

# TODAY'S NEWS



Am sure most of you know the DuPont Historical Museum has been closed for the past several weeks and current plans are to be closed through the end of April because of the Coronavirus. We are, however, still making plans for the day we can throw open the doors and welcome everyone back. A few days before the doors were closed Steve Parker, contractor, delivered the “new to us”, but made in the late 1800s, display case for the back room. Steve located and refinished the case, replaced the glass in one end and added two glass shelves. This display case will sit below the current wall display of the Presbyterian Church. It will hold some of the Church artifacts, old hymnals and older records. It will also house a model of the Presbyterian Church donated to the Museum by Janet Henkle which was used on Janet’s Cherry Blossom Tea table in 2017. We are eager to have you all come take a look. Display case fits in great with our other older display cases.



## Museum Improvements finished

Steve also made improvements to the large display case in the middle room of the museum. If any of you have ever worked with us when changing out a display, you know we had to pull the case far from the wall, lift up the back door and bunji cord it to something so wouldn't fall down on us while working. The back now has two smaller doors that can be removed to allow displays to be changed and easily put back in place. While working on the project he replaced a broken end glass.

Steve did work on the back door removing and replacing some dry rotted boards and making the door open and close easier. The biggest improvement was changing the way water was getting trapped between the door threshold and decking so it now drains away from the entrance. All of these improvements were paid for by “You” the DuPont Historical Society.



## Upcoming improvement

A little history for some of you newer to the DuPont Museum. The Museum building's first two rooms served as the Carsten's Meat Market built around 1910 by the DuPont Company, then became City Hall in 1951, when DuPont was incorporated for the second time. (First incorporation was 1912 so the Club House could sell liquor. Along came prohibition, couldn't sell liquor so DuPont was dis-incorporated and became a Company Town again.) In 1977 the DuPont Co. Powder Works Plant closed, a committee was formed to preserve the local history and the Old meat market became the new DuPont Museum. In 1982 the larger back room was added and the current carpeting may have been laid on the floor. The project we had hoped to start mid May, to replace this 38 year old carpeting, is on hold. Our plan is to have US Floors COREtec Plus Enhanced XL (Wind River Oak cork backed) laminate flooring installed. <http://www.usfloorsllc.com/flooring-products/wind-river-oak/>. Once the flooring is installed, it should be much easier to move displays and to keep clean. The back room of the museum will probably need to be closed 2 or 3 weeks as carpeting is removed, flooring laid, displays are moved and put back together. We may need volunteers to help with moving and putting displays back together. If you could help please call Carol at 253-459-4339 or email [duponthishistoricalmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:duponthishistoricalmuseum@gmail.com)



## Programs held

The Historical Society's first ever Murder Mystery dinner was held February 8, at the Home Course to a sold out crowd. (103 guests) The committee has met and are several items we would change were we to offer it again. We didn't make as much money as we had hoped, but it was a good public relations event. Approximately 50% of the attendees were from DuPont, however, there were a great number who had never attended any of our programs and some we'd never met before. The other 50% were from out of town with 10 people from over 50 miles away. A number of people dressed the part and for the most part we were pleased with the outcome.

Jerry Eckstrom presented a program on "Why the Fort was moved" Sunday afternoon February 23. We had 57 friends and fellow museum members in attendance. We appreciate everyone coming out to support the programs and other events.





**Buffalo Soldiers:** A new display to the Museum was put together by the Friends of the Buffalo Soldiers in February for Black History month and will be a permanent display. In 1904 approximately 250 Buffalo Soldiers rode their horses from Fort Walla Walla to Camp Murray to participate in what was called the 1904 maneuvers. This training included the Oregon, Idaho and Washington National Guard, Regular Army Troops and Buffalo Soldiers. A total of 4011 troops participated with approximately half bivouacked (Blue Force) Lake Steilacoom and half bivouacked (Brown Force) on the banks of Sequelitchew Creek on Mr. Huggins property. The maneuvers ran July 7 through July 17, 1904.

An open house for the display was held February 16, with 87 guests in attendance. Also on display were African and Caribbean dolls hand made by Joanne Jones.

- **Programs to be rescheduled:** We did have to cancel several of our programs in March and for April, but once we are able to open the Museum again, we will reschedule. The Historical Society annual meeting and Tim Ransom's talk on history of the Braget Farm was cancelled on March 16.
- Senior lunch and talk with Jennifer Cutillo, Visitor Service Manager Billy Frank Jr. Fish & Wildlife Refuge was scheduled to talk on the history and development of the refuge March 19.
- Jennifer Crooks' talk on Celebrating Women's History of DuPont, profiling ten women who played a role in the development of DuPont on April 19 was cancelled and has tentatively been rescheduled to Sunday June 14.

We would like to thank everyone who serves on the Historical Society Board. Zac Lyday, Melissa McGann, Tyler Estep, Lee McDonald, Patty Moore, Carol Estep, Rebecca Howson & Linda Cumberbatch. Rebecca and Linda rotated off the board in March and John Schilling and Roy Coffey are our two new board members. The HS board meets the 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m at the Museum. Meetings are open to anyone who is interested in attending. If you would be interested in serving on the board, please send us a letter of interest. E-mail [duponthistoricalmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:duponthistoricalmuseum@gmail.com) or mail to 207 Barksdale, DuPont WA 98327.

Volunteers are needed for our upcoming events and we have a couple projects we will be working on in the museum when we re-open and can use volunteers to help.



**UPCOMING events subject to change**

- Jerry Williams will lead a walk of Historic DuPont Saturday May 9, 2020, 10:00 AM. Meet and sign in at the Museum, 207 Barksdale. This event is free and welcome to all ages. Under 12 years of age must be with an adult. Walk is approximately 1 1/2 miles on city streets and sidewalks. Come prepared for rain or sunshine
- Walking tour(s) of 1843 Fort Nisqually site will be led by Historian Drew Crooks. Saturday(s) June 27 & July 11, 2020 at 1:00 and 3:00 PM. Meet at the 1843 fort site to sign in. Free and open to all ages. 12 years and under must be accompanied by an adult. Uneven ground—wear good walking shoes. Please park in City Hall parking lot (across Center Drive from fort site)



**4th of July Pancake Breakfast fund raiser:** The Forever Young Seniors, other volunteers and members of the DuPont Historical Society have been running the 4th of July pancake fund raiser for over 15 years. Hopefully all will go as planned and we can have this fund raiser again in 2020. Pancake breakfast is in Clock Tower Park serving the public between the hours of 8:00 and 11:00 AM. It is a lot of work, but also a lot of fun interacting with the public. We need about 28 volunteers to put this on. If you have never worked with us before but are interested, please let us know. [duponthehistoricalmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:duponthehistoricalmuseum@gmail.com)

**Hudson' Bay Heritage Days:** Sunday August 16, 2020, noon to 4:00 the DuPont HS and Museum will have a tent at the BBQ cook off in Clock Tower Park. Exhibitors/re-enactors mostly from Fort Nisqually Pt. Defiance will be there with us. Tours of the 1843 Fort Nisqually site will be led by Historian Drew Crooks at 1:00 and 3:00 PM. Please park in the City Hall parking lot (across Center Drive from the ft. site.) Event is free and open to all ages. 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.



**Two new Interpretive signs in the ground:**  
Chief Leschi in Leschi Park, Hoffman Hills  
Hose cart and shed, DuPont Fire Department



**MEMBERSHIP:** Your membership and support is very important to the DuPont Historical Society and Museum. All funds go to support the DuPont Museum, programs and events.

If you are a Fred Meyer shopper, we encourage you to register your Fred Meyer rewards card making the DuPont Historical Society your charity of choice. Visit <https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4> log into your account search for DuPont Historical Society or DP451 and click enroll. DHS will earn a percentage of what you spend at NO extra cost to you.

If you are an Amazon shopper, go to smile amazon and make DuPont Historical Society your charity of choice. We will earn a percentage of amount you spend at NO extra cost to you.

DuPont Historical Society appreciates your support, volunteering and attendance of our events and programs. Thanks to each of you.