



Old Aurora Colony

NEWSLETTER OF THE AURORA COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL/2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 11-20

10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily

*47th Annual Quilt Show,
'Rhapsody in Blue'*

*Museum will be closed to visitors
October 7-10 so we may hang the show*

October 18, 4 p.m.

*Deadline for quilt block contest
entries with the theme,
'2020 Visions of Joy'*

October 31

5 p.m.-7 p.m.

'A Ghostly Halloween'

*Healthy trick or treating
in the Museum Courtyard
in partnership with Dr. Joe Young*

November 30

11 a.m.-4 p.m.

*'Christmas in Aurora'
at the Museum*

December 7 & 8

Aurora Wine & Chocolate Walk

*(Museum Cabin is the check-in location
for the event. If you don't have a ticket,
you can purchase one there; museum
will be open with regular hours)*

December 15

*Open House/Sneak Preview
of the*

*Will Family Preservation
& Research Center*

*21555 Main St. NE, Aurora
Time TBD; see our website in November*

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

47th ANNUAL QUILT SHOW RUNS OCTOBER 11-20



WIN THIS QUILT! *The Old Aurora Colony Quilters set last year's winners of our block contest into this stunning blue and white hand-quilted masterpiece. Raffle tickets are on sale now through 4 p.m. October 20, when the winning ticket will be drawn. Need not be present to win.*

bring to share, and visit with them for a while in the Kraus House. That's where you'll also find a sale of vintage quilts donated to the museum by Charlotte Wirfs for fundraising purposes.

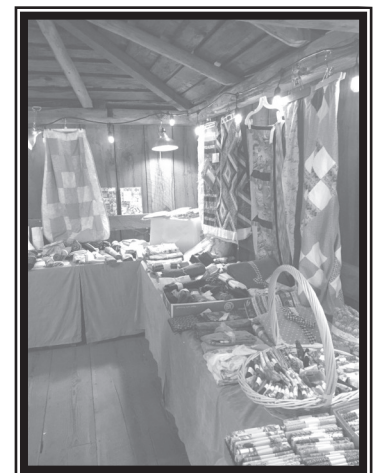
Out in the cabin, stop and enjoy cookies and cider and some retail bargain-hunting in our Country Store, where you'll find fat quarters, sewing notions, UFOs, and other delights for creative textile arts.

At 4 p.m. on October 20, we will draw the winning ticket for the beautiful blue and white hand-quilted masterpiece created by the Old Aurora Colony Museum Quilters using the top 20 winning blocks from the 2018 block contest.

The quilts have begun to arrive, this year's raffle quilt is ready to be won, and the 47th annual Old Aurora Colony Quilt Show will open October 11. With expanded museum hours, the quilt show runs 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily through October 20. A portion of the show, themed "Rhapsody in Blue," will focus on blue quilts and musical quilts. Of course, the museum will literally be covered in quilts as we celebrate this beautiful art form with a variety of antique, vintage and modern quilts. Admission is just \$7.50, or free to members who have not used their annual "special event" pass.

There will be occasional quilting demos in the cabin, and this year's show has two featured quilters, Debbie Miller and Peggy Gelbrich.

Come see what they



SHOP TIL YOU DROP! *Find fat quarters, fabric bundles, notions, unfinished projects, and other goodies in our Country Store.*

BLOCK CONTEST: There's still time to enter one or two blocks in the 2019 block contest, which will provide the raffle quilt for the 2020 show. The theme for next year's show will play off the idea of the year 2020 and 20/20 vision, and asks the question "what personally brings you joy?" We have started to display entries at the museum if you'd like to see what people have entered. Rules are at www.auroracolony.org/.

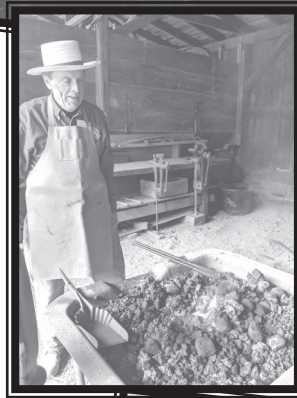


BEER GARDEN, PIONEER ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHT AURORA COLONY DAYS

The Old Aurora Colony Museum drew visitors from far and wide for the city's annual Aurora Colony Days celebration on August 9 and 10. Our Beer Garden kicked off the weekend on Friday night. This year, because of ongoing construction of the Will Family Center for Preservation & Research, the Beer Garden moved to the courtyard of the museum. The outstanding music of the Timothy James Band had people dancing under the twinkling lights, and there were good brews, and brats from Ebner's.

Following Saturday's run came the parade, which featured Bethel descendants of August Keil as the grand marshals. Then the museum opened its doors for crafts and demonstrations, including writing with quill pens, doing hand laundry, hammering together a tote box, grinding grain, and watching a blacksmith.

TOP TO BOTTOM! Patrick Harris dances in the Beer Garden; Fred Keil plays harmonica with the Timothy James band; blacksmith and penmanship at Colony Days; Keil descendant Aurora Hoffman with Abraham & Donald Nuffer, on parade in the Moline wagon; Fred leads the band; Keil descendants Fred Keil, Vicki Keil, and Richard Mauk at the Keil cemetery.



COLONY DAYS BRING KEIL DESCENDANTS FROM BETHEL

By Patrick Harris

In 1862, August Keil, second child of Dr. William Keil and his wife Louisa, was sent back to the colony of Bethel, Missouri from Aurora, Oregon, to be the village doctor. There were other reasons known I suppose to all fathers and sons, but August married Regina Forstner and they had their own children. August came back to Aurora only briefly a time or two, and his family says that he bore the brunt of a settlement that favored Aurora over Bethel. He and Regina divorced, she left him taking the children, and he died pretty much alone.

In 2019, however, ten direct descendants of August Keil made a triumphant return to Aurora. Descendant Fred Keil got to lead the Aurora band! And then, he left a lasting impression on a young kid just starting out by joining his band with his harmonica on the stage of the Beer Garden. Cousins Fred, Vicki and Richard brought flowers to the Keil family cemetery for what must have been the first time in such an ever so long time, perhaps some rest and reconciliation at last.



CHRISTMAS IN AURORA: FAMILY CRAFTS & GERMAN TRADITIONS

A German-style Father Christmas... fragrant holiday crafts...live music by Heartstrings...cookies to nibble and cocoa to sip — you guessed it, it's Christmas in Aurora! Staffer Christina Leder, with the help of volunteer Kim Higgins, has planned activities for families to enjoy together. Kids and adults can join in the fun of making (and taking) German and/or pioneer crafts such as cinnamon ornaments, orange

pomanders, pine cone crafts, ribbon trees and more. There will even be a wrapping station where kids can make cards or tags and wrap their projects to give as gifts. Professional photographer Sarah Judge will be on hand to take each guest's photo with Father Christmas and provide one free digital file. And best of all, there's no additional cost for this event beyond normal museum admission. So, if you're a member, you get in free; if you're not a member, the museum has a family rate of \$20 (or you could join!). Now all you have to do is practice saying, "*Fröhliche Weihnachten!*"



Can you provide any of these items for Christmas in Aurora?

- Pine cones
- Art paint brushes
- Sharpies of all colors
- Low-temp glue guns to borrow
- Medium glass or wooden beads, all colors
- Paper for making cards or gift tags
- Vintage Christmas stickers or cut outs
- White tissue paper
- Brown paper or grocery bags for wrapping

'HEALTHY HALLOWEENING' WITH DR. JOE YOUNG & ACHS

We love partnerships, and local dentist Dr. Joe Young has offered to provide allergy-free treats so the Old Aurora Colony Museum can host trick-or-treaters for a healthy Halloween. So, bring your kids or grandkids to the museum on October 31 between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Historically attired ghouls and ghosties (maybe even some pioneer zombies) will pass out treats that won't harm teeth. Thanks to Dr. Young for partnering with us for this festive event!



If you like to dress up and have fun, contact Christina Leder, christina@auroracolony.org. She is looking for volunteers to dress up and hand out treats. Historic clothing and accessories are available at the museum.

STRATEGIC PLAN WORK BEGINS

The ACHS Board of Directors is working to formulate a new strategic plan. The current plan culminates in 2019, so we are working to set goals and priorities for the next five years.

What things does the museum do well? What things need improvement? The opening of the new Will Family Preservation & Research Center opens up exciting possibilities for expanded exhibits and programming in the Ox Barn at the Village. We'd like to hear your thoughts on what should happen.

If you are interested in participating in some focus groups, please let Patrick know. We hope to schedule those in November.

ANYONE FOR SHAKER LEMON PIE?

At our August auction we offered individual seats at a "communal society dinner." This dinner for 12 will feature taste treats from the Amana, Shaker, and Aurora communal societies. Dinner will be prepared and served October 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the historic Kraus House by board member Luana Hill, who visited Amana, Iowa, and the Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, this summer.

Three seats have opened up at the table and could be yours for \$65 per seat. If interested, be the first to call the museum to reserve your place(s) at the table. You'll enjoy pork loin, pickled beets, Amana apple butter, Shaker peach butter, Aurora farm program rolls, sauerkraut, red cabbage, spaetzle, and, for dessert, Shaker Lemon Pie and Aurora Colony Krumble Cake. German-style beers and wines will accompany—and it's all for a good cause! Call Christina at 503-678-5754 to reserve your spot.



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS CARRY OUT IMPORTANT PRESERVATION WORK

Race Beatty and his corps of Boy Scouts and adult supporters from Molalla's Troop 5257 replaced and repaired the mud mortar in the Steinbach Log Cabin on August 17. The exterior of the cabin was completely reworked, along with select areas inside the cabin. Great care was taken to preserve the original whitewash, and the 1880s era newspaper that was used as wallpaper lining.

Race is now a senior at Molalla High School. He did all of the research for the project in consultation with preservation expert Mike Byrnes. But the boys—and some girls also—did the actual work. For this project Race will receive his Eagle Scout rank.



ABOVE LEFT: Chinkers at work. **RIGHT:** Race Beatty kneels in front of his crew.

Thomas Bonser of Hubbard, a member of Boy Scout Team 7559, carried out his Eagle Scout project at the Stauffer-Will Farm. Thomas, who attends North Marion High School, repaired the gutters on the wash house and log house, moved the compost pile, and removed the rabbit hutch.

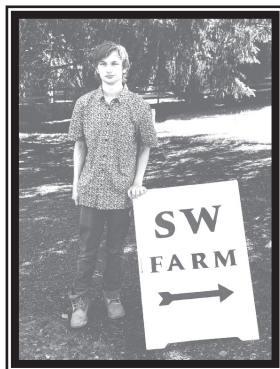


LEFT: Thomas Bonser on the far right of the photo, with some of his crew. **Center:** Repairing a gutter. **ABOVE RIGHT:** A new spot for the compost pile.

Congratulations, Race and Thomas, on completing your Eagle Scout projects. We are grateful for your valuable help in preserving our heritage buildings!

ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE FARM

With its remote location, Stauffer-Will Farm can be a challenge for bus drivers to find; they miss the turn-off more often than we'd like. Before graduating last June, North Marion student and National Honor Society member Cole Torian made a directional sign for the Stauffer-Will Farm as a personal service project. Thanks Cole!



Cole Torian

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Since the last newsletter, the Board of Directors has focused its efforts on the annual fundraising dinner, making repairs on our buildings, starting work on a new strategic plan, and shepherding the preservation and research building through the construction process (a task largely handled by President Spud Sperb). Work has also begun on the 2020 budget.

ACHS needs a few additional board members to help ensure future stewardship of the society. If you would serve, or know someone who would make a good member, please contact Patrick Harris.

WILL FAMILY PRESERVATION & RESEARCH CENTER NEARS COMPLETION; OPEN HOUSE SET FOR DECEMBER 15

Mark your calendar for December 15, when the new ACHS Will Family Preservation & Research Center will offer a sneak peek of ACHS's important new structure. (Details are pending; check our website for the times.) ACHS will host an open house so supporters can see the fruits of five years of planning. The "official" dedication will come later in Spring 2020. Construction is about three quarters completed and the building should be ready for occupancy well before the April deadline required in order to keep the state's \$400,000 contribution.

Please consider a generous donation to this project today. ACHS must still raise approximately \$300,000 to meet construction costs. While we have arranged a line of credit for this amount, we would prefer not to use it. If you have questions, please contact Patrick Harris at 503.678.5754.



*The U.S. Post Office has assigned a street address:
21555 Main Street NE, Aurora*

Thank You

*for the following donations to the
ACHS Will Family
Preservation & Research Center
received or pledged through
September 11, 2019*

BUILDING NAMING RIGHTS: \$500,000

Lee & Connie Kearney
(Naming the building the Will Family
Preservation & Research Center)

PLATINUM: \$50,000 & HIGHER

State of Oregon
MJ Murdock Charitable Trust
Barbara Giesy
Anonymous Board Member

SILVER: \$10,000-\$24,999

Austin Foundation
AOH Foundation
Reg and Ann Keddie
Brady and Diane Kocher Downs
Jim and Dottie Waddell
Dr. David Wagner

BRONZE: \$5,000-\$9,999

Shirley Will
Lavina Windh
Chuck Scott
Bill and Marlene Wettstein
Byron and Dorothy Schriever
Elisabeth Walton Potter

PEWTER: \$1,000-\$4,999

Tarbell Foundation
Ted and Andrea Heid
Dr. Robert and Mary Ann Moore
Bill and Martha Bennett
Marvin and Devina Stearns
Susan Black and John Berard
Gladys Thommen
Iselin Architects
John Herman
Cathy and Tom Harper
Intel match to Harper
Richard and Doris Lauer
Bob and Donna Setterberg
John Schuele
Frank and Carol Burger
Rob and Nancy Downie
Emily Hitchens
Susan Hazel & Gene Georgetta
Dick and Diane Anderson
Karen and James Young
Judi and Alfred D. Aus
Bill and Margaret Hansell
Aurora Colony Handspinners' Guild
Shirley Will Hall
Norman Hall
Fred W. Keil
Donnie and Pamela Weninger
Brynn Beals
Don Beals
Paul and Linda Giesy Gilham
Gary and Elaine Ihle
Roberta Hutton
Mary Beebe Crofts
Gary Zimmerman
Joe and Linda Dryden
Marc and Tamara Berube —
(memorial to Laverne "Andy" Martin)

CONTRIBUTIONS UP TO \$1,000

Nic and Billie Kaiser
Diana Hasz
Marge McCanse
Spud and Sally Sperb
Elizabeth Heininge
Johanna Dekay
Cheryl Burks

CONTRIBUTIONS UP TO \$1,000

continued

Kim Higgins
Susan Clark and Will Newman
Allen and JoAnne Daly
Walt and Charlotte Wirfs
James and Barbara Gentry
William and Mary Taylor
Melissa Meacham Stewart
Darlene Ward
Margaret Torgeson
Sylvia Dion
Meshara Galland
Marcia and Tim Clark-McKittrick
Louise Hankenson
Della Ward
Darwin and Sandra Dittmar
Nancy Jensen
Charles & Edith Weiss
Verne Duncan
Arthur Martin
Jane Richardson
Wendy Bents Patterson
Christine Meinicke
Arlene Anderson
Richard Schwabauer
Susan Rump Steinbach
Lee and Ginger Ashworth
Silloway Weaving Studio
Mella Dee Fraser
Elisa Dale
Ann Ransmeier
Dianne Crisell
Diane Roubal
Jack and Lee Fosmark
Philip Giesy
Kaye Whitmer
Cherie McGinnis
Carol Patrick
Dale and Linda Forrest
Bob Jackson & Deborah Zeigler
Elizabeth Scully
Donna and Marian Minar
Paul Minton
Patricia Lindquist
Susan Arnold

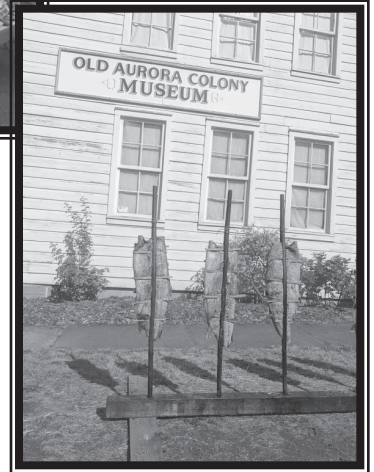
'CELEBRATE THE COLONY' FUNDRAISER BOLSTERS OPERATING FUNDS

Thank you to the 100-plus ACHS supporters who attended the society's August 24 "Celebrate the Colony" fundraising dinner, as well as the many event donors. The sweet sounds of jazz musicians Rebecca and Ray Hardiman filled the courtyard, where a happy crowd enjoyed salmon grilled Native American-style. Excellent and abundant auction and raffle items brought out some friendly competition. In all, the evening generated nearly \$20,000 that will be used for museum general operations.

Many volunteers provided much-appreciated help, both with preparations and on the day of the event. A special shout-out to board member Ken Riley, a master at procuring auction items. Those baskets were very full, and guests took home everything from Duck basketball and Beaver football tickets, to wine tours and a Central Oregon resort stay.



LEFT: Raffle baskets waiting **BELOW LEFT:** Enjoying charcoal-grilled salmon in the courtyard. **BELOW RIGHT:** Salmon grilling over charcoal.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR *Celebrate the Colony* EVENT DONORS & VOLUNTEERS



Individual Donors

Bill & Martha Bennett
Samantha Bonser
Cheryl Burks
Susie Gordon & Steve Kleier
Jan Becker/ Harmony Hill
Cathy & Tom Harper
Patrick Harris
Luana & Bob Hill
Joyce Holmes
Roberta Hutton
Annette James
Reg & Ann Keddie
Ken & Cindy Riley
Guy & Sally Sperb
Michael & Stephanie Sutch
Dr. David & Mary Lou Wagner
Dr. Joe & Amanda Young

Business Donors

Abby's Legendary Pizza
ACE Hardware Canby
Adobe Resort, Yachats
Al's Garden & Home
Amy's Pet Grooming
Anonymous
Aurora Colony Hand Quilters
Aurora Colony Vineyards LLC
The Aurora Company
Aurora Family Dentistry
Aurora Fire Station
Aurora Outdoor Power
Auto Zone

Backstop Bar & Grill
Bauman Farms
Bi-Mart
Birch Street Animal Clinic
Bob's Red Mill Natural Foods
The Book Nook
Bricks & Minifigs
Canby Car Wash & Auto Lube
Canby Dairy Queen
Canby Ford
Canby Music
Canby Swim Center
Canby Station Cleaners
Charbonneau Golf Club
Christopher Bridge Winery
Clackamas Repertory Theatre
Cutsforth's Thriftway
Dave's Killer Bread
Do It Best Corp.
Ebner's Custom Meats
End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
ERI Restaurants
Family Fun Center/Bullwinkle's
Fir Point Farms
Flomer Furniture & Appliance
Fred Meyer Wilsonville
French Prairie Perennials
Fressen Artisan Bakery & Cafe
Frontier Golf Course
Fultano's Pizza
G.W. Hardware
Garden Gallery Iron Works
Garden World
Gartner's Meats
Gwynn's Coffee House
Hillyers Mid-City Ford
Hubbard Chevrolet
Human Bean
Konditorei Extravagant Cakes
La Provence
Lakewood Theatre Company
Langdon Farms Golf Club

Long Bros Building Supply
Millar's Point S Tire & Auto
Mo's Restaurant, Newport
Museum of the Oregon Territory
NAPA Auto Parts, Canby
NAPA-Davison Auto Parts, Woodburn
Nature's Pet Market
Nuevo Vallarta
Oaks Park Association
OGA Golf Course, Woodburn
Old Aurora Colony Museum
OMSI
Oregon Shakespeare Festival
Oregon State University Football
O'Reilly Auto Parts, Woodburn
O'Reilly Auto Parts, Canby
Pat's Acres Racing Complex
Pheasant Run Winery
Pizza Schmizza
Portland Opera
Portland Spirit
Portland Trail Blazers
Ranch Hills Golf Course
Red Robin, Woodburn
Republic Services
Sah-Hah-Lee Golf Course
Schreiner's Iris Gardens
Shari's Restaurant, Woodburn
Speckled Hen Quilts
Starbucks, Woodburn
St Josef's Winery
Stone Creek Golf Course
Swan Island Dahlia
Time After Time
TMK Creamery
University of Oregon Athletics
Villa Catalana Cellars
Voget Meats Inc.
Wal-Mart
Whiskey Hill Winery
White Rabbit Bakery
Wilco Corporate
Wild Hare Saloon and Cafe

Willamette Valley Vineyards
Wilsonville Honda
Wilsonville Lanes
Woodburn Bowl
Woodburn Dragstrip
Woodburn Golf Club
World of Speed Market

Volunteers

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Old Aurora Colony Quilters
Samantha Bonser
Cheryl Burks
Wade Davenport
Steve Fried
Jack Hefner
Andrea Heid
Josh Henderson
Taylor Henderson
Annette James
Claire Leder
Evelena Leder
Royann Lund
Chris Meinicke
Cheré Moore
Dale Rushton
Sharon Schneider

Salmon Grilling

Fred Broadwater

Flower Arrangements

Chris Meinicke

Auctioneers

Caitlin McDavid
Ava Stuart
Lilly Stuart

Special thanks

Old Aurora Colony Quilters for hand quilting a raffle quilt!

FARM & VILLAGE PREP FOR 2020; VOLUNTEER RECRUITS NEEDED

Christina Leder has booked a number of reservations for the Spring 2020 season of 4th grade field trips to Stauffer-Will Farm and the Aurora Village. She implemented a Google Form and emailed teachers whose classes attended last year, resulting in a calendar that is well on its way to being filled. The form also allows for easier communication with teachers and a more efficient payment process.



The Farm and Village programs can only operate because of our great volunteers. Starting right around spring break and going to the end of the school year, each volunteer dedicates one day per week to work a 4.5-hour day. They dress in period attire and teach the students (and chaperones) about the era of westward expansion, the Oregon Trail, our own Aurora

Colony with its population of German immigrants, daily life in the 1870s, and much more. They lead the students in projects such as sawing, splitting, and auguring wood, making a candle and candleholder, designing a quilt block, and kneading bread to make their own roll.

If you think this sounds like a great way to spend a day (we will provide training), fill out the volunteer form at:

<https://forms.gle/75kXAtyB7cCckURa8>

There's also a new Facebook page for program volunteers. Search in Facebook for **@StaufferWill Farm** and like the page to follow updates.



LEFT: *Spud Sperb explains candleholders;* **RIGHT:** *Aurora Gothic*

RECENT DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

Diane Anderson

—Advertising sign from the Aurora Café (circa 1920s)

Joyce Holmes

—Red wooden box with toy wooden blocks from the Kocher family

—Spectacles from Clara Will

—“The Bells of Helmus” by Cobie de Lespinase

Jake Egli

—25 glass negatives from Jonas Will

H. Lloyd Mills

—Archives associated with the history of the Arthur Mills business in Aurora from 1940s forward, with documentation for the property site dating to early Colony days

MEMORIAL GIFTS

*In honor of Sally Reynolds Lloyd,
descendant of Arthur & Arda Feller Kraus:*

Nancy Jensen

Julie Reynolds Holden

Karen Kraus

NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Joseph Young & Family

Teresa Blackwell

Wendy Bents Patterson &
Wendy Bents
(Bents Family)

Kristin Will McLaughlin
(Will Family)

Jennifer Ihle Koop
(Will Family)

Vicki Keil
(August Keil descendant)

Fred Keil
(August Keil descendant)

Richard Mauk
(August Keil descendant)

Marcia Nobles
(Kraus Family)

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

- ◆ Repair, sewing, or cleaning of period clothing
- ◆ Fence fixers & trim repairers/painters
 - ◆ Weeding in the herb garden
- ◆ Building & grounds maintenance workers
 - ◆ Living history tour guides
 - ◆ Tech support/website design help
 - ◆ Special event helpers
- ◆ Farm and Village program volunteers for 2020

**Call Christina at 503.678.5754
if you can help!**



Old Aurora —Colony—

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KEEP IN TOUCH with ACHS



@oldauroracolonymuseum
@StaufferWillFarm

On the web:

www.auroracolony.org

Find us:

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Street address: 15018 Second Street NE
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Aurora, Oregon 97002

Phone: 503.678.5754 **Fax:** 503.678.5756



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We are a  **Blue Star Museum**
arts.gov/bluestartariums

Free admission for:

- *Veterans with ID*
- *Active duty military & their families with ID*

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