



**The Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill (WHC) Announces New Exhibit:
*Tools of Survival: Oregon's Past as Told by the Weapons that Witnessed Its History***

CONTACT: Peter Booth, 503-585-7012, PeterB@missionmill.org
WHAT: ***Tools of Survival: Oregon's Past as Told by the Weapons that Witnessed Its History.***
WHEN: Friday, June 24 through Saturday, August 20
WHERE: 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, OR 97301
COST: FREE with Mission Mill Museum admission.

Weapons have nearly always been central to human activity throughout Oregon's history. In its own way, each knife, bow or gun tells a story about who used it and the time in which it was used.

Now you can hear these special stories: ***Tools of Survival: Oregon's Past as Told by the Weapons that Witnessed Its History*** will open Friday, June 24 and run through Saturday, August 20.

A sampling of stories that you will encounter in the exhibition includes the Native American-carved Russian musket that bears witness to the Russian fur-trading expansion down the Northwest Coast; the story about one of the first repeating firearms in the United States that came to Oregon with the Lewis and Clark expedition; and the resourcefulness of Native American defenders during the Indian Wars through the eyes of a much-repaired and very worn 1873 Winchester rifle.

These and other weapons highlight unique aspects of Oregon history - from the tools of Kalapuya hunters to the trade muskets of Hudson Bay trappers, from the guns of American pioneers to the ordinance of conscripts training in Oregon, from the weapons of Oregon soldiers fighting abroad to the firearms of local law officers and law breakers. Using these weapons and more, this exhibition looks at Oregon's past through the tools that were eyewitnesses to its history.

This exhibition is being presented by Michael Carrick and the WHC. Further assistance is being provided by the Cultural Resources Department of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Oregon Military Museum and City of Salem Police Department and the Oregon State Sheriff's Association.

The Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill, a unification between Mission Mill Museum and Marion County Historical Society, is a stroll through the history of the Willamette Valley. Its 5-acre campus is home to the 1841 Jason Lee house (arguably the oldest wooden framed house in Oregon), 1841 Willamette Mission Parsonage, 1847 John Boon home, 1858 Pleasant Grove Church and the 1896 Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, named an *American Treasure* by the National Park Service. Since its founding in 1964 as a private non-profit association, Mission Mill Museum has established a reputation as a leader in the preservation and interpretation of Oregon's history. The museum's histories are shared with visitors through daily and group tours, speakers, living history, children's programs, hands-on activities, special events, the museum store and rental facilities. For more information call 503-585-7012 or visit <http://www.missionmill.org>.

The Willamette Heritage Center is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is not managed by city, county, state or federal agencies.

Submitted by: Cheryl Clark, Aura Marketing, cclark@auramarketing.com ###