

Winter, 2013  
Volume 2 Issue 1

# Neely Mansion News

A Historic House Museum



## Christmas Cheer at Neely!

Our annual Victorian Farmhouse Christmas was a resounding success! Friends and neighbors from the area, and as far away as British Columbia, joined in the festivities on Saturday, December 2nd.

Each room of the mansion was decorated in Victorian style with greens, feathers, and red velvet bows and tassels. A ten foot tree towered over the front parlor, loaded with handmade paper ornaments, glass balls, flags, and, of course, a pickle. Three smaller trees featuring different themes were found in other rooms along with antique toys.

Neely Mansion Historian, Hilda Meryhew, read from a book of Victorian Christmas customs and explained the story of the hidden pickle, which brought extra gifts to the lucky finder. The kitchen staff brought out cookies, cakes, candies, and tea sandwiches to cover the dining room table. Special treats came from our neighboring businesses Green Valley Meats, Trees n' Bees, and Canter-Berry Farms. Thanks to all who attended, and those who shared their time to help with this event!

## A New Member Speaks

By Bonnie Azzelino

My first visit to the Neely Mansion was in July 2009, when I attended a performance of the Gateway Concert Band. It was more than a band concert – it was a lovely Garden Party, presented by the members of the Neely Mansion Association.

I was impressed with the history of the mansion and intrigued with the vintage furnishings. The decorations just begged for me to take their picture. So I did, and discovered a fun ‘sepia tone’ setting on my cell phone that allowed me to take photos that looked authentic to the era. This photo of Camille Meador (daughter of board member Karen Meador) on the kitchen porch is my favorite. (Camille later honored me by using this photo as one of her senior HS photos.)

Facebook has allowed me a way to stay in touch with the Neely Mansion. Recently, I was asked to join the Association, and to become the board Secretary. I was pleased to say, “Yes”!



**Sepia Summer at the Neely Mansion**

**Restoration News:** The West Porch where Camille Meador is standing will be restored this year. Due to rain and weather over the years, many of the wooden posts and much of the flooring will be replaced in-kind in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Standards. Funding is provided through a 4Culture 2012 Heritage Cultural Facilities grant.

## Hilda's History Highlights

Aaron Stewart Neely was born to David Andrew and Jane "Irena" (Kemp) Neely in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee, on March 1, 1849. The family crossed the Overland Trail in a covered wagon with their three boys, John Willis, age seven, Aaron Stewart, age five, and Samuel Davis, age three. Irena gave birth at Porter's Prairie, three miles SW of

by Hilda Meryhew

Enumclaw, WA to a baby girl, Saletha Elizabeth. She was the first white baby born in King County. The Neely family arrived at the White River Valley, Washington Territory, on October 4, 1854, and began a new life in the West.

If you have any history thoughts or questions, please write to 5641 S. 318<sup>th</sup> Street, Auburn, WA 98001, or call me at (253) 833-1230.

Happy Hunting! Hilda

## Neely Mansion Association Board 2013

President Linda Van Nest  
Vice President Karen Meador  
Treasurer Hilda Meryhew  
Secretary Bonnie Azzelino

Membership Karen Bouton  
Director Lynn Gough  
Director Max Beers

## Membership

Thank you for joining the Neely Mansion Association this year. Your support is important to the success of the Association and its goals. If you have not joined yet, please don't delay. Just fill out the membership form, write a check, and mail it in soon. We don't want this to be the last newsletter you receive!

Besides keeping track of our members, I also administer our Facebook page. If you would like to help with this please contact me. To have a successful Facebook page, we need to post something interesting once a day! My e-mail address is [forscher@comcast.net](mailto:forscher@comcast.net).

by Karen Bouton

**Your membership dollars help to restore the Mansion. Also:**

- Receive a one year subscription to the *Neely Mansion News*
- Get discounts on Neely Mansion collectibles
- Participate in the annual general meeting and program

**Yes! I want to join the Neely Mansion Association. Enclosed is:**

- \$15 Student/Senior
- \$20 Individual
- \$30 Family
- \$40 Non-Profit
- \$100 Business

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Please do not include my name on Donor Recognition lists that are made public.  
Checks payable to: Neely Mansion Association

## Neely Mansion Sponsors

*Canter-Berry Farms*

*Green Valley Meats*

*Mountain View Landscape and Design*

*Station Bistro*

*Sunshine Accounting*

*TCM Electric*

*Trees n' Bees*



# *Neely Mansion News*

NEELY MANSION  
ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 738  
Auburn WA 98071

PHONE:  
253.833.9404

E-MAIL:  
[vannest@comcast.net](mailto:vannest@comcast.net)

*Interpreting the past  
for the future.*

---

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.neelymansion.org](http://www.neelymansion.org)  
Facebook at:  
Neely Mansion Association

---

## **May Tea on Saturday, May 11th**

Spring is coming and so is the traditional May Tea at Neely Mansion. Enjoy a cup of warm tea or apple cider served to you in a grand manner. Delicious pastries, sandwiches, cookies, and candies will grace each table. Please come and share this special time of year with us

at the Neely Mansion on Saturday, May 11th. The Tea is by reservation only. Reservations will be accepted beginning April 1st for 12:30pm, 2pm, and 3:30pm seatings at \$15.00 per person. Please call at (253) 850-2777.

## **Video Premier a Big Hit!**

The Neely Mansion was packed with visitors to see the premier of our new video "If These Walls Could Talk" on Saturday, October 20th. Friends and neighbors, cast and crew, as well as guests from 4Culture, watched the video and then enjoyed appetizers representing the ethnic foods of our five families. Upstairs actors portrayed new family vignettes to entertain the audience. The evening was quite a success!



---

**Neely Mansion is available for private event rentals including small weddings, receptions, family parties. Just call 253.833.1230.**

---

*Neely Mansion  
Association*

PO Box 738  
Auburn WA 98071

*Thanks for all your support!*