



# NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOV/DEC/JAN 1998/1999

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** Our county has one of the most unique histories in Utah. It surprises me how few read the unusual stories of our history. This next story comes from "George Brooks, Artist in Stone" by Juanita Brooks. "In 1888 George Brooks was elected Sheriff of Washington County, which position he would hold for twenty years. One of the Sheriff's concerns was two blind men. Both men had worked at Silver Reef and lost their vision there. Both were declared indigent and became charges of the county, which meant that they were turned over to George Brooks for care. The county accommodations at the time consisted of a building 20 by 24 feet. In the back room there was an iron cage divided into three cells, two of these with bunks equipment for sleeping and a third for cooking and eating.

"These men all occupied this room and were fed and clothed by the county." Just a little sidelight into our early county and it is worth reading. By the way, the rest of this story can be found in the book and in our library.

## UP-COMING LOCAL EVENTS

**LUNCHEON MEETING:** March speaker will be Dr. Lyman D. Platt. The topic will be on Writing for Publication. He will show some of his 42 books. April meeting speaker will be Bart Anderson. His topic will be on the Burr Trail.

**ART SHOW:** The 12th Annual Pioneer Courthouse Invitational Art Show begins April 17, 1999 with a benefit dinner opening night from 5:00-7:00 PM. The cost is \$50.00 per plate. The dinner committee is Sydney di Villarosa, Audrey Shumway, Darlene Macfarlane and Mary Williams. Guests will have an opportunity to view the art exhibits after dinner. At 7:30 PM, the art show will be open for view by special invitation.

The show will run for two weeks beginning Monday April 19, 1999 through May 1, 1999. The art show will be held upstairs in the Pioneer Courthouse.

This year's artists will be Del Parson; featured artist - oil and historical theme; Shirley Robinson - watercolor and oils, Steve Bern - masks, wood, and ceramics; Cynthia Grimmatt - potter/ceramics; and Jenyth Bramwell - gourdes; art/painted benches.

**COMMUNAL STUDIES CONFERENCE:**

Scholars from around the United States will gather in St. George September 23-25, 1999 to hold a conference dealing with the history of communes. They have chosen St. George because of its historic location dealing with places like Orderville, Colorado City, Eskdale and even St. George itself which once attempted to live the United Order. The conference entitled "The Dawning of a Brighter Day: Greeting the New Millennium, Remembering the Old" will be held in the Pioneer Center for the Arts (Old Opera House/Social Hall) and is open to the public. The Washington County Historical Society has agreed to joint-sponsor this event. Mainly we are asking a few members to volunteer their time to serve at the registration table for a shift of three hours. If you are willing, please call Doug Alder (628-8484). You will receive a day's free pass to the sessions for your service.

**HISTORIC ST. GEORGE LIVE** will conduct tours again this summer in the downtown Historic district. A few more volunteers are needed as actors and guides to serve twice a month in mornings. Contact Scott and Joyce Lee at 673-1528 if you wish to serve. A meeting of all volunteers will be held April 10, 1999 at 1 PM in the Old Opera House. **COME AND SIGN UP AND RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS.**

**GRANT PROGRAMS:** Kent Powell: State Historical Society visited St. George and spoke with the Washington County Histori-

cal Societies meeting during February. He spoke on Grant programs. There are three kinds: 1) Emergency grants of \$500 maximum, one time project support; 2) Project Grants of up to \$3000, funds are distributed in July and January of each year, and 3) Heritage Grants, which are for documentation and preservation of Utah History. Generally these funds are for ongoing projects. For further information contact Kent Powell at 1-801-533-3520 or Bart Anderson.

**TOURIST INFORMATION:** As a member of the Washington County Historical Society you may find that visitors to our area ask for information on points of interests. There are some great helps now available. Leeds, Hurricane and Washington have recently published circulars with maps and put these in public places for tourist information. This is an excellent informative resource.

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:** It may be time to renew your membership in the Washington County Historical Society. If so, please complete the form on the last page of this newsletter and return with payment to our membership committee. Please remember to designate that your membership renewal is for the year **1999**.

Also, referrals for new members will be greatly appreciated.

## REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES:

**GRAFTON:** by LuWayne Wood. As many of you know, there is a Grafton Heritage Partnership organization designed to preserve the outstanding heritage and historical values of the Grafton Historic Townsite. The core values of the Partnership include respect for private property, cooperation and consensus. This Partnership consists of a cooperative grass roots volunteer group. Many have helped but special thanks is due to Washington County who owns the church/schoolhouse and gave monies to stabilize the church/schoolhouse two years ago when it began to crumble. To Kim Campbell, the architect, who donated substantial time and expertise to develop a plan to stabilize and rehabilitate the church/school.

The Partnership envisions preservation of privately owned historic sites with willing landowners. Visitors' experiences that will maintain the current pedestrian-based low-key ghost town flavor carefully managing and reducing impact on the natural and cultural resources. A comprehensive and community-based plan for landscape and long-term restoration. Preservation of Grafton's natural and human history through an appropriately designed visitors center. Nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.

Members of the Partnership are the: Private Landowners, Rock-

ville Town Council, Rockville Historic Commission, Washington County Historical Society, Hurricane Valley Heritage Park Foundation, Sons of the Utah Pioneers, Virgin River Land Preservation Association, Utah Division of State History, Arid Lands Consultants, Zion Natural History Association, Natural Areas Association, Grand Canyon Trust, Utah Heritage Foundation, Utah Department of Transportation, Zion National Park and BLM-Dixie Resource Areas.

The Grafton Enhancement project hopes to get funding to include a parking lot for visitors, footbridge and a contact station for using the new proposed shuttle system to Zion National Park. Also a bicycle/pedestrian trail.

Those working on this project are the Sons of Utah Pioneers and Grand Canyon Trust. Their goal is to preserve and protect the historic ghost town. Several monies are available and other resources are being applied for to support the projects. Private land owners, Rockville town government, Arid Lands Consultants, BLM, Hurricane Valley Heritage Park Foundation, Natural Areas Association, Rockville Historic Preservation Commission, UDOT, Utah Preservation Association, Washington County Commission, Washington County Historic Society and Zion Natural History Association. Some of the concerns are to route traffic so the flow surrounding the area of Grafton, Rockville and eventually Zion Park will be

run smoothly without congestion or long waiting lines.

**DUP:** There was an International Convention at Salt Lake City recently and news that some of the by-laws of DUP had been changed. The DUP museum has a new Indian rug that is about 100 years old. The museum personnel are exploring ways to display the rug. During the Senior games, many people from out of town visited the museum; about 10,000 visitors visited the museum last year. Very favorable comments have been made about the museum from people representing about every state.

**SANTA CLARA: Joyce Whittaker.** The Santa Clara Historical Society is very pleased to announce that they have received a donation of \$50,000 towards the construction of our Heritage Center Museum. We feel a great need to have a place to preserve the history and heritage of Santa Clara for future generations. We are now looking for other major donors who want to contribute to our museum. We are forming an 'Advisory Committee' to be involved in decisions regarding the construction. For more information contact Joyce Whittaker at 628-0971.

The Heritage Square is landscaped and we are now scheduling weddings, family reunions, etc. to be held at the Square. Contact Joyce Whittaker for more information. There are still spaces available in our \$100.00 a brick walkway. To purchase a brick for yourself,

your children, or an ancestor, contact Sherrie Anderson at 673-9059. We have received the final approval for the multiple listing of 5 pioneer buildings with the National Historical Register. One of them is the quaint home of George Graf that has recently been restored and made into a shop called Uncle & Aunties. It's worth a trip to Santa Clara to see it. You'll find it just East of Wanda's Fruit Market at 2865 Santa Clara Drive.

**LEEDS: Mike Empey.** "CCC reunion planned for May 1st in Leeds." During the 1930's the Civilian Conservation Corps located a CCC Camp on West Mulberry Lane in Leeds. This camp is an important part of Leed's history. The "CCC Boys" completed many projects in nearby Dixie National Forest. Young men from around the country were stationed at Leeds. Today several buildings are still standing and restoration is an ongoing project. On May 1 an Open House and program will be held. Events will include a display of CCC memorabilia and presentations and recollections about the CCC program. The tentative schedule calls for the an open house to begin at 10:00 AM at the CCC Camp with the program at Leed's Town Hall at 1 PM. We need your help in locating CCC veterans and widows who might be interested in participating on the program. We would be pleased to have Veterans from any CCC Camp as part of our program. Please contact Mike Empey at 879-2050.

**HURRICANE:** Work on the Hurricane Canal continues to develop. There were students from USC which came down and walked the canal, took pictures to take back to the University for further study.

Linda Sappington is helping their group develop a grant to the National Community Civilian Corps, which is based in San Diego. The plan is to have the students clean out the canal and make a walking trail. There is a new committee called "Preserve Hurricane Canal Committee." The chairman is Laura Thomas. She has a group of citizens helping here. The City Council is also helping. Laura has written an article which appeared in the local Hurricane paper explaining what this committee's goals are and the their ideas to how they can accomplish their goals.

Work is continuing on the Thomas Hinton house to make it presentable for people to come and visit. The furniture has been donated and some of Hinton's descendants will be donating some items. The Hintons were the first family to move into Hurricane. When all the work has been done there will be a ceremony with an open house and refreshments.

An anodized aluminum plaque has been ordered which will be placed in front of the house giving the history of it and the family.

A grant was received from the Utah Historical Society to pay for this plaque. Bill Workman

with his group is still working on painting the house and getting it finished. The Sons of the Pioneers have decided to take on a project to develop a mini-park. They will have a program with the schools for the children to write histories of their pioneer ancestors. They plan on doing this project every year.

**WASHINGTON:** There are several ongoing historical projects being worked on in Washington. There is a collection of antique items on the top floor of the old Cotton Mill. The park next to the mill is almost finished and very attractive.

Work on restoration of the Mill Creek School for a local museum is continuing.

**TOQUERVILLE:** Plans are developing to preserve the Town Hall and perhaps Savage Park.

#### **GENERAL NEWS TIDBITS**

**ADOBE HOUSE:** The Adobe House which sits on the property between the old Opera House and the new Social Hall, is probably the only one of its kind in the United States. Sydney di Villerosa is contacting other Western States to determine if there are others. The Smithsonian Institutes is interested in this information.

Recently, the curator from the LDS Church, Church History and Art Department, Richard Oman came to visit and brought a cabinet made in St. George to be housed at the Adobe house. He said he will be giving more

items of historical interest to St. George.

**FUTURE PROJECT:** Mini Conference World War II Histories. The Washington County Historical Society is interested in planning mine conference in the future of World War II Veterans.

**MOUNTAIN MEADOWS:** President Hinckley of the LDS Church is personally overseeing the development and dedication of a new monument at the Mountain Meadows. The monument will be dedicated in the fall of 1999, probably September.

**Washington County Historical Society**  
P. O. Box 404  
St. George, Utah 84771-0404

- Bart Anderson President
- Doug Alder - Past President.
- Max Gardner - Vice President
- Mike Empey - President Elect.
- Irene Hoyt - Treasurer
- Claire Lefkow - Recording Secretary
- Barbara Barton - Corresp. Secretary

**Directors:**

- Karen Platt - Newsletter Editor.
- LuWayne Wood - Membership
- Darlene Macfarlane - Membership
- Anna Shaw - Courthouse Art Show.
- Jack & Joyce Lucas - Luncheons.
- Eve Parker - Co-Chair, Luncheons
- Sydney di Villarosa - Development.
- Michael Toy - Institutional Representative.
- Carol Watkins - Historian.
- Shirley Snow - Publications.
- Larry Eck - Advisor.
- Jim Lundwall - Advisor.
- Bob Nicholson - Community Development.
- Jay Curtis - Historical Preservation Committee.
- Mike Empey - Leeds Historical Society.
- Joyce Whittaker - Santa Clara Historical Society.
- Florian Thayn - Washington Historical Society.

- Dolores Riggs - Daughters of Utah Pioneers.
- Lenny Brinkerhoff - Virgin Historical Society.
- Dorothy Frazier - La Verkin Historical Society.
- Wes Larson - Toquerville Historical Society.
- Harold Cripps - Hurricane Sons of Utah Pioneers.
- Verdell Hinton - Hurricane Heritage Park.
- Bill Workman - Hurricane Historical Society.

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE APPLICATION:**

Remember to designate the year for your membership renewal.

**TO CURRENT AND FUTURE  
MEMBERS  
OF THE  
WASHINGTON COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

As you may already know, the purpose of this society is to record and preserve the vital and exciting history of our county. Meetings will be held: monthly, the last Thursday of each month, 12 noon in the old courthouse.

Yearly Membership ..... \$10.00  
 Lifetime Membership ..... \$150.00

*Thank you for your Support!*

Please mail this form with your dues 1999

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Irene Hoyt  
 82 E. 300 No.  
 St. George, UT 84770

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_