

The *Friend-ly* Gazette

August 2018

Editor: Lisa Casten

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Abigail's Garden

By Jim & Carol Hilsenkopf, FHFG Members

Abigail is often mentioned in writings as A. T. Smith's "wife" or his "wife, Abigail." It is rare to hear of her "in her own right." Although little is known about Abigail, there is no doubt she was a strong, courageous woman with the perseverance and tenacity to direct herself through life's journey and hold steadfast in her faith.

Abigail was born in 1793 in Sherburne, New York. It would seem she was destined to be a pioneer her entire life. Her parents Abraham Raymond and Elizabeth "Betsey" Gray Raymond were part of the original 11 families who settled in Sherburne in 1792. Betsey was the first white woman to live in the area and Abigail was the first white female baby born there a year later. Abraham and Betsey had 13 children; six girls and five boys and two others who died in childhood. Abigail was the fourth child. The parents both died in the land they helped settle.

Abigail was just under the age of 47 when she married Alvin T. Smith in Adams Illinois in 1840. She was nine years and six months older than Alvin. Her mother died a few months before Abigail's marriage and her father had died several years before that.

There is so much left to know about Abigail, from her journey crossing the Oregon Trail to settle in Tualatin Plains to her dedication to hard work and caring for so many. She acted as a midwife, took care of many children who suffered the loss of parents, and watched over others while their pioneer families set up homesteads of their own. She wrote of "often having 9 - 10 people eating at her table every evening." It would be fascinating if we could sit down and have a chat with Abigail. Oh, the remarkable stories she could tell us. There is definitely much, much more to her life.

FHFG believes Abigail Raymond Smith would be honored to know that a lovely flower garden shares her name. What started out as Joyce Sauber's vision for the front property of the A. T. Smith house has become a gardener's delight.

Joyce set plans into motion, and less than three months later her garden was finalized. It came with many hours of garden design from landscape designer Marci Degman, Jim Hilsenkopf, who has a love of gardening and a strong desire to see Joyce's vision become reality, and the ever-optimistic visionary Joyce.

Working from Marci's landscape plan, Joyce and Jim shopped for plants and materials to transform the blank canvas into a garden. (Continued on page 3...)



Photos courtesy of Terri Erskine



Letter from the President

By Mary Jo Morelli, President

Part 1:

"FHFG - Preserving the past, affecting the future!" (Terri Erskine)

It is such a perfect theme for our organization, and perfect in this time of transition. The first transition came several weeks after our annual meeting when Terri felt she was not quite ready to lead an all-volunteer organization that has so many facets and challenges.

The FHFG bylaws state the officers of FHFG act as an Executive Committee and make recommendations to the full board for action. The bylaws also state the Vice President acts in the absence of the President. This "executive team" as I think of them met to discuss options. The decision was to request Terri to stay on the board of FHFG as Vice President where she can continue her valuable work as volunteer coordinator and learn more about the many "facets and challenges" faced by a grass roots organization such as FHFG. Terri accepted this proposal.

The executive team presented this to the board at its meeting July 16. I had to dig deep to evaluate my role in FHFG and agreed to accept nomination as President. The board unanimously passed the changes which brought me back to a position that I thought had transitioned to others. Apparently, there was more work to be done as the designated Historian of FHFG. The most important element here is how to best move the organization forward.

FHFG has LOTS of hard work to do! We have a dedicated board and supportive membership. Let's move forward to fulfill our mission. Terri stated it so well: *Preserving the past, affecting the future.* FHFG is a strong organization. Let's move on with wisdom and compassion to fulfill the mission of FHFG.

Part 2:

The Wagon Wheel of Fate by Terri Erskine

As vice president of FHFG last year, I was happy to be in a supporting role and to also work on independent projects for FHFG. When the next election rolled around I had no particular plans of becoming president. As the annual meeting drew near and FHFG still had no candidate for the office, some of the board members asked me to consider it.

I'd like to thank them and you for electing me in May; I think highly of FHFG and it was a real thrill giving my acceptance speech! Then June came...

Being president is a freight wagon-load of work! Still a greenhorn, it didn't take long for me to see that I didn't have enough local history knowledge or experience to lead FHFG at this time. Fording a stream that was too big for me called for a different plan.

Now, they say that you shouldn't change horses in the middle of the stream, but since these are early days in the board year and we've just left the stream bank, it is a good time to give Mary Jo our support. She has been president before, is our organization's historian, and is well-connected with other groups in our community.

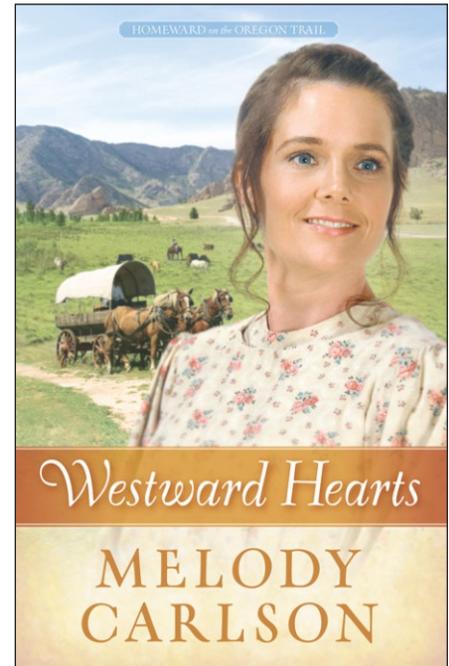
And thanks to the board of directors, I will still be there as vice president to round up any stray cargo that might try to float away during our crossing!

I thank you for accepting this change and ask you to get just a little more involved with FHFG - its mission is true and there is always lots to do (trust me on this one!)

Best regards,
Terri Erskine



Recommended Reading



Editor's Rating: ★★★★★

Bestselling author Melody Carlson begins an inspiring new series of adventure and romance on the Oregon Trail.

Kentucky, 1854—Elizabeth Martin has mourned her husband's death for three years, but now she feels ready to fulfill the dream they had shared—to take their two children west. The dream becomes reality when her middle-aged parents and bachelor brother surprise her with the news that they want to go as well.

After converting three of their best wagons to prairie schooners and thoroughly outfitting them, the little party travels from Kentucky to Kansas City, where they join a substantial wagon train. Elizabeth soon finds herself being drawn to the group's handsome guide, Eli Kincade.

The long journey and deepening relationships challenge the travelers to their core, and Eli's mysterious past leaves Elizabeth with more questions than answers. She knows there's no turning back, but she wonders, What have I gotten myself into?

Abigail's Garden

(...Continued from page 1)

This was the first opportunity for most of the businesses, which were contacted, to hear about the A. T. Smith House. This encouraged many to provide donations or discounts totaling over \$1,800.

Daily transformation made each step of the project become more inviting; from removing the tree stumps (thank you David Morelli), setting up the design, creating the pathways, and finally installation of the split-rail fence. Each completed task became the most favored part of the garden. First, it was the appearance of the concrete benches, then the installation of the wooden arch (which will eventually be covered with roses), and finally the abundance of plantings including native and vintage choices along with rhododendrons and dogwood trees. The garden developed a charm of its own.

With the garden nearing completion, Terri and Ken Erskine tackled putting in a new lawn. Its green lushness enhances the appeal of the garden, and together creates a beautiful setting for visitors at the A. T. Smith property.

There were several helping hands for various phases of the garden and lawn project. THANK YOU to all the

Photos courtesy of Terri Erskine.



Joyce Sauber saying a few words.

wonderful volunteers, and especially to Marcus Hazelett for his daily watering of the garden and lawn, and to Skip Buhler for obtaining a grant which will allow for garden tools to be purchased for future care of the garden.



Folks enjoying their walk through Abigail's garden.

FHFG Yard Sale

By Amy Weston, Treasurer

When I knew we weren't going to have a garden tour this year I thought FHFG needed something to replace it, so I thought up the idea of hosting a yard sale. That said, I have NEVER put on a yard sale, so once again I went into this having NO idea if it would be great or not so great. What I didn't know was I had some WONDERFUL people step up to be on the committee who had endless clever ideas and thoughts about how to do it.

Items started pouring into the Old Train Station just days after the committee sent out the request. Don and Cheryl were saints about tolerating the takeover of the OTS which filled up quickly! Don was a genius about hiding and storing things EVERYWHERE!! Other committee members brought their expertise regarding pricing items, and the committee started getting together weekly, sometimes twice a week to get everything priced. When we weren't sure what to charge for an item, we would look it up, and did our best to be accurate and fair in the pricing. We all also bought items as we went so the yard sale started making money even before the event.

As the day approached rain was in the forecast so we moved the whole sale inside. WOW, this was a huge undertaking, but it all came together beautifully after two days of setting up. Everything looked great, and everyone did a wonderful job of displaying the items.

The sale lasted two days and was an awesome success. FHFG raised approximately \$4,700, and although everyone was exhausted, we really had a good time doing it.

Thanks to everyone who donated items, thanks to ALL of the volunteers who worked the event, thanks to all the people who came and bought stuff, and a HUGE thank you to my Yard Sale Crew! You all were amazing, and I am looking forward to doing this again.

Historic Preservation Grant Program Recap

By Holly Tsur, Historic Landmarks Board Chair

Over the past 21 years, the Historic Landmarks Board (HLB) has awarded a total of \$157,239 in Historic Preservation Grant funding to historic property owners. The funds are derived from Community Enhancement Program (CEP) grants allotted yearly by the CEP Grant Committee made up of Forest Grove City Council members and a Metro representative. To date, projects funded have amounted to a total of \$793,166 providing the City of Forest Grove with an average return on investment of 550 percent since the inception of the program in 1997.

The HLB's Renovation Grant Program makes funds available to property owners of registered historic buildings who wish to make exterior rehabilitation or renovation improvements. Structural improvements may also qualify. Historic Contributing and Historic Non-Contributing structures in the Clark, Painter's Woods, and Walker-Naylor National Historic Districts are also eligible. The conditions of the program require that all improvements and projects be in keeping with the architectural integrity of the structure. Design assistance is also available free of charge from the HLB. Qualified Historic Preservation Grant applicants are eligible for maximum of \$1,000 or 50 percent of the cost of the project, whichever is less.

For the FY2017-18 grant cycle, the HLB awarded nine Historic Preservation Grants amounting to all but \$450 of the \$7,675 in CEP funding awarded for the program. Projects included three painting projects, one chimney repair project, one soffit repair project, one structural repair project, one re-roof project, one porch repair project, and one seismic upgrade project. This large number of grants is more than in any other year since the program's inception in 1997. Funds were also depleted more quickly than in most years. This occurred without any of the HLB's

usual promotional efforts, such as mailers and eBlasts. We believe this increased interest in the Historic Preservation Grant program is due to several factors including the following. We expect demand for the grants to continue to increase in FY2018-19 as a result of these ongoing factors:

Increased grant maximums for roofing and painting projects in 2017 from \$500 to \$1,000

Improved economic conditions providing applicants greater spending confidence

Our new streamlined Historic Preservation Grant Application form and sample filled-in form make it easier for applicants to apply

HLB participation in Fire Department Open House events inform the public about earthquake risk and availability of Historic Preservation Grants to help fund Seismic Upgrade projects

Growing citizen awareness of the new Historic Design Guidelines adopted by the City of Forest Grove in 2016

Growing citizen awareness of the Historic Preservation Grant program
As of July 1, 2018, the HLB will have an additional \$7,975 available in CEP Grant funding for FY2018-19.

Especially those seeking a full \$1,000 Historic Preservation Grant because their project amounts to \$2,000 or more would be wise to begin preparing their Historic Preservation Grant Applications and collecting two estimates from licensed and bonded Oregon contractors now. They should submit their paperwork to City Planner, James Reitz, at least one week prior to the HLB's monthly meetings to get on the HLB's docket for consideration. We meet fourth Tuesday of every month.

If you have a planned upgrade, improvement, or repair, please check out information about the Preservation Grant Program at

<https://www.forestgrove-or.gov/bc-hlb/page/historic-preservationgrants> or call City Planner, James Reitz, at 503-992-3233 for more information.

See below and on the next page for a look at the nine historic homes whose projects were funded by Historic Preservation Grants in FY2017-18.



**Chandler House – 1839 Ash Street
Re-Roof**



**Agnes Moore House – 2103 15th Avenue
Porch Repair**

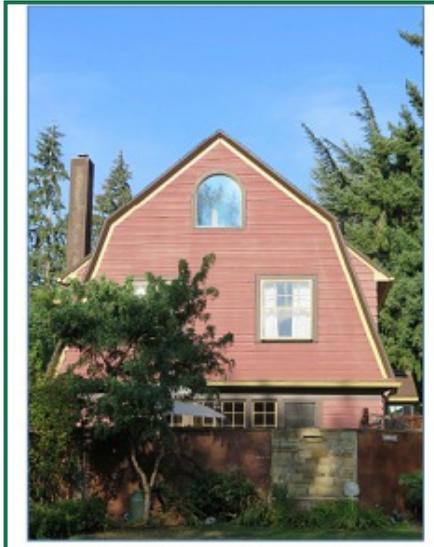
(Continued on page 5...)

Grant Program Recap

(...Continued from page 4)



**Morrison House – 1827 Douglas Street
Painting**



**Samuel Todd House - 1638 Main Street
Seismic Upgrade**



**Renzema House – 1903 22nd Avenue
Chimney Repair**



**Schulz House – 2204 15th Avenue
Painting**



**Monroy House – 2213 15th Avenue
Painting**



**Burlingham House - 1306 Birch Street
Structural Repair**



**Rasmussen House – 1653 Burch Street
Soffit Repair**

Picnic at the A. T. Smith Property

By Terri Erskine, Vice President

Sunday, July 22nd, was one of three special days for the FHFG membership. Along with the FHFG Meeting of the Membership and the FHFG Holiday Social, the FHFG Annual Picnic is a good time to socialize, meet new Friends, and just kick back in general. This time, 50 Friends and guests also helped celebrate the dedication of Abigail's Garden, the new front lawn, and the "curb appeal" they both lend to the A.T. Smith House (see the article in this issue about Abigail's Garden.)

Potluck dishes of all kinds and lots of fried chicken were in good supply as diners enjoyed picnic foods in the shade of the Smith property's tall trees. And funny, funky, and fabulous door prizes got a lot of comments as part of the entertainment.

If you are a member of FHFG, please come to the next of these events FHFG puts on just for you! The organization works hard to make it fun and interesting, so you come away feeling more a part of Forest Grove and its distinctive history. You don't have to be a Native American, native Oregonian, or a native Grover to enjoy, appreciate, or protect the heritage centering around this area; any local history buff can tell you

Forest Grove and the surrounding vicinity are rich in every way when it comes to unique cultures, traditions, and background. Celebrate your home place by learning more about it!

As a member of FHFG, you are already interested in local history. Let FHFG expand your knowledge and interest by coming to and joining in when FHFG holds a members-only event. We guarantee you will know more about Friends of Historic Forest Grove and our local region than you would any other way.

The next such event is the FHFG Holiday Social to be held in the early part of December. Plan on it now so you have a good chance of attending. Then you, too, will be a funky and fabulous Friend of Historic Forest Grove!



Tabitha Brown portrayed by Ruth Holznagel.
Courtesy of Mary Jo Morelli.



Yummy! We have a lot of good cooks in FHFG! Courtesy of Terri Erskine.

Waffle Iron Hash Browns

By Ree Drummond from the
Come and Get It Cookbook

1, 30-oz bag frozen shredded hash browns, thawed
4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) butter, melted
1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp freshly ground black pepper
3/4 cup grated Cheddar cheese
3/4 cup chopped ham

- Preheat a waffle iron on the regular setting and spray both sides with cooking spray.
- Squeeze out any excess moisture from the hash browns and put in a bowl.
- Pour the melted butter over the hash browns, sprinkle with the salt and pepper and stir.
- Scoop a heaping 1/2 cup of the seasoned hash browns into each waffle section, then top with a generous 2 tbsps Cheddar cheese followed by a sprinkling of chopped ham.
- Top the cheese and ham in each section with another 1/4 cup hash browns.
- Close the waffle iron and cook for 15 minutes on the regular setting.
- Repeat with the remaining hash browns, cheese and ham.



Memory Lane

By Mary Jo Morelli, President

I was recently sorting and re-organizing old files. One group of files was left in my care by Janet Lamb. Janet was a woman of many abilities, receiving her master's degree in Architectural History from the University of Oregon in 1998. She had great passion and dedication.

When the opportunity came to purchase the Alvin T. Smith House from the Zurcher Estate, Janet was one of the prominent proponents that this was more than just an opportunity. Janet understood the importance of the A. T. Smith House as few others did. Lucky for Forest Grove and FHFG that Rick Read was also an educated historian. Other passionate "Friends" also stepped forward and asked the FHFG board of directors to form the Committee to Preserve the A. T. Smith Property. The committee was approved and formed in 2002.

With help from the State Historic Preservation Office in Salem, FHFG was able to do a purchase agreement to buy the property. The CPATSP found a private party in the Forest Grove community willing to lend FHFG \$150,000 for the purchase of the house and the 2.2 acres of the original 640 acres land claim of Alvin and Abigail Smith.

With assistance of many people the house was eventually purchased for \$75,000 and the lender paid back. The money from the lender helped to leverage grants that totaled \$165,000. What a strange and challenging time it was!

We photographed the History Buffs

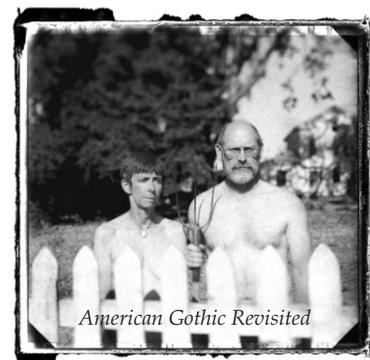


(Left to right)
Mary Jo Morelli,
Rick Read, Rich Taylor,
Marie Mather, Ginny
and Tom Carlson.
Courtesy of
Janet Lamb.

Calendar in the summer of 2003. The idea came from Helvi (Barb) Smith. The design and production were coordinated by Cheryl Hunter, who works for Nike. Cheryl found the photographer and designed the calendar format/content. Some people never quite approved of the calendar, but we made money and brought the Smith House into the focus of many people.

One of those people was Randy Gragg who was a writer for the Oregonian at the time. He came out to Forest Grove and did his public relations to promote our plan. What an exciting time; FHFG spread its mission to "Save the A T Smith House" far and wide! The 2004 History Buffs Calendar was a big success. FHFG may not have reached its sales goal, but it did raise over \$6,000 and had a lot of fun.

Yes, there are still copies of the 2004 History Buffs Calendar at the Old Train Station. The calendar came in three versions and we had a great time doing it. The down-side was 2004 was a leap year. We didn't realize in our enthusiasm it would be more than several years for the calendar to be re-marketed. Ah, those were the days...

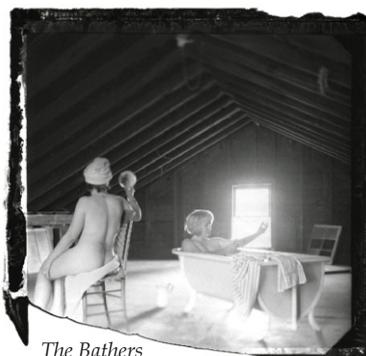


American Gothic Revisited

Vernon Forest Grove

At a meeting of the trustees of Tualatin Academy (Pacific University), January 10, 1851, the name Forest Grove was adopted for the community. The name Vernon was first proposed and rejected. J. Quinn Thornton moved to adopt the name Forest Grove and the motion was passed. Previously this part of the county was known as West Tualatin Plains. It seems probable the name Forest Grove was the idea of Thornton himself. Thornton arrived at his homestead in the Willamette Valley in November 1846, and he named his claim Forest Grove.

Hillsboro was named East Tualatin Plain(s).



The Bathers

2018 FHFG Tour of Historic Homes

By Melody Haveluck, Member-at-Large

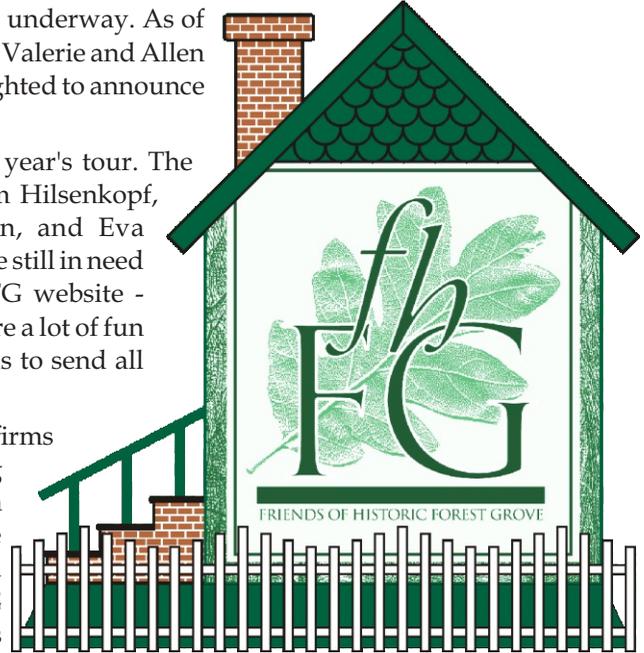
Sunday, September 23, 2018 | Old Train Station | 1:00 - 5:00pm

This year's planning for the FHFG Tour of Historic Homes is underway. As of now FHFG has three amazing homes with one of them being Valerie and Allen Warren's Macrum House (also known as Castle School.) I'm delighted to announce I'm going to be chairing the committee.

The committee had its first meeting, and is excited about this year's tour. The committee members are: Myself, Susie Johnson, Carol and Jim Hilsenkopf, Carol Taylor, Joyce Sauber, Skip Buhler, Barbara Johnston, and Eva Guggemos. Each of us bring specific talents to the table, but we are still in need of more volunteers. If you are interested, just go to the FHFG website - fhfg.org - and click on the Volunteer for the Tour button. There are a lot of fun areas to choose from. Another way to communicate via email is to send all your inquires to homestour@fhfg.org.

One of the distinct aspects of the Tour of Historic Homes is it affirms our mission statement: "Committed to enhancing and promoting the historic environment of the Forest Grove through education in areas of historic interest, while acknowledging national, state and local resources." With three established historic districts and with another one in the beginning stages of being created, FHFG has a unique opportunity to reach out to the public and share this amazing historic town we live in.

Be sure to mark your calendars, and share with all your family and friends.



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Web: fhfg.org

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On Facebook!

To all FHFG's wonderful members and those who enjoy reading its newsletter, there are other ways to communicate your thoughts to us! One is the use of Facebook. If you are a Facebook subscriber, FHFG has a page in which it tries to promote and inform people on current events as well as history items.

Although Like-ing us on Facebook is a way to get FHFG information out to your Facebook contacts, a better and more effective way is Share-ing us. Selecting Share instead of Like additionally gives you an avenue for adding your comments and thoughts. There are some great events coming up, and what an easy way to let all your family and "Friends" know about Friends! FHFG looks forward to hearing from you through Facebook!