



WEBFOOTER EXTRA

June 2022 A History of Tigard, Oregon



Privately done real photo postcard of the Southern Pacific Depot in Tigard, Oregon. Postmarked August 26, 1909 in Sherwood, Oregon.

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A History of Tigard, Oregon



Real photo advertising postcard with a view of the Tigard School in Tigard, Oregon which was built in 1923. Photographed by Angelus Studios in 1923. Postmarked June 10, 1924 in Portland, Oregon.

Before colonization by European settlers in the early 1800s, the Atfalati inhabited the Tualatin Valley in several hunter-gatherer villages including Chachimahiyuk ("Place of aromatic herbs"), near present-day Tigard. Primary sources of food included deer, camas root, fish, berries, elk, and various nuts. The Kalapuya population is believed to have numbered as many as 15,000 people. By the 1830s, diseases had decimated the Atfalati. The tribe had already experienced population decreases from smallpox epidemics in 1782 and 1783. It is estimated that the band was reduced to a population of around 600 in 1842, and had shrunk to only 60 in 1848.

The Donation Land Claim Act of 1850 promoted homestead settlement in the Oregon territory and it encouraged thousands of white settlers to come to the area. Like many towns in the Willamette Valley, Tigard was settled by a handful of families. The most noteworthy was the Tigard family, headed by Wilson M. Tigard. Arriving in the area known as "East Butte" in 1852, the family settled on Fanno Creek and became involved in organizing and building the East Butte School, a general store, and a meeting hall. East Butte was renamed to "Tigardville" in 1886. The evangelical organization built the Emanuel Evangelical Church at the foot of Bull Mountain, south of the Tigardville store in 1886.



Real photo postcard view of the Union High School in Tigard, Oregon which was built in 1926. Photographed by Clarence Christian, circa 1945. Postally unused. The last senior class to graduate was the class of 1953. It became Fowler Junior High School and was demolished sometime later. It was located at Highway 99W and Main Street and it is now a parking lot.

The first post office in the area was called Tigardville and it was established on December 17, 1887 in the general store. The first postmaster was Charles F. Tigard, son of Wilson M. Tigard.

A blacksmith shop was opened in the 1890s by John Gaarde across from the Tigardville Store, and in 1896 a new East Butte School was opened to handle the growth the community was experiencing from an incoming wave of German settlers.

The Tigardville post office was discontinued on July 31, 1906. Mail for Tigardville was distributed thereafter by Beaverton, both of which were in Washington County. Mail was carried along this route by a horse team and wagon.

A new post office at Tigard was established about a mile to the east of the Tigardville location, on the Southern Pacific Railroad line, on July 8, 1908. John W. Bassett served as the first postmaster. On March 23, 1957 mail service was consolidated with the Portland post office, and a new building was built to house the Tigard Branch.



Real photo postcard of the Tigard Beavers baseball team of Tigard, Oregon, circa 1914. Postally unused. Bill Schamoni is holding the bat. Also in the photo: Harry Kuehne, the two Welk brothers, Armour Ariss and the Rehberg brothers. The team was active from 1912 to 1915.

The period between 1907 and 1910 marked a rapid acceleration in growth as Main Street blossomed with the construction of several new commercial buildings, Germania Hall (a two-story building featuring a restaurant, grocery store, dance hall, and rooms to rent), and a livery stable. Limited telephone service began in 1908.

In 1907, the arrival of the Oregon Electric Railway triggered the development of Main Street and pushed Tigardville from being merely a small farming community into a period of growth. The Oregon Electric began providing passenger service on January 1, 1908. The town was renamed Tigard in 1907 by the railroad to greater distinguish it from nearby Wilsonville, and the focus of the town reoriented northeast towards the new rail stop as growth accelerated which would lead to its incorporation as a city in 1961.

Electricity came to the area in 1911 when the Tualatin Valley Electric Company added Tigard to a service grid with Sherwood and Tualatin. William Ariss built a blacksmith shop on Main Street in 1912 that eventually evolved into a modern service station. In the 1930s, the streets and sidewalks of Main Street were finally paved, and another school was established to accommodate growth.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Charles Neyhart, postal historian, for providing historical information regarding the Tigardville and Tigard post offices. Other sources included Wikipedia and *Oregon Post Offices* by Richard Helbock.



Real photo postcard street scene of Main Street in Tigard, Oregon. Photographed by Clarence Christian, circa 1945. Postally unused.



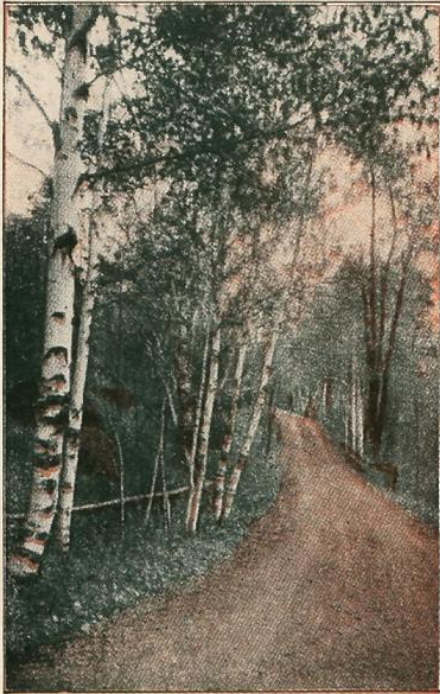
Real photo postcard street scene of Main Street in Tigard, Oregon. Photographed by Clarence Christian, circa 1945. Postally unused.



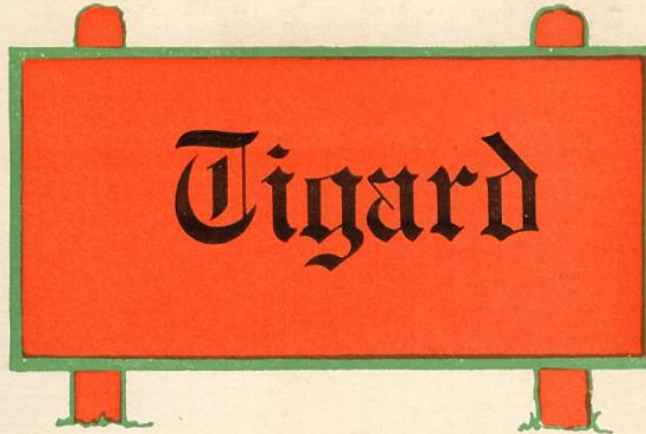
Privately done real photo postcard of the Clover Leaf Bible Class from the Emanuel German Evangelical Church in Tigardville, Oregon at Sucker Lake, now Lake Oswego, on May 30, 1912. Postally unused.



Real photo postcard of St. Anthony Church in Tigard, Oregon in September 1911. Postally unused. The building was torn down sometime later and a new church was built in its place.



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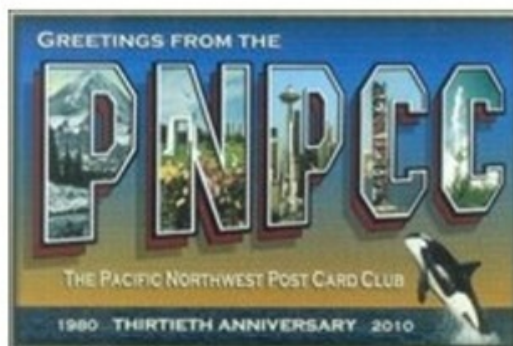
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