



YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Yamhill County Museum, 6th and Market Street, Lafayette, Oregon

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, January 8, 1980, 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: Senior Citizens Building, 2nd & Adams St., Lafayette, Oregon

POTLUCK: Bring your own table service

PROGRAM: Recollections of early settlers of southeast Yamhill County, including Charlotte Matheny Kirkwood, and display of photograph described below.

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MUSEUM NEWS

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas. I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

At our board meeting we made plans to repair the roof on our museum, and other repairs. The cottage rental will be vacant January 1st- so it has to have repairs and cleaning before another tenant moves in. Several have volunteered to help and after the holidays we will have a couple of work days to get these jobs done. We need more space so there will be some moving of articles and store some for a time.

We were left a generous bequest of \$500.00 from Mrs. Peter Zimmerman, a long time member. We will not have county sharing funds this year, so these large donations are especially important to support our museum, and we are very grateful.

The sale of our book, "OLD YAMHILL" as well as maps and stationery help, and soon we will have color post cards to sell - a photo of the Museum on half and the Tool Building on other half. We still have school desks to sell.

We are looking for photos of the teachers in the district schools as well as the school houses and students. Help us locate as we hope to get our book to press early next spring.

We have a few new members but we also lose one or more. We have a Memorial Fund building up.

Call 472-7935 for appointment on weekdays - as we only open Saturday and Sunday.

Roma Sitton

HISTORY NOTES

In October of 1913 five people met at the home of James T. Hembree in Lafayette to have their picture taken. Besides James T. Hembree and his wife Malvina Millican Hembree, there were W. C. Hembree, his wife Nancy J. Beagle Hembree, and Charlotte Matheny Kirkwood, all of Yamhill County. When the picture appeared in the Oregonian some time later the caption read "Last Remaining Survivors of the Wagon Train of 1843."

Nancy Jane Beagle Hembree died the following year and Melvina Millican Hembree died in 1916. James T. Hembree lived to be 94 years old and died in 1919. Wayman Hembree died in 1920 at the age of 91. Charlotte was the youngest of the five, having been born on May 5, 1838, and was just five when the family came across the plains. She spent most of the rest of her life in Wheatland - Hopewell area of Yamhill County and lived until November of 1926 - the last known survivor of the 1843 wagon train.

Charlotte was a favorite source of early Oregon information for school children, relatives, friends and the newspapers. Her early reminiscences were remarkably clear and accurate, considering her age at the time of her arrival in Oregon and the amount of time that had elapsed since she had experienced them.

In later years Charlotte wrote down her recollections in a manuscript that was copyrighted but never published. There are still hopes that it will be , and when it is, it will be the best information that we have on early Yamhill County history.

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NOTES FROM OTHERS

The Yamhill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution continues to collect information of a genealogical nature on the descendants of early pioneer families and will be having a table at The Bookshop in McMinnville to contact interested persons sometime during February - watch for announcements on this or contact Julie Jones, Rt. 2 Box 24, McMinnville, Oregon, 97128, ph. 472-6226.

The genealogy group is still meeting at the McMinnville Public Library the first Saturday of each month, 10:00 A.M. Organizational plans are underway so watch for (or better yet, join in) more history of the area to come from this group.

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