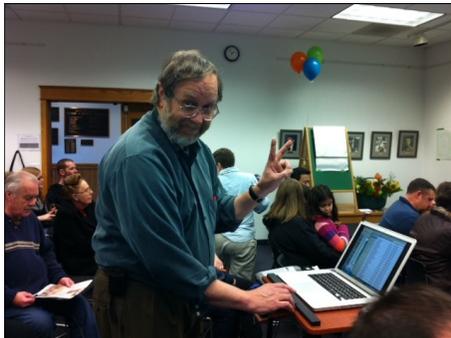


Silverton Country Historical Society

Museum and Office 428 South Water Street

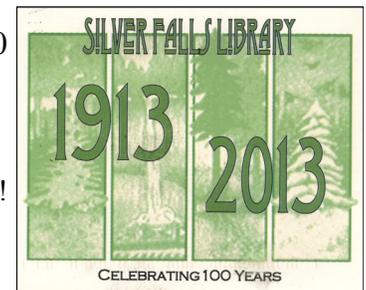
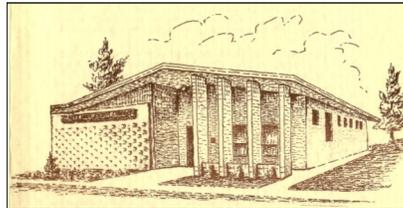


Mark Your Calendars!! May 20, 7:00 pm—At Silverton Museum Silver Falls Library History



Gus giving his presentation at the Library

Join us as Gus Frederick presents 100 years of the Silver Falls Library with a little bit of Silverton history as well. Lots of photos and stories in this one.... you won't want to miss it!



More Upcoming Events—Information in future newsletters

June (Saturday Date to be determined)—Walking Tour of South Water Street

July 13—Library Centennial Celebration—ice cream social, band concert. Museum will be open extra hours.

July 13, 14—Historic Silver Falls Days at Silver Falls State Park Lodge

August 2, 3, 4—Homer Davenport Days.....Look for our Coin Toss Booth in the park!

August 24—SCHS picnic at Coolidge McClaine Park

September 21—Preservation Workshop at The Gordon House at the Oregon Garden

October 19 (Saturday) — Silverton Area History Forum at Seven Brides - Definitely a “Can’t Miss” - All your favorite Silverton area authors, photographers, illustrators and editors in one place with their books. Just in time for Christmas shopping!

Ancestry Detectives

The Silverton Genealogy group, Ancestry Detectives, meets at Silver Falls Library on the second Tuesday of the month. They welcome beginners, intermediates as well as seasoned genealogists. Come visit us and share ideas, stories, and research.

The Fresh Air Bed By Fred A Parkinson

It started out as an intriguing tale handed down through several families living in the historic old home. It continued on as a faint shape in a 1924 photograph. It then evolved as a black speck, then a blob, in the middle of two vintage postcards. It finally revealed itself as a fuzzy, rounded, shape within an extreme enhancement of one of the postcards. The clues to the speck's purpose had been around for years, but they had never been compiled in one place.....until now.

This story relates to a unique bed that could allow a person to sleep either inside a second-floor bedroom or outside on the open-air porch. The general train of thought was that the bed was on a rail system, allowing it to be moved either inside or outside through the exterior wall. However, this account may not be entirely accurate.

Did this bed actually exist? The short answer is: "Yes." If it did exist, what form did it take? It was apparently located at the newly built home of Eva Coolidge, currently known as the Coolidge-Parkinson house, located at 301 West Main Street in Silverton.

By the end of the nineteenth century, the thought that night air transmitted various diseases had been generally debunked. This gave way to the so-called "Fresh Air Sleeping Movement." Contracting tuberculosis was of great concern during the early twentieth century and the movement enthusiastically extolled the virtues of sleeping in the open air as a way to treat or prevent the frequently deadly disease. To ward off tuberculosis, screened in sleeping porches became common and were regularly incorporated into architectural designs.

This was the environment in which the Coolidge-Parkinson house was built in 1912. Knowing of the "Fresh Air" trend, one can easily understand why a second floor uncovered porch was originally built to allow the mysterious bed to be installed.

What kind of bed was it? It wasn't known whether the long end of the bed went through at a perpendicular angle or if it slid through parallel to the wall.

If the bed was actually installed on the porch, it probably stayed in place until at least 1924. That year a promotional pamphlet, *Silverton, Oregon in Pictures*, was published by Drake and Hoblitt. An unpublished photograph from that publication showed a view of the east side of the house, with the upper porch visible at the top. Just above the railing, against the back of house, was a very faint, curved shape. This was undoubtedly the east side framework of the illusive bed, but without recently discovered clues as a guide, it was not readily identifiable as such.



Cropped view of porch showing side of bed 1924

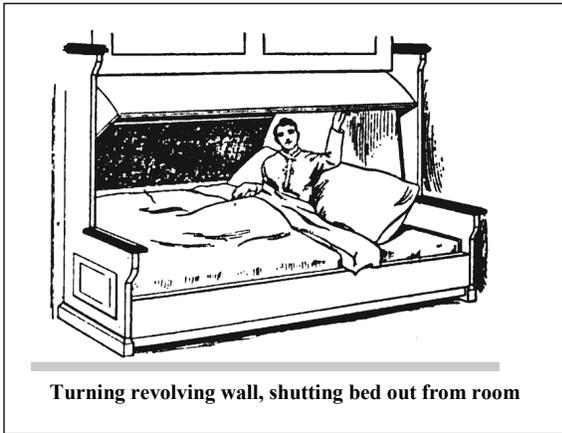
Two picture postcards, taken from a hill high over the neighborhood between 1913 and 1922, depict a "bird's eye view" of Silverton. The Coolidge-Parkinson house is visible in a very small part of the picture. Upon closer inspection, a tiny black speck is visible in the area of the porch where the bed was supposedly located. That speck was the first positive indicator that *something* had occupied that space. The better quality postcard was scanned and enlarged with surprising results. A somewhat fuzzy, but more defined, shape appeared where the speck had been. It was parallel to the exterior wall and appeared to have curved white sides with a black area in the middle. The problem was, it didn't look like a bed.

A bed that *did* fit the shape of the image was one known as the Co-Ran Fresh Air Bed, sold by the Fresh Air Bed Company of San Francisco. Located on the West Coast, it is likely that one of the company's beds made its way to Silverton. Designed and field tested by a leading architect, the bed was initially displayed with positive reviews in Los Angeles in February, 1912.



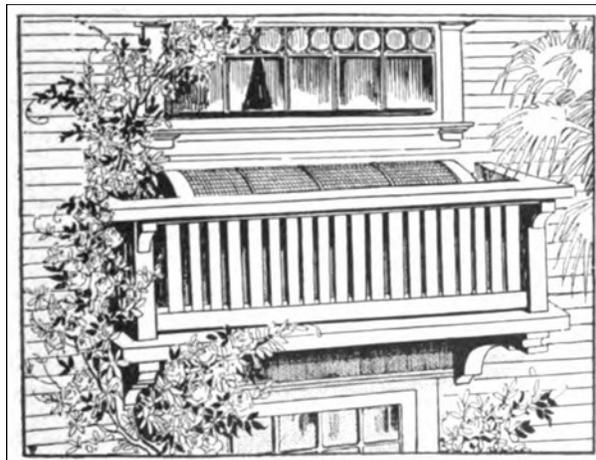
Pacific Medical Journal Ad 1914

The bed was of a very unique design. It was built in parallel through the exterior wall with one third placed in the bedroom and two-thirds placed outdoors. The bed's general shape is reminiscent of the curved lid of the old style bread boxes common in many kitchens. It had a curved upper panel that allowed the bed to be deployed for either indoor or outdoor use. When not actively in use, a panel on the interior side could fold down to create a davenport or settee within the interior room. The bed contained such amenities as a reading light and a protective mosquito screen with a blind.

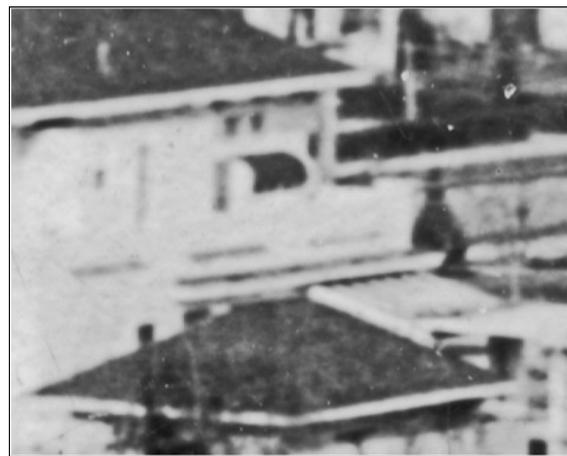


After the bed was removed, sometime between 1924 and 1937, the upper porch became a sleeping porch, complete with a roof and screened windows. It seems likely that there was, in fact, a unique bed installed in the wall on the upper porch of the Coolidge-Parkinson house. This is confirmed by comparing a 1912 ad with the extreme crop of the blurry image on the porch. While the company's "fresh air bed" might not be proven to be the actual bed, it can be surmised that a bed of the same general form and function surely occupied the space.

It is noteworthy to mention that had the "bird's eye view" postcards not existed, and with no other corroborating evidence, the bed's location or type might not have been able to be accurately determined, since the bed was virtually invisible from street level.



Drawing of a Co-Ran bed visible between railing and window-taken from a 1912 ad

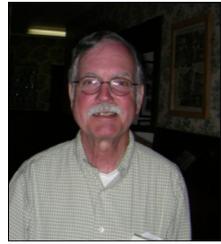


House showing bed on upper porch

This distinctive bed is long gone today. First accounted for in anecdotal stories handed down through several occupants of the house and ultimately corroborated through old photographs, internet research, and library investigation, the saga of this classic bed epitomizes an earlier time when horses still occasionally shared the road with automobiles, the jazz age was in its infancy, and where the world would soon become a very different place.

From the President...

Everyone has a story to tell



Whether we're 9 or 90, we all have a story to tell, happenings we are a part of, things we've experienced, memories from another time and place that we'd like others to know about. Even school children who've seen or done something they've not seen or done before are anxious to tell others so they can share their experience. My own children, though they're not children anymore, are more often than ever before relating to others about their memories of some event that happened in their lives when they were younger. The social media sites have made that activity even more inviting. But, isn't that the way it should be? Shouldn't it be in our nature to remember things that we experienced that were pleasant, or maybe that were not so pleasant but are in the background of our memories? Go ahead, take a few moments and recall just a few of those earlier experiences in your life.

Here's what happened to me; maybe you can relate to it too. As birthday piled onto birthday, year after year, somewhere in the middle of all those years, I began experiencing little flashbacks, recollections of people I met, experiences I had, the fun things I did, funny happenings that I wanted to relive, if only in the retelling. I had a revelation, 'maybe I should write a book'. What better way to get the memory juices flowing than to recall what life was like back when I was younger, and when I got started, the thoughts just kept coming, until I had more than a hundred pages of text. Funny how that happens, one thought helps me recall another thought.

Finally, when the recollections of just one short period (perhaps fifteen years) were written down, I bound it into a volume entitled, *In the Shade of the King Apple Tree*, printed enough copies so each of my kids and my siblings got one, gave a copy to the museum, and the whole project took only a couple months or so to complete.

Maybe you've already done that too; or maybe this could encourage you to do so. Even if you think your life hasn't had anything earth-shattering occur, you still have a story to tell, and the chances are really great that as the words start flowing when you recollect your earlier days, you will become intrigued with what you experienced and begin to get really excited about your opportunity to tell 'your story'. Try it, you'll like it! This is truly history in the making; your experiences written down or told to someone else, become a living history lesson, a gift from someone who actually experienced it.

Off and running...

This month, we began the museum's First Friday Traveling Exhibit for this year: Tom and Marsha Worthen, and Jack Hande showcased the Silverton Red Sox semi-pro baseball team at Radio Shack. Let me know if you're willing to help at future traveling exhibits.

Silverton Veterans War Memorial

We've gotten cost estimates for the memorial, and the next step is to present the plans to the City Council. Once the approval comes to place the memorial at Town Square Park (and that should happen in May or June), we can then begin the publicity and fund-raising. We've identified two Spanish-American War Silverton veterans who lost their lives, so the total of veteran casualties has risen to 46.

Silverton Country Museum - History in the Making

Board Member Profile

Molly Murphy, SCHS Vice-President and longtime SCHS member, is the General Director for the Gordon House, the only building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in Oregon. Molly moved to Corvallis, Oregon from the San Francisco Bay Area in 1970. She studied art and science and has had a wide variety of experiences and expertise in the areas of food animal husbandry, food processing and quality assurance inspection, animal microbiology research, and the fiber arts. She graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1982 and a Master of Agriculture in Poultry Science, Animal Science, and Extension Education in 1984.



Molly as Chair of our Mission Mille Exhibit in 2011



Molly at a recent member meeting

Molly came to the Gordon House in 2002 as the Curator's Assistant, was promoted to Site Manager in 2005, and now serves as the General Director. Molly directs the Gordon House historic site operations, preservation and conservation, youth and adult education programs, and fundraising and event projects.

She has co-authored several scientific research papers in technical journals relating to avian microbiology and food processing. Molly has worked as a free-lance correspondent and reporter for a national trade newspaper and other agriculture news magazines and newspapers. Management of food manufacturing lines and fine art galleries alike has led to her current success directing the Gordon House.

Molly and her husband, Kevin, live in a local historic building, the old Mount Hope School just south of Molalla. They have actively worked to restore and renovate this 1913 vintage building, researching the local history of the school and working with the Clackamas County Commissioners to include it on the list of County Landmark buildings. In spite of all those activities, she and her husband, Kevin, are strong supporters of SCHS activities. We think that Molly is a perfect fit for SCHS!

Davenport at History Pub Monday, May 6, 2012—7 pm Mission Theater, 1624 Glisan Street, Portland Oregon 97209

The Davenport Project will be at the Mission Theater in Portland for an Oregon Encyclopedia History Pub presentation on the life and times of Oregon's first media super star, our own political cartoonist



Homer Davenport. In the decade of the 1890s, just before the dawn of a new century, American society was going through a transition: from the gilded age of robber barons and monopolistic trusts, into the progressive era, a time known for great social reforms. From horses and trains to automobiles and airplanes. Change was everywhere. Through it all, Oregon-born cartoonist Homer Davenport was there, wielding his pen to spray a steady stream of caustic caricatures onto the notables and notorious of the global political scene.

Local historian and Davenport expert, Gus Frederick will be presenting this visual overview of Davenport's art, life and times. Gus is the author of the 2012 annotated edition of Davenport's 1898 collection of cartoons, as well as Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America—Silverton." Both of these works are available at the Museum.



428 SOUTH WATER STREET
SILVERTON OR 97381

OFFICE PHONE 503-873-7070
EMAIL US
SILVERTON.MUSEUM@LIVE.COM

WWW.SILVERTONMUSEUM.COM

Mothers' Day Tea
Sunday, May 11, 2013 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Gordon House — 869 West Main Street, Silverton

Reserve your seats now to celebrate Mother's Day and enjoy tea, music, poetry, and a grand guided tour of the Gordon House. We invite you to join us on Saturday, May 11, at 2 p.m. for the popular afternoon tea at Frank Lloyd Wright's only building in Oregon. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a real Oregon state treasure. This is the only Wright building open to the public in the Pacific Northwest. The best way to enjoy it is to sit down to a cup of tea and scones with family and friends in Wright's living room designed for the Gordon farm in Oregon.



The cost is \$25 per person or \$20 for members and their guests. Gift certificates and group rates are also available. Call 503.874.6006 or visit TheGordonHouse.org for reservations, tickets, and more information.

Thank you to our new and renewing members—

Bob and Marilyn Dedrick	Joan Sprug
Gary and Joyce Wolfard	Spirit Expeditions
Ray and Kathy Hunter	Susan Meyer Morgan

Your S.C.H.S. Board

Norm English	President
Ray Hunter	Past-Pres.
Molly Murphy	Vice-Pres.
Chris Schwab	Secretary
Tracy Duerst	Treasurer
Jan Long	Curator
Kathy Hunter	Membership
Marsha Worthen	
Kay LaLone	
Ruth Kaser	
Fred A. Parkinson	

If you received an overdue notice with your newsletter, we appreciate your prompt response.
Thank you!