

Martin Woodlock Gorman (1853-1926): Outdoorsman Extraordinary

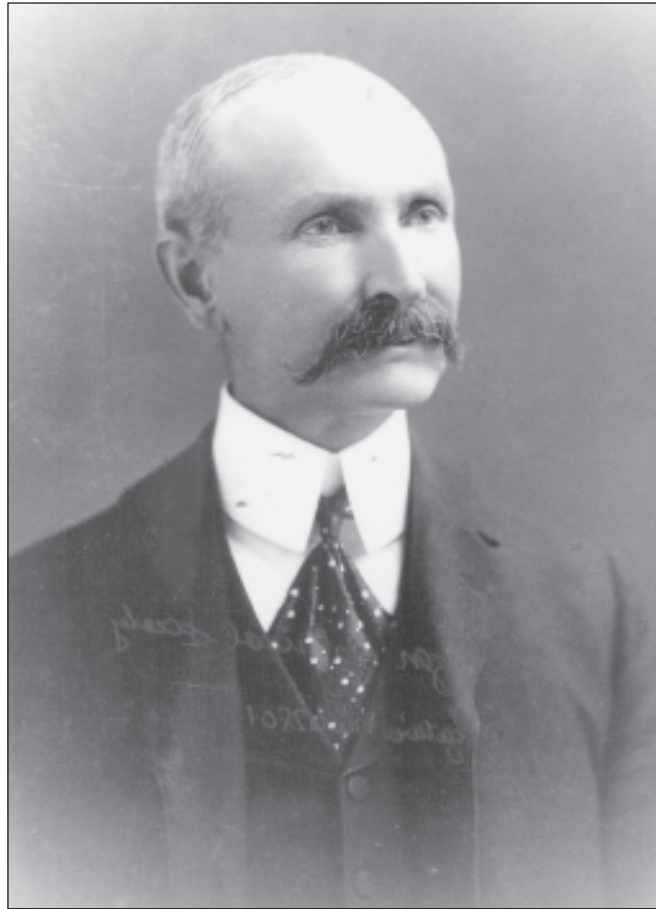
Mariana D. Bornholdt
133 La Placita Circle, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

(Adapted from an essay that will appear in *Plant Hunters of the Pacific Northwest*, edited by A.R. Kruckeberg and R. M. Love)

Gorman is an unsung pioneer of Pacific Northwest botany. An immigrant of modest means, he came to Portland, Oregon, in the late nineteenth century from Montreal, Canada. He soon established himself among Portland's mountaineers and explorers, and maintained an active relationship with them until his death in 1926. A self-taught botanist, passionate about plants, as well as nature and indigenous peoples, Gorman corresponded regularly with professional botanists. An inveterate plant collector himself, he donated generously to other plant collectors. He remained active in field botany until his death at age 73, collecting and identifying more than 7,800 species of plants during his years in the Northwest. Gorman published no books, contributed most of his writing to Mazama Mountaineering Club publications, and is mentioned in botanical literature only when credited with type specimen collections. However, his surname survives as part of the scientific name of three species, conferred by his contemporaries in the botanical community in recognition of his tireless collecting and generosity.

Early years

Martin W. Gorman was born in Canada on November 23, 1853, at Douglas near the town of Eganville, Renfrew County, Ontario, on a farm first worked by his grandfather. He was the son of Peter Gorman, born in County Clare, Ireland, and Mary (Woodlock) Gorman of Bangor, Maine. He had at least one



Martin Woodlock Gorman (1853-1926) Photo from the decade between 1910 and 1920, Gorman about 50 yrs old. Courtesy of Oregon Historical Society, #OrHi 67801.

sibling, a brother named John. Gorman's father had been engaged in the lumber business before taking up farming, and Gorman apparently shared his interest in trees. A close friend of Martin Gorman as an adult reported that he related fond memories of spending many youthful hours creating a personal arboretum by transplanting various species of trees from the surrounding forest.

Gorman's vocations

At age 16 Gorman graduated from common school and left home to work in a general store in Eganville. After four years, he moved to Montreal, where he spent eleven years as bookkeeper for Thomas Darling and Co., a wholesale hardware company. While in Montreal he occasionally attended the lectures of eminent geologist J. W. (later, Sir William) Dawson, at McGill University. In 1876 he enrolled at McGill

where he made the acquaintance of John Macoun, later renowned as the dean of Canadian botanists. However, contrary to published obituaries, Gorman received no degree from McGill.

On February 18, 1885, Gorman, now 32, moved to Portland, Oregon, starting as a bookkeeper with the *Catholic Sentinel*. Over the years he worked for a succession of Portland banks and businesses in varying capacities: bookkeeper, teller and accountant. In 1891 he went to work for D. W. Crowley and Co., a banking concern, where he remained until 1896. This connection resulted in Gorman's six summer trips to Yes Bay, in southeastern Alaska, to oversee the salmon harvest. (Yes bay, formerly known as Yras Bay or McDonald Bay is located in the Inland Passage 40 miles

north of Ketchikan. “Yras” means “blue mussel” in Tlingit.) In 1898 he worked as a freight clerk at Mason, Ehrman and Company, followed by employment as a bookkeeper for Charles Hegele and Company in 1900. In 1902, Gorman began a two-year stint as an independent fish broker. He also worked intermittently as a bookkeeper for the Blue Mountain National Ice Company, a Gorman family-owned business. During the last 20 years of his life, Gorman was custodian of the Forestry Building, a facility of the City of Portland Parks Bureau, an appointment gained by recommendation of his friends. He died on October 7, 1926, of pneumonia, reportedly contracted following a cold caught while raking leaves on the grounds of the Forestry Building. He was buried October 11, 1926, at Mt. Calvary cemetery in Portland.

After Gorman's death, his good friend James Carlton Nelson, then Superintendent of Schools for the Salem, Oregon, school district, himself an amateur botanist, wrote:

“[He] had the happy faculty of pouring forth a running commentary of reminiscence and illustration, tinged with genial Irish wit, that made his society eagerly sought...his kindly and unselfish disposition,...his interest in humanity was unflagging, and his charity and tolerance seemed never to be exhausted. Much-abused as the word ‘gentleman’ has been, it could with

little exaggeration be literally applied to him; he represented the finest ideals of his race. He was wholly free from vanity or self-seeking, painfully modest as to his own attainments, always ready to subordinate his own judgment, and never indulging in harsh or carping criticism even of those whose views were most widely divergent from his” (Nelson 1927).

Gorman's avocations

An active and energetic man, Martin Gorman apparently chose sedentary employment in business to fund his outdoor activities. He seemed uninterested in career advancement, conserving his energy for exploring the natural wonders of the remaining North American frontier. Though continuously employed for nearly sixty years, from the age of 16 to age 73, Gorman's personal interests in vigorous outdoor activity took precedence in his life. He remained a lifelong bachelor. As he developed friendships and commitments with other men who shared his interests in adventure and botany, his opportunities for and interest in marriage probably waned. That Gorman never married was normal for the era and place in which he lived: historians regard the 1890s in the US West as “the decade of the urban bachelor.”

In a letter from Portland to his brother John in June of 1892, he reported that he was studying botany and mineralogy. His fascination with nature and with exploring the Pacific Northwest never waned. His abiding interest was native flora, especially trees. Gorman seems to have found the high latitudes and altitudes of the Pacific Northwest particularly enticing. His Alaska and Canada trips gave him a longed-for opportunity to study the flora, fauna, and indigenous peoples of the north Pacific coast.

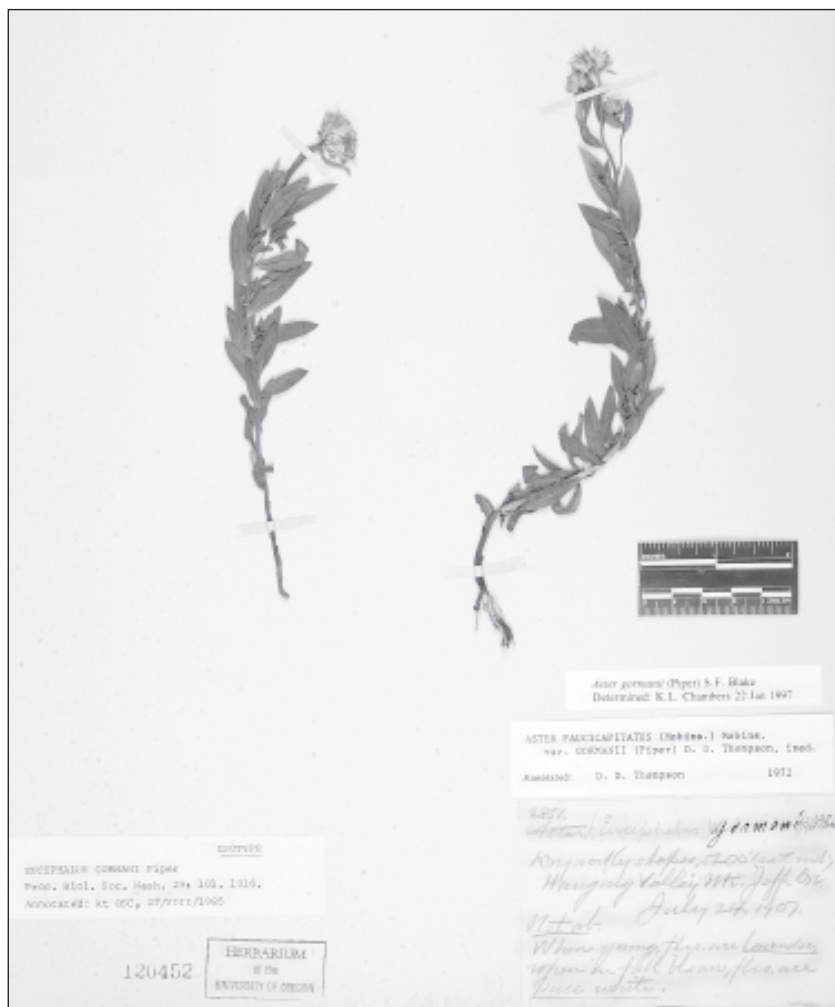
Nelson (1927) credits Gorman with the discovery of 19 plant species as well as a new genus. Eight were named for Gorman, principally by Edward L. Greene, who made most of the determinations for Gorman. Greene was known as a “splitter,” and only a few names have survived taxonomic revision.

The following plants currently bear Gorman's name:

Lomatium gormanii (Howell) Coult and Rose. Contributions to the US National Herbarium 7:208, 1900. Collected by Howell as *Peucedanum gormanii* (Howell, Flora of Northwest America, 252) on April 1, 1898 in high hills opposite The Dalles, presumably in Klickitat County, Washington. (Hitchcock *et al.* 1977, 3:554).

Ranunculus gormanii Greene. Pitt. 3:91, 1896. Collected by M. W. Gorman on the wet banks of Cathedral Springs, Crater Lake, Oregon, August 22, 1896 (Hitchcock *et al.* 1977, 2:388).

Eucephalus gormanii Piper has become *Aster gormanii* (Piper) Blake, Rhodora 30:228, 1928. Collected by Gorman as #2851 on July 24, 1907 at Hanging Valley, Mt. Jefferson, Oregon. (Hitchcock *et al.* 1977, 5:6)



Eucephalus Gormanii Piper. Isotype. Courtesy of Oregon State University Herbarium and the OSU Valley Library, #120452)

His travel journal

Gorman began recording his adventures in a pocket journal around 1882. It was initially a diary of his personal activities, but he soon began to include weather observations and plants he saw, as well as geographic and ethnobotanical notes. It is from these meticulously kept records preserved at the University of Oregon library that his wide-ranging field trips and collections can be pinpointed. Three years before moving to Portland, he joined the Oregon Alpine Club's expedition to Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Adams. His first trip to Crater Lake in 1886, is documented by a collection of plants. We learn from his 1889 journal that he accompanied the Alpine Club's second expedition to Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Adams in July. Though this journal contains no plant notes, it records the Indian vocabulary for the mountain peaks, based on first-hand information from Indian guides. The detailed ethnobotanical vocabulary for plant medicines and food of the native peoples recorded in his unpublished journals indicate that Gorman was among the earliest ethnographers of the Pacific Northwest. He also was cultivating relationships with like-minded men. His journal reports the following encounter upon returning from Yes Bay in 1892:

*"March 27....1:30 P.M. arr. in Seattle...
— went to Prof. O. B. Johnson's then to the Y. Nr. Society's [Young Naturalists Society] with Chas. V. Piper [a member] - he has had an offer from Dr. [E. L.] Greene, to accompany an expettn [sic] to Alaska as botanist...."* (Gorman 1892).

SEVEN NEW SPECIES.

**Important Botanical Discoveries by
Martin Gorman.**

—O. 3-5-1900.

Martin W. Gorman, the well-known botanist, who made quite a collection of plants on the Yukon last year, sent a set of his specimens East last Fall. They have been examined by Dr. Green, a specialist, connected with the Agricultural Department, who reports to Mr. Gorman that he has found seven new species of plants among them. Only a botanist can understand how pleasing this is to Mr. Gorman. There are not many plants left undiscovered in any accessible place in this country, and it is a long time since any botanist has discovered so many new species on one trip as Mr. Gorman has. It will be remembered that Mr. Gorman made another collection in a different part of Alaska, while he was there, which was spoiled, when he came near being drowned and his companion was drowned by the wrecking of their boat. Some of the specimens of the spoiled collection were sent East, and enough could be made out

of them to show that there were a number of new species in the collection, but the specimens were too badly injured to be identified. However, to find seven new species on one trip is glory enough, and Mr. Gorman is satisfied.

"Seven New Species." *Oregonian*, 5 March 1900.

The Mazamas

Gorman was a charter member and lifelong elder of the Mazama Mountaineering Club, Portland's alpine club. He had served as secretary of a small group that met in 1893 to plan for organizing a mountain climbers' club. Gorman was not present at the general meeting on the summit of Mt. Hood on July 19, 1894, during which 193 persons voted the Mazama club into existence. (The club was incorporated March 16, 1899.) W. G. Steel was elected as its first president, Gorman as its Historian. Gorman served on the Mazama governing board in various capacities over the years until his death. He attended many of the annual outings, frequently attended or led local walks, "lectured before the club on different occasions, and his botanical information was always



Officers of the Mazamas, 1895. Photomontage courtesy of Special Collections and University Archives, University of Oregon, #AX 75.

of great value to the members and freely given" (Glisan 1926).

In 1903, five Mazamas, including Gorman, took part in a climbing expedition to the Three Sisters. Middle Sister was designated as the "official climb;" it was decided that South Sister was for "more hardy climbers, and that the North Sister would be let severely alone" (Glisan 1926). On Friday, July 19, the fivesome (Gorman, Rodney L. Glisan, E. H. Loomis, E. P. Sheldon, and Col. L. L. Hawkins) started out from base camp on Middle Sister and succeeded in reaching the summit.

"Close to the top we deposited our copper box, avoiding the extreme summit, as we could see that the rocks were drilled by lightning, and a small copper box containing names, a sardine can and several other tin cans were perforated by repeated attacks of the same mysterious power. As dark clouds were gathering and we did not desire to meet the fate of the sardine can, we took a last lingering look at the wonderful panorama around us....and made our way down the mountain, carefully at first and then sliding down the steeper portions of the snow-fields, arriving at camp at 3:45" (Glisan 1926).

On Monday, July 21, 1903, flushed by their success, a party of four (Sheldon, Loomis, Glisan and Gorman) started for North Sister, overriding their initial decision to avoid it. Glisan writes that on the way, "Gorman's botanizing instinct proving too strong, he decided to turn back...and joined Sheldon" (Glisan 1926). Glisan and Loomis continued the ascent to the top alone. Gorman's journal recorded 201 specimens for the climb.

Alaska: Searching for gold, distracted by plants, and a brush with tragedy

Though he assisted in organizing the Mazama mountaineering club, the successor to the Oregon Alpine Club, Gorman missed the 1894 meeting at the summit of Mt. Hood because he was in Alaska, working the salmon harvest. He made subsequent trips to southeastern Alaska and western Canada through 1901, mainly to botanize, but in 1898-1899, his purpose was to explore for gold in the Yukon. With four friends, he arrived at Fort Selkirk, Yukon Territory, April 28, 1898. After acquiring equipment, provisions, and guides, the group undertook to prospect for gold on the White River, Selwyn River, and Cloaca Creek, penetrating "to a point on the White River 200 miles above its confluence with the Yukon" (Gorman 1898). It was an arduous trip. "Although wholly unprovided with facilities for pressing or drying specimens, 'the call,' as he [Gorman] often phrased it, 'was strong,'" (Nelson 1927) and he collected tirelessly during the trip. Most of his specimens were lost in a tragic accident resulting in the drowning of his sole companion at the time, a guide, and Gorman's own miraculous



The Gold Seekers in Skagway (1898): Gorman, Delaney, Jackson, Emmons, and Smith. Courtesy of Special Collections and University Archives, University of Oregon, #710.

rescue by a wholly unexpected boatload of explorers.

The White River trip began July 22, when the group split up to explore, planning to rendezvous at the river camp on August 13. By August 20, only Gorman had appeared at the campsite, and his journal noted that he was picking huckleberries in a marsh below camp when he heard

"a shout from the west side of the river, which I take [to] be that of Al and hurry back to camp expecting the whole party to arr. soon....Went down along the sandbar & found Al sitting on the bank, hatless, shoeless, with dishevelled [sic] hair and beard, wild looking and utterly woe begone in appearance. In reply to my query - where are the boys? He ansd. 'Oh, Gorman, I am nearly dead. I have had nothing to eat for 3 days.' we went slowly to camp. I got him something to eat, we turn [in] at 8:30 PM. and it was getting quite cold. He then related some of his experiences from [when] he left me on Aug 7..."

On August 22nd, Gorman and Al attempted to walk out of the forest, but, due to Al's weakened condition, returned the first day to camp. Because Al was sick and unable to work, Gorman by himself felled logs and built a raft, upon which they undertook to float down the White River to civilization. The river was swift, cold, and full of drift piles and snags. Nearly out of provisions, both were weak, cold, and hungry. To make matters worse, they got wet and lost supplies each time the raft caught on a snag. Finally, at 10:20 a.m. on August 30, their raft wedged hard against the roots of a huge snag. The water poured over the raft, "wetting our blankets, knapsack, etc., carrying away our cooking utensils and gradually floating off our upper deck." After over two hours of trying to free the raft with a hatchet which slipped out of his

benumbed hands, Al struck out for the shore. Gorman's journal records their harrowing last moments together in strangely matter-of-fact prose that was typical of him:

"[Al] tried to carry the knapsack but said it was too heavy - we then took out the balance of our flour, about 2 to 3 lbs. the 2 lb. of tea & the 2 plates & about 2 PM. he took a pole & tried to go across the 1st of the (snags) between us & the E. bank, but lost his footing at once then let the pole go and & then the pack. I called out to him to stand up, but he seemed benumbed and stupefied and our faithful service to each other for the last 12 days and our struggles together were a thing of the past.

"My situation now became desperate, but I still had hope for succor or getting (?) ashore as best I could and put my (?) and 2 spoons in my pockets, strapped my extra pr. of socks to my waist, took my staff and sounded the depth of the water. I got back on to the snag again and at 2:15 PM. to [my] inexpressible delight I saw a man standing on a point half a mile down on the E. bank. I called loudly for help & soon saw two other men appear around the point [in] a boat. They arrived where I was at 2:30 PM. and I was soon in their boat with my [?] and my long vigil of 4 hours & 10 minutes on a submerged raft with the cold muddy waters surging about me was at an end...." (Gorman 1898).

Gorman reached Dawson on September 7, meeting J. J. Delaney. By September 9, the remaining adventurers reached Dawson, and reunited, they all arrived back at Port Townsend, Washington, on October 9. Before he left Dawson, Gorman wrote an account of Al's death for the *Dawson Daily News*.

Gorman's journal for 1898-1899 contains two plant lists from March and April, some noted without numbers. It also records an English-Tinni (the Tinni are a First People tribe of the Canadian Northwest) vocabulary, alphabetically arranged, created with the assistance of Ayansor Jons of Schwarka, a Selkirk Valley Indian from British Columbia, Canada. There are also two additional Canadian plant lists: one for the Yukon Valley covering April-September 1899 and another list, location not given, for September-October. Also included are a tree list, containing details of characteristics for each species; a table of distances in Alaska; and a list of native names for Yukon geographic features and their derivation. Gorman was indeed an active ethnobotanist, recording native nomenclature and uses for local plants whenever he had opportunity.

During the summers of 1901 and 1902, Gorman collected in southern Alaska at Iliamna Bay, Chalka. During the second summer he also recorded details of soil characteristics, climate, and topography in his journal as well as plants used by native peoples and their practices. He also included notes detailing effects of a major fire that had occurred that year and made a botanical survey of the area.

Collecting trips in Oregon and Washington

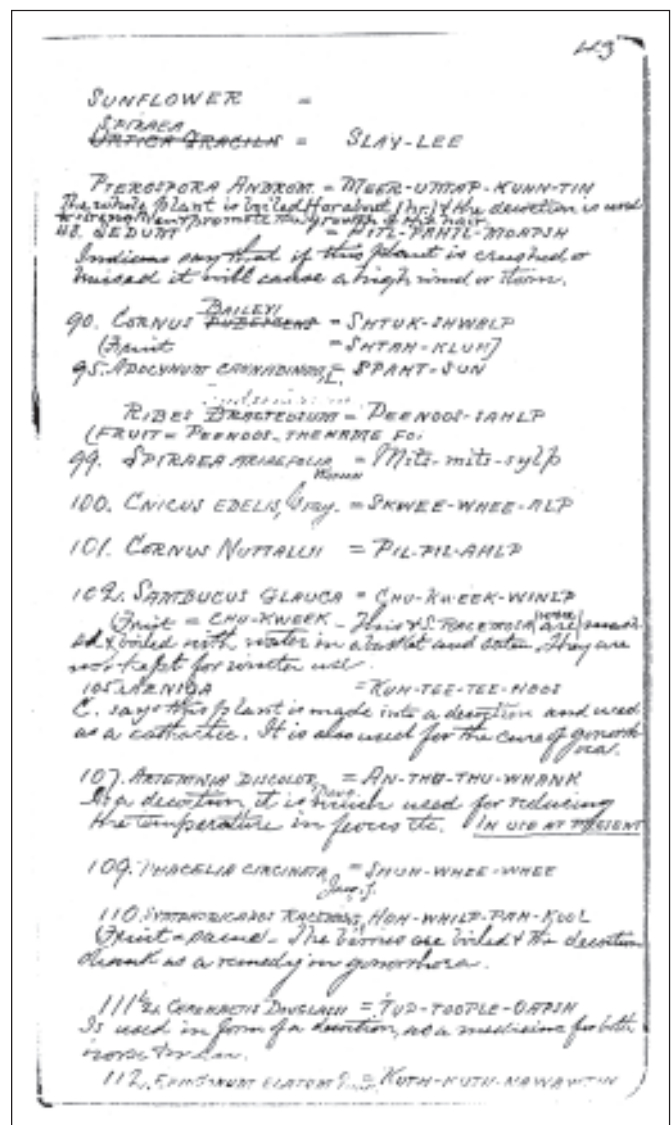
As the years went by, Gorman collected closer and closer to home. It is not clear whether this was because of age-related physical limitations or because full time employment gave him little free time to travel. He may have been influenced by direction from C. V. Piper for whom he was collecting, or by increasing interest

by botanists and the public in the flora of the Oregon Territory. His journals document a lengthy series of collecting trips, excerpted as follows:

During late April 1895 he made a three-day trip to The Dalles with botanist Thomas Jefferson Howell and J. Francis (Frank) Drake, M.D., a Mazama member, and he also collected at Mosier and Klickitat, before leaving for Alaska in May.

In early summer 1896, Gorman collected in eastern Oregon and Washington. From May 16 through 19, he was at Wallula and Walla Walla and during the same month in the Umatilla National Forest near Pendleton and at Bates, Oregon (NE John Day), Grant County. His May 16 journal entry is entitled "Plant List, Eastern Oregon." In August 1896, he collected in southern Oregon listing the following sites: Dead Indian Road, Rogue River, and Crater Lake.

On August 5, 1897, Gorman wrote to his friend Thomas Howell from Seattle, describing his ascent of Mt. Rainier and the high winds on Nisqually Glacier. In this letter he also continued their discussion concerning "the second fascicle" of



Food Plants of the Northwest - A Tinni Vocabulary, excerpted from Gorman's 1888-1889 notebook. Courtesy of Special Collections and University Archives, University of Oregon, #169.



Polypodium hesperium Maxon. Isotype. Courtesy of Oregon State University Herbarium and the OSU Valley Library, #1438)

Howell's *A Flora of Northwest America* (a portion of the *Flora* initially missing from the volume first offered for sale, due to a printer's error), and mentioned that he was on his way north. His journal records collecting at Lake Chelan and Stehekin in Washington from August 1 to September 11 of 1897. There in Coyote Canyon he collected the type specimen of *Polypodium hesperium*, named by Maxon of the Smithsonian. It is also in this journal that he began to number his plant specimens and continued his practice of taking ethnographic notes.

[1897] "12:30 P.M. Arr. In Camp, tired hot & thirsty... 4.- P.M. Wapato Charlie [a Chelan Indian] came into camp and I paid him \$1.00 for information regarding names and uses of the plants which I have collected. He knew the names of all plants which they use & also of a few others, but had forgotten the name of several and of many he had no name. I kept him occupied at this task until 6:30 P.M. when we had to stop although not quite finished." (Gorman 1897).

This entry is followed by a glossary consisting of six animals and seventeen plants, with notes on their uses by indigenous peoples, examples of which follow.

"Tamarack, Chuh-kool-uh or chuk-woo-luh: The bark, branchlets and foliage are boiled for about 2 an hour and the decoction drunk in colds and fevers. A favorite remedy....*Pterospora androm*, Meer-umap-kuhn-tin: The

whole plant is boiled (for about 1 hr.) & the decoction is used to strengthen and promote the growth of his hair.

Arnica, Kuh-tee-tee-hoos: *C. says this plant is made into a decoction and used as a cathartic. It is also used for the cure of gonorrhoea....*" (Gorman 1897).

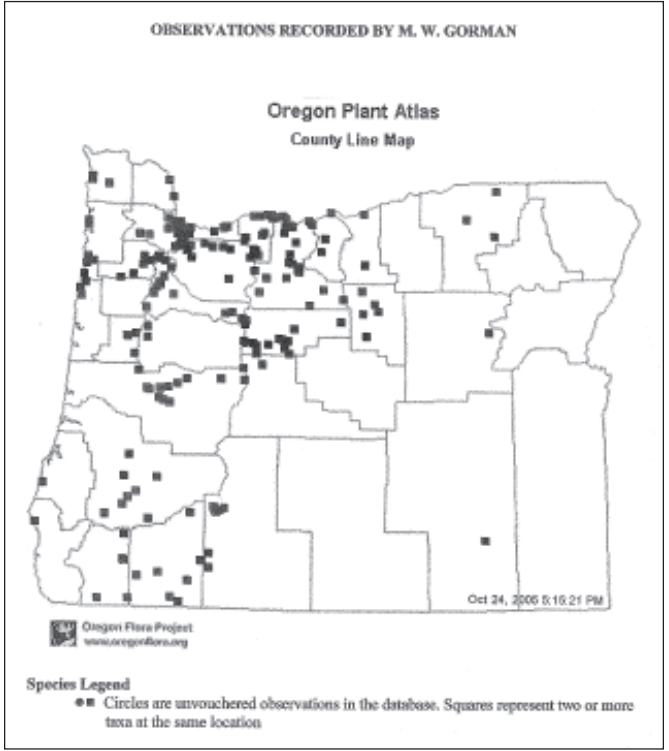
In June and November of 1903, Gorman recorded ten specimens from the Portland area.

When visiting Cardwell's with a Dr. Barton in March 1906, Gorman's journal noted the effect of the recent cold spell on both native and introduced trees. Gorman was at Mt. Baker, Washington, July 27 to August 9, 1906, collecting and recording plant specimens. He joined the Mazama August ascent of the southwest side of Mt. Baker specifically to collect that slope's flora, returning with 122 collections.

In October 1914, Glisan and Gorman left Portland for Astoria and the north coast of Oregon to climb and botanize Saddle Mountain, as well as to photograph a Douglas fir tree reported to be the largest in Oregon. On Friday, October 23, having secured a team and buggy, they arrived at the West Cooperage Camp on the road to Jewell at 10:45 a.m. They searched for the gigantic fir along the abandoned roads and along a road currently under construction, but "failed to find the 14 ft. 9 in. Fir mentioned by cruiser Riley" (Glisan 1915). The following day, they climbed Saddle Mountain and collected the type specimen for *Saxifraga occidentalis* var. *latipectula* L. C. Hitchc.

Shortly thereafter he assumed duties as custodian of the Forestry Building in Portland.

In April 1915, Gorman again surveyed the flora of Portland and its vicinity, intending to document the growing incursion of non-natives into the Portland area. He also made another trip to Saddle Mountain, collecting another 236 specimens.



Gorman's Collections in Oregon. Courtesy of Oregon Plant Atlas Project.



M. W. Gorman at his station in the Forestry Building in the 1920s. Courtesy of Special Collections and University Archives, University of Oregon, #169.

In 1916, Gorman drove a Ford car for a collecting trip in the Pendleton area, camping along the 994-mile round trip.

In 1922 he repeated his survey of Portland plants, comparing his findings with earlier surveys and noted the increase of “foreign species.” On April 16 of that year, he also collected at Hood River, on the Oregon side of the Columbia River and may have visited his good friend Louis Henderson who had an apple orchard there.

On April 4, 1926, at the age of 73, Gorman, along with Cinita Numan, led a local walk of 25 persons to Washington Park-Mountain View Park. From April to July 1926 (his last summer), Gorman conducted a plant survey of Yamhill County, Oregon, adding #7521-7765 to his list.

Forestry building custodian

The Forestry Building, constructed of massive old growth Douglas fir, was acquired by the Portland Parks Bureau from the Lewis and Clark Exposition of 1906 in Portland as a permanent lumber exhibit open to the public. Hence, it required staffing. Nominated by influential friends, Gorman was appointed its custodian, a position he maintained until his death. Although Albert R.

Sweetser of the University of Oregon refers to Gorman as Secretary of the Oregon Forestry Association (which he may also have been) Gorman was listed on the city payroll as Custodian.

During the years of his Parks Bureau tenure, Gorman served under the direction of two superintendents. In the beginning under Superintendent Mische, Gorman appears to have had considerable management authority over the property. The building was heated by wood, ordered by Gorman, who also periodically requested supplies and maintenance services to the grounds and building, specifying work to be performed by Park Bureau staff and private contractors. Originally constructed as a temporary building with an estimated 25-year life expectancy, the Forestry Building over time became a white elephant to the Park Bureau. As the years went by, Gorman had difficulty getting grounds maintenance performed, minor repairs undertaken, and even sufficient wood to heat the building in the winter. In fact, he was once reprimanded by Superintendent C. P. Keyser in 1923 for doing yard maintenance himself, rather than being inside the building during visiting hours.

Never married, Gorman lived in a succession of boarding and rooming houses in Portland and is so listed by the Polk Directories for Portland, 1886-1926. He did not reside at the Forestry Building, although he spent long hours there. Apparently he had little space in his living quarters for specimens. His entire residency in Portland was characterized sometimes as “rooms,” sometimes as “bds,” and in later years as “res.” When first employed at the Forestry Building, he lived at 394 Columbia; at the end of his life, his home was at 221-13th (Polk City Directories).

Importance to the botanical community

Martin Gorman is considered by many to be one of the seven pioneer resident botanists of the Northwest (along with Thomas Howell, William Cusick, Louis F. Henderson, John B. Leiberg, Wilhelm N. Suksdorf, and E. P. Sheldon). Although he collected extensively, Gorman's major contribution to northwest botany was that of a reviewer, critic, and enabler (Lang 1956). His support



“The Old Forestry Building.” Pen and ink sketch, *The Morning Oregonian*, Monday, 7 September 1925.

of Thomas Howell was inestimable. He read and carefully edited the proofs of Howell's *A Flora of Northwest America* (1897), the first comprehensive flora of the Northwest. According to one of Gorman's obituaries, "Without Gorman's meticulous attention, Howell's work would have seemed crude and amateurish, riddled with grammatical errors" (Wagner 1994).

After Asa Gray died in 1888, Thomas Howell, despite only six months of formal schooling, began to publish his own descriptions of new plants. He became fast friends with Gorman, who spent many hours editing Howell's *Flora*, which appeared between 1887 and 1903. Later, Gorman and Howell worked together on a new edition of the *Flora*, in spite of Howell's poor health. After Howell's death in 1912, Gorman wrote to Charles V. Piper,

"...in May 1910 Mr. Howell and myself had a talk about a 'school and college ed.' of his *Flora* and decided to get it out together. ... We expected to be able to finish the manuscript in 6 months, but found the work much greater than we had calculated on at first... We then came to a difficulty viz: the large number of grasses and sedges whose range had been extended into our territory since his book was issued... I persuaded him that we ought to add all the grasses and sedges and such new species recently described as we could... We made arrangements to go to the U. of O. in Eugene to look over certain species in the herbarium there, the very week that his final illness came on. ... I am yet uncertain what to do about the Manuscript. If I could get some one to work up the additional grasses and sedges uniform with what we have already done, I think I can do the rest myself... The two persons that I consider best fitted are yourself and Aven Nelson of Laramie, Wyoming... I am perfectly willing to turn over a copy of the manuscript, to send specimens of newly introduced plants and of one or two new sp such as *Claytonia c.*, and to assist in any way possible either of you that can undertake to help me finish it. I have not yet written to Nelson to this effect as I first wish to obtain the advice and judgment of yourself and Dr. Greene or yourself and Dr. Coville. ... Please write me fully on the subject...." (Piper-Gorman Correspondence 1913).

Piper had no time for his faithful field collector and replied in part:

"...In conjunction with Professor Beattie, I have in press a flora of a considerable area of eastern Washington and adjacent Idaho, and have largely completed a similar flora for the region west of the Cascade Mountains.... At the present time it would be out of the question for me to assist you, as I

Mazamas.
OFFICERS.
 President, Melvin C. George
 Vice-President, Harold N. Parker
 Second Vice-President, E. Walter Young, M. D.
 Third Vice-President, W. D. Lyman
 Fourth Vice-President, William B. Mackenzie
 Secretary, Martin W. Gorman
 Treasurer, Leander L. Hawkins
 Historian, Miss Ella H. McBride
Executive Council.
 M. C. George, M. W. Gorman, E. L. Hawkins, Ella H. McBride, E. C. Brunsbach, Jr., Wm. B. Knapp, C. H. Shutes
EXTRACTS FROM THE CONSTITUTION.
OBJECTS.
 The objects of this organization shall be the exploration of new peaks and other mountains, especially those of the Pacific Northwest; the collection of scientific knowledge and other data concerning the same; the encouragement of alpine expeditions with the above objects in view; the preservation of the forests and other features of mountain scenery as far as possible in their natural beauty; and the dissemination of knowledge concerning the beauty and grandeur of the mountain scenery of the Pacific Northwest.
MEMBERSHIP.
 Any person who has (been) in the service of a newspaper accessible to the society, shall be eligible to receive or file membership.
FINANCIAL.
 The cost of active members shall be three dollars (\$3.00) per annum, payable in advance.
 166. Smith St.
 Portland, Oregon, April 28/98.
 W. W. Sinksdorf Esq.

Oregon State Academy of Sciences
OFFICERS
 EDWARD P. SHELTON, Pres.
 ALBERT H. SWEETSER, 1st Vice Pres.
 ARTHUR B. CONLEY, 2nd Vice Pres.
 CHRISTINA MACDONELL, Sec.
 JAMES A. LYMAN, Rec. Secy.
 GEO. E. CORNELL, Cor. Secy.
 H. W. GORMAN, TREAS.
 W. L. BARNHILL, Librarian & Director of the Museum, Portland
TRUSTEES
 L. S. HARRISON, PORTLAND
 ELM A. BEALL, PORTLAND
 JAMES WYTHOUSE, CHEWILLS
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
 EDWARD P. SHELTON
 JAMES A. LYMAN
 H. W. GORMAN
 G. E. CORNELL
 CHRISTINA MACDONELL
 "The purpose of this Academy shall be to encourage scientific research and learning, to promote the diffusion of scientific knowledge among its members; and throughout the State of Oregon and to aid in the discovery and development of the natural resources of the same."
 166. Smith St.
 Portland, Or. July 5/06.
 Dear Mr. Sinksdorf

OREGON FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
Extract from Constitution
 The objects of this Association shall be the protection and preservation of the forests of Oregon for the use and benefit of the public in general, the improvement and dissemination of knowledge and information pertaining to forestry and to the economic value and importance of our forests.
OFFICERS
 PRESIDENT, FRANK E. LAKE
 FIRST VICE-PRES., H. W. GORMAN
 SECOND VICE-PRES., EDWARD P. SHELTON
 SECRETARY, MARTIN W. GORMAN
 TREASURER, A. G. MONTGOMERY
ANSWERED JAN 3 1912 P.C.L.
 166. Smith St.
 Portland, Oregon, V. 1913.
 Mr. C. V. Piper
 Washington, D.C.
 Dear Mr. Piper

CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
 GEO. L. BAKER, COMMISSIONER
BUREAU OF PARKS
 166. Smith Building
 Portland, Or. April 28, 1925.
 Mr. W. W. Sinksdorf, Oregon Wash.

Letterheads used by M. W. Gorman in his correspondence. Courtesy of Holland Library, Washington State University.

have not the time that I can spare. Matters may shape themselves in the near future so that I could undertake the work in conjunction with you. ...there is certainly need of a good students flora for the whole region, and I trust it will be possible for you to carry the work through to completion" (Piper-Gorman Correspondence 1913).

The revised Flora was not completed and the manuscript was lost. It is believed that it was among Howell's papers that were vandalized after his death.

Over the years, the Smithsonian Institution asked Gorman to correct and edit copy for many of their botanical publications. He conducted a lively nationwide correspondence with professional botanists, botany professors, and many other individuals interested in the botany of the region who came to him for advice and consultation. Among these were Charles V. Piper and R. Kent Beattie of the US Department of Agriculture, Albert R. Sweetser, Head of the Botany Department at the University of Oregon, 1909-1931, as well as Wilhelm Suksdorf, Harold St. John and Thomas Howell.

Gorman regularly sent duplicate specimens to the National Herbarium in Washington, DC. His were the first contemporary collections received by that herbarium from the Pacific Northwest. He furnished specimens free of charge to local botanists as well as to various private and public herbaria. For years he identified plant species at hand for associates and the general public. Gorman was a joiner and an organization man as well, as evidenced by the various letterheads he employed over the years. He was a member of the Portland Audubon Society. However, "[he] was not well known outside the region because he did not collect plants for sale" (Wagner 1994) nor did he publish a flora. Gorman's own mounted specimens were sent to the University of Oregon Herbarium, annotated and donated to the general collection of Louis F. Henderson. Currently, 705 specimens from the Gorman collection, including six type specimens, are listed in the data base of the Oregon State University Herbarium (OSU Herbarium 2005). Gorman's type specimen for *Saxifraga occidentalis* var. *latiopetiolata* C.H. Hitchc. (Hitchcock *et al.* 1977) is one of two specimen credited to him in the University of Washington Herbarium (Collections Manager, pers. comm. 2004).

Gorman was also very successful in persuading outstanding botanists of the time to provide feature articles for *Mazama*, the periodic bulletin of the Mazamas which became its yearly Annual.

Further indications of Gorman's cachet at the time in the botanical world of the northwest are contained in the following letters for the times. On January 13, 1918, amateur botanist J. C. Nelson, at that time principal of the Senior High School in Salem, Oregon, and a close friend of Gorman's, asked Gorman to name either Nelson himself or Albert Sweetser the recipient of Gorman's botanical papers and personal herbarium. On November 5, 1919, Gorman wrote to Sweetser at the University of Oregon, drawing his attention to two cases of mounted specimens in the University herbarium damaged by insects. The specimens in the cases included those collected by Francis Y. Drake (a fellow *Mazama*), Louis Henderson, and by Gorman himself. On September 29, 1924, Gorman wrote Sweetser, then Chair of the University of Oregon's Department of Botany, in support of the appointment of Louis F. Henderson as Curator of the

University herbarium. Helping to bring the 71-year old, but still vigorous, Henderson to the University of Oregon was another of Gorman's important services to the scientific world. Henderson had expressed interest in the position at a proposed salary of \$125 per month, conditional upon an improvement in the herbarium storage facilities. He specified the "very best insect-proof cases." In this letter, Gorman indicated that he had agreed to solicit donations for this purpose (Gorman 1924). Henderson observed in his later autobiography:

"Mr. Biddle [Henry J. Biddle, a close personal friend of Gorman] put up \$300 himself and secured a like amount from A. L. Mills, the wife of George Goode, E. S. Collins, Henry Failing, the David Thompson Estate, Henry J. Corbett, Rodney Glissan [sic], C. F. Adams and W. B. Ayer, with which 10 splendid metal cases were secured in which to store our valuable specimens" (Love 2001).

It is not known if Gorman himself contributed funds.

Though passionate about plants, Gorman was above all a naturalist, interested in land forms, soils, and plant communities, with a keen interest in human interaction with the natural world. "To the end of his life his botanical interest was chiefly directed toward native trees and shrubs; but he collected everything, and devoted a large part of his time to making determinations for his many correspondents" (Nelson 1927). "Gorman's botanical enthusiasm was contagious....He was ready at all times to identify the plants and flowers for all interested, especially the school children. Everybody went to him, young and old" (Glisan 1926). "His little room in the [Forestry] building filled to overflowing with books, papers and specimens, was the unflinching resort of all botanists who visited Portland" (Nelson 1927). Thus he was described at his death by old friends and associates.

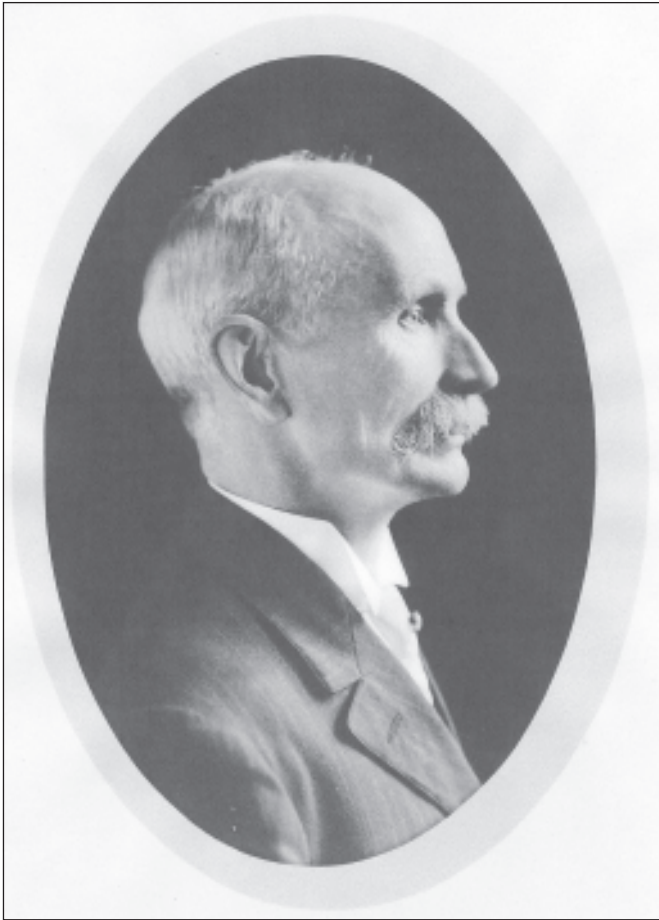
Though a fluent speaker and writer, Gorman wrote little for publication. Most of his botanical works were published in *Mazama*. "His own large collection he never wholly reduced to order, but by the terms of his will it became, along with his books and papers, the property of the University of Oregon" (Lang 1956). The specimen collection has now been transferred to the Oregon State University Herbarium and OSU Valley Library in Corvallis. Gorman's papers and photographs remain in the Special Collections of Knight Memorial Library, University of Oregon, Eugene.

FLORA OF THE PACIFIC COAST.	
<i>Hab.</i>
<i>Loc.</i>
<i>No.</i>	<i>Date:</i>
M. W. GORMAN, Portland, Oregon.	

Gorman's Specimen Record (undated). Courtesy of Special Collections and University Archives, University of Oregon.

Gorman's legacy

During his long residence in Portland, Gorman became well aware of the effects of increasing settlement and urbanization upon local vegetation. He railed against the displacement of native plants by "foreign species" brought in by settlers, railroads and in ship ballast. He clearly recognized that repeated collections of Portland flora over time would provide the basis for comparison of past and present vegetation. In fact, his 1915 survey served as the foundation for a current study of the historic and contemporary flora of Portland (Christy *et al.* 2006).



Portrait of Martin W. Gorman in the 1920s. Courtesy of Special Collections and University Archives, University of Oregon, #169.

Martin Woodlock Gorman was a talented amateur naturalist whose passion for plants and whose dedication to field botany made him a potent energizer in the development of a robust school of Northwest botany at the turn of the twentieth century. Like Thomas and Joseph Howell, his contemporaries, Gorman was not a professional botanist, but self-taught with high personal standards. He complemented, supported and stimulated contemporary academic botanists throughout the United States. He was also the pioneer ethnobotanist of the Pacific Northwest. Good-natured and generous to all, he inspired new generations of botanists with his enthusiasm for native plants.

Men actively interested in the flora of the Pacific Northwest who were part of Gorman's personal circle included:

Rodney Lawrence Glisan (1869-1934), scion of a prominent Portland family and civic leader after whom a street in Portland is named. He was a close friend of Gorman's and a devoted Mazaman who served as club photographer on many outings.

Louis Forniquet Henderson (1853-1942) reported in his autobiography that he climbed North Sister on July 3, 1881 (Love 2001). At that time Henderson was Principal and teacher of French, Latin, botany and elocution at Portland High School and an accomplished outdoorsman. Later, in 1924, with Gorman's assistance, he became Curator of the University of Oregon's Herbarium. Though disputed, the Mazamas still vigorously claim the "hitherto unrecorded" (*Morning Oregonian* 1903) ascent of North Sister on July 20, 1903, by two of its members to be the first documented ascent to the summit.

Thomas Jefferson Howell (1842-1912), a self-taught resident plant explorer who collected more new species of plants in Oregon than any other person (Wagner 1994). Encouraged by Asa Gray of Harvard University, Howell and his brother Joseph sent him their specimens for determination and publication. Both brothers tried to make a living as plant collectors, but Joseph soon returned to farm work. Thomas persisted for years in plant collecting all over Oregon, in spite of poverty. It is believed that Gorman befriended Howell more than once. He did arrange for and may have financed Howell's trip to Alaska.

James Carlton Nelson (1867-1944), was a contemporary and friend of Gorman, a fellow amateur botanist who also submitted specimens to C. V. Piper from the field. A career educator, he was associated with Salem High School and the Salem school district, in Oregon, 1914-1944. He also knew Morton Peck of Willamette University. The OSU Herbarium contains 339 specimens collected by Nelson.

Charles Vancouver Piper (1867-1926), an agronomist, held a joint faculty appointment from 1892 to 1903 at what is now Washington State University at Pullman, Washington, teaching botany and zoology. After becoming head of his department, he moved to Washington, DC, as Agrostologist in Charge, Bureau of Plant Investigations, US Department of Agriculture, where he remained until his death in 1926. He solicited contributions of plant specimens from US collectors at large, offering in exchange free (franked) postage and plant determinations. For many years Gorman actively contributed plant specimens to Piper.

Wilhelm Nicholas Suksdorf (1867-1935), self-taught botanist, emigrated as a child from Germany to Iowa, briefly attended UC Berkeley in a science/agriculture course, settled in White Salmon, Washington, where he began to collect plants in 1875. Correspondence with Asa Gray at Harvard resulted in an invitation to join Gray as a paid assistant, but he left in 1888 due to health problems. Suksdorf then settled with his brothers in Bingen, Washington, where he continued to collect and sell plant specimens, and to correspond with Gorman, Alice Eastwood, and others. A "splitter" and dedicated field botanist uneasy with his command of English, he published his findings regularly in German journals and founded his own publication, *Werenda*.

Chronology of Publications by Martin W. Gorman

Mazama

- Gorman, M. W. *Historian's Report for 1895* (1896):49.
Gorman, M. W. *Report on the Name "Mazama"* (1896) 5-9.
Gorman, M. W. *Outing on Mount Adams 1895* (2nd Annual) (1896) 49.
Gorman, Martin W. *Mazamas: A Record of Mountaineering of the Pacific Northwest* (1897) 1:2 (Crater Lake Number).
Gorman, M. W. *Discovery and Early History of Crater Lake* (1897)1:160.
Gorman, M. W. *The Name "Mazama"* (1900) 2:1: 46-48.
Gorman, M. W. *Complexities of the Diamond Hitch* (1905): 242-247.
Sholes, C. H., R. L. Glisan, F. H. Kisen, M. W. Gorman and John A. Kee *Mazama Map of Mt. Baker Region* (July-August 1906) 3:9.
Gorman, M. W. *Vegetation of the Northeast Slope of Mt. Baker* (1907) 3:31-48.
Gorman, Martin W. *Useful Books for the Mountain Climber* (1915) 4:51-55.
Gorman, M. W. *Two Useful Botanical Manuals* (1916) 5:87-94.
Gorman, M. W. *In Memoriam: Hart K. Smith* (1916) 5: 97.
Gorman, M. W. *Flora of Mt. Hamilton* (1920) 6:62-77.

Other Publications

- Gorman, M. W. *Economic Botany of Northwestern Alaska*, Pittonia 3:464-65 (1896).
Ayers, H. B., W. G. Steele and M. W. Gorman. *Map of Washington Forest Reserve, showing Wooded, Burned and Restocked Areas and the Density of Merchantable Timber in Fee B. M.*, Part V, PL LXXIV, U. S. Geological Survey, Nineteenth Annual Report (1898).
Gorman, Martin W. *Report on the Vegetation of the Washington Forest Reserve with Special Reference to the Lake Chelan Area* to accompany U. S. G. S. Map of Washington Forest Reserve Showing Distribution of Timber Species: U. S. G. S. Nineteenth Annual Report, Part V, Pl. LXXV (1898).
Gorman, Martin W. *Eastern Part of the Washington Forest Reserve*. Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey to the Secretary of the Interior 19:5: 315-350 (1898).
Gorman, M. W. *Forest Resources of Oregon*. Report of State Board of Horticulture, Appendix 443- 465 (1900).

Manuscripts of Martin W. Gorman

- There are several unpublished manuscripts by Martin W. Gorman in Special Collections and University Archives, Knight Memorial Library, University of Oregon.
List of Plants in the Vicinity of Portland, Oregon. undated ms., ca. 1925
Food Plants of the Indian Tribes of the Northwest. undated ms.
Important Events in the History of NW Botany. undated ms.
List of Native Plants Suitable for Cultivation Arranged According to the Natural System. undated ms.
A List of the Shrubs and Undershrubs of Oregon. undated ms.

There is also a variety of observations, ethnic information and lists recorded in his various journals, supplementing his daily record of activities and plants collected.

References

- Christy JA, Kimpo A, Marttala V, Christy NL. 2006. Rare Plants and Vile Weeds: urbanizing flora of Portland, Oregon, 1806-2006. Eugene (OR): Native Plant Society of Oregon Occasional Paper No. 3. in press.
City of Portland Archives. File 7200, Parks, Historical Subject Records: Fiche 1897-1915; File 7290, Park Board Meetings.
Glisan RL. 1926. Martin W. Gorman. *Mazama* VIII:12, 49.
Hitchcock CL, Cronquist A, Ownbey M, Thompson JW. 1977. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest*. Seattle (WA): University of Washington Press.
Lang JMC. 1956. Pioneer Botanists of the Pacific Northwest. *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 57:119-120.
Love RM. 2001. Louis F. Henderson (1853-1942): The Grand Old Man of Northwest Botany. Occasional Paper No. 2. Eugene (OR): Native Plant Society of Oregon.
Mazama Archives. File VM 001-1993, Rodney Glisan Collection.
Nelson JC. 1927. M. W. Gorman. *Rhodora* 29:329, 32-26.
Oregon State University Herbarium. *Oregon Vascular Plant Data Base*. (http://www.orst.edu/dept/botany/herbarium/db/vasc_plant.html) Corvallis, OR: 2005.
Polk Directories for the City of Portland. Years 1883-1937. University of Oregon, Knight Memorial Library. Special Collection 169, Selected Papers of Martin W. Gorman; Collection AX138, Mss. Martin W. Gorman; Collection AX75, Albert Sweetser File.
Wagner DH. 1994. History of the University of Oregon Herbarium (1903-1993). *Kalmiopsis* 4:6-11.
Washington State University Holland/New Library, Pullman, WA: Selected papers: C.V. Piper-Gorman correspondence; Wilhelm Suksdorf-Gorman correspondence; R. K. Beattie-Gorman correspondence; Harold St. John-Gorman correspondence.

Mariana D. Bornholdt (MA, University of California at Berkeley; EDM, Oregon State University) taught Counseling Psychology at San Francisco State and Chico State colleges before retirement. An early member of the volunteer Oregon native plant task force, she was a long-time member of the Native Plant Society of Oregon and served as president of the Willamette Valley chapter. Her special interest is fungi, and she served many years on the Toxicology Committee of the Oregon Mycological Society. A Master Gardener, she oversaw rehabilitation of a college farm in Ghana during her Peace Corps days. Currently a resident of Santa Fe, New Mexico, her writings have appeared in numerous publications.
