

GRESHAM OUTLOOK
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**GRESHAM CLAN
VON WEIBNOM**

Clan Has Interesting Record.
Complete List of Oregon.
Society. Officers.

The pages of history were turned back nearly three hundred years on Wednesday, when the Metzger family reunion was held at the Gresham grange hall. This pleasant ceremony is of annual occurrence, New Year's day having been chosen several years ago for celebrating each recurring anniversary. The Metzger family association is the Oregon branch of a nationwide organization with more than 11,000 members, all of whom are descendants or related by marriage which are the only qualifications for membership in the society. Officially the association is known as "The Oregon Society United Descendants Baron Theobald Metzger von Wiebmon," and dates back to January 1895 when the Gresham Metzger's fell in line with those of the name in other states, the object being to perpetuate the historical traditions of the family and preserve the fame and name of their illustrious ancestor, together with the keeping of historical records of the members to be handed down to future generations.

From historical records it is known that the famous baron was born at Kettenheim, Germany, on Dec. 21, 1626, but became a subject of the king of Holland at a very early age. From published accounts he seems to have been an active and pushing character which brought him into prominence and raised him to popularity and influence. In those "days of old, when knights were bold, and barons held their sway," he soon became a leader of men and attained the rank of lieutenant general of cavalry in his majesty's armies. Later on he was made governor

of Bresla-Brabant, Netherlands, which was a post of great distinction and importance in the latter part of the seventeenth century, and which post he filled with great honor and credit to his nation and himself.

History records the fact that he then became a baron and did a great deal to improve the defenses of the town by arranging levees, dikes and gates for flooding a wide area of the surrounding territory on short notice. Many of the trees that now flourish on the ramparts of Breda were planted under his supervision and by his direction. He was reputed to be the wealthiest man in the nation and left to his descendants an inheritance of over \$200,000,000 which is yet held in trust by the government of Holland. One of the objects of the present association in this country as to preserve the evidences of rightful inheritance to the vast fortune when it shall be divided, if that time shall ever come.

The records show that Theobald's Parents were Mathias Metzger and Anna Leberti. There were six brothers and two sisters who bore the names of John, George, Michael, Mathias, Thomas, Ulrich, Sarah and Barbara. It was from George Metzger that the United States Metzger descended. He had four sons named John, Ulrich, Archibald and Jacob. Archibald, who had been raised in Germany, first went to Holland and then from there he emigrated to America in 1750. He came on a ship named "Two Brothers," bringing with him his family, among which was a son named Jacob who was then about two or three years old. They made their first residence in what is now the state of New Jersey.

As an instance of how a slender thread may hold in suspense, great destinies it is related that on this immigrant ship there were forty children. A virulent epidemic of smallpox broke out aboard and of all the forty none were left alive but the little boy Jacob, who survived to become the ancestor of the American Metzgers, now numbering more than eleven thousand souls. When he grew

