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From the President...By Don Trosper, President THA

Historical greetings to you from THA. Thanks to all of you who have helped Debbie and I through the past year and a half of house fire, permits, financing and now rebuilding a new house on the site of the Trosper homestead. It's nearing the final stages now and the contractor tells us that we should be in before the first of November! We have been so very blessed by all the encouragements from friends like you, family, church members, radio listeners and community members. It's been overwhelming. Thank you.

As for THA, we had such a good experience the past couple years with the two stagecoach reenactments; working with other local non-profit groups, that we have decided to pursue more joint ventures with local history organizations over the next two years. We're in the planning stages now for quarterly events featuring local history and living history. Each event will cover a 25 year period from our past and will be held in various locations here in Thurston County, depending on which local group is hosting that event. In this way we feel we can put on larger, more attractive events that any one of our groups separately could not do on our own. I hope you'll stay in touch and watch for more details as we put these on beginning in January. Of course, we can certainly use more volunteer help for these events.

In other local history news, I hope you get a chance to walk the Falls Park Trail and see the new self-guided local history signs. It's a wonderful addition from the Olympia-Tumwater Foundation, who has taken such great stewardship of Tumwater's original downtown location along the Deschutes River. Personally, I'm still involved with the history committee of the Tumwater School District as we do more research for future follow-up publications for our recently completed book on the history of Tumwater's schools. If you have any photos, memories and stories about that topic, please contact us so we can possibly include that in our collection. This year I'm working on a family history project for a local businessman in our area (not for general publication, but for their own family members). I also hope that someday I can take on another larger project for one of the local government entities such as the county or one of the cities to put together a book like I just did for Tumwater Schools. Once the economy picks back up I hope that's a possibility.

Thank you for being a member of THA and supporting this organization of people who love local history with a focus on Tumwater.

**Our Community
Chapter 1 – In the Beginning**

By Chuck Hornbuckle

Tumwater is unique in Puget Sound history. Not only was this area rich in the American Indian and British fur trader history but, as we all know, we are the site of the very first American settlement north of the Columbia River. Our Community series will visit many of our historical markers dedicated since 1916 honoring those people and events which forge who we are.

Long, long before the arrival of Americans in this place we know as Tumwater, American Indians frequented the area. The Indian name for the falls where the Deschutes River meets Budd Inlet was *Spa-Kwatl* or *throbbing water* later translated as Tumwater.

During the early 1820s the Hudson Bay Company paused here on their way from Fort Vancouver to their posts in the north.

Markers located in Tumwater's Historic Park recall those who were here *in the beginning*. Appreciation is extended to the Thurston County and Tumwater Historic Commissions for inventorying the markers. We encourage all to learn more about and appreciate our unique place in northwestern history



“An Ancient Trading Path”
Dedicated October 5, 2002 by the Daughters of American Colonists



“American Indian and Hudson's Bay Company Presence”
Installed 1998 by the Olympia-Tumwater Foundation and Tumwater Historic Commission



“Deschutes River Bridge Totems”
Dedicated September 28, 1938. The four totems read *“Beginning of the Inside Passage to British Columbia and Alaska”*, *“South Gateway to the Puget Sound Country and the Olympic Peninsula”*, *“Entrance to the City of Olympia, Capitol of the State of Washington”*, and *“Site of the First American Pioneer Settlement in Washington – 1845”*.

Women's Suffrage Movement

By Dave Shade

THA will be involved during 2010 in exploring the history of the Women's Suffrage Movement. Many other historical groups will also be presenting historical documentation and re-enactments during the year. Although many of us were introduced to a brief overview of the Suffrage Movement as a youngster in school, it appears that this portion of our history was sadly understudied. I hope many of you will be fortunate enough to visit the many programs which will be available and expand your knowledge of this period of time.

I recently attended the opening of the Washington State History Museum's exhibition "Women's Votes, Women's Voices" in Tacoma. This exhibit will be on display until September 27, 2009. If you have the opportunity, I would strongly recommend taking the time to explore this well presented examination of the Women's Movement.

I was profoundly moved at the discussions of the lengths that both sides of the Suffrage issue were willing to go to in order to "resolve" the conflict over Women's Rights. Those in opposition to the Suffrage Movement took actions which were often severe and devastating in result. Those in favor were jailed, beaten, shunned, reviled and even killed. It is an emotional experience of history in action.

History is almost always reported by the "winners". Taking a stand on what is "right" or "just" or "true" depends on which side of an issue one adheres to. This is why it is so important to look at what really occurred in our history. All of our freckles, warts and pimples are revealed. Looking at the reality of our humanity and all of it's flaws and imperfections can help us take the right steps in the future.

I applaud the Washington State Historical Museum in it's efforts to demonstrate the truth of it's motto:

"History is not for wimps!"



“Tumwater – First American Settlement”
Installed by the State of Washington and the Tumwater Historic Commission in 1961 *“Where the Deschutes River cataracts into Budd Inlet -“*

THA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Call 754-6204 for more information on any of these events.

October 4
October 31
May 8, 2010

Cider Sunday—Tumwater Falls Park — 10 AM—4:00 PM
Quilter's Getaway—Olympics West Retirement Community—Call 943-1383 or 943-7527
100th Anniversary of the Suffragette Movement—Schmidt House—For information or to learn how you can be involved, call 943-1383 or 943-7527

Board Meetings: THA Board Meetings, 5:00-6:30 PM—2nd Thursday of each month—Schmidt House
Quilters: Homestead Quilters, 12:30 —2:30 PM., 2nd and 4th Mondays; Tumwater United Methodist

COMING SOON: HISTORY FOR THE FUN AT HEART

By Anne Kelleher

A collaborative living history series is now in the planning stage. After such a successful partnership with other historical groups during our Territorial Stagecoach Runs of both 2007 and 2008, THA decided to try to capitalize on the exciting energy of those events by attempting another such partnership. Last spring, we contacted the various historical entities in Thurston County, asking them if they would be interested in working with us to sponsor and present a series of living history programs in 2010. The first planning meeting was held in July with representatives of the interested groups.

Bigelow House Museum, Lacey Historical Society, Olympia Historical Society, and South Thurston County Historical Society have all expressed a desire to be involved.

Our initial idea is to present a series of four programs between January and December of 2010 based around the theme "Thurston County Through the Decades". Each program will portray aspects of life in Thurston County during a period of about 25 years, with the first one covering the years 1825 to 1850. Each participating organization will plan some kind of involving activity for the program, focusing on a general theme such as fashion, music, sports, transportation, food, personalities, arts and crafts, communication, transportation—almost anything that represents the era in some colorful, interactive way. With such general themes, the possibilities for fun and creativity are almost limitless.

Future planning meetings will expand upon these preliminary ideas and also address the issues of sites, specific dates, publicity, and so on. THA would love to see more of our members involved in this exciting endeavor. If you would like to participate or if you have ideas that you would like to contribute, contact Anne Kelleher at 539-8839 or send an e-mail to Anne at akelleher10@comcast.net.

Buy Your Raffle Tickets Now!

Think Christmas and purchase your raffle tickets for the beautiful green and white embroidered "Greenwork Quilt" on sale for \$1 at the October 4 Cider Sunday at Tumwater Falls Park.

THA HOMESTEAD QUILTERS' NEWS

By Kathleen Koontz

THA quilters are gearing up for another busy fall and winter. We will start up our quilting sessions in September and meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 12:30pm. The site still needs to be confirmed. We quilt (all levels) but also do quilt research and study. All are welcome. Please call 943-1383 or 943-7527 for information. We did not participate in the Thurston County Fair because of the extreme heat. We are planning our annual QUILTERS' GET-AWAY on October 31 at Olympics West Retirement Community. This is an opportunity for quilters to come and spend the day starting, finishing or just catching up on quilt projects. We have lunch, prizes and a bed turning. It is a wonderful day for us and visiting with the Olympics West folks. Give us a call if you wish to reserve at space.

Another project will be in May 2010. It will be a day long event that will be held at the Schmidt House in honor of the Suffragette Movement and its 100th anniversary in Washington State. There will be speakers, exhibits, and tea room. Bev Dunivent will be there speaking about quilts of that time. There will be much more information as the activities and speakers are confirmed. The Olympia Tumwater Foundation, South Sound Quilt Study Group and THA are working on this. WE WILL NEED LOTS OF HELP!!!!!! So please give us a call at the above numbers so that we can keep you informed if you are interested.

GERRY SMITH TRIBUTE

THA member Gerry Smith passed away earlier this year. Gerry was a long time THA member and many of you remember her as the treasurer who kept us on the straight and narrow in THA's early days. She helped with many projects we were involved in during that time, (i.e. historic style shows, exhibits at Henderson House, fund raising country store and first publications, etc.). The star magnolia tree planted by the Henderson House was a gift of Gerry (she loved gardens). Gerry was invaluable with that twinkle in her eye and her knowledge of the community and its history.

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."

Enrich the lives of your family and friends, invite them to join the Association. THA programs include: Homesteader Program, Cider Sunday, Pioneer Fair, Tumwater Area Quilt Registry, New Market Homestead Quilters, Heritage Speaker Series, Oral History Project, Edna Holden Scholarship, Sale of Tumwater History Series, and the New Market Homestead Living History Museum.

"Your Community is Your Heritage!"

Tumwater Historical Association
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