



the CABIN LOG

Baker Cabin Historical Society, "To create and perpetuate a property of interest and historical value, for community use"

December 2022

Oktoberfest - lights, brats, music...who could ask for anything more?

It was a misty day, but canopies and space heaters kept the rain and chill away.

Thanks to the generosity of our food sponsors — [The Carver Hangar](#), 3 Guys Grilling, and [From Us to You \(FUTY\)](#) — folks enjoyed a hearty Oktoberfest meal with bratwurst and hot dogs with all the trimmings, coleslaw, potato salad, and a delectable dessert.

In the shed, the 1856 mud wagon was draped with festive greenery. The setting was perfect for holiday photos, and many visitors took advantage of a chance to climb aboard and step back in time to see what the view is like from this piece of history. Our neighbor and friend, [Clear Creek Photography Studio's](#) Heidi Keller documented the event in photos for visitors and our scrapbooks.

The cabin was open for visitors to pose for pictures at the fireplace, learn more about the early days of Clackamas and Carver history, or enjoy their meals inside.



The [Fireside Social Orchestra Quartet](#) performed a program of Swiss and German music with instruments including alphorns, violin, tenor viola, cello, recorders, flute, serpent ophicleide, tenor horn, tuba, and voices.

Directed by Phil and Gayle Neuman of The Trail Band and The Oregon Renaissance Band, the Fireside Social Orchestra Quartet recreates the small orchestra featured in parlor and ballroom performances of yesteryear. The Alpine concert was performed by Laura Kuhlman, Gayle Neuman, Phil Neuman, and Elizabeth O'Connor.



2022 in Review

Letter from the President

Your Historic Society is on a roll! New volunteers brought new energy and results, creating a dozen events in the last year. Our 2023 goal is to offer a public event about every month across a wide range of interests. We aspire to continue sharing Baker Family and Oregon Trail history, but also to expand connections to the present day via concerts, lectures, tours, and neighborhood get togethers.

The opportunities for future plans will only stay dreams without volunteers. Your passion and hobbies can become a bigger part of the community and use the site so that Carver continues to be an interesting and connected place. Connections are what build a community, and shared interests make those connections. Quilts? Woodworking? History? Railroads? Music?

I have met many new friends through our events and find it fascinating the range of interest and passions out there. Let's all go further in sharing!

Significant Milestones

- Developed E-newsletter mailing list with over 300 community contacts.
- Applied for a grant toward the 1882 carriage wheel and body renovation.
- Partnered with Carver restaurants for events, advertising, historic research and successful fundraisers.
- Was gifted a new high performance digital piano for the Pioneer Church concerts.
- Logged more than 650 volunteer hours for maintenance and event production.

Financial Condition Report 2022

Despite the rash of rental cancellations during the pandemic, your Society managed to eke out a small net gain in funds on hand. Total liquid assets will end the year at about \$30,000. Annual operation costs run about \$18,500. Income this year was \$19,600, including several generous donations.

Chris Guntermann
President
Baker Cabin Historical Society

2022 events at BCHS

- Defensible space trimming and chipping - January 2022
- Baker Cabin to quarry wall trail cleanup - March 2022
- Trail hike March 12 - 26 visitors hiked the guided trail through the quarry grounds above BCHS
- Community sing along - March 12
- National Heritage Preservation Month - May 2022
- International student tour - May 10
- Summer prep May 14 - volunteers spread bark chips, planted summer flowers, and prepared the site for summer weddings and other events
- The Fireside Social Orchestra brought Trail Music Night to the Pioneer Church for Father's Day in June
- Campfire singalong and s'mores - July 23
- Cello recital and concert by Adam Eason, Liz Kohl, and several cello students at BCHS Pioneer Church - August 28
- Carver ghost dinner and Story hour, with bratwurst dinner served by Shelly's Echo Inn - October 8
- Oktoberfest and Open House - November 8 - with Alpine themed concert featuring Phil and Gayle Neuman with The Fireside Social Orchestra Quartet



Seems Like Yesterday

Eagle Scout Project in 2007 refurbished cabin windows to make them open and close again

Horace and Jane Baker built the log cabin in 1856. Over the years, it became weathered, fell into disuse, and began to show its age. Several Scout projects, over the



Historic Baker Cabin in the 1960s.

years, have provided timely improvements that helped to arrest the decay and bring the cabin to the form we see today.

Eagle Scout projects give young people an opportunity to

practice and grow their leadership skills as they perform a needed service and give back to their communities.

When Troop 611 Scout Corey Edberg was looking for an Eagle Scout project in 2007, he found the warped wood and jammed sashes of the cabin windows offered just the right kind of challenge.



The cabin, abandoned in the 1920s, had gone through an extended period of disuse before it was taken in hand and stabilized by the historic association. When several logs and the windows were replaced in the 1990s, the contractor never sealed the frames and sashes. Over time, the window frames swelled shut and the natural movement of the loose fitting cabin logs plus warped wood made the windows far too fragile to force open.

Corey worked with members of the association and his fellow scouts to remove the windows and refurbish, seal, and apply finish in a style appropriate for the period. Visitors today still enjoy the benefits of the painstaking work Corey and his Scout friends did 15 years ago. Corey received his Eagle Scout award, reaching the highest level of achievement in Scouting. He is just one of more than 23 scouts to have applied their skills to Eagle projects here.

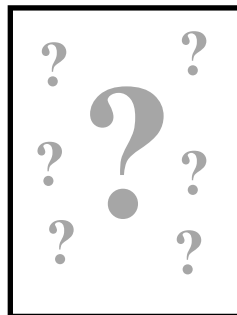


Corey Edberg and parents Sue and Craig Edberg at his Eagle Scout Ceremony in 2007.

Buried treasures discovered in storage

Yes, it happens sometimes. Treasures are discovered right under our noses. Before the Society built the archive room, many items were stored by officers and members for safekeeping. As these were returned in 2010, they were carefully stored but not identified other than by cryptic writing on the boxes. One scribble was "Carver Quilts." We opened it recently, and found more than we expected!

Enter quilt detective Evelyn Eason with her inquiring mind and a network of passionate quilters and historians. Three quilts were presented to an expert who, to our amazement, called out the pattern names, threads, era dyes, and fabric fibers - with period date ranges!



These quilts are going to an appraiser because of connections to the 1920s Carver area. And yes, one may have even come over the Oregon Trail in 1846.

Watch your newsletters for details on a planned **January 14** unveiling and telling of "The Rest of the Story." Even if you don't adore quilts, the history alone will intrigue everyone.

Also to be unveiled will be the ferry wagon, which should have a new set of wheels by then and be rolled out of storage for your viewing enjoyment. Sign ups for woodworking and restoration tidbits will be open then. Adopt a "thing-a-ma-jig" and take on that restorative task.

Where did all the Baker Quarry basalt go?

Horace Baker was very busy quarrying rock from this area. The quarry became a thriving business. At that time the area was known as “Baker’s Quarry” and held that name for many years.

In the area which is now the Carver Boat Ramp, the quarried rock was loaded onto rafts and during high water was floated six miles down the Clackamas River to Oregon City and distributed from there.

Rock from the quarry provided the materials to build the Willamette Falls Locks in Oregon City, the Tillamook Light House, Portland’s Pioneer Post Office, the Portland Hotel (since torn down), and numerous rock walls throughout the Oregon City area.

“ Basalt [buh-sawlt] - *noun*
Dark, dense igneous rock of a lava flow, often displaying a columnar structure. ”



Willamette Falls Locks



The historic Portland Hotel



Tillamook Lighthouse



Portland Pioneer Post Office

You can help today

Our supporters are people like you and your neighbors who are keeping history alive here. If you believe in our mission and can help, please consider making a donation this year or next. Your dollars are highly leveraged by our volunteers.



- Mail a check to the Society
- Click on the **DONATE NOW** button
- Put this URL in your browser to go to our donation page: <https://bakercabin.org/donate/>
- Use the QR code above to go to our donation page from your smart phone

Make a Donation

The Baker Cabin Society is a non-profit association that works off your donations. Click below to make a donation today. Or mail your check to:

Baker Cabin Historical Society
P.O. Box 741
Oregon City, OR 97045

DONATE NOW