

Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

2008 Vol. 1

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

Don't Forget 2008 Dues January of each year

UpComing Event

Ag Show: Jan 29,30,31 at the Expo Center

New APMA recognition awards this year for us who are represented, including trophy's. Complimentary donuts and drinks for the early workers in lobby. Please let us know if you could help out in our booth to greet people? So we can get Free Passes to you.



Historic Family of 2008: Aspinwall

Recognition and Reception: June 22, 2008

Please start collecting names and addresses of persons who we will be sending invitations and correspondence



Mid Willamette Valley Before Statehood

Part one of four

This is the first in a four part series of the tale of the peoples and industries of the Mid-Willamette Valley, particularly French Prairie, as it was prior to Statehood.

Early Native Occupants of French Prairie

The Willamette Valley has been described as 125 miles long and 30 miles wide, bound by the Cascade Range on the east, Calapooya Mountains on the south, Coast range on the west and Columbia River on the north.

The Mid-Willamette Valley, French Prairie as we know it, is about 50 miles long and 10 miles wide, lying south of Champoeg. With rich black soil, abundant water, ample timber, the landscape had mixed stands of Fir, Ash, cottonwoods, willow, alder, maple and an underbrush of Oregon Grape, salmonberry, elderberry, rose, nine bark and cascara.

Its earliest occupants were the Kalapuya Indians in 7 to 13 territorial bands. The language was called Kalapuyan with sub family Santiam on the east side and Tualatin on the west side of the Willamette River.

The population in the valley was small compared to the native people along the Columbia River where there was an abundance of salmon, and along the seashore where there was a variety of fish and berries and game in the woods. The local Indians lived in small rather isolated but interrelated bands along rivers and small streams. The political unit was the village, seen mostly in the winter.

For centuries the Kalapuyan Indians managed the land in the Willamette Valley. They lived off the land so they took care of it. They burned the prairie as necessary to control the undergrowth, protect the trees they used for many purposes, and to make it possible to hunt game.

The Indian people lived mainly along the

water courses. When they could not travel by water in canoes or rafts, they walked along trails. These were called “behavioral roads” by geographers, a way of getting from one place to another. Some trails were fairly well marked by the dragging travois used to carry goods. Often trails were known by places to ford streams or gaps in the rolling landscape. Or they went from a “camas prairie” to favorite berry patches or where wildfowl congregated.

Indians have been called nomads. Other than winter, they did move from camp to camp following the seasons. This was a varied and hospitable environment of flood plains, prairies and foothills that provided reliable plant foods and game to support these small bands. So they moved from the valley floor to higher grounds as the weather warmed up, hunting for their mainstay camas fields and berry patches. As the weather cooled they worked their way back down to winter quarters along the lower waterways.

This mix of prairie, oak savannas and forests remained largely unchanged until the arrival of the whites.

Kalapuya Year - 12 lunar months

First month of the Year (Sept.) - Small groups still in the summer camps and collecting acorns, berries and camas roots. Prairie burning begins.

Month when “hair falls off” (leaves) (Oct.) - It is wapato harvest time.

“Approaching Winter” (Nov.) - Kalapuyans prepare their winter houses for cold weather.

“Good Month” (Dec.) - colder but weather mild. Time to settle into village for winter.

“Month of “burned breast” (Jan.) - Time for feeding the fires, don’t get too close.

“Out of Provision month” - stored provisions are short, a lean time. (Feb.)

“First Spring” (Mar.) - leave the village for short camping trips to gather food, first camas shoots.

“Budding month” (April) - More trips onto the valley floor to gather roots, young growths.

“Flower-time” (May) - camas blooms, spring run of salmon. Kalapuyans leave winter houses to camp out for the summer.

“Camas harvesting” (June) - bulbs are fully ripe and can be gathered and dried; berry picking begins.

“Half-summer-time” (July) - hot and dry, begin collecting hazelnuts and caterpillars.

“End of Summer” (Aug.) - weather hot; people continue to gather berries, nuts, roots in preparation for winter.

BHS Statistics for 2007

Brooks Historical Museum is a Museum Partner at Antique Powerland,

Guests to Museum -----	1941
Museum Days Open -----	33
Hours Open -----	202
Number of Volunteers -----	31
Number of Members -----	70
Total Hours Volunteered -----	2343

It takes many hours of volunteer time to open the museum to visitors. It goes beyond the work of escorting guests through the exhibits. There is also planning, cleaning, maintenance, preparing exhibits, mailings, vending purchases, bookkeeping, landscaping, and general upkeep.

Many hands are needed.

We wish the Following Well

Recovering from Illness/Surgery
Bev Singer
Maxine Hawks (Her surgery went well)
Ravertta Corbett
Texie Hillyer

Happy Birthday Texie Hilyer

Oregon Pioneers Website

www.oregonpioneers.com

Since we now have a web presence we have had several hits and correspondence from our Web Page.

we have got some book orders and compliments

Stephanie Flora has done a terrific job with this website. It is a great resource for researching early Oregon history. Stephanie, a member of BHS, has also included content for us. Also thanks to Louis Sowa, our quarterly newsletter editor for working with Stephanie to help provide BHS information.

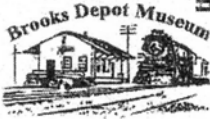
Please take a look if you get the chance

Brooks Historical Society

1 (503) 390-0698

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.

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

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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