



# NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your historical society is busy and enthusiastic. Despite our president's illness and hospitalization, we are functioning fully. I had the opportunity to visit Karl on Sunday, March 23, in the LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City. He looked good. He and Carla were outdoors; she was pushing him a wheelchair enjoying the sunshine and they greeted us warmly. Karl can speak fairly well but has to work to get some words. His paralysis on one side is less noticeable and we came away optimistic that he will be back with us soon. His spirit was upbeat.

In his absence Dr. Walter Wiest, president-elect, is presiding at the monthly meetings of all the county historical associations. The St. George group meets at 7 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month and the several community associations--Curricane, Santa Clara, Leeds, and Washington meet at 8 a.m., along with St. George. We hear that Springdale and Rockville are organizing and we hope to have them with us also in those meetings at the Dixie College Administration Building. Anyone is welcome to come; it is lively.

Other projects are coming right along--our monthly luncheon meetings in the courthouse on the last Thursday, the building of the adobe house at the Pioneer Center for the Arts (thanks Russell Bezette), the finishing of the Old Courthouse basement (thanks Larry Eck). We hear more progress has been made on the trail from the Hamblin home to the cemetery in Santa Clara. Work is continuing on the CCC Camp in Leeds. The spirit of historical restoration and historical appreciation is flourishing Washington County.

*Dr. Doug Alder  
In Lieu of Karl Brooks*

## DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS

The Daughters of Utah Pioneers have taken as a sesquicentennial project the marking of all the Mormon Battalion member grave in Washington County. There are five graves that have already been marked and there are

seventeen that need to be done. We would like to involve families of these men and women and have them present at the time the markers are placed. Ceremonies will be performed, May 16 & 17, at various cemeteries throughout the county. Watch for the schedule in the newspaper.

The following is a list of the men and women, if you are related or know someone who is please call Dolores Riggs 673-2477.

Orson Bennett Adams	Susan Smith Adams
John Brown	John Lawson
James Calvin Earl James	Polly Brown
Daniel Quimby Dennett	Henry William Bigler
William Hiram Carpenter	Samuel Miles Jr.
Elijah Thomas	John Watts
Augustus Erastus Dodge	John Conrad Naegle
Levi Savage	Malinda Allison Kelley
Nathan T. Thomas	Covington

Marked are: John Mica Truman, Rufus Chester Allen, David Moss, Levi Ward Hancock and Andrew Jackson Workman.

*Dolores F. Riggs*

## SANTA CLARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The restoration of the Hug/Gubler Home on our Historical Square is now complete. The wood cook stove, wood box, and kitchen table that were in the Gubler Home before it was 'modernized' have been donated back to the home by descendants of John Gubler. We are looking for other items of furniture (dating previous to 1920) to complete the furnishings in the home.

One of our Sesquicentennial Projects is to complete the walking trail from the Jacob Hamblin Home to the Cemetery. Last year's project was to complete it to the Old Fort Site Monument. Recent service projects have 'blazed' the trail from the Monument to the Cemetery.

During May the City of Santa Clara will be hosting and entertaining a delegation of dignitaries from Switzerland.

## EVENTS PLANNED DURING THE COMING YEAR:

Memorial Day ~ Sunrise Service  
 4th of July ~ Flag Raising Ceremony/honoring veterans  
 24th of July ~ Children's Parade  
 Swiss Days will be held September 23 - 27.

*Joyce Whittaker*

## LEEDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The most prominent marker in the old Silver Reef cemetery reads: "In Memory of Henry Clark, born in New York State March 13, 1853 - Died December 1, 1878 - May His Soul Rest in Peace, Amen."

### SALOON SHOOTOUT LEAVES TWO DEAD

"Silver Reef, Utah, Sunday December 1, 1878. When the gunsmoke cleared from an early morning shoot-out at Cassidy's Silver Reef Saloon, Henry Clark, age 25 and Sykes Griffen, age unknown, were both found to be mortally wounded. Witnesses to the shooting have given conflicting statements about what exactly happened. It does appear that Griffen, a Faro Dealer at the saloon, and Clark, a frequent patron, had been feuding for some time. The shooting apparently started when Griffen argued about taking a bet from Clark. Griffen then allegedly pulled a pistol and shot Clark in the heart. Some witnesses claim that Clark then pulled a pistol and shot Griffen before both fell to the floor. Other witnesses state that after Clark was down, other patrons of the saloon, including Clark's father, John Clark, beat Griffen senseless and shot him.

"Most people who were in the saloon at the time of the shooting claim that the gunsmoke was so thick that they couldn't see what happened to Sykes Griffen. Further investigation of the incident is expected.

"Griffen lived most of the day Sunday, but died without regaining consciousness. It is unknown if he had any family.

"Henry Clark died at the scene. He is survived by his father John Clark, and brother James Edward Clark, both of Silver Reef. Henry Clark will be buried in the Silver Reef cemetery."

The story of Henry Clark and other interesting Silver Reef stories can be found in Wilma Beal's book "Leeds Historical Events in Bits & Pieces", and "Silver, Sinners and Saints", by Paul Dean Proctor and Morris Shirts, also, "Saga of Three Towns" by Marietta M. Mariger.

The Leeds Area Historical Society is involved in a project to restore and protect the old Silver Reef cemeteries. The Historical Society has also recently received funds to

restore two more buildings at the Leeds CCC Camp. The camp administration building and the camp blacksmith shop will be preserved and restored this year.

For more information contact Mike Empey at 879-2050.

*Michael D. Empey*

## THE ADOBE HOUSE

### THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WANTS TO GIVE CREDIT TO SYDNEY DI VILLAROSA FOR HER UNTIRING EFFORTS WITH THIS PROJECT.

If you want your heart to beat faster and your Pioneer Heritage take on a deeper meaning go and see the charm of this beautiful little building that is being reconstructed in Pioneer Plaza.

With woodlands limited in Utah, the Mormon Pioneers wisely practiced conservation of the scattered forests and turned to the soil for their homes and public buildings, without an initial cash outlay.

In much of early southwestern history, adobe had complete dominance over log construction. Historical evidence has adobe as an important element in the growth and prosperity of early Utah pioneers.

There were many benefits that adobe has to offer. A few of these advantages are, aesthetic qualities, longevity of the structure, low maintenance, noise reduction, fire resistance, low energy costs, and a sensitivity to environmental concerns. In the near future, economic necessity alone may reintroduce adobe as the primary building material in the Southwest.

How did the pioneers manufacture adobe bricks? To describe the method, I will quote a 90 year old Mormon elder who remembers well the effort and method he used in 1917 in Hurricane, Utah.

*"When I first moved to Southern Utah, I worked in a 'dobie' yard to make my way. We used what you would call a wooden pug mill that we made from old lumber. It measured four feet by four feet square and four feet deep. There was this big log that went into the air about seven feet and it had paddles attached to it inside the square wooden box. We had a horse attached to the long pole that was hooked to the top of the big box. The horse went around in circles and when we filled the wooden box with dirt and water, mud came out of the spout. We put the 'dobie' mud into a form that made three 'dobies', 12" by 6" end to end. The water to make the bricks came from the Hurricane irrigation ditch, which we also used to wash ourselves after a long hard day of making 'dobies'."*

*Barbara Barton*

## NEWS BRIEFS

The Society hopes you will enjoy our 1997 Calendar "Celebrate the Century". The calendar will be distributed during December to 25,000 residents in Washington County. Look for your calendar and enjoy Reta Hall's 12 original paintings, her contribution to the society to begin our fund raisers for 1997.

Washington City's Society has been awarded a matching grant in cooperation with Washington City from the Sesquicentennial Coordinating Council for the placement of historical markers in the city in 1997. Also, they will be printing a Self-guided Tour (Family-Walk-O-Thon) brochure that will coincide with these historic markers. The society is gearing up and promoting "the spirit of pioneering" for the coming up 1997 church festivities.

The Cahoon's published centennial book, Utah's "Dixie" Birthplace has been accepted quite well with total proceeds from its sales going to the society for future restorations.

After 5 years of service to Washington City Historical Society, Harold and Priscilla Cahoon have resigned their positions. They have been called on an 18 month LDS mission to the Nauvoo Visitors Center.

Ferd Neilsen will be the incoming president for the society, effective 1 January '97. Darlene Neilsen, his wife, will be the society's future secretary. The Neilsens have just recently returned from a mission.

### MONTHLY LUNCHEON MEETINGS

have been changed to *last Thursday* of each month.

*Price for luncheon ~ \$6.00*



### 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 court-house.

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

*Thank you for your Support!*

Please mail this form with your dues to:

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Irene Hoyt

82 E. 300 No.

St. George, UT 84770

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

# WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1997

## BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Karl Brooks	President
Dr. Walter Weist	President Elect
Dr. Doug Alder	Past President
Bart Anderson	Vice President
Irene Hoyt	Treasurer
Jackue Capon	Secretary
LuWayne Wood	Membership
Darlene McFarlane	Membership
Carla Fox	Courthouse Art Show
Sidney di Villarosa	Development
Carol Watkins	Historian
Alan Capon	Projects Director
Jack & Joyce Lucas	Luncheons
Shirley Snow	Publications
Larry Eck	Advisor
Jim Lundwall	Advisor
Barbara Barton	Newsletter

## AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Nicholson	Community Development
Jay Curtis	Historical Preservation Commission
Joanne Thornton, President	Leeds Historical Society
Joyce Whittaker, President	Santa Clara Historical Society
Ferd Nielson, President	Washington City Historical Society
Verdell Hinton	Hurricane Heritage Park Foundation
Bill Workman	Hurricane Historical Society
Deloris Riggs	Daughters of the Utah Pioneers
Eldon Heslop	Sons of Utah Pioneers
Lenny Brinkerhoff	Virgin Historical Society
Eve Parker	Co-Chair Luncheons

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



Do  
25  
Sa

