

Brooks Historical Society Newsletter

2008 Vol. 4

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

Please Mark your calendar for November 8 Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

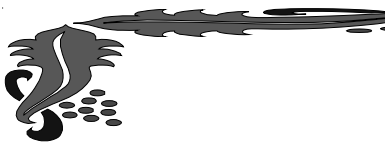
The nominating committee will present a slate of candidates
for the open officer positions

These positions are:

President, Vice President, and one board position

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at this meeting

This meeting will be a pot luck and election
There will be time for visiting and social gathering

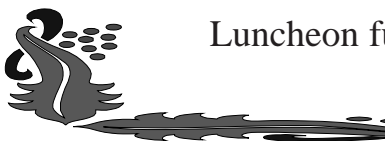


Christmas Party

December 6, 2008

Location: Brooks Masonic Lodge
99E across from Bethal Park

Time: 10 AM



Luncheon furnished by Brooks Historical Society in appreciation
of all members for our successful 2008

The 1840s Beginnings of the Age of Settlement

Mid-Willamette Valley

Before Statehood

Part four of four

In January an article was written on the Native Americans, first to populate the Willamette Valley. The April issue touched on the Maritime explorations and Sea Otter fur traders and the impact on the Natives. July was about the retired fur traders, mainly the French-Canadians who chose to stay in the valley with their families. This October issue will be more about the immigrants, increasing populations and needs for a form of government they were used to.

In 1840 most of the new arrivals were by ship, especially the Methodist reinforcements. A small independent overland group came from Missouri. By 1842 the Methodists left Mission Bottom and settled in Chemeketa to build a sawmill, houses and establish the Oregon Institute (Willamette University).

The existence of the missionary communities with their religious environment and penchant for education, attracted settlers along with the lure of a mild climate and free fertile soil.

In 1842 a bigger overland wagon train of Euro-Americans totaled 112 adult men, and in 1843, 300 wagons and 900 immigrants came. It is called the Great Migration. An 1844 wagon train as large as the one in 1843 came west. Small town sites were being platted from Portland south to Champoeg.

Those contributing to an early form of government included the French-Canadian and English men who came with the Aster, Wyeth, Peoria and Couche parties, the Methodist and Catholic missionaries, and the earliest wagon train immigrants. The first meetings were made in 1841 in the areas around Mission Bottom, Champoeg and Salem to consider a code of laws, but they failed.

By 1843 more meetings were being held. The 1830s started with no form of government or laws, which was OK for the free and easy life of the sparse population of about 50 households on French Prairie. But when nudged to action by the newcomers,

the trapper-farmers, missionaries and early entrepreneurs came together and with many meetings created a Legislative Committee with power to enact rules and regulations. The old settlers that drew up the first provisions of the organic act were replaced after the influx of immigrants as they had more up-to-date concerns brought with them from the United States.

The “Wolf Meetings” were more successful as they stressed civic problems rather than just security matters. This was the first step towards Provisional Government, with an Executive Committee to follow through on approved proposals. This was the first American Government on the Pacific Coast. It was held at Champoeg.

In 1845 George Abernathy was elected governor of the Provisional Government, which had been approved by the people. A wagon train of 1200 wagons and almost 3000 people came; using both the rough Barlow Road and the usual rafts down the Columbia to Fort Vancouver. It doubled the population, which settled as far south as the Santiam River.

An even larger immigration came in 1846. They came by way of the Columbia River, the new Barlow Toll Road and by the southern Applegate Trail. Unfortunately, the next year the travelers brought measles to the Whitman Mission at Waiilatpu, resulting in the Whitman Massacre in 1847.

The United States and Great Britain signed a Treaty in 1846 fixing the 49th parallel as the northern boundary of the United States. On August 14, 1848 Congress with Joseph Lane as the new governor established the Oregon Territory. And so the period of Provisional Government ended.

In competition with the monopoly at Fort Vancouver, businessmen were shipping in merchandise to replenish the immigrant’s sparse resources after their long journeys. The first such store in Salem was the Cox store at Ferry and Commercial in 1848.

Gold fever in California started drawing men away from farms and mills. By 1849 the fortunes from the gold rush fueled business in Salem as the population continued to increase.

Brooks Historical Society Summer Activities for 2008

Our first big week was Open House
and Obsolete Fleet Car Show - a very busy vending
booth

Shows continued most weekends

The Great Oregon Steam-up was
July 30-32 and August 6-7

Our silent auction was held on July 30

The Buick Car Show and Hot Summer Nights Car
Show were good for vending and for visitors

We were last open on the Smithsonian
Museum Free Day, September 27, 2008. We had 63
visitors, ending a very successful year at the Depot
Museum

Quilt Winner

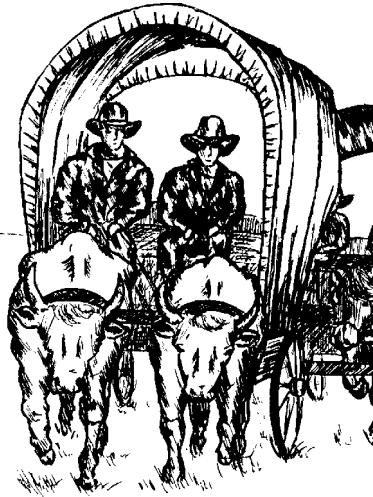
This beautiful quilt had been on display for two
seasons at the Brooks Depot Museum.

The quilt was donated to the museum by a very
talented quilt maker, Kay Garrett White, for a fund
raiser.

The Drawing was held at the Great Oregon Steam-
up in August.

The lucky winner was one of our members,
Marilyn Barner.

Our president, RaVerta Isham Corbett, made the
presentation.



We Wish the Following Well

Velma Ruggles
ReVerta Corbett
Bob Brown
Bev Singer



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

- President - Raverta Corbett
- Vice-President - Frank Cunningham
- Treasurer - Dorene Standish
- Recording Secretary - Adele Egan
- Correspondence Secretary -
Marilyn Schlechter Barner
- Board - Bev Cuff Singer
Ray Smith
Louis Sowa
June Smith

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