April is National Poetry Month! Join the Redmond Historical Society on April 22nd in celebrating our town, our history, and our community of voices as we share poems and stories about Redmond with our first annual Poetry Showcase and Reading at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse. For a Spring calendar of Society programs and community events, see page 3.
OUR FIRST QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER!

With this Spring ‘23 issue, The Redmond Recorder is going quarterly—and bigger. Instead of the 5.5x8.5-inch format of 12 pages, we are expanding to 8.5x11-inch format. We’ll publish this newsletter four times a year: Spring (Mar/April), Summer (June/July), Fall (September), and Winter (January).

The ‘Grand Experiment’

We still plan to produce a digital PDF that is downloadable from our website, as well as send out a PDF through email to subscribers, and mail a printed version to those who requested it. The goals are to ease the burden of the editor and designer, and to bring you longer articles and richer content. We also plan to add new sections, such as Collections News, interviews with speakers and Lifetime members, Kid’s Crafts, Redmond recipes—and the occasional poem.

We will still send out notices of our programs—such as the Saturday Speaker Series, Evening Speaker Series, and the Walking Tours—on a monthly basis, as we have with the March 2023 programs. We will also still mail out event notices through the City of Redmond via postcards.

Send Us Your Feedback

What would you, our Readers, like to see in these pages—more stories about our members? More photos? More coverage of community events? Letters to the Editor? Please email newsletter@redmondhistoricalsociety.org. Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you!

–Laura Lee Bennett, Newsletter Editor
Vice President, Programs and Outreach

COMPASS Realtors Partner with RHS to Assist with Fundraising

Compass Real Estate Brokers, Cynthia Olsen and Mary Sullivan, have formed a unique partnership with Redmond Historical Society in an effort to help with fundraising for the Society. Cynthia and Mary will donate 10% of their earned commissions to support the Society when members use or refer business that results in a closed transaction. This partnership was formed as a way to give back to organizations that support our communities. Choose real estate brokers who go above and beyond to help with every detail of the buying and selling process, and support the Society! Cynthia and Mary will help you plan, organize, donate, and more—they do it all! Please be sure to say hello to Cynthia and Mary at our next meeting! For more info, contact Cynthia.Olsen@Compass.com, 425 877-9904, or Mary.Sullivan@Compass.com, 425 449-2841.
RHS PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Love history? Enjoy these Society programs and community events! Free unless otherwise posted. Want your event listed here? Email newsletter@redmondhistoricalsociety.org with the subject line: Community Event.

RHS Saturday Speaker Series
April 8 | All Over the Map: Surprising Places and Place Names in the Evergreen State
10:30 AM, Old Redmond Schoolhouse at 16600 NE 80th Street, Redmond, WA 98052. Broadcaster and historian Feliks Banel explores the stories behind some of the formal and informal names of places and things around Western Washington including some not found on any map. These programs are offered in person and online, with a suggested donation of $5 for non-members. To join on Zoom, register at tinyurl.com/RHSAllOverTheMap. Registration not required for in person.

April 7 | Opening Reception, “Viewing Redmond’s History Through a Poet’s Eye”
6:30-8:00 PM, VALA Art Center, 8020 161st Avenue Northeast #104, Redmond, WA 98052. Explore Redmond’s history through a poet’s eyes. This exhibit explores the historical photos that were used in the City of Redmond’s centennial poetry anthology, entitled 10X10, by placing photographic prints alongside reproductions of the poems they inspired. Redmond’s first poet laureate Rebecca Meredith and six local poets weave in their own personal stories with local history. Exhibit runs April 7–May 28, 2023.

April 22 | RHS Poetry Showcase & Reading
1:00 PM, Old Redmond Schoolhouse at 16600 NE 80th Street, Redmond, WA 98052. Join the Redmond Historical Society for a community event celebrating National Poetry Month and the unique history of our town! Selected poets will perform their work in response to archival photos from the Society’s Collections.

April 22 | All-Ages Poetry Coffee House
3-4:30 PM, Redmond Library, 15500 NE 85th Street, Redmond, WA 98052. Celebrate Poetry Month with an afternoon of open mic poetry reading, art, and coffee! Share your inspirational poems, meet fellow poets, and be inspired to write from the poems, artwork, and photos on display! Refreshments will be served, and door prizes!

More info: tinyurl.com/RHSPoetryShowcase

April 15 | History Keeper’s Workshop - Sponsored by EastHUB and Eastside Heritage Center
10:00 AM-1:00 PM, Crossroads Community Center Community Room, 16000 NE 10th St, Bellevue, WA 98008. Learn how to preserve the cultural and historical records of your community, organizations, and families! Free Parking available.

More info: www.kcls.org

RHS PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

April 1-30 | Redmond’s History Through Poetry: From RHS Collections
Redmond Library, 15500 NE 85th Street, Redmond, WA 98052. Explore poems in the Society’s collections, from 1921 up to the present day of Redmond’s Poet Laureate Program.

More info: www.kcls.org
Feliks Banel is a broadcaster and historian who focuses on Pacific Northwest history, geography, cartography, and pop culture. He presents stories about Northwest history twice each week on KIRO Newsradio, and is host of the weekly radio program and podcast “Cascade of History” heard live Sunday nights from historic Magnuson Park on SPACE 101.1 FM. Prior to joining the staff at KIRO, he created the history series “This NOT Just In” for KUOW Public Radio. Feliks also produces history documentaries for the Seattle Channel. He lives in Seattle.

We caught up with Feliks, speaker for the April 8 Saturday Speaker Series program, “All Over the Map: Surprising Places and Place Names of the Evergreen State,” for a bit of Q&A.

RHS: When the founders of a town or city decide a name, do they have a complicated process to go through to make it official with the state?

Feliks: I’m not sure what it’s like nowadays, but the Post Office was the main arbiter of place names in the 19th century and early 20th century. A community could apply for recognition from the US Postmaster for a specific name, but that name could be rejected if it was already in use somewhere else in the state or if it was somehow confusing.

RHS: So many city, town and area names are Native American, what other inspirations have there been … founding families, natural amenities, or historic information?

Feliks: A big one is ego! People like to name things for themselves! Also, many of the maritime names bestowed by British explorers like Captain Vancouver or Americans like Charles Wilkes are for fellow naval/military men.

RHS: Are there any local written or unwritten rules (prior to the state) behind officially placing a name? What is the process?

Feliks: The US Board on Geographic Names is the part of the Department of Interior in charge of maintaining the massive database of US place names now. Before that, it really was about the Post Office and the need to be able to circulate the mail. When a city or town incorporated (in territorial days and then the state era), that was, of course, important for being able to create a local governing entity with local control over law enforcement and other civic services (unlike unincorporated areas which fell under county jurisdiction).

RHS: Which locale in Washington best represents its name?

Feliks: Tough question! I can’t pick one, because what I really like are the layers of names that relate to Indigenous, British, Spanish and American influences over the various eras here it’s like inadvertent poetry!
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS

Since 2003, Tom Hitzroth has led walking tours of Redmond’s historic district. Over the years, the tour has evolved from one hour to two, with the script changing as new information is discovered.

A lifelong Eastside resident, Hitzroth continues to work on identifying details of Redmond’s development from its earliest time the site of the settlement of Melrose that preceded Redmond, and the land claims of early Redmond. He is also studying the early building and development patterns of the historic downtown.

2023 Walking Tour Schedule

Sunday May 21, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday June 11, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday August 20, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday September 10, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tours meet as scheduled and begin across the street from the Justice White House/Hotel Redmond (Jensen/Fey Architects) at 7730 NE 76th. Tours will not be conducted in the rain.

These events include a significant amount of walking or standing, with limited opportunities for resting. We recommend wearing comfortable shoes, weather-appropriate clothing, and bring a water bottle.

Tickets are available for $10 per person on the Events page at RedmondHistoricalSociety.org. Registration is required by the Wednesday prior to the tour, and tours are limited to 10 participants. To ensure the group maximum is not exceeded, please make sure your registration includes every member of your party. For further questions, please call our office at 425-885-2919.

PIONEER CEMETERY WALKING TOUR, JULY 9TH

Join us on Sunday, July 9th for a Walking Tour of the Redmond Pioneer Cemetery in partnership with the Cedar Lawns Memorial Park & Funeral Home.

More info and to register: RHS Events page
When the last Cordilleran ice sheet began its retreat 16,900 years ago, the ice reached as far south as where Olympia is today. It was 3,000 feet high over the Seattle area and depressed the earth’s surface with its enormous weight. Forests and animals disappeared. On its way back north, it created ice rivers beneath the flow that carved out valleys, which filled with water. One of the valleys became Lake Sammamish, and the Squak River that flowed from that valley.

The land rebounded, and silt filled in valleys. Gradually, the forest and animals returned. Although evidence was found in 2008 at the Bear Creek site in Redmond that humans were here about 12,000 years ago, permanent settlement by the Lushootseed/Salish peoples began around 2,500 years ago.

**Scows and Paddle Wheelers**

With the passage of the Homestead Act in 1862, the Redmond “settlement” was surveyed for homesteading, with the arrival of the Perrigo and McRedmond families in 1871. At that time, the Squak River was more of a slow-moving slough that surrounded swampy areas, but allowed scows and paddle wheelers to bring families to the area. This system worked until 1916, when Lake Washington was lowered by 9 feet with the construction of the Ballard Locks. Lake Sammamish was also lowered by 6 feet, making the river faster-moving, shallower, and nearly impossible for transportation.

Farming of the fertile valley created by the river—at the time 30 miles long—was challenged by annual flooding. In addition, a drainage and ditching program that began in 1895 was still being used to manage the river. After repeated efforts of ditching and straightening, a major project between 1963 and 1965 was undertaken by King County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that created dikes and filled in old channels of the river which was now only 14 miles. Lowering the river drained swampy areas providing more useable land. A concrete weir, or dam, was placed about 4,000 feet from the lake outflow to help control seasonal rains and to improve salmon migration returning to their spawning grounds.

The river provided transportation for early settlement and filled the valley with rich, fertile soil for berry, vegetable, dairy, and beef farming. Logging the area allowed for poultry and mink farming. As settlers continued to arrive and homestead, the population grew to 300 people.
population grew to 300 people. In 1912, the town was incorporated. Originally it was called Melrose, named for the Perrigo’s Inn, but when Luke McRedmond became postmaster in 1882, he quickly changed the name to Redmond.

**Accident on the Slough**

And while the river, now called Sammamish, provided for early settlement and farming, it also provided for many recreational activities. In the early years, fishing for salmon and steelhead was popular. In 1934, outboard racing began, and continued until 1976, when a boat hit the riverbank and broke the leg of a University of Washington spectator. He was a pole-vaulter who could never compete again. Golf courses were built, and bends in this vital waterway were (re)created to replenish salmon spawning areas and create habitat for birds. As part of the City’s efforts, the riverbank was eventually paved, creating a 25-mile trail for biking and hiking—from Redmond to Puget Sound.

In Part II in the next issue, you will read more about Redmond’s development.

**Recommended Reading**

Sammamish River History – A visual Narrative
https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/061ad2b252944a4dbf6d0a7c872ea134
THE MCREDMOND–TOSH DISPUTE – PART I

By Tom Hitzroth

You are likely familiar with stories of neighbors who, on occasion, have trouble with one another. Initially it seemed that Luke McRedmond and John Tosh were good neighbors. A document in the Tosh land claim record shows that on August 28, 1887, Luke agreed to be a witness to the Olympia Land Office, stating that John had fulfilled all the requirements to be issued a patent (deed) to the land he had been on since 1878. However, by June 1888, that relationship had changed significantly.

On August 30, 1888, Luke McRedmond filed a grievance against the petition, stating that if the new road was adopted, it would “cut through his orchard, barn, and garden, and run between his barn and pasture, and the only watering place for his cattle.” The petition went on to say that the road would run through over a half-mile of low bottom land, which would require the county an almost endless expense to make the road passable as a county road.

Luke had been accurate in his grievance. John Tosh seemingly had petitioned for the shortest, most direct route from his land to the railroad with little or no consideration regarding obstructions that might be in the way.

On October 22, 1888, John Tosh filed a response to Luke’s grievance, stating that Luke McRedmond has stopped him from crossing his land, and he had no possible way of getting from his place to the railroad station and the store except by water. He could not get his hay or produce to market, or get to and from the store over land, because there was no road, and McRedmond had stopped him from crossing his land.

In Part II, we’ll look at Luke McRedmond’s examination of the validity of the petition that John Tosh filed with King County. We’ll also look at both parties to see if there was possibly more to this event than appeared on the surface.

The Seattle, Lakeshore and Eastern Railroad (SLS&E) arrived in Redmond in May 1888, and by June that same year, began passenger and freight service to Redmond. On June 5, 1888, John Tosh filed a petition with King County for a road. The petition defined the route of the proposed road from his land to the Houghton to Tolt Road, approximately 580 feet from the train depot. It also mentions that the road would pass near McRedmond’s land.

From September 20–22, 1888, King County surveyed the proposed road based on the description given in the petition. The surveyor noted that in two places in the path of the road, he found “swampy ground”—a half-mile in width. He also noted the place where he entered McRedmond’s clearing. Farther on, he came to McRedmond’s barn, then the Houghton to Redmond road. The proposed road would run right through the middle of Luke’s farm—an area 60 feet wide (see map).
Area of controversy: John Tosh County Road #223, courtesy of the King County Road Service Division. The proposed road—and the “obstructions”—are overlaid on Luke McRedmond’s property.
SECRET OF A DEAD MAN’S PENNY:  
A REDMOND VETERAN’S STORY

By Halee Turner and Dean Jowers

Our staff and volunteers are always working to improve our collections and displays! During some recent sorting, we discovered a bronze plaque, accompanied by a short note.

The note indicated that the plaque had been donated by Frances McEvers, a relative of Edward Charles McEvers, who was named on the plaque. However, nothing else about the piece was known.

Searching a phrase on the plaque quickly brought us to Wikipedia. We learned that the plaque is a “Memorial Plaque” (Medallion), sometimes known as “Dead Man’s Penny,” since it resembles the much smaller coin.

Mystery of the Memorial Plaque
Many of these plaques were issued to the next of kin of any British Empire service personnel who were killed as a consequence of WWI.

How had it come to Redmond? Why did Edward Charles McEvers—an American born in California—receive a British plaque?

A search of our archives revealed a photo postcard of Edward during his military service, along with a second postcard of Claude Hanks, and a notation that they had both joined the join the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF).

An online search led us to their Canadian military records in the Library and Archives Canada. Their files had been updated on August 30, 2022—just a few days before our search.

These records showed that Edward entered the Canadian Army on February 5, 1916. He states that he was married and lists Mrs. Stella McEvers, of Redmond, Washington, as wife and next of kin.

A Falsified Form
Edward’s pay included an extra $3 a month for being married*. However, in July of 1916 there is a note on his pay sheet that the account is closed and no more checks are to be issued.

*Edward’s pay included an extra $3 a month for being married.
The note reads, “Issue no more cheques. Mrs. Stella McEvers is wife of soldier’s brother. See letter from Postmaster Redmond Washington.”

*This would have been a roughly 17 percent increase in his overall pay, and we estimate it to be equivalent to about $80 today.

Fate of Edward McEvers Revealed
Edward’s obituary tells us he was a musician and a stretcher bearer during his time in the military.

Once the United States entered the war, he asked to be transferred to the US Army, but it was either denied or had not yet occurred when he was killed in action.

“Whilst on sentry duty in the vicinity of Oppy, on the night of July 22nd/23rd 1918, the Company on his left raided the enemy’s outposts, and the enemy retaliated with artillery fire. At about 12.40 A.M., he was taking cover from the barrage when killed by a shell which exploded in front of him.”

The ‘500th Soldier to Die’
Edward is buried in Anzin St. Aubin British Cemetery, northwest of Arras, France. At the time of his death, Edward was in the 102nd Battalion, and is listed as the 500th soldier to die, from the war, in that battalion.

‘Dead Man’s Penny’ Laid to Rest
After Edward’s death, his belongings and the memorial plaque would have been sent to his brother Hugh.

In the 1920 US Census, we find Hugh and Stella (Hutcheson) McEvers still living in Redmond. Hugh and Stella must have passed the plaque down to their daughter Frances, who entrusted us with this acknowledgement of her uncle’s sacrifice.

While this story is not necessarily typical of all items in our archives, it does illustrate how new information can be found over time, revealing untold stories. Thanks, in part, to the large quantity of resources for researchers and genealogists that has been made available digitally.

If one of history’s puzzles has you stumped, keep looking! You never know what you might find.

Editor’s Note: A longer version of this article appears on the RHS website: www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org/post/veterans-in-redmond-researching-a-dead-man-s-penny

Back of postcard reads: “Ed McEvers – Killed in action in France 1917.” Photo: RHS Archives
‘CIVIL WAR’ PRESENTATION DRAWS A CROWD MARCH 11

More than 60 members attended the March 11 Saturday Speaker Series program at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse—and 38 attendees on Zoom! MOHAI public historian Lorraine McConaghy brought stories of the Civil War in Washington Territory. She continues to research the biographies of the African-Canadian men who created the Puget Sound “Underground Railroad.” A recording of this program is available on the RHS YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/W4eyrm4A6v4.

‘ANTI-SUFFRAGE’ MONOLOGUE AT REDMOND LIBRARY MARCH 15

In celebration of Women’s History Month, actress and playwright Barbara Callander channeled a character straight out of the woman suffrage movement, Mrs. W. Winslow Crannell. More than 60 attendees were entertained by a “dithering” woman, whose remarks were based on Marie Jenney Howe’s satiric “An Anti-Suffrage Monologue,” which was published in 1913 by the National American Woman Suffrage Association (precursor of the League of Women Voters). To read the full text of the monologue, visit https://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/4963/.

A special thanks to Kirsten Erickson, Adult Services Librarian, for the programming support!
MEMBERSHIP NOTES

By Paige Norman, Membership Director At Large

Thank you for being a member of Redmond Historical Society, you’re in great company!

Welcome to our new Lifetime Members Deb Akerstrom, Gardener Morelli and McRedmond Morelli, and Russ and Paige Norman are the newest additions to our Family Lifetime memberships!

Washington State Genealogy Society is hosting a contest to document family histories of Pioneers residing in Washington Territory on or before November 11, 1889. Rules and submission forms are available at Washington Pioneer Pursuit Contest. The contest runs from November 1, 2022 until October 31, 2023. For more information, email WAPioneerPursuit@gmail.com.


As we gear up for the spring and summer months, don’t forget to attend our Saturday Speaker Series program on April 8, “All Over the Map: Surprising Places and Place Names in the Evergreen State” with broadcaster and historian Feliks Banel. Members attend for free; $5 suggested donation for non-members. To register for Zoom: tinyurl.com/RHSAllOverTheMap. Registration not required for in person.

We’re in the process of ordering our 2023 Membership Tote Bag with art designed by Elisabeth Jenkins Baty. This Limited Edition bag is only available to members who joined or renewed by January 14, 2023.

Pick up your tote bag at the Saturday speaker program on April 8!

RHS President John Oftebro presents Deb Akerstrom, Russ & Paige Norman with certificates. Photo: Patsy Rosenbach
MEMBERSHIP BIRTHDAYS

If you’d like us to recognize your birthday in upcoming issues, please complete the information on your membership renewal form, or email: membership@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

March 2023
Kenneth Hahnlen March 8
Lorna Diesen March 12
Jeannine Luce March 17
William Wurtz March 18
Marie Hanson March 27

April 2023
Mimi Cogan April 14
Peter Boldyrev April 14
Hank Myers April 23
Sheila L Ridlon April 23
Pat Cogan April 25
Charlotte Everson Hahnlen April 29

May 2023
ChuNi Kao May 2
Terry Turner May 11
Celine Tesch May 16
Ingrid Pearson May 19
John Bailey May 20
Thaddeus Norris May 21
James Kerrigan May 26

OUR SOCIETY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Deb Akerstrom
Sharon Freeman, Ballisty
Louise Graep Barnes
Laura Lee Bennett
David Best
John and Jay Cogan
Marjorie Costello
John Couch
Cory de Jong
Sally Jo Eberhardt
Betty L. Emmanuel
Tony Emmanuel
Elaine Sween Etzler
Don and Mary Fowler
Frank Garbarino
Peggy Garbarino
Madeleine Roberts Hagen
Mary Hanson
Jerry Hardy
Chris Himes
Duane Isackson
Rosemarie Ives
Patricia Weiss Jovag
Barbara Weiss Joyce

Allen Lang
Judy Aries Lang
Judith M. Lankford
Miguel Angel Llanos
*Cheryl Strong Magnuson
*Gene Magnuson
Jon M. Magnussen
Dorothy Matsui
Diana Morelli
Gardner Morelli
McRedmond Morelli
Panfilo Morelli
Allison Reed Morris
*Paige Norman
*Russ Norman
Jackie Norris
Thaddeus Norris
Edward O’Brien
Deborah Ottebro
John Ottebro
LeRoy Olson
Dale Potter
Jo Ann Potter
Bobbie Graep Rettig

Dave Rockenbeck
Laurie M. Rockenbeck
Margy U. Rockenbeck
William Rockenbeck
Doris Bauer Schaible
Dick Shinstrom
Karen Snepp
Beryl Springsteel
Beryl Standley
John C. Stilin
Sherry B. Stilin
Fred Stray
Larry O. Sundholm
Subhadra Terhanian
Doris Townsend
Joe Townsend
Patricia Trepanier
Roger Trepanier
Sue-Lynn Walsh
Patti Simpson Ward
Donald Glennister Watts
Joanne Westlund
James Windle

An asterisk (*) indicates Family Lifetime members. A full listing of Lifetime Members, both current and in memoriam, is available at redmondhistoricalsociety.org.
MEMBERSHIP

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Application Effective for Year: 2023
Date ____________________________

LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one only)

Trailblazer/Student (1 member) $5 _______
Pioneer/Individual (1 member) $25 _______
Homesteader/Family (2 members) $40 _______
Visionary/Business $250 _______
History Maker/Lifetime (1 member) $1,000 _______
Legacy/Family Lifetime (2 members) $2,000 _______

☐ I’d like to be a Sustaining Partner through annual donations in addition to my membership.

Membership Names: 1) ___________________________ 2) ___________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________ Unit# __________

City: ___________________________ State: __________ Zip: ___________________________

Phone: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________

Birthdate Member 1 __________________________ mm/dd/yy (optional)

Birthdate Member 1 __________________________ mm/dd/yy (optional)

☐ Address Change ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift membership
☐ New to Redmond ☐ I am interested in being a volunteer

The Redmond Recorder is available by email and viewable on our website. You may request a paper copy by contacting our office at info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org
Renewals and New Member sign-ups by December 31, 2022 receive a limited edition Redmond Historical Society Tote Bag, designed by Elisabeth Jenkins Baty. Tote Bags will be available after the January 2023 Membership Social via mail or by appointment at the office.

☐ Please check here if you would prefer not to receive this gift.

How did you hear about the Redmond Historical Society?

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY http://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org
16600 NE 80th Street, STE 122, Redmond, WA 98052 (425) 885 - 2919
Redmond Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit group (Tax ID 91-1994957)