

# Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

April 2016 Vol II

[http://www.oregonpioneers.com/marion/  
BrooksHistoricalSociety.htm](http://www.oregonpioneers.com/marion/BrooksHistoricalSociety.htm)

## MISSION STATEMENT

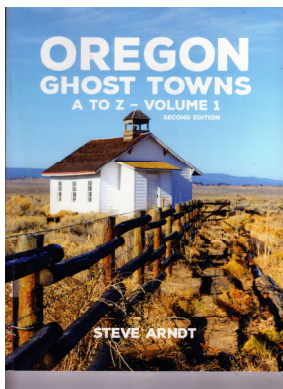
The objective of the Brooks Historical Society and Depot Museum is to educate and stimulate an interest in and knowledge of the history of Brooks, Oregon, and the surrounding areas.

## Ghost Towns Celebration Saturday, June 18

Brooks Historical is delighted to feature Steve Arndt, local author of *"Oregon Ghost Towns from A to Z"*, and the *"Roads Less Traveled Oregon"* book series at our annual BHS Celebration, on Saturday, June 18.

The program begins at 10 am with a series of short talks by BHS members on ghost communities of our French Prairie and Howell Prairie area. Featured communities are Fairfield, Parkersville, Waconda, North Howell/Laurence, Labish Center, Deweyville and St. Louis.

This will be followed by a noon potluck lunch, with cake, beverages and tableware provided.



After lunch, Steve Arndt will give a presentation based on his Ghost Towns books.

Old time music will be provided as you browse the Brooks Depot Museum source materials on

local ghost communities, and the books, including Mr. Arndt's books, offered for sale.

Please bring your own stories to share, and any memorabilia about communities long gone, but not yet forgotten. Potluck lunch. Entrance fee \$6, under 12 free.

## Signs to be Placed



As part of the Ghost Towns Celebration, Brooks Historical will purchase brown and white signs from Marion County to be placed at the site of six ghost communities in our area. The signs are 36 x 30 inches.

The six signs will be Fairfield, Parkersville, Waconda (new only), North Howell/Laurence, Labish Center, and Deweyville. We will not include St. Louis as there is already a sign there.



Check out the new  
BHS Facebook page.

## Steam-Up Book Sale

Steam-Up is coming! Besides selling delicious breakfast, lunch, drinks and snack items, Brooks Historical Society will have a new fundraiser- **used books for \$1 or less.**

Over 1000 books will be for sale, everything from sports to science fiction, cookbooks and westerns, to old books. Plan to come pick up some great bargains, proceeds to Brooks Historical Society.

As always, Steam-Up is the last weekend of July and the first weekend of August.

If you have books you would like to donate to the sale, call Vicki at 390-6697 to arrange delivery.

## Rails Through the Willamette Valley

This APMA exhibit in the Dezotell building at Antique Powerland includes information and old photos of the Oregon Electric and the Southern Pacific Railways. They brought many of the first black workers to the Willamette Valley.

Note especially the baggage cart in the exhibit which was used in the Brooks Depot during the Depot's working days, from 1900 to 1960. The cart may be offered to BHS when the exhibit ends in July.



## Welcome New Members!

Sharon Shelton  
Judy Hall

## Portland Ag Show

Antique Powerland Museum Association, Brooks Historical Society, and other member museums exhibited at the Portland Ag Show at the Expo Center in January. BHS offered a miniature croquet game on indoor carpet, which interested many young players.



Drawing much interest from young and old alike were wooden buttons with the BHS logo strung on a four foot long looped string. The game is to start and keep the button spinning on the string. We liked these so much, that these buttons will be one of the prizes for the Steam-Up Passport program this year.

## New References

**Perseverance : A History of African Americans in Oregon's Marion and Polk Counties.** By Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers.

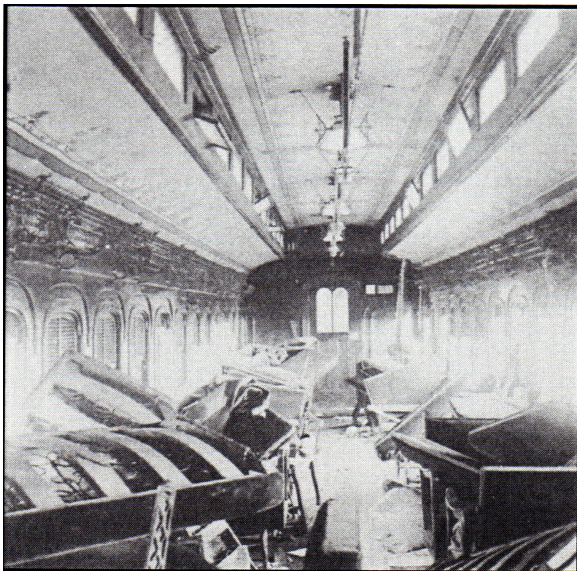
**Locomotive.** By Brian Floca. A Caldecott Medal winner, and a Robert F. Siebert Honor Book. A well illustrated children's book follows a family on a train in 1869. Has a great diagram of a steam train.

## The Great Train Wreck of 1890

From **Lake Labish: Early Land-owners and Events**, by the Sons of Labish. (available for sale at the Brooks Depot)

On November 12, 1890 a Southern Pacific train was crossing a trestle on the lake bottom (Lake Labish) at about 8:15 pm and for some unknown reason the engineer firmly applied the air brakes on the train.

This trestle was known to be in poor condition and the sudden braking made the trestle collapse, causing the engine and the three cars to fall 16 feet into the marsh, killing the engineer, at least two more men and injuring many more.



The three cars were salvaged, but because the engine was so heavy, it sank deep into the muck soil and they were unable to salvage it. In order to get the railroad back and running, they built a dirt fill across this part of the trestle, which covered the engine completely.

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## Did You See This Exhibit?



BHS member Dorene Standish had an extensive part of the exhibit at the Willamette Heritage Center, "A Portrait in Time". For the past two months, it featured her material from her Brooks Catholic Cemetery Book and various artifacts. . We are proud to offer Dorene's book for sale here at our museum.

## New Items for Sale

**Book: Brooks Catholic Cemetery, Brooks, Marion County, Oregon 1894-2015**, by Dorene Standish, Brooks Catholic Cemetery Association. First edition. \$25.

**History CD:** Digital copies of the **LaFollette family history book** are available. \$ 20 for the DVD. Stop by the museum to view a hard copy.

## Brooks Historical Society

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Brooks, OR 97303

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 9265  
Brooks, OR 97305



### Brooks Historical Society

#### Membership

Adult Member ----- \$15.00

Student Membership ----- \$ 5.00  
(Elementary and High School )

Business Membership ----- \$35.00

Donation ----- \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Address:

City/State/zip:

Phone

E-mail

**Checks should be written to:**

**Brooks Historical Society**

**Mail to:**

**PO Box 9265**

**Brooks, OR 97305**

**Videos, Books, & Research Collections for**

**sale: Visit our website at [http://](http://www.oregonpioneers.com/marion/BrooksHistoricalSociety.htm)**

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### BHS Officers and Board

President - Louis Sowa

Vice-President - Dan Groah

Treasurer - Dorene Standish

Recording Secretary - Vicki Cunningham

Correspondence Secretary - Marilyn Barner

Board - Position 1- Bob Brown

Position 2- Leah Duda

Position 3- Frank Cunningham

Position 4 - June Gibson

### Meetings

The Brooks Historical Society meets at the Brooks Depot Museum at 10 am the first Saturday of the month.

### Directions to the museum at Antique Powerland:

From I-5 - take Exit 263 -- go west approx. 1/4 mile to: Antique Powerland, 3995 Brooklake Road, Brooks, OR 97303

**Interested in Antique Powerland?**

Visit [antiquepowerland.com](http://antiquepowerland.com)