

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

January 2002

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472-7328

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MUSEUM HOURS

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

605 Market Street
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Phone: 864-2308

ANNUAL DUES

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

Mail to:

Financial Secretary
2430 North Baker
McMinnville OR
97128

January Meeting & Potluck Dinner

Our January meeting will be held at the at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in McMinnville at 6:30 p.m. on the 8th. The program will be by our local author & historian, Jim Lockett, on Jacob C. Cooper, Yamhill County Pioneer. Please invite a friend and join us for great food and fellowship. Please bring potluck fare and your own tableware.

Christmas Carols were heard...

At our December meeting, Francis Dummer introduced "The Mavericks", who sang and played various seasonal tunes to the delight of the attendees. Dennis Brutke, Elizabeth Hogan, Robert Crump, Norm McGrew and Francis all sing and play various instruments with exuberance and lots of raw talent. Dennis invited anyone who enjoyed their music to join them at the McMinnville Grange Hall on Friday nights from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. for more music. Thanks go out to the Mavericks for their timely program.

From our President

Welcome To The Year 2002 !!

I remember what it was I meant to say at the last meeting. It was, "Have a Great Holiday and the Best New Year"! I knew there was something that I forgot. I welcome the membership and the board to a bigger and better new year. We will see many changes and let's hope they are all for the better. Your continued support and cooperation is greatly appreciated. It's what makes this society such a pleasure. I'm sure that you live longer if you belong to the Historical Society. I believe it has been proven, just look at the birthdays. Thanks to those who decorated the museum for the holidays. I believe we should leave the trees up through the month of January. We received lots of compliments on the old fashioned decorations.

As you will note in the board minutes, we are working very hard on ways to save money and money making ideas. We do appreciate Barbara Doyle contributing thoughts and ideas from her past experiences with these matters. Barbara Knutson continues to do a bang-up job with the monthly programs. Will see you, same time, same place in January. Sincerely, Shirley.

December Board Meeting Highlights

November income totaled \$1080, expenses were \$565. Betty will total all expenses and revenues from calendar sales and report on results next month. A donor wishing to remain anonymous has given \$500 earmarked for reprinting of "Old Yamhill". Our dues structure will be evaluated by a committee appointed recently. Items suggested for further study to increase revenues include: 1.) Fire/Liability insurance costs... what do other similar non-profit museums currently pay? 2.) Printing costs, although much reduced from last year, may be squeeze a little tighter, 3.) Accounting/Tax preparation—since we are non-profit, there may be only one or two forms to fill out annually, reducing costs, 4.) Interest Income—the Board had planned to use interest income for operations, but interest rates are very low now, so we are scrambling for revenues. Francis collected donations from Wilco (a wreath) and Oriental Garden (Gift Certificate) to be used as a fund raiser for tonight's general meeting.

A proposed budget was submitted for the year 2002. Included is \$2700 for membership dues... we all need to help with this if possible, increasing our membership. The proposed budget was adopted by the Board. Barbara Hinman is working on a shrub plan for the westerly side of the Log Museum and Barn. Nominations for officers for the next year have been submitted: Vice-President, Barbara Knutson; Financial Secretary, Lila Jackson; Board Position (Four year term), Eileen Lewis.

The nomination of the Church Museum to the State Historic Preservation program was submitted by the deadline. It was moved, seconded and approved to pay the expenses incurred in processing this proposal. Nomadic Teacher; This program is well under way, with \$75 turned over to date to the society. Barbara Doyle asked about the reference to a "trail of tears" in a recent newsletter article. Although not the more widely known trail, many Oregon history books do in fact refer to this as such. Also, the reference to a Petersburg, Florida Civil War battlefield as mentioned in last months "Sawtell Letters" was questioned. Matt Dunckel and Shirley Kuykendall donated much appreciated trees for our holiday season at the Museum.

Judge Matthew P. Deady was unknown to us until we read Joseph Gaston's "Centennial History of Oregon." Here Gaston reports "Deady was - in every sense Oregon's greatest citizen and his statue should have been chosen to represent his state in the hall of fame in the National Capitol." That was enough reason to go back to the books! Sure enough, we found more material than we could possibly use.

Gaston also reports that Yamhill County has secured "credit of being a talisman of good luck to all its sons and daughters ... that the States most distinguished judge, Matthew Deady, and most distinguished lawyer, David Logan, both started in Yamhill County. Old Lafayette figured as the 'Athens' of Oregon and the classic halls of its old court house reverberated the thundering eloquence of Deady, Logan, Pratt, Williams, Burnett, Chapman, Dryer, Nesmith, and others."

Entertainment of the day was to visit the courthouse and listen to these "sons and daughters." Other than Oregon's own Abigail Scott Duniway, there were: Congressman, John McBride; Governor, George Woods; U. S. Senator, George McBride; first President of the State University, John Johnson; Superintendent. of Public Schools, L. R. Alderman; Chief Justice, Thomas McBride; General Joel Palmer; Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, George Burnett; State Circuit Court Judge, William Galloway; and prominent physician, Dr. James McBride who became United States Minister to the Sandwich Islands. These were all Yamhill County Residents.

But more about this Yamhill County "son"-the distinguished Judge Deady. Matthew Paul Deady was born May 12, 1824, to Irish Catholic parents, Daniel and Mary Ann (McSweeney), who immigrated to the USA, settling in Baltimore. Daniel, a schoolmaster, "was a stern, self-willed man whose training and temperament had given him a fixed faith that a sound thrashing was the sovereign remedy for any deficiency of mind or manners." (Pharisee among Philistines, the Diary of Judge Matthew P. Deady, edited and introduction by Malcolm Clark, Jr.)

For the next seventeen years, the Deady family moved from place to place. Daniel was always looking for a new position as his harsh discipline was unacceptable, even in those days. During this time, Matthew lost his mother and was "farmed out" to an uncle. After moving back home at sixteen and unable to get along with his father, he soon left and apprenticed himself to John Kelly, a blacksmith.

However, he soon found that blacksmithing was not for him so he went back to school, got his teaching certificate and taught for a short time. Finding himself more interested in law he soon was admitted to the Ohio bar. When his attention was caught by the discovery of gold in California, he decided to go west, not to California, but Oregon!

Deady had no money to make the trip by wagon train so attached himself to an army troop escorting a military paymaster to Fort Vancouver. He signed on as a teamster and general roustabout, doing some blacksmithing on the side. It was an unruly troop with a poor commanding officer. The soldiers were heavy drinkers, tended to desert and even planned to steal the payroll by killing the paymaster. Deady, somewhat undisciplined himself (enjoying cigars, whiskey, and wild women), knew this was too much. In spite of being included in the plans, he reported the plot. Many times, in later life, he was referred to as the "honest teamster" of the Oregon Trail.

Upon arriving in Oregon City, he took stock and went straight to Lafayette where he taught for awhile to pay for board and room. By spring, he was admitted to the Oregon Bar, tried his first case and was elected to the Lower House of the Territorial Legislature. It was here he met and became lifelong friends with Asahel Bush, J. W. Nesmith and General Joseph Lane. These allies sponsored his career and gave him respectability.

In June of 1852, Matthew Deady married Lucy Henderson who was ten years his junior. He had become known as the "whiskey judge," and it was surprising that Deady and this prim young lady of seventeen were attracted to each other. Clark reported that she was a "very righteous young lady with a mouth whose corners turned down in a Calvinist curve." Lucy was pure and good and enjoyed "poor" health, dying at age 88. Their marriage, however, was a strong bond of two people meeting each others' needs.

In spite of reports, Lucy Henderson was no frail little girl. She suffered the same hardships of other early emigrant women. She was eleven in 1846 when her parents started out from Missouri to cross the plains to Oregon. She describes problems on the trail: torrential rains, heavy winds blew the tents over, stampeding oxen, Indians stealing hot bread off the campfire and her mother hoping "it burned him well." At one point, she watched the Indians doing their war dance and was frightened by their actions and nakedness. She also tells of how her little sister drank a bottle of "laudanum" (opium in alcohol) and died before they realized what had happened. She was buried by the trail. Three days later another sister, Olive, was born. (Olive became Mrs. Edward Failing of Portland.)

At Fort Hall, the wagon train was met by Jesse Applegate who convinced them to take his new southern route. After surviving the trip through southern Oregon, they finally arrived in the Willamette valley at Christmas time where they stayed with an uncle until spring when they moved on to Oregon City.

This is where Matthew and Lucy met. He was carrying a letter to her from a man in Lafayette. She said it was just a friendly letter but admitted she was more interested in the carrier than in the letter itself.

(Judge Deady continued)

They were married at Lafayette, June 24, 1852. Their honeymoon was a trip on horseback to attend the special session of the Territorial Legislature at Salem! Upon their return, they set up housekeeping in a one-room log cabin with a lean-to kitchen.

The Deadys enjoyed a good life with their four children, Edward, Henderson, Paul and Mary. The Judge, haunted by his own father's harshness and unsure of the correct approach to discipline, vacillated between "extreme leniency and half-hearted severity."

Within seven years of the first settlements by the emigrants a complete order by law was established. The people of the Oregon Territory need to be recognized for their development of a safe "law and order" society-moving swiftly to statehood in 1859. Judge Deady was a significant part of that accomplishment.

While in Lafayette, Judge Deady's reputation spread across the country as his written Opinions and Letters reached the desks of prominent lawyers and jurists. His most important accomplishment was the adoption of his Code of Civil Procedure for Oregon in 1862, and then his Code of Criminal Procedure, adopted in 1864. He also collected, revised and rearranged the Laws of Oregon with notes and references published in book-form in 1874. "Many of the important statutes of Oregon are the work of Judge Deady, notably that providing for the formation of private corporations." (Gaston)

Judge Matthew Deady and his family lived and worked in Lafayette for several years. Later, his work took him to Douglas County and then to Portland. There they set-up housekeeping away from the bustle of the town by buying and building on Seventh (now Broadway) and Alder. While his salary as a judge was small (even the greenbacks he received were discounted), this piece of land left the Deady family in good financial standing.

Matthew Deady died in 1893 at the age of 69; a great loss in those early developmental days. Starting at the bottom of the ladder, with little formal education, he worked his way up by his own efforts and without the aid of wealth. "All men in and out of the legal profession honored and respected him not only for his talents and judicial abilities but more so for his honor as a man and his unswerving integrity and impartial justice as a judge." (Gaston)



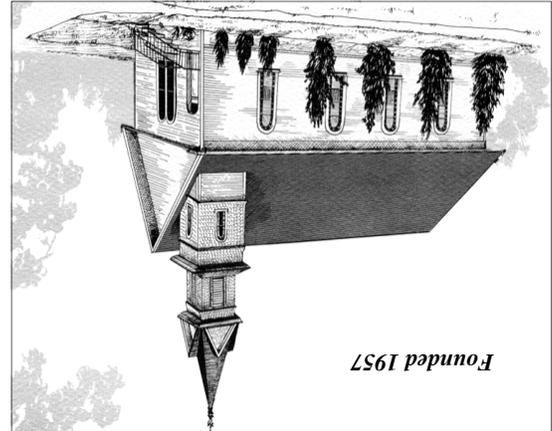
Matthew, Edward, Henderson and Lucy Deady

Financial considerations

The Board is actively seeking support and suggestions to help our society get through these lean times. If you've been reading the Board Minutes, you are aware of our current financial problems. At our December meeting, several suggestions were brought up for consideration. 1.) Admission charges: should we charge a fixed amount? Many museums currently do. 2.) Research charges: volunteer research could generate much more than our current policy of charging for copies only. 3.) Dues increases: our membership dues could be restructured to include several tiers: one of our neighbor societies charges \$25 for individual, \$35 for Family, \$50 for a Contributing, and classifications for two additional membership classes at \$100 and \$250 per year. Life Memberships, while excellent for the purchaser, are often a financial disaster for the society. 4.) Are we charging enough for our photo reproductions? 5.) How about selling tickets for monthly prizes similar to our December meeting? Should we try to continue and even build on this?

The kindly financial donations of our members is greatly appreciated. When it is reported that such a donation has been 'earmarked' for a certain program or project, what *really happens* is the moneys go into the same fund as all other revenues, and our collective memories help keep that 'earmarking' project alive. But if our monthly fixed bills need paying out of our general fund, it's obvious which will occur first.

Your input as a member is crucial. Please give consideration to these issues. We currently have a couple of severe needs: reprinting of "Old Yamhill" and a new coat of paint for the Church Museum. With declining membership and increasing costs of utilities, there exists a distinct possibility that we will be forced to make cuts somewhere, and that could lead to reduction in the hours the Museum is open and cutting down on the use of appliances and lowering of the thermostat in the Museums. Let your Board, your President and other officers know where you stand on this.



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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Calendar of Events

Board of Directors - Tuesday, January 8th, 5:00 pm
Seventh Day Adventist Church, McMinnville

Monthly Meeting & Potluck—January 8th, 6:30 pm
Seventh Day Adventist Church, McMinnville

(See page 1 for details)

*Visit our Historical Photograph Album at <http://www.co.yamhill.or.us> and our
YCHS website at <http://www.sites.onlinemac.com/history>*