

BHS Newsletter

October 2022

<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.

North Howell, Fairfield, Gervais, Quinaby, Waconda, Parkersville, St. Louis, Lake Labish

Check out the BHS Facebook page.



Changes to Brooks Depot Museum Well Received.

Over 1000 visitors came through our museum during the 2022 season, and left all positive comments. Our updated freight room with its new flooring, lights and fans were a great backdrop to the revised exhibits spotlighting local history. We enjoyed showing our digitized library of research available on a touch screen computer.

Comments by visitors included these. *“So cool.” “My Dad would have loved this.” “Very educational.” “Nice improvements.” “Fantastic.” “Lovely display.” “Well done.”*

As the Society thinks about and gears up for 2023, we plan to upgrade some exhibits and rotate out others. We especially want to make our research even more available, and plan more children’s hands on exhibits. So expect more changes to come!

Upcoming Events

October 14, 15 & October 21 & 22 & October 23 & 29 Powerland Halloween. Willamette Wizarding School Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am to 5 pm

Dec 9,10, 11 & 16, 17, 18—Holiday Sparkles is

a **Free** drive through of Powerland grounds on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, lighted and decorated for the Holidays. 5 pm to 8 pm

Hops and Vines Brings New Visitors

On October 1, the Brooks Depot hosted Deluxe Brewing and Sinister Distillery at the annual Hops and Vines tasting event at Powerland. Each museum had a distillery and/or brewery offering small tastes and bottled product.

The Depot Museum display on hops provided a perfect backdrop for this event. Seventy five people signed our guest book, (we know we missed signatures from some



The tasting table with our hops display in the background.

many who had never been to Powerland before. Thank you Jamie and Becca of Deluxe Brewing and Sinister Distillery!

Pioneer Rockhounds

By Dan Groah

The gravels along the Willamette River and especially near the Wheatland Ferry are popular for collecting of pretty rocks. Would it surprise you to know that this has been going on for nearly two-hundred years. Maybe longer. The Kalapuyans certainly picked up pretty rocks and not so pretty rocks on Willamette gravel bars.



Carnelian from Willamette River gravel

However, It's presumed that this was mostly to use these rocks to make into implements. Basaltic rocks were made into bowls and pestles to process food. The harder agates, jaspers and cherts lending themselves to be projectile points, scrapers and knives. Hundreds of these have been turned over by tilling farmland. New ground was especially profitable. But did the indigenous people pick up agates and jaspers just because they were attractive?

In the 1830's, Jason Lee established his mission near where the Wheatland Ferry is today. In the 1980's the Oregon State University Department of Anthropology sponsored an excavation of several sites on the old Jason Lee Mission grounds. The following is taken from the printed assessment.

Personal Items

Clothing

Buttons	27
Eye-loop button attachments	3

Adornment

Glass beads	23
Signet ring seal	1

Body Ritual and Grooming

Mirror Fragments	6
"wash" bottle fragments (minimum one bottle)	6

Indulgences

Alcohol bottle fragments (minimum two bottles)	28
White clay pipe fragments (minimum five pipes)	56

Pastime and Recreation

Agates	249
Petrified wood	6
Jasper	53
Other collectible rocks	24

Ritual

Brass crucifix	1
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So! Line-item *Pastime and Recreation* says it all. And the Oregon State University Anthropology Department add this:

"During excavation, 332 river worn agates, jaspers, petrified wood and 'collectible' rocks were recorded as artifacts.



Ghost Structure marking site of Jason Lee Mission

Presumably the occupants collected the specimens from nearby gravel bars. Willamette River gravels near the mission contained 'carnelians, agates, and chalcedony among loose pieces of basalt' (Wilkes 1845:352.)

A visitor to the abandoned settlement in 1844 noted 'specimens of quartz and carnelian from the pebbly shores of the Willamette River' in the mission house (Mudge 1948:220).

The presence of numerous rounded to subangular cryptocrystalline silica nodules in the mission period sediments collaborates Mudge's comments. The rocks probably were collected by the mission occupants as curiosities."

Sounds like a rockhound to me! An 1830's rock collector!

Recycle your Bottles and Cans

Brooks Historical Society appreciates your past support in recycling bottles and cans this past year. Over \$200 has been collected in our BottleDrop account.

If you would like to contribute your recyclables, drop them in the plastic containers in front of our museum specifically marked BHS bottles and Cans. Other organizations are also collecting, so make sure your bottles and cans end up in a BHS container. Thank you.

Holiday Sparkles at Powerland

Once again we will light up the nights with a free drive-through event from 5 to 8 pm on **December 9, 10, 11 & 16, 17, 18**, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. There is a competition to win the vote for best decorated among the 14 museums, and we are geared up! But if you have more lights or decorations to donate to Brooks Historical we would love it! What are the holidays without a caboose draped with lights?

This is such a great event that even Santa Claus attends! And, it's a wonderful introduction to the variety of museums at Powerland without even getting out of your car!

Can You Volunteer 6 hours/month?

We could use helpers with many short term projects in the museum, as well as docents during our April through September season. If you received this newsletter by email, respond to the email. Or contact Vicki Cunningham at 503-390-6697 and leave a message.



Roy Cuff bench, Brooks area barber 1955-2000

Painting at our Site

The caboose received several coats of paint and replacement windows in the cupola. And, we repainted the historic red, white and blue bench honoring Roy Cuff, long time barber in Brooks.

Brooks Historical Society

Annual Meeting November 12

Welcome all to the Brooks Historical Society Annual meeting at 10 am November 12. The meeting will be held at the Masonic Lodge, just north of Brooks, at 9222 Highway 99E.

The agenda will include

- Introductions
- Recap of 2022
- Elections of Officers

We will have a potluck lunch following, with a meat dish, beverages and tableware provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Brooks Historical Society

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Mailing Address:
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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)

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

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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 NE, Brooks, OR 97303. We are in Building 6.

Interested in Powerland Heritage Park? Visit antiquepowerland.com

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