

Silverton Country Historical Society

Museum and Office 428 South Water Street



Memorial Day

For many of us, Memorial Day is not just a day for getting together with family and friends. It is a day to celebrate the fallen heroes who have served to protect our country. And it is also a day when thousands of people flock to their local cemeteries to embrace the memory of all their loved ones. This is a time to place flowers on graves and to clean and maintain the markers. Unfortunately, we often find monuments covered in vines and moss or caked-on dirt—a sad condition in which to see them. Although grave markers are usually made of seemingly strong materials, they are fragile. Faced daily with the outdoor elements they can become damaged. Severely damaged monuments should be taken care of by trained conservators. Don't attempt to clean monuments if you hear a hollow sound when you gently tap the surface with a knuckle or if you see cracks, flaking or eroding of granular surfaces.



But there are there are methods we can use on these visits to clean and protect markers in a way that will avoid scratching or tarnishing and control the growth of organic material. Water only and a soft bristle brush (don't ever use a wire brush) is the best way to clean a marker. A soft toothbrush is good for crevices and grooves. If it appears necessary to use a cleanser, only non-ionic detergents should be used for removing dirt, algae, and lichen from the stone. Avoid using soaps, even Ivory, or commercial household cleaners. Stones are composed of minerals and salts. Adding chemicals to them can often cause chemical reactions that will erode the stone faster than if you just left it alone. Cleaning materials that contain phosphoric acid, such as Lime Away or Naval Jelly, may stain the marker or leave soluble salts behind. Bleach will turn marble yellow.



Begin by gently brushing or blowing off loose materials. Dampen the surface with clean water, then gently brush all sides from bottom to top. Rinse frequently. Repeat as needed. If the lichen has been stuck on for quite some time, try to gently scrape it off with a fingernail, plastic scraper, or wooden craft stick.

Tools that are helpful include: soft tooth brushes, wooden craft sticks, clean cosmetic sponges, white rags, cotton swabs and toothpicks. Again, NEVER USE metal tools, scouring pads or adhesive tape on grave markers. This can also be a time to remove overgrowth of grass at the base—use care if you are using grass cutters or trimmers to avoid damaging the marker.



Although cemeteries have grounds crews to cut the grass and maintain the cemetery as a whole, it can still be a communal effort to help keep the cemetery looking nice when the crews aren't working. And it can provide satisfaction that you are preserving the memory of your loved ones through care and preservation of their tombstones and grave sites.



Saturday, June 22
Walking Tour of S. Water St.
1:30 pm.

Meet at the Museum, rain or shine.
 Learn more about this historic
 Neighborhood
 (Should last about an hour)



Philomath Workshop

Monday and Tuesday, April 22 and 23, Jan and Chris attended a Connecting to Collections workshop in Philomath sponsored by Oregon Heritage, with a focus on collection care and disaster plan preparation. Great workshop. We learned that former curator, Carolyn Hutton, has taught us very well when it comes to caring for our artifacts. A good refresher never hurts, though.

On the second day they introduced us to emergency preparedness and showed us an online disaster plan program (free) that serves as a template to be personalized for individual facilities. (Cara Kaser of Oregon Heritage, and our own Ruth Kaser's granddaughter, is a great resource for this.) We learned that we are not alone when it comes to not quite having a plan in place. Many of the organizations at the workshop were as muddled as we are. We also learned, however, that we have made a very good start: we are already backing up the computer data and storing the back up off site. We have developed a list of contact people and we have good documentation of the items in our collection. Next step: evaluating the electrical system and the plumbing. Two of the most devastating types of disasters are fire and water damage from flooding or broken pipes. These are actions we can take to minimize our risk.

The Benton County Historical Museum which was the site of the workshop was an amazing place! In 2005, the Society accepted the responsibility of preserving the Horner Collection, formerly owned by Oregon State University. To house this vast collection and the Society's accumulation of important historical objects, the Society built a **13,500 square foot** Collections Care Facility in 2007 on the Philomath campus: a state of the art, secure, climate controlled, environment for artifact care, storage and exhibition development. Did I mention that it was amazing? Check out the photos!



- Top left**—Storage
- Top center**—One of three work areas where they process, repair, and catalog artifacts...huge!
- Top right**—Jan dwarfed by rows of shelving
- Left**—Rolling storage cabinets!!! Rolling!
- Far Right**—More storage.

The Benton County Historical Museum with the 13,500 sq ft Collection Care Facility to the left.



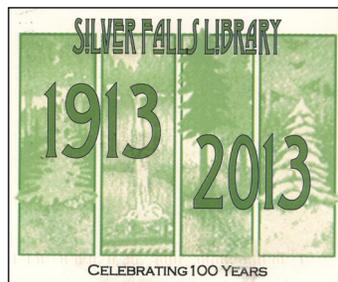
Chamber After Hours

Thursday evening, April 25, the Historical Society hosted a Chamber of Commerce After Hours. This was an opportunity to allow our local businesses to visit the museum and learn more about our role in the community. Hanson Vineyards provided samples and light snacks were offered in the Depot. Lots of mingling and visiting and sharing were the main activities of the evening!



History of Silver Falls Library Presented Monday, May 20 at the Museum

We are always assured an enjoyable and educational evening when Gus Frederick is our host. And of course, this past Monday was no exception. By means of Gus' excellent Power Point presentation we learned about the Library's formation and growth and even a little Silver-ton history as well. Be sure to keep the Library in your thoughts as it celebrates its 100th birthday this summer.



Celebrate Father's Day, June 16 at the 62nd Annual Silverton Hills Strawberry Festival held in Silverton's Coolidge McClaine Park. Strawberry Festival hours are 10:00 a.m. until p.m.5:00 Enjoy strawberries, biscuits and ice cream with a free second helping of strawberries all for just \$6.00. Strawberry shortcake is free for children under 2 or over 80!

From the President...

We may be small, but we have lot's going on at the museum. It continues to amaze me just how involved our small group of volunteers is. The activities have been gearing up for a couple of months and will continue for several months; here's just some of what we're working on:



- First Friday Traveling Display – We've already done two events;
- Silverton Veterans War Memorial – We speak to the City Council at the July 1 meeting to seek approval for siting the memorial in Town Square Park;
- We're currently working on a Disaster Plan for the museum;
- The museum is making plans for a table at the Saturday Market this summer;
- School Tours – Have already had one group, and another is scheduled in early June;
- South Water Street Walking Tour – Scheduled for June 22
- Monthly Programs are scheduled for March through November;
- Events participation planning – Homer Davenport Festival;
- 2014 participation in the Mission Mill Display – Organizing the proposal;
- Working on additional signage and on repainting the porch steps.

So, you see, we get a lot done here at the museum; most Tuesday's, you will find some of our volunteers busily performing a variety of tasks and ongoing projects. What a great group of folks we have. It takes a lot of effort and dedication to make a museum happen so that the community can enjoy their heritage. You've heard me say it before, and I'll continue to say it, "Thanks to all of you that make it happen". We're all helping to build a legacy for future generations by the things we do at the Silverton Country Museum.

—Norm

Silverton Country Museum - History in the Making

More Upcoming History Events

Saturday, June 22—Walking tour of South Water Street. 1:30 p.m. Meet at the Museum

June 29— **Silverton Wine & Jazz Festival.** Tom Grant on the piano. Wine by Hanson Vineyards and Pheasant Run Winery, 7 p.m. The Gordon House at the Oregon Garden

July 13—**Library Centennial Celebration**—6 p.m. Open area by the Library. Ice cream social, band concert.

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 — **"Caring for Your Treasures: A Different Kind of Roadshow"** at The Gordon House at the Oregon Garden

October 19 (Saturday) — **Silverton Area History Fair** 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!

SCHS Board Member Profile Treasurer, Tracy Miles Duerst



Our Tracy is a home grown product—her grandparents moved to Silverton in 1934 when her grandfather went to work at the family lumber mill, Silver Falls Timber Company. Her roots in the community go deep.

As early as her senior year at Silverton high school she started on a career in banking at the Silverton branch of First National Bank and continued to work there through the merger with Wells Fargo in 1997. Tracy's husband, Doug, farms with his family on their century farm in the Victor Point area along with their son, Alex. Daughter, Emily is also working in the agriculture field as a credit officer at NW Farm Credit in Salem. In 2000 Tracy helped open Silver Falls Bank in the same building in which she began her banking career and then retired in 2009 when the bank closed.

In addition to being an awesome treasurer of the Silverton Country Historical Society, Tracy is also active in the Silverton High School Alumni Association, serving as their treasurer since 2004, and in Oregon Women for Agriculture. In her free time she enjoys spending time with their 2-year-old granddaughter, traveling, gardening, working on family history and hiking. And, I must add, keeping SCHS finances on the straight and narrow! Thank you, Tracy!

SCHS Dime Toss Fundraiser Coming Up!

Summer IS coming! And a sure sign of summer is the Historical Society's Dime Toss booth at the Homer Davenport Community Festival in August. We need lots of containers, and of course volunteers, to make this a successful fundraiser. Please check your cupboards for containers you don't need and that someone might want to win, and then bag them up and bring them to us. We can use vases, cups, flower pots, deep bowls, drinking glassesanything you can find. You can leave your donations at the museum on Tuesdays, between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. or weekends when we're open from 1-4 p.m., or put them on Kathy Hunter's porch at 211 Welch Street in Silverton.



Dime Toss earnings go toward improvements to the Museum. This year we are looking at upgrading the Museum's "vintage" wiring.

Your help is greatly appreciated! And please let us know if you would be willing to help share the fun by helping at the booth. Call 503-873-7070. Thank you!

Gravestone Symbols Explained in Oregon Heritage Bulletin

As you wander through a cemetery you will see many motifs on gravestones. A symbol on a marker can offer an interesting insight into the person's life or the family's feeling about the death. In addition to asking the question, "What does this symbol mean?" it is important to remember that a particular motif may appear just because someone liked it.

Whether or not the symbols can be accurately interpreted, it is still possible to enjoy the inherent beauty found in a cemetery. The Heritage Programs of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has published a Heritage Bulletin that is a sampling of Oregon gravestone symbols and their intended meanings. To view this Heritage Bulletin and others, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/Bulletins.shtml>



428 SOUTH WATER STREET
SILVERTON OR 97381

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

WWW.SILVERTONMUSEUM.COM

Thank you to our new and renewing members—
Your support is what keeps us going!

Tom and Lynne Radcliffe	Bill Predeek	Dawn Juliano
Amy McKinley	Carolyn Simmons	Edward “Jack” Geer
Brad and Arlene Brenden	Nancy Korda	Barry Shapiro
Craig and Joan Clark	GeerCrest Farm	Patti Lindquist
Tracy Duerst Family	The Gordon House	Magic Carpet Cleaning
Charlotte and Carolyn Mueller		

And a very special **thank you** to Edward “Jack” Geer for his generous donation to our Veterans’ Memorial Fund.

Your S.C.H.S. Board

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Frank Lloyd Wright’s 146th Birthday
Saturday, June 22, 10 am—4 pm at The Gordon House

The Gordon House, designed by world renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, will host a special celebration on Saturday, June 22, to commemorate what would have been the month of Wright’s 146th birthday. You’re invited to tour and enjoy his only building in Oregon forty-nine years after it was built as Wright’s example of the only truly American architectural style.

Self-guided tours of the house are available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the special birthday celebration price of \$3 per person, and members are free. Knowledgeable tour guides will be on hand to answer questions and tell interesting stories about this unique house design for families. Gordon and Wright exhibits will be on display in the house for this event. There will be activity games and a Treasure Hunt for young future architects. Birthday refreshments will be served. (E-mail: gordonhouse1957@frontier.com Phone: 503/874-6006)

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