

Silverton Country Historical Society

Established in 1974

Over Forty-five Years of History in the Making



*Museum and Office
428 South Water Street*

Kora Browne, Silverton Teacher

By Fred A. Parkinson

and Perry Production"

It all started with a vintage photograph posted to the historical society's new Instagram page. The photo shows an attractive young woman dressed in a flowing cape, wearing a stylish hat. She's standing on a lawn with a house in the background. The only information on the back of the photo is "Kora Brown-Teacher." The Instagram post estimates the photo was from around 1910, based on her attire. Who was Kora Browne? Intrigued by the unique spelling of her first name and always eager to investigate a mystery, the desire to find out more about Kora was strong.

People visit our museum frequently to research their family, often to fill in a blank on a family tree. They often seek family information relating to addresses, other family members, occupations, obituaries, burial places, and other bits of data.

As will be seen, our museum has numerous ways to research a family, a business, a Silverton event, or many other subjects related to Silverton's heritage. But, for the moment, back to Kora.....

In addition to the unique spelling of her first name, the first thing discovered about Kora is her surname had an "e" at the end of "Brown," although it's misspelled on the photo. Kora's first and last names would be regularly misspelled during her early life.

Kora's family might not have ever existed had it not been for the heroic efforts of her future parents, Henry and Cynthia Browne. They had been married for four short months when a fire destroyed their home. To escape the flames and save their lives, they were forced to jump from a second-story window into an adjacent lake.

Kora Ethel Browne was born on March 19, 1893, in Osseo, Wisconsin to Henry Eddy Browne and Cynthia Almeda Lampman Browne. She had two siblings, Floyd, born in 1895, and Vivian, born in 1902.

Henry Browne worked as a journalist, editing newspapers in both Knapp and Osseo, Wisconsin in the early 20th century. By 1907, the family had moved to Silverton, where Kora graduated the eighth grade in May 1907. In 1909, her father was publishing the Silverton Appeal newspaper in partnership with John T. Hoblit. The partners sold the paper in April 1910 to H. E. Hodges, an employee of the paper, and his cousin, Jasper Bennett. Several years later John Hoblit would reacquire the newspaper that he, and subsequently his family, would operate for several decades.

Browne stayed active in journalism after the sale and by 1915 he was the publisher of the Silverton Tribune. The Browne's youngest daughter, Vivian, graduated from Silverton High in 1919. The 1920 Federal Census showed his residence on Fiske Street and his occupation as "publisher." In 1920, Henry and Meda (apparently his wife was known by a truncation of her middle name, Almeda) moved to Canby, Oregon where Henry once again edited a newspaper.



Curator's Corner

What I have been thinking about lately are the many changes that Silverton has gone through in the last few years. The Eugene Field school building is gone and excavation has begun on the new city hall. What I knew as a child was the Schnorenberg Seed and Feed store has now become a bakery with food carts alongside of it and what was once a gas station has now become a new eatery and weekend crafters plaza. Both of these changes have proven to be very popular gathering places for our small town.



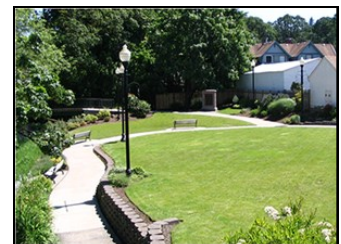
In March Jeanette Olafson, who was a member of the Silverton Zenith Women's club brought a beautiful scrapbook to the museum that follows the construction of the Town Square Park from the beginning to the dedication of the park. Since its completion the park it has been a center for many of our town's activities. Every year it hosts the annual Christmas Tree lighting and for many years the Saturday Market was held in the small parking lot adjacent to the park. The Veterans' Memorial is also located in the park. No matter what the weather, there is never a day that you don't see someone enjoying a walk through the park. What makes this particular scrapbook so important to the museum is that it gives a face to all those who made the park possible—something mere newspaper articles aren't able to capture.



The scrapbook chronologically follows the demolition of the area until the final completion. In looking through the museum records that are available to the public, most are from the local paper such as one written for the Silverton Appeal Tribune on March 2, 1994. That article covers discussion of the demolition of the Silverton Blow Pipe Company and the future of that area. The original brainchild came from a nine member committee named the Silverton Civic Center Park Committee. Michelle and Dick Fennimore hosted a meeting in their home to receive some guidance from Mike Scott, then city manager, on how to proceed in creating a central park on the banks of Silver Creek. From those humble beginnings the dream of creating a non-tax funded, volunteer-constructed common area came to fruition. Donated services and materials greatly enhanced this community effort.



To complement the few articles that we already had available, the Zenith Club scrapbook gives us actual photos of each step along the way, including the fundraising that was so vital to the completion of the park. Neatly documented are also copies of the original drawings for the park and the buildings and the permits that were needed. It really did 'take a village' to complete the project and it has given Silverton a very special gathering place....to those who made it possible the town is grateful.



Judy Lowery

Kora Browne, Silverton Teacher (continued from Page 1)

For a few years before her marriage, Kora worked as a schoolteacher in Silverton. where she taught an upper elementary grade during the 1915-16 school year in the building that would later be named Washington Irving School. For the 1916-17 and the 1917-18 school years, she taught first grade at the elementary school before it was later named Emerson School.

While living in Silverton, Kora met her future husband, George W. Davis (1892-1939). He was born and raised in Silverton and was the grandson of an early Silverton pioneer, Leander Davis. George graduated from Oregon Agricultural College in pharmacy in 1912. After graduation, he worked for a time at Steelhammer Drug in Silverton. At the end of the 1917-18 school year, George and Kora married on June 12, 1918, in San Francisco. After her marriage, the newlywed taught first grade during the 1918-19 school year as Mrs. Kora Davis.

The couple then moved to Eugene, where George worked as a pharmacist. He partnered with Albert R. Tiffany in 1925 to form the Tiffany-Davis Drug Company. A couple of years later, Kora and George became the parents of their daughter, Geraldine Joan Davis, who was born in 1927.

George Davis passed away suddenly at his home in Eugene on February 26, 1939. He was 46 years old. On the day of his death, he and Kora had just returned home after driving his father, Grant, to Silverton to visit his sister, Mrs. Sam Ames, the former Clorinda Davis. He is buried in the Silverton Cemetery.

The original Steelhammer Drugstore in Silverton was sold in the early 1960s and then moved, under a new name, to the new shopping center on McClaine Street. A few years later, the business went bankrupt and was subsequently sold at auction in 1965. In an interesting coincidence, the high bidder then sold the business in May 1965 to the Tiffany-Davis Drug Company of Eugene. The store operated for several years under the Tiffany name.

A year and a half after George's death, Kora married Dr. Lewis G. Helterline (1889-1957) on June 1, 1940, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. They probably lived in Eugene, Oregon. It's not known how long Kora and the doctor were married, but Ancestry records show Dr. Helterline had three wives, of which Kora was the second. Dr. Helterline passed away in 1957.

Kora outlived her ex-husband by 25 years. She passed away on August 16, 1982, at age 89 while living in the Portland area.

We now have a basic outline of Kora's life, based on just a few hours of research.

Numerous resources, available for public use at the museum, can provide the same type information as shown here about Kora. Materials utilized to illustrate this short profile of Kora's life include burial records for the Silverton Cemetery, R. L. Polk City Directories, vintage telephone books, and an obituary notebook. A vintage business file as well as several family files were also checked. A publication tracing the history of Silverton schools was consulted. One of our greatest resources is our collection of over 100 years of hard-copy Silverton newspapers. In the case of Kora's family, we found some great information.

Utilizing minimal information listed on a vintage photograph, we followed the data to the museum research area. Using our museum resources, plus an internet search that revealed basic details, we were able to create this brief profile of Kora Browne. We invite you to use those same resources to do the same for your family. Come see us at the museum! You never know what unique information you might find!

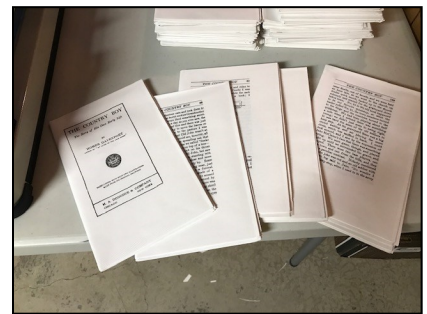
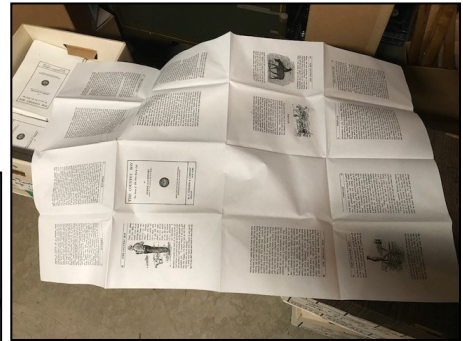
The Silverton Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 pm from March to November. We are glad to answer your questions via email at silverton.museum@live.com or by contacting us on Facebook. You can also schedule time for you to visit for help with research by calling 503.873.7070.

Home Davenport's Country Boy books

Many Silvertonian's have heard of, read, or even possibly owned, a copy of Homer's wonderful stories about growing up in Silverton in the 1800's which are compiled in the book, The Country Boy. We sell the book here at the Museum and we have a generous supply of nicely bound hard-cover copies, probably enough to last us several years. We also have boxes and boxes of unbound copies, enough to last couple of decades!

These apparently came directly from the printer over 20 years ago.....still in their neatly folded 32 page sections. Of course the methods have been moderated for today's digital age, but in the interest of efficiency, books were printed on large sheets of paper, 32 pages to a sheet, then folded into book format. The next step would be cutting three sides to remove the folds and then collecting and collating the 32 page sections in to a complete book. Then gluing and binding.

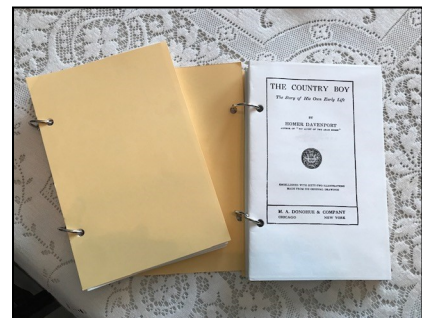
What we have are the folded sets of 32 pages, 6 sets per book....over 300 copies worth. They require collating, cutting and binding. We are not sure if future demands exist for 300 copies of The Country Boy, as wonderful as the stories are, but we are reluctant to just dispose of them. What to do with them.....? Never fear.....we have a plan!



As daunting as it seems, we have begun to put together the sets of pages into a booklet and, thanks to one of our favorite self-publishing authors, **Gus Frederick**, we have the loan of an incredible heavy duty paper cutter, allowing us to easily and pretty quickly trim the pages to a desired size. I believe it is aptly called a guillotine model. Awesome, huh!

The finished product, after hole punching and adding binder rings and cover paper, (donated by **Victoria at Zebra Print**), will be simple copies with blank covers that we will give to third graders when they tour the Museum. They can then design and add illustrations for their very own Homer book that will give them a special memory of their visit.

Thankfully we have until next year before the school tours start up again to get a good supply built up, but we may also have some to hand out during the Homer Davenport community Festival. We'll keep you posted!





At the February meeting of the SCHS Board, DAR member and SCHS Board Treasurer Tracy Duerst, presented the Museum with a new flag and a certificate from the Abigail Scott Duniway Chapter of the DAR, recognizing the Proper Use, Correct Displaying and Patriotic Presentation of The Flag of the United States of America.



Community Breakfast Offered at the Silverton Senior Center

FREE with Donations Gladly Accepted! First Saturday of the Month 8:00 - 11:00 am

Free Community Breakfast
 Time: 8 am-11am
 Date: First Saturday of each month
 Location: Silverton Senior Center
 115 Westfield St, Silverton, OR 97381

Your Chef
Jim Krieg
 (taught at NW Culinary Institute
 former executive director Caryonview Ministries)

Generously sponsored by
 Office: 503-873-7727
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 profitableplanning.com
 2205 Water St. Silverton, OR 97381

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 SILVERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Here is the menu:
 Item 1. Egg sandwich, egg, sausage, cheese, English muffin
 Item 2. Eggs to order, bacon, scone
 PLUS: Fruit, juice and milk coffee

ALL Ages Welcome! 115 Westfield St.

Generously Sponsored by **Profitable Planning**
 Proceeds to benefit the Silverton Senior Center



Special added attraction: Silverton trivia placemats! Test your knowledge of selected Silverton icons while you enjoy your meal. SCHS members will be helping out with serving and clean up on Saturday July 2. We will also be hosting an informational table with Museum items for sale.

See you there!

Visit to Aumsville Museum

Board members Kathy Hunter, Linda McKay and Chris Schwab recently made a visit to the Aumsville Museum. We were so very impressed at how efficiently and informatively they have developed the site. We came back with several ideas on how we can improve some of our storage issues. We highly recommend a visit!

Aumsville Museum & History Center
 509 Main Street
 Aumsville, OR 97325
 www.aumsvillemuseum.com

Open Saturdays
 11AM - 2PM April - October
 Except holiday weekends
 Or by Appointment
 503-861-5087 503-510-2584
 503-812-3910



Aumsville Historical Society
 PO Box 496
 Aumsville, OR 97325
 Meetings 6:30pm
 2nd Thursday
 Feb. - June & Oct. - Nov.
 www.aumsvillemuseum.com

Meet Bobbie the Wonder Dog!

Saturday, June 18 1:00 - 4:00 pm Town Square Park, 111 Main Street

Live music, food, drink and family-friendly activities.
 Bobbie Look-alike and best-dressed dog contest at 2:30 pm
 Hear Bobbie's story as told by a local author
 Sign up for guided mural tours
 All dogs (and owners) will want to attend!
 Sponsored by Silverton Mural Society.





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Celebrating Over 45 Years in the Community

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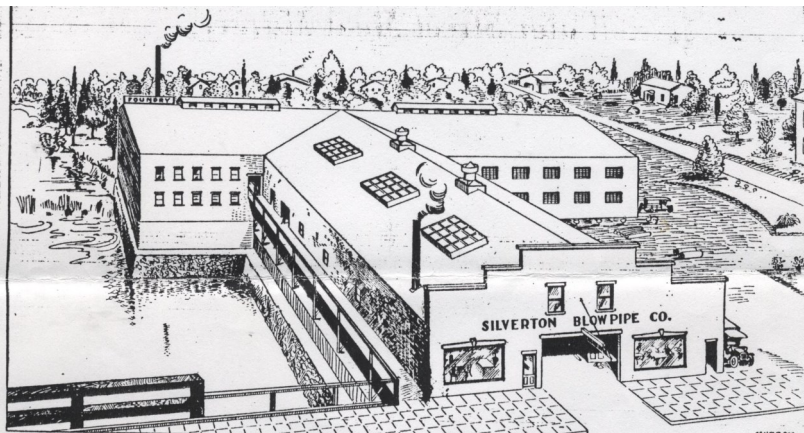
**Thank you to our new and renewing members,
our generous donors and to anyone who has
given anonymously to the Museum or any of its projects.**

You're the best!!

Chris and Lisa Predeek
Pamela Raymond
Ricky and Kelli Burbage
Carolyn Hutton
Tracy and Doug Duerst
Bob and Marilyn Dedrick

John Dahl
Diane Hill
Susy Riches
Nancy Bleakney
Kim and Candace Haakenson
Edward Adams House Bed and Breakfast

Lois E. Ray
Justine Fogarty
Andy Bellando
Kirk Hartman



Silverton Blow Pipe Company, built in 1914. Site of the current Town Square

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