MUSEUM MEANDERINGS

A QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE LA CENTER MUSEUM ASSOCIATION



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Tom Wooldridge Vice President

Candi Irish Secretary

Judy Hickman Treasurer

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Simone Auger, Director

Ed Brannfors, Director

Jennifer Cerveny Miller, Director

Steve Workman, Director

Mary Tannler Worley, Director

Director Position To Be Filled in 2014

Corporate Membership
J.S. Perrott & Co., Inc.
and

Colf Family Foundation

L.C. Museum Association 33920 NW Pacific Hwy. La Center, WA 98629 (360) 263-3308 E-Mail: BGBLaCentr@tds.net

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July 2014 Website http://www.thelacentermuseum.org B.G. Barnhart, Editor Face Book - La Center Historical Museum E-mail: lacentermuseum@tds.net



CURRENT EXHIBITS



MORE THAN FLOWERS - An exhibit honoring the community contributions of the La Center Garden Club which was established over sixty years ago.

LA CENTER'S SKATING RINK - Roberta Emerick fondly recalls growing up at the Roller Skating Rink her parents owned and operated in La Center from the 1940's through early 1970's.

ANTIQUE DOLL COLLECTION - A collection of dolls ranging from the 1860's through the 1930's from Barbara Barnhart's Family Collection.

OLD TOYS - A case containing several family collections of toys including a set of Soldiers, Indians & Covered Wagon - circa 1902, Nancy Ann Abbott Story-book dolls, and story book figures -- Pinocchio and Babar. A new addition to this collection is a toy submarine dating back to 1938.

HANDS ON TOYS - This display is really hands-on. Jacob's Ladders, Jacks, Pick-up Sticks and other old games that tested hand-eye coordination. VISIT THE LOGGING GALLERY & THE STERNWHEELER GALLERY which focus on the historical beginnings of La Center.

BENEFACTOR THANK YOU

Dr. and Mrs. William Bennett -- \$250 Honoring Margaret Colf Heppola's 97th Birthday on May 27, 2014







LIVE AUCTION

JOIN US FOR OUR BIENNIAL GALA FUNDRAISER: \$65 per person SATURDAY, SEPT. 20, 2014 ~ 5:30 P.M. AT SUMMIT GROVE LODGE

5:30-6:30 p.m. Silent Auction and Cocktail Hour

Red and WhiteWine & Margaritas for Purchase ~ Free Appetizers

6:30 p.m. Dinner: Delicious South of the Border Rubbed Pork Roast, Three Salads,

Spanish Rice, Black Beans, Tortillas, Jalapeno Baguettes. Dessert ~ Fresh Sorbet

LIVE AUCTION to follow featuring Auctioneer FRED BOYD

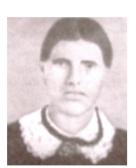
LA CENTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

410 WEST 5TH Street ~ La Center, WA 98629 ~ (360) 263-6609 Open: 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month ~ and by appointment (360) 263-3308)

LA CENTER PIONEERS: WILLIAM AND ISABELLA BOLEN

As you travel a few miles north along Pacific Highway from La Center's bridge over the East Fork of the Lewis River you will note "Bolen Street" on a road sign. It marks the homestead of William and Isabella Bolen of Kentucky who arrived in La Center in 1866. The Bolens traveled from Iowa on May 3, 1865 in a wagon train accompanied by 1,000 Regular Soldiers who were being sent to garrison the western Forts. William Bolen is said to have built the majority of the 114 wagons that were used on the Greenleaf Train. Towards the end of the summer the wagon train arrived at the Snake Canyon about 10 miles east of Fort Hall, Idaho. When they circled for the night all the members of the train were informed that 11 immigrants had been killed four days before and were buried close to the Bolen wagon. Isabella went into labor that evening and gave birth to Charles Walter Bolen. Walter had the distinction of being born in a covered wagon built by his father and also the distinction of being born on the Oregon Trail — on August 11, 1865. Walter was to be William and Isabella's last child. He was just seven years old when Isabella died of a stomach tumor in June of 1872. Isabella Bolen was among the first to be buried in the La Center Cemetery. The Bolen gravestone, a tall obelisk, is located at the far north end of the cemetery.







Map of the Oregon Trail



William & Isabella Bolen NW Bolen St. Sign
In the spring of 1866 the Bolen Family arrived in Washington Territory at a point near the present town of La
Center. William and his son James Harvey took up adjoining Homesteads a short distance "on the hillside with a
good spring." William "proved" up his land and was awarded Homestead Certificate 312 on the 13th of July
1874. His sons William R. and Thomas set up a saw mill at La Center on the Lewis River. James, the third

brother was a farmer. In 1877, five years after his wife Isabella's death William married a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Johns Bozarth.

In 1886 Peter Crawford, an early settler on the Cowlitz River at Kelso and a leading developer of the region, approached William R. and Tom Bolen with the proposition of setting up their saw mill on his property, which had been one of the earliest Donation Claims issued by the United States Government. His agreement was that if the Bolens would accept his offer he would give them all the needed land fronting the Cowlitz River plus two lots for each man as home lots. The Bolens accepted the plan and moved their machinery by scow from the Lewis River to the Cowlitz River. William also moved his family to the scow on the Cowlitz River where they lived until trees on the Peter Crawford property could be cleared and milled to build their homes. William Bolen built the first home in that area now known as Kelso. He also built Kelso's first sawmill and turned its operation over to his sons William R. and Thomas. The saw mill, known as the Bolen Brothers' Mill, was very prosperous as the area kept filling up with more settlers.

William lived to be one day shy of 79 years of age and died at the home of his son on Feb. 13, 1902. William had previously picked out a fine stone monument that he wanted to mark his and Isabella's final resting place and requested that his children and grandchildren pay for it and have it properly inscribed. This tall obelisk still rests at the top of the hill at the La Center Cemetery, marking the end of the trail for two Kentuckians.

LA CENTER MUSEUM ASSOCIATION 2014-2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INVITATION July 1, 2014

Dear Members and Friends of the La Center Historical Museum:

Over the past year, the La Center Historical Museum Board of Directors and its "First and Third Saturday Volunteers" have been busy in the community hosting school class visits and private tours, pioneer family reunions, and creating new and interesting exhibits such as those listed in the current newsletter. Your membership contributions are a significant portion of the income used to support these activities. There are no paid staff members, we are all Volunteers.

We thank you for your past generous support. Thank you letters have been sent to those of you who have paid their L.C.M.A. Membership dues for 2014. If you have not yet renewed your Museum Membership for this year, we ask you to please continue to support the La Center Historical Museum. And, if you will, also consider inviting a friend or family member or neighbor to join us.

Please complete the form below and mail your check to:

La Center Museum Association 33920 NW Pacific Highway La Center, WA 98629

An enclosed self-addressed envelope has been provided for those receiving this letter via U.S. Postal Service.

Thanks for your support.
Ed Brannfors
Membership Chairman

LA CENTER MUSEUM ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL FORM Please complete this form and mail your check to:

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La Center Museum Association 33920 NW Pacific Hwy. La Center, WA 98629			
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES			
Individual \$25Family \$35Organization \$25			
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Note: Annual Membership includes "Museum Meanderings" our quarterly newsletter.			

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