

YCHS's Sesquicentennial Event



Enclosing The Museum



Chairperson Joanne Watts has been very busy organizing, calling and copying for the celebration of Yamhill County's part in the upcoming Oregon Sesquicentennial. Both museum sites will have a variety of activities.

At the Lafayette site, there will be some very special guests such as Abigail Duniway, Joel Palmer, Joel Perkins. Many others will also be in costume. Period music will be provided and Doris Baker will be playing the pump organ in the church. Refreshments will be served throughout the day. Each community will have a representative to talk about their area with visitors.

At the Durham site, there will be candle making, old games to play, some hands-on exhibits, demonstration, and refreshments. Many of the vintage equipment will be on a self-guided exhibit. Docents will also be available.

Ron and Tom Davison provided the lumber so a volunteer crew on Saturday and Sunday, January 10th and 11th could put up temporary walls on the exposed sections of the Exhibit Hall and Restoration Room. Austin Clevenger, Jeff Clevenger, Al Cronk, Dave Cruickshank, Mel Kelchner, Chuck Kadell, Vince Haworth, Cliff Watts, David Bunn, Jr., Wayne Beckwith, Alan Tessman, Donald King, and Bob Vertregt worked to get the building enclosed against the weather.



WANTED! **Naughty Ladies of the West**

On Monday, April 27th the Naughty Ladies of the West will be featured at the McMinnville Elks Lodge. It is a fundraiser for the Heritage Center. For \$30 you can enjoy music, food, drink, and a silent auction. It will be from 5:30-7:30. Look for more details in the next months' newsletters. Gentlemen, you can come too, but it will cost you \$100 a ticket.

Carlene Kadell provided a chili lunch on Saturday to keep these hard working volunteers strong, warm, and happy.



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Historic Lafayette Site

605 Market Street/PO Box 484
Lafayette OR 97127

Museum Hours:

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
10 am to 4 pm

Or by appointment
Phone: 503-864-2308
yamhillhistory@online.mccom

McMinnville Site

11275 SW Durham Lane
McMinnville, OR 97128

2008 YCHS

Tax ID # 23-7090047

www.yamhillcountyhistory.org

Five Farms to Receive Sesquicentennial Awards



The Oregon Century Farm and Ranch Program will present on February 14th its second sesquicentennial awards to five Oregon families who have continuously farmed portions of their original family acreage for 150 years or more. The event will take place at 1 P.M. at the State Capital.

The families being honored in 2009 are:

- Donald C. Goodrich and Eunice M. Goodrich, William Goodrich Farm, founded in 1848, Yamhill County
- Marian L. Gray, Jeremiah Rowland Farm, founded in 1844, Yamhill County
- William Hoyt, Ira Hawley Farm, founded in 1852, Lane County
- Leland R. Montgomery, William Grimes Montgomery Farm, founded in 1855/1866, Linn County
- Rebecca Owen, Nicholas Sprenger Farm, founded in 1852, Linn County.

Of the 1,082 recognized Century Farms and Ranches in Oregon, there are over 400 that were established prior to 1859, the year Oregon became a state. Many of those that do remain date back to the Oregon Donation Land Law of 1850. That federal legislation validated legal title to land already claimed by whit settlers in Oregon Territory and served as an inducement to encourage additional immigration to Oregon by offering substantial acreage of free land.



The Oregon Century Farm and Ranch Program is administered through the Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation, the program is supported in part by a partnership of the Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and the Oregon Historical Society. Additional funding comes from the Wheat Growers Association, the Hazelnut Marketing Board, Tillamook County Creamery Association, other agri-businesses, various Oregon county farm bureaus, and many individuals.

Oregon Trivia

On February 14, 1859 Oregon became the 33rd state in the Union. Word did not arrive of this action in Washington, D.C. until March 15, 1859 on the ship, *Brother Jonathan*.

There were four original counties in the Oregon Territory: Yamhill, Champoeg, Clackamas, and Tuality. The Oregon Territory included the present-day states of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, portions of Montana and Wyoming, and half of the province of British Columbia.

Records around 1848 show that to deal with district business, court was held in various homes or businesses in Lafayette, the first Yamhill County seat. The first court house building cost \$800 and burned February 3, 1857. In 1858 a court house was built by Rush Mendenhall at a cost of \$14,000. It was torn down in 1922.

Source: *Old Yamhill* by Ruth Stoller and *Lafayette* by John White.

YCHS—General Meeting—January 11, 2008 McMinnville

The following is the unofficial condensed version of the minutes for the January 11th General Member Meeting:

*The meeting was called to order with 54 members and guests signed in.

*Ken Williams gave the financial report. Volunteers are needed for the Budget Committee to set the 2009 Fiscal Year Budget. Ken reported we have received many pledges this year. The society finished the year in a good position and the financial reports are completed.

*The Over-Sight Committee reported we need about \$75,900 more to finish paying Hawerth Construction at the Durham site for work already completed.

*Louise Heindl gave the volunteer report. The museum was closed for several weeks due to inclement weather. The water was shut off at the main to avoid damage in case of frozen pipes. No damage was caused during the storms.

*Gloria Lutz stated our membership drive is doing fine.

*Joanne Watts handed out information flyers for the program to celebrate Oregon's 150th Birthday. She stated everyone is officially a member of the Publicity Committee. Both the Lafayette Museum and Durham Lane site will have events. For more information, contact Joanne, look in the local papers, or check out the events at www.oregon150.org.

*Marjorie Owens gave the museum report. She invited members to come see how the museum has changed

over the last year.

*Jean Sartor gave the Gift Shop / library report. She stated there are lots of new and old publications available including Charlene Brown's books.

*The program was given by Charlene Brown. She stated she started writing books about Willamina to raise funds for their museum. She then proceeded to write a book for Willamina's 100th Celebration. During her research, she was intrigued by two stories which she then wrote about. She read excerpts from her books Elizabeth's Golden Land, a novel inspired by a true story, and Fancy Work, a novel written about the William Booth murder. She also brought several photographs and documents which she obtained during her research. She also displayed the framed glass from the original door of the William Booth residence.

*The new Board Members were introduced as follows.
Executive Officers: Bill Roll, President, Shirley McDaniel, Vice-President, Ken Williams, Treasurer, Kim Courtin, Secretary, Shirley Venhaus, Past President.
Directors: Marjorie Owens, Karen Sitton-Saxberg, Eileen Lewis, Bob Vertregt, Lea Burcham, and Carolyn Meeker. Our Attorney of Record is Jerry Hart, Gloria Lutz is Education Director, and Correspondence Secretary is Nancy Thornton. Thanks to all for their willingness to volunteer.

Respectfully Submitted by Kim Courtin - Secretary

Thank You New and Renewed Members!

New members:

Individual:

Garry Coats

Senior Family:

Jeff and Pat Kizer

Members that have renewed:

Friend:

Patrick M. Koch

Karen Tilley

Supporter:

Penny and Ken Durant

Planning a Vacation?

Please notify Gloria Lutz (phone: 503-472-7563; email: glutz@onlinemac.com or write to YCHS, PO Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127). She can forward newsletters to your temporary address or hold them until you return home. Otherwise, your newsletter comes back to YCHS and we have to pay additional postage!!

DON'T FORGET...

Besides free admittance to the museum, your membership now allows you a 10% discount on Gift Shop items.



February 2009

Happenings



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Lafayette Museum open	5 Board Meeting	6 Lafayette Museum open	7 Lafayette Museum open
8 <i>YCHS 2:00 P.M. General Meeting</i>	9	10	11 Lafayette Museum open	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 Lafayette Museum open	14 Celebrating Oregon's statehood 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
15	16 Presidents' Day	17	18 Lafayette Museum open	19	20 Lafayette Museum open	21 Lafayette Museum open
22 Washington's Birthday	23	24 Flag Day	25 Lafayette Museum open	26	27 Lafayette Museum open	28 Lafayette Museum open

Locations

2/5: Board Meeting

2/8: General Meeting—7th Day Adventist Church, 1500, Old Sheridan Rd. McMinnville

2/14: Celebrating Oregon's statehood at Lafayette and Durham sites

YCHS Upcoming Events

- March 8, 2009—2:00 P.M. General Meeting, potluck and program by Phil Schreiber about his family's history.
- April 14, 2009—7:00 P.M. Chautauqua program "Stitched Patches: Quilts of Celebration" by Mary Bywater Cross
- April 18, 2009—Farm Fest, Yamhill Valley Heritage Center. 11275 SW Durham Lane, McMinnville
- April 27, 2009—5:30—7:30 P.M. Naughty Ladies of the West. Fundraiser for the Heritage Center. Elks Lodge, McMinnville
- May 12, 2009—7:00 P.M. Doris Baker on Amity History

NATHANIEL JARVIS WYETH

1802—1856



Nathaniel J. Wyeth

Nathaniel was born in Cambridge Massachusetts. He was married to Elizabeth Stone. He was the foreman for “the Ice King”—Fredric Tudor—who had a business of shipping ice to the Caribbean, Europe and India. Mr. Wyeth invented most of the practical tools that were used for harvesting ice from the frozen ponds. He also

designed double insulated, above ground, ice storage facilities.

Nathaniel was enthused about Hall J. Kelley’s promotion for populating the Oregon Country. In 1832 Mr. Wyeth made an overland expedition to the Pacific Northwest. He had outfitted a ship to go around Cape Horn and meet him on the Columbia River. The ship never arrived and most of his party deserted the expedition.

Nathaniel spent the winter at Fort Vancouver and returned home the following year. In 1834, Wyeth undertook the trip again. This time he convoyed with the missionary Jason Lee, Professor Thomas Nuttall, naturalist John Kirkland Townsend and John Bull (John later taught school at Fort Vancouver so he’s labeled as the first Caucasian school teacher in the Pacific Northwest.)



Chief Factor’s House, Fort Vancouver

In July of that year, near the Snake River in what became the state of Idaho, the party founded Fort Hall. The supply ship arrived on the Columbia this time and Nathaniel built Fort William on Wapato Island, which is now called Sauvie Island. He had plans to develop a



Wapato Island now Sauvie Island

salmon processing plant and a colony in the area but the competition from the Hudson Bay Company was too great so he abandoned the project and returned to Massachusetts in 1836.

He spent the rest of his life on the eastern seaboard.

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The community of Wyeth on the south side of the Columbia River was named for Nathaniel Wyeth. When steamships were the mode of travel on the river, the area was logged for fuel for the ships’ boilers. Wyeth was a railroad stop when the railroad was built on the river’s southern shores. The town had a “tie pickling plant” to process the railroad ties.

In the 1930’s a Civilian Conservation Corps was built near Wyeth. When the buildings were no longer used for that endeavor, it became a church camp. After I-84 was constructed, the forest service acquired the land and developed a campground.



Wyeth Camp

The Community of Rex Oregon

On the winter road reports, one hears about problems going over Rex Hill. Few people realize that there was once a community of Rex. Besides being a railroad stop, it had a store, a school, 2 churches and a community hall.

The community sat near the Yamhill and Washington County line, at the summit of Chehalem Gap. Parrett Mountain was on the community's south and Chehalem Mountain on the north, the Tualatin Valley to the east and the Chehalem Valley to the west.

A railroad was built to the east part of Yamhill County in 1886. The stop at the top of the grade over Chehalem Gap was called Charleston. The name was confused with neighboring Carlton so was changed to Rex. The original train track was narrow gauge and only went as far as Oswego. From there one would have to take a steamboat on to Portland. Later the line was widened to standard gauge and extended to Portland. From 1901 to 1930, the Red Electric operated the line. A person could go to Portland and back in a day or for 10 cents one could ride to Newberg.



Rex Train Station

The first home in Rex was built in 1893 for Orville Woodward Jr.

Until 1900 all students north of the railroad tracks went to Gibbs School and the ones south of the tracks went to Parrett Mountain. District 88—The Rex School—was organized in 1900. School was held in Elmer Wright's old house until a school was built in 1903. Elmer's mother Jenny was the first teacher.

Glen Foster operated the original country store. It also housed the post office and railroad ticket office. The post office closed in 1943 when rural mail delivery came to the area.



Rex Store about 1925

The early roads were mostly dirt with patches of rocks and occasional corduroy over the wet places. In wet weather an extra horse was often needed to get a loaded wagon through the deep mud.

In 1901, the Schaad family settled in the area. Soon there was a German speaking settlement. Besides the Schaad brothers—Gettleib, August and Walter---there were Getchells, Craners, Schwarzin and Muellers.

Walter's wife Lucy, through great effort, saw that all 10 of her children graduated from Oregon State Agricultural College.

The Ebenezer church was the German speaking church and was located on the Schaad property. The church was torn down in the 1940's.

Rose Schaad Haveside taught the 5 upper grades when Patty Otis Dyke Lindblom was in grade school. Patty fondly remembers the great influence that Rose had on her life.

Rose organized the students into teams and Friday afternoon would see the teams playing neighboring schools.



Rex Area—Schaad Family about 1908

The Community of Rex Oregon—Continued

In 1901, a train engineer L. F. Otis, quit his job and bought land on Rex Hill. L.F. and his son Ralph hacked out brambles and burned stumps to clear the land to farm. They tried the popular crops of that era—wheat, prunes and hops. With the advice of the Agriculture College, L. F. got strawberries and filbert plants from California and became one of the first in the area to have them in production.

In 1905, Dr. Romig, a physician who had recently been in the Spanish American War, came to Newberg. His musically inclined daughter Catherine married Ralph Otis. (Catherine was paid \$.25 an hour for teaching music once a week at the Rex School.)

The Otis Land is now owned by Rex Hill Winery.

The Pacific Highway (99W) was built in 1936. The construction necessitated the moving of some of the buildings of Rex.



Rex Original School 1910

The Rex School district was consolidated with the Newberg district in 1962.

Nancy Thornton with help from Patty Lindblom

Volunteer Report

The past three months for the Yamhill County Historical Society and Yamhill County Genealogy Society were unusual due to the fact the Lafayette museum was closed from Saturday December 13, 2008, to January 7, 2009, due to the continuous snow and ice. The total number of volunteer hours for October, November and December, 2008, for the Lafayette site was 1139.

Donald R and Donna Jo King forwarded a detailed Durham Lane volunteer report for their hours from January 1, 2008 to August 10, 2008, which included saw

mill construction, farm equipment research, and clean-up after the August Harvest Fest, totaling 301 hours.

Many others have volunteered at the Durham Lane site, on the events committees, education program, and accession committee. Those hours are not included in this report.

Welcome back volunteer Julie Amen of Salem, and welcome new volunteer Judy Cowal of McMinnville.

Louise Heindl

February General Meeting and Potluck

Date: Sunday, February 8, 2009

Time 2:00 Potluck, 2:30 Program

Program: Sneak preview of the February 14th event. Surprises as well as entertainment. Please bring your timeline charts and 1959 memorabilia to this program to share. It will be a time to preserve our past and enrich our future.

Location: 7th Day Adventist Church, 1500 Old Sheridan Rd., McMinnville

NEEDED!

About 50 empty baskets are needed for the silent auction we will be having at the Naughty Ladies of the West fundraiser for the Heritage Center. We are also looking for donations of unused items to go in the themed auction baskets. If you would like to donate any items, please contact Tami Spears. (503) 883-9023

The ballots are out from First Federal to vote for your favorite non-profit organization.

Ballots are due February 27, 2009.

Please keep the Yamhill County Historical Society in mind when voting.



Yamhill County
Historical Society
& Museum

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Become a Yamhill County Historical Society Member Today!

Membership entitles you to:

- The West Side newsletter
- Free admission to the Museum & Library
- Access to genealogical & historical files
- Access to the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
- Monthly potluck & program for Members
- Notification of events & summer picnic

Annual Membership Levels (July 1—June 30)

Please Check One:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student/
Educator \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Family
\$25 (age 65+) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Basic) \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$55 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$125+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community
Builder \$250+ | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Benefactor \$500+ |

Make Checks payable to: **Yamhill County Historical Society.**
Mail this form with payment to: **YCHS, P.O. Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127.**

Questions? Call Membership Coordinator Gloria Lutz at 503.472.7563 or email: glutz@onlinemac.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone (Home): _____ (Cell): _____ (Work): _____

Email: _____

The Yamhill County Historical Society & Museum is a charitable 501 (c) (3) organization, tax i.d. #23-7090047.