



YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN OF THE YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Edited by: Ray Albright, Rt. 1 Box 277 Dayton

Membership in the Yamhill County Historical Society is open to all.
We earnestly solicit your active participation in the activities
of the society.

Membership dues are: \$2.00 per calendar year
 Life Membership, \$50.00
Payment may be made to the Financial Secretary:
 Mrs. Wm D. Rutherford
 Rt. 2 Box 157A
 McMinnville Ore. 97128

Museum Located at 6th and Market St. in Lafayette is open:

Friday and Saturday 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.
Sunday 1:30 to 5:00 P.M.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday evening of each month except in
July and August.

OFFICERS

President...Dr. G.A. Odgers	Treasurer...Dr. J.A. Jonasson
Vice Pres...Charles Teegarden	Financial Sec..Mrs. W.D. Rutherford
Recording Secy..Mrs. Mildred S. Renne	Membership Sec..Mrs. Ivan Shields

WHEATLAND

James A. O'Neil a native of New York state came to Oregon with Nathaniel J. Wyeth in 1834. The following year he took up a donation land claim on the Willamette river about seventeen miles up the river from Champoeg. Apparently he lived on his claim till 1844 during which time he took an active part in the affairs of the territory. He was a member of the Willamette Cattle Company in 1836-37; signed a petition to Congress to provide for provisional government in 1838 and was chairman of Wolf meetings in 1843; also in 1843 he was elected justice of peace for Yamhill county and judge for Yamhill county in 1845. Because of his many activities it is little wonder that in 1844 he sold to Daniel Matheny squatters rights to his claim.

Daniel Matheny was born in Virginia Dec. 11, 1793, he fought in the War of 1812, Mormon War in 1839 and in 1843 came West from Missouri with his wife, seven children and brother Henry. In his transaction with O'Neil he also acquired a ferry boat that had been built the previous year by Lindaay Applegate. Matheny however had bigger ideas than just operating a ferry and in April 1847 there appeared an ad in the Oregon City SPECTATOR for lots to be sold in the town of Atchison, Yamhill county on the west bank of the Willamette river at Matheny's Ferry. The lots apparently sold well for soon there was a warehouse erected. Stores, shops and houses soon followed. The coming of the steamboats in the 1850's gave the town its needed impetus. Wheat from the surrounding farms was hauled to the warehouses and shipped to Portland by steamer. The great amount of wheat handled by the warehouses led the towns people to feel the name of Wheatland much more appropriate than Atchison so on Jan. 29, 1867 when the postoffice was opened Wheatland it was.

Two hotels provided lodging for travelers, the OCCIDENTAL owned and operated by James Isham and the WHEATLAND HOUSE run by F.M. Adair. A blacksmith shop was owned by A.J. Smith; John Smith and John Fowler had a harness and saddle shop. Charles Fowler a wagon shop, W.J. Fowler had a shingle factory. A Mr. Drury manufactured grain cleaners for a number of years. The school had an enrollment of about thirty. An Evangelical church took care of the spiritual needs of the community.

The population of the town in 1881 was listed as 319. At about this time the Oregon Central Railroad was building down the west side of the valley. This caused the decline of all the small grain shipping towns along the Willamette that had been completely dependent upon the river for their survival. Wway from the railroads and off the main road there was no reason left for being. Wheatland like the rest of the river towns that were dependant on the shipping of wheat went into a decline. The Oregon Almanac for 1915 lists Wheatland population as 85, a shipping station on the Willamette with daily boats to Portland. This was near the end of time for Wheatland, the hotels closed the postoffice moved to Hopewell and then to Amity, The river during another high water of 1890 had taken the flour mill and warehouse.

Today little remains except the Ferry to carry on the identity of a town that served its people well during the formative years of Oregon. The buildings and people are gone, the streets and lots are again fields and orchards. The ferry carries truck loads of beans, corn and other produce to cannerys on the Marion county side as did the first little ferry of Daniel Mathenys carry wagon loads of wheat to the first warehouse built on the Marion county side of the river.

by Ray Albright

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSCAST, DECEMBER 1973

Event..... ..December Meeting
When..... ..Tuesday Dec. 11, 7 P.M.
Where..... ..Fernwood Grange Hall
Speaker..... ..Doris Huffman, Secre. Chehalis
Valley Heritage Inc.

To reach the Fernwood Grange Hall from Newberg go towards Portland on 99W to the first blinker light (about one mile) at the Springbrook junction turn right and it is the first building on that road.on the left side.

COME bring one or more prospective members, and some good Yamhill eats.

MUSEUM NOTES

SPECIAL NOTICE: The museum hours during the winter months are:

Friday...1:00 to 4:30
Saturday...1:00 to 4:30

The show case built by one of our good members has been moved in. It has to be painted and lights up. Thanks Mr. Long.

There will be work days after the end of the holidays. We will be ready for a good new year of visitors. We have a lovely dinner bell from Amity. The allen estate and other things.

A photo of oxen logging on Baker creek in 1892. No identification of people or who donated the photo.

We are looking for family records and photos--identified. you all had a nice thanksgiving day.

Donation Land Claim maps. \$2.00, Books.. \$1.50; phamplets 10¢ the museum. Do any of you have newspaper articles for our scrap book, 1969 to 1973?

Roma Sitton

Two very interesting articles on Yamhill county history appeared in a recent issue of the McMinnville News Register, one on the old town of St. Joe, with much information furnished by our members the Warmingtons and another article dealing with the Grande Ronde Indians.