

Washington County Historical Society

2009 Newsletter

The Washington County Historical Society (WCHS) is a non-profit organization incorporated on April 25, 1982. It was formed to promote and perpetuate the history of Washington County, Utah. WCHS operates as an "umbrella organization" to encourage and assist all interested Washington County communities with the organization of their city historical societies and to encourage them to promote historical preservation in their communities.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

As I think back on this past year as President of the Washington County Historical Society, I have come to appreciate even more the members of this Board. When we meet as a Board once a month to go over business items and to hear the various activities that are being accomplished within each city in the county, I am so impressed with those who tirelessly give of their time and money to see that history is kept alive. In celebration this past year of the society being 25 years old, the Board decided to invite the public on a monthly tour of each City within the County. We started at Harmony Fort and walked around the old footings of the Fort, next we went to Santa Clara and rode an old bus to the various sites. The following month was a beautiful spring morning in Toquerville, to listen from speakers who taught us about the Spanish Trail. Last month we were so graciously escorted to each of the significant sites of history in Washington with a meal afterwards to warm our bones. We have been more than adequately taught on each tour, and we know the tours that will be presented in the future will continue to instill memories in our minds and hearts. Look for any upcoming tours posted on our new web site, and also in the Spectrum Newspaper.

As a Board, we have been careful with the funds that members have donated to the Washington County Historical Society. We have continued to give grants this past year to various organizations that have used the money to keep a small part of their history alive. We would not be able to continue without the help of our members and the donations that you give. We thank you for your donations and ask that you will continue to contribute to the Washington County Historical Society. Thank you from all of us on the Board!

Connie Childs, President, WCHS

We would like to thank all of those who have served on our Board this past year.

WCHS General Officers for 2009

President:	Connie Childs
Vice Pres.-President elect:	Lyman Platt
Past President:	Joyce Whittaker
Vice Pres.-Grants/Awards:	Elaine Tyler
Recording Secretary:	Lynne Johnston
Secretary:	Lucia Christensen
Treasurer/Membership:	Jeannine Bates
Historian:	Joyce Whittaker
Special Projects:	Anna Shaw
Website:	George Cannon
Publicity:	
Newsletter Editor:	

2009 Constituents

Enterprise
Grafton Heritage Partnership
Fort Harmony Historical Society
Hurricane
Ivins Historical Society
LaVerkin
Leeds / Silver Reef
New Harmony Heritage
Rockville
Santa Clara Historical Society
Southern Utah Cultural Center
Springdale
St. George
Toquerville Historical Society
Virgin
Daughters of Utah Pioneers
Sons of Utah Pioneers
Chamber of Commerce
Vision Dixie

Washington County Historical Society Website: <http://wchsutah.org>

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WEBSITE: George Cannon

We are in the process of transitioning to a new website, <http://wchsutah.org>. Most of the information on the WCHS Yahoo group will be migrated to the new website. The new website will not require registration to access, so it should gradually get better as we get more experience with it and as more information is added.

We hope you will check out the new website and get in the habit of using it as a resource. If you have information to add or suggestions for improvement, they would be most welcome.

GRANTS: Elaine Tyler

A \$1000 Grant was awarded to the Washington City Historical Society on April 25, 2009 to help fund a project to display pictures, drawings, artifacts, and written histories depicting the history of education in Washington City. These exhibits will be displayed in the Old School Building, which is now 100 years old.

A \$1000 Grant was awarded to the Fort Harmony Historical Society on May 16, 2009 to help fund the restoration and preservation of Sam Daniel Camp located at exit 33 on I-15. Sam Daniel Camp was part of the 1776 expedition through Southern Utah.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

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, Jeannie Bates 673-9464 or Joyce Whittaker 628-0971. (See Form at the end of this Newsletter)

COMMUNITY REPORTS:

GRAFTON HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP – Jane Whalen. Grafton applied to become listed on the National Historical Register ten years ago. The Application was never finished because the Cemetery was on Bureau of Land Management property. They recently paid

\$2000 to have the Registration updated. They have applied “pioneer stucco” to the living room walls in the living room of the Russell home. The Grafton Cemetery has approximately 85 people buried there. There are 30 mounds of dirt. One suggestion was to use Ground Penetrating Radar to see where the bodies are. The cost would be \$4000.

FORT HARMONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Lyman and Karen Platt.

Fort Harmony Historical Society has begun to make assignments to a new History Committee to write National Historical Sketches for the 300 plus people that lived at Fort Harmony and New Harmony from 1852-1869. Their first meeting was held on May 4th and they had five members of the Committee in attendance.

Fort Harmony Historical Society is now accepting membership applications: \$15.00/year. These funds are more supportive than anything at this time. They will be used to continue working towards a full archaeological study of the Fort area; sponsor the yearly Fort Harmony Days, and underwrite the CD productions that continue to be created. We now have fifteen CD's of local history or items of important local interest.

Fort Harmony Days will be May 23rd from 2-5 p.m. A chili cook-off, pie-eating contest, seed-spitting contest, square dancing, Mr./Miss Fort Harmony, prizes, and a tour at 5:00 p.m. of the Fort area, are the venues for the day.

HURRICANE – Phyllis Lawton.

UDOT has notified the City of Hurricane that there is more preparation work that needs to be done before they can start/finish their next phase of road work. They hope to start on the South side of the highway and in front of the Museum by January 2010. The School District has approved enough money to finish the new Hurricane Elementary school which is above the City offices. They will move from the old Hurricane Elementary school to the new school by January 2010. The City plans on buying the old school property downtown as part of the Downtown Revitalization Project.

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LEEDS / SILVER REEF – LoAnne Barnes.

Leeds is just finishing up a UDOT Enhancement Grant that was awarded in 2005. This Grant has added curb, gutters and rock/planting, along our Main Street. The Town Hall parking area now has two stone pilasters, benches and rock/plantings'. This project will be finished with eight 24" x 36"Navalloy signs that will be placed on the pilasters along the Main Street of Leeds. The sign topics are:A Tale of Three Towns, From School House to Town Hall, From Native American Trail to Interstate Exit, Water Life...The Shovel is Divine, The Leeds Tithing Office, The Sarah Anne and William Stirling Home, Civilian Conservation Corp – Leeds, Utah and "They Were Poor, Hungry, and They Built to Last". Three of the signs will recognize buildings that are on the National Register of Historic Places. The full text and historical photos are posted at the Leeds Town web page –www.leedstown.org.

Silver Reef has two pioneer cemeteries dating from the 1870's. The Sorenson Legacy Foundation is providing funding to enclose the historic part of the cemeteries with stone pilasters and ornamental fencing. The historical signage will provide some interesting background of Chinese and Paiute burial history as well as "saloon shootouts" burials from mining days in Catholic and Protestant cemeteries.

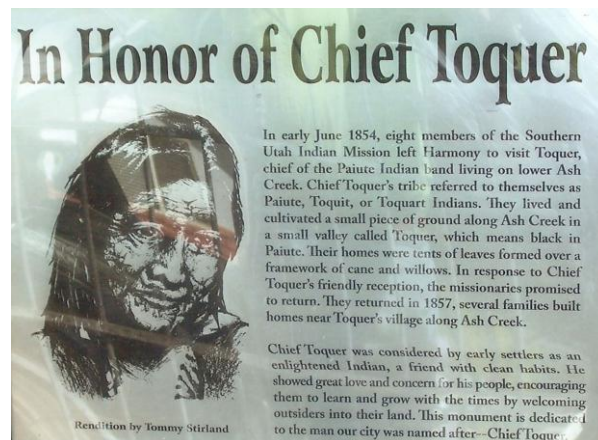
As an Eagle Scout project, Robby Hall will add the grave information to a Washington County Cemetery listing at www.utahcemeteries.org, clean up the cemeteries, and secure some additional fencing.

VIRGIN – Yvonne Spendlove

The City of Virgin is working on the restoration of the Historic Church. They have plans and are approved to go ahead as soon as funds allow. The Old Church committee is running the 4th of July in Virgin this year with proceeds going toward this project. A small kitchen and restroom will be built behind the church so the building can be used for a variety of events.

TOQUERVILLE – Virginia and Bob Olsen

April of 2009 brought another monument to the City of Toquerville, honoring Chief Toquer for whom the City is named. In 1854, eight members of the Southern Utah Indian Mission left Harmony to visit this area. Meeting with a small tribe of Native Americans making their home along Ash Creek, they were welcomed by Chief Toquer and his people. They were described as "enlightened, happy and showing great love". This monument is dedicated to those who originally made their home here. You can visit this monument on the grounds of the Town Hall and City Office.



SANTA CLARA – Sherrie Anderson

May 1, 2009, was a joyous day in the City of Santa Clara. "The Journey" a 25' x 7' Mural was unveiled and dedicated in their new Town Hall. The project, was produced by Julie Rogers. She portrayed the beautiful Swiss Village which the Swiss Immigrants left behind, the boat ride to America, crossing the plains by covered wagon and hand carts, to the desolate Santa Clara valley. She then painted the "fruits of their labor" – the pioneers with their vegetable/fruit gardens, Fort Santa Clara, the old Church, the band, dancing pioneers, and a home still standing. Each figure on the Mural represents a symbol. Those symbols are Sacrifice, Love, Courage, Charity, Faith, Hope, Posterity, Prayer, Work, and Joy.

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ST. GEORGE – Doug Alder

St. George is at the core of a booming metropolitan area. Tremendous development has resulted in the redevelopment of the remnants of most of the 8/10 acre lots in the original village center, and the loss of historic landscapes, buildings, and structures that distinguished it as a Mormon Settlement. Many people in St. George, including lifelong residents, are unaware of the existence of the historic granaries. The few adobe granaries remaining in St. George have been adapted to other uses, from storage sheds to living quarters. The condition of the granaries varies from severely neglected to fully restored. This project has been to document what is left of the historic landscapes and structures within the core of St. George. **Susan Crook, ASLA – IO Design Collaborative** (Historical Landscape Architecture) worked on this project as a Consultant to the St. George Historic Preservation Commission.

The Robert Gardner family had a reunion in St. George. One of their activities was at the Tabernacle. There were over 1,000 people who attended the celebration. The family dedicated the life-size statue of Robert Gardner, which has been placed in the center of the round-about at Tabernacle and Main Streets.

WASHINGTON – Yvonne Kendall and George Staheli

Washington City Historical Society is very appreciative of the \$1000 Grant received from the Washington County Historical Board. We are using the money to upgrade the Washington City History Room; making a book of the history of the first school and early school teachers (“Highlights of Early Education in Washington”), the history of the water, canal, Virgin Dam, and drinking water; framing pictures, buying more easels, hanging the pictures and placing for viewing; making more shelves.

SOUTHERN UTAH CULTURAL CENTER-- Connie Childs

Hello from the Southern Utah Cultural Center! We are excited that we were able to help Lynne Clark Brunson with the opportunity to receive a

grant from the Utah State Historical Records. She will be putting together a history of compiled interviews of older residents who are mostly descendants of the original pioneers. What a wonderful project! Good luck to Lynne with this outstanding project!

LAVERKIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY--Lewana Hale

There is a lot of work that needs to be done on the old Church in LaVerkin. Their committee has been researching different ways to preserve the building in order to bring the building up to code

TRIBUTE TO BART ANDERSON (1943-2009)

Ranger Bart Anderson! Just mention his name in Washington County, and everyone who has lived here, knew this great man who just recently passed away at the age of 66. I remember listening to “Ranger Bart” for the first time, over 25 years ago. It was a beautiful setting in Pine Valley. Those of us, who were sitting on the ground with legs crossed, and listening intently, were adults. Bart, wearing his “Ranger hat”, sat on a wood stump, looking into our eyes, as he magically took us back into history with the stories he told. To explain Bart Anderson, is very difficult. He surpassed everyone I know by his volunteerism and his memory of historical stories. His lectures on local history and folklore, helped the “old timers” remember, and the “new comers” to find their place in our history. Every lecture, every hike, was never rewarded with currency for his services. He would never consider it! He just loved to tell the stories! His stories were countless, and he captivated his audiences all over the State for over 25 years. I asked him what his favorite piece of history was, and he would tell me the stories about Brigham Young, or the outlaws in the State of Utah. His perfect memory, could and would, remember stories that many of us would have to look up and read. His love to instruct and inspire someone else – never – never – stopped. On a website, created by his family in memory to him, <http://www.memoriesofbartanderson.blogspot.com>

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The past mayor of St. George says this of him:
"We can't honor Bart enough of the good he has done in this area. He finds the wonder in ordinary things and brings the history of St. George to life. He is a unique individual, a walking memory who never tires of sharing the things he loves."—Karl Brooks, St. George City Mayor

One of the last things Bart and I talked about before he became ill was a concern that he had about his membership in the Washington County Historical Society. I looked at him and laughed. "Are you kidding?" I asked him. He just smiled with that twinkle in his eye.

Please take the time to look at the web site created by his family and see all the accomplishments that Bart did in his life. There are just too many to list here. The countless hours he volunteered for the people in and out of the State of Utah will be, forevermore – remembered! Connie Childs, President, WCHS

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP \$15.00
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP \$150.00
ANNUAL CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP \$100.00

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

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!!!**

Washington County Historical Society Website: <http://wchsutah.org>

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS:

The following have purchased Lifetime Memberships since our last Newsletter.

- Peggy Childs, St. George
- Jack & Lynne Johnston, St. George
- City of Washington, Washington, UT
- Hurricane Valley Museum, Hurricane, UT
- LaVerkin Historical Society, LaVerkin, UT

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

BOULEVARD HOME FURNISHINGS

390 N. Mall Drive, St. George, UT 84790

CITY OF WASHINGTON

111 N. 100 E., Washington, UT 84780

HURRICANE VALLEY MUSEUM

P. O. Box 91, Hurricane, UT 84737

LAVERKIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

325 W. 400 N., LaVerkin, UT 84745

SOUTHWEST DIESEL SERVICE

1150 E. 3550 N., St. George, UT 84770

WASHINGTON CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 821, Washington, UT 84780

Newsletter compiled by C. Lynne Johnston
Recording Secretary