

# The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

February 2002

## Board Highlights

The Board met on January 8th, with 11 officers and members present. Betty Brown presented a printed Treasurer's Report, showing December income at \$1839.11, expenses at \$944.82. Correspondence Secretary Marjorie Owens sent out two sympathy cards, four Thank You notes and two inquiry responses. Eileen Lewis, Volunteer Chair, reported that sufficient volunteers for the Museum signed up for January.

Under Old Business, we have received information on the photo of the street arches in McMinnville... it was 1898 and the photo came to us via the GAR. The pesticide process used in the Museum needs to be set up on a cycle to insure we keep the pests at bay. Oral Histories grant monies have been received; this is a pass-through grant. The Nomadic Teacher has completed 19 presentations at 10 schools, with more scheduled in the next few months. The Oral Histories project will start soon. A quilt storage grant proposal is under study. The Antique/Collectable Appraisal Day has been scheduled for June 29, 2002. Joanne Watts is working on this project. The publisher of Old Yamhill requires a 500 copy run at \$10 each = \$5,000. Shirley suggested that they deliver and bill us for the first half, hanging onto the second until we can afford it. Some suggestions were heard on how we can come up with the initial \$2,500. We currently have \$600 set aside for this now. Obviously the price on the new books will need to be higher than the earlier charge.

Our calendars cost \$270 to produce and generated \$584 for a net profit of \$314. Olive is looking into printing costs for next year's edition of the calendar. Marjorie used \$60 from the donations to the Museum to purchase two file cabinets for our obit cards. Marjorie has now purchased, on her own, two more cabinets to complete this project.

Under New Business the newly re-elected Board Members were welcomed. The Oregon Heritage Conference will be held in Newport on May 9-11, 2002. Board and general members are invited to attend at their own expense. PGE has evaluated our facilities to see where we can conserve energy, and we may be proposing a \$500 grant for help from that firm as a community service project. Barbara Hinman made notes of the visit from PGE. It was noted that we need to clean all gutters at our museum facilities. Some money raising & expense reducing suggestions were made; 1.) asking members for no interest loans, 2.) do away with Life Membership status, 3.) raise dues, 4.) charge admission for museum visits, 5.) research charges, 6.) different levels of membership, 7.) bigger donation jars. A letter from Don & Ruth Crawford (now of Chandler, Arizona) was read. These two are dearly missed by our society, and we wish them only the best.

## Jacob C Cooper

Our first meeting of this year saw a presentation by Jim Lockett on Jacob Calvin Cooper, b. 1844, d. 1937. Jacob served in the Union Army from 1862 to 1864. He later married Melzena Spillman and they had eight children. Jacob authored several books after the turn of the last century. Earlier, he operated stores in Lincoln and Zena, was postmaster of McMinnville, as well as school teacher and a surveyor for both the U.S. Surveyor General and for Yamhill County. At least two of the members in the audience personally recalled 'Colonel' Cooper... Joan Azzerelli recalled watching the couple hand-bind one of the books they published, and Dorothy Gunness recalled Jake tapping on the window of the old bank as he walked by each day. She worked inside the bank, and he was just letting her know he was still around. Jim Lockett had a couple of the books published by Mr. Cooper at the presentation, and those in attendance were given a special educational treat in learning about the life and times of one of our better known local pioneers.

## From our President

### *Words a Volunteer Board Loves to Hear:*

When someone says, "These are potential new members and they want to work at the museum - I wouldn't mind putting in a few hours at the museum - How can I help - I have a suggestion - Have you ever thought about - Would it be ok if I contacted PGE for suggestions on conserving electricity - I know someone who might donate money toward... - I am a life member and here is a contribution toward... - Here is a contribution but keep it anonymous - Would it be ok if I helped with (any event)." We seem to be experiencing a wonderful reawakening in our membership. They realize that this is a group of people, including the Board, who are all working toward the betterment of the society and the museum. We need every bit of help we can get no matter how large or small. The membership is interested and concerned and want to know what is going on. It is the duty of the Board to inform them. In thought and deed this is wonderful. The Historical Society and our Museum is blessed with dedicated volunteers. They see what needs to be done and do it without fanfare or thanks. This keeps the museum operating. Now, we have others who see the need and are stepping forward to offer assistance. Thank goodness!! We are open to suggestions, offers to help or even complaints. Go easy on the complaints as we are very sensitive (Ha) Please contact Shirley, Eileen, Marjorie, or anyone who is on the Board or membership. It is great to see the enthusiasm and the desire to keep this a fun and pleasurable process. Love you all. Shirley

**OFFICERS - 2002**

- President**  
*Shirley Venhaus*  
 472-7328
- VP/Program**  
*Barbara Knutson*  
 843-2069
- Secretary (Joint)**  
*Shirley McDaniel*  
 662-3528  
*Eileen Crawley*  
 835-3673
- Treasurer**  
*Betty Brown*  
 472-7100
- Financial Secretary**  
*Lila Jackson*  
 472-8510
- Corres. Secretary**  
*Marjorie Owens*  
 843-3081
- Board of Directors**  
*Eileen Lewis*  
 835-7531  
*Ed Roghair*  
 472-6909  
*Francis Dummer*  
 864-2637  
*Dan Linscheid*  
 843-2625
- Volunteer Coordinator**  
*Eileen Lewis*  
 835-7531
- Librarian**  
*Olive Merry Johnson*  
 472-6070
- Newsletter**  
*Dan Linscheid*  
 843-2625
- Car Pool Coordinator**  
*Joanne Watts* 835  
 -5893

**TREASURES IN THE ATTIC**

YCHS is preparing to bring "TREASURES IN THE ATTIC" (an Antique Appraisal event) to Yamhill County on June 29th, 2002. This will be held at the museum complex and will be open to the public. Appraisers from many different areas of expertise will be on hand. This is a fundraiser for the society and a small charge will be made for the appraisals.

There are many details left to plan and we are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping please call Joanne Watts 835-5893 or Shirley Venhaus 434-0567

**Special Presentation Scheduled**

August 13th of this year will see a very special presentation for our society. In mid-August of 1826, Alexander Roderick McLeod passed through the Yamhill valley on his way back from the central Oregon coast. He and Peter Skene Ogden were Chief Fur Traders for Hudson's Bay Company. Mr. Ogden's travels took him easterly and southerly, while Mr. McLeod went south and west from Fort Vancouver.

Al Le Page, Executive Director of the National Coast Trail Association, will give a two hour presentation focusing on the trails and experiences of Mr. McLeod's trip through Yamhill County 176 years ago, almost to the day. Al has a one hour slide show, which will be followed up with another half-hour of general discussion and wrapping up with a question and answer period. You will need to mark this one on your calendar, since it was scheduled too late to be published earlier. More details (time & place) will follow in next months' newsletter.

**Oral History Interviews**

How has Yamhill County changed in the last 75 years? That represents about one-half of the time period since settlement by Euro-Americans. To answer this question, Barbara Doyle has initiated an oral histories project concentrating on economic changes. She submitted a grant application to the Dal L. Baker Charitable Lead Annuity Trust for funds to cover costs of doing 12 interviews, duplicating and indexing tapes and writing articles for YCHS, the West Side and local newsletters based upon the interviews. This grant has been approved, and YCHS received a pass-through check in the amount of \$3054 last December. We have a list of potential businesses and individuals to interview. Please contact the museum if you wish to suggest another interviewee. It will be checked against the existing list and added if appropriate.

**Oregon's Pathfinder for Women**

At the June 14, 1993 school board meeting, a ceremony, closing the McMinnville Middle school-by name only, of course-and opening the new Fred Patton and Abigail Duniway Middle schools, was held. Many wondered, "who is Abigail Duniway?"

Abigail Scott Duniway was an 1852 Oregon emigrant and Yamhill County pioneer. Her family settled in Lafayette in November of 1852. It was there that her father, Tucker Scott, rented a building from Amos Cook and started a hotel. He named it the Oregon Temperance House. This proved very profitable as board and room was a hefty \$8.00 per week! Of course, his six girls provided free help and, as they married, the hotel became less profitable.

At this time, Abigail was seventeen years old and wise beyond her age. Actually, her family called her Jenny. She didn't use the name Abigail until she began writing and speaking, later in her life.

It is reported that Mrs. Scott, Jenny's mother, wept bitterly when Jenny was born and her father, Tucker Scott, was "cross" about her being a girl. Later, it was explained to Jenny that her mother felt the birth of a girl "a grievance almost too burdensome to be borne." It wasn't that Mrs. Scott didn't love her little girl: she knew in her heart that a women's life was hard in these times and that a man had a much better chance to enjoy life and determine his own destiny. This was a "hurt" that Jenny never forgot.

Jenny was the third child in a family of twelve, three of whom died before the trip west in 1852. The family consisted of John Tucker Scott, 43, father and driving force of the family; Ann Roelofson Scott, 40, mother, an invalid who found the trip very hard, died of cholera on the trail near Fort Laramie; "Fanny," (Mary Frances), the oldest living child, age 19, married Amos Cook at Lafayette; "Jenny," (Abigail Jane), the second child; "Mag," (Margaret Ann), age 15; "Harve," (Harvey Whitefield) age 14, fought in the Yakima Indian War of 1855 and served forty years as distinguished editor of the Portland Oregonian; "Kit," (Catherine Amanda), age 13, married John R. Coburn; "Etty," (Harriet Louise), age 11; "Sonny," (John Henry), age 9; "Chat," (Sarah Maria), age 5, became a musician and married James Kelty of Lafayette. The youngest was "Willie," (William Neill), age 3, who died and was buried near the Burnt River on the Oregon Trail.

The Scott caravan consisted of five wagons-all painted green and gold, sixteen yoke of oxen (thirty-two oxen) plus ten more belonging to cousin Levi Caffee. The provision wagon was drawn by five yoke of oxen.

**MUSEUM HOURS**

**June 1 thru August 31**  
 Fri-Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM  
 or  
 By Appointment

605 Market Street  
 Lafayette Oregon  
 Phone: 864-2308

**ANNUAL DUES**

**\$10.00 Individual**  
**\$17.00 Family**  
**\$125.00 Life**

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 97128

The camp equipage wagon, the family wagon and the miscellaneous wagon had three yoke of oxen each. The "Mother's wagon" was drawn by two yoke. Other relatives joined the Scotts with a similar number of wagons and animals. Tucker reported: "there is in my company 26 souls all told." (That was the number of men in the company, so, apparently, the women and children were not considered "souls".) As they went along, they joined other wagons to provide protection for each other. As you can see, Tucker Scott and his family were methodical in planning and executing their trip. Each child was given a job. Jenny's task was a pleasant one—to keep an accurate journal. This was a great relief to Jenny who had not looked forward to the trip. She had always been kept busy with chores and this new job gave her time to herself. She does not mention romance but her sister reported several young men Jenny's age, paying a great deal of attention to her.

A disturbing part of the trip was the number of graves passed each day. Jenny began listing them in her journal. Four one day, six another—each one fresh from the wagons just ahead of them on the trail. After only two months from home, the Scott family experienced the tragedy of leaving one behind—wrapped in a feather bed for a coffin in an unmarked grave along the trail. Jenny reports: "We little thought when last Sabbath's pleasant sun shed upon us his congenial rays that when the next should come it would find us mourning over the sickness and death of our beloved Mother!". She had taken sick at two o'clock in the morning and by five o'clock that afternoon, she was gone. It was a sad time and Jenny reflected long on the fact that her mother did not want to make this trip but her father gave her no choice. She began to understand her mother's sorrow at her birth!

Tragedy struck again on August 28th. Willie, the bright little boy—almost four years old—died of cholera. He was buried along the Burnt River, just up from the trail. His grave was well marked so the family was able to visit it fifty years later.

That first winter in Oregon found Jenny working all hours helping her father with the hotel in Lafayette. Being anxious to get out from under her father's authority, she took a job teaching in Eola that next spring. A young farmer in the area courted her and she became Mrs. Ben Duniway. Being used to the hardships of pioneer life, she went cheerfully about the business of being wife and mother.

However, her husband Ben had co-signed a note against her advice. When it came due the other party had disappeared, so Ben lost his farm. Abigail (we'll now change from "Jenny" to "Abigail") said: "I was my husband's silent partner with no voice for self protection but when penalty accrued, I was his legal representative."

Since they still had a small piece of property near Lafayette, they decided to move back. Not long after that, Ben was injured in a farm accident and unable to work the rest of his life. Abigail went back to teaching this time in the Lafayette, Oregon school. She was upset to find that her pay was half that of the men teachers. By now, she was beginning to feel the injustice suffered by women, and later states: "I was not an easy convert to equal suffrage. I had been led from childhood to believe that women who demanded 'rights' were man-haters, of whom I certainly was not one."

But a long line of pioneer experiences led me at last into the light, which, when it burst upon me found me willing to take up the burden. In looking backward, it seems strange to me now that I didn't sooner see the need of votes for women."

Abigail's first flurry into politics of the time was right there in "Old Lafayette," Oregon, known as the "Athens of the West," where many excellent orators held forth from its stage. When E. D. Baker came to town to campaign for Abraham Lincoln, she decided to go hear him. She needed Ben to take her since "Ladies Were not Expected" at these meetings. Off-color stories, smoke, and swear words usually filled the room so this was no place for a "Lady." Even though the assembly hall was filled with several hundred men—many rudely hissing as she walked in—Abigail prevailed and heard the speech.

Having tasted the men's world of ideas and discussions, she wanted to be a part of this "world," so, with several women friends, she began attending meetings at the courthouse. The men were shocked! Abigail responded by saying, that if they would put away their "unwholesome ways," they could expect "ladies" with new and helpful ideas. (It was at the Yamhill County courthouse in Lafayette, Oregon, where women were first noted attending political meetings in the Oregon Territory.)

Abigail's next move was to ask the church for time to present her cause. She was surprised that the clergy was so upset. Imagine, a "brazen woman" advocating that women were every bit as equal as men. She was refused the right to speak at church meetings. They even accused her of neglecting her children, drinking, smoking and swearing like a man and even whipping Ben.

When some ministers found it hard to deny Abigail's request to offer a prayer, she would have a twenty-minute conversation with the Lord about Women's Suffrage! This tool was not only effective but satisfying.

Her brother, Harve, was now the esteemed Editor of the Oregonian and Abigail was sure he would support her cause in his paper. She was wrong. Many bitter conversations occurred between the two of them, although it is said that they both maintained a respect for each other. So, Abigail decided to publish her own paper to "spread the word." She and her family moved to Portland and began publishing "The New Northwest." Abigail felt that "half the women were over-taxed and underpaid while the other half were frivolous, idle and expensive. *Both of these conditions of society are wrong.*" This became the underlying theme of her salty paper.

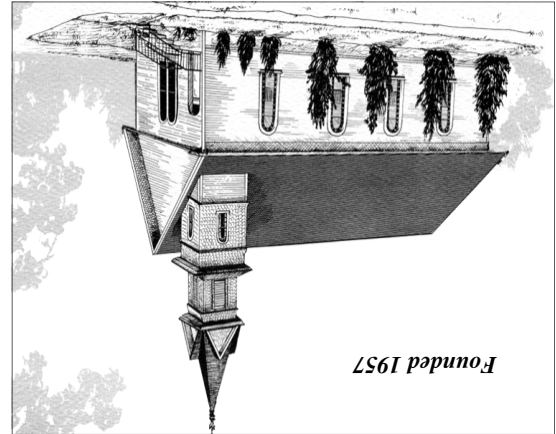
In 1912, Abigail finally saw the successful results of her long battle. A constitutional vote of 61,000 to 57,000 carried the day for Women's Suffrage. In her autobiography, at the age of 81, Abigail Scott Duniway was the first woman to vote in the State of Oregon.

Abigail states: "the young women of today—free to speak, to write, to choose their occupation—should remember that every inch of their freedom was bought with a great price. It is for them to show their gratitude by helping onward the reforms of their own time by spreading the light of freedom and truth still wider. The debt that each generation owes to the past it must pay to the future."



Jim Lockett

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***YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY***

## **YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### ***February 2002 Calendar of Events***

**Board of Directors - Tuesday, February 12th, 5:00 pm**  
**Seventh Day Adventist Church, McMinnville**

**Monthly Meeting & Potluck—February 12th, 6:30 pm**  
**Seventh Day Adventist Church, 1500 Old Sheridan Rd., McMinnville**

Our February Program will be the Nomadic Teacher, presented by Barbara Doyle. Please join us for dinner and potluck fare; bring your own dinnerware.

*Visit our Historical Photograph Album at <http://www.co.yamhill.or.us> and our  
YCHS website at <http://www.sites.onlinemac.com/history>  
email : [History@starband.net](mailto:History@starband.net) (Dan Linscheid)*