



# the CABIN LOG

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

November 2021

## 175th Anniversary of the Barlow Trail Oct. 9 - 10, 2021

### Open House Welcomes Young and Old

More than 120 people flocked to Baker Cabin and the Pioneer church during the recent Anniversary Open House. The two day event welcomed new and repeat visitors to walk in the steps of pioneers, tour the cabin and church, and enjoy working demonstrations of important skills of the past.

Highlights included:

- Rock splitting and shaping with historic tools as done by Horace Baker
- Cedar roof shake splitting and shaping
- Cross-cut, two-man sawyers cutting logs and trimming timbers
- Cabin and church tours
- Informal talks on Oregon Trail area in the 1840s by author Kurt Nelson and BCHS president Chris Guntermann
- Hands-on access to the BCHS newsletter and media archives — 9 scrapbooks with 80 years of people and events



*Descendant reminisces — Jack Hattan, great great grand nephew of Jane Hattan Baker (center), was one of the visitors at the recent BCHS event. He shared some of his memories about seeing the cabin in earlier years when it was restored by the "Old Timers' Association."*

More anniversary highlights on page 4

— SAVE THE DATE —

### Neighborhood Sunday -- Nov. 14, 11 a.m.

Our next gathering gives you a chance get to know the site and your neighbors. Get a brief update from the Baker Cabin Historical Society, have a Christmas photo taken on the 1856 mud wagon, leaf through the newsletter archive, and most importantly, share your stories!

**Everyone welcome!**  
**11 am Pioneer Church**  
**BYOS\* (snacks)**



## Seems Like Yesterday

### **Eagle Scout Project in 1999 Rebuilt Historic Well Shed and Refurbished Pump**

Horace and Jane Baker built the log cabin in 1856, and dug a well to serve their needs. For years the well cover and the old hand pump had been neglected, vandalized, and were succumbing to the weather and age.

Matt Prosa, Scout with Troop 611 of Sunnyside Rd, set out to rebuild and refurbish the pump so it worked again. (Seen behind the audience in the photo below). That work was just one of many Eagle Scout projects that have contributed to keeping this historic site ready for visitors.

Did you know there have been 20+ BSA Eagle projects at the site to improve or repair the historic buildings and grounds at minimal cost to BCHS? Here are a few more upgrades that have been brought about as service or Eagle projects from BSA Scouts:

- Rustic gutters on the cabin and shed
- Grape arbor reconstruction
- Shed to cover the creamer
- Pioneer church access ramp
- Placing historic interpretive signs



*How did they do that? Felling and shaping timbers with a cross-cut 2-man saw was just one of many traditional skills demonstrated at the Anniversary Open house.*

### Recent happenings at BCHS

- Cleanup from 2021 winter ice storm
- Exterior paint job for the church, including replacement of stairs and porch repairs—Sept. 2021
- 37 wedding events at BCH in 2021
- Trail Band photo shoot—2019
- Promotion of “Trailgating” picnics on the grounds to support local restaurants during lockdown for the pandemic—2020-2021

***Damage from the 2021 ice storm was extensive at Baker Cabin. More than 70 cubic yards — measuring in the tons — of broken branches and debris were removed. Thanks to all who helped clean up!***



# News in General

## LOCAL BUSINESS HISTORY

The *Cabin Log* is committed to highlighting local businesses that have made history in the Carver area.

This issue features the Carver Café. In its original form, the Carver Café was a local eatery. Today the Carver Café, located on Highway 224, is open for breakfast and lunch. The film “Twilight” featured the Carver Café for a scene, as have other productions such as “Leverage.”



Still a Carver landmark and increasingly popular with old friends and new ones, come visit and enjoy the interesting historic photographs of the Carver area that embellish the walls.

## GET YOUR FAMILY CHRISTMAS PHOTO ON THE MUD WAGON—Nov. 14

*The well loved and very old (built in 1850) BCHS “Mud Wagon” was rolled out of the storage shed during the October Open House. Families enjoyed climbing on top for an iconic BCHS photo. Come to our November Neighborhood Sunday to get your Christmas photo taken on festive farm equipment!*



**Project List** – Have you some time and energy to make a difference at the cabin site? We need your handyman or clean-up help. There are too few of us to get it all done. New volunteers are needed to maintain your site as you want it.

Contact us for info on these or other projects you feel are needed.

- Quarterly publication of newsletter
- Special community events promotion
- Grant writing and submission
- Maintenance of the church flower bedding plants and keep beds weeded. We supply the plants!
- Maintenance of membership records and mailing lists
- Pruning tree branches so cabin and church can be seen and are protected from fire
- Cleaning up after storms
- Electrical work, several things need to be done to return the cabin to a more authentic state
- Cleaning and treating the Pioneer church roof: Does anyone out there have a hi-lift or “cherry-picker” to access the roof safely? Long ladders would help too

Thank you if you can help us out!

**Call Chris Guntermann  
503-631-2747**



*In front of the Baker Cabin, Glen Hess demonstrates the pioneer method for splitting cedar roof shakes. Two historians observe the trial and error technique. Afterwards, the shakes were smoothed and shaped using the BCHS shake shave horse and a draw knife.*

## More Open House Highlights



*Kurt Nelson, historian and author, talking about the settlement of the Oregon area. Kurt is inside the historical church and is an awesome speaker!*



*Chris Guntermann demonstrates Horace Baker-era techniques for rock splitting. He was learning how to read "the grain" of rocks, just like Horace. Our visitors help supply the muscle to break rocks in two.*

### Thanks to these folks for volunteering:

- Wes Wanvig- storm debris and piano tech
- Terry Emmert - storm debris removal
- Christine Guntermann Krueger
- Erik Eason
- John Eason
- Jenny Hess
- Mary Jo Hess
- Kelly Hayes

### Let us hear from you—SURVEY

What types of events are you interested in?

- Music concerts?
- Neighborhood Nights—informal gatherings?
- History talks?
- Picnics?
- Other ideas?

Send your feedback to us at [info@bakercabin.org](mailto:info@bakercabin.org).