

THE FRIENDLY GAZETTE

NOVEMBER 2022

FHFG.ORG



06

Enfranchisement
of Forest Grove

08

Native American
History Timeline

10

Grave Matters
Cemetery Tour

14

Historic Property
Recognition



Contents

Letter from the President.....	03
Historic District.....	04
Member Highlight.....	04
Snapshot Forest Grove	05
1872: Our Birth Year and Enfranchisement.....	06
Native American History in Forest Grove.....	08
Grave Matters Cemetery Tour	10
Inside the A.T. Smith House	12
Fun Times at the Old Train Station.....	13
Historic Property Recognition	14



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Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

If you are thinking about gifts to give during this holiday season, think of Friends of Historic Forest Grove. FHFG needs the magic of people stepping up and taking on leadership responsibilities. Help us by joining our board and serving on our committees.

In other words, we need you! We need your skills, insights, volunteer time, and joy in Forest Grove's fascinating history.

If you've joined FHFG this year, please come to our Holiday Social. This is a perfect opportunity to get to know us! We are a diverse group of people with many interests and projects. We are more than our social media page and more than a garden tour. We are also an archive and a collection. We are a museum and an old house with an orchard and a long history.

In the coming holiday season, our doors will be open on several occasions. You can also support Friends of Historic Forest Grove as part of this year's Annual Giving Fund Drive.

Hoping to see you at the annual Holiday Social!

Megan Havens

FHFG President
president@fhfg.org
831.402.9819

A Closer Look at the Cover

Mary Jo Morelli stepped in last minute to play the role of suffragist Samantha Waite Coleman 1852 -1939. A huge "Thank You" to Mary Jo and her co-actor Cherie Tintary for making the Graves Matter Cemetery Tour a very successful event! You can read more about it on page 10!



THE FOREST GROVE DOWNTOWN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

FOREST GROVE, OREGON



Forest Grove is proud to announce our fourth and newest Historic District. We are pleased to be able share our "Downtown District" with future generations, especially during our 150th Birthday celebration! The Historic Landmarks Board has created a brochure with pictures and explanations of the buildings, in both English and Spanish, to help guide people through the district. The brochures can be found with our other Historic District brochures at such popular places as the Library, City Hall, Chamber of Commerce, and, of course, the Old Train Station. Please know that the HLB of Forest Grove is here to preserve our unique Community for another 150 years.

PRODUCED BY THE FOREST GROVE
HISTORIC LANDMARKS BOARD



Member Highlight **Blacksmithing with Jim McGuire**

My grandfather was a blacksmith, though I was quite young he showed me a few things and I was always interested in it. I've been blacksmithing as a hobby now for about 30 years. I learned about blacksmithing by volunteering at the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site where they have a working shop as well as a museum.

I like to make coat racks out of hand-forged hooks attached to old barrel staves. My favorite things to make are cooking implements for Dutch oven cooking like tripods and S Hooks and hand forged chains for hanging pots over the fire. I also make trivets and hearts from old horseshoes. Plant hangers are also fun for me to make.

I sell some of my work every year at the Steam Up in Brooks, Oregon which is held the last weekend of July and the first weekend of August every year. One of the most challenging things I've helped make were some fireplace tools for the Lodge at Crater Lake when I was volunteering at Fort Vancouver.

Cilicia Philemon contributed to this article.

Snapshot Forest Grove

Take a look at Forest Grove and discover a vibrant history and host of characters, ideas, and innovations that have made us who we are today.



The Famous 1880 Election Bet



Benjamin Harrison was running for U.S. president. Joseph Vaughn bet that he would be elected and won a wheelbarrow ride twice around church square. Charles Fritz, Forest Grove photographer, favored Grover Cleveland and lost. After Fritz pushed Vaughn through the muddy streets, he dumped Vaughn at the corner of Pacific and Main.

1880s

Census Talk

In the 1880s, for the first time, the census included residents of Forest Grove who were not white. Chinese males listed include:

- **Lee, Fook**, 30-Laundryman
- **Wang, Lee**, 17, "help" Railroad Section
- **Ling, Chinese**, 20
- **Le Sing**, 19
- **Chou**, 16
- **Ding**, 33

1880: Forest Grove, population 547, is larger than Hillsboro. Four street lights are installed on four corners. The Indian School is established.

1881: Visit from U.S. President, Rutherford Hayes.

1885: Indian School moves to Salem.

1887: E.W. Haines builds a generator on Gales Creek.

1889-90: Smallpox epidemic in the town. Forest Grove Times begins publication.

Featured History

1872: Our Birth Year and Enfranchisement

Skip Buhler

Pass the cake and ice cream! Forest Grove turns 150 this year! Incorporation was passed by the Oregon senate in late September 1872, and the official proclamation was signed on October 5. Sadly, we didn't have a local newspaper that year (the Forest Grove Independent began publication the following year), so we're missing any grand, celebratory announcement. Rather than focus on the day or month that we officially became "Forest Grove," in celebration of the Sesquicentennial, I thought it would be fun to look back on some of the news from that special year.

The town's population in 1872 was 400 souls, give or take (Forest Grove precinct was closer to 900) and we had no electricity, no running or potable water, and no saloons. There were no lawyers, no jail and no bank. The Grove's first merchant and Justice of the Peace, Sam Hughes, opened the town's first hardware shop that year. I.L. Smith's Western Hotel welcomed visitors. 1872 was a year of important land transfers and city expansion. Elkanah and Mary R. Walker gave a huge parcel from their Donation Land Claim to Sidney H. Marsh, the president and legal representative of PU, and thus to the city, creating the Walker Addition in August 1872, a month before incorporation. Their son Samuel T. Walker drew up the first official city plat map soon after incorporation.

All things considered, Forest Grove was a peaceful town in 1872. While crime was low, not all was quiet and peaceful in the Grove. Interestingly, mirroring today's news, one of the biggest news items was the issue of voting, and who had the vote (it was men, by the way). As incorporation was finding



Abigail Scott Duniway

Photo Courtesy OHS, OrHi 13641

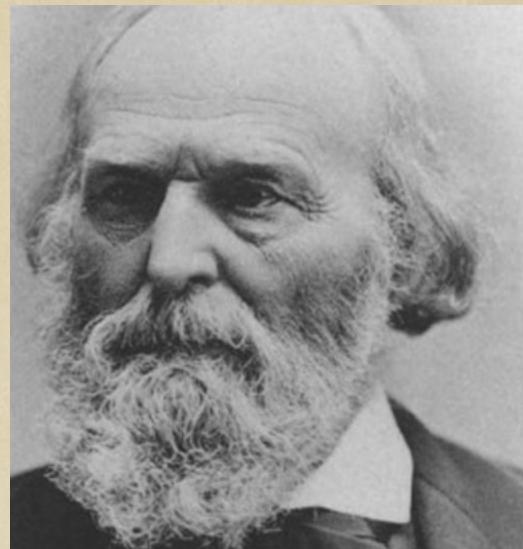
its way through the congress, 1872 saw the growing fight for woman's suffrage up close, because Abigail S. Duniway, the editor of the pro-suffrage newspaper New Northwest, had family living near what's now Forest Gale Heights. Her father John Tucker Scott and sister Catherine Scott Coburn were Forest Grove agents for her newspaper, which served as a response and corrective to her brother Harvey's newspaper, the Oregonian, and his heated editorials

against suffrage. The proud father apparently sided with his daughter in the debate.

Through her paper, regular visits to see friends and family, and public lectures, Abigail built up a significant network here of like-minded activists (a later one being Mary R. Walker's son Cyrus). Forest Grove was a key front in the fight, and the right to vote was likely THE talk of the corner drug store, Ed Goodell's post office (where Adelante Mujeres is now) and the mercantile in 1872. The town was evenly divided on the issue, with opinions crossing gender lines, from pro-suffrage men lecturing, to anti-suffrage woman writing in protest.

Duniway wrote religiously and was on an endless tour of the region preaching the gospel of equal suffrage. The previous October, Duniway had a joint tour with Susan B. Anthony, who came to the Grove and spoke forcefully to a packed house at the Congregational Church. That visit was still in the air in early 1872, when the battle over suffrage entered the hallowed halls of Pacific University. As the new year began, Mrs. Mary Hoxter, wife of merchant W.D. Hoxter, teamed up with the Marsh brothers (PU's own Sidney H. and Joseph) to pen a letter protesting women's suffrage. Published in the Oregon Bulletin, she attacked Abigail's newly formed "Forest Grove Women's Political Investigation Association," which accidentally included Hoxter as a member; enraged by the inclusion, Hoxter responded that women didn't need the vote, since men would make the best decisions. Abigail was having none of it and countered all of Hoxter's and the Marsh Brother's claims. True democracy, Abigail firmly held, was only possible through universal suffrage.

Well, it took another four decades, but equal suffrage was at last achieved statewide, and eventually nationwide, thanks in large part to Abigail and her Forest Grove friends...and yet, voting rights is still being fought over. Our incorporation in 1872 meant we could now vote for our civic representation and have a collective voice. If you just moved here, make sure and register to vote. Do it for Abigail! Happy sesquicentennial! And have some more cake!



John Tucker Scott

Photo Courtesy OHS, OrHi 75394



Catherine Scott Coburn

Photo Courtesy OHS, OrHi 96809

*"True democracy, Abigail
firmly held, was only possible
through universal suffrage."*

Native American History in Forest Grove

A Timeline

Eva Guggemos, Vice President

Distant Past

Since time immemorial, the Atfalati Kalapuyas inhabited numerous plank house villages in the Tualatin River watershed.

1839-40

Former fur-trappers begin taking land on the "Twallaty Plains."

1839-40

Cayuse men kill the missionaries Marcus & Narcissa Whitman near Walla Walla, WA. Other missionaries evacuate to what is now Forest Grove, leading to the founding of Pacific University in 1849.*

1855

The Atfalati are forced to sign a new treaty that gives up all their land.

1770s-1830s

Epidemic diseases carried by Euro-Americans kill an estimated 95% or more of the Atfalati. Survivors gather around Wapato Lake (Gaston).

1841-42

Missionaries A.T. Smith and Harvey Clark arrive and claim land at what is now Forest Grove; they soon abandon plans to evangelize the Atfalati.

1851

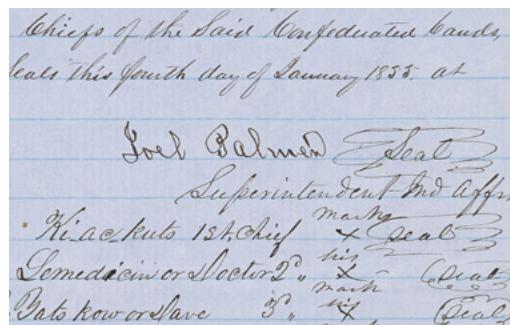
About 70 Atfalati remain. They sign a treaty saving some land around Wapato Lake for a reservation, but the U.S. Congress does not ratify it.

1856

U.S. agents force the Atfalati to move to the Grand Ronde Reservation. Over the following decades, the Atfalati intermarry with others at the reservation and adopt the Chinuk Wawa language.

* For more on this incident, see the books *Murder at the Mission* and *Splendid Audacity: The Story of Pacific University*.

Detail from 1855 Treaty



Forest Grove Indian School 1880-1885



1880-85

The U.S. Dept. of the Interior creates a boarding school for Native children in Forest Grove on land owned by Pacific University. Over 300 students from distant tribes attended (none were Atfalati); at least 11 died.

1900s

Wapato Lake near Gaston is drained and turned into onion fields.

1954

The federal government disbands most of Oregon's tribes. Grand Ronde loses all of its remaining reservation land except for its cemetery.

1983

Grand Ronde succeeds in restoring the tribe's federal status. Following this, they are able to rebuild tribal lands and income. Today, Chinuk Wawa is taught in reservation schools; health and elder care services are offered; and the tribe has built cultural centers including the Chachalu Museum, *Achaf-Hammi* Plankhouse, and the Grand Ronde Pow-Wow Grounds.

1887

The Dawes Act permits fragmentation of reservations into private land.

1937

Louis Kenoyer, the last living speaker of the Atfalati language, dies.

1856

U.S. agents force the Atfalati to move to the Grand Ronde Reservation. Over the following decades, the Atfalati intermarry with others at the reservation and adopt the Chinuk Wawa language.

2020s

In cooperation with the U.S. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Grand Ronde begins restoring Wapato Lake near Gaston.



Louis Kenoyer

Last Living Speaker of the Atfalati language.

The Backstory... Grave Matters Cemetery Tour

Cherie and Lee Tintary

Nellie Owens Kirry was one of three characters that made up the *Little House on the Prairie* character. She was a teacher and mother of three. Maureen Andronis had less than a week to prepare for the role after the son of the original actress was in a bad car accident. Rebecca Vetkos had the task of editing the 2017 script by Ginny Mapes at the very last minute.

Alexis Abdullah Ben Kori was a professor at Pacific University and linguist who spoke six languages. Actor Nader Khouri wore a vintage suit from 1905.

Charles L. VanKoughnet owned Rexall Drugs for 40 years on Main St. Actor William Gilbert's charming smile portrayed VanKoughnet's charismatic personality.

Manche Langley practiced law for 60 years. Actress Aoife O'Herlihy captured the spirit of Langley in her performance.

Friend Barnes, bowmaker and jeweler, had a shop on 21st Ave. Rebecca and actor Lee Tintary used the Eric Stewart Collection for research and Skip found the 1906 interview Barnes gave that formed the script. Ridgewalker tapped a keg in Barnes' honor.

Nettie Shipley Haines was a mother and artist who donated her 1888 paintings to Pacific University in 1925. Ginny Mapes wrote an eleven-page script that was sculpted down to a five-minute performance by actress Robin Cavendish.

Norman "Swede" Ralston's inclusion in the cemetery tour was the idea of Ashley Roth, who came across his story while visiting the Tillamook



Photos by Terri Erskine

Air Museum. Her script was based on her interview of Swede's daughter. Actor David Morelli was a crowd favorite, who brought to life Swede's famous flight through the Tillamook Blimp Hangar in 1949, with its famous smoke trail and barrel roll.

Character Samantha Coleman also shared the story of Myrtle Pease Hatfield. Event organizers Mary Jo Morelli and Cherie Savoie Tintary filled in, as the original cast member got COVID. Vex Bar created a cocktail called The Suffragist in their honor.

Judge William Henry Hollis was a state judge, lawyer, legislator, Freemason, and humanitarian. William Sparks did the research, wrote the script and portrayed Hollis. Bill wore authentic Masonic garb that was reminiscent of what would have been worn in Hollis's day.

Thank you to all involved: including docents Bonnie and Phil McDowell, who came dressed as Grandma Tabitha Brown and Reverend Harvey Clarke; photographer Terri Erskine; Kathy Juvet, who made the brochures; and David Morelli for event set up and take down.



Nellie Owens Kirry
portrayed by
Maureen Andronis



Alexis Abdullah Ben Kori
portrayed by
Nader Khoury



Charles L. VanKoughnet
portrayed by
William Gilbert



Manche Langley
portrayed by
Aoife O'Herlihy



Friend Barnes
portrayed by
Lee Tintary



Nettie Shipley Haines
portrayed by
Robin Cavendish



Norman "Swede" Ralston
portrayed by
David Morelli



Samantha Coleman
portrayed by
Mary Jo Morelli and
Cherie Savoie Tintary



Judge William Henry Hollis
portrayed by
William Sparks



Inside the A.T. Smith House

David Morelli

We are working with Lee Hebert and his son, Jesse Hebert of Historical Salvage & Design, to take the sag out of the roof and bring the house frame back to the original alignments. Lee has gotten both services and materials donated or at cost from some generous donors whose support was recognized on October 28th.

- The steel lifting columns from Jeff Lyski and Elite Steel Products.
- The lifting beam from Matt Farrell at Burl & Grain.
- The fork lift from Bob Orvis and Jerry Navarrete at Star Rentals.
- Donated consulting time from Lee & Jesse Hebert and Kerry Vanderzanden.
- In-kind labor by David Morelli making floor and ceiling cuts and Mary Jo Morelli repairing lawn damage done by the fork lift.

Steel lifting columns now run from jacks in the basement through the two living floors to the attic, where they are supporting a beam to lift the roofing rafters back to their original locations and allow the outer walls to be pulled back together. This will be

a long, slow process to reverse decades of movement as the walls leaned and the supports settled.

The lift of the roof involves pulling the sagging rafters up while drawing the walls together. Once they are back in their proper place, connections will be strengthened to hold the whole roof and attic in its proper place. When that is complete we will start to raise the various supporting posts to undo the movement caused by settling of the foundation.

Prior work to stabilize the roof and shore the basement preserved the house well enough for this current work to be possible. We are now working to make the support structure as close to original as possible. When the posts and beams are properly square for the house, we will be able to repair damage to the post and beam at the southwest corner of the kitchen. At that time, the house will be ready for interior reconstruction of the east kitchen wall and the entry wall to the left of the front door.

Above: Jesse Hebert guiding the beam into the attic window. Jesse and Lee installing strapping to beams over the top of roof rafters. Pipes support the beam and extend to the basement.

Fun Times at the Old Train Station



Ashley Roth, Museum Manager

Museum & Library



On September 28th we had the pleasure of hosting a private tour for our sister city members from Nyuzen, Japan (pronounced noo-zen). Nyuzen is located northwest of Tokyo and faces Toyama Bay. This bay is home to an ancient natural forest which was submerged by the rising water about 10,000 years ago. They came over to celebrate our Sesquicentennial and decided to include a tour of our Forest Grove History Museum. They were only here for 48 hours, so for them to choose our museum was very exciting.

For those of you who are unaware what a sister city is, let me catch you up to speed. In 1987, a working committee of the City of Forest Grove and Chamber of Commerce was formed to explore the possibility of developing a sister city relationship. The Sister Cities Committee surveyed hundreds of community members to identify existing relationships with communities overseas. From this survey, relationships with Japanese communities emerged as the most numerous and of greatest interest. The Committee researched sister city candidates in Japan, using criteria that matched city size, demographic characteristics, geography, and economic activities. Volunteers made numerous presentations to the City Council and the board of the Cham-

ber of Commerce. Inquiries were made to determine the interest of the City of Nyuzen, Japan, in becoming Forest Grove's sister city. In 1988, Forest Grove hosted its first mayoral delegation from Nyuzen. On December 12, 1988, following a successful visit, the Forest Grove City Council adopted the recommendation of the Committee inviting Nyuzen, in the Toyama province of Japan, to become Forest Grove's sister city.

We were lucky enough to have the 40-year mayor of Nyuzen, Harujito Sasajima, the town council chairperson, Hiroshi Nojima, the town secretary, Mitsuhiro Shimajiri, and Nyuzen assistant language teacher, Soderberg Lars Eugene, join us, as well as a few friends and translators. Mary Jo Morelli, Skip Buhler, and I guided the tour and assisted in making them a gift basket full of Forest Grove historical information and goodies. We appreciate their interest in our museum and we hope to see them again in a few years when they come back to visit.

Museum Open Hours

Wednesdays 10 A.M.– 1 P.M.
Saturdays 1 P.M.– 4 P.M.
and by appointment

Historic Property Recognition

*FHFG presents plaques to four outstanding
Forest Grove historic homes*

Jim Hilsenkopf, Skip Buhler
photos by Terri Erskine



Jim Hilsenkopf (left) and Skip Buhler (right)



Doris & Gordon Burlingham House
1306 Birch Street

The Burlingham residence represents an excellent example of a custom design and construction of a minimal traditional house of the 1930s. When Doris and Gordon Burlingham were young adults beginning their life together, they chose a distinguished Oregon architect, Ernest Tucker, to design and build their family's future home. The result was a beautiful house in well-maintained complementary surroundings that stood the test of time. Gordon Burlingham was active in Forest Grove business and cultural activities during his long life. Doris Wells Burlingham devoted herself to many civic improvement activities.



Dr. Rex & Mary Wilson House
1305 Birch Street

Dr. Rex Wilson and his wife, Mary, purchased this property in 1939, the year this Colonial Revival house was built. Dr. Wilson was a chiropractor who received his training at the Western States College of Chiropractic Physicians in Portland. He later served on the faculty as an associate professor. In June of 1929, Dr. Wilson was married to Mary Eldred Campbell. In 1938, their daughter, Sandra, was born, but by January of 1946, Mary and Rex were divorced. Little was known about Mary. Three years later in 1949, Rex married the nurse from his practice, Mildred Harrison Howe. Dr. Rex Wilson passed away in 1963 after practicing in Forest Grove for 33 years, and Mildred retained the property along with her step-daughter, Sandra, until 1996, when Mildred passed away at the age of 102.

Built in 1912, the H.N. and Ellen Robinson House is a tall Craftsman home located in what is now the Fairmount Addition of South Forest Grove, but what is historically known as part of Alvin T. Smith's Donation Land Claim. Robinson came with his wife and children to the Grove from Minnesota in 1911 and was primarily a farmer, but was also involved in real estate. He and his wife, Ellen, regularly held large gatherings on their farm, such as family reunions and "watermelon feed" parties for the whole town. Homer was known for his work with the Methodist Church in town. Ellen was a housewife, taking care of the large house and children, though she too held frequent gatherings for women's clubs such as the Methodist aid society.



Homer & Ellen Robinson House
2206 12th Avenue

The Minnie Baker House is a cross-gabled bungalow located in the Walker-Naylor Historic District. Thomas and Catherine Naylor sold part of their Donation Land Claim to Pacific University in 1855 for \$1, and the area was later included in the city limits around 1872. Pacific University made money from selling lots in this and other nearby blocks. Minnie Baker purchased the land in August 1910, shortly after her husband, Edward Baker, passed away (in late May 1910, at the State Hospital in Salem) ...We assume she lived here with her four children for at least two years. In 1912, Minnie married William Crowther of Gales Creek, and she seems to have spent most of her time living in that town with her new husband and several of her children. When she's mentioned as being in the Grove during this time period, Minnie was often visiting her mother and sisters, who lived on Pacific Avenue at Cedar. Minnie likely rented out the home to a number of families over that decade. Current owners have found paper documents in the walls of the home specifying names of possible boarders.



Minnie Baker House
2130 B Street

For the full narratives, visit fhfg.org/historic-homes



Help us tell our stories!

- Join us and volunteer
- Donate refundable cans and bottles with BottleDrop blue bags
- Designate FHFG as your charity through Amazon Smile
- Host a birthday/event fundraiser through Facebook
- Remember FHFG in your estate planning

Questions? Email info@fhfg.org
or call 503-992-1280

Thank you because none of this could continue without your generous support!



Friends of Historic
Forest Grove
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Forest Grove, OR 97116
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(503) 992-1280
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www.fhfg.org

**Return Service
Requested**



When

Sunday, December 4th,
5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Where

The Old Train Station
1936 19th Ave
Forest Grove, OR 97116

Activities

Ornament exchange
& Forest Grove Fire
Department Toy Drive,
heavy appetizers, wine,
and beer provided.