

West Klickitat County Historical Society

Newsletter

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Gorge Heritage Museum 202 East Humboldt, Bingen, WA.

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The Open Season for the Museum is from May 8th to September 30th. The Museum hours are from noon to 5:00 PM, Fri-Sun. Tours may be scheduled during the off-season by calling 509-493-3228 or 509-493-1349 and requesting a visit.

Newsletter Staff

Webmaster/Publisher – Jim Farrell

Museum Day

Have you had the opportunity to visit the Gorge Heritage Museum this season? National Museum day on September 25th will be the perfect day to come either for a re-visit or your first. The hours we are open on that day will be 11AM – 5 PM.

The Gorge Heritage Museum will take part in this Historic day by:

Opening the doors free of charge to the public. The Classic car club (pictured above) will be in attendance with their beautiful old cars and costumes. They will be entering into some interesting games and may even let you have your picture taken with them, as a fundraiser for the Museum.

There will be appraisers on hand to give verbal appraisals of your antiques for a nominal fee of \$10.00 a piece with a limit of three items. Time to learn what that puzzling item of "great grannies" is and maybe what it is worth. Several things are in the preparation stage, such as, a telegraph demonstration, a sock making demonstration and origami for the children. There may be music for your enjoyment.

The interior of the Museum has been painted and the displays have been changed or updated this year, the entry hall was totally re-done and we are in the process of adding an audible narrative to the Country Store. We now have over 90 thousand pictures and items in our digital collection. You are welcome to see if your family is represented. Just maybe we have a copy of that picture, deed or newspaper article that will answer a question in your family history research that has you stumped.

The quilt displaying the local involvement in "Women's Suffrage" that was made this year by several local ladies and museum members is on display. It will be raffled off that day as well as the items that were donated for the Trout Lake Treasure Tour raffle including the original painting by Peggy Ohlson. Come, purchase your ticket and stay to pick up your prize (you know you will win something).

If you choose, join as a new member this day you will get the rest of 2010 and all of 2011 for one year's price.

The Museum Board will serve refreshments.

Barbara Sexton

Co-Chair for Museum Day

Trout Lake Treasures: Tour of Historic Homes and Unique Places

Tour day was July 24, a pleasant day weather-wise. The 125-plus visitors enjoyed touring the Pearson, Allen (Duke), Webb (Justesen), and McCormick(Peterson) homes. In addition, John Shuman explained the Cascadia Creamery operation and handed out cheese samples. The hundreds of rocks in Loren Schmid's collection were on display at the Robert and Leslie Schmid property. The building built for museum purposes also houses artifacts relating to Trout Lake pioneers.

Kozen Sampson invited visitors to tour the Buddhist meditation temple, the retreat center and the grounds at the Abbey. The tour also included the Country Inn, the Presbyterian Church and the Trout Lake Cemetery.



Linnie Talman & Kathy Anderson were volunteer docents at the Pearson home.

Besides the property owners, 26 volunteers pitched in to make the successful tour possible. Carl McNew at Windermere provided directional signs. With the help of donations by Kozen Sampson and the Trout Lake Business Association, the total profit to the museum was over \$1500. Thank you to all who participated.

Mary Kapp and Barbara Sexton, Tour Co-Chairs

Save these dates:

**Friday, September 10
from 10:00 –Noon
History of Buttons**

Dorothy Kruger from the Washington State Button Society will bring part of her button collection and talk about the history, care and identification of buttons. The button talk will be at the Gorge Heritage Museum. There will be no charge for the talk. Participants will have an opportunity to see the museum's button collections of Ora Cimmiyotti and Grace Peck.

**Tuesday, September 14 at 6:00 PM
Historical Society Potluck Banquet
at the White Salmon Methodist
Church**

All members of the West Klickitat/East Skamania Historical Society are invited to a gathering for the purpose of meeting each other and the board members, hearing Anne Markgraf Ward speak on a local historic topic, and viewing the museum fund-raising raffle prizes. The winners will be announced at the Museum Day Celebration September 25th. Please bring a salad, veggies, or a dessert. Meats and drinks will be provided.

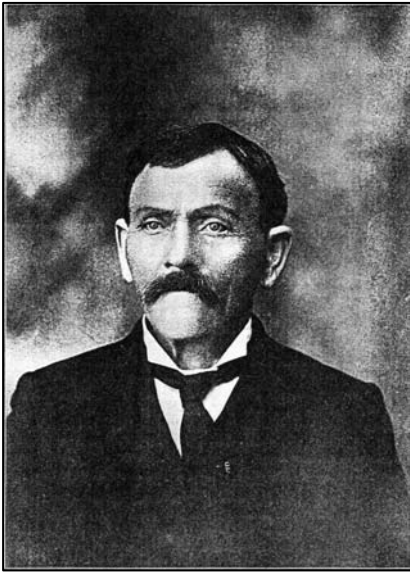
RSVP to the museum (493-3228) by Monday, September 1st with the number in your party planning on attending.

**We hope to see you at the next
meeting on
Sept 22nd at 1:30 PM
at the Gorge Heritage Museum**

WILL THE REAL CAPT. COOK PLEASE STAND UP

By Geneva Meyers

There seems to be some confusion on the proper name of Capt. Cook who once owned all the land from Pucker Huddle southward to the Columbia River and westward to the White Salmon River. (This writer is not sure how far north or east that his land extended.) This property was given the name of Cook's Addition by the owner. Later a portion of this land was renamed Pucker Huddle.



Capt. Cook was a man of 'means' and able to develop this land into fruit growing and farming, as well as financing the construction of a road grade from the top of the bluff (south end of property) down to the lower land bordering the Columbia River.

Although this road is no longer in use, the outline of it can be seen from the Oregon shore. Cook's Grade angles, from its foot, upward from east to west, the top of which is the Eyrie.

In 1983 a college student, from Western Washington University, wrote a thesis paper on the history of early White Salmon and Bingen. In his writings he stated the name of Capt. Cook as James H. Cook. Another writer, a local author, also gave Capt. Cook's first name as James. They both gave an accurate historical background of Capt. Cook, but both were erroneous on his actual first name. Another local author gave some reference to a James Cook and gave him the title of Capt. I find no reference to the title of captain in the accounts of this James Cook.

My research has shown the name of Capt. Cook to be Howard C. Cook. My historical sources are from a book entitled *An Illustrated History of Klickitat, Yakima and Kittitas Counties*, which was published in 1904; and Capt. Cook's obituary which

was printed in *The Enterprise* at the time of his death in 1914.

There was a James Harrison Cook who lived in White Salmon for a few years. According to James H. Cook's obituary, he died in 1905, had moved here from Indiana approximately three years before his death, and is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery in White Salmon.

There was another James Cook in this area several years earlier. I found his name in the *Illustrated History of Klickitat, Yakima and Kittitas Counties* publication. I was reading the biographies of early pioneers, and in the biography of John Perry, a pioneer stockman and rancher, who lived thirteen miles NE of White Salmon. Mr. Perry told a story of how in 1870 a boat capsized on the Columbia River and emptied its occupant, James Cook, into the water. According to his account, Cook would have drowned had he not been rescued by Mr. Perry. At the writing of this biography (book published in 1904) this James Cook was residing in north Yakima. This was the same incident (with John Perry) mentioned in another book by a local author about James Cook in which the title of captain was placed before his name. Perhaps this Mr. Cook was a captain, but not our Captain of Cook's Addition.

Capt. Howard C. Cook came to White Salmon in 1880. He was a retired sea captain and had quite an interesting and exciting background. He died in 1914 and is buried in White Salmon's West Klickitat County Cemetery - Dist. 1). Thanks, to Jeff Elmer, you may find the following obituary on line.

The Enterprise, White Salmon, WA., November 27, 1914

LATE CAPT. HOWARD C. COOK HAD MOST EVENTFUL LIFE

Capt. Howard C. Cook, who died at the home of Wm. Overbaugh in Cook's Addition to this city, last week, was a retired sea captain, a veteran of the Civil war and for many years a civil engineer in the government service.

He was born October 27, 1844 in Skuylkill County, Pa., and spent his early years in that state, where he received a good education. His first venture in life was as a civil engineer, having begun the study of this subject at the age of fourteen. By

the time he had mastered his profession, the civil war broke out, and he was among the first to respond to the call to arms as a soldier. He joined the navy in 1862, at Pensacola, Florida, and later was transferred to a gun boat in a squadron operating on the Mississippi River. In this service he was promoted to the position of ensign, in which capacity he served ten months on the same ship with George Dewey, afterwards of the Spanish-American war renown, who was then in command of the squadron. This vessel was blown up in one of the many engagements in which it participated in the Mississippi river, and the injuries Ensign Cook received because caused his confinement in a hospital for four months. However, upon recovering he served in the Navy another year and a half, but then received injuries in battle which placed him in a hospital for a year.

After the war, Mr. Cook renewed his study of civil engineering, and in 1867 he sought his fortunes in India, and there formed the acquaintance of his Royal Highness, the King of Oude, and for two years was master of the imperial yacht.

He later returned to this country and took charge of a freighting vessel. For the ensuing 22 years he sailed the seas in charge of many different ships.

He was sent to the Pacific Coast by the war department in 1878 on a mission relating to Engineering enterprises. As a result of this appointment, Capt. Cook again became a landsman, serving the government with honor. Subsequently the captain resigned his commission and after making a trip through the Pacific Coast region in 1880, decided to locate in Klickitat County, where he filed a claim to what is now known as Cook's Addition to White Salmon. He became one of the best known horticulturists.

His fraternal relations were with the Masons, Artisans, Grange and the Odd Fellows, and of the last order he was at one time district deputy grand master. He also took a prominent part in politics.

In 1868 he was married to Miss Ediline M. Stenimier of Pennsylvania, but the following year she was drowned in Delaware Bay.

Capt. Howard C. Cook died at the home of Wm. Overbaugh Wednesday night at 11 p.m. at the age of 71. The funeral is to be held this morning under the auspices of the Odd Fellows, of which order he has been a life member.

Capt. Cook was one of the earliest settlers of this valley, and has always taken a most prominent part in all affairs pertaining to this section. In next week's issue a full account of his life's history will be published.

Trivia Quiz

1. Who put in the first irrigation ditch in the Trout Lake valley and what year?
2. When was the Guler Post Office in operation?
3. Who received a contract for daily mail service to Trout Lake and Glenwood and in what year?
4. Who was the first female Mayor of Bingen?
5. When was the White Salmon school district organized?
6. Name the first church in White Salmon.
7. Name an early orchard developer in the Snowden area before 1912.
8. When was the Mt. Brook Church built & by whom?
9. When was the Ladies Aid Society of Mt. Brook organized?
10. Who was the first White Salmon citizen buried in the Pioneer Cemetery?
11. In what year did George Kida come to White Salmon?
12. When was the White Salmon Women's Club organized?

Annuals still needed

Thanks to all who have provided Columbia High annuals to the museum collection. We are over half way there. The following years are still needed: 1921 - 1936; 1942, 1948, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1954-1961; 1963-1973; 1975; 1984-85, 1989-1991; 1999 & 2000. The annuals are on display at the museum library and are available during open hours or by appointment. If we receive more than one copy for any particular year, the best copy is put in archival storage and the most loved copy put in the library. In 100 years from now when the loved copy is falling apart we will have a better copy for your great great great great grandchildren to look at.

Current Membership

Dr. Rick & Sharon Allen
Jerry & Lois Baker
Henry Balsiger & Linnie Talman
Roy & Betty Barnes
Ken & Cindy Barstow
Berneice Biesanz
Troy Bryan
Wayne Carlock
Karalee Chabotte
Stuart Chapin
Doug & Brenda Charters
Abigail Corson
Bud & Jean Cuffell
Norman Dallas
Robert & Elsie Dickey
Linda Doherty
Jeffrey Elmer
Bernard & Beverly Elsner
Jim & Judy Farrell
Mary Ann Fritchey
Dorothy Franklin
Robert Glovka
David Gruen
OJ Hecomovich
Charles & Della Henderson
Dorothy Henkle
Etta Hepner
Paul Hertz & James Rauchman
Janet & Roger Holen
Jessica Waggoner Hoff
Lorie & Roger Hull
Frances Johnson
Jan Jones
Mary & Jack Kapp
Howard & Nancy Kinzey
Christain Kirch
Miriam & Randy Knowles
Steve Koeing
Gayle Krenz
Deb Lambo
Shaul & Catherine Levi
Gail Logan
William & Joyce Luebke
Mildred Lykens
William Manly Jr.
Anne Markgraf Ward
James & Melinda McCormick
Mike & Priscella Mc Millen
Geneva Meyers
Rick Mindt

Mountain Logging, Inc.
Robert & Blayne Myers
Jan Nelson
Gini & Andy Nichols
Donald & Mary Ohnemus
James Patrick
Monte & Laura Pearson
Larry Price
Jim Randall
Don & Carol Schaak
Elizabeth (Betty) Schmid
Leslie & Robert Schmid
SDS Lumber Co
Barbara Sexton
John Shuman
Elaine Spencer
Rees & Eloise Stevenson
Michael & Sally M. Stillman
Sean & Kathryn Tackley
Judith Tebbs
Krista Thie
Cam Thomas
Darlene Thompson
Jim & Pam Tindall
Trout Lake Abbey
John & Shirley Tyler
Bob & Sherry Van Alstine
Darold & Janet Ward
Jim & Helen Webb
Rocky & Jana Webb
William & Heather Whidden
Ken & Kathy Wilkes
Marilyn Winebarger
Helen Wooding

Trivia Question Answers

1. William & brother Frank Coate & brother-in-law Rufus Byrnett, 1893
2. 1901 (2) to 1936
3. Teunis Wyers, Jr.; 1902
4. Eva Flock; 1936 - 1939
5. 1876
6. Bethel Congregational Church, organized May 7, 1879 by Rev. George H. Atkinson
7. Harry Stauch, 1911, planted Newton apples & Anjou pear fillers
8. 1905 by the Methodist church board
9. 1913
10. Reinert B. Hansen, 1884
11. 1907
12. January 5, 1900

Gorge Heritage Museum

Print and mail this form with a check to:

West Klickitat County Historical Society
Gorge Heritage Museum
PO Box 394
Bingen, WA 98605

Web Site:

<http://community.gorge.net/ghmuseum/>

Museum Admission

Sixteen & older	\$5.00
Fifteen & under w/Adult	Free
WKCHS members	Free

Museum memberships are available as follows:

Individual	\$20
Family	\$35
Supporting	\$100
Business	\$100
Life Member	\$1000

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Membership \$ _____

Gift/Donation \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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