

# Original Wasco County Courthouse Reporter

Volume 2018 Number 1

## Board of Directors

President: Sandy Bisset  
Vice President: Karl Vercoouteren  
Secretary: Juanita Neitling  
Treasurer: Judy Moore  
Members at Large: Jerry Davis,  
Rodger Nichols, Sherry Mumford,  
Mary Stocks  
Honorary Member: Paul Tews



1859

## Step Back in Time

## Original Wasco County Courthouse

410 West 2nd Place  
PO Box 839  
The Dalles, Oregon  
97058  
541-296-8672

OriginalCourthouse@gmail.com  
www.OriginalWascoCountyCourthouse.org

Located in Trevitt's Addition Historic District  
south of The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce  
and Visitors Center

National Register of Historic Places

State of Oregon Historic Landmark

The Original Wasco County  
Courthouse Preservation  
Corporation is a 501(c)3 non-profit  
organization

MEMBER

Oregon Museum Association

The Dalles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

Partner organization  
Oregon Cultural Trust

Charm Trail Participant



Original Wasco County Courthouse

## THANK YOU DAVIEN



Davien Lunden has been our docent for the past two seasons.

She is moving on to a new life near her family in Portland and tells us that she will soon become a great grandmother – how exciting. We will really miss her but wish her the best in her new adventure.

In addition to greeting guests, promoting our facility, and taking care of the courthouse day to day operations, she has spent two summer seasons working on a very special project for the Original Courthouse.

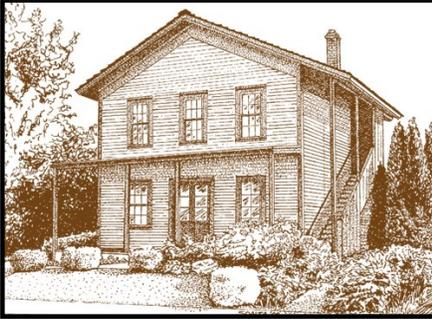
Forty plus years ago when our building was rescued from demolition a number of our advocates saved clippings and in some cases created scrapbooks outlining the politics and showing the progress of the courthouse restoration. We ended up with boxes of “stuff” that wasn’t readily accessible to our visitors, or useful as a record of our past.

We came up with the idea of a comprehensive scrapbook which shows a sequential record of the Courthouse. To this end, Davien scanned and dated literally hundreds of newspaper clippings and other ephemera items. She moved our project “one giant step forward.”

*Thank you Davien from all of us*

If you are interested in becoming a docent for the Original Wasco County Courthouse, please read the advertisement on page 5.

# ORIGINAL COURTHOUSE REGIONAL HISTORY FORUM SERIES FOR 2018



ORIGINAL WASCO COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE  
1859

Programs begin at 1:30 p.m. in the upstairs courtroom of the 1859 courthouse, 410 West 2nd Place, The Dalles behind the Chamber of Commerce / Visitors' Center

Programs are handicapped accessible on the first floor. The programs are free but donations are always appreciated.

**Saturday, February 3**

## **Airmail Beacons of the Columbia River Gorge**

*Local historian **Susan Buce** has a family connection to early aviation*

*in the Gorge.* In the days before radar, her grandfather Jack M. Buce Sr. was “mechanician” for the airway beacons that served as a “highway of light” guiding the pilots who flew the mail from coast to coast.

**Saturday, February 10**

## **Fourteen Miles on the Spokane, Portland and Seattle Railroad**

*Retired math teacher **Loren Delaney** was born in The Dalles and raised in Wishram.* He will present a tour of north shore railroad history between mile posts 94 and 108. Of special interest are photos of the “Norma,” the stern-wheeler that plied the river prior to the Wishram to Celilo bridge, key to James Hill’s victory in the race to construct the Oregon Trunk railroad.

**Saturday, February 17**

## **The Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Its Cemeteries**

*Sexton of the local Odd Fellows Cemeteries **Craig Hector** will share the unique history and values of the I.O.O.F.* Since the nineteenth century,

the lodge’s concern for common folks beyond their fraternal organization led them to sponsor cemeteries that were open to all.

**Saturday, February 24**

## **Obsolete U.S. Currency: From the Half Cent to the \$100,000 Bill**

*Gorge Country news director **Rodger Nichols** reveals what pioneers carried as pocket change.* He will tell the stories of odd and unusual currency, some from America’s earliest days and some used locally. He is willing to do a free evaluation of three coins or bills per person after this program.

**Coffee and cookies will be served.**

***Become a member of the Original Courthouse – help preserve local history!***

## NEWS FROM THE FRONT DESK

*Sandy Bisset*



Although it is still winter, we are looking forward to longer days and blue skies—and hopefully mild weather for our Regional History Forums in February. A lot has happened since we last spoke. Bob Haechrel has resigned from our Board of Directors and Sherry Mumford and Mary Stocks have joined us. Thank you Bob, and welcome aboard to Sherry and Mary.

Past board member Jacob “Jack” Kaser has passed away, as has Meredith Van Valkenburgh who was a passionate supporter of our courthouse through some of the past times of turmoil. We offer our condolences to their families.

Our jail cell has a whole new look thanks to the talent of Chris Bolton. We hope to do some additional upgrading of exhibits this coming season. Lately, Chris has been working on interpretive maps that are more self explanatory and user friendly.

A thank you to Ruth Beecher for donating the upstairs display case to the Original Courthouse. It is an old friend that had previously been on loan to us.

Louann Starr was the winner of last season’s raffle basket. We are doing something different this year. At the end of each History Forum we will do a drawing for one of our history CD’s. Each person attending will receive a ticket for the drawing.

The handicapped railing will be installed this spring, as will new plantings on the west side of the building. We plan to pressure wash the outside of the building and deal with the mossy lawn. Thanks to Sherry Mumford for taking on the end of the season mowing and weeding. Thanks to Jerry Davis for pruning the lilacs, and to Dave and Juanita Neitling for their help in outside maintenance. We are truly a “working board.”

This is also a good time to consider volunteering. We are again hosting the American Empress passengers, and on days we expect a large number of visitors, we need two docents on duty. This includes tour boat visitors, and other pre-arranged tours. Our Board members have been great about these added duties but would really appreciate more assistance. If you love history and interacting with people, and have the gift of gab, this is a good gig for you.

As we announced in the last newsletter we initiated an admission charge this past season; however, I would like to remind you that **there is no admission charge for members**. An Individual Membership admits the person named on the membership card, a Family Membership admits members of the household, Sustaining and Patron Memberships will also receive a number of one time free admission tickets for their guests.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Original Wasco County Courthouse I invite you to stop in, bring your friends and guests, attend our free Regional History Forums each Saturday in February, and consider becoming a courthouse volunteer.

*Visit our Courthouse  
and  
Step Back in Time*

Congratulations to  
**Louann Starr**  
who won our 2017  
Historical Gift Basket



### Have you renewed your membership?

Remember our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31 each year. Please renew your membership and continue being part of our historic preservation effort. Ask a friend to join and help us exceed last year’s membership numbers. The membership form is on page 8 of this newsletter.

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**  
**In memory of Jacob “Jack” Kaser**

Jim & Sandy Bisset  
David & Peggy Childs  
Dan & Jamie Crouse  
Jack Kaser Family  
Terry & Arlene Way  
Carolyn Wood  
Karl Vercouteren

**MEREDITH VAN VALKENBURGH**  
**1927-2016**



We missed giving a tip-of-the-hat to Meredith Van Valkenburgh when he died last August. “Van” was attorney for the Original Courthouse starting with the organizing of the preservation committee in the mid-1970s. He led the young organization through all the steps of registering as a corporation, securing 501(c)(3) non-profit status, and working out a 20-year lease for the Chamber of Commerce site. When that lease expired he helped the Original Courthouse secure the long-term lease from Wasco County for the present site.

Before his six-decade private practice of law, Van served as deputy District Attorney for Wasco County for his brother-in-law Don Heisler, who was then District Attorney. A major concern in the 1950s was shutting down the houses of prostitution that thrived in The Dalles during the dam building and highway construction days. The new deputy D.A. led the charge. In 1995 Van looked back on this era in a Regional History Forum presentation entitled Bawdy Houses of The Dalles. An audio recording of this program is in the collection of the Original Courthouse.

## American Empress

2018

First docking the evening of Monday March 19th with passengers touring The Dalles all day Tuesday March 20th

## Step Back in Time... ORIGINAL WASCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE



Visit the restored gold rush era courthouse and jail built in 1859

OPEN May through September  
Thursday - Friday - Saturday 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
And by appointment year-round

410 West 2nd Place - The Dalles, Oregon  
Located South of The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center in the Heart of the Trevitt Historic District

### Contact us

Original Wasco County Courthouse  
PO Box 859 - The Dalles, Oregon 97058  
541-296-4708  
OriginalCourthouse@gmail.com  
www.OriginalWascoCountyCourthouse.org  
We're on Facebook!



## WANTED



## HISTORY DOCENT

The Original Wasco County Courthouse is looking for an enthusiastic, energetic, self-directed person with a love of history to work 12 to 20 hours a week from April through September. The job includes interpreting local history plus some clerical, and light housekeeping duties. The ability to climb stairs is a necessity.

Please contact Sandy Bisset at [wildflowers@gorge.net](mailto:wildflowers@gorge.net) for pay scale and further details.

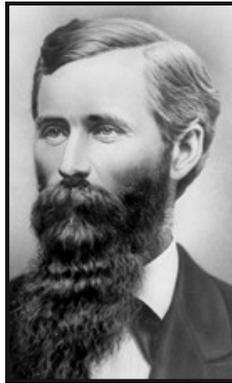
## RACK CARDS

If you have a business or an outlet where you can make our rack cards available to the public, let us know and we will provide you with cards and a holder.

## COURTHOUSE PUZZLER

In the last issue we asked you the identity of this man who had a role in the early years of Wasco County government **and the answer is ...**

**GEORGE LEMUEL WOODS** (1832-1890) who came to Oregon with his parents from Missouri in 1847 to settle in the Yamhill area. He married in 1852 and filed a land claim. He sold the land in 1856 and commenced to study law at McMinnville (now Linfield) College. He was a life-long lawyer, judge, and politician who was often followed by controversy.



Woods was appointed Wasco County Judge in 1863 and was appointed Governor of Idaho Territory the following year. Before he could serve in that position he was elected Oregon's third governor. In spite of Federal orders to the contrary Woods supported a policy to exterminate eastern Oregon's Snake River Indians. There was a failed attempt to recall him because of this stance; however, he was defeated in his attempt to run for a second term as Governor. After his term as governor he was appointed by President Ulysses S. Grant as Governor of Utah Territory. Conflict with Brigham Young resulted in his serving only one term. He then went to California and eventually back to Oregon where he died in 1890.



## ALL THINGS HISTORICAL

Please help sustain history in The Dalles by supporting the Original Wasco County Courthouse and our partner organizations.

### Original Wasco County Courthouse



Fort Dalles Museum  
and  
Anderson Homestead



Wasco County Historical Society  
Rorick/Moody House



St. Peter's Landmark



The Dalles Mural Society



District 21 School Museum



The Dalles Fire Museum



Columbia Gorge  
Discovery Center and Museum



Wasco County Pioneers



Civic Auditorium



## Step Back in Time



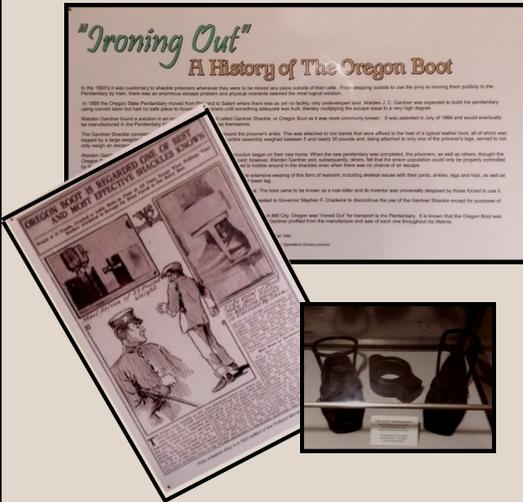
THE DALLES  
MAIN STREET

2018

Cruise Ship Schedule  
available at

<http://www.thedallesmainstreet.org>

# VISIT OUR NEWLY REDESIGNED JAIL CELL



Thank you Sherry Mumford for the vintage ticking covered mattress.



Chris Bolton



Thank you Chris for giving our jail cell a very professional look

## COURTHOUSE PUZZLER



This man has a historical link to the Original Wasco County Courthouse. Can you figure it out? There are clues in the upstairs Courtroom.

*Step Back in Time*

The **Original Wasco County Courthouse** is an Oregon Cultural Trust Partner. As a contributor to our organization you are eligible to participate in Oregon's Cultural Trust Tax Credit program. Donors who contribute to Oregon cultural nonprofits, including the **Original Wasco County Courthouse**, are eligible to make a matching donation to the Oregon Cultural Trust and receive a 100% tax credit for the Trust donation (up to \$500 for individual, \$1,000 for a couple filing jointly and \$2,500 for a Class-C Corporation).



*Thank you for your support*

## ADMISSION CHARGES

Adults	\$3.00
Age 12-18	\$2.00
Age 6-11	\$1.00
Under 6	FREE
Adult Groups	\$2.00 each
Student Groups	*

\*Suggested Donation arranged with Instructor in advance

**There is no admission charge for 2018 Original Wasco County Courthouse Members**

## MISSION STATEMENT

### ORIGINAL WASCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Mission of the Original Courthouse Preservation Corporation is to:

**PRESERVE** the Original Wasco County Courthouse;  
**COLLECT, EXHIBIT, and INTERPRET** items related to the governmental/legal history of Wasco County;

Provide a venue for **PRESENTATIONS** of local historical interest;

Preserve and make available relevant **EDUCATIONAL and RESEARCH MATERIALS.**

*Step Back in Time*

## Have you renewed your membership?



Remember our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31 each year. Please renew your membership and continue being part of our historic preservation effort. Ask a friend to join and help us exceed last year's membership numbers.

## Why we need your Email address

If we have your email address we will send you a full color copy of our latest newsletter. In addition with a few keystrokes you will be able to send it on to friends. Those of you without email, please don't worry. We will continue to send the same information to you by snail mail.

## Charm Trail

Don't forget we have charms for your Charm Trail bracelet. Get an authentic pewter Sheriff's Badge and Jail Key for \$1.50 each. Available in our Museum Store and at Klindt's Booksellers when we aren't open.



Available for sale at Original Wasco County Courthouse

## ORIGINAL COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION CORPORATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Original Courthouse Preservation Corporation is a Federally designated 501(C)3 non-profit organization. As such your donations and membership dues are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

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

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

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE : \_\_\_\_\_

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

### MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

*Please check appropriate box*

\$ 15.00 Individual

\$ 25.00 Family

\$ 40.00 Sustaining

\$100.00 Patron

\$\_\_\_\_\_ additional donation

\$\_\_\_\_\_ donation in memory of:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ donation in honor of:

Please mail this form and your check to  
Original Courthouse Preservation Corporation  
PO Box 839 - The Dalles, OR 97058

# 2018

*Oregon Cultural Trust Partner Organization*



**Original Wasco County Courthouse**  
**PO Box 839**  
**The Dalles, Oregon**  
**97058**

First  
 Class  
 Postage



# Celebrate Mid-Columbia Wildflowers



## AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES COMPLIANCE

As part of our commitment to ADA compliant accessibility a curb cut was created in line with our entry ramp to allow easier access to the entrance from the street. **Please do not park in front of it.**

We have created a way to get wheel chairs and scooters over the doorway threshold into the building. Ask us and we can quickly set it up.

We have a downstairs television link to enable viewing of upstairs programs without climbing the stairs.

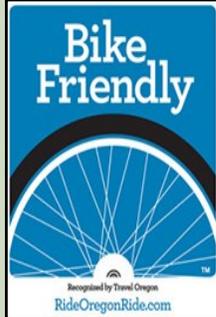
We will install a railing along the ramp into our building making wheelchair access safer and giving others something to hang onto.

Please note that as much as we would like it to be, our restroom is not wheelchair accessible; however, a grab bar has been installed.

## California Poppies



*Eschscholzia californica*, the state flower of California is native to the entire West Coast and is common in disturbed ground around The Dalles. It is often found with lupine, yarrow, and vetch, along the west end of Riverfront Trail and elsewhere in the area.



The Original Wasco County Courthouse has achieved a Bike Friendly designation through Travel Oregon. We have committed to provide drinking water, WiFi access, Phone charging capability, and a bike rack for our bicycling patrons. In return we receive recognition in Oregon bicycling brochures and websites. And additional visitors.