

# Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

July 2019

<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.

Check out the BHS  
Facebook page.



## Used Book Sale Sparks Interest



Visitors to the Branch 15 Antiques and Collectibles Swap Meet on June 21 and 22 enjoyed the first look at our 2019 Used Book Sale. Even more books are on the way for future events this summer. Look for our tent to the west of the Brooks Depot Museum.



## Brooks Historical Food Sales

Brooks Historical will be selling their famous breakfasts and lunches at the Fourth of July Vintage Trailer Rally and Civil War Re-Enactment July 4 through 7. We will also vend for the Great Oregon Steam-Up, the last weekend of July and

the first weekend of August.

Omelets, pancakes, eggs, biscuits and gravy are there to enjoy, and don't forget the doughnuts, muffins and fruit. For lunch try our hot dogs, polish dogs, or hamburgers. Most drinks are just \$1! We will see you there.

## 9 Patch Quilt Project at All S.T.E.A.M.d Up With Kids

Rain dampened some enthusiasm for the May 17 and 18 Powerland event, "All S.T.E.A.M.d Up With Kids." However a good crowd on Saturday enjoyed many kid-friendly activities highlighting Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. At the Brooks Depot, rain sidelined the pump-organ and sack races plans, in favor of an indoor activity, making a 9 patch using fabric on paper. Some got very creative!



## 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://www.oregonpioneers.com/marion/BrooksHistoricalSociety.htm>

## BHS Officers and Board

President - Frank Cunningham  
Vice-President - Dan Groah  
Treasurer - Dorene Standish  
Recording Secretary - Vicki Cunningham  
Correspondence Secretary - Marilyn Barner  
Board - Position 1- Louis Sowa  
Position 2- Leah Duda  
Position 3- Sharon Shelton  
Position 4 - Carl Barner

## 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 Powerland Heritage Park: From I-5 - take Exit 263 -- go west approx. 1/4 mile to: Powerland Heritage Park, 3995 Brooklake Road, Brooks, OR 97303  
Interested in Powerland Heritage Park? Visit [antiquepowerland.com](http://antiquepowerland.com)



## The French Prairie Heritage Rose Garden -

Only stopping and literally “smelling the roses” can really bring to life the many interesting details in this garden of about 40 roses near the entrance of Powerland Heritage Park. This article summarizes two of the six of collections in the garden and relates a few of the many interesting stories the roses hold.



The *Mary Drain Albro Rose Collection* is part of the *Oregon Heritage Rose Collection*. Mary Drain Albro (1876 – 1962) was a pioneer descendent and rose historian who believed old roses have an important story to tell. She recorded first and secondhand oral accounts on her rose finding adventures between 1936 and 1942, when her Pioneer Rose Association was an active organization. Two of the roses in this collection are described below.

**Witness Rose** To your left as you enter is an unusual rose with a “green eye” that grew on the Douglas County home place of General Joseph Lane who was commissioned first Governor of Oregon Territory in 1948. Mary Albro named this rose the “Witness Rose” because, in another loca-

tion, an escalating property line dispute was settled when an old-timer recalled the rose had been planted along a property boundary.

**Apothecary’s Rose** To your right as you enter. This ancient rose (before 1160 ) was known by many names including Red Rose of Lancaster, Provins Rose and Old Red Damask. The Exhibition name is R. gallica officinalis. Mary Albro associated the rose with Jesse and Cynthia Applegate and it is planted at Pioneer Mothers Cabin in Champoeg

*French Prairie Pioneer Rose Collection* reflects unique local history and honors pioneering families by exhibiting roses with historic ties to the community. Each rose has a story, and here are two of them.

**The Mary Ann Egan Rose**– Mary Ann Egan crossed the Oregon Trail in 1852 at the age of 8 with her parents, Patrick Egan and his wife Catherine Canty. Six years later, at age fourteen, Mary Ann died of pneumonia.

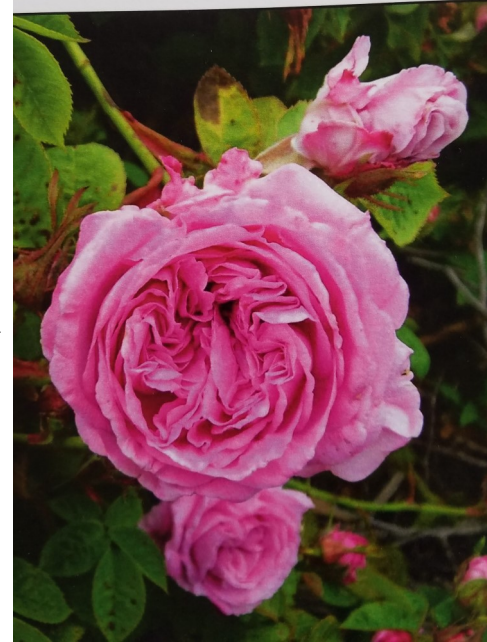
A white moss rose was planted on her grave in the St. Louis Cemetery where it thrived for 100 years, before it was moved to the Egan Century Farm near Brooks. Mary Ann's niece, Adele Egan, saved the rose almost sixty years ago, by moving it to her family's 1875 farm where it continues to bloom year after year in memory of little Mary Ann.

This once-blooming, tall arching shrub is covered with thick, mossy, blush-pink buds that open to beautiful snow-white roses.



**1852 Pink Bethany Rose** From the Family Rose Dedication Plaque in Bethany Cemetery.

“Hanson Stevens, age 37, and his wife Lavina, age 33, along with their seven children, left their home in Keokuk, Iowa, and made the arduous six-month



journey on the Oregon trail in 1852. They settled in the Silverton/Mt. Angel area along the Pudding River on a 308-acre donation land claim. One of the few prized items surviving the journey was a slip of a rose that Lavina loved. The rose was purportedly transported in a potato to provide moisture and protection during the trip. Once in Oregon, Lavina nurtured the rose. At some point after Lavina’s death in 1859, a clipping was planted at her grave. Over time the rose in the graveyard was the only remaining offspring of the original. Previously unnamed, it was christened the Bethany Rose, after the cemetery where Lavina and Hanson are buried. Clippings of this, a hardy and resilient plant, have been distributed to every branch of the family, with the original bush left in Bethany Cemetery to continue growing alongside the grave of its beloved owner.”

*The French Prairie Heritage Rose Garden was created as a cooperative effort between Northwest Rose Historians, Brooks*

*Historical Society, and Antique Powerland Museum Association. Ownership of the garden now rests with the Antique Powerland Museum Association. Thanks to dedicated volunteers such as Dorene Standish, Judy Hall, Tom and Patty Brock, the Boy Scouts, Mark Bennett and his APMA crew, and others the rose garden is maintained. It is a big job! If you would like to help in the garden, contact [office@antiquepowerland.com](mailto:office@antiquepowerland.com)*



## Brooks Celebration Day June 15 2019

BHS Celebration Day 2019 featured fiddler Truman Price, who entertained with old time fiddle tunes and songs before and during our potluck lunch. Tours of the museum and Farmhouse Museum were offered. Tables were available with scrapbooks about area schools, ghost towns, and transportation history. We thank Adelman Peony Gardens for the beautiful flowers they donated for the event. We also thank Happy Bee Garden Center for the hanging baskets they donated as door prizes.

