

WAGON WHEEL

September/October 2015

Duvall Historical Society · PO Box 385, Duvall, WA 98019 · www.duvallhistoricalsociety.org

Upcoming Events

December 4th

Duvall Tree lighting Festival

Stop by the historic train depot to warm your hands by the fire, say hello to the Historical Society, and purchase this year's holiday ornament.

December 6th

Historical Society Holiday Party

Duvall Historical Society members and their guests are invited to the annual Historical Society holiday party. 5pm on Sunday the 6th. Contact webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.com for information about location and carpooling. Bring a dish to share.

***Please note that the previously listed November 2nd program has been cancelled. The presentation will instead take place at our annual meeting in January.**



We are grateful to 4culture, the King County Cultural Services Agency, for their support in the preservation of our heritage.

A Recap of the 2015 Duvall Heritage Festival

Roughly 450 visitors flocked to the Dougherty Farmstead for the 2015 Duvall Heritage Festival. Presented by the Duvall Historical Society and the Duvall Cultural Commission, the event took place on Saturday, September 26th, as musicians, community organizations, and artisans gathered with guests to revisit the past. They washed clothes the old fashioned way, sawed logs, spun wool, toured tractors, turned quilts, tasted honey, walked through the farmstead, listened to toe-tapping tunes, and more. We thank all who volunteered, attended, and worked hard to make the event happen. We look forward to another great event next year!



Historic Happenings in Duvall

Dougherty Farmstead School Tours

On October 8th, 2015, Duvall Historical Society members Kimberly Engelkes, Tom Norenberg, and Mary Lampson, led a group of about 70 Eagle Rock elementary school children and their chaperones on a tour of the Dougherty Farmstead. The tour was a part of their study of "Duvall, Then and Now". Guides and students all had a wonderful time.

To schedule a Farmstead tour for your school or group, contact us at webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.org.

A New Porch for the Dougherty House

Thank you to the city of Duvall for replacing the front porch of the Dougherty House. It was rotting and now looks wonderful and feels safe.

LDS Church Members Volunteer to Clean Up Duvall's Historic Sites

September 12th, 2015, was a day of service for the LDS Church, and both the Duvall and Big Rock Wards took the opportunity to help the city of Duvall clean up historic sites. 50 members from the LDS Big Rock Ward volunteered a total of 140 hours, and worked to clean, paint, mow, and remove vegetation at the Dougherty Farmstead. The Duvall Ward gave their time to tidy up the Depot Park and Depot building. They scraped and painted the Depot deck and skirting, as well as cleared vegetation from the park. What wonderful help from both Wards and so appreciated. Thank you.



Announcing this Year's Historical Society Holiday Ornament



This year's Duvall Historical Society holiday ornament will bear the image of the Thayer Barn and can be purchased at Duvall's tree lighting festival, at the Duvall Historical Society, and at participating community retailers. Past years' ornaments can also be purchased from the Historical Society. Contact us at webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.org for more information and begin to collect your ornaments today.

The Big Thayer Barn By Ruth Bellamy

The Thayer Family, which consisted of Frank, Lottie, Lela, Nellie, and Otis, made the long trip from Paxton, Nebraska, in 1902. They made their home on the Snoqualmie River north of Cherry Valley (near present day Duvall). Frank farmed, milked cows and raised grain and hay. The family carried

water from the river in buckets. For a while, the post office was moved from Lucius Day's home to their farm.

After a couple of years a different farm became available south of Cherry Valley (Duvall). The place consisted of a one room house, hog shed, small barn, and orchard. Frank Thayer engaged a pair of loggers to clear the upper part. Frank Thayer soon added two more rooms to the house as his



growing family was feeling cramped. Son Elmer was born in the three-room house. In 1908, Frank built a big new house just up the hill. Another son, Raymond, was born in this new house. The house was furnished with a load of furniture ordered from Montgomery Ward & Co. and delivered by horse and buggy from Monroe.

Once land was cleared the Thayers raised hay to feed their small herd of Jersey and Guernsey milk cows. Milk was separated, with some of the cream made into butter for the family. Milk that remained after being separated was either fed to the pigs or made into cottage cheese.

Lottie Thayer died during the Flu Epidemic in 1926. Frank Thayer received money from the railroad for a right-a-way through the property. After Lottie's death, Frank Thayer moved to Oregon.

The big Thayer barn was built in the 1930's. Otis Thayer and his first wife, Betty, farmed using the big Thayer barn west of highway 203 and the big house. They had two children, Hobert and Richard. Otis and Betty had 25 to 30 Jersey and CI Guernsey cows. Their milk was shipped to Seattle in ten-gallon cans and later in refrigerated tanks by truck. Otis' first wife, Betty, passed away about 1945.

Nellie Thayer's daughter and Otis' niece then served as a homemaker for Otis. During this time members of Methodist Youth Fellowship visited and held several meetings and party times in the big house. Otis married his second wife Emma, who helped on the farm and washed up the milk house utensils – her daily chore. George Taylor milked cows for Otis.

When the power went off several hours, come milking time, Otis would collect neighbor men to help hand-milk the cows. The cows couldn't wait. Usually there was a large generator providing cooling for the milk. Power outages could last for 12-18 hours.

Otis had a great garden and was heard to say, "I never had a weed in my garden!"

A second house was built in 1969 after the sale of the big house and five acres to another family. This house was built on the West side of Highway 203 beside the big Thayer Barn. Otis and Emma lived in this new house. Otis passed away in 1984, and Emma lived there until her death.

There was little farming of the land after 1968. It was rented to local farmers for a time. William and Helen Losleben were the family that had bought the big historic house and five acres on the East Side of highway 203, in June of 1969. They improved the house and small early barn on the property. They raised and fed calves for veal, with their family's help. They successfully held a bed and breakfast service for several years. Bill and Helen were on the property for 42 years.

In 2011 a new owner, Mike Chapman, bought the house and five acres. The big Thayer Barn has sat idle since 1969. Duvall Foundation for the Arts currently plans to develop a Community Arts Center there. The barn has been listed on the Endangered Historic Properties list.

Be Part of Historic Preservation, Volunteer!

The Duvall Historical Society is continuously looking for volunteers to help in its mission of recording and preserving culture. If you'd like to help with one of the opportunities below, or have an idea of your own, please contact us at webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.org.

- Dougherty House docent
- Website design
- Education and outreach
- Book publication
- Maintenance of buildings and gardens
- Cataloging of artifacts, books, and ephemera
- Promotion of Historical Society membership
- Planning of speakers and programs
- Research
- Heritage Festival Volunteer

Current Officers

Kimberly Engelkes, President
Mary Lampson, Vice President
Alana McCoy, Secretary
Connie Zimmerman, Treasurer

At-large Board Members

Ward Roney
Ruth Bellamy
Connie Zimmerman
Tom Norenberg

The **Duvall Historical Society** is located at the Dougherty House at 26526 NE Cherry Valley Road, Duvall, WA 98019
Contact us at webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.org

The *Wagon Wheel* is a monthly publication of the Duvall Historical Society

Editor: Beth Lepkowski

If you would like to receive a copy, be interviewed for a future edition, have something to share, or would like to be added to or removed from our emailing list, please email

wagonwheeldhs@gmail.com

Become a Member!

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Amount Enclosed/Yearly Membership Dues (check one):

\$15 Individual Memberships \$5 Students 18 & Under \$250 Friends of DHS

Would you like to receive information about volunteer opportunities? Yes No

Thank you for your support! Please detach and mail this form to PO Box 385, Duvall, WA 98019