

# WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

February 2008

We're back!!! We apologize for not producing Washington County Historical Society's Newsletters for the last year or so. We have been without an editor since Mary Martin had to resign for health reason. We still need someone to fill that position.... Any volunteers???

**New Officers** for the Washington County Historical Society for 2008 are:

President:	Connie Blake
President elect:	?
Past President:	Joyce Whittaker
Vice Pres.~Grants/awards	Elaine Tyler
Recording Secretary:	Lynne Johnston
Corres. Secretary:	Lucia Christensen
Treasurer/Membership:	Jeannie Bates
Historian:	Joyce Whittaker
Special Projects:	Anna Shaw
Publicity:	Trish Nelson
Website:	George Cannon
Newsletter Editor:	?

**MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT: Connie Blake:** How excited I am to have this opportunity to be President of the Washington County Historical Society. Since I have been attending our Executive Board Meetings, I have been so impressed with the reports about all the wonderful "historical" things that are happening in our communities. My goal is to help each community with the things they are accomplishing and that represent things that are dear to their hearts. I would like to meet with each community representative for a personal field trip of their projects. I have so many ideas and connections, and I hope that by meeting with each community we can come up with solutions and ways to help them achieve their goals. I look forward to these meetings so that together we can create history at this time.

~Connie Blake

**NOTE:** It just so happens that Connie is a step-daughter of Peggy Childs who was instrumental in organizing the Washington County Historical Society in 1983 and who served as the first President of the Washington County Historical Society.

**WEBSITE:** In the future we plan just an annual newsletter. **George Cannon, our computer/internet specialist,** is in the process of setting up a website for the Washington County Historical Society and expects that it will be hosted as a part of the Washington County Website. It will provide ready public access to

information about the history of Washington County and activities of the Historical Society. Since this is a new activity for us, it is taking a long time to get it started. We hope it will evolve into a useful tool for the Society and for the citizens of the county.

## UPDATE ON HAPPENINGS IN THE COUNTY

We want to bring you up-to-date on all the "happenings" in the Washington County Historical Society and in the communities around the county. We also need to remind you that it is time to renew your dues. If you could, we'd appreciate payment for 2007 also. When you read the following, you'll understand why we are in need of donations.

**GRANTS:** In 2005, the Washington County Historical Society determined that they needed to "make their presence more prominent" in the communities and they adopted a program to make \$1,000 grants available to those communities who had representatives serving on the County Historical Society Board. **The first grant** was awarded to Toquerville to aid in the restoration of their "Old Church". **The award for 2006** was awarded to Ivins to assist in the restoration of the old adobe post office building. **The award for 2007** was presented to the Santa Clara Historical Society for painting and repairs to the Old Relief Society Building on the Santa Clara Heritage Square. The building turned 100 years old in 2007. A **second grant in 2007** was award to Leeds for a historical plaque for their city.

Funds for these grants will be raised by donations from the community. Washington County Historical Society **Memberships are still \$15.00** and **Lifetime Memberships are \$150.00. Corporate Memberships are \$100.00 a year.** Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 404, St. George, Utah 84771. For more information, contact Connie Blake 229 2987 or Jeannie Bates 673 9464 or Joyce Whittaker 628 0971. (see form at the end of this newsletter)

The **other program adopted in 2006**, was to award framed "Certificates of Commendation" to individuals or groups in Washington County who had been instrumental in a significant historical restoration. To date the following have received the commendation awards:

**Santa Clara Historical Society** for the preservation and restoration of the Hug/Gubler home on the Heritage Square. This was one of the first permanent homes built in Santa Clara in late 1860's.

**Toquerville Historical Society** for the preservation and restoration of their 127 year old Church located on the main street of Toquerville.

**Ivins Historical Society** to aid in the preservation of the adobe post office, located on 200 East and just north of Center Street. It was built as a home by Weston Hafen and later served as a post office when his wife, Fern, was postmaster.

**Zach and Gwen Griffith and Kevin Weed** for the preservation and restoration of the Old Rock House located at 694 South Main St. in St. George. This home was built in 1946 with rocks hauled from the black hill. It had been vacant for several years before Zach and Kevin purchased it and determined to restore rather than demolish the building.

**Marcia Stucki** for rebuilding the home at 406 East 400 South, St. George. This home was built between 1918 and 1923 by the George H. Seegmiller family, who engaged Wallace Worthan to built it in the bungalow style that was new to the area. The home caught fire in 2001 and was a total loss. The home was rebuilt in the exact style of the original.

**Kim Campbell and Sidney and Mary Ann Atkin** for the restoration and preservation of the Atkin Home located at 46 North 200 East, St. George. This home was partly finished in the 1870's by two wives of Daniel Seegmiller while he was on a mission. It had several owners until it was purchased by the Atkin family in 1893.

**Tracy and Tamera Hinton Cox** for the restoration of the Wright Home at 87 East 400 South, Hurricane, Utah. It was believed to have been built before 1919. It was one of the finest homes in Hurricane. It had stood vacant and the yards were overgrown and the home in disrepair when purchased by the Tracy and Tamera in 1989.

**Bruce Jenson and Louis Sylvester** and their architects, Bill McMurrin and Ray Gardner for the restoration of the Samuel Miles Home on 306 South Main, St. George. This home was built in the mid 1860's. The Miles family reported that the adobes were made right on the site. The adobe home has survived for over 140 years and many families have been raised there.

**Santa Clara Historical Society** for the restoration and preservation of the Relief Society Building built in 1907. This building was destined for destruction when the Society stepped in and the restoration became a community effort.

**Grafton Heritage** for the restoration and on-going maintenance of the historic ghost town buildings at Grafton. The meeting house school/ community center was built in 1886. The adobe bricks were hand-made and the timbers were from Mt. Trumbull.

**Washington City Historical Society** for the restoration and preservation of the old Relief Society Hall, the oldest still standing Relief Society Building in the LDS Church today. It was completed in 1875 and has been used for many purposes, including a store, funeral parlor, nursery and as a meeting house for community organizations.

**NEW HARMONY FORT:** When Rolaine King, the representative from New Harmony Heritage reported at a County Board Meeting that there was a need for a fence to protect the recently uncovered remains of the New Harmony Fort built by John D. Lee in 1854, **Elaine Tyler**, a member of the County Historical Society Board, **donated \$1,000 to the project** in behalf of the Beckham-Ashe Foundation.

**COMMUNITY REPORTS:** We have representatives from most of the communities in Washington County on our Executive Board. There have been many "happenings" in the various communities in Washington County.

**HURRICANE ~ Phyllis Lawton.** The road in front of the Museum will take the sidewalk almost to the front door of the Museum. Construction will be starting June of 2008. A collection of historical photographs by Lynn Clark was purchased by the City of Hurricane and is on display in the City Offices. An old house in Hurricane was moved to a new home behind the Bradshaw House. There is a new family history book available regarding the Hintons and the Spendloves. Castors are being put on the display cases in the Museum to make them more versatile.

**LEEDS/SILVER REEF/HARRISBURG ~ Lianne Barnes.** Have concerns about preserving their historic cemetery and the old LDS Tithing House. Two historic marker plaques have been ordered for "A Tale of Three Towns" and their "Schoolhouse/Town Hall".

**NEW HARMONY ~ Rolaine King.** New Harmony Heritage started as a venue to hold a community Easter Egg Hunt. In addition to the Easter Egg Hunt, they now work on the County Fair display, and Founder's Day. A pioneer-themed maintenance shed is being built in the cemetery. It has a covered patio display area where visitors will find historical information. The bricks are from a pioneer brick home. They are working on a display that will feature the story of the giant lone Pine, the parting of a flood and saving of the Redd duplex built by John D. Lee on the Lee/Redd/Pace farm. Their largest project, in the early stages, is to obtain and restore the old frame church

house which served as a school and church from 1875 to 1953. They are also planning to publish a book written by a local lifetime resident for their Founders' Day Celebration.

**NEW HARMONY FORT ~ Karen Platt.** The Utah State Historical Society and others funded a project to have a BYU team come to the Fort Site and beginning their analysis. They found some extraordinary artifacts. In the southwest section of the fort they unearthed part of a floor, walls, chimney, fireplace mantle and several shards of dishes, sewing items, etc. They also found some Native American artifacts. Fort Harmony has permission from the State of Utah Archaeologists to process the "burn" between the fence and the Fort outside foundation. In 2008 they will continue the dig, purchase property, sponsor Fort Harmony Days and begin a Memorial Garden.

**SANTA CLARA ~ Sherri Anderson.** Santa Clara City is building a new city office building and there are plans to house a Pioneer Relic Museum in the basement. Ten permanent historical markers have been placed on historic homes. The Relief Society Building has a new roof and work has been completed on the interior. Swiss Days in September was a success in spite of the rain.

**GRAFTON HERITAGE~ Jane Wehland** There is an ongoing need for funds for maintenance. There was some vandalism but it has been repaired as much as possible. Two culprits were apprehended.

**IVINS ~ Emma Fife.** The Ivins Historical Society is trying to raise funds to help with the restoration of the Old Post Office Building. They were involved in Heritage Days. A Heritage Bazaar was held in October to help raise money for flood victims.

**LAVERKIN ~ Lewana Hale.** Three plays a year are held at the old church. LaVerkin is planning a new Community center in the next few years. A monthly Mayor's Walk is held. This month it will be at the Confluence Park. The public is invited.

**TOQUERVILLE ~ Bob and Virginia Olsen.** Bob and Virginia spearheaded the restoration of the old Church. The city is making plaques for unknown graves at the Cemetery. A historical plaque was installed in front of the town hall listing all those soldiers who were born in Toquerville. The names of soldiers omitted will be engraved on the back.

**ST. GEORGE ~ Dr. Doug Alder.** The town square is completed and is a great asset to the city. The updated Washington County History Book is now available. Dixie College will be 100 years old in 2011. St. George will be 150 years old. Celebrations are planned.

**DUP ~ Laura Cooper ~** Patrons can now select photos they want copies of and purchase them on a CD. Family Histories are also available. There was theft at the museum and their alarm system has been updated.

**WASHINGTON ~ Yvonne Kendall.** The Washington City Historical Society has over 100 Lifetime Members. The old Washington school has been preserved and made into a museum. They have received a donation of many historical relics. A fundraising Hoedown was held in October. Five quilts were made and donated for a quilt auction. A Recognition Plaque has been made for past Historical Society Presidents. Pioneer Awards have been awarded to the Nisson Band, Roy and Janice Nisson, George and Cathy Staheli and Don and Rebecca Young. The Relief Society Building is used for many functions, including weddings and other meetings.

**SOUTHERN UTAH CULTURAL FOUNDATION ~ Connie Blake.** The mission statement of the Southern Utah Cultural Foundation is to be ambassadors of time to present and future generations by immersing them in rich, educational, living history experiences. The foundation seeks to accurately recreate the early settlements of Harmony, Utah, Santa Clara, Utah and Kanab, Utah during the period of 1850-1870. It aims to provide a vivid personal experience to visitors by depicting the sense of community enjoyed by the settlement's men, women and children.

**VIRGIN ~ Lori Rose & Yvonne Spendlove** They have a goal to restore the old Church/Community Center. They are in the process of organizing a Historical Society in their community.

#### MONTHLY LECTURE MEETINGS:

We have had some outstanding speakers at our meetings held on the last Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon at the old county courthouse, 97 East St. George Blvd.

Some of them have been:

Donald Whittaker ~ Santa Clara Petroglyphs  
Melvin Smith ~ Mountain Meadow Massacre  
Joyce Whittaker ~ Santa Clara History Book

Heber Jones ~ history of St. George  
 Virginia Olsen ~Pioneer Medicine and Herbs  
 Mike and Coleen Empey~ Pioneer medicine  
 Bob Rosebush ~History of the Secret Service  
 Richard Jones ~Rowing across the Atlantic Ocean  
 Dr. Gary Willden ~ Movies in Zion Canyon  
 Steve Wilson ~ History of Medicine in Wash. Co.  
 Russ Behrmann ~ Native Americans  
 Cheryl Rogers Barnett ~ daughter of Roy Rogers  
 Dr. Doug Alder ~ updated St. George History Book  
 Bart Anderson ~ frequently and various subjects

One of our benefits to our membership is to provide these lecture meetings. Some of our meetings have been very poorly attended. Please watch your newspapers for advertising and plan to support this program. Upcoming lecturers will be:

**Karl Brooks February 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Lyman Hafen on March 27<sup>th</sup>.**

If you have a suggestion for a future speaker, or would like to be a guest speaker, please contact Trish Nelson at 574 0114

*Newsletter compiled by Joyce W. Whittaker,  
 Past President and Historian*

A SPECIAL "THANKS" TO THE FOLLOWING CORPORATE SPONSORS WHO PURCHASED NEW MEMBERSHIPS IN 2007 OR RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2008. We appreciate their support and suggest your patronage of their businesses.

**BROCK FINANCIAL NETWORK, LLC**

640 East 700 South Ste. 302  
 St. George, Utah 84770

**CITY OF IVINS**

55 North Main St.  
 Ivins, Utah 84738

**BOULEVARD HOME FURNISHINGS**

390 North Mall Drive  
 St. George, Utah 84790

**UNCLE & AUNTIES GIFT SHOP**

2865 Santa Clara Drive  
 Santa Clara, Utah 84765

**SOUTHWEST DIESEL SERVICE**

1150 East 350 North  
 St. George, Utah 84770

**CITY OF LAVERKIN**

111 South Main St.  
 LaVerkin, Utah 84745

**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS:**

The following have purchased Lifetime Memberships since our last newsletter:

**Leslie and Craig Lance**

Chugiak, Alaska

**Bill and Emma Fife**

Ivins, Utah

**Washington City Historical Society**

Washington, Utah

**Connie and Jeffrey Blake**

Santa Clara, Utah

**Dr. Waldo Perkins**

Salt Lake City, Utah

**WASH. COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

<b>YEARLY MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>\$ 15.00</b>
<b>LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>(annual)</b>	
<b>OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>_____</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Please mail this form with your dues to:

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

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

***YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS VERY IMPORTANT!!!  
 THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!***