

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Oct-81

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY OCTOBER 13th, 1981 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1405 Deborah Rd., NEWBERG, OR
(From McMinnville, turn left onto Deborah Rd. just before intersection of 99W and Springbrook Rd.)

POTLUCK: Bring your own service

PROGRAM: History of the Newberg and Chehalem Valley

MUSEUM NEWS

Tourist season is over and now we drop back to Saturday and Sunday's with hours from 1 until 4 p.m.. or by appointment anytime for groups, schools, clubs. Call 472-7935 to set them up.

We have had some interesting additions to our collection. We still have school desks to sell. Our tool building needs some volunteer help to place and arrange articles and clean showcases. It's a good job for a rainy day.

Price of OLD YAMHILL book is now \$6.50 and there will not be another printing in the near future. We also have two cemetery record books that are for sale. They include graves in the Yamhill-Carlton areas and Sheridan-Willamina-Bellevue areas.

A special thanks for all those who helped keep the doors open this summer, as it was nice to have a Sunday off every once in a while. We are planning a quilt show if we can find a suitable place to hold such an event. It will include a style show. If you have any ideas to help raise funds to publish our new book on the schools of Yamhill Co., please step forward! The book is being compiled by Ruth Stoller and she deserves our thanks for all the research she has done on the project.

ROMA SITTON

A HISTORY NOTE

The first grist mill in the Newberg-Dundee area was probably the mill built by George G. Glenn about a mile west of Dundee on what was known, at the time, as Otter Brook. The mill was there before 1858 when Francis Keyes bought a half interest in the mill. Later, Keyes bought all of the George Glenn donation land claim. In 1861, the mill with 17 acres was sold to John Williamson, whose donation land claim was about three miles north of the mill site.

The mill was known as the Otterbrook Mill and for the next ten years, Williamson ran a thriving business. Then, on December 16, 1872 the mill burned.

The McMinnville Reporter for Friday December 20, 1872 gave a graphic account of the burning.

GRIST MILL DESTROYED

On Monday morning last at about 6 o'clock the grist mill belonging to John Williamson on Otter Brook, five and a half miles northeast of Lafayette, was discovered to be on fire. The discoverer, Mr. F.T. Keyes, was getting ready to start for Portland, where he had been summoned as a juror, at the time and immediately went to the burning building. He lived but a few rods from the mill, while the owner lived some three miles distant. At the time Mr. Keyes reached the place, it is said, he might have put out the fire had there been a single bucket of water at his disposal. All that promised the least aid to him in that direction, was an old pan, and this was filled with frozen mud, which he set at work to empty, but by this time the flames had made such rapid progress and had so envolved the building that to save it he saw impossible,

Mr. Keyes had made his way into the mill and sought entrance into the office to secure the books, but was met by a repelling volume of smoke and fire which ended all hope of his getting the books and they were lost. He then commenced carrying out flour and wheat. Assistance reached him very soon and with the help of neighbors, about half the contents of the mill was saved. There was somewhere from two to four thousand bushels of grain on hand at the time. The loss is estimated at near three thousand dollars.

There can be no doubt that this was the work of villany, as the evidence is almost conclusive that this is the case. A four horse team, says our informant, was tracked from the mill directly to the premises of a man named Russel, where his load had been deposited, and a missing sack of flour found, which bore the brand of this mill. The man is no where to be found, having fled the country, and the faster he flies the better, if he is headed toward that justice, which he deserves for his malicious conduct.

Compiled by RUTH STOLLER

1981 dues at \$3.00 per individual can be mailed to: Mrs. Evelyn Nieman
1501 S. Baker St.
McMinnville, Oregon 97128
