



NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For several months now I have had the opportunity to preside at the most interesting meeting in Washington County. Hardly anyone knows that it is even happening, especially because it occurs at 7 AM. I am referring to the monthly officers meeting of the Washington County Historical Society. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Dixie College Library.

Why is it so interesting? Because it is the crossroads of historical happenings. In one meeting we hear about the historical projects in Hurricane, Santa Clara, Leeds and Washington. We hear of the activities at the Cotton Mill and from the DUP and SUP. In addition, we consider our own doings from developing the Temple Trail to restoring the old Courthouse. We coordinate with the City's project to develop the Pioneer Center for the Arts. The shakers and movers of great projects all around the County work together -- on the Relief Society Building in Washington, the CCC Camp in Leeds, the museum and Relief Society Hall in Santa Clara and the many projects in Hurricane. We hear about plans for Grafton restoration. Wow! It is just amazing.

Washington County is so fortunate. Many people are part of a real movement to restore buildings, to promote historical celebrations, to collect historical documents and to celebrate the State Centennial in a great way. Congratulations for being part of this movement. Keep paying your dues and coming to the monthly noon luncheon meetings at the Courthouse on the last Tuesday. We are on a roll. It is going to keep intensifying all through 1996.

Doug Alder, President

A Word about Membership

Carla Fox, 674-1739

Membership in the Washington County Historical Society runs from January through December of each current year. Any new member coming into the organization during November or December of the prior year is credited as a member for the following year.

There are quite a number of people, including myself, who have not renewed membership. Our lives become very hectic, with numerous priorities and these "little" details fly right by. To improve our system, I have marked on my December calendar to issue a postcard reminder. In the interim, those who have not renewed (per our records) will find an asterisk (*) next to your name on the mailing label of this newsletter.

Please don't hesitate calling me should you feel our records are incorrect.

On behalf of this organization we wish to express our appreciation to all Renewing Members and the following New Members:

Earl and Nelda Amundson
Alan and Jacquie Capon
Karen Fisher
Bob and Doreen Hutchins
Betty Junker
Wells Meeks
Fawn Pickett
Gloria Reynolds
Audry Rice#
Delores Riggs
Verl and Shirley Strom
Marilyn Sugimoto

#If anyone knows Audry, please call. I need to obtain an address.



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Washington City News

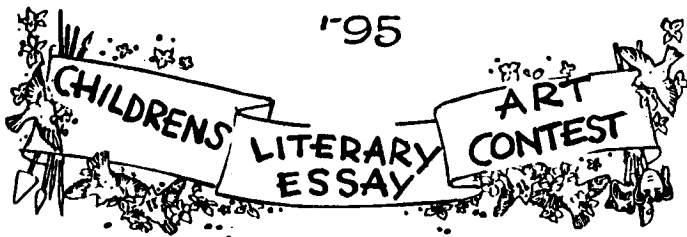
Dora Monson, Publicity Chairman

Granary and Monument - Since publication of the last Newsletter, two important goals of the Washington City Historical Society have been reached. The granary building and the adjoining monument have been completed and dedicated. (Note: two more plaques need to be placed on the monument and interior cupboards and bins need to be built inside the granary.) A dedicatory service and ribbon-cutting was held on November 16, 1994. Following the ceremonies, the large group journeyed to the Cottom Mill for a delicious dutch-oven dinner and a performance of Nonie Sorenson's popular musical play, "David and Willie in St. George." Also, Maynard Sorensen showed his famous wood carving display with suggestions on how to start the art of wood carving.



Annual Cotton Festival, May 5-6, 1995 - The Historical Society will be helping with Washington City Annual Cotton Festival celebration by having educational activities such as:

- Heritage Art Show
- Continuous Historical Slid Presentation
- Spinning and Weaving
- Children's Essay/Art Contest, sponsored by Zions Bank



"Hoe-Down" - The Society's annual fund-raising "Hoe-Down" will be held on April 21, 1995, at 7:00 pm at the R&R Ranch, courtesy of LeRoy Nisson and Rudy Iverson. Publicity printing has been donated by Heritage Press. The public is asked to help with information and photos so that the restoration will be authentic. Old pictures of either the exterior or interior of the Relief Society Hall are urgently needed. Artifacts and furnishings that were used in the Hall are also requested, as are letters or histories that mention the hall. Anyone who can offer help in any of these ways is asked to call Priscilla Cahoon, 628-7759.



Centennial Restoration Project - Now the considerable energies of President Priscilla Cahoon and the other officers and members of the society have been focused on the next project -- restoration of the oldest public building in Washington City, the Relief Society Hall, built 1875. This has been selected as the official Centennial project for Washington City. The building has recently been purchased by the Washington County Historical Society. Ron Lee has been selected as the architect and plans are now being submitted and a fund-raising is proceeding.

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Growth of Membership, Research Library/Historical Sites Book - Membership in the Society stems from throughout the State totaling around 243 members. Our Research Library of personal histories is growing with around 600 histories in our files. A few rare pictures have been turned up helping us with further research in writing of the second edition of the Historical Sites Book of Washington City.

Hurricane moves Forward with Historic Preservation

Verdell Hinton, President
Hurricane Valley Pioneer Heritage Park Foundation

At a February City Council Meeting, the City's Historical Preservation Commission was re-established with Verdell Hinton as Chairman, Robert Langston as Vice Chairman, Lloyd Sandberg as Secretary and with Jane Whalen and Gail Hinton as Members.

Events that have recently taken place are:

1. The old Hurricane/La Verkin steel bridge near Pah Tempe was placed on the National Register of Historic Sites.
2. Pah Tempe Hot Mineral Springs and Grotto is being considered for National Register.
3. Histories and photographs of early Pioneer homes are being actively collected and put on display in the Heritage Park Museum.
4. Encouragement and offers of help are being given to the City of Virgin to establish an Historical Preservation Commission and to become CLG (Certified Local Government). Several buildings there are eligible and should be placed on the National Register. Because most of the founders of Hurricane moved here from Virgin, we feel a direct identity to them.
5. The old Granary/House of the Isom/Wright family has been moved to Pioneer Corner and is now nearly restored and will be a mini-museum.
6. Pioneer Corner is now almost completely landscaped with lawn, trees, shrubs and flowers. Nearly all done with donations of money, material and labor.
7. The upstairs of Heritage House (Bradshaw) has been restored, painted and carpeted. A large doll collection, received as a gift, is now being displayed there.
8. Several new antique machines, representing early pioneer farm practices, have been restored and put on display at Pioneer Corner.
9. In march, Roger Roper, Julie Osborn and a U of U Intern came down from Salt Lake City to make a presentation to the City Council and Mayor on the need and value of Historical Preservation. With the help of these people, an Historical District for Hurricane is being formulated.
10. Mailers to all Postal patrons (2650) were sent out to inform the public about Heritage Park and the Museum requesting donations and support.

We all love "atta boys" so with that in mind, here's a letter written to the Board from one of St. George's favorite people, dated March 28, 1995:

"Dear Board Members:

Just a note of appreciation for all the good you are doing for the Historical Society in Washington County. It is really refreshing to see the enthusiasm and excitement generated for the projects that you all have going. Believe me when I say it is important work we are doing and will make a big difference in the future of our area. Your service is just a day-in, day-out, ongoing, never-ending, unremitting, persevering, compassionate type of activity.

Thanks!

I look forward to working with you during the coming year.

Sincerely,

Karl Brooks"

NOTE: Dr. Brooks is our President Elect.

Temple Quarry Trail

Dr. Mark Greene, Past President

The City has recently purchased the property for entrance to the Temple Trail. This now allows the Historical Society to embellish and designate an entrance. A stone archway is now being considered along with stone benches and designated historical graphics along the trail. This trail will be a major attraction in the City.

11. The Heritage Park Foundation, along with the City's Historical Preservation Commission, met with the City Council to review with them the great asset they have with the creation of Heritage Park and other Historical Interests and so should be included in the City's yearly budget to have help with operational and maintenance expenses.
12. Plans are being made to celebrate National Historical Preservation Week - May 14-20 and thereby educating the public to the importance of their heritage.
13. A project for preserving the Historic Hurricane Canal, as a Walking Tour Trail, is now being reviewed.
14. Hurricane reports that most of the labor performed on their project has and is being done by Community Service Workers assigned by the Judge. This source of labor combined with workers from the Green Thumb Agency has proven invaluable.
15. We've recently been awarded a CLG Grant for \$4,000 plus a \$550 Grant from the Utah Office of Museum Services.



Dedication of the La Verkin Canal

Mary Greene, Daughters of the Utah Pioneers

Dedication Services for the La Verkin Canal Marker was held March 20, 1995. The Marker reads as follows:

"In December of 1888, Thomas P. Cottam and Thomas Judd made a preliminary survey to determine the probable cost of a canal. Early in 1889, Isaac C. MacFarlane made a working survey, and work was started as soon as his survey was completed.

In June of 1889, the La Verkin Fruit and Nursery Company was incorporated to establish nurseries, orchards, and vineyards and to promote fruit raising, stock raising and general farming, all of which would be benefited by the canal.

The building of this canal was difficult. The canal leaves the Virgin River on the north side about two and one-half miles above the La Verkin hot springs and follows along the precipitous canyon walls for about a mile and a half. The ditch then enters a tunnel through the mountains for about nine hundred feet, opening out upon the La Verkin bench. Because most of the canal is built in the rocks, the builders felt it was completely secure.

The first years were difficult because the patches of gypsum in the rocks in the ditch constantly melted away, both in the canyon and in the tunnel. Lack of water when it was most needed threatened to make the project a complete loss. Leaks were plugged with rocks and then 'pulled' with dirt. Cotton lint from the Washington Factory, straw, and bagasse were used without much success. Finally the worst places were flumed with lumber, and water became more certain. Water was vital to the western pioneers. The La Verkin Canal was an extremely difficult, but successful, solution to this problem.
1994, No. 474, La Verkin Camp"



I'm sure you have all noticed how much easier it is to balance our lunches at the monthly meeting. Thanks goes to Jack and Joyce Lucas for their thoughtful and much needed gift. THANK YOU!!! You're are much appreciated.

News from Santa Clara Historical Society

Joyce Whittaker, President

The following have been chosen as Officers of the Santa Clara Historical Society for 1995:

President	Joyce Whittaker
Vice President	Doris Dougherty
Secretary	
Treasurer	Pam Graf
Membership	Claudia West
Historian	Sherri Anderson
Asst. Historian	Nellie Gubler
Program Chairman	Jan Stucki
Fund Raising	
Grants	Lowry Snow
Auditor	Lee Esplin
Special Projects	Vicki Lasswell
Coordinator w/City Council	Clark Ence

We still need "volunteers" to fill the vacant positions. Contact Joyce Whittaker (628-09971) if you would like to be a part of the Historical Society Executive Committee.

We are planning to hold quarterly Historical Society Meetings for our Society Membership on each 5th Wednesday. There will be a short business meeting and then a "featured speaker."

Thanks to all those who joined with us March 29th to enjoy an "evening with Lydia Knight," one of our early Relief Society Sisters in the Santa Clara Ward. A special "thanks" to Deneice Webster for a touching portrayal of one of her ancestors.

The completed plans for our Historical Library were presented at the meeting. The next Phase will be an estimate of the cost of construction and fund-raising. Jay Ence of Ence Construction and Bruce Stucki of Rocky Mountain Company will be the "sponsors" for the library fund-raising.

Our next "5th Wednesday" meeting will be May 31. Micki Cooper of Kanab will give a special presentation of the "Early Movie-Making Era in Southern Utah." Several of the movies were filmed in the St. George area and Snow's Canyon with well-known stars such as John Wayne and Gary Cooper.

Annual Yard Sale - to be held the first Saturday in May....May 6th this year. Please bring your donated items to Wanda's Fruit Stand on Friday, May 5th. Anyone who would be willing to help with the Yard Sale please contact Joyce Whittaker at 628-0971.

Swiss Days - September 21, 22 and 23 - We need the help of many volunteers to make this event a success. Call Joyce Whittaker, 6288-0971 or the City Office, 673-6712.

School Reunion - A highlight of this year's Swiss Days celebration will be the School Reunion for all those who attended the old Santa Clara School. We are looking for relics and mementos of School Days. Contact Doris Dougherty, 674-1236, if you have some we can display. A planning meeting will be held and committees appointed. Call Claudia West, 673-9427, for more information.



Tomorrow's Pioneer Scholarship

Wells Meeks, Sons of the Utah Pioneers

The Sons of the Utah Pioneers (SUP) is sponsoring a scholarship program for high school students meeting for following requirements:

- Honoring Pioneer Standards
- High Morality
- Financial Need
- Demonstration of Citizenship
- Overcome a Life Challenge
- Academic Performance

The value of the scholarship is \$1,000, shared equally by the National organization and the local SUP.

In addition to the scholarship, the recipient receives a plaque and certificate which are presented at the SUP monthly meeting, Tuesday, May 16 at the Dixie College, Gardner Building.

The SUP is also working with the Washington County Historical Society in the restoration of the Temple Quarry Trail. Their participation consists of providing plaques and benches along the trail, after the trail has been restored to an appropriate width to maintain proper safety.

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The Joy of Giving and Receiving

Sydney Hatch di Villarosa

Three years ago, Bud Cannon, who heads up a philanthropic foundation in the East, called me saying that up in Springdale there was a collection of buildings and artifacts unknown to the public. Would the Washington County Historical Society be interested in finding it a home? I really didn't know unless I saw it and asked Larry Eck to go along to photograph it and met with Bud, Howard Smith, the owner, and his son Joseph. What we saw was mind boggling. Other groups were taken including Dr. Mark Greene, Jay Curtis and Mr. Powell of the Utah Historical Society. They all agreed - yes - it was worth saving, but how? Hurricane gave some interest in the collection, Springdale a little and also Kanab - but all came to a halt. Time was running out if the little buildings could survive another winter of snow.

I heard that the Hyrum Smiths had bought the Cotton Mill. I called Irene Hoyt from New York on my return from Italy. We talked about the collection going to the Cotton Mill, the perfect place. On my return to St. George, Bud called and suggested that maybe his contacts would lease us the land instead of having to buy it. I suggested the "perfect spot," as Irene and I had talked about, would be the Cotton Mill. He put me in contact with Kallie Adkins, Gail Smith's sister (Hyrum Smith's wife).

Larry Eck's photos were ready and I took them to show Kallie. She was excited. The Hyrum Smiths had been searching the USA to find something like this. I was asked to make an appointment between the Springdale Smiths and the Washington City Smiths. Howard Smith could not attend but his son Joseph said yes. The next day Gail Smith, her daughter, son-in-law and baby, her son Joseph (back from a Mission), Kallie Adkins and their business adviser came and I introduced them.

Needless to say they were enthusiastic on the tour. There was something electric between the two families that day. You could feel it in the air. The Springdale Smiths had been looking for years to find a home for their extensive collection and the Washington City Smiths looking for it not knowing that this treasure was waiting for them so near to home. I do believe miracles happen.



Mill in Washington has withstood sandstorms, snow, wind — and cotton industry's failure.

Quoting from an article written by Jack Goodman in the Sunday, February 26, 1995 Salt Lake Tribune:

"...Howard Smith (the Spingdale Smith) bought an extensive collection of pioneer artifacts from one Wilford Murdock, who lived in Monroe, south of Richfield, a half-century ago. Howard Smith moved his miscellaneous items, such as plows, saddles, wagons, carriages - and a post office, firehouse, wood-working shop, saloon and even a bank fom Monroe to his own land behind the original Bumbleberry pie shop at Springdale, just outside Zion National Park. For a variety of reasons, Smith never put hi collection together and opened it to the public."

"Now his 7,000 items (7,000 items!) have been given to Hyrum Smith, a gentleman who recently purchased the old Cotton Mill...."

Goodman goes on to talk about history:

"In 1865-66, the settlers built the huge (for its day) Washington Cotton Factory seen in today's sketch...it was chiefly the work of superintendent Appleton Harmon, stonemasons Elijah and Elisha Averett, and chief carpenter John P. Chidester. August Mackelsprang and Hyrum Walker hauled its lumber from Cedar Mountain. The mill - one story high - was operating with imported machinery in 1867. A second story was added in 1870 when it began processing woolen as well as cotton goods. According to the Utah Historical Society research, the factory employed 'scores of local people, with production of 500 yards of cloth daily turned into mattresses, quilts, blankets, jeans, denims, broadcloth, flannel and gingham.' The heart of the Latter-day Saints Cottor Mission, it also joined the communal 'United Order.

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Grafton School/Church Building

LuWayne Wood

but was doomed by the coming of the railroad and imports from the Southern states. 'Survival until the turn of the century owed much to the dedication of the cotton missionaries,' according to the Historical Society."

"Fortunately, the old Cotton Factory still remains, seemingly so big and solid it can withstand the worst trials of wind, rain, sandstorm and even snowstorm that nature can throw against it."

Hyrum and Gail Smith have purchased additional land adjacent to the Cotton Factory with intent of establishing a first-class visitors center attracting tourists to St. George and Washington.

During one of the meetings with the Springdale Smiths, Irene Hoyt taped for our historical records Howard and Joseph Smith talking about the above. It was very emotional - really well done. Now Bud Cannon, you have to do it!

The Washington County Commission has made an application to the State Department of Transportation for funding to assist in making repairs to the historic Grafton School/Church Building. This adobe structure is in poor condition. It was constructed by donated labor in 1886. The Utah Department of Transportation administers a Federal Transportation Enhancement Fund which covers up to 80% of approved projects. The application was submitted early in February and will be used by the Enhancement Advisory Committee and the Utah Transportation Commission to evaluate proposed projects in the State. We should learn sometime in April if the application is approved. Washington County will cover up to 20% of the cost of the work upon approval.

The Hurricane Valley Heritage Park Foundation will accept responsibility to develop a plan for security in the ghost town of Grafton and in providing other enhancement features. The Foundation also provides a number for tax-exempt contributions to help with other enhancement projects that will be developed.

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dues Payment Slip

Please mail this portion with your dues to: Irene Hoyt, Treasurer
82 E. 300 N.
St. George, UT 84770

MEMBERSHIPS

- \$5.00, Sr. Citizen
- \$10.00, Regular
- \$15.00, Family
- \$150.00, Lifetime
- New
- Renewal

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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1994-1995

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Dr. Karl Brooks	President Elect
Dr. Mark Greene	Past President
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Irene Hoyt	Treasurer
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Priscilla Cahoon, President	Washington City Historical Society
Verdell Hinton	Hurricane Heritage Park Foundation
Mary Greene	Daughters of the Utah Pioneers
Wells Meeks	Sons of the Utah Pioneers

Newsletter production by Carla Fox, 674-1739

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