

REFLECTIONS

Newsletter of an East County Historical Organization

Winter 2020



President's Message

By Peggy Olin

E.C.H.O.
P.O. Box 946
Fairview, Oregon 97024
503-618-0946
www.echohistory.org

E.C.H.O.
Board Meeting
Quail Hollow Clubhouse
21100 NE Sandy Blvd.
Fairview, Oregon
Jan, Mar, Jul, Sep, Nov
3rd Saturday.
9:30 am
Open to the Public
May Annual Meeting
Open to the Public

1874 Zimmerman
Heritage Farm
17111 NE Sandy Blvd
Gresham, Oregon

House Tour
Open 3rd Saturday
Noon to 4pm

Volunteer in the Garden
Every 2nd Saturday
9am to Noon

Volunteer in the House
Call for Days & Hours
503-618-0946 or e-mail
info@echohistory.org

1893 Heslin House
60 Main Street
Fairview, Oregon

House Tour
Every 3rd Saturday
Noon to 4pm

Volunteer in the Garden
Every 1st Saturday
9am to Noon

From all the volunteers at the Heslin House and Zimmerman House, we want to wish you all a Happy New Year, and keep us in mind if you have some out of town guests and would like to share some Oregon History with them. Feel free to stop and see the new exhibits and say Hello, noon to 4pm. the 3rd. Saturday of the month.

We have some new exhibits and special events coming up you might like to check out:

- February - Zimmerman Vases and Valentines
- March and April: Zimmerman girls' doll clothes and trunks
- July 12, 2020 ~ Car Show

Heslin House, new exhibits in the bedroom, World War II exhibit include posters, ration books and other memorabilia focused on the Homefront.

This is a must, to see the "Historic Fairview City Jail"

April 4, 2020 Smithsonian Annual Free Day BOTH HOUSES will be open. Noon to 4 pm.

DATES AND TIME CHANGES

The ECHO Board Meeting is now on Saturday morning, just before tours. The meeting place is still the Quail Hollow Club House.

Saturday, March 21, 9:30 am

Saturday, May 16, Annual Meeting Brunch / Elections 9:30 am

Saturday, July 18, 9:30 am

Saturday, September 19, 9:30 am

Saturday, November 21, 9:30 am

Volunteer Opportunities

We always have things to do and tasks to accomplish! Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 503-618-0946 for more information on how you can help.

THANKS TO Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc.
For volunteering to work with us on Martin Luther King Day,
moving bricks, digging through the rubble looking for artifacts,
cutting berry vines and pulling weeds.

It was fun and a lot of work too!

We were hoping to have the job done, but it
looks like we need more time.



Lunch time!

Zimmerman House Museum “Magic of of German Christmas”

By Peggy Olin

Hope you had time to visit the Zimmerman House, if you didn't, we had all the rooms decorated with nutcrackers of all sizes, old world Santa's, lots of Christmas trees, a Village on the bookcase in the Parlor, Christmas ornaments from Germany, and Nutcrackers Dance to the Sugar Plum Fairy Tea Party for Zimmerman girls' dolls. All was enjoyed by lots of visitors.



Heslin Museum Christmas Elf on the Shelf

By Tina Olin



I'd like to take a minute to thank the children for bringing their families to our museum on Dec 14 and 21, 2019. I was able to take lots of pictures and send those pictures to the families individually (if you did not get a photo or like more please feel free to contact me at tinarolin@yahoo.com). The children were able to find our missing elves and received a gift for helping us finding the mischievous elves. We had 17 children stop by with their families. We served hot cocoa, cookies, coffee, hot cider and other goodies. Thank you again to the children and their families for stopping by and hope to see all of you again in December and at our other events that we have throughout the year.



Heslin Family History

By Tina Olin

I'm going to tell you a little about the Heslin family, but not too much because I don't want to give everything away. I want to keep the readers in suspense so they can come to the house and get to know the family for themselves. I did not know much about the family or the house until I started volunteering for ECHO. I learned a lot by reading the books that are offered (and are available for purchase) at the Heslin house and the Zimmerman Heritage Farm. My family grew up in Fairview and I still have family living in Fairview and did not know that the Helsin family existed until about a year ago.

I'm going to take you back to a newsletter from Fall of 2015. In that newsletter were some diary entries from Drusilla Missouri Dunbar Heslin, and she wrote her first entry on March 3, 1867. This was transcribed by Richard Ferguson.

Mar 3, 1867: Portland Oregon: I have been trying to think of the most appropriate way of commencing my Journal, but it is not as easy a matter as I supposed, so I will leave it for the present until I can think of something to write about.

Mar 6: Today is a beautiful day, the sun is shining, birds are singing, all of nature seems to say "Spring has come". My Sister has moved up close to our home. I helped her arrange her furniture for housekeeping today.

Mar 11: My sister's Husband started for San Francisco today. He expects to be gone two weeks. My sister is going to stay with us tonight.

Mar 13: I am at my Sister's today. My husband has taken his horses to the Country will not be back tomorrow.

Mar 14: My husband has got back from the country bringing with him my youngest sister. She is going to live with my oldest sister and go to school. My brother's wife has come also to make us a visit. She is going home Tues. I expect to go with her and spend a week with my Parents and brothers.

Mar 17: I went to Church today the first time in Portland for over a year.

Mar 19: I am at my old home today. We arrived here about 1:00 found all well.

Mar 22: I was at a burying today one of our neighbors Mrs. Douglas was buried. She leaves a husband and two sons to mourn her loss.

Mar 25: I am at home again it rained a little on us before we arrived at home.

Mar 27: I went to Church to hear the new Evangelist Rev. Earl. He came on the last steamer and has **been** preaching twice a day ever since.

Mar 28: My Brother in law Mr. Ballard has returned bringing his Brother with him, Andy Ballard.

Sept 30: *Today My husband started for Astoria to be gone a month. I am going to make a visit up in Polk Co. to see my Aunts, uncles and Cousins.*

Nov 20: My husband has returned from Astoria we are going to spend the winter in the country. We will board at my brother Dan's.

Mar 23, 1868: Today there was a little girl born to us. I am staying with my mother now. We will move back to Portland next month.

June 18: My husband has the measles. My Sisters family has them also.

July 4: We are at my Sisters now. Our two children and my- self have just recovered from the measles. My husband was well enough to help take care of us when we took them. We are going to see the fireworks tonight.

Aug 25: I was at another funeral today. My oldest Bro. little girl of only nine months old was buried by the side of our little Tulu hers was a sudden death. She died while sleeping on the bed. Her father and mother knowing nothing about it till they found her dead. Tis a warning to us to be ready to meet death at any time, for we know not what moment the fell destroyer death may lay his cold hand upon us.

Sept 15: Today my husband and Mr. Ballard commence work for Mr. Coffin on the railroad. They have bought two lots a piece and are working to pay for them.

Sept 28: My Sister went out home today. Mother is not well. She has the pleurisy. My youngest Sister is at the State fair at Salem.

Mar 11, 1869: My sister's family has been living in part of our house for several months. Today they moved away we are alone again. They live a few blocks farther down town.

Aug 24: My youngest Sister died today of consumption. She has been sick since Feb. She died very happy shouting and praising the Lord with her last breath. Oh may we all die the death of a Christian and may our last end be like hers.

December 1869: We have moved in the country on our farm. I do not think we will move to town again.

Now that you got to read some the diary entires from Drusilla I have a tidbit from Lillian Heslin Chapmen Carpenter who is Drusilla and John Patrick Heslin granddaughter. From the newsletter Winter of 2013 written By Nancy Hoover.

Lillian Rose Heslin was born December 11, 1908 in Cleone (now Fairview) Oregon to Helen Maude (Littlepage) and Edward Eugene Heslin, the last of their four children. Lillian grew up in the Heslin House located at 60 Main Street Fairview, Oregon. Ted, her older brother, was the last Heslin to live in the house. He died in 1991. In 2004, at the age of 96, Lillian visited her childhood home.

I hope from the Heslin family history it left you asking some questions such as who is who, the children how to they tie to whom, the family it ties together and other questions you may have. To get your questions answered and to learn more about the house and the family please come visit our museum.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

By Twila Mysinger

We held our volunteer appreciation dinner on November 21st as a small token of our appreciation for all our volunteers do! We honored three volunteers that went ‘above and beyond’ and they are Jana Brey, David Hicks, and Lael Larger.

We also want to thank Peggy Olin and family for putting together this great evening of food, drink and festive decorations.



Vases and Valentines!

By Twila Mysinger

We will have Vases and Valentines on exhibit at the Zimmerman House on January 18th and February 15th. There are some gorgeous Valentines in the collection and we bring out different ones each spring.

This is the first time we’ve done a specific display around vases, and we have over forty in the collection! We’ll have some of these on exhibit along with any information we can find on the maker, tidbits on the creation process, etc. We’d like to thank Neal Skibinski and Sandra Millius for providing this information as most of the vases do not carry trademarks. Neal and Sandra are members of the Portland Rain of Glass organization, and Sandra is also an ECHO volunteer.



Annual Car Show at the Zimmerman House Heritage Farm

By Chad Olin

It's that time of year again!! The car Show is coming back for a second year. It will be held at the Zimmerman House Heritage Farm, from 10am to 2pm on Sunday, July 12, 2020. We will have more details in our Spring newsletter. Watch for the details and keep a lookout for the flyers. You can also find more information on www.pdxcarculture.com, echohistory.org, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Buttery Building Excavation Project

By Jana Brey

The Zimmerman's dairy business known as the **Columbia Butter and Cheese Factory** used a 350 sq ft buttery building or brick dairy to process milk to make cheese and butter, storage, and possibly sell their dairy products.



Brick buttery building is between the house and bunkhouse circa 1912

When Isobel Zimmerman put the house and buttery on the national historic registry in 1985, it was in severe disrepair and covered in Boston Ivy. As much as we wanted to preserve the building, a local structural engineering firm hired by ECHO inspected and determined the building was unsafe and on the verge of collapse. It wasn't until April 2016 that nature finally collapsed the majority of the building, leaving only the chimney. After a terrible winter storm of freezing rain and snow in December 2016, a large Oak tree in the backyard fell on the buttery building remains. It took time to remove the Oak tree and in early 2019, ECHO started working with the State Historic Preservation Office, the City of Gresham's Historic Resource Committee, and Archaeological Investigations Northwest Inc. (AINW) to get permission and guidance to excavate the buttery building site.



Photo taken facing east showing some of the wall in the north room still standing and the south room that we still need to tackle.

Our excavation work began on Monday, January 20, 2020. First, we removed the vegetation that had grown over the site and then began hauling the hundreds of bricks away, many of which are still surprisingly intact. You can see from the photo below we still have much more work to do.



ECHO's immense gratitude goes to AINW and their volunteer crew, our own ECHO volunteers, and to Laura Smith and the other metal detectorists-THANK YOU ALL!

Next steps: ECHO would like to get back soon and finish what we started on the buttery building site. We also discovered a number of historic items that will be inventoried and become part of the Zimmerman collection. We hope to create the building's original footprint and are hopeful that will be possible. Other ideas are being floated and we welcome your input and suggestions. If you are interested in helping us, please contact ECHO at 503.618.0946 or info@echohistory.org.

<u>ECHO Board of Directors</u> Peggy Olin , President Open, Vice President Lael Larger , Secretary Twila Mysinger , Treasurer Tom Dooley , At-Large Linda Mc Nerney , At-Large Chad Olin , At-Large Tina Olin , At-Large Ivy Hudson , At-Large David Hicks , At-Large	<u>Zimmerman House Volunteer Coordinator</u> Ivy Hudson <u>Zimmerman Garden Lead</u> Peggy Olin <u>Heslin Docent & Garden Lead</u> Lael Larger <u>Reflections Editor</u> Tina Olin
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Breaking News!

As we go to press, we are considering changing our regular tour days in order to gain more visitors. We are also hoping more of our volunteers will be available to reduce our dependence on just a few folks. Please check www.echohistory.org before you plan your next visit!

Please visit, share and follow us for more information and upcoming events:

www.echohistory.org, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

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