



Newsletter of the  
Aurora Colony  
Historical Society

# Old Aurora Colony

*The Society promotes interactive lifelong learning by inspiring curiosity about, and preservation of, the heritage of the Aurora Colony.*

FALL / WINTER 2017

## *It Runs In the Families: The Spirit of Creative Invention* The Bier and Forstner Families of the Bethel and Aurora Colonies

by Patrick Harris

In May of 1863, twenty-six year old Jonas Forstner wrote a letter to his brother-in-law Leonard Will who was then crossing the Oregon Trail with his wife Triphene Forstner Will, their young son Leonard, and nearly 250 other members of the Bethel Colony. They were on their way to Aurora, Oregon where they would eventually join other colony members who



*Jonas Forstner (1837 to 1863). Musician, and specialty spinning wheel maker.*

had, since 1856, settled there.

Suffering from an unspecified illness, Jonas lamented that he could not spend a night camping on the plains where he was certain his health would improve. It was not to be. In December of 1863, just two month after the wagon train arrived at Aurora, Jonas died at Bethel. He did not die alone, as his parents and two other sisters had also remained at Bethel, certainly because of Jonas' illness.

Jonas had been a carpenter and, of course, there was always plenty of work for carpenters to do at Bethel. But Jonas also had another skill. He made spinning wheels, and another regret he shared with his traveling relatives was that he was unable to keep up with the demand for them. Several of these spinning wheel models will be shown during our new

museum exhibit which opens February 1st and continues to June 30th.

Jonas' remark about the demand for spinning wheels strikes at the heart of the stress between communal living and personal ambition. Communal living demands complete sacrifice to the ideals of the communal society. Individuals traded off personal gain for communal gain, but received security, fraternity, and medical care in return. They also received housing, all manner of colony made handcrafted products, and access to a general store where they could acquire items from the world. But, they did not OWN any of these things.

John Bier, along with his wife Sophia Forstner and their six week old baby Edward Benjamin, were also members of that 1863 wagon train. John was a cooper and a brick mason. His barrel making skills were especially beneficial at Bethel, where the colony operated a distillery and used these barrels to deliver the whiskey to



*Benjamin Forstner (1834 to 1895)  
Inventor of the Forstner Bit or "Webfoot Auger"*

markets in Hannibal and Quincy, Illinois. As with Jonas Forstner, John Bier would have recognized the economic value of his contribution to the Colony. John's wife Sophia was Jonas' first cousin and one

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## *Volunteering at Aurora Colony Historical Society* by Ken Hartley

Volunteering has always been a part of my life. It was taught, demonstrated and encouraged by my parents and grandparents. Initially, I thought that it was me who received the most benefits from these experiences. However, over the years I have discovered the real



secret. My parents and grandparents were deriving benefits as well.

My parents were consummate volunteers, not only for the organizations to which they were associated, but also for the ones in which my sister and I were involved. The latter included Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Little League, Sunday School and other church youth activities. Of course, they were also involved in their other adult/civic focused organizations, as well. They set good examples of what could be accomplished through individuals working together for common community good.

As a result, I have been involved for over 40 years with an international professional society of some 500,000 worldwide members. In the course of these efforts, I discovered the following poem, a copy which hangs on the wall of my home office. It was written by Will Allen Dromgoole, first published in 1931, and considered to be one of the most revered motivational poems ever written. It has certainly motivated me throughout

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# Volunteering

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my professional career, as well in my volunteer work, to do things for others and provide financial support for them.

## The Bridge Builder

By Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man going a lone highway,  
Came, at the evening cold and gray,  
To a chasm vast and deep and wide  
Through which was following a sullen tide  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim  
The sullen stream had no fear for him;  
But he turned when safe on the other side  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man” said a fellow pilgrim near,  
“You are wasting your strength with  
building here,  
Your journey will end with the ending day,  
You never again will pass this way:  
You’ve crossed the chasm, deep and wide,  
Why build this bridge at evening tide?”

The builder lifted his old gray head;  
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he  
said,  
“There followed after me to-day  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm that has been naught to me  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim:  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for  
him!”

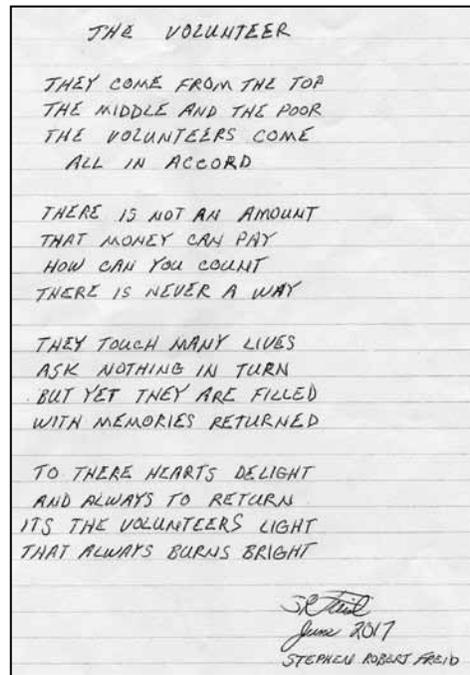
Now, having read this poem. please reread it. However, this time replace each of the masculine nouns and pronouns with comparable feminine ones.

Why?? Is Ken crazy?? Well, perhaps so. However, the real reason is that the poem was written by Will Allen Dromgoole, a noted and prolific woman writer (1871/1934) from Tennessee and whose father was a lawyer. She aspired to be one as well and studied law with him. However, since female lawyers had yet to be accepted in the United States at that time, she became a writer. She wrote 13 books, 7,500 poems, 5,000 newspaper columns, an operetta and two plays, as well as served in the U.S. Navy during World War 1. Could she have been sending a subtle message to the world

even then about womens’ role in society? Obviously, she was well ahead of her time.

Bottom line:

I hope this poem and related background has inspired you, as it did and continues to for me, to volunteer your time and provide financial support to worthy organizations, including the Aurora Colony Historical Society. This is what has made, and continues to makes our country so great. Thank you for your both physical and financial support. They are greatly appreciated. These contributions of time, talent and funding will help to ensure that our mission is accomplished. ☆



*I was inspired to write this simple poem through all the volunteers I have known over the years. I have met and now know the most talented, gifted, caring, and loving people I have ever known. I am sincerely grateful for knowing all of you. ~Steve Freid*

**SAVE THE DATES**  
March 9-10, 2018  
36th Annual Antique Spinning  
Wheel Showcase  
presented by the Aurora Colony  
Handspinners Guild

# Board Notes

by Cheryl Burks

The Board meets the 4th Tuesday of the month, 5:30 pm at the Museum.

ACHS members and the public are welcome. Anyone wishing to place an agenda item before the Board should do so a minimum of 3 working days prior to the meeting.

It had been many years since ACHS had an Executive Director before the appointment of Patrick Harris in December of 2016; so 2017 has been a learning year for the Board as we worked to sort out and balance Board responsibilities with those of the Executive Director.

Fundraising and planning for the construction of the proposed Preservation and Research Building has been a major Board focus. Building maintenance and repairs and how to pay for them, staffing issues and fundraising events to help fund the general operations of the historical society are consistent agenda issues.

As 2017 winds down the Board is focused on developing a balanced budget for the coming year.

Currently the board consists of the minimum 7 members required by the ACHS Bylaws. Some Board members will serve until the end of February 2018 and then “retire.” Please consider volunteering to fill a board position or if you know of an individual who may be a good candidate for the Board, contact Patrick Harris at the museum. ☆

## Colony Store Donations

While all colony Store donations of fabric, yarn, quilts, notions, etc. are appreciated, due to space limitations ACHS is currently unable to accept new donations.

Beginning June 15, 2018 donations can be brought to the museum.

# First Impressions...

by Beth Fleisher, Volunteer Coordinator

What do you do when you're hired as Volunteer Coordinator less than two weeks before one of the biggest events of the ACHS year? Panic? Hyperventilate? Freeze in place? No time for any of those! So, you take a deep breath, make your first call, and book your first volunteer for the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt Show! It was a crazy



*Stop by, say hello and welcome,  
Beth Fleisher, Volunteer Coordinator*

and wonderful time to join the ACHS staff, and a great opportunity to meet excellent volunteers, committed Board members, and devoted guests who turn out year after year to view the amazing quilts on display at The Village. The Aurora Colony was known for its quilts almost from the beginning, and that tradition combining beauty and functionality continues.

Although I have *many* first impressions of that chaotic 10 days – smiling volunteers reporting for their duty stations (yes, it was similar to organizing a small, invading army!), Patrick and Elizabeth surveying their efforts in hanging the beautiful show, Steve and the other runners lighting fires in the cabin and the washhouse to ward off the fall chill, the dozens of excited guests arriving every day – the memories tumble over each other like a litter of puppies playing in the leaves.

But what's the one really outstanding memory? several people asked me. Well....since I cannot tell a lie... would be the delightfully buttery and nutty and butterscotchy and all-around *delicious* bar cookies that just – appeared – like a

little miracle one crisp morning.

The simple tag read: “Coconut Hazelnut Butterscotch Bars”. Now, you need to know that I come from a family of professional and semi-professional bakers, and I had never seen this particular combination before. I had to – yes, had to – make sure they were good enough for our guests, who deserve only the best, right? Carefully unwrapping the Saran wrap, I picked up the top bar, examined the unique texture, and took a small bite. My eyes closed in foodie reverence as the first buttery butterscotchy flavors melted on my tongue – and then the crunch of the cookie crust and the texture of the coconut – oh my! Perfectly delicious!

A few lucky volunteers were in the kitchen getting coffee and a snack at the time, and I offered them a chance to savor the sweet flavors – and their reactions mirrored mine. Later in the day, the same thing happened when staff members tried the delicious treat. “Wow, who made these?” Patrick asked. “I don't know,” I replied, “But we have to find out. We definitely want more of them.” The same question and the same answer happened every time someone tried the Coconut Hazelnut Butterscotch Bars. Hopefully, some of you got to try them, too!

One day, one of my volunteers asked exactly how I was going to find the person who brought them. I thought about it for a minute and then an idea flashed across my mind's eye: “I know, I'll post a picture and offer a reward in my first newsletter article,” I told her. She looked at me like I was slightly insane, but just said, “Okaaaay,” as she slowly backed out of the kitchen. I shrugged off her response. I knew a Volunteer Coordinator always operates from a need...and then formulates a plan. And the result is – success.

So – I have done my part. I have posted the picture and offered the reward. I've made this quest for our Mystery Baker the topic of my first newsletter article, the topic that will forever be the one you remember me for, because as Volunteer Coordinator, I believe it is vitally important to recognize and honor all of our wonderful volunteers, especially those

## REWARD OFFERED!!

Are YOU our Mystery Baker? Do you know who is?

These delectable, delicious bar cookies were voted Best New Cookie by volunteers and staff alike – but we don't know who to thank! Please call Beth at 503-984-4448 with information leading to the discovery and praise of our Mystery Baker.



who serve faithfully from the sidelines and rarely, if ever, are seen by guests, staff, or other volunteers.

Now, the Mystery Baker needs to get in touch so we can thank him/her personally...and maybe...possibly...ask for another batch...?

The most important take away from this article: ***We Love Our Volunteers!!***

Especially, if they happen to bake one of the best bar cookies on the planet! ☆



*Janus Childs draws the raffle quilt winner. “Crazy About Aurora” Theme winning quilt (in case behind) is owned by Ethel Combs.*

## Duties and Responsibilities

by Spud Sperb, President

Of the many duties and responsibilities I have encountered as the president of ACHS, perhaps the most interesting occurred late this summer. Jonathan Gibson, one of our former board members brought to our attention that a colony of honey bees had taken up residence in the wall of the utility building at the Stauffer/Will farm. Gaining access through a small hole in the siding, in approximately two months time, they had established a significant hive.

With everyone wanting to preserve the bees, Jonathan contacted the Willamette Valley Bee Keepers and made arrangements for one of their members to



meet us at the farm for the "extraction". Now, I remind you that extracting the bees meant tearing the building apart and exposing the colony while the bees were still in it!

Luckily for me, the bee keeper had brought along an extra bee keepers hood. After removing my hat and putting on the borrowed hood, I began slowly removing the exterior siding with an array of hammers and pry bars. It became quickly apparent that the bees were not at all fond of any of this process. But, so far so good, not even one bee had managed to sting me.

After removing an extensive amount of the siding, we discovered that the bees were actually located at the top of a stud

cavity behind the plywood. Now for the fun part. With the assistance of a small battery powered skill saw I was able to carefully remove the section of plywood and expose the hive.

With the hive now exposed, the bee



keeper carefully went to work removing small sections of the hive and placed the honey combs and bees in special transport boxes. Great care was taken on his part to locate and capture the queen unharmed. Once she was safely captured, she was placed into one of the boxes and that box was placed on top of the ladder right next to where the hive use to be located. At that point, the remaining bees began entering the "Queen box" and several hours later, almost the entire hive was held safely in the boxes for transport to the bee keepers home. I must say it was a very interesting process to witness.

After finishing the extraction, I reached down, picked up and put my trusty old baseball cap on. Only to discover that one of the remaining bees had taken up refuge in my hat and immediately stung me on top of my head as soon as I placed it on my head. So close!

The bee keeper, the bees, Jonathan and I all parted ways feeling good knowing that we had successfully removed the bees without harm.

It took several days to repair the damage caused by the extraction. New plywood had to be bought at the local

lumber yard and then nailed up and then 1x12 siding had to be put in place. Unfortunately, the existing siding had been destroyed during the removal process and new siding was necessary. Because new siding in that size is very difficult to find, I called upon Aurora Architectural Salvage and successfully located some salvaged siding. This salvaged siding would very closely match the existing siding and would blend right in to the rest of the building. Luckily for us, Mike Bynes the owner of Aurora Salvage, is a past president of ACHS and a long time supporter and Mike graciously donated the siding material.

In all it took about 4-5 hours for the extraction and 10-12 hours to make the necessary repairs. A special thanks to Jonathan Gibson for all his assistance in this process.

Ahh, but yet another adventure in the duties as President of the Aurora Colony Historical Society. I can now list "bee extraction" on my list of responsibilities. ☆

## Occasion at the Octagon

Attendees at the Occasion at the Octagon were treated to a delicious salmon dinner while they bid on some amazing baskets and live auction items. This major fund-



Salmon staked over an open fire.

society programs and operations.

We would like to thank the individuals and businesses who donated items to the



auction and all the bidders who attended and generously supported us by bidding on these items.

Thank you , Thank you. ☆

# Off to New Adventures

by Patrick Harris

Curator Allison Dittmar left our employment here at the Old Aurora Colony Museum on September 22, 2017. "Alli" had worked for us for over six years advancing quickly from a Volunteer to Assistant Curator before her promotion to Curator at the end of 2016. Alli's lasting legacy is her organization of the museum

archives, photographs and artifacts so that they will be safely preserved while at the same time the information within them can be utilized.

Her last project with ACHS illustrates the above point. Alli took it as her task to digitize all of the original colony account books. Researchers can now easily view the materials without damaging the original

documents. Because of Alli's efforts the old Aurora Borealis and Aurora Observer newspaper were digitized by the University of Oregon and now are available on the web through Oregon Historic newspapers.

Alli organized our storage spaces making it much easier to transfer the collection to the new Preservation and Research Center when it opens in 2020. She worked closely with the Building committee insuring that the curatorial needs of the new facility were included in the structural design.

And finally, Alli brought an exuberance to her job that will be missed. As I told her during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary



celebration for ACHS in 2013, she will have the opportunity to be the guest speaker in 2063 when at the age of seventy-seven she will give the opening remarks when the historical society celebrates its centennial year. She will tell the members about the "old days" when she worked with Mr. Fezziwig (me) and the rest of the crew in those early years of the twenty first century. ☆

## Crazy About Aurora

by Cheryl Burks

Visitors to this year's annual Quilt Show were both dazzled and intrigued by the colors, textures and design of the fascinating "Crazy About Aurora" quilts. But the show wasn't limited to crazy quilts, more "traditional" quilts were also entered in the show and artfully displayed to provide a bit of calm between the riot of color, fancy embroidery, lace, ribbons and buttons adorning the crazy quilts.

Ladies from the *Tuesday Circle of Friends* quilt group were the 2017 featured quilters. Their beautiful work was displayed in the kitchen of the Kraus House. Members of the group were generously on site each day of the show to talk "Quilt" with visitors as were the Old Aurora Colony Quilters; Carol Burger, Ethel Combs, Mary Doak, and Laude Hill, actively quilting in the Kraus parlor.

The main room of the Steinbach Cabin was warmed by a fire in the fireplace and visitors were treated to coffee and baked goods. The other portion of the cabin, set up as the Colony Store, hosted visitors shopping the quilting, sewing, needlework, knitting, crochet and gift merchandise. Hardier shoppers ventured into the Tie Shed to peruse the wide variety of books and magazines available there.

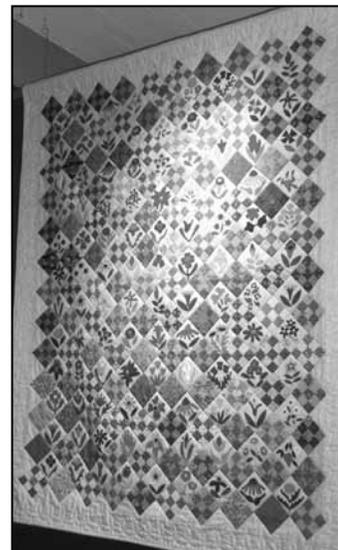
The Willamette Valley Herb Society set up shop in the Wash House with a cozy fire. Their signature tea and cookies, as well as other herbal products made by their members, are sold there.



Raffle winners dad pictured with her quilt.

The 2017 Quilt Show raffle quilt was a "crazy one" assembled by the Old Aurora Colony Quilters with the border and border embellishments designed and sewn by ACHS member, Annette James. The quilt was won by, Isabel Straub, an 11 year old girl from Eugene who'd attended the show with her grandmother.

Success of the Quilt Show is thanks to the many hours and extra hours of ACHS staff time coupled with countless hours of volunteer work including: front desk help, raffle ticket sellers, shop keepers, cabin hosts, fire tenders, cookie bakers, spinners, and quilters. Block contest and display quilt entrants, Quilt Show chair Brian Asher, and of course, visitors are also integral to the success of this event. Thanks from ACHS to all who contributed to the success of the 2017 Quilt Show. ☆



People's Choice Quilt Winner, "Lisa's Flower Garden" was made by Marjorie Jeskey McCanse.

## *It Runs in the Families*

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assumes that the value of the family crafts would have been a topic for dinner table discussion.

The Forstner family had a tradition of carpentry work within communal societies dating to 1805, when two brothers brought their families from Germany to George



*Amelia Keil Johnson, age 12, daughter of Dr. August Keil and Rosina Forstner and by second marriage the wife of Edward Benjamin Bier.*

Rapp's newly organized Christian society at Harmony, Pennsylvania. Carpenters

from this family group helped build three villages for Rapp, as well as a fourth at Phillipsburg, Pennsylvania after they split with him.

The Forstner women also gained recognition for their craftwork. In 1853, gloves made at Bethel received premium awards at the New York World's Fair. Gloves later worn by Leonard Will and Jonas Forstner are part of the museum collection and will be in the new exhibit.

In 1845, members of the Forstner family were instrumental in building Dr. Keil's Bethel Colony in Missouri. When construction first started at Bethel Benjamin Forstner was ten years old. By 1860, Benjamin was a trained Millwright working for his Uncle George Ziegler. The Bethel Mills were recognized throughout northeastern Missouri for the quality of their work. In December of 1862, Benjamin joined twenty-one other colonists traveling via the Isthmus of Panama, arriving at Aurora in February of 1863. He was thus at Aurora when some of his Forstner and Bier relatives got there the following October.

To say the least, the majority of the new arrivals were not impressed. Aurora was still very much in the wilderness, and it was a wilderness for which no amount of description could have prepared them. "When do we get to Aurora?" George Wolfer asked, only to be answered, "Oh, George—You are right in Aurora."

Many of the members of the 1863 wagon train were young men of draft age, brought

to Oregon to preserve the Colony just before the Draft became official in July of 1863. The draft was not well enforced in the West, as the national government recognized the importance of having young men in those far off settlements. And for Dr. Keil, bringing the young men to Aurora was, he felt, the only way that he could insure that his Colony could remain intact. But the young men who came to Aurora in 1862 and 1863 were not the boys he had left behind at Bethel in 1855. So many of the 1863 emigrants to Oregon had grown up at Bethel without being under his direct leadership. A ten year old boy in 1855 was now an eighteen year old young man.

Benjamin Forstner was a little older. He was born at Phillipsburg, Pennsylvania in 1834, and spent the first ten years of his life outside of a communal society. He was just the right age, actually, to have accompanied Keil on his 1855 trek; and his carpentry skills would have come in handy, but he remained at Bethel. Why? We don't know for sure, but perhaps Benjamin was already displaying an independent streak which would not have been adaptable to Aurora in 1856. For if Aurora was still pretty much in the wilderness in 1863, it was so much more so in 1856 when Michael Rapps described the beginning of each work day as, "We had to either kill a deer or fell a tree before breakfast."

But, as the saying goes, appearances can be deceiving, for at the same time the Colonists had already made quite a name for themselves in Salem.

### **September 12, 1864: Oregon Statesman**

"The Germans of Aurora, in this county, are erecting a large dancing hall on the Fairground. The music for it will be furnished by the Aurora Cotillion band, the same that took the premium last year at the state fair. Mr. Leslie will have his steam swing and Mr. Graves will have his horse swing in operation."

All of the Colonists took part in this construction, which soon also led to the management of a restaurant. If Benjamin Forstner and John Bier were after more personal freedom, there would have been opportunities to explore their options in Salem.

For Benjamin's parents, George and Julia Forstner, who were still living at Bethel, the sadness surrounding their nephew Jonas death was briefly chased off on January 14, 1864 when their daughter Rosina Forstner married Dr. August Keil, the son of Dr. William Keil. But 1864 was not to be a good year after that for the Forstners at Bethel. Patriarch George died in August, followed in September, by their 15 year old son William.

Julia then joined the 1865 wagon train to Aurora along with Jonas' parents Michael and Margaret and their daughters Elisabeth and Catherine. So it was that by the end of 1865, only Rosina was left to represent the Forstners at Bethel, and she was married to Dr. August Keil.

At Aurora Dr. William Keil was facing a crisis of confidence in his leadership. To keep more of the young members at Aurora, a new contract was drawn up explicitly laying out the rules of conduct, while also promising eventual access to personal property. While a positive step for the continuation of the communal society, it was not enough to keep John Bier and Benjamin Forstner from pursuing their own ambitions.

John Bier, it appears, wanted greater freedom to make barrels for his own profit. Family accounts concerning this cite Keil's refusal to allow this, leading then to Bier's move to Salem with his wife and children. Bier was not entirely on his own in Salem. By the time that other members of Benjamin Forstner's family arrived at Aurora in the fall of 1865, he had already moved to Salem where he established his gunsmith business.

John and Sophia Forstner eventually had eight children. He and several of his sons worked as brick masons and plasterers, while Benjamin prospered as a



*(L-R) Maxine Hounsom, Helma Shipman Bier, Gladys Bier Hirsch, Yvonne Bier Cobb, and Leo Bier on a trip to Catalina in the early 1930's.*

gunsmith. The Bier's eventually moved to Corvallis, where they were instrumental in community building. Benjamin Forstner, on the other hand, invented and then patented a tool known as the "Forstner Bit", which is still widely regarded by carpenters. The gun manufacturer, Bridgeport Gun Implement Company, used The Forstner bit in making guns. An original "Forstner Bit" will be part of our next museum exhibit, along with illustrations concerning its significance.

In 1887, John and Sophia Bier's firstborn son, Edward Benjamin Bier, married Anna

Bell Hall in Corvallis. This was a difficult marriage from the start and after the birth of their son Leo, Anna Bell left Edward for another man. Leo's daughter Gladys Hirsch describes his childhood as being shuffled from pillar to post but then "he gradually grew up". Leo relied on the stability of his grandparents, as it appears that his father was often not there for him. When Leo was seventeen, he became ill and he was hospitalized, which for many might have led to despair. However, while in the hospital, Leo's inventive mind began to express itself. He thought about and designed an adjustable bed which also makes it more accessible and functional for both patient, nurse, and doctor, and later he used his problem-solving skills to gain work with the Burroughs Adding Machine Company, traveling as their installation and maintenance man throughout Southwest United States. In this capacity, Leo met and married Helma Shipman in Arizona. During his lifetime he invented and patented many useful things which were copied in spite of their patents, but later in life he started manufacturing his Phillips screw driver attachment on his own punch press. He had discovered that he was not a businessman, however, and was usually not able to profit from his designs. Not surprisingly, Leo's children and grandchildren also exhibited inventive skills, as will be featured as part of our new exhibit. Gladys remembered her father as a somewhat reclusive man who often enjoyed taking the family on scenic driving trips which sometimes included a two week visit at the homes of relatives.

In an ironic twist Leo's father Edward Benjamin Bier found happiness in a second marriage to Amelia Keil Johnson, the daughter of Dr. August Keil and Rosina Forstner. Amelia and Rosina came to Corvallis and lived with their Bier and Forstner relatives. Gladys remembered a visit to Oregon in which Amelia whispered quietly to her and her sister, Yvonne, not to be vain by looking at yourselves in the shop windows as you pass by them – Gladys remembers that adage every time she passes a shop window and even now at age 92 Gladys laughingly said that "it makes me feel guilty of vanity." Gladys remembers Amelia with fondness for the gracious quiet eloquence that Amelia had.

The exhibit will thus illustrate how creative impulses carry forward through the generations. While it is certainly conceivable that creative individuals can live within the structure of a communal society, the Biers and the Forstner's provide evidence that the sacrifice of individual expression was, for many, too much of a personal sacrifice. ☆

## Stauffer~Will Farm Update

She has taught over 25,000 students about pioneer life in the Aurora Colony the past 10 years. She has seen the program go from a 4 day a week, 10-11 week program to a 5 day a week, 12 week program which also expanded to the Aurora Village in 2010.



*Coral and Christina - 2016*

Coral Hammond came to love the Stauffer-Will Farm program as a volunteer. In 2007 she took over the coordinator position when Jessie Turner retired. Now it is time for Coral to move on as well. In her own words; "After many wonderful years of being a

pioneer, I am spreading my wings. When I am gone you may even say 'she flew the coop.' " Coral has accepted a job as a flight attendant for Skywest airlines. We will miss



her smiles and quick wit and all those endless questions she seemed to come up with about the Colony and the Stauffer-Will Farm. We hope to see her as a volunteer when she is not entertaining travelers in the skies of Skywest.

Program Assistant, Christina Leder will be filling the coordinator position this next season; a season that is filled with eager students. We are confident that Christina will continue to lead "the best and most amazing field trip in Oregon."

On the home front, the Aurora Village is also filled with students and will be led again this year by Susan Clarke as coordinator. We look forward to another fun-filled learning experience for many 4<sup>th</sup> grade students, their parents and teachers. ☆

## Join Us !

*Preserve our history and support our mission of promoting interactive lifelong learning by inspiring curiosity about the heritage of the Aurora Colony (1856-1883).*

### Membership Levels

- |                          |                          |          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior / Student         | \$20.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual               | \$30.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual + one         | \$35.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family                   | \$40.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Educational Supporter    | \$50.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Willie Keil Society      | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Colony Society           | \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Aurora Society           | \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New Membership           |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Renewal Membership       |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gift Membership          |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I am a Colony Descendent |          |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to  
 "Aurora Colony Historical Society"  
 and mail to:  
 P.O. Box 202 Aurora, OR 97002  
 Or visit our website and JOIN online.

### New Members

*ACHS extends a warm welcome to the following new members:*

*Susan Stauffer Racette*

*Diane Anderson*

*Maryjane Rocker*

*Gilbert Moore*

*Elisa Dale*

*Karla Arria-Devoe*

*Jon Blosser*



# Old Aurora —Colony—

The Aurora Colony Historical Society

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Aurora, Oregon 97002

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## ***Here's What's Happening***

### **2018 Schedule of Events**

- March 9 - 10** Antique Spinning  
Wheel Showcase
- May 11** "Remembering Emma"  
with Jane Kirkpatrick
- August 10 - 11** Aurora Colony Days
- August 25** "Occasion at the  
Octagon"  
Fund-raising Dinner
- October 12-21** "Seeing Stars"  
47th Annual Quilt  
Show

### **2018 Schedule of Exhibits**

- February 1 - June 30**  
"It Runs in the Families"  
*The Biers and Forstners*
- July 1 - October 2**
- October 12-21**  
"Seeing Stars"  
*47th Annual Quilt Show*

For information contact:  
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#auroracolony

**Aurora Colony Historical Society**  
*The Society promotes interactive lifelong  
learning by inspiring curiosity about the  
heritage of the Aurora Colony(1856-1883).*

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