

# Washington County Historical Society

2011 Newsletter

The Washington County Historical Society (WCHS) is a non-profit organization incorporated on April 25, 1982. It was formed to promote and perpetuate the history of Washington County, Utah. WCHS operates as an "umbrella organization" to encourage and assist all interested Washington County communities with the organization of their city historical societies and to encourage them to promote historical preservation in their communities.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Richard Kohler

### Santa Clara Historic District Walking Tour

September 10, 9 am to noon (meet at Santa Clara City Hall). We will visit a number of homes, two granaries, former Santa Clara Cooperative Store and a few gardens. Learn about Santa Clara's unique settlement pattern; Cooperative irrigation of field crops by Mormon missionaries and native Paiutes; First land parcels respected the natural topographic boundaries established by the Indians; Flood of 1862 and the destruction of Fort Clara; The cooperative dam across the Santa Clara; A grist mill, the canal, and all the structures, fields and crops, including a Paiute Indian mound that may have existed for many decades. You will also learn about Water rights issues with Saint George and Pine Valley; Presbyterian mission to Shivwits Indians; Cooperative construction of the Santa Clara Bench Canal and the founding of Ivins; Unique success of garden crops, orchard crops, and wine making; Influence of Swiss Mormon culture on Dixie; Cooperative fruit marketing and trucking efforts and the fruit stand era.

### DOCUTAH Film Festival

September 8 thru 17 ([www.docutah.com](http://www.docutah.com) for schedule of all events) Everyone is invited and bring your friends. Over 100 films will be screened. Many highlight Utah history. **Liquid Desert** (Ian Crowe, Phil Tuckett and DSC) about Dixie's struggles and successes obtaining water in the desert, will be screened at the Eccles Main Stage on the Dixie Campus on the 16th at 7 pm. **Red Sand In Their Shoes** (Phil Tuckett and DSC) about the history of Dixie College will be shown on Wednesday 14th at 8 pm on Town Square (free to the public). One of my favorites will be **The Boys of Bonneville: Racing on a Ribbon of Salt** ([www.traileraddict.com/trailer/boys-of-bonneville-racing-ribbon-salt/trailer](http://www.traileraddict.com/trailer/boys-of-bonneville-racing-ribbon-salt/trailer)) September 9th with a car show. A simple tale about a summer camp, **Beaverbrook** is also delightful to watch ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_GaM5aOHZNQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_GaM5aOHZNQ)). **GreenFire** ([www.metacafe.com/watch/5704445/Green\\_Fire\\_movie\\_trailer/](http://www.metacafe.com/watch/5704445/Green_Fire_movie_trailer/)) is a biography of Aldo Leopold an early pioneer environmentalist. It will be

shown under the stars at the Springdale amphitheater on September 12. Jennifer Kohler will be exhibiting the student entries evenings from the 12th to the 16th in the Udvar-Hazy (Business) building at DSC (free to the public). The opening gala on September 8 will feature a Phil Tuckett DSC production on the life of Wayne Newton followed by a live performance by Wayne Newton at the Tuacahn Amphitheater, although not free, the ticket price is a bargain compared with seeing his show in Las Vegas, (these are selling fast so make your reservation).



Rockville Flags - Jim & Carol Harlan

Rockville flags are flying  
Glorious in the Memorial Day sun  
A small number of citizens  
Set them up, Each and every one  
And they will take them down on Tuesday  
Stacked and rolled waiting for another flag day  
It is a labor of love – for Rockville and our Flag  
It's amazing to all who come our way.  
Old Glory is reborn each time it is unfurled  
By free people who always have a choice  
Letting our flag unfurl free in the wind  
It's Rockville's glory, it's our combined voice  
The cars slow down on Highway 9  
And as they drive they must look and say  
While passing between our 2 long rows of flags  
This place truly honors the American Way!

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## **WEBSITE: George Cannon**

The WCHS website, <http://wchsutah.org>, has continued to evolve and grow. It has many new features including: Alphabetical subject index Many additional subject pages and content A list of opportunities for volunteering WCHS files (membership list, by-laws, newsletters, meeting minutes, etc.), Online calendar listing history related events, The start of an online bookstore, The ability to accept PayPal payments for membership, donations, or purchases. The Utah Heritage Foundation recognized the WCHS website and George Cannon with an award in May. We hope you will check out <http://wchsutah.org> and get in the habit of using it as a resource. If you have information to add or suggestions for improvement, they would be most welcome.

## **COMMUNITY REPORTS:**

### **ENTERPRISE: --Vicki Olsen**

As a new member of the Washington County Historical Society, I am glad to share some of the things that the Pilot Peak Camp (Daughters of Utah Pioneers) is doing to preserve the historical heritage of our local community.

Each year for the 24th of July celebration, we select a queen to ride in our parade to honor the pioneers who settled this valley. Our queen is selected because she has pioneer relatives who settled here.

We also have an annual bake sale on the 24th to raise money to pay for the insurance and any other maintenance which needs to be done at the Museum.

We have had a leak in the roof of the Museum that has soaked a carpet which was sewn together by Daughters of the Utah pioneers along time ago. Our latest project is to replace our Museum roof with a metal roof so that we will not have any more leaks.

The end of August at the Cornfest in Enterprise, we have a bake sale, along with a white elephant sale. We also have a drawing on a quilt that most of our daughters have quilted on, to raise money for the new metal roof for the Museum.

### **FORT HARMONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Lyman and Karen Platt.**

Fort Harmony Historical Society has for sale @\$20 per disc, pictures of all the digs since we began uncovering the Fort. The last dig completed in June 2011, uncovered part of the south gate, the Platt Home and the Agatha/Lee home. What was found was surprising. In the Agatha/Lee home the fireplace was found which was different from the first fireplace found on the southwest corner of the Fort. It was more elaborate. Some of the hearth stones were still in place. Also found in that home was remnants of the wire/wood pipe that brought in the culinary water from farther west. There is more to uncover. Another room on the west side was located. On the east/south corner at the Platt home several dish shards were found and steps which were a surprise. We do not know where the steps went. Benjamin & Mary Platt worked for John D. Lee. Mary helped Emma Lee with the cooking. At the south gate several rocks were found and we did not have an opportunity to uncover enough of that site to know for sure what was there. Barbara Frank and a crew from SUU worked on the well but found nothing. The well needs further excavation. Richard Talbot from the Office of Public Archaeology from BYU was in charge of the dig. He will be submitting the final report soon.

Plans are being made to secure money for next year through grants, but we would like to thank all the people that donated time and money to make this dig successful. We would especially like to thank the Harmony Valley Library and all those that helped to make the dig successful. Those that attended the flag raising ceremony were treated with a song from Terri Metcalf-Peterson and Joan Ford, Jamin Rocks piano solo and Dr. Kim Peterson talk on Forts and their meaning.

We appreciate the continued support from the community. We continually make progress in access to the Fort property as well as surrounding properties.

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## **LEEDS / SILVER REEF – LoAnne Barnes.**

–[www.leadstown.org](http://www.leadstown.org).

Leeds Historical Preservation projects have had a productive year! CCC Camp in Leeds is worth another visit!! Cody Allen Eagle Scout Project has finished up drainage problems for three of the buildings, replaced much of the rock staircase to the officers building, graveled the parking lot, & replaced the sign.

The National CCC Legacy Conference will be in St George this September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25th at the Lexington Hotel. Two great field trips are planned. Friday Sept 23rd will be to Pine Valley Mt. with stops at CCC Camp sites along the way. Sat. Sept 24 will be to Leeds Camp and then on to Zion National Park. Contact LoAnne Barnes for registration information.

Leeds received another CLG grant from the Utah State Historical Society to put some Historical Signs at Silver Reef. Our matching money came from a WCHS Grant, Utah Geological Society, Wells Fargo Silver Reef Board, and National Trust Forum. The signs will include original art work by Jerry Anderson, and old photograph of Silver Reef from the 1870's. The four signs are titled: Silver in Sandstone: a Geological Anomaly, Three Historic Towns, Mining & Milling the Ore, & Mile Long Main Street.

## **SILVER REEF MUSEUM – Connie Childs**

We would like to invite everyone to the Wells Fargo Silver Reef Museum ([silverreef@infowest.com](mailto:silverreef@infowest.com))! Our new manager of the museum and gift shop, Eric Flemming, will greet you warmly at the door with a smile, and then take you on a tour, sharing stories of the people who lived in Silver Reef during the short time of 1875 to 1888.

When you come through the front doors of the museum, you will be warmly greeted with a beautiful six foot long stage coach, created by our local artist, Jerry Anderson. Jerry has brought some of his magnificent work back to the museum to be on display, as well as some things being offered for sale. In addition to Jerry's beautiful art, our gift shop has acquired many new artists displaying their unique talents, some of which are "Authentic Native American Art", made by the local Shivwit Paiute. We just completed the re-printing of the book "Silver, Sinners & Saints", written by Paul Dean Proctor, and Morris A. Shirts. The authors of this book will teach you about the geography; as well as, the history of Silver Reef. We are excited to have this book on sale again and are offering this book for \$19.95. Come by

the museum during our new hours Monday thru Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed on Wednesdays. We will be having many exciting new up-coming events that will be announced, so be sure and leave us your e-mail when you sign in as our guest. We look forward to seeing you at the Wells Fargo Silver Reef Museum!

Connie Childs

President

Wells Fargo Silver Reef Monument, Inc

435-879-2254 (museum)

[silverreef@infowest.com](mailto:silverreef@infowest.com)

## **SANTA CLARA – Sherrie Anderson**

The Santa Clara Historical Society is excited to report about two projects commemorating the Swiss settlers. First, a commemorative quilt is coming along beautifully. Second, a fun children's book that tells the story of the Swiss coming to Santa Clara is about to be printed. We are excited for everyone to see both projects!

In conjunction with Santa Clara Swiss Days (September 18–25)-- which celebrates 150 years from when the Swiss Company came to settle the valley on 22 to 24 October-- there will be a new Song Writing contest. We encourage anyone who wishes to participate. You can learn more about the contest and our Swiss Days activities by visiting our city website at [santaclaracityutah.com](http://santaclaracityutah.com)

## **ST. GEORGE – Doug Alder**

The Mormon History Association held its annual convention in St. George from the 26th to the 29th of May. There were 107 presentations given Friday and Saturday in the Dixie Center. A research fair was held in the basement of the Washington County Library, St. George Branch Thursday afternoon with several libraries and Archives displaying their collections. A fine plenary session was held in the Tabernacle on Thursday Evening with a social on the plaza following that. Similarly, another plenary session was held Sunday Morning in the Tabernacle to close the conference. There were 730 registered attendees, many of whom brought others to St. George with them. It was a major success and many of our members volunteered to serve at the registration desk. Thanks to all.

## **ROCKVILLE – Jim Harlan**

Refer to photo of US Flags on page 2

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## **VIRGIN – Yvonne Spendlove**

The Virgin Historical Committee has finally received an estimate on the restoration of the Old Church. Now we can move forward on grant writing and other funding to get this project under way. We are selling bricks that will be part of the plaza around the Church as an additional way to raise the funds. It is a huge project for a small town and we are grateful to all who have supported us in the past. We have completed architectural drawings for an additional building in the back of the church to provide restrooms and a kitchen. This will allow us to use the Church as a town meeting place and to rent for other functions. These are paid for by past grants and donations already received. If you are interested in supporting our cause, please call Yvonne Spendlove at (435) 635-4098.

## **DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS – Jeannine VanderBruggen**

This summer many members of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers have been involved with St. George Live, presenting the life of a local pioneer woman as part of the daily tour. The stop at the McQuarrie Memorial Museum was added to the tour this year so visitors can enjoy the presentation and then they are invited to return to see all the wonderful photos and artifacts at the museum to learn more of the history of Dixie when they have more time. Each presentation is a 10-minute, first person account of the pioneer's life, focusing on the time lived in southern Utah.

## **UTAH HERITAGE FOUNDATION - Susan Crook**

You Don't Know What You Got Till It's Gone  
By Susan Crook, Field Representative, Utah Heritage Foundation

Retailers would soon be out of business if they failed to inventory their stock on a regular basis. Historic properties are the stock-in-trade of community traditions and culture; the embodiment of community spirit. Where will this spirit reside if the places it inhabits are gone?

Remember the chorus of the Joni Mitchell song  
"Big Yellow Taxi"?

Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you got till it's gone  
They paved paradise and put up a parkin' lot

People who care about heritage should ask local leaders to inventory their stock of historic buildings at least every ten years while updating the community's general plan. Tools and funding are available to do this. A Reconnaissance Level Survey by a qualified professional who knows how to identify, classify and

assess the significance of historic buildings can be partially funded by a matching grant from the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. This survey gives government officials and owners of historic buildings the baseline facts they need to make informed decisions about the stewardship of historic places that matter to the community.

Owners of historic properties that are on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places can apply for financial help to stabilize or rehabilitate their buildings. The federal government offers a 20% tax credit for commercial buildings. The state of Utah has a 20% tax credit for residential properties. These programs are administered by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). For more information contact Nelson Knight, (801) 533-3562, [nwknight@utah.gov](mailto:nwknight@utah.gov). Utah Heritage Foundation offers loans at half of prime on a five-year payback with a balloon payment at the end through a statewide revolving fund. Contact Elizabeth Bradley-Wilson, (801) 533-0858 x 103, [elizabeth@utahheritagefoundation.org](mailto:elizabeth@utahheritagefoundation.org), for details.

There may also be local incentives for rehabbing and maintaining historic buildings, or penalties for neglecting or demolishing them. Listing on the National Register of Historic Places happens at the federal level, is strictly honorary, and does not limit what owners can do with their own property. State law allows communities to list Individual buildings on a local landmark list or designate whole neighborhoods as local historic districts. Therefore, any true regulation of historic properties happens at the local level. Each community decides what the rules should be for protecting their historic buildings and neighborhoods, such as any review under local ordinances for demolition or design changes.

The starting place for agreement on the value of heritage is the public meetings held every ten years to take the pulse of the community for the general plan update. If residents agree to include a historic preservation element with a vision for saving places that matter, they can implement it through local zoning and ordinance updates. If a majority of residents cannot agree on a vision for historic preservation or its importance, attempts to save historic places may divide the community despite the best efforts of those who care. As Winston Churchill said, "Democracy is the worst form of government except for all those others that have been tried."

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Speak up and urge others to help give voice to the historic places that matter in your community. Let's find out what we've got before it's gone. For more information about saving historic places that matter contact Utah Heritage Foundation Field Representative Susan Crook, (435) 773-5336, [susan@utahheritagefoundation.org](mailto:susan@utahheritagefoundation.org)

We would like to thank all of those who have served on our Board this past year.

## WCHS General Officers for 2011

President: Richard Kohler  
Past President: Lyman Platt  
Vice Pres.-Grants/Awards: Elaine Tyler  
Secretary: Lynne Johnston  
Treasurer/Membership: Carol Christensen  
Historian: Joyce Whittaker  
Website: George Cannon  
Newsletter Editor: Lynne Johnston

## 2011 Constituents

Enterprise  
Grafton Heritage Partnership  
Fort Harmony Historical Society  
Hurricane  
Ivins Historical Society  
LaVerkin  
Leeds / Silver Reef  
New Harmony Heritage  
Rockville  
Santa Clara Historical Society  
Southern Utah Cultural Center  
Springdale  
St. George  
Toquerville Historical Society  
Virgin  
Washington City  
Daughters of Utah Pioneers  
Sons of Utah Pioneers  
Chamber of Commerce  
Vision Dixie

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Funds for these Grants will be raised by donations from the community. Washington County Historical Society **Memberships are still \$15.00** and **Lifetime Memberships are \$150.00**. **Annual Nonprofit Agency Membership \$30.00**. **Corporate Memberships are \$100.00 a year**. Donations can be sent to P. O. Box 404, St. George, Utah 84771, please use the enclosed membership form and envelope. For more information, contact

Richard Kohler at 435-272-4616 or email at [info@wchsutah.org](mailto:info@wchsutah.org).

## WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Annual Family Membership \$15.00  
Lifetime Family Membership \$150.00

Annual Nonprofit Agency Membership \$30.00  
Annual Corporate Membership \$100.00

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form with your dues to:  
Washington County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 404  
St. George, Utah 84771

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Membership is Very Important Thanks For Your Support!!!**

A SPECIAL "THANKS" TO THE FOLLOWING **CORPORATE SPONSORS** WHO RENEWED OR PURCHASED NEW MEMBERSHIPS. We appreciate their support and suggest your patronage of their businesses.

### BOULEVARD HOME FURNISHINGS

390 N. Mall Drive, St. George, UT 84790

### CITY OF WASHINGTON

111 N. 100 E., Washington, UT 84780

### HURRICANE VALLEY MUSEUM

P. O. Box 91, Hurricane, UT 84737

### LAVERKIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

325 W. 400 N., LaVerkin, UT 84745

### SOUTHWEST DIESEL SERVICE

1150 E. 3550 N., St. George, UT 84770

### WASHINGTON CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 821, Washington, UT 84780

Newsletter compiled by C. Lynne Johnston Recording Secretary

Washington County Historical Society Website: <http://wchsutah.org>