

# YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

DATE: Tuesday April 12, 1983 7:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: Community Christian Church, 2831 N. Newby, McMinnville  
POTLUCK: Bring your own service  
PROGRAM: History of the McMinnville area

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### MUSEUM NEWS

Dr. Poling's grand-daughter, Mrs. Barbara Tyler, presented the Museum a framed photo of Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Poling on their golden wedding anniversary. She also has a family group to copy for us and other family articles. Mrs. Woods, her mother, passed away in 1982.

We have just ordered new valley maps and historical spots to visit and when each place is open. The Pioneer Bush Barn in Salem is going to have the printing done. We appreciate their assistance.

We just had a school book order from Bethesda, Maryland. There have also been several calls for OLD YAMHILL. We will be sorry when the supply is gone.

I just delivered a set of photographs from our collection for the Post Office in Yamhill. They were scenes of the early day- livery stables, the hack that met the train for passengers and mail, the Royal Hotel, a wagon load of bailed hops, the new bank building, two schools, one church, two Laughlin homes, the girl's baseball team of 1887, etc.. The people in Yamhill will enjoy them I'm sure.

Everyone seemed to enjoy Carl Francis' talk on the history of the Dayton area during our meeting in March. I agree with him that the Old Gypsy tale needs to die and be buried for good. There are so many untruths told and there are so many good stories of its old pioneers. Joel Palmer gave a city block for a city park. There should be a marker to recognize this early settler.

Our book on the schools is selling well. There are a few early copies in which the cover may become loosened. Please return for a new one if this happens to you. The later boxes were returned and redone. Call 472-7935 for appointments- any time. We are open Saturday and Sunday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

ROMA SITTON

The original of the following letter is at the Oregon Historical Society—who have given us their permission to use it in our news letter.

The letter was written by Adeline Smith to her sister, probably Jane Smith Armstrong. Adeline was the daughter of Andrew D. and Polly Smith. Her brothers and sisters included, in addition to Jane (wife of Pleasant Armstrong), Andrew, Elizabeth (wife of Francis Fletcher), and Darling Smith. Adeline died a year and a month after this letter was written. She was 19 years, 11 months, and 6 days old at the time of her death.

When she wrote this letter she was staying in Salem at the home of the Thomas Pearne family and attending the Oregon Institute. Pearne was a presiding elder of the Methodist Church at this time and in a few years would be the first editor of the Pacific Christian Advocate (published in Oregon.) Mr. Hoyt was the principal of the Oregon Institute—a Methodist school whose name was changed the next year to Willamette University. Hoyt's title was changed from Principal to President and he became, therefore, Willamette University's first official president. Miss Plomondon is unidentified, but the two missionaries were George M. Berry, who stayed with the conference until 1862, and Benjamin Close, who only remained with the conference about two years. Berry went to St. Helens and Close to Puget Sound where he was the presiding elder of that region.

Written on the outside of the letter is "Salem Dec. 29".

Saturday 11th 1852

Dear Sister

It is now going on two weeks since I left home and I must say that at times I have felt a little home sick. I think I feel a little as you did when you was at Clatsop. Mr. and Mrs. Pearne are very kind and I am very comfortably situated but after all it is very different from being at home. I do wish you would come up and see me. the school commenced last Wednesday. I am very pleased with the teachers. Mr. Hoyt and Miss Plomondon are my teachers. I am study(ing) Arithmetic Philosophy Music. there is no news of importance here except two of the missionaries from the states have arrived. I heard them both preach last Sunday. I think they are very good preachers one of them is a married man the other is a single one. They have sent one to Puget Sound the other to st Hellens. Mr. Pearne has gone to Puget Sound likewise. I have nothing more to say now. Come up if you possibly can I would be so glad to see you. Write to me as often as you can.

Your affectionate sister until death  
Adaline Smith

Mrs. Pearne sends her love to you.

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