



CAPE BLANCO HERITAGE SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1132, Port Orford, OR 97465 — Ph: 541-332-0521

Unravelling Heritage Mysteries with CBHS: Three Antique Portraits.

The Cape Blanco Heritage Society is searching for answers as to the identity of people in three antique portraits that were gifted to the Society in February 2023.

We believe the portraits were found in an old house in Port Orford and donated to the Senior Center. CBHS President Priscilla Lang purchased the portraits and then gifted the portraits to the Society. The portraits were then cleaned and restored by Carol Malley of Uptown Frames. The three works are similarly framed in a gilded, ornate style reminiscent of the Victorian era (1830-1900) and backed in wood. At first blush, they resemble photographs, possibly hand-tinted by a colorist to the point that the photographic element is no longer distinguishable. Upon further investigation, it appears the portraits are rendered in a photographic-realist style in charcoal and oil pencil. A few clues exist on the reverse side of the frames. On the back of [A], clearly handwritten in black marker on the wood, are the words:



"Ed + Eva + Archie
Great Grandfather
(Ed's family)
VERNON"

(Portrait A shown at left)



On the back of [B] an affixed label reads:

Edward B. Vernon + Eva's
Grandmother Vernon

(Portrait B shown at right)



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On the Back of [C], again in handwritten marker on wood, reads:

Great
Grandma
on your
DADS SIDE
(Edward Vernon)
+ Eva

We would like to solve the mystery of these three portraits. Do you recognize any of these people or have any clues as to the origin of the artwork? We are also curious about the artist who may have created these portraits. Please call the Cape Blanco Heritage Society at 541-332-0521 to help us solve this heritage mystery.



Please visit our three historic sites to learn more about our local heritage and other restoration projects currently underway with the Cape Blanco Heritage Society. Our three sites (the Cape Blanco Lighthouse, Hughes House, and the Port Orford Lifeboat Station Museum) are open from Wednesday through Monday, 10AM - 3:30PM. We are closed on Tuesdays for cleaning and maintenance. The museum and the Hughes House will be open through September, with the Lighthouse remaining open through October if we have cooperative weather and sufficient volunteers. Learn more at our website: capeblancoheritagesociety.com.