



# ***Rainier Oregon Historical Museum***

Established. 2015

Number 1

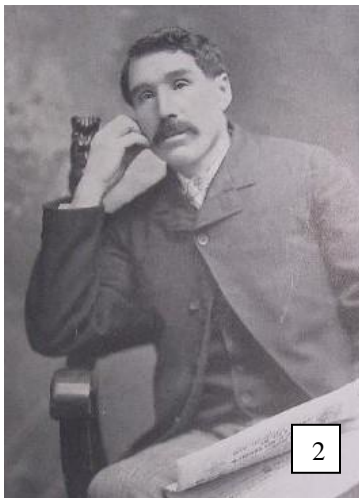
2017

## **George F. Moeck and The 1888 House**

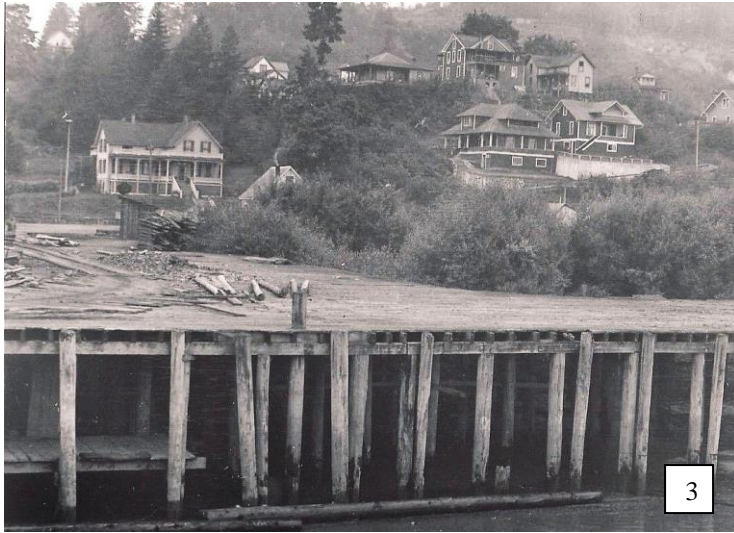
By Mike Clark



George F. Moeck was born in Willmendingen, Wurtemberg, Germany, March 25, 1837. He came to America in April 1854, first settling in Summit County, Ohio. From there he traveled to Missouri taking on work as a cooper (making wooden barrels), and then to Colorado and Montana trying his hand at mining. He later ventured west arriving in Rainier, Oregon, October of 1871, finding work at a saw mill.



He married Margaret Jane Gilbreath on October 23, 1873, who was the daughter of Columbia County pioneers, James and Sally (Tigard) Gilbreath. Margaret is believed to be the first white female born in the county on April 9, 1853, the year after her family arrived in Oregon by wagon train. George opened a small general merchandise store in Rainier. Up the hill from the store, he built a large fourteen room house known today as “The 1888 House.” They raised six children there: Elisabeth Margaret, Grace Annette, George Frederick, Anna Katherine, Mable Sereha and Gretchen Frieda.



Their home was one of constant activity of family gatherings and visitors. This included river boat captains who came to the house after docking in Rainier for a good meal and sometimes spent the night. Mr. Moeck's generosity led those to call him "Capt. Moeck" for many years.

George Moeck was very civic minded and served as Rainier's mayor reportedly twice, and he

was postmaster from 1895 to 1897. He was also a member of the Rainier Masonic Lodge #24.

Besides having a store, Moeck was in the lumber business, he had a warehouse and loaded ships at his "Moeck Dock." His property holdings grew to 450 acres.

In 1892 Mr. Moeck laid out what was known as Moeck's Addition, located today from West Third through West Sixth Street plus he extended A, B and C streets to intersect with them. Then again in 1907 he platted the land between West Third and Fourth, adding new streets that paralleled C street to the south.



George Moeck passed away December 21, 1917. He is buried at the Knights of Pythias Cemetery along with his wife Margaret who died on July 10, 1927. The entire Moeck estate was sold under foreclosure proceedings on January 9, 1928. The house ended up being subdivided into a four-plex in the 1930s. The dormers were added to

the roof, interior walls were added, and staircases were sealed off. In 1977, Jim Rouse began restoring the house to its original 14-room floor plan, with restaurants, shops, and an art gallery occupying the various rooms. His plans included a steak restaurant in the basement, and a French restaurant on the main floor. The first store opened in September 1977, and the German-themed Rose Manor restaurant opened in October. The Moeck House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on April 14, 1978. In the years since it has been home to a variety of restaurants and other businesses.

Photos:

1. A photo of Moeck's 1888 house taken prior to 1911 when a basement was added under the house (Tom McCaskey collection).
2. Image of George Moeck from "Portrait and Biographical Record of Portland and Vicinity, Oregon," printed in 1903.
3. Photo of the 1888 house looking south from the Columbia River.
4. Photo of Mrs. Moeck with daughter Anna and granddaughter Margaret, fourth person unknown (from a description on the reverse of the photo belonging to the Tom McCaskey collection).

Note of interest: Margaret (Gilbreath) Moeck's maternal grandmother, Francis Kizah Tigard, settled in the Tualatin Valley with her two sons Wilson and Andrew Jackson Tigard. It is from this family that the city of Tigard, Oregon received its name.

Credit: Special thanks to Robert West for his contribution to this story.

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## ***Museum News***



The museum board met on March 9, 2017, at the Beaver Valley Grange to work through a new agenda and to vote on new amendments. Left to right is Tiffany Trahan and son Thatcher, Rick Burnham, Martha Van Natta, Judy Lepin (in the foreground) Linda Creamer and Carl Pellman. We had four members attend also; Duane and Joanne Bernard, Betty Neer and Mike Clark. We wish to thank the grange for the use of their facility.

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### **“Great Progress for ROHM”**

By Museum President Kay Heflin

We made exceptional progress in 2016. We began 2016 with a bank balance of \$160.16. With our fundraising efforts, membership drives, and generous donations by our members, we now have a bank balance of \$4,840.00. Included in this grand total of \$4,840.00 we raised \$2,405.00 in 2016 to go toward our grant savings and opening our museum. In 2017 we have raised an additional \$433.05 for a total of \$2838.05 in our grant fund. We owe this tremendous accomplishment to our

members who have shown us how important the history of Rainier is to them. On January 1<sup>st</sup> we were awarded a \$1,700 grant from the Columbia County Cultural Coalition to purchase display cases for our museum. We are raising the matching funds through our volunteer hours by completing the work needed to get our museum ready to open. Today we are only \$670.00 away from raising the total \$3,500.00 additional funds needed to purchase computer equipment and supplies needed for opening our museum. We are starting to purchase our display cases. Jerry Cole, the Mayor of Rainier, has just informed us that the community room at City Hall should be ready for us to have an exhibit in our room in time for Rainier Days in the Park. We are planning on having an exhibit on previous Rainier Daze Celebrations going back in history to the time it was called the Strawberry Festival. With your support, we will continue to make progress and reach our goals.

We now have members from as far away as California, Alabama and Alaska. We currently have 68 members in the first four months of 2017 and are well on our way to surpass the memberships we had for 2016. A membership form will be included with this newsletter. Have you considered giving a museum membership as a gift to a friend or family member? You can use the enclosed membership application to do that or just pass on the membership form to someone who would enjoy Rainier history. Memberships allow us to pay for our monthly operating costs. Your continued support is very much appreciated. Donations above the membership fee will be used to fund the opening of our museum and future projects and is fully tax deductible.

## **Plans for the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum**

Written by President Kay Heflin

It has been suggested that we develop a walking history tour of Rainier. There will be a narrative history of each location on the tour with pictures that show what each location looked like in the early years of Rainier to compare it to what it looks like today. For people who are unable to do a walking tour, we will create a movie presentation of early Rainier and its history to be shown at the museum located at City Hall. Our next grant application will have this project in mind.

We have talked with the developers of the new Columbia County Transportation station about having a historical presence in their new building that will be available to visitors passing through town.

After opening our museum this summer, we will proceed with plans to print a history book of Rainier. Plans are currently in the works to have all the yearbooks in our collection digitally copied and a CD made so that anyone can buy copies of Rainier yearbooks dating back to the early 1900's. We are missing the year books for 1923, 1924 & 1930 and 1934, 1935 & 1938 and 1945 & 46. Please contact us if you have any of these yearbooks you would like to donate to our museum. If you don't want to donate them, we can make digital copies and give the originals back to you.

This will be the second year we will be having a booth at the Rainier Days in the Park celebration. At the same time we will have an exhibit in our newly opened museum at Rainier City Hall across from the Rainier Library. We also have space at the Rainier Senior center gift shop where we are selling our home made strawberry jam, the history, pictures, and recreated bars of the Rainier Soap Factory, and our sets of Christmas cards with scenes of early 1900 Rainier.

Two of our board members, Tiffany Trahan, and Judy Lepin, are currently assisting the Rainier Cemetery District with scanning and inputting of the original Woodbine and Green Mountain grave ledgers into digital records. Once they are completed everyone will be able to access the cemetery records. My vision is to create Rainier history-sharing events that will be held at our museum in which our community can participate. It's important that, former and present Rainier residents come forward with historical facts, items and pictures that will allow our museum to grow and become a treasured part of our community.

### **Importance of Sharing Historical Items That You Have**

Here is a great example of how items that you donate can help us to connect the history of Rainier. This summer Dennis and Ellen Davis donated some old store ledgers that were dated in the 1880's and early 1900's. They contain records of goods purchased at a store. The ledgers also record steamboat arrivals and departures and the goods loaded from the docks and warehouse to these ships. When our Historian Mike Clark began researching information about the Moeck family to put in this newsletter, we were able to connect those ledgers to the Moeck family. We knew that the Moecks had a store in front of their home (the 1888 House). This store was located between their house and the railroad tracks. Mr. Moeck also had a warehouse and docks between the store and the waterfront. Through the Moeck family tree we were able to find out that Margaret Moeck had a sister that was married to J.K Bourne. The name on the front of the donated store ledgers was J.K. Bourne. Other entries were E.A. Bourne. We learned E. A. Bourne was J.K. Bourne's wife, Emily Ann. Emily Ann was Margaret Moeck's sister.

In conclusion, I would like to say how proud and pleased our board is with our community and the support you have given us. I especially want to thank the people who have generously given us donations and donated historical items and photos that is making it possible for our museum to become a reality. A big THANKS to everyone that gave us the courage to begin this walk back in our own history!

Gratefully,

President of ROHM, Kay Heflin

[Kay-lynn2@hotmail.com](mailto:Kay-lynn2@hotmail.com) Ph. 360-751-7039 or 503-556-4089

# ***ROHM Board Members***



## **Kay Heflin, President**

I have lived in Rainier all my life. I married my husband, Dick Heflin in 1967. We will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in December. We raised two beautiful daughters, Terry and Shelly. They blessed us with two granddaughters and two grandsons.

I retired from the Rainier Post Office in 2005 with 32 years as a rural mail carrier. My husband, Richard Heflin, was owner and operator of Dick's Used Cars, Mobil station & repair shop at Alston Corner for over thirty-five years. Dick also retired in 2005. We now enjoy spending more time with our family and wintering in Yuma, Arizona. Even while wintering in AZ. I continue to do museum business almost every day and

communicate with our board members. I spend many hours working on our museum, and taking care of the numerous details needed to make our museum a success. It is a labor of love. The tremendous support from our community and museum members has been very rewarding.

My family has a long history in Rainier. My great grandfather, Reinhart Johnson, built the Foshaug family home at Kentucky Flats, on the west side of Rainier in 1906. My father, Kingsley Foshaug, was a tugboat captain and a photographer. It was his photo collection that instilled in me an interest in saving and sharing historical photos. My mom, Myrna, helped run King's Photo Shop in the basement of our home on Hwy. 30. I have a twin sister, Karol (Foshaug) Byrnes. She has operated Karol Lees Beauty Salon in Rainier for almost fifty years. Her building was originally the old Rainier Telephone Co. in the early 1900's. This is another historical building that continues to give service to our community today.

As President of the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum, it is my mission to share and to help preserve the history of Rainier, not just for today but for the generations to come.



## **Martha Van Natta, Vice President**

I was born in Longview, Washington. I was raised mostly in Rainier with three siblings at the bottom of the old curves on Old Highway 30. Due to the lumber mill burning down and my dad having to find work where he could, I lived a year in Sand Lake (15 miles south of Tillamook on the Oregon Coast) and a year and a half at Prescott while growing up. After graduating from high school in Rainier, I

attended Longview Business College for a year. I moved to Portland where I worked, first as a clerk and then as accounting secretary for an insurance company. I married and raised two children who live in the Portland area. Before retirement in 2012, I worked as a legal secretary for over 30 years for various attorneys in Hermiston, Portland, and Newport. I also did a little bookkeeping along the way. I moved back to the Rainier area 3.5 years ago when I married Robert Van Natta. We live on the family ranch in the Apiary area. I love living in the country and seeing the variety of wildlife and wild birds, and I love to walk in the forest.

After moving back to the Rainier area, I came to appreciate the local history and want to pass on this appreciation to future generations. I am fortunate enough to have the time to help with this very enjoyable endeavor.

# Membership

2017 Membership List as of April 17, 2017 (paid and honorary members)

- |                                 |                              |                               |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| *Abell, Vernon & Nancy          | Holley, Beverly & Jack, &    | *Spurgeon, Beverly            |
| *Baker, Carl                    | Emelee & Damon Brokenshire + | *Strong, Frank                |
| Bauserman, Jim +                | *Irwin, Roy & Marilee        | *Sutherland, Loretta          |
| *Bennett, Jerry                 | *Jamieson, Bernice           | *Stewart, Jock                |
| *Bernard, Duane M.              | *Johnson, Toni & Ray         | Teuscher, David & Sheryl +    |
|                                 | *Keith, Henry & Mary         |                               |
|                                 |                              | *Thomas, Rob                  |
| *Blahm, Janice                  | Lee, Dianna +                | *Tift, Marily & Sam           |
| *Burnham, Rick & Ann            | *Lepin, Judy                 | *Trahan, Tiffany & Ronald     |
| Clark, Marjorie +               | Lepin, Roger +               | *Van Natta, Robert & Martha   |
| *Clark, Mike                    | *McCollam, Willard & Kathryn | *Vance, Rick                  |
| Columbia River Reader/Sue       | *McKee, Gordon               |                               |
| Piper +                         |                              | Wellington, David +           |
|                                 |                              | *Wellington, Susie            |
| *Cornerstone Café               | *Moore, Patricia W.          | *West, Robert                 |
| *Creamer, Linda                 | *Neer, Betty E.              | *Wilburn, John                |
| *Crosby, Louis                  | *Nelson, Sloan and Jennifer  | *Wolz, Jan                    |
| Elbert, Carole +                | Nys, Carl & Linda +          |                               |
| *Everman, Carol                 | *Nys, Paul & Judy            |                               |
|                                 |                              | *Zimmer, Leona                |
|                                 |                              | Zuber, Randy & Rebecca +      |
| *Fisher, Dale                   | Oliver, Mary +               |                               |
| Foshaug, Evie +                 | *Parsons, David & Cecilia    |                               |
| *Gerdes, Claire & Peter Quinton | *Pellham, Carl               | HONORARY MEMBERS              |
| *Giepel, Karl                   | *Patching, Sam               |                               |
| *Graham, Jeffery                | Putnam, Malcolm +            | Columbia Co. Museum Assoc.    |
|                                 |                              | Vernonia Pioneer Museum       |
|                                 |                              | Assoc.                        |
| *Guasch, Joyce                  | *Ransom, Eileen              |                               |
| *Hadlock, Dick & Lynn           | *Rea, Darlene                | * Charter Members             |
| Harriman, Scott & Terry +       | *Russell, Nola               | + New 2017 members as of 4-12 |
| Harrison, William O., MD +      | *Skeans, Charles             |                               |
| *Heflin, Kay                    | Smith, Duke +                |                               |

We are grateful to these people for their donations to the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum making it possible for our museum to grow.

Carl Baker  
Jerry Bennett  
Columbia County Museum Association  
Columbia River Reader/Sue Piper  
Cornerstone Café, LLC

Harold Davis  
Dale Fisher  
Claire Gerdes  
Karl Giepel  
Joyce Guasch

William O. Harrison, MD  
Roy & Marilee Irwin  
Bernice L. Jamieson  
Henry & Mary Keith  
Gordon McKee

Patricia Moore  
Betty Neer  
Sloan & Jennifer Nelson

Carl & Linda Nys  
Paul & Judy Nys  
Sam Patching  
Malcolm Putnam  
Eileen McKee Ransom

Darlene Rea  
Charles Skeans  
Beverly Lewis Spurgeon  
Jock Stewart  
Franklin Strong

Robert M. Thomas  
Robert & Martha Van Natta  
Richard Vance  
Vernonia Pioneer Museum Association  
David Wellington  
Robert West  
John Wilburn  
Jan Davis Wolz



Rainier Oregon Historical Museum  
Established. 2015

**Many of you have already renewed or are brand new members and we appreciate your continued support. You can use this form to give a membership gift to a friend or family member that is interested in Rainier's history.**

**This is the last reminder for members who have not renewed their membership for 2017. After March 31<sup>st</sup> you have to renew as a new member at the rate of \$20.00. Renew now and you will continue to receive our newsletter.**

*Renewal membership family / individual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_*

*New membership family / individual \$20 \_\_\_\_\_*

*Gift membership \$20 \_\_\_\_\_*

*\*Donation to help open our museum to the public \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

*Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_*

*City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Newsletters sent to you by: email \_\_\_ or by mail \_\_\_*

*Signature \_\_\_\_\_*

*Enclose your check with this form and mail to: ROHM  
P.O. Box 762  
Rainier, Or. 97048*

- *Contributions above the membership fee is tax deductible as a charitable donation. ROHM is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization. Our tax ID # is 47-5361161.*
- *Our yearly membership runs from Jan.1<sup>st</sup>. Thru Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.*

If you have any questions, you can contact the President of ROHM, Kay Heflin, at [kay-lynn2@hotmail.com](mailto:kay-lynn2@hotmail.com), ph.# 503-556-4089, cell# 360-751-7039 or Vice President, Martha Van Natta, at [martha113@hotmail.com](mailto:martha113@hotmail.com), Ph. 503-556-7305