

**Washington County Historical Society Annual Report
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2021
Submitted by Loren Webb, WCHS President**



Where the present is built on a foundation of the past

Officers

President, Loren Webb
Vice President, Sidney Creer
Secretary, Jeanine Vander Bruggen
Treasurer, Susan Crook

Board members

Keith Cannon, chairperson
Loren Webb
Jesse Stocking
Susan Crook
Jeanine Vander Bruggen
Pat Cundick

Committee Chairs

Publicity, Susannah Nilsson
Field Trips, Sidney Creer
Social Media, Jesse Stocking
Pioneer Courthouse, Jeanine Vander Bruggen
Grants, Susan Crook
Website, George Cannon
Juanita Brooks Project, Jesse Stocking
Fundraising, Sharee Webb

Accomplishments

- Approved an amendment to the WCHS Articles of Incorporation to better clarify the purposes of the Society (subsequently filed with the State of Utah Department of Commerce), and approved removing Section 4 of Article VII from the WCHS Bylaws to allow the WCHS to advocate as a non-profit entity with governments and organizations to benefit the local historical community.
- Loren Webb, president, and Jeanine Vander Bruggen, secretary, met with Washington County Commissioner Dean Cox to document the history of county buildings. The published interview story was later posted on the WCHS website.
- To help the Society better track and connect with its members, Susan Crook created a team consisting of herself, Allison McCord and Loren Webb to work on creating a monthly newsletter and using MailChimp to distribute the newsletter..
- The WCHS 2021 Downtown Historic Walking Tours were highly successful and included Craig Booth leading the Feb. 13 Pioneer Courthouse block tour where walking sticks and SWAG bags were distributed; Brooks Pace, Loren Webb and Allison McCord led the March 13 Ancestor Square block tour; Lynn Cobb and Susan Crook led the Green Gate Village block tour on April 10, Lyman Hafen and Dan McArthur led the Town Square block tour on May 8; and then on Dec. 15, Bruce Pickett led the Pioneer Courthouse block tour while Loren Webb led the Ancestor Square block tour, and Susan Crook and Lynn Cobb led the Green Gate Village block tour and Jim McArthur and Dan McArthur led the Town Square block tour. Tours were set up using online SignUpGenius for RSVP, using QR codes.
- Suzanne Nilsson led the Santa Clara Walking Tour on May 1 which attracted a large number of visitors.
- Approved Quickbooks and GrantStation subscriptions and ANI General Liability Insurance and USLI Directors and Officers Insurance coverage for the 2021 calendar year. Quickbooks has been installed and is connected to bank accounts. Also renewed membership with Utah Nonprofits Association.
- The Pioneer Courthouse Committee was invited and presented an historical display, which included use of the Lynne Clark Collection photos, during the Washington County Fair held April 14-17.
- Sandy Sandberg, a local weaver, donated a spinning wheel to the Pioneer Courthouse along with sample materials, wool, cotton and flax.
- The WCHS received a National Daughters of American Revolution Historic Preservation Recognition Award at the Sept. 14 DAR monthly chapter meeting. DAR also sponsored a bell ringing in the Pioneer Courthouse on Sept. 17 to celebrate Constitution Day.
- Approved a \$1,000 grant to playwright and reporter David Dudley for a “Hysterical Histories” project which is a means of introducing young people to local Dixie history through comedy.
- Through Sidney Creer’s leadership, WCHS worked with LaVerkin City which conducted a field trip of several LaVerkin City historic sites on Sept. 11. Chuck Hardy, a member of the LaVerkin Historic Preservation Commission conducted the tour.
- George Cannon and Loren Webb, representing WCHS, were invited to participate in a University Naming Focus Group on behalf of Dixie State University, during an April 30

zoom discussion. WCHS was officially neutral on the use of the Dixie name but we provided historical information to the discussion.

- The City of St. George decided to change its original plan of locating the proposed Juanita Brooks statue in front of the Dixie Academy Building to a statue garden in the vicinity of the covered pavilion between the Washington County School District building and the Woodward Building. Sculptor Annette Everett has finished the Juanita Brooks statue and it is scheduled to be placed in the new city-approved statue site sometime during the spring of 2022.
- Infowest installed an internet and security system in the Pioneer Courthouse to provide better security in the building.
- Loren Webb and Jesse Stocking received approval on May 27 from Amy Christiansen of the Washington County School District to teach the History of Washington County as part of the Utah history curriculum for 7th grade students.
- George Cannon presented a comprehensive website plan for continual improvement of the WCHS website, including a succession plan that provides an emergency backup to webmaster George Cannon, and which seeks to develop new assistant webmasters. Michael Gburski, a website consultant, has been retained to help with website technical issues on an as needed basis.
- WCHS held a successful dutch oven fundraising dinner on Sept. 30 at the Hela Seegmiller Historic Farm in Little Valley.
- The Washington County School District also approved a plan developed by Loren Webb and Jeanine Vander Bruggen for bringing School District field trips to the Pioneer Courthouse and DUP buildings.
- Loren Webb met Aug. 19 with and received approval from the St. George Interfaith Council to conduct oral interviews of all interfaith leaders in Washington County (who want to participate in the project) to preserve the religious history of Washington County. Two interviews were conducted, which included retired Community Baptist Church Pastor Alex Wilkie and religious leader Michael Kruse from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Southwest Utah. The first interview was video taped by Mike Gardner. The latter interview was conducted at the Community Education Channel studios on the campus of Dixie State University through the auspices of CEC and has been posted on YouTube. Loren Webb is in the process of developing an official plan to present to the WCHS Executive Committee to have the WCHS sponsor the oral history project.
- Beginning Oct. 1, the Pioneer Courthouse officially opened five days a week from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Wednesdays and Sundays excluded).
- WCHS Executive Officers met with the Washington County Commission on Oct. 4 to seek ongoing support for WCHS and its desire to preserve the history of our county. No decisions have been reached.

Grants Received and Approved

Sorensen Foundation, \$7,500

City RAP Grant for Equipment (WCHS), \$2,500 (Received)

We also requested \$10,000 from Washington County RAP tax but that, to date, has not been officially approved.

Pioneer Courthouse Project

The Pioneer Courthouse Project held a number of activities throughout the year which drew a steady number of guests, including the Arts to Zion Studio Tour held during the July 4th weekend, a wild West shootout was also put on by the "Lawmen and Muddy River Gang" in front of the DUP and Pioneer Courthouse. Historic lectures included Susannah Nilsson, Doug Alder, Loren Webb, Allison McCord, Lyman Hafen, Jeanine Vander Bruggen, Kathleen Broeder, Reuben Wadsworth and many others. In addition, musical performances and Historic St. George Live characters, along with numerous board meetings, were held throughout the year.

Thanks to each of you who have given so much time and energy to work on the various projects and committees you have served on. You are greatly appreciated. It was a busy and productive year overall and we look forward to another great year in 2022.