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**Special points of interest:**

- Check out the Calendar of Events on Page 3 and log them onto your calendar!
- Students from The New Market Skills Center put THA on the World Wide Web! Check us out . . . [www.tumwaterhistoricalassociation.org](http://www.tumwaterhistoricalassociation.org)
- Don't forget the Cider Sunday event on Sunday, October 3 at the Tumwater Falls Park.
- Please share the THA brochure with anyone you think may enjoy THA membership. Call Sandi Gray for more brochures.
- The THA Winter 2010 newsletter will be distributed the last week of November. Be sure to submit your articles to the Editor by November 8.

## OLYMPIA'S AIRPORT IN TUMWATER

— BY DON TROSPER

As Tumwater's boundaries have expanded over recent years, one of the landmarks we have taken into our embrace is the Port of Olympia's airport and surrounding industrial area. I have thought that it should be renamed "Tumwater International Airport", but I'll not push for that. It should be noted though that the Port's land there is located on historic Tumwater ground, being the general site of the original George Bush farm marking the first civilization pioneers reached as they came off the Cowlitz Trail in the 1840's and 50's. The port's property also is the site of some of the first schools in the area such as the Harper's School, the /bush Grade School, and Brighton Park School. Today it's an integral part of Tumwater's growth area and the planned city center and Tumwater Boulevard.

What about the history of the airport? You could go back to 1927 when Charles Lindberg inspired the nation with his



flight across the Atlantic. Olympia and Tumwater were among the many towns around the country that caught the vision of air travel during the time of new inventions and developments in transportation. Olympia's first air show was actually in 1911 when Fred Wiseman brought a Curtis Farman Wright plan in May of that year to a show sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The early pilots were called "Birdmen", and on that day the birdman took off and landed five times for three-minute flights over the new Olympia landfill they had just put in to expand the city

out into Budd Inlet. It was just the beginning of local barnstorming shows featuring these modern flying machines, often using the old Bush farmland for landing spots. Olympia Knitting Mills president H. L. Whiting came back to Olympia from a trip back east and enthusiastically proclaimed that Olympia should immediately start building an airport. He said that from Chicago east, air travel was developing quickly and that we in the State Capitol should take the lead in our State.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## TUM WATER Saddle and Harness MANUFACTORY

—From *The Pioneer and Democrat*, May 18, 1860

The undersigned having opened a shop in Tum Water, is now prepared to fill all orders for SADDLES AND HARNESS.

Carriage Harness made on the self-adjusting trees, which will fit a fat horse or a lean

one—considered the greatest improvement of the age. We also manufacture patent case collars and Ladies' Saddles with three horns.

Carriage trimming done in a superior style. Saddle trees

manufactured with all the late improvements.

Cash, hides, and all kinds of produce, taken in exchange for saddles, harness, &c.

WITHERELL & JORDAN.

—Presented by Karen Johnson

## HISTORICAL GREETINGS TO YOU!

—BY DON TROSPER, PRESIDENT

Historical greetings from the Tumwater Historical Association! T.H.A. has been experiencing a quality, public image upgrade in recent months. You see some of that right in front of you. Corinne Tobeck has taken on our newsletter and has improved it greatly. Also we have included our brand new THA brochure, which you can see is a very professional piece like we've never had before as an organization. Another item we're excited about is our new website at [Tumwaterhistoricalassociation.org](http://Tumwaterhistoricalassociation.org). We truly want to thank the folks at the New Market Skills Center for their wonderful work on

this much-needed historical feature in this modern computer culture. It's still a work in progress, but you'll find that it's progressing quite well. There's an especially nice set of videos featuring this year's Pioneer Fair with the middle school Homesteaders demonstrating their pioneer skills (in perfect weather) on the website.

If you missed out on Pioneer Fair this June, you missed something quite special. There were many board members trying out their future costuming for the first time and the Cispus parents were there to provide treats and

refreshments. It was a very nice event.

Another wonderful event was the "We Vote" celebration of 100 years of women's suffrage at the Schmidt Mansion on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Again we experienced not only perfect weather, but we had an amazing time and a great turnout!

We'll soon be enjoying our "Cider Sunday" event on the first Sunday in October at the Falls Park. We've invited other local historical groups and individuals to bring their displays portraying life in our local area in the years be-

*(Continued on page 5)*

*"Students will begin their study of the heritage of their community by researching the relationship our original pioneers had with the Hudson Bay employees of Fort Nisqually and the Native American tribes in the South Sound"*

—Bob Cooksey

**Great Example of  
How to Teach  
History!**

## The Fraunces Tavern Museum in New York City, NY

—BY DAVE SHADE

If you are going to visit New York City, do not miss the Fraunces Tavern Museum. Check out the website [www.frauncestavernmuseum.org](http://www.frauncestavernmuseum.org). Wifely and I had the good fortune to visit this little museum two weeks ago.

Originally built as a residence in 1719, it was purchased by Samuel Fraunces in 1762

and converted to a tavern. The tavern was a hotbed of revolutionary activity leading up to the Revolutionary War and was visited by virtually all of the Founding Fathers. In 1783, General George Washington delivered his farewell address to the officers of the Continental Army. After the war, when New York was the

Nation's First Capital, it housed the Departments of War, Treasury and Foreign Affairs.

In 1904 the Sons of the Revolution bought and refurbished the building as a museum, which opened in 1907. Display cases in the upper rooms

*(Continued on page 5)*

## HOMESTEADER HAPPENINGS . . .

### "IN THE BEGINNING . . ."

The beginning of the school year also celebrates the entrance of a new group of homesteaders. Students will begin their study of the heritage of their community by researching the relationship our original pioneers had with the Hudson Bay employees of Fort Nisqually and the Native American tribes in the South Sound. The stu-

dents' research project includes working with a copy of the original journal, kept by the Hudson's Bay Company, scribe at Fort Nisqually followed by the Candlelight tour of Ft. Nisqually at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma. The tour is a both a model of the material the students have been studying and first person re-enactments. It visibly

demonstrates the goal students are expected to achieve at their own re-enactment at the end of year Pioneer Fair. The Candlelight Tour starts a long weekend for students since it coincides with their first Community Service event, Cider Sunday. Students will spend the day engaged in hand-pressing cider for the community.

—By Bob Cooksey

# HOMESTEAD QUILTERS' NEWS



—BY KATHLEEN KOONTZ

We celebrated our event, "WE VOTE," honoring 100 years of women winning the right to vote in Washington on May 8. It was a wonderful day filled with great speakers and events. The Schmidt House looked festive in red, white and blue bunting and flags and the weather was beautiful. So were all our old and new friends who came out to help make this event possible. **WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH!!!!!!!**

Our quilters completed our fund raiser quilt which has a medallion set in a log cabin design. It is very striking and folks really seem to like it. Tickets will be available at all

our events. Call us, we will get some to you.

Quilters are taking a break for summer and will resume quilt group in September on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. We will be repairing and quilting an antique quilt top. Our quilters' picnic will be July 12 and we are planning to be at the Thurston County Fair for one day. Plans are also underway for helping with the Cider Squeeze in early October and the Quilters' Getaway on October 30.



If any of these activities interest you please know you are most welcome. Our group has all levels of quilters from beginners to expert. We also learn a lot of quilt history and have fun too. Call 943-1383 or 943-7527 if you would like information.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 2nd & 4th Mondays
- 2nd Thursday
- 2nd Saturday in May
- 1st Sat after Memorial Day
- 3rd Saturday in September
- 1st Sunday in October
- 4th Saturday in October
- 1st Sunday in December

- Homestead Quilters
- THA Board Meetings
- Heritage/Living History Program
- Pioneer Fair
- Welcome Homesteaders
- Cider Sunday
- Quilters Getaway
- Annual Meeting

**Handicrafts of the Mid-19th Century**  
 Sunday, August 15  
 1-4 pm  
 The Crosby House\*

**Cordella's Birthday Party**  
 Sunday, September 19  
 1-4 pm  
 The Crosby House\*

\*See Crosby House "Living History Events" on Page 4

## THA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Tumwater Historical Association (THA) kicks off its Annual Membership Drive.

You, like our ancestors before us, are currently living the history of our grandchildren and their descendents. Your membership provides you the opportunity to help write that history and to document the past and present for generations to come. Your membership will help us further the appreciation, understanding

and teaching of the rich and unique history of the Tumwater area through research, writing and publication of related historical material.

We look forward to your continued membership and ask that you invite your family and friends to join the Tumwater Historical Association in 2010.

Please fill out the enclosed envelope and return it today.

### THA Annual Dues

- Individual . . . . . \$20
- Family (Household) . . . . . \$25
- Senior Citizen/Student . . . \$10
- Business . . . . . \$50
- Contributing Friend . . . . . \$50+
- Estate Planning, (Information available upon request)

**"Your Community Is Your Heritage!" Join THA today!**

Please pass the brochure on to someone you think will enjoy THA membership!

*Senator Karen Fraser,  
 Jeanette Mary and  
 Mary Jane Edmondson  
 proudly display a  
 beautiful quilt from the  
 Senator's family collection  
 at the  
 "We Vote" Celebration!  
 "Your Community is  
 Your Heritage!"*

## Crosby House “Living History Events”

—BY BEV YORK



Crosby House "Living History Events" made its debut on Sunday, June 13th, with four reenactors depicting life in the home during the

1860's. Beverly York, as the widowed Mrs. Mary Lincoln Crosby, was hosting an afternoon tea with friends Eva, Clare and Veronica Lindgren, as neighboring homesteaders. We are revisiting life in early Tumwater/New Market, learning all about sustainability" from these inventive pioneers. Tea began with abundant greens from the gardens, topped with diced ham, cheese and hard-boiled eggs with buttermilk dressing. For dessert we enjoyed an award winning Rhubarb Tart with hand-churned ice cream as the finale to our tea. These are items from the local economy of the 1860's

and in abundance now that summer has home.

Upcoming events are: 3rd Sundays (July 18th, Aug 15th & Sept 19th) from 1 - 4 pm, to learn more.

### Crosby House Special Events:

**August 15th**—Handicrafts of the mid-19th century

**September 19th**—Cordelia's Birthday Party ~ guests served cake & lemonade.

Both events will run from 1 to 4 pm (3rd Sunday of July, Aug & Sept). Please join us and experience the joy of living history!

*"History will be  
kind to me,  
for I intend to write it."*

*-Winston Churchill  
(1874-1965)  
British Politician*

## Tumwater Leaders Okay Parking Plan Shift Near Square

—From the Daily Olympian, May 4, 1960

Tumwater town leaders Tuesday night were asked to consider a pair of proposed changes in the community's business district. Councilmen okayed one proposal and decided to give more thought to another.

Tuesday's session was the first at which Marian Argo, the town's on again, off again councilwoman, sat in an official capacity.

Merchants in Tumwater Square got the go ahead from the council to rearrange parking facilities in front of their establishments.

The businessmen will change the present parallel parking system to an angle arrangement under the supervision of Bill Couch, chief of the Tumwater Police Department.

Council members thought the proposed construction of a drive-in eating establishment by Russell Eagan needs further study. Eagan wants to erect the structure at the intersection of Cleveland Avenue and Custer Way on a lot occupied formerly by an insurance office.

Three advertising signs beside Olympia Freeway also

were brought to the attention of the group. Persons responsible for erection were told to acquire revocable permits. A request to install a billboard near the intersection at DesChutes Way and Little Street was turned down.

Council members set Thursday night for a study of debris on various pieces of property throughout the town. They also reaffirmed their stand that Tumwater will gain more identity from a proposed change in its postal status.

—Presented by Karen Johnson

History is for human self-knowledge . . . Knowing yourself means knowing what you can do; and since nobody knows what they can do until they try, the only due to what man can do is what man has done. The value of history, then, is that it teaches us what man has done and thus what man is.

—R. G. Collingwood

**The Fraunces Tavern Museum, Cont.**

(Continued from page 2)  
 were built by Tiffany's of New York and still are used to display artifacts from the time of the Revolutionary War.

Sorry, no photos were allowed. Recent displays included an 800 year old copy of the Magna Carta, circa 1215 AD. The Bible that George Washington used to take the oath of President of the United States was present at the Tavern when the devastating attack on the Twin Towers occurred on 9/11. Several

New York Police officers swarmed into the Tavern to rescue the Bible and hid it in a safe place to protect it from thieves or looters. On display is one of only two anastatic copies of the original Declaration Of Independence. The copying process damaged the original Declaration and that is why it is so faded. The copy is bright and clear. The frame is made of wood from Independence Hall in Philadelphia. A lock of George Washington's hair and one of his

false teeth is on display. (His false teeth were made of elks teeth, not wood as we are often told).

Although the museum is not very large, it is in excellent physical shape and is very well laid out with all of the displays. We were there for several hours and enjoyed every minute. Very educational and well thought out displays. The museum closes at 5:00 PM. Make sure you invest the time to visit this icon of the Revolutionary War.

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**OLYMPIA AIRPORT, CONTINUED**



(Continued from page 1)  
 In mid April of 1928 the prairie land south of Tumwater was cleared, graded and dedicated on the 13th. The ceremonies featured a dramatic arrival of a young J. B. Story of the Olympia Aeronautical Corporation. The Olympian said he, "glided smoothly down from the sky and landed his trim Alexander Eagle Rock plane, just 59 minutes from Portland." It had been flown from the factory in

Denver and was to be home ported in Olympia to train students at the company's Olympia School of aviation. Another Eagle Rock then landed carrying two passengers; John Sparling and Walter Lytle, the first passengers at the new Olympia Airport. They were driven to the Hotel Olympian where they made a speech to the Rotary Club about the wonders of aviation. That same day other prominent local citizens made flights, including the first woman to fly from Olympia, Mrs. W. W. Rogers. Local Ford dealer L. E. Titus was the first to make a business flight, going both to Tacoma and Centralia. He soon became

president of the Olympia Aeronautical Corporation and vowed to "put Olympia on the map from the aeronautical standpoint and work for development of the new airfield." Santa Claus also arrived by airplane in December of that same year and was driven from the airport to the capitol to meet local children.

Olympia's airport has been operating as a part of the Port of Olympia since 1963. As a larger part of modern Tumwater, the airport includes an air industrial area, many businesses, the Olympic Flight Museum and will no doubt continue to expand as the area grows.

*"His (President George Washington') false teeth were made of elks teeth, not wood as we are often told."*

*—Dave Shade*

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED**

(Continued from page 2)  
 tween 1825 and 1850. This is only the beginning of a series of special cooperative events we plan for 2011 and beyond. You won't want to miss this kick-off!

We have so many great adventures coming up with the Tumwater Historical Association. This Association truly knows how to celebrate and relive the history of days gone by. You're never to old, or too young, to partake in lives of

those who paved the way for us today.

Please renew your membership, join our active group and take part in honoring the rich history of the Tumwater area.

*—Don Trosper, President*

## THA Motto

*"Your Community is  
Your Heritage"*



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*Ph (360) 943-6951*

*Corinne M. Tobeck, Editor*

**THA Website!**

[www.tumwaterhistorical  
association.org](http://www.tumwaterhistoricalassociation.org)

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# Tumwater Historical Association

## Mission

*"The Tumwater Historical Association is organized for educational and cultural purposes relating to the history of the Tumwater area, its life and people."*

The Tumwater Historical Association (THA) is an active organization that was incorporated on October 2, 1981 with 200 charter members. THA is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization governed by the board of directors. The board generally meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Schmidt House in Tumwater, starting at 5:00 PM.

THA offers a variety of activities funded through membership dues, grants, donation, and entry fees. THA offers its members and the community the opportunity to partake in a variety of historical and education activities, such as:

Pioneer Fair

Oral History Program

Cider Sunday

THA Homestead Quilters

THA Country Store

Heritage/Living History Programs

Historical Field Trips

New Market Homestead Living History Museum

Call (360) 943-6951 or send an e-mail to [ctobeck@comcast.net](mailto:ctobeck@comcast.net) to request information about any of the above activities or to learn how you, too, can become a member of the Tumwater Historical Association.