

Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

July 2016 Vol III

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

BHS Fundraising Season

The food vending season for Brooks Depot Museum opened with the Branch 15 Swap Meet June 24 and 25. Our new chicken breast sandwich on a burger bun is just \$5.

Our next vending event will be the Great Oregon Steam-Up on July 30-31 and August 6-7. We are also open for vending on Friday, July 29.

The museum is open and staffed by a volunteer docent each Saturdays during the summer from 10 to 4.

If you can help with vending, or would like to learn to be a docent in the museum, please call Dorene at 503-393-2053.



Our food tent staffed with volunteers. Breakfast, lunch, & snacks.

Check out the BHS Facebook page.



Steam-Up Plans

Brooks Historical has several plans to make the museum a “must visit” place for Steam-Up, the last weekend of July and the first weekend of August. In addition to selling delicious food, we will have **over 1000 used books** for sale at very low prices.

In keeping with the Steam-Up quilt show, our **doll size quilts** will again be offered for sale. Take a chance on winning our **quilt raffle**, a heritage, hand-sewn “Sunbonnet Sue.”

We will also have our usual Brooks Depot T-shirts, hats, and other items.

Our passport prizes for children and youth will include an old fashioned button game with specially designed wooden buttons, and necklace charms. We will look for you at the museum!

Oregon Early Stage Travel

An excerpt from the *Morning Oregonian*, Monday, October 7, 1901

“Old Cal,” Mail Carrier Reminiscences of Colonel Scovel, Now of Salem. The Man Who Drove the First Stage out of This City on the Portland-Sacramento Route.

“Scovel came to Oregon from Iowa in 1853 and settled on a ranch near Corvallis. Soon thereafter he fell in with ...D.P. Thompson, of Portland...who was planning the establishment of a stage line between Oregon City and Corvallis. He was immediately engaged to assist in establishing the line....The stage line between Oregon City and Corvallis was started in 1854, the service being very irregular, and the route sometimes indirect. The stage ran where business called, and made as good time as was convenient. As compared with the present there were practically no wagon roads, and in some places the stage was driven through the almost trackless woods....

On Portland-Sacramento Route.

In 1860 the Government provided for the carrying of mails from Portland to Sacramento, and the contract for this service was secured by a company formed for this purpose. Scovel was one of their first drivers and it was he who drove the first stage out of Portland on the new line. ...The horses were large and powerful, and, according to Old Cal, ready to run at the crack of the whip. ... The horses were wild. They had to be held until everything was ready,

and when they were turned loose they started off at a gallop. When we came into town on a dead run, the stage horn blowing, everyone turned out to see who had come on the stage. We dashed up to the stage office and stopped quicker than an air-brake express. It took mighty fine horses to stand that kind of work and those that couldn't stand it didn't last long.'

The stage under this new system made regular trips and had a time table that was closely followed. The company, known as the California Stage Company, ... received \$90,000 per [sic] year from the Government, and made a good profit besides from carrying passengers and small freight. The stage left Portland at 6 o'clock in the morning and reached Salem at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Horses were changed at Oregon City, Dutch Town (Aurora) and Waconda, near the present site of Gervais. The stage left Salem for Eugene at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and reached the latter place at 3 o'clock next morning. The fare from Portland to Salem was \$5, and this included the transportation of 150 pounds of baggage.... “



Thank you

Thanks to **Culver Glass Company** of Indian School Road in Salem for their donation of two Plexiglas sheets for our display case. We appreciate the improvement to our display.

Welcome New Members!

April DeSantis
Pat Wilhelm

New Museum References

All Aboard! The Golden Age of American Rail Travel. Edited by Bill Yenne. Gift of Marian Egan Anderson

Expanded museum collections on Lake Labish, Waconda, Fairfield, Parkersville, St. Louis, North Howell, and Deweyville. From research by BHS members for our Celebration of Ghost Towns of French and Howell Prairies.

Lafollette family history. Information gathered by our volunteers together in a book format. An electronic copy of this book is available for sale for \$20

Looking Back and More Looking Back, by Ann Lossner. Historical books about the Keizer area.

Wanted: Golf Cart/4-wheeler in good condition, preferably with a four cycle gas engine, for use in hauling BHS vending supplies and/or members on our grounds. Reasonable price, please. Donations to Brooks Historical Society, a 501 (c) 3 organization, are tax deductible. Contact Frank at 503-390-6697.

Signs Placed

As part of their celebration of Ghost Towns of French and Howell Prairies, Brooks Historical had six signs placed at the site of former historic communities; Deweyville, Fairfield, Labish Center, North Howell/Laurence, Parkersville and Waconda.

Look for them as you travel about our area.

Ghost Town Celebration - Thank You Contributors

Many community members and former community members contributed pictures, stories and memories for our Ghost Towns of French and Howell Prairies Celebration on June 18. In spite of thunder, lightning, and pouring rain, a good crowd listened to seven short talks on various ghost communities in the area. A highlight was when members of the audience added their own memories.

The sky cleared for a pot-luck lunch, and then we heard from Steve Arndt, author of the "Roads Less Traveled" and "Oregon Ghost Towns A to Z" books. We also enjoyed lively music and stories by the French Canadian influenced violin and guitar music group, Métis.

Thank you contributors, presenters, and volunteers.



Garry Jebousek with the Parkersville sign.

Brooks Historical Society

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

BHS Officers and Board

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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 Antique Powerland:

From I-5 - take Exit 263 -- go west approx. 1/4 mile to: Antique Powerland, 3995 Brooklake Road, Brooks, OR 97303

Interested in Antique Powerland?
Visit antiquepowerland.com