



the CABIN LOG

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

SEPTEMBER 2024

Music is in the air ...

The Pioneer Church at the Baker Cabin historic site offered several musical events throughout the summer, and our music series continues into the Fall. Audiences have come to enjoy the warm sound of music in our space as well as interacting with the performers and asking questions about their programs, instruments, and future plans.

In March, we welcomed Phil and Gayle Neuman back to the Pioneer Church with "**Most Eloquent Music—a Concert of Shakespearian Song**" featuring the [Oregon Renaissance Band](#). The program featured a memorable evening of early music on period instruments and voices. And in April, the Neumans brought [The Fireside Social Orchestra](#) to delight us with "**Music of Old Oregon and Other Gems from the 1800s.**"

The **New History Minstrels** celebrated the northwest through word and 4-part barbershop harmony in later April. In May, **local composer and music educator Adam Eason** brought his students for a cello concert and recital that included original works by Mr. Eason. The [Oregon Chamber Player's Diva Duo](#) performed light Classical, standards and pop covers in June. And, of course, the [Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Asso-](#)

COMING SOON....

Haldeman's OOM-PAH Boys Polka Band will headline our neighborhood Oktoberfest themed picnic with a lively **FREE concert** on **Saturday, Sept. 14, noon-1 pm.** (Site open 10 am-2 pm)



Phil and Gayle Neuman will bring the **Pioneer Trombone Quintet** to feature the sound of low brass through the ages. **Sunday, Oct. 20, at 2 pm.** **Ticket information available soon**

The **Fireside Social Orchestra** returns with "**An Early Celtic New Year.**" **Sunday, Dec. 29, at 2 pm.** **Ticket information available soon**

[ciation—District 7](#) brought a number of historically appropriate musical styles to the Summer Social in July (see next page).

Tickets to Pioneer Church concerts vary in price, and some are free. Join our mailing list to stay up to date about what's next.



◀ *The Fireside Social Orchestra brought the "Music of Old Oregon" to life with traditional songs, and their trademark panoply of instruments.*

▶ *The Diva Duo — Victoria Racz and Dagny Rask Regan — showcased the versatility of classical instruments.*



Summer Social brings Carver Community together

On July 28, visitors had a chance to walk through our buildings, share a picnic, and hear traditional period music of the pioneer era in our annual Summer Social. It was a fun and informal way to meet neighbors and make new friends, enjoy lovely summer weather, and share a meal as a community.

A vintage pumper fire truck gave folks of all ages a chance to try their hand at pushing and pulling to shoot water across the meadow to water the trees, in imitation of early firemen. Thanks to Les at the [Curtis Heritage Education Foundation](#) for loaning this crowd-pleasing equipment, and to Don Scott who helped move it to and from the site.



Early pioneer tools like a shave horse (middle left) and crosscut saw (middle right) entranced those who learned how early Americans built structures like the Baker Cabin. The afternoon was capped off with an opportunity to picnic with friends (below) while listening to the Oregon Old Timers Fiddlers Association play period music.

New accessions make their debut

Summer social visitors were the first to see the most recent donations to the Baker Cabin:

- An antique trunk, reported to be circa mid-1800s, was recently donated by Michael and Karen Mitchell of Oregon City.
- A spinning wheel coming from Virginia and dated to the time of the Civil War was given by Jane Cox Ratcliff.

These items add to the cabin’s décor and will be available to view at future Open House dates and special events at Baker Cabin. Thank you to these generous donors!



From dulcimers to fiddles to guitars to stand-up bass, the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers have an array of instruments to help bring the music of the Pioneer era to life.

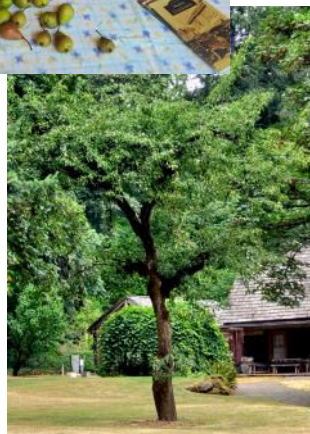




History of the Baker Cabin pear orchard

Not so long ago, there was an ‘orchard line’ of four pear trees stretching down the drive to the cabin. Three have succumbed over the years to ice storms, disease, and overcrowding. We have now one lone survivor. And this year it had a bumper crop of “Seckel Pears,” also known as ‘Sugar Pears.’ This is a small fruited variety found in Pennsylvania in the 1700s.

An orchard? Planted when, and by who?



Our best guess is they were planted in the late 1880s to 1890s by occupants who expected to be in place for the 7-10 years it takes these trees to mature. If so, that means this surviving tree is at least 130 years old, which makes it a true heritage tree!

One of the dead trees may provide the proof of age by counting the rings when it is removed. We will harvest what we can from this tree. Are you a hobby woodworker looking for a project with significance? Make something from this wood! Give us a call with your idea.

2019 Eagle Scout Project improves security and interpretive opportunities at the same time



The historic 1856 Log Cabin built by Horace and Jane Baker in Carver, Oregon, was updated in 2019 to remove unsightly, non-historic security shutters and replace them with informational displays update them with interesting historic facts and photographs from the BCHS archives.

Windows at the front of the cabin now include a short history of the log Cabin plus a story of the Oregon Trail. Additionally, photographs of the Cabin interior allow visitors to visualize the cabin’s living space when the building is closed.



Constructed as a Boy Scout Eagle-Scout Service Project by Jeremiah Wilson, assisted by volunteers from his Troop 212 and the community, the displays provide improved security, sorely needed ease of opening and closing, and most im-

portantly a compelling way to tell the cabin’s story and local key history even when staff are not on site.

Majority funding was provided by a grant from the Clackamas County Arts Alliance and made possible by the Oregon Cultural Trust. Additional support and labor was from the Scouting community and BCHS friends.

Jeremiah Wilson earned his Eagle rank with the leadership skills he demonstrated through planning and facilitating construction and placement of interpretive panels on redesigned swinging security barriers covering the windows at Baker Cabin.

TOP: The security barriers that formerly protected the window were sturdy, but not in character with the historic structure. They also had to be fully detached to open the windows to view.



BELOW: With the addition of interpretive material, Oregon Trail history is now available outside the building when it is closed (LEFT) and inside when it is staffed or open for events (RIGHT) simply by releasing security bolts and swinging the panel open.