The Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) Western Region, is hosting the Western Region Conference in Forest Grove, Oregon. ALHFAM is the foremost organization in the field of living history interpretation. You will find this to be a relaxed group of individuals with a serious interest in presenting history to audiences of all sizes and backgrounds. The sessions are designed to stimulate thought and give information on new ways to reach your audience. We look forward to you attending our meeting; you will come away with new ideas on how to present thought-provoking programs to the public.
**ADDITIONALLY:** The ALHFAM dates and times will allow us to dovetail with the Manifest History conference, to be held on October 18 and 19, 2019 in Hillsboro, OR (a short 10-minute drive from Forest Grove). ALHFAM members are encouraged to attend both conferences!

The Manifest History conference will focus on regional history and culture during the early settlement years: 1840s through the 1860s. Manifest History is expected to attract individual reenactors, volunteers and small site managers, many of whom are not currently members of ALHFAM. And finally, this conference gives longtime ALHFAM members a chance to meet other interpreters and site managers from around the region, thus building our own community of living history practitioners.

**Forest Grove & Hillsboro**

Forest Grove and Hillsboro are located six miles apart on the Tualatin Plains, which was first settled in the 1840s by early pioneers. Among the Territorial historic sites within the two cities are the AT Smith House in Forest Grove, built in 1854 by Alvin Smith, a farmer and preacher. It is the second oldest structure in Forest Grove; the oldest is the 1850 Old College Hall on the campus of Pacific University, which began as a boarding school, the Tualatin Academy, in 1849. Hillsboro is the location of the Pioneer Cemetery, begun in 1850 when settler David Hill died suddenly. His neighbors renamed their settlement Hillsboro in his honor. In addition, Hillsboro Parks Department owns another historic property, the Masters House, built in 1853, which is currently in a state of stabilization.

**Travel to Forest Grove:**

**Forest Grove** is a city in Washington County, Oregon, United States, 25 miles (40 km) west of Portland. Located in the Tualatin Valley, Oregon routes 8 and 47 pass through Forest Grove, with 47 and 8 signed as the Tualatin Valley Highway south and east of the main part of the city, respectively. Oregon Route 8 is signed as Gales Creek Road west of the city, and Oregon Route 47 is signed as the Nehalem Highway north of the city.

Hillsboro is served by the MAX line. The Blue Line trains run all the way from the Portland International Airport to downtown Hillsboro; it’s a two-hour trip. The Tri-Met bus Number 57 completes the run into Forest Grove.

**Forest Grove Weather:**

October in Forest Grove can be anywhere from beautiful sunny temperatures in the 60s/70s to rainy and a little chillier.
Accommodations:

**Americas Best Value Inn & Suites** Forest Grove
Hillsboro (Complimentary Breakfast/double beds in each room)
3306 Pacific Ave, Forest Grove, OR 97116
Call (503-357-9000)

Check in Oct 16th check out Oct 20th.
Wed – Sun morning - $90.64 per night; total $362.52 (includes tax)

Kayla held 15 rooms under the name: Linda Evans.
**The cutoff date to reserve a room is Sept 16th by 3 p.m.**

****When you make your reservation PLEASE switch room to your name and Credit Card.****

This weekend is also Homecoming at the College, so although there are other hotels, many of them are already booked for Friday & Saturday nights.

Silent Auction:

Please bring an item to be auctioned off during Thursday’s Dinner. The money raised helps to provide a fellowship to allow an ALHFAM Western Region member to attend the 2020 annual meeting in Boston, MA.
Wednesday, October 16: Pre-Conference

1:00pm – 4:00pm: Volunteer Opportunity at the Friends of Historic Forest Grove Facility

The Friends of History Forest Grove are partnering with us to provide a unique location for this year’s regional conference. Many thanks to Mary Jo Morelli and this group for putting together site visits, restaurant options, etc. We invite attendees to take part in a fun project at the FHFG facility located in the Old Train Station as we get to know the folks from this group of dedicated volunteers. We will use our professional skills to help organize files, including archival newspaper negatives.

* [www.fhfg.org/projects/old-train-station/](http://www.fhfg.org/projects/old-train-station/)

5:00pm – 8:00pm: Evening Reception at Urban Decanter

2030 Main Street, Forest Grove OR 97116
(www.urbandecanter.com)

Meet at the Urban Decanter tasting room for appetizers and a cash bar wine tasting. Join your fellow ALHFAMers and pick up conference materials.
Thursday, October 17

9:00am – 11:00am: Tour the 1854 AT Smith House

We will carpool/drive to site, then head back downtown for lunch (approximately 1 mile). There is plenty of parking at the FHFG lot.

“Meet” two of the early settlers of Forest Grove and learn about their lives as you tour this 1854 house that sat along the trail and is in the process of being restored by the Friends of Historic Forest Grove organization.

Learn more at: www.fhfg.org/projects/at-smith-house/

Lunch: Walk on your own in Downtown Forest Grove; there are a variety of restaurants to choose from, along with shopping/antiquing opportunities!

1:00pm – 4:00pm: Workshops & sessions at FHFG Museum/Old Depot

1:00-1:50 Concurrent Sessions

“Character and Context”: A Living History Research Model
Nine years ago, we presented this model to this same ALHFAM West conference, at a time when our basic research had been largely completed
but was still being implemented at Los Cerritos Historic Site. Since then, new research tools have emerged, and some original tools have evolved beyond their infancy. Today we can present the research model in its maturity, confident that it supports our living history site, house, tours and providing our docents with the information they need to for quality interpretation of our historic site. We will also share ways in which this research has supported additional programming and publications, school tours, plays, and events.

Steve Iverson retired Historical Curator (1989-2012) at Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site in Long Beach, CA. Kathie Schey, former Curatorial Chair and docent at Rancho Los Cerritos, and currently Archivist with the City of Huntington Beach.

“Mysteries in the Manifest”
The Brig Euphemia sailed from the Sandwich Islands to California in February 1846. What was on this ship? The manifest is housed in the California State Library, but there are some unusual things on board. What is kukui oil? Seidlitz Powders? Webster prints? What does a ‘basket of champagne’ mean? Where did these goods come from? How much did they cost? These questions and more will be answered in this presentation.

Eileen Hook, Talbott & Co. Heritage Goods

1:50 – 2:00 Break

2:00-2:50 Concurrent Sessions

“Seven Senses”: Integrated Interpretive Planning
Draw your visitors into your interpretive message by helping them engage with all their senses. How can you expand each setting using sight, sound, touch, smell, taste, movement, and emotional connection? Are your scenarios and experiences tied to pre-visit, post-visit and gift shop resources? We’ll look at real-life sensory development strategies, ways to enrich the history experience for both visitors and staff, and how to do it all without breaking the bank.

Elizabeth Stewart Clark, Manifest History-Independent Researcher

“Straw-plaiting: 19th Century Industry and Handicraft”
Straw-plaiting was both a major industry and an accessible handicraft in the middle of the 19th century. This presentation will incorporate a program on straw that I give to visitors at Fort Nisqually, including a demonstration of straw-working technique and samples of different plaits, as well as the plants involved, the tools used, and the final products of straw manufacture (primarily hats and bonnets). Additionally, there will be
an overview of the straw-plaiting industry in the US and UK in the 1840s-
1860s: not just the different steps of making hats for sale, but also how the
work was coordinated between cottage industry and factory settings, in
order to supply an international market. This topic will provide useful
background information for people whose sites are concerned with 19th
century material culture, agriculture, or costume; there is also specific
local relevance, as we have evidence of English/Italian manufactured straw
bonnets reaching the pacific northwest in the 1850s.

Elizabeth Korsmo, Fort Nisqually

2:50 – 3:00 Break

3:00 -3:50 Concurrent Sessions

“Volunteer Program Development”
Volunteerism has been in decline for over a decade. We will discuss how
museums combat this trend and keep their sites thriving. This is a
practical application on how to recruit volunteers, get them up and
running quickly and how to keep them coming back. Time will also be
spent discussing some of the pitfalls that museums get into that drive
volunteers away or keep them from applying in the first place.

Dana Repp & Peggy Barchi, Fort Nisqually

“The Watering Hole at the End of the Trail”: 19th Century Drinks and
Drinking
This session will explore the history, culture, and recipes of a variety of
popular 19th century beverages including soda, small beers, ales, shrubs,
and fruit vinegars. A few adult drinks, a bit of hands-on experimenting,
and hopefully, some taste testing will be included.

Anne Foster, Montana Heritage Commission LH program
Thursday Evening, October 17

5:30pm to 8:00pm: Dinner and Silent Auction at Diversity Café 2104 Main St, Forest Grove, OR 97116
(www.diversitycandc.com)

The final dinner of the conference will be a no-host dinner & bar. Wearing period clothing is encouraged but not required.

Throughout the evening’s dinner, there will be a Silent Auction of donated items. The money raised helps provide a fellowship to allow an ALHFAM Western Region member to attend the 2020 ALHFAM annual meeting in Boston, MA.

Friday, October 18

9:00am – 11:00am: Guided tour of Old College Hall @ Pacific University

END OF ALHFAM WESTERN REGION CONFERENCE

The ALHFAM Conference concludes at 11:00am. You are encouraged to attend the Manifest History Conference in nearby Hillsboro to enjoy more living history presentations and training opportunities!
MANIFEST HISTORY CONFERENCE INFORMATION

October 18 – 19, 2019 in Hillsboro, Oregon

MANIFEST HISTORY
Making History Where We Are: ManifestHistory.com
Manifest History is a convention of history enthusiasts, sharing original research that furthers the development of living history understanding in the Pacific Northwest (roughly, from the Idaho, Montana, and Utah Rockies, to the Pacific Ocean).

- Regional focus with national and worldwide context
- High-quality original research, engaging presentations
- Hands-on experiences to enhance interpretive goals
- Accessible to all ages, and targeted at bringing Gen-X, Millennial, and younger audiences more fully into living history development, without neglecting established audiences.
- History happens where we overlap research, experience, and application. We want everything to be accurate, accessible, and applicable! Attendees will go home full of ideas for using information to help others connect to our shared national story.

All topics will fall under one or more types of experience.
1. Interpretive & Event Development
2. Common Culture & Experience
3. Regional History Focus
4. Experiential Archaeology & Anthropology
5. Material Culture Extents
6. Replicating Material Culture (hands-on opportunities and annual Maker’s Challenge)
7. Special Dress & Social Event

Registration costs cover participation in all convention activities, exhibits, refreshments, and experiences, as well as the attendee “swag bag” with the printed Proceedings (notes and resources from each session, the exhibit hall, and regional resources) and related goodies.

Manifest History Registration information:
www.manifesthistory.com/register/