



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

OFFICERS, 1986

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Historian	Ruth Stoller
Museum Curator	Roma Sitton
Board:	Austin Bowen, Ed Roghair,
	Harvey Stoller, James Vincent
Newsletter	M. Roghair

MUSEUM HOURS Wednesday thru Sunday,
1 - 4 o'clock thru Sept. 19.
Hours change to Saturday and Sun-
day only, beginning Sept. 20th.

September

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

1986

MEETING: Tuesday, Sept. 9., Community Christian Church, 2831 N. New-
by, McMinnville.

POT LUCK SUPPER: 7 o'clock. Bring own table service.

PROGRAM Roberta Fort, recently returned from Zambia, S. Africa,
will present the program. She is the daughter of members Robert and
Shirley Kuykendall.

MUSEUM NOTES by Roma Sitton, Curator

The Museum has been open weekdays thruout the summer months. We have had a busy season, altho' some hot days people did not get out. Now we are getting back to the weekend schedule. Beginning Sept. 20, the Museum will be open only Saturdays and Sundays. . . Many thanks for those who helped keep our doors open. . . Our paint job has gone well under the watchful eyes of the board. Three coats of new paint should last a long time. So much preparation had to be made, too. . . There is much demand for cemetery records. And donations so far are over 700. Our church seats, which we lent to a dance group, are now for sale. . . The family of John Eckman, one-time editor of "News Reporter" gathered in Wortman Park to celebrate the golden wedding anniversary of son James Eckman and wife, Portland. They then visited the Museum. Mr. Eckman gave us a family photo, with names of all. . . Our summer picnic was quite well attended. Not many came to the Museum after noon lunch. I thank the group for the lovely corsage of roses, and Doris White for her prayer. I have had a 3 day vacation at the beach with my granddaughter and family, and am back at the job. Helpers are needed and appreciated at all times. Let's all try to bring visitors and prospective new members to the museum and meetings.

HISTORICAL NOTES by Ruth Stoller

The Brisbine name is a familiar one in Yamhill County history. John Brisbine, the older of two brothers, arrived here in 1847, married Mary Kinney, a daughter of Samuel Kinney, in 1851 and settled in Chehalem Valley. Later they moved to Yamhill. John and Mary Brisbine are buried in the Pike Cemetery and still have descendents living in Yamhill County.

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The other brother, Joseph Brisbane, arrived in Oregon in September of 1852, coming by way of the California gold fields where he had gone from Iowa in 1850. He married Elizabeth D. Allen in 1853 in Yamhill County and they settled near his brother John. When Elizabeth's brother died, the Joseph Brisbines inherited part of his donation land claim which was located up Willamina Creek. They moved to the Willamina claim sometime in the 1860s and stayed in that area until about 1889 when they moved to Portland. They remained in Portland until they died.

Jean Bett, who helped us so much with our history of the old schools in the Willamina area, tells us that one of the early schools up Willamina Creek was known as the Brisbane school.

Just recently a descendent of one of John and Joseph's sisters, who is now living in the state of Washington, has been requesting information about them. She sent copies of letters that the men had written their sister from the west. One was from Joseph and was written while he was in California. The sister was living in Muscatine, Iowa, where John and Joseph had originally come from. Joseph wrote:

Plaserville Calaforna

January the 26 A D--1851

Look out for the specoman of gold J.S.B.

~~Deer brother and sister~~ I take up my pen to in form yo
that I am well at presant and I hope theas few lines will find yo all enjoying the same blesing I thank the lord that I can say that I never enjoyed my helth better in my life. I received a letter from brother John it was roat the 2 of october he was well. he was living in oragon citty he was not marred yet. I have bean mineing ever since I got hear. I have not had verry good luck yet. I done better last weak then I have don since I got in. I made a bout sixty dolars but thare is a grate meny hear that dus not mak more then thare board. the mines has bean dug over so much that thare is a poor chance for makeing a verry big rais hear. the prise of proveisions hear in the mines poark 25 sts per pound, beef 25 and 30 sts per pound, flour from 10 to 25 sts per pound, molases from 3 to 4 dolars a geling (gallon), potatoes 15 and 20 sents per pound, coffee 40 sents per pound and other things in propotion. this is the wickedest country that I ever was in. this is the sabeth eavning and I can hear the fidels runing in all parts of town. sunday is the day of randabous (rendavous) hear for drinking and gambling and fidling and danc-ing and so forth. we have a verry plesant winter hear the wether is warm and ple-sant with a littel rain ocasionly. I am going to send this letter to muscatine with Mr schooly he is going home he will poast it at muscatine wright soon direct your letter to sacramento sitty good by may god be with yo for I cannot to fifield and Isabell Richardson

Joseph Brisbane