

# Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

July 2013 Vol. 3

<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, economic and cultural affinity

## BHS Celebration of the Japanese Farmers of Lake Labish

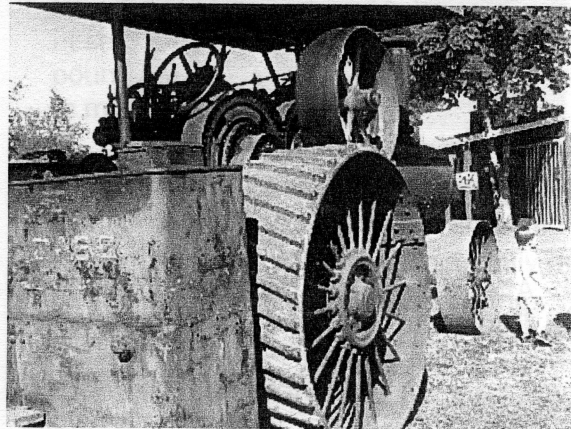
The Special BHS event this year was to honor the Japanese farmers of Lake Labish, held the third weekend of June. Though small in attendance, it was packed with emotion and good feelings.

All three of the returning Japanese families at the end of WWII were represented. They thoroughly enjoyed seeing and meeting each other and their friends in the community. Stories, scrapbooks and pictures were displayed, and video histories viewed, and lots of remembering done.



The refreshment table of cake, coffee and punch reflected the spirit of the old time specialties like onions, celery, and cherries. A special treat was a platter of Mochi, which is sweet rice Japanese bar "cookies".

The museum exhibits included colorful yukata, or Japanese summer kimono, vases of peonies, and new exhibits which will remain for the season. The exhibits explain the labor intensive celery farming on Lake Labish, and the Japanese community that grew up in the area which once had as many as 35 families. Some Japanese family histories are available to read. The World War II exhibit now also honors the Japanese soldiers from our area who served in the US Army, and has a short history on the internment of the Japanese.



## Steam-Up July 27-28 and August 3-4

1 See calendar of events on page 3

## French Prairie Heritage Rose Garden.

Brooks Historical Society Depot Museum is the repository for records, documents, and family history relating to the French Prairie Heritage Rose Garden. The rose garden conserves Oregon's first roses in displays arranged to interpret their historical significance to the French Prairie community and greater Willamette Valley.

The Mary Ann Egan Rose will be an important and historic contribution to the French Prairie Heritage Rose Garden.



*Adele Egan & the Mary Ann Egan Rose*

After a long and difficult journey, Patrick Egan and his wife, Catherine Canty, arrived in the French Prairie in 1852. Six years later, their fourteen-year-old daughter, Mary Ann, died of pneumonia. A white moss rose was planted on her grave where it thrived for many years, with the family gathering every Memorial Day to clean the grave, care for Mary Ann's rose, and celebrate her brief life. In the 1950s the cemetery board requested that all graveside plantings, including Mary Ann's memorial rose, be removed to ease cemetery maintenance.

Mary Ann's niece, Adele Egan, saved the rose almost sixty years ago, by moving it to her family's 1875 farm where it contin-

ues to bloom year after year in memory of little Mary Ann. The rose and this heartfelt story are a welcome addition to the French Prairie Heritage Rose Garden, and the Depot Museum archive.

The rose garden is in the first phase of this construction on the campus of Antique Powerland Museum Association (APMA). The garden and archives will be complete in spring of 2014. The garden has a prime location adjacent to the new caretaker's residence and two-room museum at the entry to APMA. The garden and extensive educational signage will be viewed by more than forty thousand visitors every year as they enter the museum complex. Rose garden visitors can come to the Depot Museum to learn additional information about the families and historical figures connected with the French Prairie Heritage Rose Garden.

The rose garden will be planted in six themed collections. Of local interest are roses brought across the Oregon Trail by French Prairie families. Of international interest is the rose collection and story of Fr. George Schoener. Fr. Schoener began his hybridization experiments in 1911 while he was assigned to the Church of the Assumption in Brooks. In 1915, when the church was only forty years old, it burned to the ground taking all of Fr. Schoener's research records, and most of his seedlings, in the inferno. The Depot Museum will tell this story and Fr. Schoener's hard work and dedication to "rise-from-the-ashes" to become internationally known as the "Padre of the Roses." All known surviving roses from his experiments will be planted in the French Prairie Heritage Rose Garden.

If there is a rose in your French Prairie family, or Willamette Valley family, that you would like to contribute to this growing collection of living history, or to inquire about becoming involved in this project by volunteering time, or giving financial support, please contact Northwest Rose Historians through their blog at [nwrosehistorians.com](http://nwrosehistorians.com), or call 503-539-1637. Or, call Brooks Historical Society board member, Dorene Standish, at 503-393-2053.



## Calendar of Events

**July 20** – Car Swap Meet Car show- BHS museum will be open and we will vend near the Car Museum.

**July 26,27, 28 and August 3 & 4.** The Steam Up. The museum will co-host the children's Passport Program each weekend. We vend Friday during set up, and then each weekend during the Steam Up.

**August 23 and 24** – Truck show. The museum will be open and we will vend food.

**September 28** – Open Museums – Smithsonian Day. The museum will be open and we will vend .

As you can see our events are all concentrated in July through the **Steam Up**. Many volunteers will be needed. Those able to help at the Steam Up need to sign up beforehand so that passes can be issued. They are issued for any 4-hour stint on the two Steam Up weekends. Otherwise, you pay the entry fee. Check with Dorene Standish.



## Obituary Book Updated

article by Texie Lou Hillyer Price

The BHS Obituary Book has been updated. Take a few minutes to check out this important genealogy and history resource. There are over 400 obituaries of people from the French Prairie area. Names are listed alphabetically by last name, also by first and maiden names, and by date of death. Some entries lack date of birth and/or date of death. Perhaps you can help provide some of them.

## What is Mochi?

**Mochi** is a Japanese confection, found usually in the shape of a small round rice cake which can be eaten with condiments such as *kinako* (roasted soy bean flour), *manju* (sweet red bean paste) soy sauce dip, and seaweed.

Traditionally, *mochi* is made by pounding steamed glutinous rice in a large wooden mortar, called the *usu*, with a wooden mallet called the *kine*. *Mochi-tsuki* is the Japanese term for the old-style method of pounding the steamed glutinous rice used to make *mochi*.

The sticky dense mounds of rice are made from *mochigome*, a sweeter, stickier type of rice, different from the steamed rice eaten every day. *Mochi* was originally made as offerings to *kami* (gods) at shrines. This offering was then cut into small pieces and given to people for good health and fortune. Later, the *mochi* came to be eaten on various festive occasions, and during the Heian Era (794-1192) it became an integral part of the New Year.



# Brooks Historical Society

1 (503) 390-0692

3995 Brooklake Rd. NE  
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.

## OFFICERS and BOARD

President - Louis Sowa

Vice-President - Bob Brown

Treasurer - Dorene Standish

Recording Secretary - Vicki Cunningham

Correspondence Secretary - Marilyn Barner

Board - Position 1- Mary Ray

Position 2- Leah Ott

Position 3- Frank Cunningham

Position 4 - Dan Groah

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**

## 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