

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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DATE: TUESDAY MAY 8, 1984 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Yamhill High School Cafeteria (behind school), Yamhill, Oregon

POTLUCK: Bring your own service

PROGRAM: History of the Yamhill area

MUSEUM NEWS

I had a few days vacation with my granddaughter and family in Vancouver. We drove up the Columbia River on the Washington side and had lunch at Multnomah Falls, then to Portland on the Oregon side and we crossed the river at the new Glenn Jackson Bridge, which is a marvel. Beautiful weather.

Back to the job again. Mrs. Winters had a sick spell so the museum was not open for that reason. There is mail each week asking for information regarding cemetery records and ordering books. We are happy that we can sell so many books to out of state residents.

RICHARD WILLIAMS FAMILY--Part 3

The Richard Williams family arrived on the Tualatin Plains in the fall of 1841 after a five month journey overland from Missouri. Their closest neighbor on the Plains, Rev. J.S. Griffin, kept a record of the first births in the Tualatin settlement, as well as the marriages that he performed. Among the births recorded were a grand child and a child of Richard and Keziah Williams:

"A daughter and their first born was born to Zedekiah Kelsey and his wife on January 1st, 1843. This family are from Missouri and settled in these plains in the autumn of '41. Mr. Kelsey married his wife from the family of Mr. Williams when on their journey into this country."

"On the 22nd of March 1843, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Williams, a daughter. This family was from State of Missouri and settled in these plains in the autumn of 1841."

This daughter was named Melinda and would, after her marriage to William F. McCune, move to Yamhill County and live out her days in the Carlton area. She, her husband, and some of their children are buried in the Yamhill-Carlton Cemetery. It was their son, Asa McCune, who was one of the first of the Spanish-American War soldiers to lose his life. He died in San Francisco, during the early days of the war, a victim of typhoid fever. He is buried in the Yamhill-Carlton Cemetery.

Among the earliest marriages recorded by Rev. Griffin was that of Jacob T. Reed to Martha (who was always called Patsy) Williams. In his book he wrote: "Married by J.S. Griffin at the house of Richard Williams, Sept. 5th, 1844, before neighboring families, Mr. Jacob T. Reed to Miss Patsy Williams, both formerly from Missouri".

Jacob Reed arrived in Oregon in the fall of 1843, coming overland with his brother-in-law, Almorán Hill. Reed had taken his first claim on the site of present Lafayette. James T. Hembree in speaking about the early history of Lafayette, said that the first house on the site of the town was a log house that Hembree had helped build for Jake Reed. After Reed's marriage to Patsy, he took a claim nearer to the Tualatin Plains and her family, and not far from Almorán Hill.

In 1843 the two oldest sons of Richard and Keziah, Benjamin and David Williams, brought their families to Oregon. The two boys settled first in Yamhill County. Benjamin died soon after 1850 in Washington County, but David continued to live in the Wapato area until he moved to California in the 1860s. His wife was a sister of Isaiah Kelsey, husband of Winnie Williams.

Sarah Ann Williams, the baby who was born just before the Williams left for the west in 1841, married Joseph Reed, younger brother of Jacob and Mrs. Almorán Hill, on March 11, 1855. Joseph died in December of 1863, leaving Sarah with three young sons--Jacob, Richard, and Wilson B. Reed. Sarah's son, Jacob Reed, was the father of Maud Reed Kimberlin who is still living in Newberg.

In 1869 Sarah married William McCoy and had four more sons, Joseph, John D., Riley, and Al McCoy. McCoy died sometime before 1880 and Sarah later married Maynard Chamberlain, a Civil War veteran. The Chamberlain's had one child, a daughter named Lulu. Chamberlain died in December of 1885. Up to this time Sarah had lived most of her married life in the Wapato Lake area near Mr. and Mrs. Almorán Hill. After the death of Chamberlain she and her family moved to the Carlton area. She spent the rest of her life in Yamhill County. She married one more time to Hiram McCutcheon of Carlton. Her daughter, Lulu Chamberlain, married Bert Brooks and had one child, Glen--who still lives in the old family home in Lafayette. Sarah McCutcheon lived with the Brooks until her death on January 26, 1920. She is buried in the Pike Cemetery.

Richard and Keziah Williams had, of course, died many years before. They had gone to California for a while during the 1860s and Richard died there in 1870. Keziah returned to Oregon and died in Washington County in 1885. She is buried in the Hillsboro Cemetery.

(Much of the above information on the Richard Williams family was gathered over the years by the late Phyllis Newhouse. Glen Brooks who remembers his grandmother, Sarah, very well, also contributed family information.)