



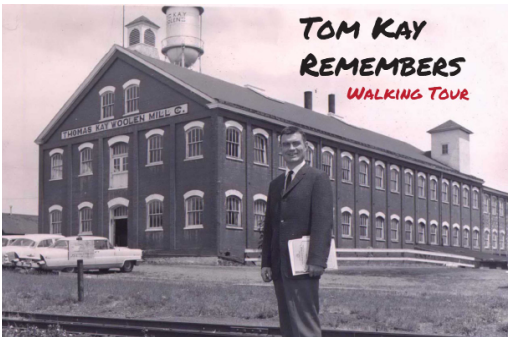
WILLAMETTE HERITAGE CENTER

HERITAGE CENTER

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Take a tour of the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill with 4th generation owner Tom Kay



Tom Kay at Thomas Kay Woolen Mills.
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SALEM, OR – The Willamette Heritage Center is proud to announce the launch of a new video tour. Produced by Allied Video Productions and using clips from a 2010 interview with Tom Kay, the last owner operator of the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, this video tour provides a new and unique perspective on the history of the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill and Salem's place in Oregon's historical textile industry.

The Thomas Kay Woolen Mill (1889-1962) was started by Tom Kay's great-grandfather Thomas Lister Kay and run by four generations of family members. It was an important industry in Salem, not only providing jobs, but also a ready market for locally grown wool. Tom Kay grew up in the mill and spent time working in each of the departments before taking over the helm of operations. With his characteristic humor, he shares stories of his own time working in the mill and about the people he worked alongside. You can enjoy the videos in documentary format in the comfort of your own home (click [here](#) for the complete YouTube playlist), or bring your smartphone and follow along with the tour at the museum. You can take the virtual tour and learn more about the Tom Kay Remembers Walking Tour [here](#).

More information on WHC hours and admissions can be found [here](#).

Interview conducted with Thomas B. Kay (1923-2018) at the Willamette Heritage Center, Salem, Oregon in 2010. Full interview available at the Willamette Heritage Center, Accession Number: 2013.054



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The Willamette Heritage Center, unification between Mission Mill Museum (1964) and Marion County Historical Society (1950), 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. As a private non-profit association, for more than sixty years WHC 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 group tours, speakers, living history, children's programs, hands-on activities, special events, publications, the museum store and rental facilities. For more information call 503-585-7012 or visit www.willametteheritage.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.

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