



Historic Leeds Tithing House, circa 1985

The May field trip of the Washington County Historical Society will be a visit to the historic Tithing Office in Leeds on Saturday, May 21. Erected in 1891, this unique stone building is located on the northwest corner of Main and Center Street in Leeds. It is the only building of its type in the region to be surrounded by its original stone wall and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

The structure was originally built to receive “in kind” tithing donations from early Leeds members of the Mormon Church who were encouraged to donate 10% of their income to the church. In the agrarian society of this time, donations were seldom in cash but came in the form of such items as peaches, corn, figs, apricots and bottled meat. The Tithing Office was built to collect and store these donations and then distribute them to the needy.

In the 1920's the practice of “in kind” tithing donations was discontinued and the stone office was turned into a residence which, over the years, housed several different families. The current owners are Kenneth and Patricia Hadley. As a child, Patricia Hadley lived in the house with her family when her father taught school for the CCC. Much later, in 2012, the Hadleys purchased the house and are restoring it.

The May 21st tour will give participants a chance to visit the Tithing House, learn of its history and see the restoration that is taking place. The tour will start at 10 a.m. in Leeds at the Tithing House and is free of charge.

Information about many other historic structures in Washington County may be found at the Society's website: wchsutah.org.