

TODAY'S NEWS

STILL CLOSED!

DuPont Historical Museum is still closed and at this time we don't know when we will be able to reopen. Our region has to reach phase 2 again and then we will be able to open at 25% capacity. Watching the Covid cases tallied in the newspaper, it doesn't look very encouraging. We were able to open for a couple of months, Mid-September to Mid-November, and were just starting to get visitors back, when the decision was made to close museums again. We were pleased the visitors who did come in were all very courteous and willing to wear their masks, social distance and adhere to the other protocols we needed to follow.

PLANNING FOR 2021

We are making plans for the spring and later into 2021, so hope you will be ready to join us when we get permission to open the doors.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

March 15, 2021 will be the Historical Society annual meeting. If we are able to meet in person, it will be held at the DuPont Museum 6:30 pm. If we are still restricted, we will meet via Zoom. The meeting will last about a half hour with guest speaker Dr. Timothy Ransom introducing his new book "For the Good of the Order; the Braget Farm and Land use in the Nisqually Valley" at 7:00. The Braget Farm is located on Mounts Road, part of DuPont, and was farmed by the Braget family for 3 generations and almost 100 years. We will send out more information as the date gets nearer. Tim's book is for sale in the DuPont Museum gift shop at \$29.95 plus 9.3% tax. To purchase a copy contact us at duponthisoricalmuseum@gmail.com



WE NEED YOUR HELP

The DuPont Historical Society Board would appreciate hearing from you. We have a couple board vacancies that need to be filled at the March meeting.

- Board members are volunteers who are interested in preserving and promoting the history of DuPont for future generations.
- Board meets monthly 3rd Monday evening 7:00 pm at the DuPont Museum. With Covid we have been meeting via Zoom. Link is sent to you each month.
- While serving; you must have a paid membership to Historical Society
- Willing to help with some events and fundraisers

We hope you are interested in joining us.

Please contact us at duponthehistoricalmuseum@gmail.com

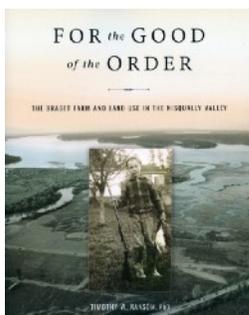
WATCH FOR UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS (if COVID permits)

- May 8, Saturday; Walking tour of Historic DuPont Village led by Jerry Williams
- Walking tours 1843 Fort Nisqually site (dates to be announced; June, July and August 15)
- 4th July Pancake Breakfast fundraiser 8:00 to 11:00 a.m Clock Tower Park
- Hudson's Bay Day along with American Legion BBQ Cook Off August 15, 2021 Clock Tower Park noon to 4:00
- Other events in planning stages to be announced.

WHILE WE HAVE BEEN CLOSED—

Updating Museum website dupontmuseum.com

John Schilling, Renee Buck and Carol Estep took time to read through the DuPont Museum website making recommendations for corrections, editions and updates. Melissa McGann has spent a portion of her Christmas vacation updating the website, adding photos and placing most of the museum gift shop online. Please take a look and let us know what you think. Your suggestions and ideas are very much appreciated.



Travel Mugs



Face Masks



DuPont Historic Village Company Town Houses

It started with wanting to prove the Dupont Company Town houses were made from Aladdin kits, and has turned into a much larger research project.

These houses were built between 1912 and 1917 a time when kit homes, such as Sears and Montgomery Wards house kits, were often used. DuPont resident Mary Brown, a retired english teacher, volunteered to research and write a final report for the DuPont Museum. Mary has interviewed a number of people who still live in a historic village home, people who grew up living in one of the houses, staff from the Hagley Museum and the Central Michigan University Museum, residents of other DuPont Company towns that have houses that look like ours and numerous other people. It will be interesting to read the final report once Mary melds all of the interviews together. Just one of those facts we've always thought was true, but could we prove it?

Museum Photograph Collection.

You might ask, how many photos does the museum own? We would have to say, "we really don't know for sure, but our guess would be close to maybe 7,000?" Volunteers Sandy Fletcher and Robbin Goldsby would probably say, "At Least 7,000"!



Their goal is to make certain each photo is in a protective archival polypropylene sleeve that fits, each photo has an accession number assigned, and is in the correct subject folder and archival box. Volunteers Nancy Rudel and Carol Estep (not in photo) make sure each photo is scanned and cataloged into PastPerfect data base. A lot of the photos were given to the museum from the DuPont Company, when the Powder Works Plant closed 1976, and from people who worked at the plant and lived in DuPont. We also have a nice collection of school photos from when we were school district number 7, 1861-1973, and when were called the DuPont Fort Lewis School District with students from Fort Lewis attending school in DuPont.

Schools 1917-1973, including Laughbon High School, were located where Happy Teriyaki, Starbucks, and DuPont Dental etc. are now. We also have and collect photos from other eras of DuPont history, events and programs. We appreciate having photographs donated to the Museum of past and current DuPont history. We don't always think about saving photos and other items of importance while it is current, but 50 years from now, this will also be part of our history and people might ask why we didn't record it. When you donate photos, we appreciate if you can please provide the date, name of people in the photo and location.

Photo Gallery of DuPont Mayor's

In 1909 a little town was built for the DuPont Company employees only, with all the property remaining in the ownership of the DuPont Company. On March 13, 1912, the village of DuPont became the town of DuPont with 60 of the 63 eligible voters agreeing to incorporate. The purpose of incorporation was to allow the sale of "retail intoxicating liquors" in the clubhouse. In 1926, prohibition era, the need was no longer there and they voted to dis-incorporate going back to a company run town. In 1951 the DuPont Co. gave permission for the residents to buy their homes donating the water, sewer and electric systems, and several lots for parks and children's playgrounds making it mandatory for some form of government. On April 16, 1951, the 500 residents of DuPont voted to incorporate again.

The City of DuPont staff have kept a record of mayors names and dates they served. Nancy Rudel, volunteer, has gathered photos of the mayors since 1951 to current day and compiled them into a chart form. Melissa has placed this chart on the museum website (dupontmuseum.com) under History, Historic Evolution of DuPont, Washington. We would like to thank everyone who worked with us and contributed photos for this project. We do not have photos of the three mayors from the first incorporation. Should you have photos of George Shepherd 1912, Edmund Brown 1914 and P.M. Harrington 1916-1926, we would appreciate a digital copy. All three were probably DuPont Company employees.

YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT DONATIONS are very important to us. The money we collect from the memberships and donations help us to provide programs, purchase supplies, develop new displays, and make upgrades to the museum building such as the backroom flooring finished in 2020 and \$10,000 contribution toward a new roof in 2015. Because of Covid, we had to cancel last year's in person fundraisers. Memberships and donations can be made online using your credit card at dupontmuseum.com home page.

Membership Application
 DuPont Historical Society
 207 Barksdale Ave DuPont WA 98327
 253-964-2399

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Annual Membership Categories

Individual.....\$20	Patron.....\$100
Family.....\$35	Benefactor...\$300
Business.....\$50	Other.....\$_____

Please make check payable to DuPont Historical Society
 Thank You! DuPont Historical Society is a 501 C(3) nonprofit

Two ways to support the DuPont Historical Society at no extra cost to you

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