



Volume 26 Number 1

Winter 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Original Wasco County Courthouse Preservation Corporation to preserve the Original Wasco County Courthouse; to collect, exhibit and interpret items related to the governmental/legal history of Wasco County; to provide a venue for presentations of local historical interest; and preserve and make available educational & research materials.

A Word From Your President...

Happy Holidays everyone! I am sitting here at my computer wondering just how it managed to turn into winter? Maybe that mild fall just made me forget what was coming? Oh well, at least the days are starting to get longer! Things have been going well at the Courthouse. We just finished up the Wasco Cultural Trust grant which funded the creation of the carpenter shop exhibit in the Zimmerman Shop building out behind the Courthouse. The Shop is kind of a fascinating building. Original to the property, it once housed John Zimmerman's carpenter shop, a root cellar, an outhouse (later converted to a bathroom), and a wood shed. A real multi-purpose building! When we cleaned the place out decades ago, just after the Courthouse was moved to its current location, we found and preserved Zimmerman's work bench, as well as a few remaining tools. These original objects now make up the core of the new exhibit, along with reproduction and antique tools, put together to show what a working turn of the century carpenter shop would have looked like. All hand tools!

We have the programs lined up for the Vercouteren Regional History Forum, see the list elsewhere in this newsletter. This year we will also have a Bonus Program on the first Saturday of March. This will give us one more chance to get together one more time before spring comes, and an additional opportunity to learn more about our local history. We are also thinking about additional ways to engage our community and bring more visitors into the Original Courthouse, maybe something like live musical performances during the summer?

As always, the board continues its work to keep the place shipshape and viable.

That is about all for now, wishing everyone a great holiday season and winter! See you for the February Forums!

-Eric Gleason, President

Hey, Look! Here Comes That Short Month...

Well, sure enough, its that time of year again. We are busy gearing up for yet another of our outstanding February Forum headlong dives into local history. As always, remember if you missed earlier February forum talks and want to see them again or share with a friend, they are now available online. Just go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com), enter *Original Courthouse History Forums* and click on the video you want to watch.



The VERCOUTEREN REGIONAL HISTORY FORUM SERIES FOR 2026

FOR THE ORIGINAL WASCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Programs begin at 1:30 p.m. in the upstairs courtroom of the 1859 courthouse
(downstairs monitor available for those who don't climb stairs.)

410 West 2nd Place, The Dalles

behind the Chamber of Commerce / Visitors' Center

Saturday, February 7

The Herbring House-Victor Johnson

Facts, fiction, photos and the future! The restoration and adaptive reuse of the Historic Wall/Herbring House



Saturday, February 14

Revive The Ride:

Bringing the Jantzen Beach Carousel to The Dalles!

-David & Kristen Benko

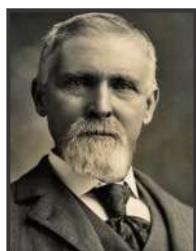
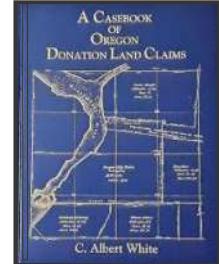


The National Neon Sign Museum, along with a dedicated group of volunteers, has embarked on a multi-year journey to bring the Jantzen Beach Carousel back to life and to give it a new home in The Dalles.

Saturday, February 21

Donation Land Claims of The Dalles-Dan Boldt

How our frontier town was put together, from Jefferson's rectangular survey system and the Willamette Meridian to the 1854 War Department directive limiting Fort Dalles to 640 acres, avoiding interference with private claims, this talk helps understand the jigsaw puzzle of The Dalles area Donation Land Claims.



Saturday, February 28

The Other Mayor Mays-Rodger Nichols

One hundred and twenty-eight years before Rich Mays was elected Mayor of The Dalles, Robert Mays had the honor. He also served as Wasco County Judge, and represented Wasco County in the first state legislative session in 1860. Though largely forgotten now, his is a fascinating story.

and this year February has 35 days... Saturday, March 7

The Boys of '61-Robert Pollock

This talk will focus on the history and legacy of the Grand Army of the Republic, or G.A.R. as it was often referred to. Mostly forgotten today, the G.A.R. was once a large and politically powerful nationwide organization made up of veterans of the Civil War. At its peak in 1890, the G.A.R. had a membership of over 400,000. In The Dalles, the J.W. Nesmith Post No. 32 was established in 1885.



Admission is free for all the February programs, donations gladly accepted!



Thought for today: Everybody needs at least one friend who shouldn't sit next to you at serious occasions.

Our Esteemed Board of Directors & hangers on various and sundry



Eric Gleason: President,
(Your name here?): Vice President,
Linda Wilson: Secretary,
Sheila Dooley: Treasurer
sitting Board members:
Sandy Bisset,
Sherry Mumford,
Roger Nichols
and
Carol Stace.
with

Trish Neal: Internet support,
Duane Powell: Technical support,
Chris Bolton: Graphic Arts & Docent,

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 & Anderson Homestead
Wasco County Historical Society
The Rorick/Moody House
The Wing Hong Hai Building
St. Peter's Landmark
The Neon Sign Museum
The Veterans' Museum in City Hall
The Granada Theater
The Dalles Mural Society
District 21 School Museum
The Dalles Fire Museum
Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum
Wasco County Pioneers
The Dalles Civic Auditorium*

HOURS AND ADMISSION FEES

Thursday, Friday and Saturday
MAY 1st through SEPTEMBER 26th

11:00am -3:00 pm

Extended hours for group visits
by previous appointment

Adults	\$5.00	each
Family Rate	\$10.00	
Youth 12-18	\$4.00	each
Children 6-11	\$2.00	each
Children under 6	FREE	
Adult Groups	\$4.00	each
Youth Groups 6-17	\$3.00	each

And as always, remember that if you are current on this year's Museum membership you always get in for free!

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's cultural non-profits, including the Original Wasco County Courthouse, are eligible to make matching donations to The Oregon Cultural Trust and receive 100% tax credit for the Trust Donation (up to \$500 for individual, \$1000 for a couple filing jointly and \$2,500 for a Class-C Corporation). Learn more at culturaltrust.org



Thank You For Your Support

We need your e-mail address! No, we promise not to sell it to anyone. But once we have it, we can send you the newest newsletter *in full, postage free, color...* and with a few easy keystrokes you will be able to send it on to friends. Those of you without e-mail, please don't worry. We will continue to send the same information to you by snail mail. Remember our membership year runs from January 1st through December 31st each year. You can print this page separately, in black and white, and get yourself this snazzy membership application to fill out and mail in... And there is a second membership form just right for passing along to that friend you want to become a member too! Asking a friend to join with you helps us exceed last year's membership numbers, and filling in your e-mail address on your membership form is the easiest way to place yourself on the list to receive the full color newsletter, thereby saving yourself from a drab life in black and white...

Please take a minute and renew your membership and continue being a vital part of our historic preservation effort.



ORIGINAL COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION CORPORATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Original Courthouse Preservation Corp. is a Federally designated 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

As such your donations & membership dues are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL Please check appropriate box

Please mail this form and your check to:
Original Courthouse Preservation Corp.
PO Box 839 The Dalles, OR 97058

\$20.00 Individual \$30.00 Family \$50.00 Sustaining \$100.00 Patron

Additional donation _____ Donation in memory of: _____ in honor of: _____



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