

Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

2007 Vol. 2

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

BLANTON FAMILY CELEBRATION

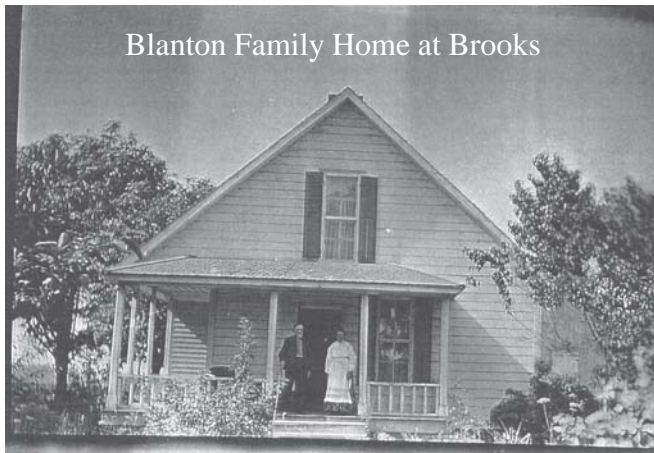
You are invited to celebrate our 2007 Pioneer Family - John Blanton. The ceremony will be: June 17 from 2 to 4 PM. The location is:
Antique Powerland
Brooks Oregon
Brooks Historical Society

The Families' Genealogy we have put together a Family History Book: there are many interesting stories.

Included in our local Brooks-Labish Community are Raymond and Pearl Blanton, Raymond's daughter Kathryn McClaughry and Pearl's granddaughter Carol Russell Brown.

John W. Blanton and Catherine Shepherd living in Brooks had 12 children in which we are blessed to have many descendants still living and farming Labish farms.

Uncle Isaac Blanton lived in the Labish area for some time settling in the Eugene area, we have been in contact with several of Isaac's descendants and we are hoping they will be able to share stories on this historic occasion.



REBUILDING THE MUSEUM DOCK



Above are Frank Cunningham and George Standish working on the Brooks Museum dock. Below is another view of the dock



Our Member Tom Yoshikai and his wife Georgette have been featured in the June 3.4 and 5th issues of the Statesman Journal Newspaper. In a Feature series on the Japanese community around Lake Labish, their transfer to Tule Lake in 1942 life in the internment Camps, service in the army and their eventual return to Salem.

MEMORIAL DAY - DECORATION DAY

Submitted by Adele Egan

Today Memorial Day is more of a three-day holiday for entertainment, shopping, picnics, short trips or camping.

In the 1930s Memorial Day was commonly called Decoration Day. Not just Veterans were honored, but all deceased were respected by cleaning up family plots in local cemeteries. This was pre-Perpetual Care. On Decoration Day, whatever day of the week May 30 came on, families headed for the cemeteries to pay respect to the family. Laden with shovels, rakes, clippers and, of course, flowers, the whole family grubbed, cleaned and decorated the family grave sites. Some traveled to distant towns, some to two or three areas.

South Commercial Street became a one-way traffic jam, cars slowly working their way out to the four cemeteries at the edge of town: Pioneer (Odd Fellows), City View, St. Barbara and Belcrest. Earlier in the century one of Salem's four trolley lines went out Commercial Street to the Pioneer Cemetery, a sign of the importance.

Many still honor their dead, be it a veteran or other family member. For those who make the trip each year with flowers the visits evoke memories and folk-tales passed on to younger generations. All families have tales of woe, celebrations, humility and romance to reminisce over. Following are some of mine:

At the St. Louis cemetery lies sweet Mary Ann Egan. She was the third child lost to Catherine who lies beside her. Mary Ann was born in Wisconsin in 1844. Her older brother James, third son born of Patrick and Catherine in New Brunswick, Canada, died while crossing Lake Erie on the family's move west to Wisconsin in 1843. Mary Ann was 8 when her little sister Margaret, two years younger, died on the Wagon trip west to Oregon in 1852. The Moss Rose her mother placed on her grave was salvaged when the plots were cleared for perpetual care and transplanted to my yard to again grace her resting place each May in her bouquet. Both great grandparents, Catherine and Patrick were born in 1815 in Ireland. Catherine lived to 1894 and Patrick to 1903.

Going out Commercial Street with the car loaded with flowers, the first cemetery to visit is the Pioneer Cemetery where remains great grandfather James Coffey. Born in 1836 in Ireland, he became a Salem merchant in 1867 after serving in the army at Fort Hoskins and farming in Benton County. He died in 1888.

Overlooking the city sits the City View Mausoleum where rests grandparents Frank and Adele Deckebach. They came to the Washington Territory from Cincinnati, Ohio as newlyweds in 1889. They died in 1937 and 1960 respectively.

Out on the "hill" from the Mausoleum is a collection of family graves started when five year old cousin Linda Deckebach died in 1943. Joining her first was my dad Homer Egan in 1959, then her dad Donald in 1978, followed by my mom Helen Deckebach Egan in 1988, brother Bill Egan in 1994, and most recently, Linda's mother Velma

in 2006 at age 97. Uncle Frederick Deckebach and wife Helen are nearby in Helen's family plot.

St. Barbara's cemetery on Liberty Road in south Salem is the resting place of Mary Ann's younger brother, and my grandfather, William H. Egan and his wife Julia Coffey. Next to Julia is her baby brother George Coffey who died in 1874 at age one from rolling off the bed. How comforting that he is not left off in some isolated spot but brought to his sister's side at her burial in 1914. William and Julia's story is one of true love. When William, a popular bachelor of 27 called Billie, was visiting his friend Squire James Coffey, he was entranced by the young daughter Julia, then only 8. William decided he wanted to wait for Julia. True to his word, when Julia graduated from Sacred Heart Academy at age 18, they were married and she settled onto the farm he started on River Road in 1875. Unfortunately Julia died at the early age of 46, after raising three children and being successfully involved in the farm business. William lived on to 1924. Alongside William is son Albert who died in 1942, soon after taking office as Marion County Recorder. Not far away is William's older brother Michael who died in 1923 and sister Ellen Massey, the only sibling born in Oregon, who died in 1933.

Continuing on to Belcrest cemetery on Browning Avenue is another Egan, Eva Massey, and husband Arthur Goffin. Eva was the daughter of Ellen Egan and Pleman Massey. Arthur, who farmed in the Eldriedge area, died in 1948, Eva in 1977.

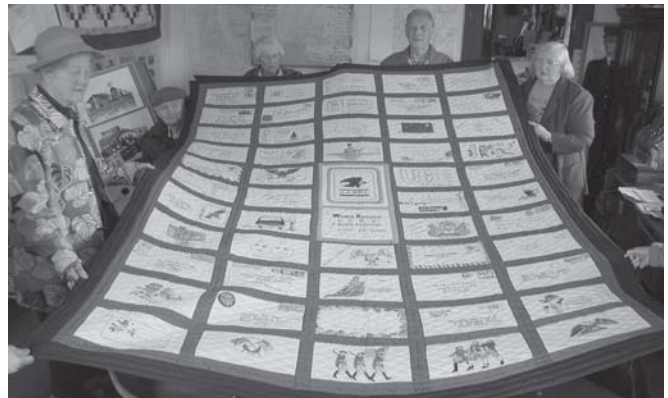
Five generations of Egans have lived and farmed in the Eldriedge and Waconda districts on the Salem-St. Paul Road, now called River Road N.E.

Decorating so many places takes a lot of planning, work and love. When done, the flags and flowers make a beautiful picture to treasure.

QUILT PRESENTED TO BROOKS MAIL CARRIER

Quilt presented to retired Brooks Mail Carrier after 30 years of service.

Then came back home in April of 2007. Mr. Wilber Rickard and his wife Doris donated this beautiful quilt back to the Museum.



**Iris Festival
May 19, 2007**



Adel Egan
Dan and Marie Madson



Iris Float—we got a trophy



**Sheep to Shawl at Mission Mill
Mission Mill**

Maxine Hawks
Adele Egan



NEW MEMBERS

Marvin Lander
965 Aloha St.
Red Bluff, CA 96080
He is a descendant of Isham

Dianne Froode from Lake Oswego and of the Linus Brooks Family

DEATHS

Dave Reiling

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.

2007 Membership Application

<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Membership	\$12.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership (Elementary and High School)	\$ 5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership	\$30.00
Donation	\$

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/zip: _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Checks can be written to BHS.

Mail to: PO Box 9265

Brooks, OR 97305

OFFICERS and BOARD

President - June Smith

Vice-President - Frank Cunningham

Treasurer - Dorene Standish

Secretary - Adele Egan

Correspondence Secretary -

Marilyn Schlechter Barner

Board - Kay White

Bev Cuff Singer

Ray Smith

RaVerta Corbett

MEETINGS

The Brooks Historical Society meets at the Brooks Depot Museum at 10AM the first Saturday of the month except August.

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.