



Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

October 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.



BHS Annual Meeting November 2

Welcome all to the Brooks Historical Society Annual meeting at 10 am November 3. The meeting will be held at the Masonic Lodge, just north of Brooks, at 9222 Highway 99E.



The agenda will include

- ♦ Introductions
- ♦ Annual Reports
- ♦ Elections of Officers
- ♦ Plans for next year
- ♦

A **Potluck lunch** will follow, BHS will provide meat dishes, soda, water and coffee, and table settings.



Future Plans For Brooks Historical Society's Annual Celebration Day.

June 20, 2020

Brooks Historical Celebration Day will be on June 20, 2020. Current plans are to invite a group who presents a program in period dress. Stay tuned as plans develop.

And for June 19, 2021 (2 years from now)

The class of 2021 will be the 100th class to graduate from Gervais (Union) High School. Brooks Historical Society is planning to celebrate with a 100-year reunion on the weekend of June 19, 2021 at Powerland Heritage Park in Brooks.

Put this date on your calendar and plan to come. Put this on your Facebook page, tell other graduates, spread the word.

If you question whether or not we have your name, address, phone number and email address, please send it to Miss James (Jeannine) at jjames@oregonsbest.com, or Karen Staab at karenstaab1954@gmail.com.

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)
[www.oregonpioneers.com/marion/](http://www.oregonpioneers.com/marion/BrooksHistoricalSociety.htm)
[BrooksHistoricalSociety.htm](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. We are in Building 6.
Interested in Powerland Heritage Park?
Visit antiquepowerland.com

Chief Concomly and His Grandson Ranald McDonald

By Dan Groah

Concomly Road connects River Road and Highway 99E north of Waconda Road and south of Gervais. Locals might recognize Concomly as an Indian name but not all would know that he was a Chinook chief-tain. What is even less known about chief Concomly is that his grandson became famous in very different circles.



Chief Concomly as he appeared in the early 1800s

One the chief's daughters, Lichee, married a Hudson's Bay Company factor, a Scotsman named McDonald. That marriage saw the arrival of son Ranald. When

Ranald reached maturity, his father sent Ranald to eastern Canada for an education. Ranald, being a half breed, was met with extreme bigotry. And he became wary of Europeans who continually pressed for expansion at the expense of the people who already occupied the lands. At



Ranald McDonald

that time Britain had forced its way into China and the United States was looking to enter Japan.

As a young boy Ranald had heard stories among the Northwest Indians of Japanese drifters who came ashore near Ozette, Washington. His relatives told Ranald that these Japanese people who drifted across the Pacific Ocean looked like Indian people. Ranald felt connected with these distant indigenous people across the Pacific. He felt that they should be warned of the aggressiveness and racial bias of the Westerners. Fed up with his treatment in eastern Canada, Ranald sailed on a whaling ship bound for the Pacific Ocean.

At this time(1840), Japan allowed no cultural or trade connection with people outside Japan. Only the Dutch were allowed to enter the city of Nagasaki a couple of times a year for trade. Ranald made a deal with a sea captain to be dropped off in a life boat to arrive on Japanese shores as a shipwrecked sailor. Over a period of seven months Ranald shared his concerns with the Japanese and taught several Japanese the English language. He found favor with the shogun court but he was not Japanese so was expelled from the country on the next Dutch ship out.



Japanese language monument in Astoria, Oregon marking Ranald's birthplace

In 1853 when Commodore Perry arrived in Japan at the Emperor's court, he found that not only do some Japanese speak English but they are wise to Western culture and trade practices.

After leaving Japan, Ranald stayed for a while in Australia and then ended up in British Columbia. He later retired on the Colville Indian reservation.

As for Ranald's grandfather, Chief Concomly, like his grandson, became a world traveler. At least his head did. After Chief Concomly died in 1830, his grave was raided by a British physician for phrenology purposes (the study of a brain case for mental abilities). The doctor then sailed for Honolulu. Later he gave Concomly's head to another doctor who donated it to a medical museum in London. It sat there for almost a hundred years before being shipped to the Smithsonian museum in Washington D.C. The Chinook tribe eventually got the skull back and gave it a proper burial at the mouth of the Columbia River.

- Excerpts of this article were taken from:
Horizon
By Barry Lopez
Alfred A. Knopf
2019



Work for and on the Museum

Windows/siding. Members hope to install replacement windows on the south end of the Depot next week. Replacing the existing siding will probably wait until spring.

Caboose Some progress has been made on the caboose repair, limited by volunteer schedules. We hope for quicker progress when volunteer schedules clear.

Policies Recommended for Non-Profits Using templates from a non-profit workshop, the board is working on new policies to keep our Society safe and in line with best practices for non-profits.



Welcome New Member!

Jeff Spaght

Hops and Vines Tasting Celebration September 21

Wine, beer and spirits aficionados enjoyed strolling Powerland Heritage Park and tasting the many offerings by various vendors. At the Brooks Depot Museum, we hosted cider tastings by Bauman Farms, a local farm and cider producer. Come back next year, and see what we have to offer!



Inside Brooks Depot Museum, tasting Bauman Century Farms Cider

Recent Donations



Gas hair curler warmer



Cabbage or vegetable chopping knives