

# Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

2009 Vol. 2

<http://www.oregonpioneers.com/marion/BROOKSHISTORICALSOCIETY.htm>

We gather, preserve and make available material relating to the history of Brooks and neighboring communities having natural, economical and cultural affinity

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## Applegate Historic Family Recognition June 20, 2009

Mark your calendar, come help recognize the 2009 Historic Applegates of Oregon. Interesting History and stories of “The Oregon Trail “ as they were here in the Mission Bottom Willamette Mission for a short period.

In January our story was on the Applegates crossing the plains in 1843 and the dangerous raft trip down the Columbia River from The Dalles to Fort Vancouver. Lindsay Applegate picks up the story, “we ascended the river to the Falls (Oregon City) made our way across the valley to Lee’s Old Mission, 10 miles below where Salem now stands, and on the first day of December (1843) entered one of the buildings to remain for the winter, continually in the rain. It was here we resolved to find a better way as soon as we could for the others to emigrate. We learned the Cascades to the south were lower where the Klamath cut across so concluded there must be a belt of country east towards the South Pass of the Rockies with no lofty mountains to cross.

It seems the Applegate name is more often known for the Applegate Cutoff or the South Road. That impression, good or bad, depended on the journals read or how the story is retold, but the first attempt to use the trail was definitely difficult. The trailblazers were Levi Scott, Charles, Jesse and Lindsay Applegate, and a party of men to help blaze the trail. The concern of the people at that time was that the British might take over control of Oregon and they needed a way to escape south into California. As it turned out the trail became very important as a quicker and easier way for trade parties to reach the California markets.

Jesse Applegate was able to leave a legacy to the Willamette Valley and the

government of the evolving state. While in Missouri he met, visited and studied with Capt. Clark, Wilson Price Hunt, Jedediah Smith, William L. Sublette, a lawyer Edward Bates where he learned about legislative matters, and was a proficient surveyor and deputy in the surveyor-generals’ office. He acquired the fundamentals of both law and engineering.

Jesse carried his trusty compass to Oregon in 1843. He was also commissioned to find and survey a wagon road for military purposes. At one point he was chosen captain of the slower “cow column”. From Fort Hall westward a trail had not been found. Jesse, with his compass and aided by Dr. Marcus Whitman, went in advance of the wagons to determine critical points of the route to be taken.

The legislature of 1844 appointed Jesse surveyor-general of the colony to investigate certain canal projects. In the transition from the provisional government to a Territorial government, Jesse had a guiding hand. He was chosen by the people of Yamhill County to be a member of the legislature of 1845. He revised and improved the document based on the organic laws of 1843 into a document which was more of a true constitution which was approved. He later negotiated concurrence with the British residents north of the river. This form of government remained in force until March 1849 when the state became a Territory of the U.S. By 1849 Jesse had moved his family to Yoncalla and did not continue in government.



## Interviews with Ida May Nosack

The following are excerpts from interviews with Ida May Nosack by granddaughter Cindy Quitta. Transcribed July 19, 2005 from interviews recorded the previous week.

### CONTINUED (from last issue)

[So Perry showed up from Vancouver?]

From his home. He had gone to his house to visit his mother. Then he had one of his friends drop him off at our house. He was walking otherwise. He didn't have any car or transportation whatsoever. Well, that's what happened.

His mother lived in Independence. His family lived in Independence. His step-dad worked in the lumberyard in Independence. Perry knew me from being across the street, working over there, before he joined the Army. He worked on the farm across the street.

So, anyway, I guess it was about a month or so before we dated. Grandpa dated Aunt Dorothy. It was a month or so, and he finally came back. I don't know if she talked to him or what happened. Anyway, he came back and asked me for a date. I went with him. I was in the eighth grade at this time. Now you're gonna think of me as younger when you think of me in the eighth grade, but I was 16.

[So you when you first met him, you were 14 or 15?]

I was 14 when I met Perry. I was 15 when I met your grandpa, because I had a driver's license at that time, too.

[You could get a driver's license when you were 15?]

15. Yeah. So, where am I at?

[You're in the eighth grade, but you're 16.]

You're Grandpa used to go—I don't know if he went to get his check or what, but drove by the school. That school's still there, by the way. They've built onto it somewhat.

[What school?]

North Howell. It was only two rooms. The first four grades were in one, and the other grades were in the other one.

When I came from California, I was in the second grade. I didn't know my phonics, so they put me back. Then, in the sixth grade, our teacher taught us painting and drawing and stuff, but I could still pass my arithmetic and literature and all that, what'cha call it now. She had put out a petition, or somebody had put out a petition for her to work the next year in the school as a teacher. She had this petition going around. Well, my mother wasn't home to sign a petition. Uncle Earl and Grandpa were there, but they weren't responsible for signing a petition for *me*. So all the kids whose parents didn't sign that petition were put back in that grade again.

[So you got put back twice.]

Twice. So I'm older, two years older, then most kids. [So you took second grade twice and six grade twice.]

Yeah. So, my mom went to the new teacher the next fall and said what had happened. Mrs. Beckett said, "I can't do anything about it. I can't go over another teacher's head." But she recommended that mom go to the school superintendent, which was in Salem. Her name was Agnes Booth. She was the superintendent of schools. She said that there wasn't anything that she could do about it because it was too late after I'd gone to school for a while. It was too late in the school year to test me so I could be the seventh grade. So there I was. Along towards November or Christmas time, Mrs. Beckett said, "I wish I had tested her. She could have gone on. She knows her math." That is what this teacher had done: she had scribbled out the grade she had given me and put an F on it. There should be a card around here somewhere. There should be a card with that on it, and you can see that it was erased. Aunt Dorothy, too, and other kids—there was a whole bunch of us—so it wasn't just us. There was a WHOLE bunch of us, and somebody should have looked into it, but my mother didn't know how to do it or what to do.

[So it sounds like that teacher didn't get to stay after all.]

She did not get to stay but, low and behold, she lived just down the road from my mom for years. My mom bought some property right across from her place. I don't know whether she was renting or owned it, but my mom bought her property for \$500 across from where they were. When my sister and her husband broke up, she lived in that house on that property that my mom had bought across from that teacher. My sister thought that she was just as nice as she could be. She was very special, and all that. But I still have a hurting about it. Here I am, 20 years old, graduating from high school.

[But you did it.]

No, I didn't. I quit and married Dad (Grandpa). I was in my senior year. I only had from November until the next May to go to school, but I quit and married him. I didn't know that I could get the Board of Directors to sign papers for me to have a certificate, so I didn't graduate.

To Be Continued

## Thank You

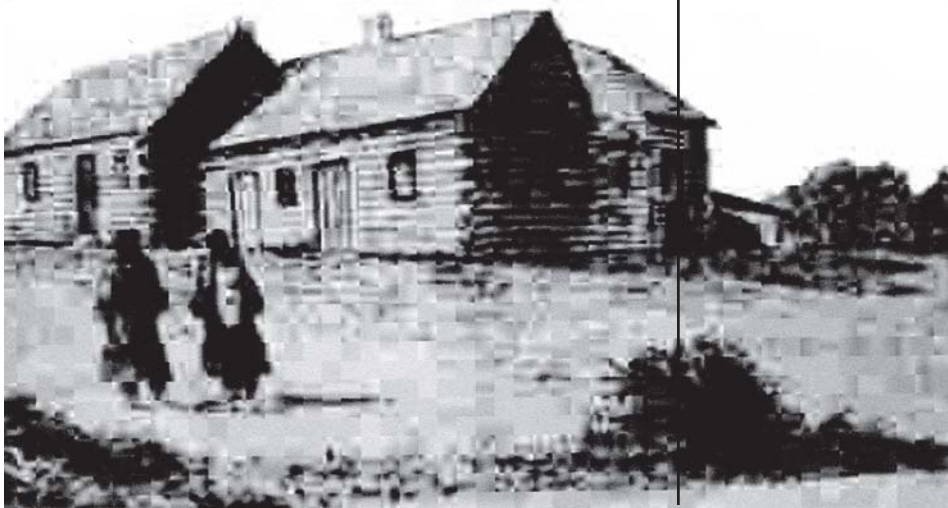
Thank you to Bob Brown, Phil McClaughry, Dean Cuff, Jack Lowery, Frank Cunningham, and George Standish for completing the much needed display and storage cabinet. The castors make it so much easier to make better displays.

## Singer, Beverly Jean

Beverly Jean Cuff Singer July 15, 1941-April 3, 2009. Beverly was born on July 15, 1941 in Aberdeen, Washington, a daughter to Albert and Martha Ann Sisk Cuff. She was the fourth of six children. She moved to Oregon as a small child Lived in Independence, Gervais and Brooks. Beverly graduated from Gervais Union High in 1959. This year she was to celebrate her 50th Class Reunion. After graduation, Beverly worked for The Bank of Oregon in Woodburn.

She married Paul Singer Jr. of Aurora, on September 22, 1961, they made their home in Donald, Oregon where Paul farmed. After their children had grown, Beverly returned to work at Key Bank, where she worked for the next 10 years, retiring in 1994. She was on the board for Brooks Historical Society. Bev and Paul volunteered at the Brooks Depot Museum during the summer. As she lived across the railroad tracks from the Brooks Train Depot during her school years. Beverly is survived by her husband Paul Singer Jr.,son Thomas (Theresa) Singer of Woodburn, and one daughter Paula (Michael) Dunn of Hillsboro, Oregon. 10 Grandchildren and 2 Great-Grandchildren.

She also leaves two Brothers Gary and Terry Cuff, both of Brooks-Salem. Bev was preceded in death by her parents Albert and Martha Cuff, brothers Roy and Earl Cuff. Her sister Gloria and her son Richard in 2003. Bev left a wonderful memory to her family and friends



## Madson, Daniel Robert



Daniel Robert Madson March 21, 1921 - March 26, 2009 SALEM - Daniel R. Madson died at his home, one week after celebrating his 88th birthday with his family. Dan was the 4th of 5 sons born to Dr. William E. and Carol Robey Madson in Hawarden, Iowa. He graduated from Hawarden High School in 1940.. Dan had a

long career with the Bureau of Land Management as a forester in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and Salem, Ore. until he retired in June 1981. Dan loved to distribute Smokey The Bear stickers and posters to school kids and was well known for his balloon animals at the Brooks Historical Museum and A.C. Gilbert Discovery Village, where he received the "Great Friend of Kids" award in 2003. Dan is survived by his wife of 56 years, Marie Bosch Madson; daughters, Danell (Mark) VanderSchans of Elk Grove, Calif., Carol (Marty) Lee of Tigard and Robin Weiland of Redwood Shores, Calif.; brother, Donald C. (Anita) Madson of III. He was blessed with five grandchildren, Kevin, Kelsey, Andrew, Allyson and Bryce

## Silent Auction

Remember we need items for our Annual Silent Auction. Please call 503-390-0698 if you need items picked up. The Auction is July 26, 2009. However items are needed as soon as possible, to get the Auction prepared.

Joseph Dayton a member of a Federal surveying expedition at Lee's Mission in 1841

**Brooks Historical Society**

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Brooks, OR 97303

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 9265  
Brooks, OR 97305



**MISSION STATEMENT**

The objective of the Brooks Historical Society and Depot Museum is to be educational, to stimulate an interest in, and a knowledge of, the history of Brooks, Oregon, and the surrounding area.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

- Adult Member ----- \$12.00
- Student Membership ----- \$ 5.00  
(Elementary and High School )
- Business Membership ----- \$30.00
- 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**

**OFFICERS and BOARD**

- President - Larry Leek
- Vice-President - Louis Sowa
- Treasurer - Dorene Standish
- Recording Secretary - Adele Egan
- Correspondence Secretary -  
Marilyn Schlechter Barner
- Board - Position 1 - June Smith
- Position 2- Ray Smith
- Position 3 - Frank Cunningham
- Position 4 - vacant

**MEETINGS**

The Brooks Historical Society meets at the Brooks Depot Museum at 10AM 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