Dear Fellow Members of Oswego Heritage Council,

It looks like Winter may be past us and Spring in all it’s glory is bursting through. With the advent of Spring, the lovely Heritage House and Museum historic rose garden begins to bloom. Oswego Heritage Council invites you all to wander in our garden when it will be in full blossom later this Spring and early Summer. We are refurbishing and rebuilding our garden paths and seating for your enjoyment and plan to have our garden officially open near the end of June.

In the meantime, we invite you to join us at our annual Historic Home Tour on May 20th. We have many new fun and interesting surprises on this year’s tour. Tickets are available through our office and on our website. We do hope you will take the tour with us!

Oswego Heritage Council has an exciting First Wednesday on May 3, 2017. World renown Portland author Phillip Margolin will talk about his historical fiction book “Worthy Brown’s Daughter” which is based on slavery in Oregon in the 1850’s. Joining Mr. Margolin will be Gregory Nokes who has researched the lawsuit, Holmes vs. Ford 1852, on which this book is based. Due to the expected crowds, we have once again moved May 3rd’s First Wednesday to the Lakewood Center. Thank you to the Lakewood Center for their generosity.

On May 3rd, doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments. The presentations will begin at 7:00 pm. A book signing will follow at 7:30 pm, with books available for purchase. Oswego Heritage Council invites you to also tour our museum. In June we will be rotating exhibits to feature portraits of Lake Oswego pioneer women. We are open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 3 pm. Our docents are excited to answer any questions you might have.

We thank you for your continued support and participation with OHC and our upcoming exciting events.

Candee Jones,
President
Parking: Available at the Heritage House and in the parking lot across the street at Christ Episcopal Church.

Sponsored By: Lake Oswego Historic Resources Advisory Board, Lake Oswego Preservation Society and Oswego Heritage Council.

Join us for an afternoon of helpful information to make your house more livable for today while maintaining the character of your house and neighborhood. The event will begin with guest speaker, Rachel Verdick, local building designer and preservationist. She will discuss why your older home is significant, not just to you personally and financially, but also to your neighborhood and community. Afterwards, an open house with vendors will provide examples, demonstrations, and help answer your questions. Come with photos and/or questions about your house.

Vendors include:
• Green Savers will be on hand to discuss the benefits of home energy audits, radon and seismic testing, insulation, and other energy saving technologies.
• Green Window Restoration will be available to answer all the questions you have about conserving and restoring your original wood windows.
• Indow Window learn how to increase energy efficiency and block noise with interior storm windows.
• Lake Oswego Historic Resources Advisory Board will be available to answer questions about what features of your house are significant and worth preserving, and what it means for a house to be on the City’s Landmark Designation List.
• Lake Oswego Preservation Society will be available to answer your questions about preservation advocacy and celebrating Lake Oswego’s history.
• Lake Oswego Public Library which can review available resources to research your home’s history.
• Lake Oswego Sustainability Advisory Board will provide information about how you can make your older home more energy efficient.
• MCM Construction which can help you understand the questions you should ask contractors before starting a project.
• Oswego Heritage Council can help you research the history of your home and it’s former occupants.
• Rodda Paint will be available to explain how to choose the right paint for your project and provide options for historic colors.

Board Member Profile Nancy Dunis

A native Lake Oswegan, Nancy attended Lakewood School, Forest Hills Elementary, LOHIS and Lake Oswego High School. A graduate of the University of Oregon, she has a BA in French with a psychology minor and an MA in education.

Prior to retiring and becoming an active community volunteer, Nancy founded and managed an event planning business for 25 years. Nancy has strong ties to the Lake Oswego community, serving on the Heritage Council board; acting as the curator for the Heritage Council’s Historic Rose Garden; writing a monthly column for the Lake Oswego Review entitled “From Our Vault” on behalf of the Oswego Heritage Council and serving as chair of this year’s Historic Home Tour & More.

Four of Dunis’ classmates also serve on the Heritage Council board: Judy Brandon Hathaway, Candee Clark Jones, Tom O’Connor and Don Schmidt.

After the home tour, Dunis plans to start work publishing her book which will be a collection of her Vault articles - snippets of Lake Oswego history – over the last 4 years. She hopes to have the book ready in time for Christmas. You can read Nancy’s Vault articles on her Facebook page: Facebook.com/nancydunis.

Your Family History Collection

Do you have questions about your family history collection? Our archivist, Dr. Mark C. Browne is available to answer questions on caring for your collection and to discuss any local history you would like to share. Please contact Nancy Niland at 503 635-6373 to schedule an appointment.

Preserving History - From Our Archives

Waters Carman’s second family in Oswego, with Lucretia Garney, had four children. The first, a boy named George, in 1854, followed by the powerful pioneer force of three strong willed girls: Mary Lucretia in 1856, Henrietta (Etta) Susanna in 1859, and Helen Adelie (Della) in 1862.

It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time

By Dr. Mark C. Browne

It was a lazy Sunday afternoon: blue sky, wispy clouds, and the last warmth of summer. September 17, 1893, Maxwell McKechnie, a poet and artist, asked Henrietta (Etta) Carman Magone for her permission to take her three daughters, Lulu, Marion (Mammie), and Francette, to the canal that connected the Tualatin River with Oswego, for their weekly painting lesson. Maxwell was a dear friend of Daniel Dean Magone and Etta Carman and had taken on the artistic education of their children.

Maxwell had left his home in England after a young lady broke his heart, and he experienced intense pressure by his father to become something Maxwell detested, a physician. He wanted to paint. He fled to America to start a new life and pursued art and poetry. He wound up in Oswego, oddly enough, by becoming embroiled in a legal issue, as a witness to an assault on a train coming out west, from New York, by one of Oswego’s sons. One of the Pomeroy boys, a manager of the Mines in Oswego, got into an altercation with a fellow passenger. As a witness, Maxwell was questioned by the authorities on arrival.

A genuine, warm, 24-year-old charismatic, dreamy and artistic soul, Maxwell had no problem finding employment as a tutor in his new hometown. He came to live with the Magone family in the late spring of 1893, on a part of the original Waters Carman Donation Land Claim. Easel, paper and paints in hand, he marched his charges from the Carman Springbrook Farm south, down Boones Ferry, past the Bryant Farm to the open fields spread out to the lazy Tualatin River. To get to his chosen perspective and lighting, he decided to cross the canal.

He chose a felled log lying across the steep, walled canal. Francette, the youngest, was somewhat reticent to cross. He chose a felled log lying across the steep, walled canal. Francette, the youngest, was somewhat reticent to cross. Maxwell assured her that he would be right behind her all the way. Half way across, she slipped and fell. He immediately dove in to save her, but got caught on a submerged snag and quickly drowned. Lulu and Mammie watched in helpless horror as Francette struggled, for what seemed like ages, before she tired and slipped under the water. It took two hours before the bodies were retrieved and returned to Springbrook Farm.

Etta’s life was shattered. She had five children: Lulu, Mammie, Roscoe, a rambunctious four-year-old boy, and two infant twins, Cyril and Cecil, a husband, a house, extended family and a farm that required her care.

In a few short months, she would give birth to yet another set of twin boys, Rexcord and Maxwell, named in honor of their dear lost friend Maxwell McKechnie. Both boys were sickly infants. Rexcord died within two years, followed by his brother’s death a year later. Etta’s heart broke again. She had buried three of her precious children within a few, short years.

Maxwell McKechnie was buried with his adopted family.

Section 3, Lot 82 Greenwood Hill Cemetery, SW Boones Ferry Road.

Lulu, Francette and Marion Magone. Lake Oswego Library.

Magone Family Plot, Graves 1-6:
Grave 1: Maxwell McKechnie
Grave 2: Francette Magone
Grave 3: Maxwell Magone
Grave 4: Rexcord Magone
Grave 5: Henrietta Carmen Magone
Grave 6: Daniel Dean Magone

Sources:

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