

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DATE: TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 1981 12:00 NOON

PLACE: COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 2831 N. Newby St., McMinnville, Oregon

POTLUCK: bring your own service

MUSEUM NEWS

Our meeting in Lafayette was so much enjoyed, several asked to meet there again soon. Was glad to see everyone tour the museum holdings.

I have just received another order of ten books from the Oregon Historical Society. Be sure to help sell books, as Ruth Stoller is working on the draft of the new book on schools. It takes several thousand dollars to print. It is a history of the county no one else has done and we owe Ruth a great deal for all her work. She has located a vast collection of photos.

Have you thought of a fund raising project? We will need to do something to raise funds as well as advertise what we are doing and print our books which supports our museum. Send in your ideas.

Programs are hard to plan for our meetings so if anyone has some suggestions, please speak up, as we need help to keep meetings moving and to gather history.

Do you have a printed family history? If so could you donate one to our collection?

Thanks to Harvey Stoller and his hired help for hanging the curtain from the Bellevue Community Hall. The old advertisements are interesting- even the old telephone numbers.

Remember we have school desks and books to sell. We are open weekends until June. By appointment anytime. 472 - 7935

ROMA SITTON

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ROAD REVIEWER'S REPORT

The following Road Reviewer's Report, done in 1864, was sent to me by Dan Linscheid of the Yamhill County Road Department with a note saying that he considered it one of the most interesting of the many old Reports. It is obvious that a lot of friendly bantering went on while the road was being reviewed!

The crew included Ahio Watt, the county surveyor, who had a farm just south of present Carlton. Henry Warren was one of Yamhill County's best known early settlers, having held many public offices, including county sheriff and mayor of McMinnville. G. W. McGary was a brother of W. T. Newby's wife and had come to Oregon with them in 1843. A. J. Nelson had a Donation Land Claim (D.L.C.) about a mile southwest of McMinnville. Elisha Bedwell lived two miles west of the town of Yamhill. The old Hutchcroft School, Dist. 15, was on the south line of Bedwell's DLC. ~~James Ramage was the nephew of the elder James Ramage, who came to Oregon in 1845 and died soon after he came. The nephew had inherited his uncle's DLC, which bounded Ahio Watt's property on the west. David Rowland was a lad of 16 and the son of John Rowland, who had died when the boy was six years old.~~

All the places mentioned in the report (after leaving Smith's bridge) are on the west side of the North Yamhill River. Smith's Bridge crossed the North Yamhill at present Carlton and was named for Peter Smith, on whose DLC Carlton is situated. Iri Orton was living on the John Davis DLC about one mile west of the river or a mile or so south of the A.K. Wright DLC. A. K. Wright lived two miles slightly southwest of the town of Yamhill. The Moore's Valley Road from Yamhill, just after it crosses the North Yamhill River, bounds his DLC on its south line. Jesse Dodson's property was adjacent to E. Bedwell's on Bedwell's north line. The north line of Jesse Dodson's claim was just south of Pike. But where was Rocky Ford? The distance from Carlton to Pike by way of the present west side road is almost exactly 7½ miles, so it is very possible that Rocky Ford was somewhere in the vicinity of present Pike. The underlining, parenthesis, and quotation marks on the following copy are as they were on the original.

To the Hon. county court of Yamhill Co, Oregon. Report of viewers on Road from Smith's Bridge to rocky ford on North Yamhill. In accordance with the annexed order, the viewers therein named, to wit Henry Warren, A.J. Nelson, and G.W. McGary met on the 26th day of August 1864 at the house of A.S. Watt, county surveyor, near Smith's Bridge for the purpose of complying with the said county order, but finding the surveyor busily engaged in saving his grain. He fearing that the emigrants might possibly suffer, if his present crop was lost; and we are sure from what we saw he was using his utmost endeavors to do so, having one header in operation and two threshers on the ground. He was therefore, unable to attend to the same at that time. Therefore, the time was set for us to meet again the following Tuesday the 30th inst. and after partaking of some fine pears (WATT'S best) and a good dinner with the promise that if the county refused to pay us for the day, he would, we left for home well satisfied with our trip.

Tuesday the 30th inst. we met as per agreement (except A.J. Nelson, who failed to connect in owing to labor performed the Friday before) at Smith's Bridge in good trim and working order, wherē we met with our old friend E. Bedwell, who done us good service on the road, being perfectly acquainted with the locality & distances. We had also with us Mr. John Ramage and a lad by the name of David Rowland, and the co. Surveyor, who all performed their part well. Being all sworn by the surveyor, we then proceeded on our way with alacrity and dispatch, each one appearing to understand well the part allotted him. According to our law the mile stones are required to be of such hudge size, and some of them had to be packed quite a distance, we certainly had the right man in the right place when we appointed E. Bedwell MARKER. We proceeded on our mission without any accident to ourselves or horses until we reached the farm of Iri Orton, There the boys made free use of his apples, it being then afternoon and our chainman-they satisfied the boys for a while. We proceeded from thence to the farm of A.K. Wright, where we were informed by our chainman they could proceed no further without refreshment. We then held a consultation and it was agreed that our captain, G.W. McGary, be dispatched for provisions for the party. After being gone some time, he returned without success, when he was rodered to go to our friend Bedwells, there to have provisions arranged for the party when they arrived, which was done much to the satisfaction of the company. We arrived there and rested about 3/4 of an hour. It being then after 3 o'clock P.M., we then proposed to leave our animals, which was agreed to. We took them to the barn and fed them well, finding in the barn plenty of provender. We then started on foot, leaving our horses behind to the mercy of the FLEAS, which were found in abundance. ~~Nothing more of note happened until we arrived at the plantation of Dr. Jesse Dodson.~~ There we procured the services of the Doctor as a guide, which he did to the corner of his field, about 200 yards, where he left, telling us he would go home and send Bob. However we proceeded along without a pilot and arrived at the terminus of the Road about 6 o'clock the same evening, much fatigued, having viewed out a road 7½ miles in "lenth" and nearly straight, there being only 20 Angles on the route. Now we leave this matter in the han's of the Hon. court believing they will make necessary allowance for our provision and expenses, and trouble we endured while viewing said road. We therefore report favorable to the road, believeing it to be practible & of much public utility. Yamhill Co. August 30, 1864. We hereby certify that we have been employed 2 days in viewing said road.

Henry Warren & G.W. McGary- viewers
SUBMITTED BY RUTH STOLLER

Dues are \$3.00 per year, payable to: Mrs. Evelyn Nieman, 1501 S. Baker St., Sp. 49,
McMinnville, OR 97128 (State dues \$7.50; life membership is \$50.00)
