deaf workers lose their jobs during the Depression. People with disabilities are deemed “unemployable”. Sylvia Flexer Bassoff works to include people with disabilities into Works Progress Administration programs. Deaf people argue that they are employable and not disabled. They see themselves as a language group. Schools for the Deaf in the North and West become increasingly racially integrated, but not in the South. Helen Keller advocates for better support for disabled African Americans.

1930: From 1850 to 1930, there are 35 million European and one million Asian

immigrants to the US during a time European American media and politicians fear being “overwhelmed” by Asians.

1930: Nearly 80% of social workers are women and they are paid less than elementary school teachers, who are also poorly paid and almost exclusively women.

1930: The White House Conference on Child Health and Protection issues a Children’s Charter and the Bill of Rights for the Handicapped Child which states:

The handicapped child has the right:

1. To as vigorous a body as human skill can give him.
2. To an education so adapted to his handicap that he can be economically independent and have the chance for the fullest life of which he is capable.
3. To be brought up and educated by those who understand the nature of the burden he has to bear and who consider it a privilege to help him beat it.
4. To grow up in a world which does not set him apart, which looks at him, not with scorn or pity or ridicule - but which welcomes him, exactly as it welcomes every child, which offers him identical privileges and identical responsibilities.
5. To a life which his handicap casts no shadow, but which is full day by day with those things which make it worthwhile, with comradeship, love, work, play, laughter, and tears – a life in which these things bring continually increasing growth, richness, release of energies, joy in achievement.

One of the six key components of “a desirable program” for children with disabilities is sterilization.

1932: A survey of 150 school districts reveals 75% are using IQ testing to place students in academic tracks.

1933-1945: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who uses a wheelchair, is the longest serving US president. At age 39, he contracts polio and suffers paralysis in his legs. In 1938, he helps found the March of Dimes to address polio and his portrait is on the dime for that reason.

1933: The German Nazi Party takes power. In one of their first actions, they destroy the Institut für Sexualwissenschaft (Institute for Sexual Research) and burn its library. It is a leading institute for transgender medicine and advocacy for the civil rights of gay, lesbian, and transgender people. Adolf Hitler calls its founder Magnus Hirschfeld “the most dangerous Jew in Germany”.

“Love is as varied as people are.” - Magnus Hirschfeld

1934: The National Housing Act creates “residential security maps” to rate

neighborhoods and uses “redlining” to discriminate against predominately Black neighborhoods, and some Jewish neighborhoods, for mortgage investment. Redlining promotes segregated housing and segregated neighborhood schools.

1935: The League for the Physically Handicapped stage a nine-day sit-in to protest exclusion from New Deal jobs programs. They successfully gain inclusion in some federal jobs programs.

**1935: Oregon law segregates Mexican descended students and divides “White Mexicans” and those with “Indian blood”.**

**1935-6: 200,000 people move to Oregon and Washington. Most flee the dust bowl in the Midwest as climate refugees from unsustainable agricultural practices.**

1935: The Social Security Act passes. It provides income support to people with disabilities. It will be amended several times over the decades to extend additional assistance. It excludes domestic workers and farmworkers thereby excluding large majorities of African American and Latino American workers. Two-thirds of African Americans are left out of the act. Many white workers are excluded in the attempt to exclude people of color.

The act includes Aid for Dependent Children (AFDC) and aid to the blind. It funds the Public Health Service, Vocational Rehabilitation, and infant and maternal health programs. Congress refuses to add universal health insurance to the act. Many programs are administered by the states and subject to discrimination in their implementation.

Title 19 of the Social Security Act later becomes the basis for Medicaid, which is the major funder for community-based residential and vocational programs and the main health insurance provider for people with disabilities. **It is now known in Oregon as the Oregon Health Plan.**

The prime architect of the Social Security Act is Frances Perkins. She is the longest serving US Secretary of Labor in history and the first woman to be part of a US presidential cabinet and in the line of presidential succession. She works for decades in New York state government before Franklin D. Roosevelt selects her as his Secretary of Labor. She works as a social worker and volunteers at Hull House with Jane Addams (see 1889, 1905, and 1928). She keeps her maiden name when she marries. Her husband is institutionalized several times for mental health concerns.

She witnesses the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, which kills 146 workers. She advocates for women’s right to vote, limiting the workweek for women and children to 54 hours, and workplace safety for women. As Secretary of Labor, she introduces

a federal minimum wage law, regulations on child labor, unemployment insurance, and Social Security, which becomes the cornerstone of much federal support for people with disabilities.

The Great Depression shatters the myth that there is a job for every able-bodied person and poverty is an individual moral failure. Political support for relief for the unemployed and unemployable grows, but still in a context of stimulating the economy. Asset limits are put in place for people receiving assistance to encourage them to spend the money to help stimulate the economy and not save it to build personal assets and a safety net.

“The people are what matter to government, and a government should aim to give all the people under its jurisdiction the best possible life.” - Frances Perkins

1935: The National Labor Relations Act, known as the Wagner Act, secures the right to unionize and collective bargaining. Rates of unionization triple by 1940. Unions bargain for health insurance as a benefit and greatly extend coverage to workers.

1937: Two-thirds of Americans polled support sterilization of “mental defectives”.

**1937: Nan Wood Honeyman becomes the first woman elected to represent Oregon in the US Congress.**

1939: The Nazis in Germany admire the “race-based lawmaking” in the US such as immigration restrictions, segregation and Black Codes, concentration camps, and second-class citizenship or denial of citizenship for Asian, African, Mexican, and Indigenous Americans. Adolf Hitler refers to American author Madison Grant’s *The Passing of the Great Race*, as “my Bible”. The idea of gas chambers to kill “undesirables” is first proposed in California for people with disabilities before the Nazis take up the idea. Hitler admires the US commitment to being a “Nordic-German” state.

As Hitler maneuvers to treat German Jews, disabled, gays and lesbians, and other “undesirables” as the US treats its “undesirables”, many try to flee the violence and repression in Germany. The US, with its restrictive immigration policies, refuses to help and grant them refuge. The US cites the Great Depression and fear of losing jobs as the reason for its anti-Semitic stance.

In 1939, 60% of Americans polled oppose allowing 20,000 German Jewish children to come to the US. The US does little to help refugees from the war. Hundreds of thousands of Jews flee Europe. There are long waitlists for US visas even though the quota for German immigrants is not even half filled. There are 300,000 on waitlists in 1940. In 1941, the waitlists are cancelled.

German law does not allow Jews to leave with more than \$4. US law does not admit

people “likely to become a public charge”. Public charge laws impede the ability to accept refugees to the US.

In 1939, the US Congress refuses asylum to 20,000 Jewish children. The US refuses entry to another ship of 900 refugees and sends it back to Europe where hundreds die in the Nazi death camps. The Nazis even crusade against non-native plants in their gardens.

“The Nazi regime that took power in Germany in 1933 adopted US race law and eugenics as a fundamental platform for their governance, as well as embracing US continental imperialism and ethnic cleansing as the basis for their program of *lebensraum*, which led to death camps for Jews, Roma, communists, and the disabled.”  
- Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

**1940s: Fairview's population continues to grow with more than 1,235 residents and 189 attendants living in a dozen dormitory style cottages. Attendants ask for separate housing from the patients. During the Depression in the 1930s and the War in the 1940s, fiscal resources dry up and institutions have fewer staff with less training. Fairview becomes overcrowded with staff ratios of about 1 staff for 25 residents.**

1940s: The US enters World War 2 and many attendants at public institutions are drafted, leaving a shortage of workers. Institutions address their worker shortage by employing over 3,000 conscientious objectors at 62 institutions. Records of their observations raise public awareness of the conditions at public institutions. During the late 1940s and early 1950s, there is a reawakening of hope and possibility for persons with disabilities. Frustrated and angry over poor living conditions and the lack of community services, parents begin to organize and demand services for their children. The efforts of a few groups of parents scattered across the US leads to a strong national movement.

During World War 2, there are increased job opportunities for people with disabilities due to labor shortages. There are more people with disabilities due to the war and the hastily assembled war industries with their high accident rates. It is more dangerous to work in wartime industries in the US than to serve on the front lines in Europe or the Pacific. Innovators in adaptive equipment work to address the needs of people with disabilities. During World War 1, more miners die in southern West Virginia than US soldiers die in Europe.

**1940s: During World War 2, many Black workers are recruited to work in the shipyards in Portland. Due to housing segregation, most have to live in Vanport, which is a temporary wartime town, built by the shipyard. It becomes Oregon's second largest city during the war years. It has a**



population of 18,000 with 5,000 being African American. It is destroyed by a flood in 1948 and evacuees have to crowd into segregated neighborhoods in Portland or leave.

**Portland's Black residents face segregation, discrimination, and police harassment. Black Portlanders are restricted to a small area that is further reduced by the destruction of 476 houses to build a sports arena and wiping out houses for a hospital that is never built, yet displaces 3,000 people.**

**Oregon's exclusion laws and lack of access keep the Black population low. The first significant increase comes with the railroads in the 1880s. The next significant migration comes with wartime industries in the 1940s. Vanport is, at the time, the nation's largest public housing project. Unions bar Black workers. Issues of inadequate housing and police violence have been major issues for decades.**

**1940: Between 1850 and 1940, people from Sweden are the third largest immigrant group in the US after Canadians and Germans. Swedes largely settle in the Albina district and in Northwest Portland. Albina is later redlined as a primarily African American neighborhood.**

1940: The American Federation of the Physically Handicapped becomes a cross-disability movement for economic and social rights.

1940: The 1940 Alien Registration Act requires every resident alien over age 14 to register and give fingerprints every year. Asians denied naturalized citizenship have to register annually as "aliens", even people who have been in the US for decades. The government uses alien registration lists to round up "enemy aliens" and freeze bank accounts. They have to surrender cameras and short wave radios. Many hide or destroy any connection to their country of origin, including treasured heirlooms, dolls, toys, letters, and books.

1941: The US fills less than half the quotas for visas from Germany and Austria as Jews try to escape Nazi death camps and line up around US embassies.

1942: President Roosevelt issues an executive order to forcibly remove 120,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast to "relocation camps". They are incarcerated until 1945. No Japanese Americans are ever convicted of sabotage, which is the supposed justification for the camps. Most lose their land, homes, and property as they are incarcerated for the duration of the war.

US government reports find in 1941 that there is "no Japanese problem" and people of Japanese descent are overwhelmingly loyal to the US. It finds the first generation immigrants would happily become citizens if US laws allowed it and the second

generation were eager to show their loyalty to US. **4,000 Oregonians of Japanese descent are incarcerated.**

**1942:** The Oregon State Hospital makes national news when nearly 50 residents die after scrambled eggs are prepared with roach poison instead of powdered milk. No one is indicted, but *The Oregonian* and other newspapers begin reporting on the horrendous conditions at state institutions.

**1942-1964:** The Bracero Program brings workers from México to the US, including Oregon. Labor contractors have long brought workers to the US and Oregon. Sometimes the labor contractors are also the employer and they handle paying wages and all the paperwork. Sometimes contractors are paid fees per head then take a fee from the workers' wages. Worker wages have to cover rental fees, transportation fees, and contractor fees. In the 1950s, wages could be \$84 per week, but fees would take \$69 of it. At the end of a seven and a half month season, a family may be lucky to leave with just over \$200 to sustain them for the remaining months of the year.

Contractors set up credit accounts with local stores for workers and take a cut from that too. Some loan money to workers at high interest rates. For some contractors, prostitution, selling drugs, and gambling are also side businesses. Most contractors prefer families since they provide more workers and are thought to be less likely to disrupt or leave the system when they have a family to house and feed.

**Many Tejanos (Mexican American US citizens from Texas) are lured to the Willamette Valley by labor contractors. They are given false promises of nice housing with televisions, hot water, recreational facilities, high wages, and a mild climate. Often at the end of a season, they do not have enough money to return to Texas. Oregon's federally funded irrigation projects and rural electrification programs lead to an agricultural boom.**

As people work in more profitable wartime industries in the 1940s, agriculture faces a labor shortage. The US government creates the Bracero Program to bring farmworkers from México. The program continues for two decades after the war. It is for workers in agriculture and railroads. Only the agriculture part continues after the war. Jamaican workers are also part of the Bracero Program. Many face such discrimination in the Northwest that they are sent to other parts of the country.

**Many Braceros clearly come to the US not just for the income, but also out of a sincere desire to help an ally to win the war. Each Bracero is sent home with a letter of gratitude from the Oregon governor and the dean of Agriculture at Oregon State College.**

The Bracero Program brings 4.6 million mostly Mexican workers to the US between 1942 and 1964. It is supported by US employers and opposed by the United Farmworkers Union. Ending the Bracero Program unites conservatives who want to reduce Mexican immigration and liberals who want to end exploitation of farmworkers.

**Mexican and Mexican American laborers come to Oregon in three main streams in the 1960s. Most come from Texas through New México, Arizona, and California's Central Valley into the Willamette Valley in Oregon. Many continue on to Washington, some stay in Oregon. There is another significant stream of people who come from Texas to Malheur County in eastern Oregon. A relatively small group come from México to Oregon. Many who come from Texas have been in Texas for generations. The 1848 war with México leaves many Mexicans on the US side of the border. In time, they become US citizens. They are not granted equal treatment or status, but legally they are US citizens. Most migrants from Texas to Oregon are Spanish speaking US citizens.**

**Segregation in Texas affects both Black and Latino residents. Kids are not allowed to speak Spanish in schools, even socially among their fellow students, and it is risky to speak Spanish in predominantly Anglo public spaces. They find relatively more freedom and safety in Oregon, but still face discrimination and are largely seen and treated as immigrants and foreigners in Anglo spaces despite most being US citizens for generations.**

**Most are migrants, not immigrants. Many Tejanos become Oregonianos. In the early 1950s, Independence and Woodburn are major destinations in the valley for migrants of Mexican origin. By the end of the 1950s, Woodburn features Spanish language movies and offers driver's license tests in Spanish. Many Spanish speakers come to Woodburn to get their driver's licenses.**

**1942-1945: Up to 3,676 Japanese American Oregonians are detained at the Pacific International Livestock Exposition in Portland leaving their possessions, pets, and livelihoods behind. The site smells of manure and lacks privacy and sanitation. They are later transferred to more permanent camps in Idaho and California.**

**When they are allowed to leave the camps in 1945, the Oregon House passes Joint Memorial No. 9, asking President Roosevelt to "prevent the return of said Japanese aliens and said citizens of Japanese extraction". 70% of the 4,500 detained Oregonians return to Oregon. They lose 75% of the land they owned.**

**"We took whatever we could carry. So much left behind, but the most valuable**

thing I lost was my freedom.” - Teru Watanabe

**1942:** Oregon lawyer Minoru Yasui challenges the legality of the wartime orders by violating the curfew for people of “Japanese ancestry”. He loses his case in the US Supreme Court. His conviction is overturned in 1986. President Barrack Obama awards him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. March 28 is Minoru Yasui Day in Oregon to honor the day he broke curfew and to celebrate his life dedicated to civil and human rights.

Minoru’s father, Masuo Yasui, comes to Oregon as a teenager in 1904 to join his father and brothers working on a railroad crew. He later runs a general store in Hood River with his brothers. In 1941, after Pearl Harbor, the FBI takes and incarcerates him away from his family. His wife and children are held at a different camp. The camps have no privacy for showering or going to the toilet. They have to eat unfamiliar non-Japanese food. They cannot cook for and feed their own families. All Japanese people, even US citizens, who live within 250 miles of the coast, are removed. None are ever convicted of any crime.

Minoru Yasui graduates from the University of Oregon Law School in 1939. He tries to enlist in the US military but is refused nine times because he is Japanese. He is a US citizen of Japanese descent and defies the curfew in Portland, Oregon. He stays out after 8 pm and waits to get arrested. Finally, he has to go to a police station and ask to be arrested. He spends nine months in solitary confinement in the Multnomah County Jail before being sent to a concentration camp. The court agrees that the curfew is illegally applied to US citizens, but rules that Yasui should no longer be considered a US citizen.

**1942:** Gordon Hirabayashi is a Quaker pacifist born in Seattle, Washington. He disobeys the curfew and challenges the constitutionality of the executive order for forced removal of people of “Japanese ancestry”. His case makes it to the US Supreme Court who rules against him. Officials would not transport him so he hitchhikes to Arizona to report for prison. His 1942 conviction is overturned in 1987.

**1942:** Fred Korematsu is a US citizen born in California. He refuses to leave the West Coast exclusion zone citing removal violates his Fifth Amendment rights. His case goes to the US Supreme Court. The four judges in the minority agree in their dissent that Korematsu’s constitutional rights have been violated based upon racial discrimination. The majority opinion delivered by Justice Hugo Black, who was a former KKK member, finds removal is justified by “military necessity”.

In 1984, Korematsu’s conviction is vacated declaring the government misled the court in its “military necessity” argument. In 2011, the US Department of Justice issues an

“admission of error” in the Korematsu case and admits that it misled the court. Both are admissions of misconduct influencing the decision but neither action invalidates the precedent set by the case.

In 2015, declassified documents show that Japanese incarceration was for “public morale” not “military necessity” as previously claimed. In the 2018 *Trump v. Hawaii* case, the US Supreme Court repudiates the Korematsu decision as precedent without explicitly overturning it. Chief Justice John Roberts writes for the majority, “The forcible relocation of US citizens to concentration camps, solely and explicitly on the basis of race, is objectively unlawful and outside the scope of presidential authority.”

1942-1947: 3,000 conscientious objectors work in 62 state institutions. Many document conditions in words and images and make them public, such as in a 1946 article published in *Life Magazine*. Conscientious objectors found the National Mental Health Association in 1946.

**1942-1948: Vanport is built as the nation’s largest wartime housing development. It eventually houses 42,000 people and becomes Oregon’s second largest community. It is largely segregated, but has integrated schools. After the war, many jobs left and the residents with them. Because the African American residents are denied housing in Portland, many stay in Vanport until it is destroyed by a flood in 1948.**

**After the Vanport flood, Portland desegregates schools, but not housing, so neighborhood schools remain de facto, if not de jure, segregated. Even as white homeowners begin to gentrify predominantly Black neighborhoods, most white parents do not enroll their children in the neighborhood schools.**

1943: A Swedish government committee first articulates the concept of “normalization” for people with intellectual disabilities. This concept, meaning people with disabilities having regular patterns and conditions of life in the community, would be developed in Scandinavia by Bengt Nirje and parent associations over the next decades and take hold in the US by the early 1970s.

**1943: 500 Mexican contract workers in Grants Pass become sick with food poisoning from substandard food.**

1943: The Magnuson Act repeals the Chinese Exclusion Act and replaces it with immigration quotas and eligibility for citizenship for some Chinese people living in the US, but continues the ban on owning property and businesses. The Japanese government uses the Chinese Exclusion Act as a reason why China should ally with Japan in the war, leading the US to repeal the act.

1944: Mitsuye Endo’s case in December of 1944 leads to a US Supreme Court

decision that “citizens who are concededly loyal” can no longer be held in War Relocation Authority camps. Her victory leads to the closure of the concentration camps for Japanese Americans. President Roosevelt rescinds the order and the camps close except, Tule Lake Segregation Center in California where some who refuse military service and are not conceded to be “loyal” continue to be held. Many men had been freed from the camps earlier to serve in the US military. These veterans encounter violence and harassment upon their return.

Japanese Americans are drafted in 1944. They serve in segregated units and are sent to fight Germany in Europe. The camps close in March of 1946. Internees are encouraged to go east and not return to the West Coast. The government policy is to discourage concentrated communities of Japanese Americans. Many face housing discrimination in new communities. Most do return to the West Coast where they encounter harassment, vandalized property, stolen goods, and discrimination in housing and jobs. The removal of the Japanese in the US is a grab for land, wealth, and resources. Many Japanese lose their homes, farms, and businesses. During the war years, Japanese Americans lose 75% of the land they owned.

1944: President Franklin Delano Roosevelt calls for the right to a job, housing, medical care, and education. It becomes part of the framework for the UN Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

1944: The US Congress passes the GI Bill. It provides a free four-year college education, zero down low interest loans for houses and businesses, and a “readjustment benefit” of weekly payments up to a year. It mostly benefits white men. Women and people of color are prohibited from most military combat roles. The few men of color who qualify face discrimination in education, jobs, and housing that impede their ability to use the benefits.

1946: Irene Morgan refuses to give up her seat in the Black section of an overcrowded interstate bus to a white rider when the white section is full. In 1946, the Supreme Court rules that segregation on interstate buses is unconstitutional. Many states do not enforce the ruling on interstate travel and it does not apply to travel within a state. Rosa Parks and the 381-day Montgomery Bus Boycott successfully challenge intrastate busing. The Freedom Rides challenge the lack of enforcement of desegregation in interstate busing.

1946: Hawaii and Puerto Rico are on the United Nations list for decolonization and self-determination for independence.

**1948: Oregon realtors follow the National Realtors Code, which states, “a realtor shall never introduce into a neighborhood members of any race or nationality whose presence will be detrimental to property values.”**

**1948: Kam Wah Chung closes in John Day.** Kam Wah Chung (Golden Flower of Prosperity) in John Day, Oregon is a store that serves both the Chinese and non-Chinese community. It serves as a grocery store, import business, temple, post office, library, labor contractor, social club, dormitory, automobile dealership, pharmacy, and doctor's office. The company is a partnership between entrepreneur Lung On and herbal doctor Ing Hay who is a critical medical practitioner in the area providing Chinese medicine to Chinese and non-Chinese patients.

Ing Hay, also known as Doc Hay, has patients from Alaska to Oklahoma. He successfully treats patients during the flu pandemic of 1918. He has a wife and two children in China with whom he is never able to reunite due to US laws. He practices pulseology and Buddhist rituals. Ing Hay is known for his successful treatments and generosity, often not charging or not cashing checks from people especially during the Great Depression.

Lung On is an educated Chinese classicist whose fluency in English and Chinese allows him to serve as interpreter and mediator between the Chinese and English speaking communities. He opens the first automobile dealership in Oregon east of the Cascades. His shop is frequented by children to whom he gives gifts of free candy.

Sylvester Pennoyer, known to his critics as Sylpester Annoyer, is elected governor of Oregon on a platform of expelling Chinese residents in 1886 with a slogan of "Keep the Mongolians Out!" A Chinese merchant founds Kam Wah Chung in 1871 and sells it to Ing Hay and Lung On in 1887. The Kam Wah Chung store officially reopens in 1888. It is a successful business until Lung On dies in 1940 and Ing Hay closes it due to his declining health in 1948.

**1948:** The United Nations General Assembly adopts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration contains 30 articles of "basic rights and foundational freedoms". Disability is not specifically called out, but falls under "or any other status." The declaration is translated into 524 languages, more than any document in history. December 10 is Human Rights Day to commemorate its adoption.

**1948:** The court strikes down the use of discriminatory covenants in housing transactions that are used primarily to exclude African American homebuyers.

**1949: Oregon's Fair Employment Practices Commission is created.**

**1949:** The United Cerebral Palsy Association is founded.

**1949:** Over 5,000 lobotomies are performed in the US. Egas Moniz, the inventor of the lobotomy, wins the Nobel Prize for medicine. Walter Jackson Freeman, co-

founder and president of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, nominates him. After time at St. Elizabeths Hospital (see 1855 and 1903) as laboratory director, Freeman invents the icepick lobotomy and goes on to perform over 3,000 lobotomies in 23 states on people as young as four years old in his traveling lobotomobile. He uses no anesthetic, no gloves, and has no surgical training or license. 15% of patients die from the procedure.

1949: When Mao Zedong and the Communist Party come to power in China, the Chinese become targets of US policies. The US considers interning Chinese Americans as they did the Japanese. People fleeing communism have priority in US immigration laws. During the Chinese civil war between Nationalists and Communists, many talented Chinese students are stranded in the US. To prevent their return and forcing them to serve Communist interests, the US Congress allows them to stay in the US. Their ranks include future Nobel Prize winners.

**1950s: The resident population at Fairview peaks at around 3,000 with a waiting list for entry. The Oregon State Hospital houses 5,000 people. Pressure grows for more institutions. Dammasch and Columbia Park Hospitals are built and Eastern Oregon State Hospital is split into two institutions, one for people with intellectual disabilities and one for people with psychiatric illnesses.**

Physicians usually run institutions and people live in wards or nursing units. Physicians use a number of techniques to deal with overcrowded and understaffed institutions, including heavy use of psychiatric medications, lobotomies, and physical restraints to pacify people to accept intolerable conditions. Institutional residents across the US are used, involuntarily, in medical research to test new medicines, vaccines, surgeries, and medical procedures.

**1950s: The Willamette River is the most polluted river in the Northwest and one of the most polluted rivers in the US. Raw sewage and waste from pulp and paper mills, food processors, agriculture, and industries is dumped into the river. After successful cleanup efforts, the river is now a source of drinking water for Corvallis and other communities.**

1950s: 11 million of 13 million homes built in the US are built in the suburbs. Most suburbs are restricted to white homeowners only.

**1950: Portland voters reject a ballot measure to end housing discrimination and fund affordable housing.**

**1950: The US Census reveals that Oregon has a majority urban population for the first time. Urbanization in the US increases from 1900 to 1940 and predominates after World War 2. Currently 83% of the US population lives in**



urban areas. In 1790, at the country's founding 5% of the population live in cities. This grows to 25% by 1870, 50% by 1920, 67% in 1960s, and 80% in the 2000s. Industrialization drives urbanization. Increasingly, new arrivals to the country and migrants from rural areas of the US go to the cities to find work.

North America is the most urbanized continent in the world. The West is the most urbanized region of the US with 90% of the population living in cities. The Northeast was the first region of the US to become a majority urban population. The South was the last region to become a majority urban population in the 1950s. Maine is the least urbanized state at 39% and California is the most urbanized state at 95%. Oregon reflects the US average by being about 81% urban, but reflects the South in that it does not become a majority urban state until the 1950s.

1950: Pauli Murray publishes *States' Laws on Race and Color*. Thurgood Marshall calls it the "bible" of the civil rights movement's legal strategy. Murray pioneers interpreting the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to challenge race and gender discrimination. Thurgood Marshall uses this strategy successfully in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision challenging racial discrimination. Ruth Bader Ginsburg uses it successfully in the 1971 *Reed v. Reed* Supreme Court decision. It is the first time the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment is used to challenge sex discrimination. Thurgood Marshall later becomes the first African American Supreme Court justice. Ruth Bader Ginsburg later becomes the first Jewish woman to serve as a Supreme Court justice.

Pauli Murray's biographer refers to them as transgender and writes, "The term transgender did not exist and there was no social movement to support or help to make sense of the trans experience. Murray's papers helped me to understand how [their] struggle with gender identity shaped [their] life as a civil rights pioneer, legal scholar, and feminist."

Pauli Murray adopts Gandhian nonviolence and is arrested in 1940 for sitting in the "white" section of a bus in Virginia. They go on to law school at Howard University where they are first in their class. When they apply for Harvard University, Harvard rejects Murray because the university does not accept women. Murray responds writing, "I would gladly change my sex to meet your requirements, but since the way to such change has not been revealed to me, I have no recourse but to appeal to you to change your minds." Murray becomes the first African American to receive a Doctor of Juridical Science degree from Yale Law School.

1950: Pearl S. Buck writes, *The Child Who Never Grew*, about her daughter Carol who experiences disabilities from phenylketonuria or PKU which is now routinely screened for in newborns. Pearl S. Buck and Toni Morrison are the only writers to

win both the Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize for literature.

Novelist Toni Morrison's only published short story, *Recitatif*, explores the intersection of race, disability, and institutionalization. In Pearl Buck's most famous novel, *The Good Earth*, the protagonist has a daughter with an intellectual disability. Pearl S. Buck serves as a national spokesperson for The Arc. She dies in 1973. Her daughter, Carol, dies in 1992. Pearl Buck is also known as Sai Zhenzhu. She lived most of her early life in China.

**Pearl Buck Center, a DD service provider in Lane County, is named in her honor.**

1950: Parents across the nation meet to form the National Association of Parents and Friends of Mentally Retarded Children, renamed in 1952 the National Association for Retarded Children, in 1974 the National Association for Retarded Citizens, and in 1992, as it is currently known, The Arc of the United States.

1950: There are 500,000 people living in mental health institutions in the US.

“Reformatories, prisons, hospitals, asylums – all these, it was claimed, would solve the intensifying social problems induced by rise in population, urbanization, and industrialization.” - Roy Porter

1950: Global life expectancy is below age 50. It will begin to increase dramatically with the widespread use of vaccines, sanitation, and public health measures for the safety of food and water.

1951: Over 20,000 lobotomies have been performed in the US.

**1951: Oregon repeals its ban on interracial marriages.**

1952: The Immigration and Nationality Act allows people of all nationalities to become naturalized citizens. It reaffirms quotas and preferences. **Hundreds of Oregon Issei, Japanese immigrants, apply for citizenship.** The 1952 McCarran-Walter Act ends the Asiatic Barred Zone and Asian exclusion in immigration. It gives a minimum quota of 100 immigrants based on ethnicity not on nationality. This means that ethnic Chinese people who are citizens of Jamaica, Peru, or France all count towards China's quota. Countries like India receive a quota of 100. The act still favors European immigration, but it abolishes white only naturalized citizenship, allows for preferences for skilled workers, and allows relatives of US citizens to become citizens.

People with professional skills come from all over the world, even though most immigrants have the credentials from education in their home countries invalidated in

the US, which usually does not accept the credentials from law schools and medical schools in other countries. At the end of US occupation of Japan in 1952, Japanese Americans can finally become naturalized US citizens along with Chinese, South Asian, and other groups not considered “white” in US law. Even after US occupation of Japan ends, a large US military base and presence remains. The US has about 800 military bases in over 80 countries around the world that helps to contribute a steady stream of spouses and children from around the world becoming US citizens.

1952: The worst polio epidemic in US history hits. There are 58,000 cases, 3,000 people die, and over 2,000 people are left with permanent disabilities in one year. Polio survivors are one of the largest disability groups in the US and are important in the emerging disability rights movement. By 1977, polio disables 254,000 people in the US.

World Polio Day is commemorated on October 24 to mark Jonas Salk’s birthday. In 1955, Salk’s discovery of the polio vaccine is announced. He chooses not to patent the vaccine or seek any profit to maximize global distribution. In less than 25 years, community transmission of polio is eradicated in the US. Polio epidemics begin in the US around 1900.

1953: Gay men and lesbians are banned from federal employment until 1975.

1953: Edgar Doll introduces the Vineland Social Maturity Scale to measure adaptive behavior. It has nine domains to measure skills in communication, locomotion, occupation, self-direction, socialization, and self-help (general, dressing, and eating). Adaptive behavior testing in conjunction with IQ testing and clinical diagnoses come to define the criteria for “mental deficiency” then “mental retardation” then “intellectual and developmental disabilities”.

1953: Los Angeles County begins an in-home care program for people with polio.

1953: Movie and TV star Dale Evans publishes, *Angel Unaware*, about her only daughter Robin who is born with trisomy 21 in 1950. It is released in March and by May; it is the bestselling non-fiction book in the US. Robin’s parents, Dale Evans and Roy Rogers, refuse to send her to an institution. Robin dies of Mumps before vaccination becomes widely available in the 1960s.

In the book, the doctor says, “Take her home and love her.” This would increasingly be the advice given to parents in coming decades. Proceeds from the book benefit the National Association for Retarded Children (now The Arc) and allows them to hire an executive director. The book makes three basic points that would have great impact:

1. Parents should just trust.

2. Parents should just love.
3. All people matter and all children belong with their families.

Parents of children with trisomy 21 and other disabilities increasingly feel comfortable bringing their children to public events featuring Dale Evans and Roy Rogers and challenging the societal shame and guilt, they had felt. As parents meet and organize, a parent movement begins.

Famous people acknowledging their children with disabilities and the post war reaction to the Nazis in Germany help begin to dispel some of the dangerous ideas of eugenics.

**1953: Oregon's Civil Rights Bill, the Public Accommodations Bill, passes to ban discrimination in public places based on race, religion, color, and national origin. A 1973 amendment to the bill expands protections based on sex and marital status. Oregon is the last West Coast state to pass a basic civil rights bill. It is first proposed in Oregon in 1919.**

**Public accommodations include hotels, restaurants, theaters, stores, libraries, and museums. When African Americans traveled to Oregon for work or other reasons, they often had to sleep in churches, taverns, railcars, or family homes since public accommodations were not available to them.**

**1953: Under Oregon's "Psychopathic Offender" law, people are sent to mental institutions to be "cured" of homosexuality.**

1954: The US Supreme Court rules in Brown v. Board of Education "separate facilities are inherently unequal." This principle influences later legislation for people with disabilities. The Brown v. Board of Education case is part of a larger desegregation strategy. Some schools stay closed for up to five years rather than allow racial integration. Some states amend their state constitutions to remove the right to a public education. The case represents a shift in civil rights legal strategy from seeking full funding and equality for separate institutions to full integration of shared institutions.

Little Rock, Arkansas closes its high school rather than integrate. Other communities begin programs of busing Black students to white schools to achieve school integration without having to address the housing segregation that also contributes to segregated neighborhood schools. Black neighborhood schools are closed and students bused to predominantly white schools. Many Black teachers in predominantly Black schools lose their jobs as Black students shift to predominantly white schools, but Black teachers do not.

Most children with developmental disabilities are segregated in residential "schools"

within state institutions. The due process interpretation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment used in *Brown v. Board* would be used to desegregate schools for children with disabilities beginning in the 1970s. Eunice Kennedy Shriver upon touring these institutions in 1964 writes, “I have seen sights that will haunt me all my life. If I had not seen them myself, I would never have believed that such conditions could exist in modern America.”

**1954: The Arc of Oregon forms to advocate for Oregonians with intellectual disabilities.**

**1954: Congress unilaterally terminates 109 tribes and breaches treaty obligations with 14 termination laws. Six of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon are terminated, or “freed from all federal supervision and control”. Klamath, Grande Ronde, and Siletz reservations are dissolved and tribal lands are sold, largely to timber interests. All regain federal recognition by the 1980s and have some land partially restored.**

**Termination leads to a loss of another 1.4 million acres of tribal land. Tribal and allotment lands are sold off. Oregon politicians such as US Senator Guy Cordon and Governor Douglas McKay support termination. Indian Commissioner Cato Sells (with an apt last name) sees selling off Native land as “the beginning of the end of the Indian problem”. The Klamath are terminated as a tribe in the 1950s and their successful timber operations are taken over by private interests who profit from the postwar housing boom.**

Dillon Myer, who was director of the War Relocation Authority in charge of wrongfully incarcerating Japanese Americans during the war, becomes the director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs after the war. He turns his attention to terminating tribes and tribal rights guaranteed under treaty. With his vast knowledge and experience in the Soil Conservation Service within the Department of Agriculture, he is appointed to lead the War Relocation Authority after the previous director resigns in opposition to the mass incarceration of innocent Japanese Americans.

Myer turns his attention to termination with such fervor that Harold Ickes, former Secretary of the Interior, calls him “a Hitler and Mussolini rolled into one.” Similar to his work with the Japanese, he works to take Indigenous people off their lands so it can be made available for white land speculators and Indigenous people are relocated to major cities where they can become low wage workers for US businesses. This includes ending educational and health services and putting them under the jurisdiction of state law enforcement. Myer opposes the use of the word “concentration camps” to describe the concentration camps he implements for Japanese Americans and opposes redress for the wrongs committed.

Myer sees the concentration camps as “Americanizing projects” to speed assimilation with English language schools, work programs, and rehabilitative activities.

Poorhouses, Indian residential schools, Japanese internment camps, and sheltered workshops for people with disabilities all employ simulated work with little to no pay in order to encourage a work ethic.

The overt message of termination is that the government is liberating Native Americans of burdensome government restrictions and regulations to promote individual self-determination and choice similar to allotment (see 1887). The covert message is that the government is liberating them from their lands, services, and rights. Termination means abrogating treaties, selling tribal land, and ending assistance to the people. Mining and timber interests enthusiastically push for termination.

**People lose services from the Indian Health Service and lose their homes to medical debt. They lose traditional hunting and fishing rights. The city of Siletz in Oregon evicts tribal elders from their homes. Later in the 1980s, the city would vote to return some land to the Siletz tribe.**

**In the 1960s, the Indian Health Service improves by moving from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Anti-poverty programs are implemented. Education is improved. All these are unavailable to terminated tribes, like those in Oregon. Former BIA Commissioner John Collier calls termination “social genocide”.**

**1954: John Hudson, the last known native speaker of a Kalapuyan language, dies. The language of exchange, Chinuk Wawa, is still spoken today. It is not uncommon for Chinuk Wawa to appear untranslated (and presumably understood by the readers) in Oregon newspapers into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.**

**The land of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde is called Chacháluu, which means, “burnt timber place”. When the people first move there, the languages of the Northern, Central, and Southern Kalapuya; Clackamas, Upper Chinook, Molala, Upper Umpqua, Takelma, and Shasta are all spoken languages. The Willamette Valley is one of the most linguistically diverse regions on earth before colonization. The First People speak many distinct languages from several unrelated language families.**

**1954: Operation Wetback rounds up and deports two million Mexican immigrants and Mexican descended US citizens. Many US citizens of Mexican descent are illegally deported with little recourse to the courts. Mexican nationals are encouraged to come through the Bracero Program during the war and the years afterwards, and then are unceremoniously deported.**

The US has a long history of wanting cheap laborers to come and generate wealth for others then leave the country and leave behind the wealth they create. The US has recruited and expelled tens of millions of workers in our history. The US has received more new arrivals than any other country over the last 200 years, nearly 80 million people. It has also deported more people than any other country in the last 150 years, over 55 million people.

**1955: For the first time, Oregon teacher certification requires at least a four-year college degree.**

1956: A disability program is added to Social Security for people over age 50. Later age restrictions are removed.

**1957: The Dalles Dam destroys Celilo Falls (Wyam) and the village of Celilo. It is thought to be Oregon's oldest continuously inhabited site for over 15,000 years. Lewis and Clark estimate 10,000 people live there when they arrive. It is a gathering site for fishing and trading. 15 to 20 million salmon pass through the falls each year. It is the center of a vast trade network that stretches from Alaska to México and across the Great Plains. The Wishram live on the north bank and the Wasco live on the south bank. A 2008 survey reveals the falls remain intact beneath the artificial lake should the dam ever be removed.**

**1957: The Oregon Fair Housing Act passes. It bars discrimination against people buying or renting homes by property owners who receive public funding.**

1957: President Eisenhower honors Hugo Deffner with the Handicapped Citizen of the Year Award for his work making Oklahoma City architecturally accessible. Mr. Deffner has to be lifted onto the inaccessible stage by two soldiers to receive his award.

1957: Like the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision barring segregation of African Americans, the 1957 Hernandez et al v. Driscoll Independent School System Supreme Court decision bars segregation of Latino children in schools.

1957: South Carolina Senator, Strom Thurmond filibusters the 1957 Civil Rights Act. It is the longest individual filibuster in US history at 24 hours and 18 minutes. **He breaks the record of Oregon Senator Wayne Morse who filibusters an offshore oil-leasing bill in 1953 for 22 hours and 26 minutes.**

**1958: The Arc of Benton County is founded to advocate for people with developmental disabilities in Benton County. They are early leaders in developing community-based services. The first residential, vocational, recreational, and educational programs for people with developmental**

disabilities in Benton County arise out of The Arc.

**1958:** The Oregon Constitution is amended to authorize counties to adopt “home rule” charters which allow counties the right to determine how county government is organized, what powers it should be granted, and what limits and requirements should be placed on county business. It allows counties to address local concerns without waiting for the state legislature to act.

**1959:** Mid-Columbia Home in The Dalles is converted from a tuberculosis hospital to provide long-term care for older people with intellectual disabilities. It is renamed Columbia Park State Home in 1961, then Columbia Park Hospital and Training Center in 1965.

**1959:** The Arc of Benton County opens a school for children with developmental disabilities in a local church. The school operates until 1969 when House Bill 1217 allows public schools to serve children without restrictions.

**1959:** Oregon finally ratifies the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution that prohibits denying people the right to vote based on “race, color, or previous condition of servitude”. It is ratified by the US in 1870.

**1960:** The National Association for Down Syndrome forms. It is originally named the Mongoloid Development Council (MDC). In 1972, it changes to the National Association for Down’s Syndrome. In the 1980s, the “s” is dropped. Down syndrome is named for John Langdon Down who describes the syndrome in 1866 and calls it “mongolism”. Jerome Lejeune discovers the chromosomal basis for the syndrome in 1959.

Down syndrome replaces the term “mongolism” in the 1960s and 1970s. The World Health Organization drops the use of the term “mongolism” at the request of the Mongolian People’s Republic in 1965. The term is scientifically and culturally inappropriate. Down syndrome is also known as trisomy 21.

In 1961, genetic experts in a joint letter to the medical journal, *The Lancet*, call to replace the term “mongolism” with “Langdon Down Anomaly”, “Down’s Syndrome or Anomaly”, “Congenital Acromicria”, or “Trisomy 21 Anomaly”.

“We urge, therefore, that the expressions which imply a racial aspect of the condition be no longer used.” - *The Lancet*

**1960:** Maurine Neuberger is the first and, so far, only woman elected to represent Oregon in the US Senate.



**1960: According to the 1960 census, Oregon's population is 95% white. After the war with Vietnam, refugees come to Oregon and much of the West Coast from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, which are devastated by war with the US. Cambodia and Laos declare neutrality, but are still bombed by the US.**

**Many support the losing side, the US side, and are forced to leave. US policy is similar to after Japanese internment and the termination of tribes in discouraging concentrated populations and dispersing people throughout the US.**

**1961: Dammasch State Hospital opens.**

**1961: The Mental Health Division is created within the Board of Control.**

1962: Native Americans have the right to vote in all 50 states. Voter suppression continues.

1962: James Meredith attends the University of Mississippi after suing in the courts for access. Edward Roberts, a polio survivor, sues for access to the University of California Berkeley. His high school principal initially withholds his high school diploma because he did not complete his gym requirement. He uses a wheelchair and an iron lung. He is also initially denied financial aid because the California Department of Rehabilitation deem him "unemployable". Despite these obstacles, Ed Roberts graduates and becomes the director of the California Department of Rehabilitation in 1975.

1963: President Kennedy calls for services to be provided in communities for people who are or might be institutionalized. Congress authorizes federal grants for community mental health centers for children and adults, research centers, and university-affiliated training facilities only a few weeks before Kennedy's assassination.

President Kennedy's sister, Rosemary, is diagnosed with a disability. She undergoes a lobotomy in 1941 at the age of 23, which leaves her incapacitated. She lives in an institution for people with developmental disabilities in Wisconsin for many years. Rosemary's sister Eunice is a founder of Special Olympics and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Eunice urges her brother, the president, to establish the President's Panel on Mental Retardation. Its 97 recommendations form the basis for a community-based care system.

Until the 1960s, there is negligible federal funding to support people with developmental disabilities. Most institutions are funded and run at the state level. Counties provide some relief, but no community-based services. Changing the delivery system encounters opposition to federal impositions upon "state's rights". The panel recommends that services and supports should be provided "as close as

possible” in community and family settings rather than large remote institutions.

1963: The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers the “I Have a Dream” speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom 100 years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

**1963: Many farmworkers die of treatable illnesses that doctors will not treat if the patients cannot pay. In 1963, the Migrant Health Act passes to fund the Oregon Migrant Health Project.**

1964: The US Congress passes the Civil Rights Act to finally put into law protections promised by the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1868. Though it initially does not extend protections to people with disabilities, it lays the framework for future civil rights legislation to include people with disabilities, most notably the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Hubert Humphrey, whose granddaughter has an intellectual disability, tries unsuccessfully to include disability as a protected class to the Civil Rights Act in 1972. The longest filibuster in US history, 54 days, is against the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The 1964 Civil Rights Act includes protections against discrimination based race, color, sex, religion, and national origin.

1964: The 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US constitution prohibits poll taxes in federal elections.

**1964: The Altrusa Club joins with The Arc of Benton County to establish a separate nonprofit corporation and Open Door Inc. (later Cornerstone Associates) is born. This is The Arc of Benton County’s first “spin off of service.”**

**1964: The William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge is established as the first National Wildlife Refuge west of the Mississippi River. The refuge is a native unplowed bottomland grassland that is wintering habitat for dusky Canada geese. It is the largest remaining tract of native Willamette Valley wet prairie.**

**It is named for photographer and conservationist William Lovell Finley. He is the second president of the Oregon Audubon Society. His uncle, William Asa Finley, is the first president of Corvallis College (now Oregon State University).**

1965: The Autism Society of America is founded by parents who question the “expert” opinion that autism is caused by poor parenting.

1965-1980: The institutionalized population of the US falls by 60%. Lengths of stay reduce dramatically. For the I/DD population, community-based services expand. For the deinstitutionalized population with mental and emotional disabilities there is increased incarceration in jails and prisons. Over half of jail and prison inmates have

mental health diagnoses.

**1965: Eastern Oregon Training Center begins serving people with developmental disabilities. In 1985, it is reorganized into two institutions, Eastern Oregon Psychiatric Center for people with mental illnesses and Eastern Oregon Training Center for people with developmental disabilities.**

**1965: A services coordination model at the county level is envisioned in the state's comprehensive plan for services to people with intellectual disabilities. It is the first document in Oregon that expresses the need for community services from "womb to tomb" and for the inclusion of all children into the public school system.**

1965: The US Congress establishes the Medicare and Medicaid programs within the Social Security Act. They provide health care coverage to many people with disabilities and Medicaid later becomes a cornerstone for community-based alternatives to institutional care.

Before Medicare, over half of US hospitals are segregated by race. By 1967, 95% of hospitals are desegregated. Between 1965 and 1972, infant mortality drops by one-third. In many communities and among African American communities, infant mortality is cut in half. Life expectancy in the US increases significantly.

1965: The Immigration and Nationality Act or Hart-Cellar Act abolishes the immigration quotas of the 1924 National Origins Act and the 1952 McCarran-Walter Act. It ends the National Origins Formula that discriminates against immigrants from southern and eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa. The quotas allow 150,000 Europeans, 3,000 Asians, and 1,400 Africans per year. Immigration restrictions on Asians are based on ethnicity, not national origin, like other immigrants. A person of Chinese descent from Canada or the UK counts towards the quota for China not Canada or the UK.

The new quotas are global rather than by country or ethnicity. 75% is for family reunification (thought to be primarily Europeans), 20% employment (projected to be Europeans), and 5% for refugees (mostly from US wars and interventions in foreign countries). It is conceived and hoped by the framers of the act that it would continue to favor European immigration, and yet be perceived as less discriminatory and blatant in achieving that end.

Seeing that of the top 10 countries for immigration to the US, all but one, México, are European or European descended countries (i.e. white), the framers of the 1965 Immigration Act favor family reunification assuming the racial makeup of immigration will continue to be white as those immigrants bring family to the US.

Immigration is at an historic low in the 1960s. The act caps each country at 20,000 entrants, which is severely inadequate for the needs of Mexican immigrants or US businesses. US employers are no longer able to obtain needed workers legally.

The 1965 immigration law gives preference to family reunification and professional class status. It establishes a global cap on immigration rather than national quotas. It introduces new restrictions on immigration in the Western Hemisphere that disadvantage Latin Americans and lead to backlogs and undocumented immigration.

The cap placed on Latin American immigration is lower than what actual immigration is at the time. México had been exempt from the quota system before 1965. It does not take into account how those leaving the US offset those coming to the US. Net migration to the US has been negative since the late 1990s. More people leave than come.

The act's sponsor Emanuel Celler says, "There is no danger whatsoever of an influx from the countries of Asia and Africa."

The cold war demands talents and skills beyond what the US born workforce can provide. Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy all seek reform to address the issue, but meet with opposition. Some piecemeal legislation passes, but no comprehensive reform. The European quotas are going unfilled and workers with skills and education from other parts of the world are excluded. Asian quotas are maxed while educated professionals wait for openings.

The US loses many US educated and raised Asian people who choose to return, especially to Japan and China, where they can work in their chosen fields instead of the limited opportunities offered in the US. Often they have few opportunities in the US besides farm work despite their college degrees.

Highly skilled students from Asia come to the US for school and are in demand for jobs but they run into legal hurdles when trying to settle permanently. US policymakers do not want to lose skilled scientists and professionals to communist countries who recruit them. For many years, strict laws and a big ocean limited Asian immigration, as did the Great Depression.

Immigration from Asia (the most populous continent and the site of US wars in the 1960s and 1970s then again in the 1990s and 2000s) is the main beneficiary. Throughout the 1960s and 70s, European countries are expanding their social safety nets with free health care and education, shorter work hours, retirement benefits, and increased vacation. Regressive policies in the US make it less attractive for European immigrants. 90% of post 1965 immigration has been from non-European countries.

Health care is segregated until the passage of Medicare and Medicaid in the 1960s forces hospitals and health care to desegregate. The increased availability of health care and the need for health care workers is part of the need to reform our restrictive immigration laws and pass new legislation in 1965. Many of today's immigrants come as desperately needed health care workers. Two-thirds of immigrant physicians are from Asia.

The whites-only American Medical Association opposes a national health care plan for decades after it is proposed as part of the New Deal. The Black-led National Medical Association supports a national healthcare plan and sees healthcare as a right.

The 1965 Immigration Act allows special skill categories such as medical to help fill the need for more medical providers created by the creation of Medicare and Medicaid. Many professionals from Asia and Africa come to fill needed positions to allow for the expansion of healthcare.

Immigration laws between 1921 and 1965 effectively prevent immigration to the US from Africa. Currently, Nigeria and Egypt have the highest numbers of African immigrants to the US. African immigrants have twice the college graduation rates of US born white students. 60% of immigrants from Nigeria and Egypt are college educated. 25% have graduate degrees. 80% of African immigrants are Christian, higher than the 65% of people in the US who identify as Christian.

Many immigrants are forced to take low wage jobs despite having education and qualifications in their home countries that often the US does not recognize. Teachers, doctors, lawyers, and others with credentials not recognized in the US have to start over with low wage work. They often must return to school in the field for which they have already completed coursework.

Most immigrants want to learn English, but working long hours at non-standard shifts leaves little time for classes, segregated workplaces and neighborhoods make it difficult to interact with English speakers, and transportation barriers can make it difficult and time consuming to access support.

For most of US history, immigration policies sought to maintain an idealized notion of the demographics and culture of the original 13 colonies at the time of the Revolution by denying, excluding, and segregating people who represent change to the status quo of 250 years ago. These policies ignore the fact that at the time of independence, people of African descent were 20% of the US population, the highest percentage in US history. At the time of independence, immigration is free and unfettered with no laws or restrictions.

Our immigration policies until 1965 are based on country of origin and ethnicity. The

most favored immigrant has been from the United Kingdom, which for most of our history has included Canada, which did not achieve full sovereignty and independence from the United Kingdom until 1982. The Queen of England retains her “constitutional powers” in Canada.

The 1965 act sets a quota for Western hemisphere immigration at 120,000, which is below actual immigration at the time. The quota is lowered to 20,000 in 1976 and 18,200 in 1980. Many Latin Americans are left with no viable pathway to citizenship.

1965: The US Congress passes the Voting Rights Act to operationalize the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment (see 1870) and prevent the denial of voting rights based on “race or color”. In 2013, the US Supreme Court strikes down its key enforcement provision. Many states rush to pass restrictions on voting soon after. Alabama requires a driver’s license to vote then closes offices that issue them in predominantly Black counties. The bill passes 100 years after the passage of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment abolishing slavery.

1965: Mollie Orshansky devises the “poverty line” as “a research tool” which inevitably understates poverty since it is “not designed to be applied directly to an individual family with a specific problem.” She takes an estimate for a survival level budget for food from the US Department of Agriculture, adjusted for family size, and multiplies it by three with the assumption that food accounts for one-third of a household’s budget. It underestimates costs of food, housing, transportation, and medical care. Being below the poverty line means being below a survival line which no one should go below. Instead it becomes the line people can’t go above and still receive assistance. By age 75, 60% of people in the US will be officially “poor” at least once in their lifetime. About half of people will experience a diagnosable DSM-V mental health disorder in their lifetime.

1966: President Johnson forms the President’s Committee on Mental Retardation.

1966: The Black Panther Party forms in Oakland, California. Point 10 in the Black Panther Party’s 10 Point Program states, “We want land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice, and peace.” They provide food programs, the first free breakfast programs for schoolchildren, cooperative housing, schools, childcare, free health care and dental care clinics, ambulances, addiction treatment, shoes and clothes, senior and disabled transportation, employment services, legal aid, medical research, news service, pest control, and other programs to underserved communities. They do this without discrimination based on race, without government support, and in the face of active government suppression.

**The dental clinic they start in Portland is still operating through the Oregon Health Sciences University Dental School. Portland and Eugene both have chapters form in the late 1960s.** The US Congress funds a permanent national

school lunch program in 1975 largely to blunt support for the Black Panther Party programs.

1966: The Cuban Adjustment Act offers US government assistance programs to Cuban immigrants. They are instantly eligible for Medicaid, food stamps, public assistance, scholarships, loan programs, cash allotments, English classes, and favored for jobs with the CIA. Other immigrant groups are not offered these benefits.

1966: The US Supreme Court rules in Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections that wealth and tax payment requirements for voting are prohibited. Poll taxes are prohibited in state elections.

1967: There are nearly 200,000 people with developmental disabilities living in state-run institutions in the US.

**1967: The Oregon State Board of Eugenics becomes the State Board of Social Protection. It is abolished in 1983 along with repeal of the sterilization law.**

**1967: The Oregon Beach Bill establishes public ownership of Oregon beaches.**

**1967: The Arc of Oregon lobbies the legislature for classroom services for children who are termed “trainable mentally retarded,” or “TMR”; however, there is a competing bill for this population that would provide federal matching funds so classroom services are not funded. Instead, a pilot project in Clackamas County for children considered “TMR” is funded. The Child Development and Rehabilitation Center is funded and established.**

1967: The Loving v. Virginia Supreme Court case rules that people from different races have a right to marry throughout the US citing protections under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. From the 1960s to the 1990s, interracial marriages increase 800%, leading to more “mixed race” children. Racism imposes a rigid categorization and hierarchy upon the fluidity and equality of human experience.

It is not until the 2000 census that someone is able to identify as being from more than one race. **Oregon ends its prohibition on interracial marriage in 1951.** Ableism and racism are both socially constructed hierarchies based upon perceived physical differences.

“Whoever creates the norm creates the hierarchy and positions their own race-class at the top of the hierarchy.” - Ibram X. Kendi

1968: The US Congress passes the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination in housing. People with disabilities are included in the act in 1988. Restrictive covenants bar “non-Caucasians” from 95% of postwar housing. They are now void and illegal.

Housing segregation fuels school segregation. Schools are more segregated in the US in the 1970s than in the 1940s. Schools are still highly segregated by race and class today. The effects of housing discrimination past and present are still felt. Enforcement and funding to implement laws is often lacking.

1968: The Department of Housing and Urban Development is created after a summer of widespread unrest in US cities.

1968: The Kerner Commission issues a report on the cause of protests in inner city Black communities and concludes, "White society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it."

1968: The Jones v. Mayer decision by the US Supreme Court bars all racial discrimination in both private and public sale and rental of property. The decision is based upon the 13<sup>th</sup>, not the 14<sup>th</sup>, Amendment. The Court rules that housing discrimination is one of the "badges and incidents of slavery".

1968: The First International Special Olympics Games are held in Chicago.

**1968: The Arc of Benton County initiates a preschool program in a local church for one day per week then increases to 3 days per week in 1969.**

1969: Bengt Nirje from Sweden and Niels Bank-Mikkelsen from Denmark introduce the concept of "normalization" (see 1943) at a conference sponsored by the President's Committee on Mental Retardation.

1969: On June 28, police raid the Stonewall Inn. When police become violent; gay, lesbian, and transgender patrons of Stonewall and other Greenwich Village bars resist. Within two years of the uprising, there are gay rights groups in every major US city and in Canada, Western Europe, and Australia. The Stonewall Inn later becomes the first National Historic Site designated based on its LGBTQ historical significance. It becomes a National Historic Landmark in 2000 and a National Monument in 2016.

**1969: The Oregon Board of Control is abolished. The Mental Health Division is placed under the Governor and then the Department of Human Resources.**

**1969: The Corvallis School District opens classrooms for "TMR" children. Those deemed to have mild intellectual disability or the "educable mentally retarded/EMR" had been served in special classes within the school system for about 10 years. This becomes the first non-institutional public service setting for all people with developmental disabilities in Benton County.**

1969: Bud Fredericks, a doctoral student at the University of Oregon and



parent of a three-year-old boy with trisomy 21 living in Corvallis, presents a paper to the Benton County Mental Health Clinic on the services coordination model.

**1969:** The Benton Arc Activity Center (later Bonney Enterprises then Cornerstone Associates) opens to serve people with developmental disabilities in the Benton County community.

**1970s:** Up until the 1970s, less than 3% of Oregon's population are people of color.

1970-2010: Incarceration rates in US jails and prisons increase 700% after remaining stable from the 1920s until the 1960s. The US represents 5% of the world's population, but 25% of the world's prison population. The US has by far the highest rate of incarceration in the world with over two million people behind bars and over 4 million people in the parole and probation system. Most of the growth is in state prisons and county jails.

Two-thirds of county jail inmates have not been convicted of any crime. The ability to pay bail often determines incarceration more than danger to the community. The average length of stay in county jails is usually a few weeks. The loss of jobs and income while incarcerated imperils families. In 2021, there are four times as many people incarcerated than in 1971 even though the crime rate is the same as it was in 1971.

Black teens are 21 times more likely to be killed by police than white teens, regardless of income, even though surveys indicate white teens are slightly more likely to be engaged in illegal activities and drug use than Black teens. White teens have increased rates of contraband, but Black teens are much more likely to be stopped by police. US police kill 35.5 civilians per 10 million population. The UK police kill 0.5 civilians per 10 million population. Half the people killed by police in the US are people with disabilities, often mental health disabilities.

Harsh drug laws criminalizing substance use cause drug arrests to increase 126% in the 1980s. Mandatory minimum sentencing laws increase prison terms. The prison population doubles in the 1980s under President Reagan. People of color, people with mental health and substance abuse concerns, and houseless people are grossly overrepresented in incarcerated populations, even though repeated studies do not show higher rates of criminal behavior. At the same time, the HSBC bank launders \$800 million for drug cartels and no one goes to prison. Reduced spending on social services and increased spending and incentives for law enforcement and corrections drive increases in incarceration.

The American Bar Association says, “All too often, defendants plead guilty, even if they are innocent...The fundamental right to a lawyer does not exist in practice for countless people across the US.”

Black and Latino Americans are three times more likely to be stopped by police than European Americans, twice as likely to be arrested, four times more likely to be threatened by police, and six times more likely to be incarcerated. Black people are about 13% of the population and about the same percentage of regular drug users, but 56% of the population in prison for drug offenses. Black people are actually less likely to use drugs than white people but 10 times more likely to be arrested. 82% of drug arrests are for possession, not dealing, and many of the arrests for dealing are for sharing drugs with a friend.

Felonies for drug charges make it difficult to find jobs and housing and reintegrate into the community leading to illegal activity to survive which does not make the community safer. People with felonies are often disenfranchised and lose the right to vote. **In Oregon, people lose the right to vote while incarcerated but regain it upon release.**

The rate of addiction is identical now as when the war on drugs began in 1971. Nixon administration officials have recently admitted that the War on Crime was a proxy war on the civil rights and peace movements. Drug arrests are used to weaken the movements. The War on Crime is launched as a backlash to civil rights in the late 1960s. It is not driven by an increase in crime. It generates and feeds on fear of social change. The most effective methods of reducing crime rates have consistently been shown to be investing in education, social services, and healthcare.

If prisons were a company, they would be the second largest employer in the US.

“This nation began the War on Crime not due to rising crime levels, but rather as a political response to Black claims on the polity and economy.” - Heather Ann Thompson

1970: President Nixon signs the Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Amendments to the 1963 Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Health Centers Construction Act. The “DD Act” authorizes state allotments for planning, services, and construction of facilities for people with developmental disabilities. It funds pilot projects and a state planning and advisory council (**Oregon Developmental Disabilities Council**).

1970: The Federal District Court rules in Wyatt v. Stickney that individuals have a constitutional right to receive services in the least restrictive environment.

**1970: Gladys McCoy is elected to the Portland school board to become the first**

**African American to hold an Oregon elective office.**

1971: Many white students attend “Segregation Academies” as many white parents protest school desegregation.

1971: In October, the Benton and Lincoln County Mental Health Clinics initiate the first pilot project in Oregon of a services coordination model for people with developmental disabilities funded under the 1970 DD Act. It later becomes the Benton County Developmental Diversity Program and Lincoln County Developmental Disability Services. Barbara Sackett is hired as the lone staff person for both counties. She becomes the first coordinator for both Benton and Lincoln Counties and the first in the state of Oregon. She shares an office with the psychiatrist at Benton County Mental Health three days per week and has her office at a card table in the reception area of Lincoln County Mental Health two days per week.

**The Six Objectives of the Services Coordination Pilot Project are:**

1. Identify resources and maintain a resource file.
2. Identify individuals with developmental disabilities.
3. Match individuals to needed services.
4. Provide follow-up and follow-along services.
5. Document the need for new services.
6. Establish needed services.

Harry Sackett is a widower with three children when he marries Barbara. They go on to have five more children for a total of eight. In 1956, their daughter Lee Ann is born with trisomy 21. The doctor pressures Barbara to institutionalize Lee Ann, but she would have none of it. When Lee Ann is two years old, Barbara helps to found The Arc of Benton County. She would later serve terms as both the state and national president of The Arc.

Barbara earns a graduate degree in education and helps to found a school for children with intellectual disabilities in 1959. It runs for 10 years until The Arc and others successfully lobby for legislation that allows schools to serve all children in Oregon in 1969.

Fresh off this success and ready for a new challenge, Barbara Sackett, founds the first case management entity in Oregon for people with developmental disabilities. It continues today as the Benton County Developmental Diversity Program and as Lincoln County Developmental Disability Services. Benton and Lincoln Counties become two separate DD programs in 1975.

1971: A Parent Training position to serve children birth to three is funded

under the DD Act to serve Benton and Lincoln Counties. In 1972, the Corvallis School District assumes responsibility for the Parent Training program using Title 1 funds from the Special Education Act. This is now the Early Intervention Program.

**1971:** The NAACP, the Native American Longhouse, and the Women's Center form in Corvallis and on the OSU campus.

**1971:** Oregon repeals its 1913 law against "sodomy".

**1971:** The 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution protects the right to vote from discrimination based upon age for people over the age of 18.

**1971:** Amendments to Title 19 of the Social Security Act establish Intermediate Care Facilities to be licensed and certified in the community.

**1971:** The US District Court finds IQ tests "racially and culturally biased" and "discriminatory" as it orders a ban on IQ testing of Black students in California for the purposes of special education and placement in the Larry P. case.

**1972:** The Chicano Cultural Center forms at OSU.

**1972:** At the recommendation of The Arc of Benton County's Residential Housing Committee, Housing for the Handicapped (now Home Life) forms in Corvallis.

**1972:** Benton County voters approve a home rule charter (see 1958), which allows voters the power to adopt and amend their own county organization. Benton County becomes the fifth Oregon county to adopt such a charter.

**1972:** Bill McCoy is elected to represent North Portland as the first African American to serve in the Oregon Legislature. He is the husband of Gladys McCoy (see 1970). They are early supporters of LGBTQ rights. Gladys supports gay rights provisions in the 1972 Democratic Party platform and Bill is a sponsor of a failed attempt in the Oregon Legislature to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in 1973. In one of his first actions, he successfully advocates for Oregon to finally ratify the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1973.

Gladys McCoy graduates with a master's degree in social work from Portland State University in 1967. She serves on the Portland School Board and later on the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners. In 2019, The Multnomah County Health Department moves to the Gladys McCoy Building named in her honor. McCoy Park in Portland is named for Gladys and Bill McCoy.

**1972:** Decisions by the Supreme Court and Federal District Court strike down laws

excluding children with disabilities from public schools.

1972: Passage of Social Security Act Amendments creates the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program to ease the financial challenges of caring for an adult child with a disability.

1972: The US Congress passes Title 9 to prohibit discrimination based upon sex in all educational institutions that receive federal funds.

1973: The Supreme Court rules in *San Antonio Independent School District v. Rodriguez* that economically disadvantaged (poor) people are not a protected class and that there is no fundamental right to an education granted by the US Constitution.

**1973: State legislation gives authority for services such as case management, residential programs, parent training, and work activity centers in the Community Mental Health Programs. Seven services coordinator positions are funded statewide from state general funds. One position is funded to serve both Benton and Lincoln Counties. The new programs are to serve as “local fixed points of referral to expedite accessibility of services”. They are the precursor to the county-based Community Developmental Disability Programs (CDDPs).**

**1973: Martha House opens in January as the first group home in Benton County. Ten women live in the home with house parents. Half the residents are from Fairview Training Center and half are from the community. Most of the early group homes have 10 beds. It has a skills trainer paid through funds from the DD Act.**

**1973: Columbia Park Hospital and Training Center closes.**

**1973: Virginia Garcia, the six-year-old daughter of migrant farmworkers, steps on a rusty nail and dies from inadequate health care. The Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center opens in 1975 in a three-car garage to serve the needs of migrant and farm workers. It now operates five medical clinics, five dental clinics, a women’s clinic, and six school based health centers serving Washington and Yamhill counties.**

1973: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act incorporates the concept of “reasonable accommodation” in its prohibition on discrimination against people with disabilities. Despite federal court orders, implementation is delayed until protests force action in 1977 when disability groups demonstrate at the 10 regional offices of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

**1973: The Arc of Benton County is a successful applicant for DD Act funds and for City of Corvallis Revenue Sharing Funds to help cover staff costs at the Activity Center. They receive the funds again in 1974.**

**1973: The Oregon Legislature votes to ratify the 14th Amendment (see 1868) to the US Constitution by passing House Joint Resolution 13 proposed by Representative Bill McCoy (see 1972).**

**1973: El Colegio César Chávez is founded in Mount Angel as the only Chicano college in the US. It closes in 1983.**

**1973: The Siletz people meet to reorganize the tribe and tribal government after termination. They write grants through the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to organize drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, and employment and training programs. The commercial fishing industry opposes restoration of tribal fishing rights.**

**In 1973, the Menominee in Wisconsin are the first tribal nation to be restored. Efforts in Oregon follow immediately after. Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield supports restoration. Restoration is a tremendous amount of work to collect the data on the status of the tribe and its members, build public support, and work with lawyers and lawmakers to draft legislation.**

**1973: There are 60,000 children in Indian residential boarding schools.**

**1973: The American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality as a pathological diagnosis in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. A gay bar in New Orleans is firebombed killing 32 people.**

**1974: The first convention of People First is held in Salem, Oregon. People First becomes the largest organization in the US composed of and led by people with intellectual disabilities.**

**1974: Respite service begins in Benton County with funding from the DD Act.**

**1974: The American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities is established as the first major cross-disability organization in the US.**

**1974: President Richard Nixon issues an executive order affirming the nation's goal of returning one-third of people in institutions back to the community. The term "developmental disability" is created to refer to "a disability attributable to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or another neurological condition." The definition is used for planning purposes and funding allocations.**

**1974: The Housing and Community Development Act amends Section 8 of the 1937**

Housing Act to create the Section 8 housing subsidy program in which participants pay 30% of their income for rent and the federal government pays the rest. There are tenant-based and project-based voucher programs to assist people to access housing. Today, there is a shortage of housing vouchers available and long waitlists. To provide enough housing vouchers to end homelessness would cost \$2 billion. The mortgage interest tax credit to homeowners costs \$100 billion annually in lost revenue.

**The act establishes the Community Development Block Grant program. It is used in Benton County and across the nation to build group homes for people with developmental disabilities.** By giving local control, it allows local jurisdictions to discriminate without federal intervention.

1974: The US Supreme Court rules in *Milliken v. Bradley* that racial segregation of schools is allowed as long as it is not an explicit policy. It reaffirms and allows existing segregation of schools.

1974: The *Lau v. Nichols* decision by the US Supreme Court guarantees the right to a bilingual education. When San Francisco desegregates its schools, it includes Chinese-speaking students in predominantly English speaking schools without accommodations or support. Most of the Chinese-speaking students are placed in special education or repeat the same grade for several years.

The US Supreme Court rules that under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the 1964 Civil Rights Act schools have to provide equal education for students regardless of language. In the 2001 *Alexander v. Sandoval* decision, the US Supreme Court weakens *Lau* by requiring that proof of intentional discrimination, not just disparate impact, be shown.

1975: The Federal Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act passes requiring protection and advocacy programs as a condition to receive state grants, establishing the right to appropriate treatment and services, expanding definitions to include autism, and requiring plans for service delivery (Individualized Support Plans).

**The Oregon Advocacy Center, now Disability Rights Oregon is founded.** The act is amended in 1978 to define developmental disabilities in terms of functional limitations and to prioritize four service areas (case management services, child development services, alternative community living services, and non-vocational social-developmental services). The act is amended again in 1984 to include employment as a priority area and promote achieving one's maximum potential through increased independence, productivity, and integration.

1975: The Education for All Handicapped Children Act mandates "a free and

appropriate public education” in the “least restrictive setting” for all eligible children with disabilities. As children are able to attend community schools, the number of people in institutions begins to decline. Later amendments to the act are known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

**1975: There are 21 services coordinators serving 25 counties in Oregon. Benton and Lincoln Counties become two separate developmental disabilities programs.**

1976: The Quality Adjusted Life Year (QALY) is used as a method for making medical decisions and rationing health care. It equates disability with disease and discriminates against people with disabilities in accessing appropriate health care.

1976: The US Government Accountability Office admits that the Indian Health Service sterilized over 3400 Indigenous women.

**1977: The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians is recognized and restored by the federal government. In 1980, an over 3,000 acre reservation is restored to them (far short of the original Coast Reservation of over one million acres). Restoration is one of Oregon’s most inspiring stories. Churches, civic organizations, and Indigenous organizations rally in support.**

**The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission oppose restoration. *The Oregonian* and *The Eugene Register Guard* run editorials opposing restoration. Congressman Les Aucoin is a cautious sponsor in the House and Oregon Governor Bob Straub supports the bill. The All Coast Fisherman’s Marketing Association is a nonprofit organization who support the bill. Aucoin balks at the final bill over restoring hunting and fishing rights. The Association of Northwest Steelheaders are the main political opponents to the bill. Siletz Tribal members fly to Washington D.C. to testify in support of the bill.**

**President Carter signs the Siletz restoration bill on November 18, 1977. There is a huge celebration in Siletz. Both the Siletz and Grand Ronde restorations arise from holding only a cemetery to the holdings they have today. The City of Siletz voters and city council vote to return Government Hill to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. The Bureau of Land Management returns land to the tribe to restore part of their reserve, which is created in 1980.**

1977: The longest sit-in at a federal building in the history of the US occurs in 1977 to call for implementation of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act. Four years after it was passed, the federal government still had not developed rules to implement it, so people with disabilities take over regional Department of Health, Education, and Welfare



buildings across the country until the government agrees to implement the regulations.

The protest includes the longest ever sit-in at a federal building in the US which lasts 25 days at the San Francisco office. The 150 activists are supported by Ed Roberts (see 1962), the director of the California Department of Rehabilitation. The Black Panthers (see 1966) feed the mostly white protesters with daily hot meals. Disabled Black Panther Brad Lomax and his Panther caregiver Chuck Jackson join the protest and provide care for others. The Butterfly Brigade, gay activists against police violence, bring walkie-talkies to the activists after the government cuts the phone lines in the building. The Chicano activist group, Delancey Street, supports the protest and brings food for the sit-in. Four weeks into the protest, HEW Secretary Joseph Califano signs the new regulations.

“I think the secret history of the 504 sit-in is that we never, ever would have made it without the Black Panthers. The Black Panthers fed us dinner – they fed 150 people of which only one was a Panther – every single night for the whole demonstration. We never would have survived without them.” - Fred Pelka

“Second to the signing of the regulations the way we wanted them to be signed, the most important thing that came out of this is the public birth of a disabled movement...People all over the country, not just people shut in convalescence homes, but everyone in this country has learned that disabled people have a tremendous amount of strength, that we are capable of leading a struggle that has won major gains from the government...There’s a great deal of self-confidence, a great deal of pride, that we have given to ourselves and to disabled people all over the country. But we’ve also shown that if you wage a really effective struggle and you don’t give up, you can win a victory...We won! We won! We won!” - Kitty Cone

**1978: The state of Oregon hires Barbara Sackett to head their Case Management Program. Stephen Schuetz, PhD, becomes the second Benton County Developmental Disabilities Coordinator (later called a Program Manager). There is a full-time coordinator and a half-time support staff person for the whole program.**

**1978: In May, the Bonney Work Activity Center is spun-off from The Arc of Benton County to become a separate nonprofit corporation. It later merges with Open Door to become Cornerstone Associates.**

1978: The American Indian Religious Freedom Act guarantees Native Americans freedom of religion as enshrined in the First Amendment of the US Constitution. Federal laws and policies ban Indigenous religious practices. Despite First Amendment rights to freedom of religion and freedom from government interference

in religious practice and freedom from government establishing religion; the US government bans Native religious practices, prosecutes violations, and seeks to institute Christianity among the tribes with a military and missionary presence.

Children are removed from families and sent to residential schools to prevent passing on their culture, language, and religion. Reservations are broken up with allotment to remove communal landholdings as a refuge for the people and sacred sites are lost. Churches often run residential schools. The lack of separation of church and state leads to the suppression of Native religious traditions.

“God gave the world to men in common.” - John Locke

To paraphrase John Locke; men, knowing better than God, create private property and governments to protect it. If Indigenous people do not have private property, then they do not have government so their land can be taken and the people enslaved by a “legitimate” government that recognizes and protects private property and turns human beings into private property. The Spanish government and the pope claim Indigenous people have no religion, having not previously heard of Christianity. The Doctrine of Discovery allows Christian nations to claim the land of non-Christians for themselves and to enslave non-Christians.

Of course, Indigenous people do have religions, governance and governments, and understandings of rights to land even though they differ from European notions, most of which are of quite recent invention to justify the unjustifiable. The British justify seizing Indigenous land because they say they have no government. The Spanish justify seizing Indigenous land because they say they have no religion.

European and European American policies justify seizing land that is not being put to its best use, usually thought to be agriculture or other moneymaking ventures. Ironically, the US currently has over 30 vacant houses for every houseless person and no policy to make the “best use” of these properties.

1978: The Indian Child Welfare Act allows parents to deny school placements in boarding schools. Tribal governments take jurisdiction over children who live on reservations.

1978: Mayor George Moscone and city supervisor Harvey Milk are assassinated in San Francisco. Well known for their support of gay rights, Moscone also stands up to federal officials and supports the successful 1977 civil rights sit-in to implement the 1973 Rehabilitation Act (section 504) which paves the way for the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

1978: Fiesta Educativa organizes in southern California to advocate for Spanish language special education supports for children with disabilities.

1978: The National Council on Disability is instituted as an advisory agency for disability policy in the US. Their 1986 paper entitled *Towards Independence* is an impetus for the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

**1979: The Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities calls for the closure of Eastern Oregon Hospital and Training Center. The next year, Governor Vic Atiyeh disbands the Council.**

**1980s: Mixtec and Zapotec immigrants from Oaxaca, México come to Oregon speaking primarily Indigenous languages. They lack the larger Spanish and English speaking networks to help them settle and adjust. They face discrimination in México and the US.**

1980: The 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act gives refugee status to people fleeing communist states, which favors Cuban and Nicaraguan refugees, but does not help people fleeing from US backed dictatorships in El Salvador and Guatemala. In the 1980 Refugee Act, the language is changed to “well-founded fear of persecution”.

1980: Criteria for a diagnosis of infantile autism appears in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders for the first time.

1980: Gender identity disorder appears as a diagnosis in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. It is diagnosed as a treatable “disorder”, but treatment is often deemed elective, cosmetic, or experimental and not covered by insurance. It provides expanded access, but treatments are still out of reach for most people. For people who are transgender or who have a developmental disability, a medical diagnosis is required to be eligible to receive many services and supports.

“A biological or psychological state which is within the range of normal human variation is not a medical condition.” - Medical Dictionary

1980: The US Congress passes the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA) to protect the civil rights of people in state-run institutions.

**The US Department of Justice investigates Fairview Training Center in 1983 based on CRIPA. The investigation leads to a lawsuit against Fairview in 1986 by the Department of Justice, The Arc, the Oregon Advocacy Center (Disability Rights Oregon), and several families of Fairview residents.**

1981: The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act authorizes the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver program that allows for Medicaid funding of in-home and community-based services as an alternative to institutional care.

**Oregon becomes the first state to apply for and receive a Home and**

**Community-Based Services waiver to provide supports in the community as an alternative to institutionalization. The Legislature finds that many people live in institutions because adequate community services do not exist.**

1981-1988: The Reagan administration attempts to roll back provisions of the Rehabilitation Act and the Education for All Handicapped Children Act. Attempts are abandoned in the face of an intensive grassroots campaign. Social Security benefits are terminated for hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities. Some people die from lack of support. In response, Congress passes legislation that allows individuals to continue to receive benefits during their appeal process.

The Reagan Administration proposes voluntarism to replace the role of government. They propose tax cuts and more money to motivate the rich and increased punishment and cuts to social programs to motivate the poor.

1982: Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms prohibits discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, color (colour), religion, sex, age, and mental or physical disability.

1982: The Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act establishes (among many other provisions) the Katie Beckett Waiver that allows children under age 19 to access home-based Medicaid services by disregarding parental income.

**Oregon uses this provision for its model Children's Intensive In-Home Services (CIIS) waivers and for children in K Plan services.**

1982: Individualized Movement and Physical Activity for Children Today (IMPACT) is established by the Movement Studies in Disability Program at Oregon State University.

1983: On November 22, 1983, The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde is restored to federal recognition. The Bureau of Indian Affairs currently recognizes 573 distinct tribes. Many of those tribes are confederations of tribes. Our neighbors, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, are one tribe recognized by the BIA, but include nearly 30 different tribes and bands. Our neighbors, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, also encompass nearly 30 tribes and bands. Most of the recognized tribes in Oregon and many other places are confederations of tribes.

Though the US government recognizes fewer than 600 tribes, before European colonization, there are estimated to be about that many tribes living in California alone. The Grande Ronde Reservation is originally established on 69,000 acres. Through allotment and termination, only a five acre cemetery remained as tribal land. Today, Grand Ronde encompasses over 12,000 acres and 5,500 people. In the process of restoration, 5,000 members are reinstated

to federal recognition.

Kathryn Jones Harrison works hard to achieve restoration of the Grand Ronde and Siletz (see 1924). Her 16 year old daughter in her testimony says, “Being restored is important to all of the young people of the Grand Ronde tribe... [It] will make us one again, a whole, a people, to be known again by our government as Indians.”

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde open a health clinic in 1997 and a tribal housing authority in 1996, which completes major housing developments. They also open care homes. In 2021, they open an opioid treatment center in Salem, Great Circle Recovery, for both tribal and non-tribal community members to meet a community-wide need. The Casino and Hotel opens in 1995 and by 1998 is the largest employer in Polk County, employing about 1,500 people. In 2019, the CTGR purchases a 23-acre site that was formerly the Blue Heron paper mill at Willamette Falls that is the Charcowah village of the Clowewalla people within their ancestral homelands. Willamette Falls is the second largest waterfall in the US by volume.

“Despite forced relocation, termination, assimilation, racism, continual and cruel misrepresentations, and the ravages of disease and social plagues unknown to Natives before the dominant culture became dominant, we, the people of the Tribes have survived.”

#### - Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

1983: The US Supreme Court forbids schools and hospitals to deny services based on immigration status.

1983: ADAPT (American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today) block city buses across the country to demand accessible transportation.

1985: The US Department of Justice finds major civil rights violations and life-threatening conditions at Fairview Training Center and files suit on behalf of the parents of residents and The Arc of Oregon.

1985: Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, a minimum-security prison, is authorized by the 1983 Legislature. It opens on the campus of the Eastern Oregon Hospital and Training Center, which becomes the Eastern Oregon Psychiatric Center (EOPC), a 60-bed inpatient facility for psychiatric patients and the Eastern Oregon Training Center (EOTC), a 90-bed training center for residents who have developmental disabilities.

1985: The Arc of Benton County becomes a provider of residential services,

later to become Benco in 1997.

**1985: Work Unlimited Inc. begins providing community-based employment services for people with developmental disabilities in Benton County with a focus on community integration, productivity, and independence.**

**1985: The state of Oregon establishes the Special Transportation Fund with revenue from a cigarette tax. It helps fund transportation for seniors and people with disabilities.**

**1985: PCUN (Pineros y Campesinos Unidos de Noroeste) is founded by Cipriano Ferrel and carried on after his death by Ramón Ramírez.**

**1985: The US Supreme Court rules in City of Cleburne v. Cleburne Living Center that local jurisdictions cannot use zoning laws to prohibit group homes for people with developmental disabilities from opening in a residential area solely because its residents are disabled.**

**1986: Medicaid cuts off funding for Fairview Training Center. The state expands community-based programs. Funding is restored in 1987 then cut off again in 1988. The Health Care Financing Administration finds that Fairview is incapable of providing even minimal care. Medicaid accounts for 60% of Fairview's funding.**

**1986: The Education for All Handicapped Children Act is amended to include preschool programs for 3 to 5 year olds and early intervention services for infants and toddlers.**

**1986: The Employment Opportunities for Disabled Americans Act passes, allowing recipients of Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance to retain benefits, particularly medical coverage, even after they obtain work. The act is intended to remove disincentives that keep people with disabilities unemployed.**

**1986: The Immigration Reform and Control Act gives amnesty and a path to citizenship to 2.7 million immigrants who had no viable path to citizenship. It imposes future border restrictions, which encourages more immigration before they take effect. Community-based organizations help process applications for those with newly granted legal status since many are hesitant to go to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Once status is regularized, many are able to reunite with their families.**

The increased militarization of the border under the 1986 law makes it harder to come and go so many decide to stay permanently in the US. Many are denied or discouraged from applying because they have received public assistance for their

American born US citizen children who are legally entitled to it. In 1987, there are significant labor shortages as border restrictions take effect.

1986: In *Bowers v. Hardwick*, the US Supreme Court rules there are no constitutional protections for homosexuality. In 2003, this decision is overturned in the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision, which finds Texas' sodomy law unconstitutional based on violating the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment equal protection clause.

1987: In *McCleskey v. Kemp*, the Supreme Court rules that racial disparities in law enforcement are inevitable. It essentially denies equal protection under the law as asserted in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

1987: The US Supreme Court affirms Indigenous rights to gaming and that states cannot prohibit it on tribal lands in the *California v. Cabazon Band of Mission Indians* decision. In 1988, Congress passes the Indian Gaming Regulation Act that establishes federal rules and some role for state involvement in tribal gaming. This is a major step for many tribes towards economic independence and corresponds with decreased poverty and unemployment.

**1987: The US Secretary of the Interior designates 713 acres of the Willamette watershed in Benton County as a National Natural Landmark in the Willamette flood plain as part of the Finley National Wildlife Refuge.**

**1987: The Oregon Legislature passes the first statewide sanctuary law in the US to prohibit the use of state and local resources for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration laws. It passes nearly unanimously with only one dissenting vote in each of the House and the Senate.**

**In 1977, Polk County sheriff deputies and Independence city police officers harass and intimidate local Latino men and inquire about their immigration status. One of the men, Delmiro Treviño, who is a US citizen and longtime resident, enlists the support of attorney Rocky Barilla to file a class action lawsuit to protect the rights of all Oregonians. Later Rocky Barilla introduces the sanctuary law when he serves in the Oregon Legislature. The law is signed July 7, 1987 by Governor Neil Goldschmidt.**

1988: The US Congress passes the Civil Liberties Act, which issues an apology and limited financial reparations for the wrongful incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War 2.

**The Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon receives funds from the act to build a Japanese American cultural center. The Japanese American community generously requests that it honor all the cultures of the area including the Northern Paiute, Basque, Mexican, and European residents in**

addition to Japanese Americans.

**Malheur County is the site of a farm labor camp for incarcerated Japanese Americans during World War 2. Many stay afterwards to create a vibrant community.**

**1988: The US Congress restores nearly 10,000 acres to the Grand Ronde Reservation. The original reservation is 69,000 acres. In 1901, 26,000 acres are declared surplus by the US government and sold to timber companies and private interests as part of the Allotment Act. At the time of termination in 1954, only 1% of the original reservation land base remains. After termination, only the five-acre tribal cemetery remains as tribal land.**

**1988: Oregon voters pass Measure 8, which revokes Governor Goldschmidt's executive order barring discrimination based on sexual orientation. Discrimination is legal again.**

**1988: The US becomes the last UN member nation to ratify the 1948 United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.**

The Convention states:

“genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- a. Killing members of the group;
- b. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- c. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- d. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- e. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group”

**1989: A consent decree from the US Department of Justice requires a long-term plan for increasing staffing and decreasing residents at Fairview Training Center.**

**1989-1999: The state's Community Integration Program develops 200 homes for about 950 people with developmental disabilities. 84% of the homes are in the Willamette Valley.**

**1989: Oregon becomes the first state to make Medicaid available to people in poverty regardless of age or disability with the implementation of the Oregon Health Plan. It rations health care and sets a line in a list of conditions for**



which it will pay for treatment based on funding and effectiveness.

**1989: Oregon Community Support begins operation in Benton County. It is a model project funded by a federal grant to demonstrate that the people living at Fairview who are determined to be too difficult to serve in the community due to behavior issues can be served appropriately in the community. These services are transferred to Work Unlimited in 1997 and continue successfully to this day.**

1990s: People from Asia are the fastest growing immigrant group. US military and economic interventions in both Latin America and Asia drive immigration to the US from both regions. Total net migration to the US from the late 1990s until the present is negative. More people leave than come.

**1990: Oregon voters pass Measure 5 that limits property taxes and caps funding for public schools. It leads to significant budget cuts for schools.**

1990: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) passes and is signed by President George H W Bush. This is a major civil rights victory for people with disabilities. It builds upon the foundation of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and comes to fruition through the efforts of coalitions of advocates. People with disabilities are not protected under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Hubert Humphrey tries but fails to include them in 1972.

It is not until 1990 that a civil rights act for people with disabilities passes. A deal is struck and passage is assured when it is revealed that the deal will not protect people with HIV/AIDS. The disability community stands united in not accepting a deal that does not include everyone. In the end, they win and people with HIV/AIDS are included in the protections of the act.

To support passage of the ADA, 60 activists leave their wheelchairs and crawl up the 83 steps of the US Capitol in the famous "Capitol Crawl".

The ADA declares that people with disabilities are an integral part of our society and should not be segregated, isolated, or discriminated against. It declares that every individual has potential and deserves the right to participate in and contribute to our nation.

The ADA builds upon the idea that separate is never equal and that people should be a part of the community not apart from the community. It affirms a belief in human possibility and capability, and supports the efforts of every individual to live a productive life.

The ADA has four main goals

1. Equality of opportunity
2. Full participation in all aspects of community life
3. Independent living, and
4. Economic self-sufficiency

The Deaf and Autistic communities are early leaders in challenging our very notions of disability and claiming the legitimacy of their experiences and perceptions of the world as equal to everyone else's. Many advocate for acceptance as they are without having to become something else to meet society's expectations of how people should be. Being Deaf or Autistic are essential components of a person's identity. Millions of people who are covered by ADA protections do not self-identify as having a disability. Many accessibility provisions benefit all people.

“There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.” - Audre Lorde

Other legislation follows passage of the ADA including: the 1996 Telecommunications Act and the 1998 amendments to the Rehab Act extending ADA protections to telecommunications and information technology. In 2001, the Office of Disability Employment Policy is founded to promote economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities. In 2008, President George W Bush signs the ADA Amendments Act, which broadens the definition of disability and extends protections to more people.

1990: Autism is added as a disability category under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

1990: The Native American Languages Act repudiates past policies of eradicating Indigenous languages and entitles Native American people to use their own languages.

1990: Closed captioning for televisions begins.

1990: The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) passes to repatriate “cultural items” to Native peoples. The bodily remains of over two million Indigenous people are held in museums, universities, and public institutions around the US.

**Countless items of cultural importance are held including Tomanowos, who is a sacred being to the Grande Ronde people and the largest meteorite ever found in North America. It is the sixth largest in the world. It is thought to have come to Oregon in the Missoula Floods at the end of the last ice age. It is now on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde sue for its return under NAGPRA in 2005 and reach a settlement with the museum, which allows the**

**tribe to visit annually and to have Tomanowos return if the museum ends its public exhibition.**

1990: The US lifts the ban on gay and lesbian immigrants.

1990: Douglas Wilder of Virginia becomes the first African American to be elected a state governor in the US.

1991: Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) forms.

1991: In *American Baptist Churches v. Thornburgh*, the US Supreme Court overturns 100,000 denials of asylum cases in a class action lawsuit against the US government for violating the 1980 Refugee Act.

1991: A local resident with a video camera films the beating of Rodney King by Los Angeles police. Rodney King is released with no charges. The four officers who beat him are charged, but acquitted. The 17 officers who watched are not charged. As cellphones become more ubiquitous 20 years later in the early 2000s, many more incidents of police violence are filmed and shared with the public. They are shared on an internet created by the US government using cellphones with GPS, multi-touch screens, LCD displays, lithium-ion batteries, and cellular networks all invented by US government funded research.

**1991: Barbara Roberts becomes the first woman to serve as governor of Oregon. She was born in Corvallis and has a son with autism. She is an important advocate for children with disabilities and the expansion of Medicaid coverage for Oregonians.**

**1991: The Oregon Legislature passes the Minority Teacher Bill setting a goal that the percentage of teachers and administrators of color would be approximately proportionate to the number of students of color within 10 years (2001). It did not happen in 2001. It still has not happened in 2021. Currently, 89% of teachers in Oregon are white compared to 61% of students.**

**1991: The National Association for Retarded Citizens changes its name to The Arc (no acronym) at its national convention in Portland, Oregon.**

**1993: Oregon receives a federal waiver to create the Oregon Health Plan as its expanded Medicaid Program. 120,000 new members are able to access health care.**

**1994: Support Coalition Northwest is incorporated in Oregon to promote human rights and humane alternatives for people receiving mental health services. It later merges to form MindFreedom International in 2005.**

**1994: Oregon voters pass Measure 11 and the US Congress passes the Crime Bill. Measure 11 requires mandatory minimum sentences for specified crimes. It eliminates discretion by the judge and reduction in time for good behavior. It mandates that youth age 15 and older be tried in adult courts. As a result, Oregon incarcerates youth at one of the highest rates in the US and has the second highest rate of youth transfers to adult courts of any state. Black youth are indicted at three times and convicted at 17 times the rate of white youth. Oregon's incarceration rate for women triples after Measure 11. Almost half of incarcerated women have been victims of domestic violence and over half have children.**

**Oregon has one federal prison in Sheridan. Until 1985, Oregon has one state prison in Salem. Most of Oregon's 36 counties operate county jails. After 1985, and especially after Measure 11 in 1994, Oregon builds more jails and prisons and expands existing ones. Oregon now has 14 state prisons and 6 juvenile detention facilities at a cost of about one billion dollars per year. About half of most city budgets are devoted to spending on police. Within 10 years after Measure 11, Oregon's prison population grows by 80%. The average length of incarceration is about two years. Three-quarters of inmates have substance abuse and addiction issues.**

**Many counties build or expand jails. Benton County voters reject funding to build a bigger county jail three times. Multnomah County approves funding for a large new jail in 1996. Wapato Jail sits empty. It is never used as a jail and never houses an inmate. In 2020, it is repurposed as a homeless shelter.**

Incarceration rates nationally have decreased in the last 10 years.

1994: The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is ratified. Border enforcement costs billions of dollars every year, increases deaths and decreases wages for all without effectively influencing immigration. Labor and capital markets are international and do not recognize borders. The intent of NAFTA is to increase wages in México and reduce emigration from México. In actuality, it decreases wages and jobs in México and increases emigration from México.

Subsidized US exports to México, particularly farm products, decrease prices in México and force small farmers in México out of business. The rural poor leave for manufacturing jobs in the cities, especially in the economic free trade zones near the US border. There are not enough jobs, especially for men, so the unemployed near the border cross it.

Immigration increases for 15 years after NAFTA before decreasing amidst an economic slowdown in the US and a boom in Brazil. In recent years, more Mexicans

are leaving the US than coming to the US. Most of the migrants at the Mexican border are not Mexican nationals. The original immigration patrols on the México border in the 1920s were there to prevent Chinese immigrants from crossing the Mexican border.

**Oregon's Mexican population increases dramatically in the 1990s after NAFTA. Proposition 187 in California in 1994 makes it a hostile place for Latinos. Many move to Oregon.**

Proposition 187 is a ballot initiative to bar undocumented immigrants from receiving health care, education, and other state services. California voters pass it, but a federal district court finds it unconstitutional. The majority of undocumented immigrants are Europeans who overstay their visas, but the initiative is clearly aimed at Latin American immigrants.

NAFTA leads US and foreign investors to take over the Mexican agricultural, manufacturing, and banking industries. Millions of Mexicans are displaced with the subsequent loss of land and jobs. Industrial agriculture is built to benefit banks, chemical companies, seed companies, and equipment manufacturers. It works well for their purposes, but not necessarily for the farmer, worker, or consumer.

90% of Mexicans see their incomes stagnate or decline after NAFTA. Two million Mexican farmers are forced out of agriculture and leave for jobs in the cities.

Foreign banks take over 82% of Mexican banking and finance by 2004. Two foreign banks control half of Mexican assets.

1994: The Americas are declared a polio free zone. Successful vaccination eradicates polio in North, South, and Central America. Wild strains of polio are now only present in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

**1995: Dammasch State Hospital closes.**

**1995: Dial-A-Bus becomes the provider for Benton County's consolidated special transportation system. Dial-A-Bus begins with one person, one vehicle, and one home phone then grows to become the main special transportation service for thousands in Benton County.**

**1996: The Siletz complete a Dance House and celebrate a solstice dance with regalia on loan from state and national museums, including the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.**

**1996: The state of Oregon develops a long-term plan to phase out and close Fairview Training Center by the year 2000.**

1996: The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act (IIRIRA), passes under President Clinton. It makes it much more difficult to become documented. Applicants have to return to México and risk a 10-year ban. The increased border enforcement in the 1990s leads to increased risk in crossing the border and increased deaths. It increases the use and cost of coyotes to cross into the US.

Border enforcement denies basic rights to life such as water, food, shelter, health care, and education. The circular seasonal migration of workers who used to return to México is disrupted by harsh border enforcement. People can no longer easily return to México or work in the US. They are forced to choose a side of the border. Many choose to permanently settle in the US. Many use money earned in US to invest in houses and farms in México that they consider their permanent homes. They cannot sustain in México without supplemental US income so they have to stay in the US. The act allows for detention and deportation without judicial review.

1996: The Welfare Reform Act passes with bipartisan support and the signature of President Clinton. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan calls it the “most brutal act of social policy since Reconstruction.” It forces one million children into poverty. The act includes provisions for mandatory detention of noncitizens awaiting a status decision and indefinite detention for deportees who are not accepted by their countries of origin.

1996: The Telecommunications Act passes to require accessibility for people with disabilities.

**1997: The Oregon Legislature passes legislation to close Fairview Training Center and invest in long-term disability services in the community.**

**1997: Benco begins operation as an agency independent of The Arc of Benton County.**

**1998: Self-Directed Supports is initiated statewide to give people more flexibility and control over the services they may utilize.**

**1998: Self Advocates as Leaders (SAAL) begins in Oregon. It becomes the Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition (OSAC) in 2009 as a coalition of 18 self-advocacy groups throughout Oregon.**

**1998: Oregon adopts vote by mail.**

**1998: The Willamette River is designated as one of 14 American Heritage Rivers.**

1998: The Workforce Investment Act passes the US Congress to strengthen and improve employment programs and Vocational Rehabilitation.

1999: In 1995, Lois Curtis and Elaine Wilson sue the state of Georgia for inappropriately keeping them in an institution due to their developmental disabilities and mental illnesses when they could be appropriately supported in the community. In 1999, the US Supreme Court issues the Olmstead decision which holds that the ADA guarantees a right to live in the community in the least restrictive environment rather than in institutions if it is appropriate and can be reasonably accommodated. They win and this decision is the basis for a number of lawsuits including the **Lane v. Brown employment lawsuit in Oregon (see 2015)**.

1999: A United Nations study concludes that treaties with Indigenous nations hold full force of law.

2000: The last two residents leave Fairview Training Center on February 24, and it closes on March 1.

2000: The Staley Agreement with the state of Oregon creates support service brokerages for adults with developmental disabilities. The state contracts directly with brokerages outside of the county-based service delivery structure. Support services for children, Family Support, is administered through the counties by the Community Developmental Disability Programs (CDDPs). CDDPs also provide support services for adults with higher needs than the cap set by the state for brokerage services.

2001: Bonney Enterprises, spun off from The Arc in 1978, and Open Door, founded in 1964, merge to form Cornerstone Associates to provide vocational services to Benton and Linn Counties.

2001: Padres en Acción/Parents in Action forms to advocate for the civil and human rights of children and young adults with disabilities in Oregon. They become a significant support and advocate for Spanish speaking families with children with developmental disabilities.

2001: Oregon becomes the first state to adopt formal government-to-government relations with the nine federally recognized Tribal Nations in Oregon. Tribes are independent governments. Sovereign means they have the right to make and enforce laws.

In Oregon, laws must be made in consultation with federal, state, and tribal governments. The state and federal government relationship to tribal government is as a sovereign government to a sovereign government. Tribal governments are important partners and leaders with the state in education,

health services, housing, environmental protection, species conservation, resource management, civil rights, social services, cultural enrichment, and other areas.

**2002:** Governor John Kitzhaber apologizes for the forced sterilization of individuals residing in state institutions, mostly the Oregon State Hospital, under eugenics policies between 1917 and 1983. He becomes only the second governor to apologize for state eugenics policies. He acknowledges other abuses and mistreatment. Almost 3,000 people were victims of sterilization at Oregon's institutions. The first governor to apologize is the governor of Virginia also in 2002. The apologies are issued to coincide with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Buck v. Bell Supreme Court decision (see 1927).

**2002:** Oregon voters pass Measure 14 to remove racist language from the Oregon Constitution. Though it is no longer enforceable under federal law, 29% of voters oppose removing the racist language.

**2003:** Stephen Schuetz retires after 25 years of service. Jasper Smith becomes the third program manager for the Benton County Developmental Disabilities (Diversity) Program after starting with the program as a services coordinator in 2001.

**2003:** The US Supreme Court rules in Lawrence v. Texas that criminal punishment for homosexual acts under anti-sodomy laws are unconstitutional. This decision overruled the 1986 Supreme Court decision in Bowers v. Hardwick that upheld the constitutionality of Georgia's anti-sodomy law that criminalized oral and anal sex in private between consenting adults.

**2004:** The Benton County Developmental Disabilities Program begins a mental health carve-out program where mental health services for people with developmental disabilities are fully integrated and supervised within the DD Program.

**2004:** The Multnomah County Court rules that prohibiting same sex couples from marrying is unconstitutional. Benton County stops issuing marriage licenses to any couples until the legal status of marriage equality is decided. Oregon voters pass Measure 36 to ban same sex marriage.

**2004-2008:** Oregon Health Plan closes new enrollments and implements a lottery system where tens of thousands of applicants compete for 3,000 openings. This unusual social experiment is studied to show the benefits of health care access. Many without access suffer.

**2004-5:** The US deports two million people.



2005: Sins Invalid is founded. Sins Invalid “is committed to social and economic justice for all people with disabilities” and “recognizes that we will be liberated as whole beings”. They offer 10 Principles for Disability Justice:

1. Intersectionality
2. Leadership of Those Most Impacted
3. Anti-Capitalism
4. Cross-Movement Solidarity
5. Wholeness
6. Sustainability
7. Cross-Disability Solidarity
8. Interdependence
9. Collective Access
10. Collective Liberation

2005: The Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act (BPAIIICA) criminalizes helping undocumented immigrants such as offering food and water or teaching English.

2006: Ari Ne’eman founds the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN).

2006: The United Nations recognizes eight life domains:

1. Rights
2. Participation
3. Autonomy, independence, and choice
4. Physical well-being
5. Material well-being
6. Inclusion, accessibility, and participation
7. Emotional well-being
8. Personal development

**2007: The Oregon Equality Act bans discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity.** A federal hate crimes bill is passed which includes protections for sexual orientation and gender identity for the first time.

**2007: More than 165 Fresh Del Monte Produce workers are rounded up in Portland, Oregon and sent to immigrant detention centers. Increasingly, private companies run immigrant detention centers for profit with government funds.**

2007: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is adopted. The US, UK, Australia, and New Zealand are the only nations to vote against it. All four later support the declaration in the face of international pressure.

**2008: Oregon adopts an Employment First policy to promote community-based employment for people with developmental disabilities.**

**2008: The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) lists 16 Oregon high schools with mascots that Native Americans identify as insulting to their heritage, including the Philomath High School Warriors in Benton County.**

**2008: Oregon initiates the Children’s Intensive In-home Services waivers to allow children with intensive medical and behavioral support needs to access Medicaid support in their family homes by disregarding parental income.**

**2009: The Oregon Health Plan expands to cover 80,000 uninsured children.**

**2009: The Oregon Health Authority is established as a separate government agency split off from the Department of Human Services. It assumes responsibility for most health-related programs such as behavioral health, public health, hospitals, and the Oregon Health Plan. Most long-term care, including the Office of Developmental Disability Services, remains with the Department of Human Services.**

2009: President Barack Obama signs the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It is the first human rights convention of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The US Senate fails to ratify it in 2012 and the US is still not a signatory to the convention. Its eight guiding principles are:

1. Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy, including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons
2. Non-discrimination
3. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society
4. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity
5. Equality of opportunity
6. Accessibility
7. Equality between men and women
8. Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities

The US has also not ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

2009: President Obama declares the “Year of Community Living” and says, “The Olmstead ruling was a critical step forward for our nation articulating one of the most fundamental rights of Americans with disabilities: having the choice to live independently.” The Department of Justice under President Obama makes Olmstead enforcement a top priority.

2009: The US government formally begins collecting employment data on people with disabilities.

**2009: The last resident leaves Eastern Oregon Training Center and it closes. Oregon no longer has any public or private institutions for people with developmental disabilities and does not send anyone to out-of-state institutions. Everyone with a developmental disability lives in the community. Oregon becomes the first state to close all its large institutions for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Oregon State Hospital remains open for people with behavioral health disabilities.**

2010: The US Congress passes Rosa's law to replace references to "mental retardation" with "intellectual disability" in federal law.

2010: President Barrack Obama signs the Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law. **The Community First Choice Option provision of the act becomes the basis of Oregon's K Plan services to people with disabilities.**

The ACA bars discrimination in the provision of health care. In an interesting study, white respondents are given a description of Obama's health care plan and told it is Clinton's plan. When it is Clinton's plan, it is overwhelmingly supported, when it is Obama's plan it is overwhelmingly opposed, even though it is the same plan. Those opposing it cite, often in coded language, that it will benefit people who do not deserve it and are not like them. Opponents to the ACA talk about health care in terms of reparations and civil rights to generate opposition among white voters.

The Harvard Institute on Economic Research finds that white fear of non-white benefit is the single largest factor in opposition to social programs. White opposition to social programs is found to be based on the perception that people of color will benefit from them.

Of course, these perceptions are erroneous. White people who are 64% of the population and only 42% of people in poverty receive 69% of all welfare benefits and 80% of Medicare spending. 90% of people who say they have never received government assistance have actually received government assistance. The average person has benefitted from at least four government programs.

The inability to see all Americans as part of a community of mutual benefit scuttles government support for everyone. Popular programs that bring health, wealth, and well-being are lost or reduced.

For 250 years, African Americans could not own property and a vast majority of them are legally considered someone else's property. This is followed by 150 years of segregation, housing discrimination, job discrimination, mass incarceration, and

property seizure. Even now, there is no equity in wages. Compared to each dollar earned by white men, white women earn 78 cents, Black men earn 72 cents, Black women earn 64 cents, and Latina women earn 53 cents.

In fact, the richest 400 white people have the same wealth as all 40 million African Americans combined. Five white landowners in the US own nine million acres of land. All Black Americans combined own eight million acres. White people own 98% of the land in the US. The wealth gap between white and Black Americans is greater than in South Africa at the height of apartheid. For every dollar in wealth a white person has, a Black person has 7 cents. White net worth is 16 times that of people who are Black and 13 times that of Latinos. **In Oregon, Black net worth is \$11,000 compared to \$142,000 for white residents.** To illustrate that the starting lines are different, households with a white college dropout have twice the net worth of a Black college educated household.

Historically, countless trillions of dollars are taken from Black, Indigenous, and people of color for the benefit of white residents who receive free or low cost land in government land grants. They receive free or low cost assistance on how to work the land from Land Grant colleges, receive preferences for low interest loans to develop the land and businesses, and take their products to market on government-subsidized railroads. Later they receive housing assistance and low interest home loans from federal housing programs and mortgage interest deductions in neighborhoods segregated by zoning laws leading to segregated neighborhood public schools. They benefit in innumerable ways economically by uncompensated or inadequately compensated forced labor from people of color on land seized from people of color and backed by police and military.

For many generations, that wealth is passed on to future generations of white children because interracial marriages are banned in Oregon and most of the US. In the past decade, \$7 trillion in assets were transferred through inheritance. 90% flowed to the wealthiest 20% of the population. 80% of wealth in the US is inherited, not earned through any form of work by the recipient.

In the US, the top 10% of households have 79% of the wealth and the bottom 60% have 2.4% of wealth. For people earning over \$10 million, less than 20% of their income comes from actual work. Two white men in the US have as much wealth as 40% of the population, over 130 million people.

**The richest 1% of Oregonians together have more income than the combined income of over half the population of Oregon. The median income in Oregon is \$39,100. The wealthiest 1% in Oregon have an average income of \$1,118,000.**

Inequity destabilizes societies. People from different countries who have the same

relative income do worse if they live in a country with high inequality than if they live in a country with low inequality. They have worse health outcomes, higher chronic disease, addiction, obesity, and shorter life expectancies. Unequal countries have more crime, violence, incarceration, and lower school graduation rates. They have increased political polarization, higher stress, and more short term versus long-term decision-making. Unequal countries have rates of mental illness that are three times that of more equal countries.

**Corvallis and Benton County have the highest rate of economic inequality in Oregon.** Taxes not only provide the revenue we need to address issues in our community like houselessness and affordable housing, the taxation in itself is valuable for increasing economic equity in our community.

Article One Section Eight of the US Constitution gives Congress authority to levy taxes to provide for the “general welfare of the United States”. Before taxes and welfare benefits, Sweden and the US have virtually identical poverty rates. After taxes and support programs, the US poverty rate is three times that of Sweden.

In 2021, the US Treasury Department issues a report that reveals the highest 1% of income earners fail to pay \$163 billion in taxes they owe each year. The highest 5% of earners fail to pay \$307 billion owed each year. This is even after the top marginal tax rates have dropped from 91% under President Eisenhower to 21% under President Trump.

Governments benefit communities by providing health care through Medicare and Medicaid, government research for life saving medications, public health, income support through Social Security, disability supports, schools, public transportation, roads, railroads, fire protection, postal service, community safety, free libraries, recreation through a parks system, small business loans, student loans, environmental protection, food safety, unemployment payments, and other supports.

“The more equally wealth is distributed, the better the health of that society.”

- British Medical Journal 1996

“In the United States the legacy of settler colonialism can be seen in the endless wars of aggression and occupations; the trillions spent on war machinery, military bases, and personnel instead of social services and quality public education; the gross profits of corporations, each of which has greater resources and funds than more than half the countries of the world yet pay minimal taxes and provide few jobs for US citizens; the repression of generation after generation of activists who seek to change the system; the incarceration of the poor, particularly descendants of enslaved Africans; the individualism, carefully inculcated, that on the one hand produces self-blame for

personal failure and on the other exalts ruthless dog-eat-dog competition for possible success, even though it rarely results; and high rates of suicide, drug abuse, alcoholism, dropping out of school, and gun violence.” - Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

2012: The US Supreme Court rules in *Macy v. Holder* that transgender discrimination is illegal discrimination based on sex.

2012: President Obama initiates the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that gives a path to permanent residency for people who came to the US as children, stayed continuously, and have completed two years of college or military service.

**2012: Oregon creates Coordinated Care Organizations to administer and coordinate physical, mental, and dental health care for Oregon Health Plan members.**

**2013: Oregon becomes the first state to fully adopt the Community First Choice Option (K Plan) for its service delivery to seniors and people with disabilities. This is a significant expansion of supports for children and adults based on needs and it creates an entitlement for services and supports without caps or waitlists. The Community First Choice Option under the Affordable Care Act (see 2010) expands in-home and community-based services. The federal government incentivizes these services in systems supporting people with developmental disabilities, mental health, aging, and physical disabilities by paying an increased share of the costs.**

2013: Canada’s House of Commons extends human rights protections to transgender people.

2013: The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders drops the diagnosis of Gender Identity Disorder. It creates autism spectrum disorder with criteria that combines autism, Asperger Syndrome, and childhood disintegrative disorder.

2013: The US Supreme Court strikes down the key enforcement provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act in the *Shelby v. Holder* decision. Many states rush to impose voting restrictions. Within five years of the decision, over 1,000 polling places are closed. Most are in areas where predominantly people of color live. Between 2014 and 2016, 16 million people are removed from voter rolls.

Attempts to make voting more difficult and restrictive impede access for people with disabilities such as limiting mail-in voting and drop boxes is difficult for people who rely on public transportation. Voter ID requirements impact people with disabilities who are less likely to have driver’s licenses and transgender people whose legal documents may not match their identity. Limiting polling places and creating long

wait times impacts the ability to vote.

2013: Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi form Black Lives Matter after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the murder of Trayvon Martin. In 2014, police officer Darren Wilson kills teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri sparking Black Lives Matter protests around the world. Alicia Garza says that the movement “calls attention to the Black disabled people who are killed at eight times the rate of people who are not disabled. This Black Renaissance has dutifully carried on the tradition of resistance that our ancestors gifted us, and it has continued to push for the changes that they did not complete.”

**2014: The Benton County Developmental Disabilities Program changes its name to the Benton County Developmental Diversity Program to better reflect its mission and work.**

**2014: Oregon, in partnership with the federal government, expands Medicaid coverage to people 138% of the federal poverty level.**

**2014: Oregon passes an Equal Rights Amendment for women in the state constitution.**

**2014: Marriage equality comes to Oregon when the Oregon Supreme Court rules that the state’s ban on same sex marriage is unconstitutional.**

2014: The federal Medicaid program issues rules defining what is to be considered a home and community-based setting and what is to be considered an institutional setting for Medicaid funding to people with developmental disabilities, mental illness, physical disabilities, and seniors. The definitions guarantee people rights to access the community and to visitors, to have control over their schedules and activities, to access to food and privacy, and to have choice of roommates and how to furnish their living space.

2014: The Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act establishes many provisions to support the employment, education, training, and support of people with disabilities. It updates the 1998 Workforce Investment Act.

2014: The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act passes to allow people with disabilities to create tax-free savings accounts that do not impact eligibility for federal assistance programs.

2014: The World Health Organization issues a statement opposing unnecessary surgery for people born intersex. 1.7% of the population is born intersex. This is roughly the same percentage of the population that are identified as having intellectual disabilities.

2015: The US Supreme Court rules in Obergefell v. Hodges that same sex couples have the same rights and responsibilities as opposite sex couples to marry under the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. These are the same provisions the Civil Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act are predicated upon.

**2015: The state of Oregon settles the Lane v. Brown lawsuit to close the front door to sheltered workshops and to support more people in community employment. Filed in 2012, it is the first class action lawsuit challenging segregated sheltered workshops under the ADA.**

**2015: The state of Oregon opens a second campus of the Oregon State Hospital in Junction City.**

**2015: The Oregon Health Plan begins coverage for gender dysphoria. The Oregon Legislature bans conversion therapy.**

**2015: The Urban League publishes *The State of Black Oregon Report*.**

**2016: The Oregon Court rules that nonbinary is a legal gender.**

2016: The Obama administration issues guidance to direct that protections under Title 9 (see 1972) extend to transgender students. The Trump administration rescinds the guidance. The Biden administration reinstates it.

2017: Denmark becomes the first country to remove transgender identities from its list of mental health disorders.

2017: The World Health Organization cites depression as the leading cause of disability throughout the world.

**2017: Senate Bill 13 becomes law. It mandates the Department of Education to develop curriculum about the Native American experience in Oregon, including tribal history, culture, sovereignty, treaty rights, government, socio-economic experiences, and current events.**

**2017: Oregon becomes the seventh state to provide health care to all children regardless of citizenship status.**

**2017: Oregon passes a statewide transgender justice bill.**

**2018: Oregon State University renames Benton Hall and Benton Annex in response to community concerns about the legacy of Thomas Hart Benton's support for slavery and his leadership role in passing anti-Indigenous and anti-Black legislation. Benton Annex is now named for Hattie Redmond (see 1912).**



**2018: The last sheltered workshop closes in Benton County.**

2018: The Trump Administration implements a policy of family separation in an attempt to punish and deter immigrants. 8,000 families are separated.

**2019: The Oregon Legislature enacts Senate Bill 664 requiring holocaust and genocide education in schools.**

**2019: The Benton County Board of Commissioners votes to designate the Developmental Diversity Program as a division within the Health Department alongside Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Healthy Communities.**

**2020: Deaths outnumber births in Oregon for the first time in its recorded history. Oregon and the world respond to a global coronavirus pandemic. Over four and a half million people worldwide, over 650,000 in the US, and over 3,000 in Oregon have died so far. The pandemic continues as of the time of this writing.**

It is estimated at least an additional 200,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the US, but were not tested. Life expectancy in the US decreases by 1.5 years. It is the largest single year decrease in life expectancy in the US since 1943 during World War 2. The largest annual decrease in life expectancy was 12 years in 1918 during World War 1 and a global flu pandemic that afflicted 25% of the US population. Of the over 40 million cases in the US, it is estimated that one-third of people experience “long COVID” meaning long lasting, potentially disabling, conditions.

Over half of US states weaken public health powers and authority during the coronavirus pandemic.

**2020-2021: Oregon has more armed demonstrations than any other state. Virtually all are in public spaces and many at government facilities. Reports of hate crime and bias incidents in Oregon rise 134% in 2020.**

2020: The US Supreme Court rules in *Bostock v. Clayton County* that employees are protected from discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation under Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

2020: The Centers for Disease Control finds that one in 54 children meet criteria for autism spectrum disorder. The prevalence is one in 34 for boys and one in 145 for girls. The rate of autism has tripled since the year 2000.

**2020: The Disability Equity Center forms in Corvallis as a center for “disability culture, pride, and a fierce determination to make the world equitable for everyone.”**

**2020: According to the US Census, Oregon and Benton County both grew about 11% between 2010 and 2020. Corvallis is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest city in Oregon. Benton County is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest county. If everyone in Oregon who would meet the state eligibility criteria for services as a person with a developmental disability lived in one county, that county would have a population about the size of Benton County. Not everyone who is eligible for services access services.**

**2021: California agrees to pay compensation to people forcibly sterilized in state institutions. California repeals its eugenic sterilization law in 1979, but documented forced sterilizations continue in prisons as late as 2010.**

**2021: Editors of over 230 medical journals make a joint statement that, “The greatest threat to global public health is the continued failure of world leaders to keep global temperature rise below 1.5 C and to restore nature.”**

Participating journals include *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, *The Lancet*, *The British Medical Journal*, and *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

**2021: Cover All People passes the Oregon Legislature to remove discrimination based on immigration status in eligibility for Oregon Health Plan medical assistance.**

**2021: In the last decade in Oregon, between 2011 and 2021, the number of children receiving I/DD services increases 260% and the number of adults increases 28%. The implementation of the K Plan provides much needed support for children and families. It greatly improves equitable access to appropriate services.**

**2021: The Benton County Developmental Diversity Program celebrates 50 years of service to the community!**

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

- Coretta Scott King

Our sincere apologies to all the important people, perspectives, and events that are not reflected in this timeline and yet are essential contributors to who we have become as a community and who we will become. We are grateful for all the people with whom we have had the opportunity to be in community and to share history. The everyday efforts of individuals, families, and communities build a better world. May we all continue to learn and grow beyond where we are in this moment.

By Jasper Smith in September 2021