



Gresham Historical *Quarterly* Summer 2021

Gresham's Oldest House ~ Built in 1868



Elkhorn Ranch ~ 1976



Lewis Shattuck
Gresham's First Mayor

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The Gresham Historical Society is a private, non-profit organization that manages the Gresham History Museum, special collections library, and archive, located in the historic Carnegie Library building in Historic Downtown Gresham.

Founded in 1976 and funded through donations from the community, the Gresham Historical Society has been operated exclusively by volunteers for the majority of its history.

In 2010 and again in 2016 and 2021, Multnomah County voters passed a property tax levy to support local history. Those levy funds pay for exhibitions and for us to have a full-time staff member which helps keep us free and open to the public.



410 N Main Avenue
Gresham, OR 97030-7212

503-661-0347

www.greshamhistorical.org

Volunteers

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Dorothy Douglas

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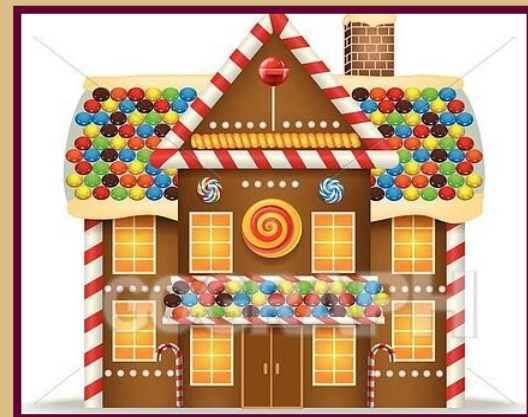
Alice Simonis

Nannette Taylor

Janet Westberg

MUSEUM TO REOPEN

in November and December 2021 as we present Christmas at the Museum.



We'll have a Gingerbread House Contest and Photos With Santa.

Volunteers Needed.

Letter from the Director

Greetings to our valued Members and Supporters!

Most of you know that we experienced an arson fire on July 2, 2021. Several pieces of clothing were burned, but the bulk of the damage was caused by the water from the fire sprinklers. The suspect was apprehended and he is in jail awaiting trial.

We appreciate the extra efforts our volunteers are making, including Silvie Andrews and our Collections Committee, who have worked extra hours to process the backlog of donated items. Our Museum was chosen by the Registrar's Committee-Western Region as their annual volunteer project. They have donated \$1,000 of conservation materials.

As citizens of Oregon's fourth largest city, we have a responsibility to maintain the most historically significant building in Gresham. The Carnegie Library Building was given to the community by steel magnate Andrew Carnegie in 1913.

After the library moved to a larger building in 1989, the Gresham Historical Society acquired the Carnegie building and we have preserved it well. Since our formation in 1976, we have been acquiring artifacts that represent the history of life in Gresham over the past 170 years or so.

Our 108-year-old building was never meant to house fragile collections that are sensitive to heat and humidity. We have a responsibility to provide a proper environment to store and exhibit these collections. Without proper air conditioning, we cannot receive accreditation as a museum. This makes us ineligible to borrow or exhibit collections from other museums.

We must find a way to fulfill the necessary responsibilities of housing our collections properly. While our collections are offsite for repairs, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make the upgrades to our building that will allow us to fulfill these obligations.

The newly renovated work areas are a big improvement, but the following items also need to be addressed to provide a suitable environment to house our collections: attic insulation and flooring, electrical upgrades, and the installation of an air conditioning system to control temperature and humidity.

You can help us to cover added expenses and insurance deductibles by sending your donations to the Museum or to GHS, PO Box 65 Gresham, OR 97030 as well as our GoFundMe and Facebook Charity Fundraisers. So far, we have received over \$9,500 of our \$30,000 goal. For more information about how the Cares Act helps the Museum, and reducing your taxable income for 2021, see page 10.

We look forward to seeing you in November and December for Christmas at the Museum. Looking for a place to hold your holiday party? The Museum is available for rent. As the holidays approach, it's not too early to think about giving the gift of membership.

Best regards, *Mark Moore*, Museum Director

President's Message

To our Members and Friends,

Good news, we are making great progress on the museum renovation after the arson fire.

With the help of Board member Lon Shiiki, who came out of retirement to take command of the project, we are moving along steadily.

So many companies and businesses are involved, City of Gresham, electricians, carpenters, carpet replacement, window washers, etc. Lon does a great job of managing and overseeing the entire process.

We also have shopped and purchased new carpeting, an air conditioning unit and other items destroyed by fire and water damage. We can't wait until we can reopen the Museum for everyone to see the improvements and changes.

The museum volunteers have been taking turns volunteering and manning the Gresham Historical Society booth at the Saturday Gresham Farmer's Market. What a great way to get out to see and chat with fellow members, recruit new members and buy fresh produce! A winning combination for all.

Mark your calendars for the reopening of the museum in late November and the Christmas celebrations with Santa Claus. We will be ready!

Looking forward to seeing everyone back at your Gresham History Museum,

Carol Nielsen, President

Become a Member

Becoming a member is easy!

Just fill out the Membership Enrollment Form, bring it by, mail it in to the museum, or join online at: greshamhistorical.org/jointhesociety/

Membership at the Gresham Historical Society supports the continued preservation and sharing of our local history.

For more information, contact us at 503-661-0347 or info@greshamhistorical.org

Membership includes

- Subscription to the *Gresham Historical Quarterly Newsletter*
- Membership Card
- Invitation to special members-only exhibition previews, events, and speaker series talks
- First notice on all public programming and events
- Free admission to all walking tours

Choose your membership level

Individual \$20

Membership benefits for one adult.

Family \$30

Membership benefits for two adults and all family members under 18.

Business \$100

Two membership cards to be used by any employee.

Business Plus \$200

Includes the benefits of Business level above, plus your business' logo to appear in the Gresham Historical Quarterly Newsletter.

Ask us for more information about Patron - Lifetime memberships.

Membership Enrollment Form

Member name *(Business name for Business Membership)*

Member 2 name *(if Family Membership)*

Street address

City, State, Zip

Home/Cell Phone

Work /Cell Phone

Email address

Membership Level

☐ Individual \$20

☐ Business \$100

☐ Family \$30

☐ Business+ \$200

\$_____ Membership amount

\$_____ Additional contribution

\$_____ Total amount

Payment information

Please enclose a check payable to the Gresham Historical Society, and mail it to the address below or bring it to the museum along with this form. To pay by credit or debit card, please call 503-661-0347 or visit : greshamhistorical.org/jointhesociety/

Gresham Historical Society
410 N Main Avenue
Gresham, OR 97030-7212

The Gresham Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) private, nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Please contact your accountant or tax adviser. The Gresham Historical Society's Federal Tax ID is 93-0735183.

Remembering the Roberts Family



Stephen Roberts

Stephen Roberts, after selling his farm and grist mill business in Illinois in 1851, had bought a herd of fifty heifers and began preparing to move them westward with the idea of selling them for a profit in the Oregon Country. With him was his wife Mary Tripp, whom he had married seven years earlier in Peoria, Illinois on December 4, 1844, and their four sons, Charles, John, Samuel, and William. Stephen's mother, Mary, also travelled along with the family.

At the time they started west, twenty-six-year-old Stephen was elected wagon master to guide the twenty-five wagons on the long journey across the plains to Oregon. In the fall of 1852, the Roberts reached The Dalles, where they engaged a flat boat for the rest of the journey down the Columbia River and sent the cattle over the mountains with two young herders. They never saw their cattle again.

The family arrived at their destination near the mouth of the Sandy River in what is now Troutdale on November 3rd. The loss of the herd made it difficult to get started again, but they began working for other families, and they walked to Portland over trails for supplies.

In the spring of 1853, Stephen and Mary Roberts took out a land claim of 320 acres as provided by the Donation Land Claim Act. The land claim included the land from present-day Stark Street to Glisan, near 202nd. Stephen sold some of his original land claim to Perry Peniston, who later sold it to A. Curtis Ruby.

In the 1920s, Ruby, president of the Oregon Livestock Company, raised thoroughbred horses—Percherons, Belgians, and Clydesdales—for shipment to the East and for display all over the world. On land now used for advanced automated wafer fab manufacturing, Ruby had a stock farm and golf course. The eighteen-hole golf course reached from Stark to Halsey streets. The club house was where Abby's Pizza is now. Ruby went broke in 1934 and the clubhouse burned. Ruby Junction on the light rail line was named for him.

With money from the sale of a portion of his land claim, Stephen Roberts bought land along Main Avenue and donated the street that is now Roberts Avenue. He was a road supervisor, school director, and a clerk for over 20 years. At one point, he held the office of Justice of the Peace for two terms. Stephen Roberts, who was born on January 13, 1824, died in Gresham on October 5, 1905. He was buried at Gresham Pioneer Cemetery.

Remembering the Elkhorn Ranch

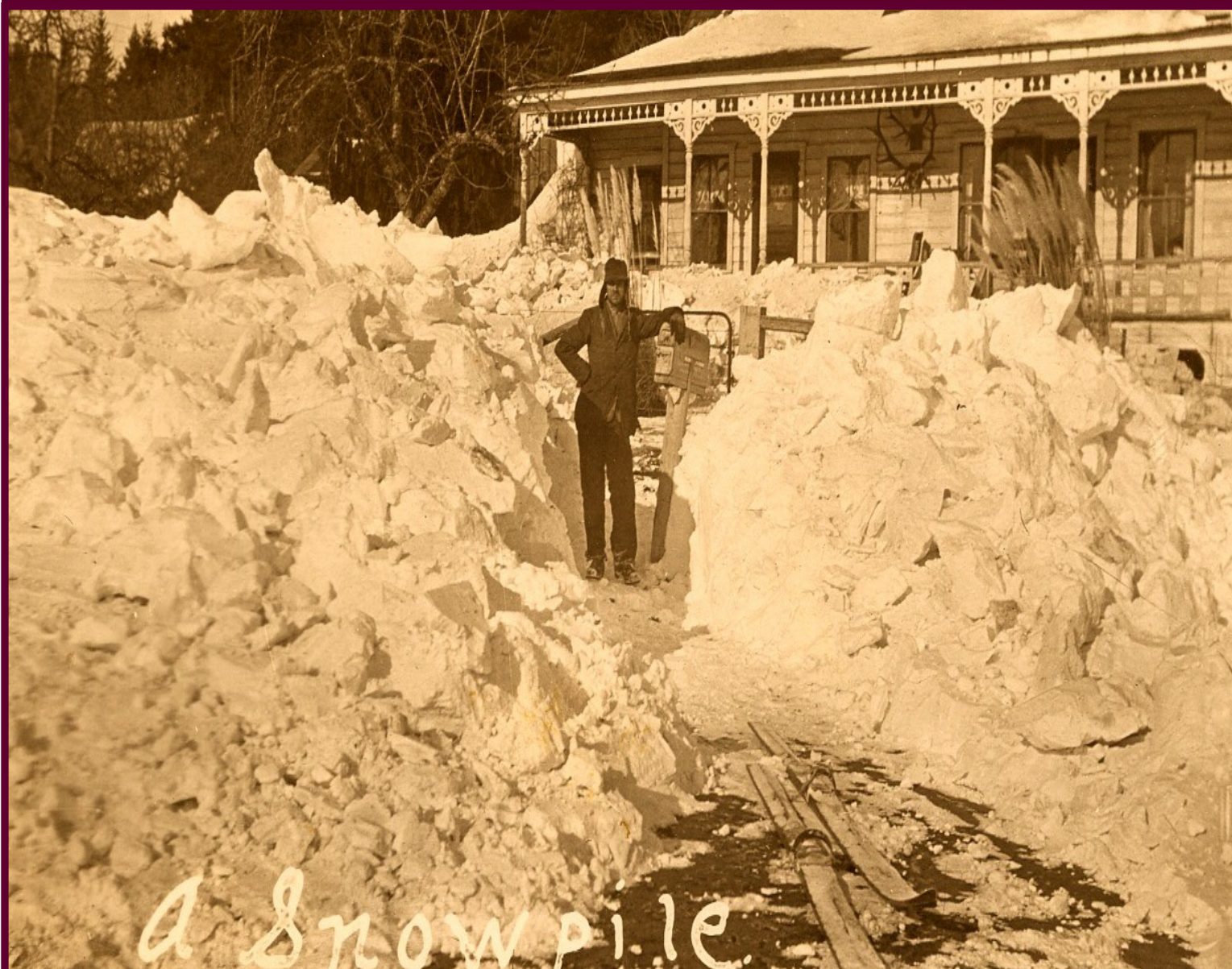


Pictured are Ruth and Effie Roberts and Viola Dinger, child in the front.

In 1868, when Stephen's son John was 21 years old, he bought, with his father's help, one hundred sixty acres of land from his uncle, Stephen Cook for \$500. This quarter section of land was bounded by Powell to the south, Division to the north, Birdsdales to the west, and Wallula to the east. The area was uncleared, and John built a cabin, living there by himself for two years.

Before this area was named Gresham in 1884, it was called "Campground" because it was a favorite camping stop on the way to Portland. Church groups held campground meetings south of Powell at Main City Park, and they were one of the most common places for people to meet. In fact, it is where John began a romance at age twenty-five with sixteen-year-old Ruth Wilson, marrying that same year in 1872. She moved into the cabin and John gradually enlarged the home to eleven rooms, calling it the "Elkhorn Ranch."

Remembering the Elkhorn Ranch (cont.)



John Hodge is pictured in front of the Elkhorn Ranch in 1916.

The Elkhorn Ranch at 1325 West Powell Boulevard is on the list of Gresham's historic houses, and it is the oldest house in Gresham. The house was built in a Queen-Anne style with fish-scale shingles, and wooden railings. As the years passed, three sets of elk antlers were hung to decorate the front of the house. John and Ruth lived there until they died, three years apart. Their daughter, Effie, inherited the house along with her husband, Frank Hodge. Effie's son, John Hodge, was raised there and eventually became the owner when Effie died in 1961.

Editor's Note: This story was originally written by Wink Chilton for the Gresham Historical Quarterly in October 2009. It was recently revised and updated by Eellitta Stone and Mark Moore.

GHS Volunteers Staff Booth At Farmers Market



Bonnie Jepsen, Lew Lehr, and April Lindstedt greet visitors at the Farmers Market.

Though the Museum has been closed since July 2, 2021, our volunteers have continued to cover shifts at the Farmers Market on Saturdays. We are not able meet and greet the public at the Museum, so we have been setting up a booth at the Farmers Market to continue our outreach.

Having a booth provides us with an opportunity to tell the story of the Gresham Historical Society and to share Gresham's history with attendees at the Farmers Market. We are also able to sell items from our Gift Shop and to collect donations from the general public for our Fire Restoration Fund. Gift Shop sales have increased which is helping us in our fundraising efforts. Thanks to our dependable volunteers for stepping up to help.

Putting a Face on Gresham's First Mayor



J.W. Shattuck family photograph showing (back row—left to right): Henry, Mattie, Lewis, Bates, Carl, and Dudley, and (front row—left to right): Allen, Mary “Toots,” John Wesley, John, and Molly. Lewis was the first mayor of Gresham. GHS photo no. 1871.

For years, some have wondered what Gresham's first mayor looked like. We know that Lewis Shattuck served as the first mayor, having been elected in 1904, and that council meetings were held at Regner's Hall. Lewis was the son of John Wesley Shattuck, a pioneer whose family was important to the development of Gresham. Lewis had been the Gresham Postmaster in 1894, but he would go on to own “the largest store building in eastern Multnomah County and Clackamas County,” which was located at Second and Main.

Shattuck served as mayor from 1904 until 1907, when Dr. Joseph Short became mayor. Lewis would go on to serve a second time from 1910 until 1914, overseeing the building of the first City Hall in 1912. He then moved to Portland to start a car dealership, leaving George Kenney to serve the final two months of his term.

How to Support the Museum

Gifts and contributions to the Gresham Historical Society support the documenting and sharing of our local history, and the continued preservation of our collections.

CARES Act Supports Non-Profits

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was signed into law on March 27, 2020, provides help to charities that have been affected by the pandemic as well as other individuals, organizations, and businesses.

GHS is an IRS-Qualified Charity

Individual income tax filers who make a charitable donation to the Gresham Historical Society, an IRS-qualified charity, can get a deduction of up to \$300 for donations made in cash, which includes currency, checks, credit or debit cards, and electronic funds transfer. Married filers are eligible to receive a deduction of up to \$600.

IRS Charitable Deductions

The charitable deduction comes on top of the standard deduction. This deduction is only available to filers who use the short form and there is no deduction for donated time or services as well as contributions of property such as clothing or household items.



Support Us with Your Purchases



www.greshamhistorical.org

Monetary Contribution Form

Name

Street address

City, State, Zip

Home/Cell Phone

Work /Cell Phone

Email address

If memorial gift, name of honored person(s)

Payment Information

☐ Check payable to Gresham Historical

Would you like to enroll in Planned Giving?

☐ Yes, please charge my credit/debit card for a recurring donation of \$_____.

Frequency of Planned Giving (Check only one):

☐ Monthly

☐ Quarterly

☐ Bi-monthly

☐ Annually

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☐ American Express

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Card number

Exp. Date

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Signature

Thank you, Donors!

We would like to give a special thank you to those who donated to the Gresham Historical Society. Your financial support helps us fulfill our mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing our local history. Because the Gresham Historical Society does not receive federal or state aid, we could not do our work without the support of donors like you. Thank you for helping make history happen, and keeping our museum—your museum—free and open to the public. Let's add your name to the list!!

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Benefactor	\$5000-9999
1913 Carnegie Fellow*	\$10,000+

*Lifetime

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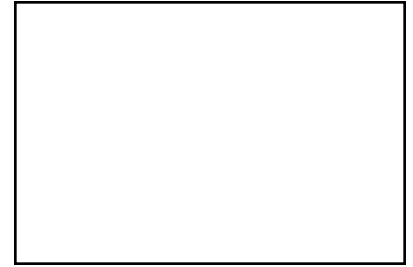
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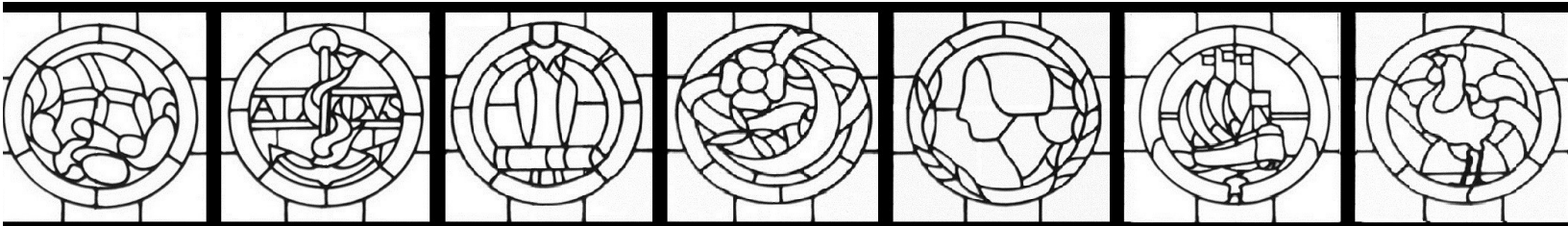


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E-mail: info@greshamhistorical.org



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