



the CABIN LOG

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

MARCH 2024

Concerts at the Cabin ...

The Pioneer Church at the Baker Cabin historic site is serving as a small event venue with the addition of a concert series. Shows feature smaller ensembles suitable for the intimate, unamplified space inside the chapel.

The series kicked off in early December 2023 with "**An Old-Fashioned Christmas**" with the **Fireside Social Orchestra**. The program featured a memorable evening of Christmas music from the 1800s and early 1900s on period instruments and voices. Familiar Christmas carols were shared in their original forms. The Fireside Social Orchestra recreates the small orchestra featured in parlor and ballroom performance of long ago.

Harpist Laura Zaerr delighted the audience on Feb. 24 with an evening of harp music in a "**Celebration of Celtic Cultures.**" Laura's selections explored a wide range of musical traditions and eras. She demonstrated the distinctive sound of both the folk harp and a traditional metal-stringed celtic harp as she played traditional and original music.

Tickets to Pioneer Church concerts are \$20, available online in advance or for cash at the door.

COMING SOON....

Most Eloquent Music – A concert of Shakespearean Song performed on original instruments by the Oregon Renaissance Band. (Phil and Gayle Neuman and friends)
Friday, March 29, at 7 pm.

[BUY TICKETS \(Click button\)](#)

The **Fireside Social Orchestra** returns with "**Music of Old Oregon and Other Gems from the 1800s.**" **Sunday, April 14, at 2 pm.**

[BUY TICKETS \(Click button\)](#)

The **New History Minstrels** will celebrate the northwest through word and song—including 4-part barbershop harmony. There is no charge for attending this concert. **Saturday, April 20, at 6 Pm.**

A summer afternoon of light Classical, standards and pop covers performed on piano and oboe by the **Oregon Chamber Orchestra's Diva Duo** is **June 23, at 3 pm.** Ticket sales begin in May.



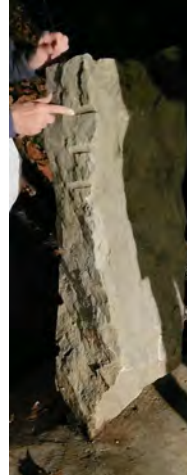
◀ *The Fireside Social Orchestra kicked off the winter holiday season in late 2023. They will return in April for "Music of Old Oregon."*

Harpist Laura Zaerr mixed anecdotes with traditional melodies and original works to showcase the versatility of the harp. ▶



Around the cabin...

▶ **On Nov. 8, a new basalt monument at the cabin site was officially dedicated. BCHS President Chris Guntermann unveiled the stone and pointed out the chisel marks that bear testimony to the quarry activity that formed it. The block was discovered in the Baker quarry remains near the Stone Cliff Inn and donated to the BCHS by Mike and Sherie Rosenbaum.**



▼ **Following the basalt monument dedication, a short presentation on wine tasting and Oregon wine growing regions was followed by a wine tasting experience. Patterned after no-host neighbor nights, the impromptu potluck collection let visitors see how their tastes compared to others'.**



▲ **On Dec. 2, visitors got a jump on their holiday mood with a seasonal photo-op. An antique sleigh was on-site and decorated to give Baker Cabin friends an ideal setting to break out the Christmas finery and get some holiday photos.**

Hands on History ...

On Jan. 27, visitors had a chance to get “up close and personal” with early Oregon history. We opened the BCHS archives and welcomed attendees to bring their treasures for a history show and tell. It was a fun and informal way to make connections to local history, and learn more about what’s in our attic and yours.

Thanks to all who attended!

▼ *An aerial reconnaissance camera of bygone days drew an appreciative crowd.*



▲ *Hattan and Baker family memorabilia filled a table, attracting many visitors for an opportunity to see family photos, a treasured family quilt, and memorabilia from past BCHS events.*

◀ *Wes Wanvig displayed a model of the Pioneer Church made from wood of the recently replaced upright piano.*

▼ *Informal conversations over shared interests made for a wonderful afternoon.*



Baker Cabin Lecture Series

Meet and Greet with Clackamas History authors

On Feb. 10, local authors convened at multiple locations in Clackamas County to give insights about newly published books about Carver, Happy Valley and Oregon City. The Pioneer Church was one of three sites to give attendees an opportunity to meet, greet, ask questions, and share their own anecdotes and family history. Thanks to the authors who shared their work, and to those who came to see them.

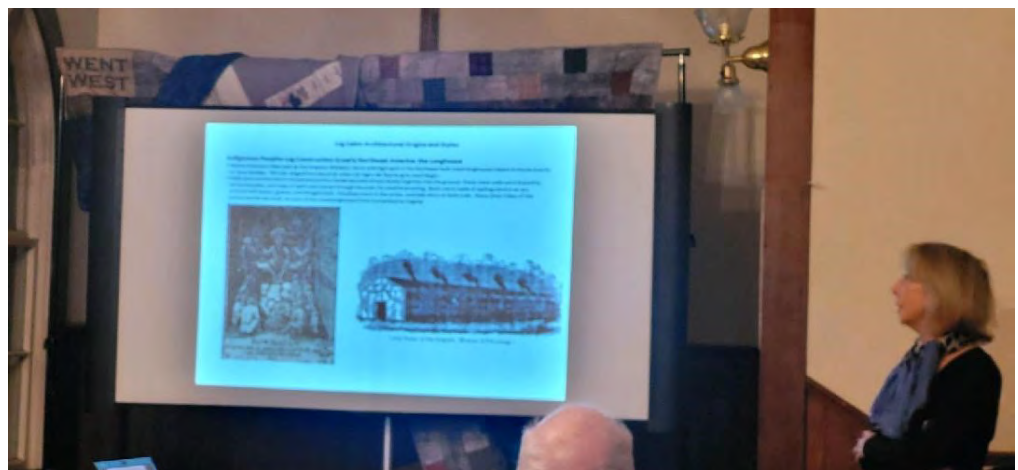


Mark Hurlburt of the Milwaukie History Museum was one of several local authors who spoke to history enthusiasts.

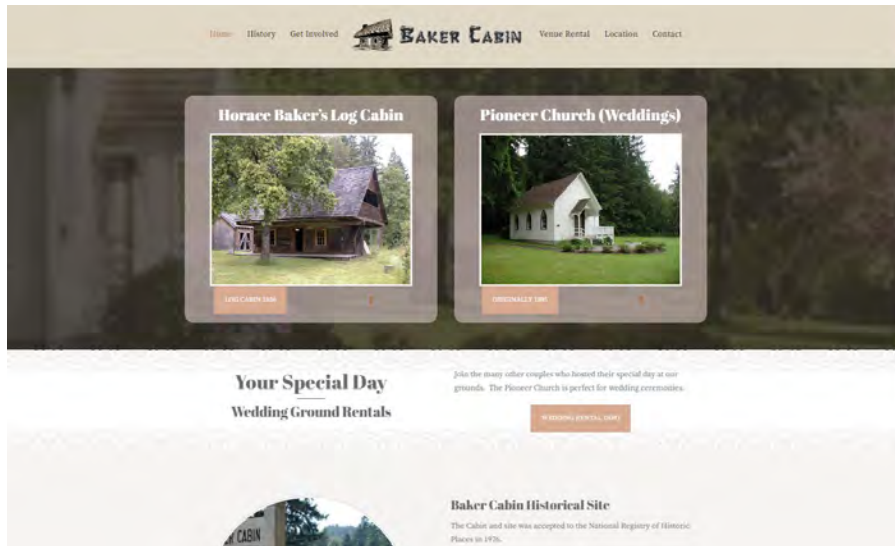


Cabin architecture and Oregon Trail quilts

The Oregon Trail represents a signature point in time in the history of the American West. A great talk by **Docents Rebecca and Hans Ettlin** on March 9 covered the unique architecture of the Baker Cabin. We also showcased a pair of **quilts by Claire Kellogg** that highlight the Oregon Trail and those who made the journey. Claire and other quilters from the Estacada Quilters Guild were on hand to answer questions about the quilts and the techniques used to make them.



Claire and Marsha of the Estacada Quilt Guild provided a wealth of information about the Oregon Trail as inspiration for a modern quilt, and background on the historic quilts in the BCHS collection. Docent Rebecca Ettlin shared fascinating facts about architectural uniqueness of the historic log cabin in Carver.



**Going...
Going...
... Not gone, but IMPROVED!!**

Our website, bakercabin.org, is overdue for a refresh. We are pleased to announce that a redesign of this important resource is underway.

Access to historic materials, a current calendar, and easy navigation to other resources for weddings and events will be improved.

We look forward to sharing it with you soon!

2008 Eagle Scout Project improved site contour to enable gathering, demonstration space



The Baker Cabin homesite was once a challenging place for groups to congregate comfortably. The ground at the homesite was noticeably sloped, as it occupies the lower shoulder of a rock quarry overhead. It often became wet or muddy from the hillside runoff from steeper elevations above.

Jake Gilbert, of BSA Troop 133, led an Eagle Scout project for site improvements to create a flat spot for hosting public events. The resulting work included moving large stones to create a stacked rock retaining wall, soliciting donations and managing volunteer labor



to add 30+ yards of fill top soil, gravel, grass seed, mulch and ground cover plants to make the site more attractive.

Jake's skills as a scout and involvement in the Future Farmers of America Program were instrumental in the leadership and speaking skills

he demonstrated to negotiate the donor process, motivate and manage volunteers, and keep site managers informed throughout the project.



Jake Gilbert earned his Eagle rank with the leadership skills he demonstrated through planning and creating the level area in front of the grape arbor at Baker Cabin, including the addition of the stone retaining wall, significant amounts of fill dirt, and other landscaping elements.

Mission Progress: Protecting and Preserving

The BCHS retains many artifacts, photos and documents pertinent to the history of many early Carver families, the site's buildings, and the Carver area. Recent accessions have increased the breadth of these collections. Our mission is to preserve, protect, and make these items available for public use and education.



finding and using the information for future newsletters and website blogs.

A professional archivist, Luke Sprunger, has been engaged to do the assessment and start the digitization and training of volunteers who can work from home using a portable scanner. A partnership with the Clackamas Historical Society will share our digital collection to be backed up within their extensive library and web based search system. Work is already underway.

The wildfires of 2020 were a wakeup call: A carload of mishmashed materials from the archive was loaded and evacuated then. With great luck, the site was spared and the historic objects have all been returned to their places. We gained a new understanding, though, of how much could easily be lost.

Going forward, we will be organizing volunteers to work through the boxes. Like a treasure hunt, you will enjoy the journey of discovery! Watch our newsletters for progress reports and opportunities to participate.

That realization was the spark that generated a successful grant application with the Clackamas County Cultural Coalition for \$3,500 toward a formal archiving and assessment project. The primary objective is to identify things stored that might be at risk of degradation or loss. Our archiving project will assess, identify and condense the most important boxes for emergency evacuation if that should again be necessary.



But that's not all. While moving things into archival quality folders and sleeves, we want to digitize (scan) the most important or fragile documents and photos. A searchable index will be made to aid in

You can help today

The Baker Cabin Society is a non-profit association that works off your donations. If you believe in our mission and can help, please consider making a donation this year or next.



- Mail a check to the Society at P.O. Box 741, Oregon City, OR 97045
- Put this URL in your web 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

— SAVE THE DATE —



Baker Cabin Historical Site Open Houses

Everyone welcome!

- Saturday, April 20, 11 am - 2 pm
- Saturday, May 11, 11 am - 2 pm

Our site will be open and docents will be on hand to answer questions as you walk through the buildings and get to know the site. Activities will vary on different dates. More dates to be announced. Stay tuned!