

Bothell Museum Sentinel

"Not your usual newspaper"

Spring 2024

Issue 11

Bothell Historical Museum

Celebrating the History of Bothell

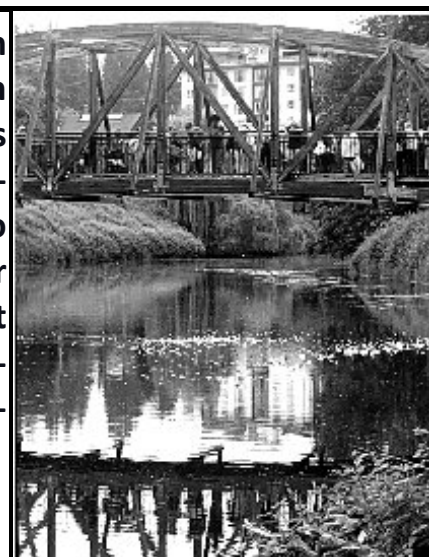


Spring Membership Meeting

Our Spring Membership Meeting is planned for Saturday, March 23rd, at 1:00 pm at the Lytle House, across from the Hannan House. Please come! Our special guest speaker will be Richard Heisler, a Civil War historian, who will talk about John Rhea and his family. John's unmarked grave has been recently cleaned, and a headstone added. Board members will share information about projects accomplished this last winter and more planned improvements. You may sign up to be a docent for our April opening of the museum buildings and let us know if you'd like to participate in the 4th of July parade. Other volunteer opportunities will also be available. Refreshments will be served.

Petals On The River

The annual Petals on the River memorial event will be held on Sunday, May 26th, the day before Memorial Day, at 12:30 pm on the bridge over the river at the Park at Bothell Landing. On this special occasion, we honor departed friends and family members in whose names monetary donations have been made to the museum this last year. After reading those names, flower petals, some donated by the Bothell Florist and others brought by participants, are dropped into the water, where they float towards Lake Washington. Everyone is invited. Mark your calendars for this heartfelt event.



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BOTHELL MUSEUM
Opening Doors To Bothell's Past

Supported by your contributions and ongoing support from 4Culture



Welcome to Spring and another Great Year ahead for the Bothell Historical Museum Society. We have activities currently lined up and more to be added.

We hope for your support as we go through the coming year, whether as a donor, docent, or volunteer contributing your support to our museum.

During this year, we will continue to offer individual tours upon request. Some schools have already requested school tours In May and June.

The YMCA offered a seniors tour of our buildings, eliciting an extensive response and a waiting list. Volunteers who can help with the tours are always welcome.

As you may know, our lease with the city expired in 2023, and we have been awarded an interim lease extension for 2024. Please see the article on the next page.

Current Board Members

President	Mary Evans
Vice President	Bob Beckstrom
Secretary	Jill Keeney
Treasurer	Bob Gerrish
At Large	Mary Anne Gibbons
At Large	Pat Pierce
At Large	Don Sparling

Committee Chairs

Archives	—	Pat Pierce
Facilities	—	Don Sparling
Collections	—	Pat Pierce
Display	—	Open
Docents	—	Open
Events	—	Jill Keeney
Membership	—	Susan Gardner
Past Perfect Lead	—	Open
Phone Communicator	— Jo Anne Hunt	
Photographer	— Thiviya Ganesharaja	
Publicity	—	Mary Evans
Technology	—	Bob Gerrish
Treasure Boxes	— Mary Anne Gibbons	
Fashion, Textiles	—	Open
Schoolhouse Lead	—	Mary Evans
Sentinel Newsletter Editor	—	Open
Newsletter Article Writer	—	Open
Van Program Lead	—	Mary Evans
Webmaster	—	Ron Green

Board and Committee members can be contacted by email to BothellMuseum@gmail.com or by phone number which can be found in the Membership Directory.

Your support is essential to our long-term operations. Together, we can work to continue to operate the Bothell Historical Museum in its requests for items, continue the repair work to our buildings, and spread the word about our museum and Bothell. If you have questions or suggestions about the museum, please email BothellMuseum@gmail.com.

Docent Training and Spring Opening

Our first Sunday opening this year will be April 7th . Docents are needed for each building: one for the Beckstrom Cabin, one for the Schoolhouse, and two for the Hannan House.

A Docent information/training meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 28th at 10:00 a.m. in the Hannan House. If you are you interested in being a docent please attend and sign up for one or more 3-hour shifts between April 7th and October 27th. You don't need to be an authority on the history of Bothell. We have printed information about each building and people important in Bothell's history. A few fun and interesting facts are all that visitors want to hear.

Facilities Report

Some of the original knob and tube wiring in the Hannan House attic was removed several years ago but some wiring still needed to be removed. New wiring was installed so new insulation could be installed in the attic. The wiring in some light fixtures on the second floor also needed to be fixed. Good Sense Electric was hired in December 2023, and the work was completed in January. The electrical wiring now is much safer, and we can insulate the attic to significantly reduce the Hannan House electrical bill and make it much more comfortable. Maintaining a historic building is costly and requires consistent attention. See Before and After pictures on the next page.

Lease Negotiations

In 2023, when our lease committee started negotiations with the City for a lease renewal, the City decided to restructure our current agreement. The City wanted to convert it from a ten-year to a five-year lease and have BHMS take responsibility for the exterior maintenance of the City-owned museum buildings. The current lease had been in place for many years and was modified as appropriate.

The City would like the museum to assume exterior repair costs and rely on nonprofit grant funding, unavailable to the City, to assist with the costs. BHMS has partnered with 4Culture, the King County funding agency for distributing Motel and Hotel taxes, for annual sustaining grants to cover expenses such as electricity and interior maintenance. BHMS continues to be in contact with other grant administrators. Grants are competitive, covering a specific project, and are typically funded after completion. The work of obtaining grants is an ongoing issue throughout the year. The Museum Board has received numerous updates from 4Culture grant funding and information available from other sources such as the Paul Allen fund, the Washington Historical Office, Representative Suzan DelBene's office, and the Nonprofit Association of Washington. If any members have specific recommendations for a source for grants/funding, please email your suggestions to BothellMuseum@gmail.com.

We welcome your assistance in this matter. During 2024, we will continue lease negotiations with the City. Your help is needed by contacting Bothell City Council members via email or written statements telling of the importance of the Bothell Museum to this area.

Wiring Photos



Before

After

Volunteer Opportunities P 3

Volunteers enable the BHMS to carry out essential activities to preserve and share Bothell's history. The museum has three buildings: Hannan House, Schoolhouse, and Beckstrom cabin.

There are many ways to get involved. Here are some:

- Be a docent, explaining the museum's history and exhibits: Sundays, April-October, as it works for your schedule, and the occasional private tour.
- Is HR (Human Resources) in your skill set? We need a Docent Coordinator to ensure that the docent positions are filled for each open event.
- Help catalog donated items.
- Help Write Grants.
- Create monthly window displays using the museum's collections
- Become a board member.
- Research stories to tell Bothell's history; write newsletter articles!
- Assist with special events.
- Create public outreach opportunities.
- If you like scrapbooking, articles and photos await.

A Sample of events held in 2023:

- Petals on the River, Sunday before Memorial Day
- Fourth of July city events at the museum and in the parade
- 130th birthday bash for the Hannan House preceded by a Pioneer Cemetery headstone dedication for two Civil War veterans
- December Holiday Tea
- Tours by request
- Membership meetings with a featured speaker
- Partnership with McMenamins Anderson School's Pub History Talks

To celebrate Bothell's past by volunteering, please email us:

BothellMuseum@gmail.com or
JillK@BothellHistoricalMuseum.org.

Volunteer For 2023

Seventy-three volunteers donated 4,117 hours to the museum. The final attendance count for 2023 was about 59,705 guests in the museum, viewing the window displays and online.

2024 Events Calendar

- Saturday, March 23rd, at 1:00 pm Spring Membership Meeting at the Lytle House, Richard Heisler will speak on Civil War Veteran, John Rhea.
- Tuesday, March 26, McMenamins History Pub 7:00-9:00 pm (doors open at 6 pm) Meet Me at the Fair: Seattle's 1909 & 1962 World Expositions presented by Lorraine McConaghy.
- Thursday, March 28th at 10:00 am Docent Training in the Hannan House.
- Tuesday, April 30, McMenamins History Pub 7:00-9:00 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm) tentative plans are to have a speaker instrumental in developing the book "The Boys in the Boat".
- Sundays, April 7th through October From 1:00-4:00 pm Museum Open Sundays For the Season
- Sunday, May 26th, Petals On The River (the day before Memorial Day,) at 12:30 pm on the bridge over the river in the Park at Bothell Landing.
- Thursday, July 4th at 8:30–10:30 am. This is tentative at this time. If the City of Bothell holds their Pancake Breakfast in the Park at Bothell Landing, the museum buildings will be open and we will need docents for the event.
- Thursday, July 4th at 10:30 am—Gathering for the 4th of July Bothell Parade. All members, volunteers, and friends of the museum not for working during the tentative morning opening are welcome to participate.
- Sunday, December 1st, Holiday Tea at the Hannan House.

School / Youth Group and Private Tours

School and Youth Tours	Personalized Tours of the Museum
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School and Youth Tours are available to all private and public schools and individual youth groups. These tours are offered throughout the year. Contact bothellmuseum@gmail.com to arrange a tour. Docents lead tours and times are set based on the needs of the school or the youth group. In past years, booklets have been delivered to the Northshore School District aimed primarily at the second-grade student level with facts on Bothell's history. A donation of \$1 per youth is suggested for the tour. Mary Anne Gibbons is responsible for the Treasure Box program, which consists of 3 tubs of materials, each focused on different items to share more historical information. The tub set is available for use and is generally used for one week with a suggested donation of \$10. Reservations are currently being accepted for the 2024 school year. To request the tub sets, call Mary Anne at her number in the membership directory or email her at MaryAnneG@BothellHistoricalMuseum.org. To make a reservation for a tour or to participate as a *docent*, please contact Mary Evans at her number in the membership directory or email MaryE@BothellHistoricalMuseum.org.

Did you know that the Museum offers personalized tours to the public? The tours are in addition to the scheduled open hours for the museum buildings. Docents conduct these tours, which can be arranged for one to 15 persons and are available Monday through Saturday between 9 am and 3 pm. Tours are individualized and usually take 1 1/2 to 2 hours for the three buildings. To request a tour, visit our website at BothellHistoricalMuseum.org or email BothellMuseum@gmail.com and enter TOUR REQUEST on the subject line. Please allow 24 hours for a response to your request.

Pioneer Sketch

You may recall that two of Bothell's pioneer Civil War veterans received military headstones last summer to honor their service and perpetuate their memory properly. One of these pioneers, Robert Campbell, received a larger share of the attention at the time as he was a member of the Bothell family with many descendants still in the area. John C. Rhea is lesser known to us today but is still an important part of Bothell's early history and is the subject for this edition's Pioneer Sketch, written by Richard Heisler, and is an introduction to what he will share at the Spring membership meeting.

by Richard Heisler

Like all of Bothell's pioneer generation, John Rhea and his family arrived in Bothell from the East. John was a native of Ohio, born in 1836, but came from a family with deep roots extending back to colonial Virginia. The Rhea family from which John was descended were in Colonial Virginia as early as the 1640s. His family tree is rich with early Huguenot settlers in New Jersey in the 1670s. The Rhea family roots are deep in the earliest history of our nation. Rhea's descendants moved slowly westward to Kentucky and ultimately Preble County, Ohio, where John's father Alexander was born in 1813. John Conger Rhea was the third child born to Alexander Rhea and Sarah Conger in September 1836.

In Preble County, John was raised and lived on his family's farm until his marriage to Elizabeth Pollock, a native of Preble County, in November 1856. By the start of the Civil War, they were farming adjacent to his father and welcomed their first child, Francis. Before the war's end, 2 more children were born to the Rheas, Charles Ellsworth and Lawrence.

In May of 1864, Rhea enlisted in an Ohio National Guard regiment that went into federal service designated as the 156th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The 156th regiment was in US service for a brief time, totaling just 100 days. Regiments of "100-day men" were a concept put forward in 1864 by the governors of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa as a response to Confederate incursions across or threatening those states' southern borders in 1863. The lightly trained 100-day men were also expected to fulfill necessary duties behind the lines, freeing veteran troops to join the armies in the field. Leaders hoped the 100-day surge would help produce the end of the hostilities. Ohio's request for 30,000 men was expected to produce some discontent and unrest similar to reactions across the North to the federal draft. Still, ultimately, 38,000 men answered the call to serve.



John and Elizabeth Rhea

Ohio Governor John Brough issued a proclamation in May 1864 on the occasion of the volunteer enlistment of Ohioans such as John Rhea. It read, in part:

"The Commander-in-Chief cordially and earnestly thanks you for your noble response on yesterday to the call made for the relief of our army, and the salvation of the country. This manifestation of loyalty and patriotism is alike honorable to yourselves and your noble State. In the history of this great struggle it will constitute a page that you and your descendants may hereafter contemplate with perfect satisfaction.

The duty to which you are assigned, though comparatively a minor one, will be none the less beneficial to the cause of the country. While you hold fortifications, and lines of army communications, you will release veteran soldiers, and allow them to strengthen the great army that is marshaling for the mightiest contest of the war. In this you will contribute your full measure to the final result we all so confidently anticipate, and so much desire, the end of the rebellion, and the restoration of peace and unity to the land."

Most 100-day regiments saw no activity against Confederate opposition, but the 156th did. Near the end of their enlistment term, the 156th was sent to western Maryland to

John Rhea—continued

aid in the defense of the town of Cumberland and took part in the Battle of Folck's Mill on August 1, 1864. The fight was a relatively minor engagement but prevented the capture of Cumberland by Confederate cavalry forces under the command of General John McCausland, who had earlier in the summer caused a great deal of trouble in Maryland, including the ransom of Hagerstown MD, and the burning of the town of Chambersburg PA. The 156th Ohio Infantry mustered out of service at Camp Dennison, Ohio, on September 1, 1864, ending John's service in the Civil War. He returned to farming, and their young family continued to grow. By 1880, John, Elizabeth, and their children had followed their ancestors' ways. They moved ever westward, then living and farming southwest of Kansas City in Jackson County, Missouri. It is not precisely clear when the Rhea's made another westward step to Washington Territory. By 1890, the family was living in Seattle, and by 1892, they were living and farming in Bothell.

The Rhea property was north of today's downtown Bothell. John, Elizabeth, and their family were an integral part of the early pioneer era for Bothell. John was a member of the John Bothell Post of the Grand Army of the Republic and enjoyed the fraternity and comradeship of Bothell's other Civil War veterans, especially those of the Bothell family. Around 1905, John left Bothell and moved to Paradise, California, where he worked as a mail carrier for several years. 1910 brought a return to Bothell, and the Bothell Sentinel wryly noted that after an absence of 5 years, this was "the first instance on record of anybody ever returning from paradise." Perhaps Bothell is even greater than Paradise itself?

Elizabeth Rhea passed away in Bothell in 1908. Whether she remained behind with family or had returned earlier from California than John is unclear. She, like many of the Rhea family, was cared for by Bothell's Dr E. E. Lytle. She was buried atop the south hill in the Bothell cemetery in a family plot next to her mother, Ann, who died in 1893. John passed away in January 1913 and was buried on the hill next to Elizabeth. In 1919, their son Lawrence also passed and was buried near his parents in the plot atop the hill. Dr. Lytle was the physician attending all 3 at their time of death.

Sadly, in the more than 110 years since John Rhea's death, his grave had remained unmarked and anonymous, as had that of Elizabeth and also Lawrence. They may have been marked with a wooden headboard or temporary marker early on, but if so, any indication had been lost to time. Over the decades, the resting places of the Rheas had receded into the margins of Bothell history, figuratively and literally. The family gravesites were covered by overgrowth. No attention was given to the plot, and a line of cedars was even planted along what was thought to be the cemetery edge, including one tree planted directly on Elizabeth Rhea's grave. The family graves and their contribution to Bothell's history have now been recovered.

The Bothell Historical Museum collection features a number of wonderful and intimate family artifacts from the John Rhea family. These offer not just a window into who they were to help us tell their story, but some were critical in obtaining a government veteran's grave marker to commemorate John's Civil War service. As part of this year's spring meeting of the Bothell Historical Society, the featured presentation will tell the story of the Rhea family items in the collection and how the journey behind John's veteran headstone was obtained and the Rhea family plot was restored and recognized. It will allow seeing how objects, documents, and material culture are crucial to exploring and interpreting Bothell's rich history.

If you wish to become a new member or **HAVE NOT RENEWED** your membership for 2024, please use this form

2024 Membership Form use ONLY if you don't have a current membership.



Bothell Historical Museum membership fees cover **Jan 1, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024**. Your support makes it possible for us to care for the museum buildings, to showcase Bothell's rich history for the public, and to provide resources and research for our community. You are an important part of our mission.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone (s): _____

Email (ONLY if you use it!): _____

Membership Levels

- Student - \$ 15 _____
- Senior - \$ 15 _____
- Senior Family \$ 25 _____
- Individual - \$ 25 _____
- Family - \$ 40 _____
- Business - \$100 _____
- Donation _____

Note: _____

Memorial Donation _____

In whose name: _____

Total _____

PLEASE CHECK YES OR NO FOR ALL QUESTIONS

I would like to have my contact information included in a Bothell Museum Directory for members only.

Yes _____ No _____

I would like to volunteer.

Yes _____ No _____

I would like to receive Newsletters and Mailings.

Yes _____ No _____

Your membership dues, donations and memorial contributions may be eligible for matching gifts through your employer and may be tax deductible. Bothell Historical Museum Society is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID 91-0866794.

Make Checks Payable to and Mail to:

Bothell Historical Museum

PO BOX 313

Bothell, WA 98041-0313

We thank you for your support.

Bothell Historical Museum
PO Box 313
Bothell, WA 98041-0313



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The Bothell Historical Museum would like to include your organization as one of our business members or business partners! For more information, email us at: BothellMuseum@gmail.com

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