



NEWSLETTER

Washington County Historical Society

Winter 1997-98

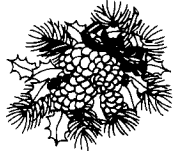
Historical Society Christmas Social

Carriage House
Greene Gate Village
76 West Tabernacle
Thursday, December 18, 1997

7:00 p.m.

\$6.00 per person
payable at the door.

Light Supper
Program--Socializing



If you have not been called about the party and wish to attend, please call one of the officers to make reservations.

DEDICATION CELEBRATION

The public is invited to the dedication and celebration at the Pioneer Center for the Arts to be held Tuesday, December 30, at 12:00 noon. The Adobe House and the beautifully landscaped plaza will be the centerpieces of the celebration. Work on the St. George Social Hall, the final building of the complex, will begin soon. Come join in the spirit of the celebration. There will be appropriate speeches, a pioneer band, and light refreshments to follow.

THE ADOBE HOUSE

Many members of our Historical Society are rejoicing at the completion of the Adobe House. The dream began several years ago when Sydney de Villarosa heard about plans to tear down the small pioneer structure. With her usual courage and perseverance she determined to not only save it, but to preserve it and make it available for all to enjoy. Many others have helped Sydney over these years, and what you see today is the result of their determination. Presidents of the Historical Society have been key--Anna Shaw, Mark Greene, Doug Alder, Karl Brooks, and Walter Wiest, and others have also been involved. Larry Eck, Bob Nicholson, and Bart Anderson have lended their support. The city of St. George has cooperated in every way possible.

Financing came from the George S. And Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation to pay for dismantling and storage of the structure, and for rebuilding and completing it. Adobe specialist Russell Bezette has personally been in charge of handling the adobes from the beginning. Local businesses have furnished some of the materials for the completion.

Sydney has collected some furnishings for this treasure, but some things are still needed. If you know of someone who might donate a pioneer stove or an old quilt, please contact Sydney. Other items of furniture could also be used, as well as accessories. Please help if you can.

PIONEER COURTHOUSE INVITATIONAL ART EXHIBIT

We are sorry to report that the art exhibit is on hold. Carla Fox is recuperating from surgery, and unable at present to chair the affair. A decision has not yet been made on whether to go ahead at a later date. We send our love to Carla, and our hope for a speedy and complete recovery.

MONTHLY LUNCHEON MEETINGS

The January luncheon and meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, at the Court House. A documents expert will discuss the Mark Hoffman documents.

The February meeting will be on Thursday, February 26, also at noon, but will be moved across the parking lot to the Daughters of Utah Pioneers building because of another event in the Court House that day.

We appreciate the efforts of Jack and Joyce Lucas who take care of our luncheons. They pick up the food, set it up, help serve, pick up the trays, and handle the clean up--quietly and efficiently.

HURRICANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Christmas lights and a manger scene have been set up in Heritage Park in Hurricane for the community to enjoy. You are all invited to go see them.

The Society is working on getting the oldest building in Hurricane restored and moved. A basement has been dug, and volcanic rock is being set up for the house to be set on. It is in a mini-park adjacent to the First Security Bank.

The outdoor lighting project is complete for the Isom pioneer home, blacksmith shop, and barn on Pioneer Corner. Spotlights have been installed to illuminate the whole square. This will greatly enhance the area for visitors.

The Pioneer Museum restoration has been completed thanks to a Certified Local Government grant. Serious deterioration was taking place, and that has been stemmed.

Bart Anderson will present a lecture at the Pioneer Museum in Hurricane on Friday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m. All are invited.

The chairman of the Historical Preservation Committee, Gail Hinton, will leave soon with his wife to serve a church mission in South America. We wish them well in this new assignment. We are in the process of looking for a new chairman.

--Verdell Hinton

GRAFTON

The church/school building at Grafton has been stabilized to preserve it until restoration.

The cities of Rockville and Springdale have joined with the other organizations working on the restoration plans. It is beginning to happen! Efforts of LuWayne Wood and others who have long been interested are now paying off.

UTAH HISTORY COURSE

A Utah History course will be taught by Dr. Douglas D. Alder during Winter Quarter at Dixie College. History 166, 11:00 a.m., room 106 in the McDonald Building. The first day of class is Monday, January 5, 1998. Seniors can audit the class for \$10.00. Seniors registration is on the first day of class or thereafter. Dixie History will be included in the course.

DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS MUSEUM

Several significant improvements have been made in the museum this year. A security system has been installed, adding greatly to our peace of mind about protecting our treasures. New carpeting, plumbing, paint (inside and out), new showcase fixtures, and important new artifacts have all been added. If you have not visited the museum in the past year, please do come see the improvements. Museum director Charlotte Tullis, her assistant Connie Eitner, and Company President Dolores Riggs oversee the museum and coordinate the dozens of docents who serve there.

Over 7,000 visitors enjoyed the museum this past year, coming from all states and about ten foreign countries. Local school children are often brought in groups.

The museum will be closed on December 8 and reopen on January 5, 1998.

The Washington Company grew by approximately 50 members this past year. Fort Pearce Camp was divided creating the Desert Rose Camp, and making a total of 17 camps in the county with a total membership of 457.

--Dolores Riggs

LEEDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

What is sorghum? Sorghum is a sweet syrup that was an ingredient in many local pioneer recipes and was especially appreciated at Christmas time in preparing holiday treats.

Most present-day residents of our area

are not aware of how important sorghum has been to our history, or how it was produced.

As early Leeds area settlers experimented with a variety of plants for farming, they found that sorghum cane was one of the crops that did well in southwestern Utah. Like many other plants sorghum would not grow farther north in the state, but flourished in our climate. Growing sorghum cane and the production of sorghum became an important southwest Utah food industry.

Sorghum can somewhat resembles corn stalks when it is growing, but with redder tassels and no ears. After sorghum cane is harvested, the juice is pressed from the stalks (a fine example of an old sorghum press is on display on a wagon in front of the home of Eldon and Louise Sterling in Leeds). Sorghum is produced by cooking the juice until all water is removed and the thick syrup remains. In the early days this was usually done by heating large vats of sorghum, and moving to smaller vats as the juice cooked down and became thicker. The final product was then put into buckets for distribution to use as a sweetener or syrup.

Sorghum is similar to molasses, but is different in that molasses is produced from sugar cane and is usually thicker, darker, and has a stronger flavor than sorghum.

Sorghum was used in many pioneer recipes. Gingersnaps or Ginger Crinkle Cookies were one of the favorites.

Ginger Crinkle Cookies

1 1/2 cups shortening	2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla	2 cups brown sugar
1/2 cup sorghum*	4 teaspoons soda
2 teaspoons cinnamon	1 tablespoon ginger
4 cups flour	1 teaspoon salt

Sift together flour, salt, soda, ginger, and cinnamon. Combine shortening with vanilla, eggs and sugar. Beat until light and fluffy. Add the sorghum. Mix sifted dry ingredients into shortening mixture until well blended. Roll into balls about the size of walnuts. Roll in sugar and place on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes, or until slightly brown.

*Molasses may be substituted in this recipe because sorghum is hard to find.

The Leeds Historical Society is compiling information on sorghum making in Dixie including old photos, accounts from pioneer diaries, etc. If you have any information contact Mike Empey.

In the last issue we mentioned that the

widow of a CCC man in Indiana had offered his CCC memorabilia to our organization. These items have been received and include a pennant, hat, and several other items that will be displayed in the restored buildings of the CCC camp at a later date. We are grateful to have them.

Work continues on the three Silver Reef cemeteries. Boundaries have been located and work can now proceed to research names of those buried, restore markers, erect fences, and generally restore the area.

Anyone interested in attending meetings of our group are cordially invited to do so. Please call for information on times and dates.

--Mike Empey, 879-2050

SANTA CLARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Santa Clara Historical Society extends a special "thanks" to everyone who helped make Swiss Days a great success.

Plans are already being made for Swiss Days 1998. We will recognize all the old businesses that ever existed in Santa Clara. We estimate that there have been about thirty, which includes about fifteen fruit stands. Anyone who has any information--histories, photos, etc.--about any of these businesses, please contact Joyce Whittaker 628-0971, or Sherrie Anderson 673-9059. We plan to have displays of photos and information about the businesses.

We are in the process of doing the paperwork to have five of our historic buildings placed on the National Register.

One of our projects for 1998 will be the stabilization of the southwest part of the Santa Clara Cemetery and the preservation of the old headstones. Anyone who is NOT a current resident of Santa Clara and who has an ancestor buried in the cemetery there, please contact Claudia West 673-9427.

During Swiss Days 1997 we introduced our \$100.00-a-Brick-Project. For one hundred dollars each, your family name, ancestors' names, children's names, etc., will be engraved on a brick that will be placed in a walkway as part of the landscaping at Santa Clara Heritage Park. For more information contact Joyce Whittaker.

--Joyce Whittaker

1998 DUES ARE DUE

Dues should be sent to Irene Hoyt right away!

REPORT FROM BARBARA BARTON

Our past Newsletter editor, Barbara Barton, is serving a church mission in China. A recent letter to Sydney di Villarosa described some of her experiences. Daily living poses numerous challenges—strange foods, customs, language—but all are very interesting, and she enjoys it all and copes amazingly well.

Barbara has traveled to see the famous Zhaoling Tomb of an Emporor in the Tang Dynesty, which included the Terra Cotta Warriors. She has also enjoyed the holiday celebrations and customs. Her teaching is going well and is very satisfying.

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Washington County Historical Society
97 East St. George Boulevard
St. George, UT 84770

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