

Margaret Shetler Archives



Margaret was born on March 18, 1922, in Oroville, Washington. She attended Meridian School near Aurora and graduated in 1940 from Canby High School as class salutatorian. Margaret was baptized in 1938 at Hopewell Mennonite Church. She graduated from Hesston College. Margaret married Ralph Shetler on May 30, 1943, in Hesston, Kansas. Margaret and Ralph both worked for the Oregon Primate Center. They raised a family in the Willamette Valley and attended Zion Mennonite Church.

Margaret always had an interest in the history of the Mennonite churches in the northwest. She authored the Zion Mennonite 100-year history book and assisted with the 50-year history of Western Mennonite School. She served as the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference historian for many years. Margaret was part of the formation of the Oregon Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society in 1988. She was a self-taught archivist, committing both time and energy to this work for over 25 years. She organized the first archives at Western Mennonite School and was instrumental in the development of the Ivan and Pearl Kropf Heritage Center. Her historical spirit was instrumental in recruiting volunteers for the work of the center. She saw the archives as a necessary part of preserving the history of Mennonites in the northwest.