Volunteer Opportunities

- Serve on one of our Boards
- Catalogue and store donated artifacts
- Assist with Housekeeping
- Rotate & create new exhibits
- Complete minor interior repairs (paint, plaster, woodwork)
- Organize archives
- Computerized data entry
- Plan events
- Present your favorite topic

Heritage Museum Advisory Board:
Vickie McCubbin
Lois Martin
John Young
Anita Cantu
Jasper Smith
Amy Christensen
Marilyn Morton, City Council Liaison

Heritage Museum Society Board:
Kathy Pomeroy, President
Vickie McCubbin, Vice-President
Vacant, Secretary
Amy Christensen, Treasurer

Independence Birthday Celebration

One hundred thirty two years is a long time to wait for a first birthday party, but on Saturday, February 24, the Heritage Museum Society hosted a party complete with cake and balloons for the City of Independence. February 26, 1886 was the official incorporation of Thorp’s and Hill’s towns into the united city of Independence.

The festivities started the Saturday before, with nearly 50 people participating in a history scavenger hunt through town. Clues to questions about the early days of Independence were displayed in the windows of downtown merchants along with historic photos. The merchants also participated in the event by contributing prizes for the history hunt. Nearly 100 visitors braved the rain and wind and joined State Representative Paul Evans, Mayor John McArdle, City Manager David Clyne, and several City Council members in the celebration and prize drawings.
At the Independence Birthday celebration, Museum staff and Museum Commission members took the opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of long time museum volunteer and Museum Commission president, Dennis Eberly. He was so surprised to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from Independence Mayor, John McArdle. The citation that accompanied the award follows.

In recognition of almost 42 years of support to the Heritage Museum, the City of Independence is honored to present Dennis Eberly with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

As a founding member of the Heritage Museum, you were instrumental in formulating its mission and constructing many of the original exhibits for the museum’s grand opening on July 4th, 1976. Much of your hard work – notably the blacksmith exhibit – is still on display today.

Your active and enthusiastic participation as a member of the Heritage Museum family has been particularly evident in your role as a school group tour guide. Your teaching experience translated into some of the most fun, informative and history-packed experiences for both the students and their teachers. Adults visit the museum today and tell the staff about tours you gave them as students! Between teaching and leading tours, you’ve managed to impact generation after generation of our community.

As a member, and later as President, of the Museum Commission, you helped steer the future of the museum by working with community volunteers and the Independence City Council. You’ve been dedicated in this role ensuring that the museum maintains a cherished place in the community and this has been notably apparent through your involvement in museum events. You attend each and every one and often add to the conversation with a teaching point or two!

You are an inspiration to those who want to get involved in their community. You’ve shown others, through your actions and volunteerism, how to bring people together over a common cause. Your work and support are greatly appreciated and will be felt and recognized for years to come.

We thank you for your dedication and achievement and for providing an example of the excellence to which we as a community aspire.

Thank you
Proposed Native American Exhibit

Museum intern Stephanie Craig, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, has been working diligently with native experts throughout our area to authenticate the native artifacts in our collection. Unfortunately, much of our collection represents tribes that never lived in the Mid-Willamette Valley. We are in the process of returning those items to the donors, or in some cases, repatriating them to the appropriate tribe.

As part of her internship, Stephanie has designed a concept for a static Native exhibit for the museum. The exhibit will house artifacts from tribes in this area and will include detailed information about the tribes, the lives they led, and how settlement impacted them. A schematic of the exhibit can be seen below. Her design will also include a portable/traveling panel (left side of the schematic) to share at local cultural, historical and other venues. The panel will be installed at the museum as part of the overall exhibit when it is not on exhibit elsewhere. We’re working now to determine an appropriate grand-opening date for the exhibit so stay tuned to our Facebook page for when that announcement is made! You won’t want to miss this event.

Stephanie is with us through the end of May. If you have an interest in Native American culture, please stop in and chat with her. She’s typically in the museum, Wed-Fri 1-5 but call ahead to be sure.
Birthday Celebration continued

Just in time for the celebration, Museum Commissioner Amy Christensen, who also designed and updated our military exhibit last year, created several new display panels, featuring portraits and information about the Thorp and Hill families, as well as a timeline of early Independence. The Founders Exhibit will assist visitors and residents alike to better understand the city’s founding and learn about the early days of Independence as a river town and Oregon Trail end destination for many.

Although currently on display inside the museum proper, the Founders Exhibit will be moved into the entryway as soon as we’ve been able to add more lighting to the area.

Henry Hill, one of Independence's founders.
Women’s History Month Presentation

On March 19th, WOU’s Dr. Kimberly Jensen gave a presentation titled “Achieving Voting Rights & Taking Action: Oregon Women 1912-1924”. The presentation, which was chock full of news clippings, photographs, and more, really piqued everyone’s interest. The presentation highlighted the fact that Oregon women achieved the right to vote in 1912, a full 8 years before the 19th Amendment was ratified. In fact, Oregon placed the issue on the ballot six times: in 1884, 1900, 1906, 1908, 1910, and finally in 1912. This was more times than any other state!

Dr. Jensen also highlighted the fact that the effort was truly a grassroots one, and was surprisingly inclusive for its day. African American, Native American, and Asian American women were all part of the movement. To read more about the movement and women’s suffrage in Oregon, there’s a great entry in the Oregon Encyclopedia.

Dr. Jensen contributed to this entry by way of an article she wrote for the Oregon Historical Quarterly (Fall 2007), Neither Head nor Tail to the Campaign: Esther Pohl Lovejoy and the Oregon Woman Suffrage Victory of 1912. Unfortunately, not all OHQs are online, but we do have a copy of it in the museum—please stop by and read it.

The discussion after the presentation was particularly interesting as many in the room wondered what the city of Independence could do to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment in 2020! Do you have an idea? Would you like to help? Please let us know!

To read some of Dr. Jensen’s students’ research on what diverse women in Oregon were doing in the period of the movement for woman suffrage and the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, click here or type this link into your browser: http://www.oregonwomenshistory.org/documents-projects-march-2018/.

Abigail Scott Duniway (center) signs Oregon's Equal Suffrage Proclamation in 1912. (Bain Collection, Library of Congress)
Insights into Women's Suffrage in Polk County

It's interesting to look back during Women's History Month and see what people of the day were saying about women's suffrage. Oregon women achieved suffrage in 1912, well before most of the rest of the U.S., but not everyone supported it. This paid advertisement from Mrs. Francis James Bailey, President of the Oregon State Association Opposed to the Extension of the Suffrage to Women, which appeared in the Polk County Observer on November 1st, 1912, was decidedly against it. Later in November, shortly after this article was published Oregon voters approved women’s suffrage by 52% of the vote.

In 1920, Oregon Governor Olcott decided to call a special session in response to requests from the state industrial accident commission to address worker legislation. During the session, both houses adopted House Joint Resolution 1, introduced by Representative Sylvia Thompson, on January 12, 1920, making Oregon the twenty-fifth state to ratify the 19th Amendment. Thirty-six states ratified the amendment by August 1920, and the U.S. Constitution finally removed sex as a barrier to voting rights. (Source: The Oregon Encyclopedia)
Some Ideas For Museum Lovers!

- **Oregon Historical Society**, 1200 SW Park Avenue, Portland
  
  April 7th: [How to Create a Genealogy Research Plan and Stay Focused](#), 10 am-12 pm.
  
  April 13th: [Civil Rights and Anti-Black Violence in America and Oregon](#), 12 pm-1 pm.

- **Benton County Historical Society & Museum**, 1101 Main Street, Philomath
  
  Circa 1920: Roaring Into The Modern Age: Open through the end of the year. “Circa 1920: Roaring into the Modern Age” is a 2018 exhibition at Benton County Museum, in Philomath, Oregon. The exhibition provides an opportunity to reflect on the similarities and differences of life in America 100 years ago as illustrated through the objects in their museum collections.

- **Keizer Heritage Museum**, 980 Chemawa Road NE, Keizer
  
  The Keizer Heritage Foundation has been collecting historical artifacts from the community for years. One large room in the 1916 Keizer Schoolhouse has been devoted to the Keizer Heritage Museum. The Museum is a critical link to keep alive the heritage that has made Keizer such a special place for so many people.
  
  The Museum displays cover a wide range of history from days of the wagon train through the City of Keizer’s incorporation in 1982 and to the present. A variety of items relate to "The Old School" and its many teachers and students over the years. Many local families have contributed their history to display boards, scrapbooks and display cases. The Museum has several books on local history for sale. They include Ann Lossner's Looking Back and More Looking Back as well as The Keizur Story, a book compiled by members of the historic Keizur/Keizer family with genealogy included. A recent publication, the first they have published themselves, is One Man's Journey Through Keizer's History, which was compiled from research, interviews and notes from Roger Hawley's Estate.

- **Willamette Heritage Center**, 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem
  
  **Mentzer Machine Shop**, permanent exhibit. Wayne Mentzer worked as a Millwright at the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, even after the mill closed and was turned into a museum. As Millwright, Mentzer was in charge of keeping everything running and in order. In the Machine Shop, you can see belts driving woodworking equipment that would have been used to make repairs around the mill, a blacksmithing forge, and the chair and ledge Wayne used to eat lunch every day with his trained pet mice.

  **Caboose #507**: After several years of preparation and coordination, the 1909 Oregon & California caboose arrived in Salem in July of last year. It is in the process of being restored. Once restored, visitors will be able to gain a better understanding of the purpose of the caboose and its role in local transportation history, learn about individuals who lived and worked around the car, and be exposed to and tangibly interact with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematical (STEM) principles related to the operation of a railroad in this area.

An Appeal for Veterans!

One of our most generous and dedicated supporters is the American Legion Post 33. Post Commander, Billy Whisenant, is busy working in the community to recruit new members and to highlight the accomplishments and challenges facing our local veterans. To this end, he has been asking local businesses to offer discounts for military personnel. If you own a business or know someone who does who would like to help, please feel free to contact Billy at (805) 574-9733 or whitebloom@earthlink.net.
Upcoming Events

Event Name: IDA's Vintage Weekend—Vintage Market & Trailers
Day: Fri April 20th—Sun April 22nd       Time: 12-5 pm
Place: Downtown Independence
Trailers open Fri-Sun; market open Sat 8-5 pm only. Free admission.

Become a Member to Support Your Museum

Membership fees and monetary donations go to the non-profit Heritage Museum Society. Benefits of membership include, but are not limited to, newsletters, special events notices, and 10% off purchases.

Return this section and make checks payable to:

Heritage Museum Society
P.O. Box 7
Independence, OR  97351

Name: __________________________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: _________________________________________________________________________________

City: _______________________________ State: _____ Zip: ________

Best contact phone number: _________________________________

E-mail: _________________________________________________________________________________________

Allowing us to email notices reduces use of natural resources and mailing expenses. We respect your privacy and will not use your email for any other purpose.

Please circle the type of membership you would like:

Senior: $10.00     Individual: $25.00     Family: $50.00     Business: $50.00     Life Member: $500.00

Donations: As you know, we are a small non-profit organization. We couldn’t continue to operate without the generous contributions from our friends, members and volunteers. Please continue your support during the year with donations and purchases from our gift shop. Thanks to those of you who have contributed in the past. Remember, your donation is usually tax deductible and matching your donation to the Oregon Cultural Trust could yield a tax credit on your Oregon tax return. For more information visit www.culturaltrust.org/donate.