

# The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society



## Outstanding Volunteers Recognized

Executive Director Katherine Huit recognized Outstanding Volunteers for the year 2007 in a surprise presentation during the December Membership meeting. Chuck Kadell and Dave Cruickshank (not present) received framed photographs taken by Dennis Hoisington that showed the gentlemen during Farm Fest activities last April. Long time Research Librarian and Board Member Marjorie Owens also received a framed photograph. Gloria Lutz received an Oregon Museum Association tee shirt for her work in the Society's educational outreach Covered Wagon program, as did Dennis Hoisington for his work documenting Yamhill County's historic sites and the Society's incoming agriculture and timber artifacts, its events and people. Huit also recognized volunteer Lester Herring (not present) for his work in video taping our meetings, preserving the presentations for future generations to learn from and enjoy. Huit announced an added benefit of volunteering with YCHS: Lifetime Memberships to those who volunteer 450 hours or more within five years.

## December Happenings

Visitors to the Log Cabin and Church at the historic Lafayette site during December experienced the opportunity of viewing the fabulous crazy quilts from our Permanent Collection! If you missed out on seeing them during the hectic holiday season, you can still take a peak - they will be on exhibit for a few more weeks. You'll see quilts created by pioneers who brought them for warmth along the Oregon Trail, and others created during the Great Depression that feature newspaper used for batting - just to mention a few . . . So take a moment in January and stop by to see these wonderful quilts.



Agriculture and Timber Hall continues to take shape at the SW Durham Lane site. The photo above shows the restoration shop in the foreground and in the distance you can see the framework for the exhibit hall, also reflected in the shop's concrete floor. December weather slowed construction a bit; however, the Haworth crew endured rain and snow showers making progress on the exhibit hall. By December 28, they had prepared the forms for the remaining concrete floor in the exhibit hall. Weather depending, concrete workers will pour the floor on January 3.

## 2008 Happy New Year! 2008

### Share Your Valentine Memories!

Do you have a Valentine's Day story you would like to share with other members? Perhaps you received a special surprise from a loved one or a special card . . . Send us a copy or a short story and we'll publish it in the February issue of *The West Side*! For more information call 503-472-5130, or send copies of Valentine's Day cards, pictures or stories via email to: [ychsdirector@onlinemac.com](mailto:ychsdirector@onlinemac.com) or mail to: PO Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127. Be sure to include your name, phone number for follow-up.

### Wanted: Newsletter Committee Members

The Newsletter Committee is actively recruiting proof readers, editors, and contributing writers. For more information call 503-472.5130 or email [ychsdirector@onlinemac.com](mailto:ychsdirector@onlinemac.com).

*The Yamhill County Historical Society is a nonprofit tax exempt educational and public service Corporation established to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County*

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**Historic Lafayette Site**

605 Market Street/PO Box 484  
Lafayette OR 97127  
Phone: 503-864-2308  
yamhillhistory@onlinemac.com

Museum Hours:**October thru May:**

Wednesday & Saturday  
10 am to 4 pm  
Or by appointment

**Durham Lane Site**

11275 SW Durham Lane  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
503-472-5130  
ychsdirector@onlinemac.com

Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday, 9 am-5 pm

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## From Your President

Wishing you a very *Happy New Year!*

2008 is going to be a busy and progressive year for the Yamhill County Historical Society. In 2007, we doubled our membership participation and we hope to repeat the same in the coming year. The need for more volunteers will become more evident as the building progresses at the new site. It was interesting to observe the Volunteer Meeting held on the 15th. Seeing people excited about our upcoming events and hearing them inquire about how they might help with the activities is very encouraging.

The Sawmill Building is taking shape. It will be exciting to watch the mill saw the lumber for its own structure.

It is with sadness that I close this letter with the last words e-mailed to me by Dennis Hoisington: *Carry on without me, will You? Thanks, Dennis*

Yes, Dennis. You can count on it.

Love, Shirley

## YCHS December General Meeting

President Shirley Venhaus welcomed thirty-four signed-in members and guests to the December 11, 2007 meeting of Yamhill County Historical Society, held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Kenneth Williams gave the blessing that was followed by the Flag Salute. Members enjoyed the Potluck dinner.

Calling the meeting to order, President Shirley conducted the introduction of guests and the observation of birthdays and anniversaries. Treasurer Kenneth Williams reported for the month of November: beginning balance of \$13,891.63 and an ending balance of \$13,866.66. November income: \$1,392.53; outflow: \$1,417.50; monthly total: -\$24.97. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the report. Executive Director (ED) Katherine Huit announced Farm Fest 2008 to take place April 12 and 13, 2008 at the Durham Lane site. Jean Sartor sent word that we have two new books for sale at the Log Museum. They are *Poverty Wasn't Painful* written by member Elaine Dahl Rohse and *Elizabeth's Golden Land* written by member Charlene Brown. Announced also was the December/January Exhibit at the Log Museum of 30 of the Crazy Quilts from the Society's permanent collection. Members are invited to view these on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 to 4 or by appointment. Marjorie Owens noted that friends of Annita Linscheid have asked to honor her work in Preservation and as Board Secretary by donating a bench, flower plantings, and a special plaque in her honor.

The By-Laws Revision Committee is working on having a revision to present to the membership in the spring.

The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers and directors for election to the Board of Directors by the membership and members voted by written ballot. The results were as follows: Vice President - William Roll; Corresponding Secretary - Mickey Anderson; and Board Director - Shirley McDaniel.

ED Katherine Huit recognized Outstanding Volunteers for the year 2007.

The Program for the evening - planned by Barbara Knutson and introduced by Marjorie Owens - called for Shared Items and Stories of Christmas Past. Several members had items to share and stories to relate. It was an enjoyable program.

President Shirley adjourned the meeting reminding members that the next Yamhill County Historical Society meeting will take place on January 13 at 2:00 in the afternoon at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Ben Frum will be the speaker.

The Board meeting will follow the General meeting at 4:00 pm.

**Note:** The Membership's approval of these minutes is pending.

Websites: <http://sites.onlinemac.com/history> OR historic photos: [www.co.yamhill.or.us](http://www.co.yamhill.or.us)

## General Phillip Henry Sheridan, Part III: The Pre-Civil War Years

By Sue Sherman

Phil Sheridan's parents were Irish immigrants. There are several versions of his place of birth. Sheridan himself attributes his place of birth as Boston; Somerset, Ohio; and Albany, New York – depending upon to which document one refers. In a statement to the chairman of the Sheridan Monument Association, Sheridan's mother said she gave birth to her son Phillip at sea on the trip from Ireland, and there were priests who supported that version. Still other records show his place of birth as County Cavan, Ireland.

Sheridan began listing himself as native-born citizen of the US at age seventeen and it appears unlikely he purposely changed his place of birth for political purposes. Eligibility to run for the office of President of the United States required birth in the United States, therefore, some still believe that Sheridan's reference to multiple places of his birth is evidence of an attempt to hide his true birth location: outside the United States on the sea.

March 6, 1831 appears to be the most widely accepted birth date for Sheridan, who grew up in Somerset, Ohio – a good sized community with a population of about 1,400 people. His father was a laborer and spent much time away from the family and his mother was frequently the head of the household. She was active in the church and very well known in the community. The family had a very modest income. At age fourteen Sheridan left public education and began working. He began as a clerk in dry goods stores, then took a job at Frank and Dittoes, and due to his industriousness was soon keeping books. The lessons he learned working at the store would serve him well during his military career. While working at the store, he became acquainted with the congressman who approved his letter of request for an appointment to West Point in March of 1848.

Sheridan's controversial nature first showed itself in the cloistered halls of West Point. While working diligently to master the academic courses necessary for graduation, his explosive personality nearly caused his failure. During some routine activities, he openly confronted another cadet in front of several witnesses resulting in his one-year suspension from the academy.

Sheridan graduated 34th in his class from West Point. The Superintendent who oversaw his graduating class was Robert E. Lee. Both men would later see their West Point-acquired skills put to the test. Each was a gifted military commander. Few great military minds educated at the same academy have confronted each other with equal ability to innovate and see opportunity where others did not.

After graduating from West Point, Sheridan joined Company D, First Infantry Regiment at Fort Duncan, Texas as a brevet second lieutenant. In November 1854, receiving a promotion to second lieutenant, Sheridan transferred to Company D, Fourth Infantry Regiment, at Fort Reading, California. The discovery of gold in California triggered a wave of northwestward immigration, forcing more pressure on the Native American populations along the way. Sheridan's mission included supporting a surveying crew's search for a rail line path from Sacramento to the Columbia River. His base of operation was Fort Yamhill and sometimes Fort Vancouver. During his time in the Pacific Northwest, Sheridan faced several armed confrontations between the US Army and the Native American population. Sheridan's approach was that of an officer, to fulfill his orders. For Sheridan, there was no wiggle room in interpreting orders or administering policy.

Sheridan never wrote or spoke about the time he lived in the Northwest; however, it is widely known that he had a very serious relationship with a Native American woman. We can only guess at what must have been Sheridan's personal turmoil in administering the policies of his government upon the local tribes. Sheridan's challenge lay in his attempt to maintain his military position while dealing with the corrupt removal of the Native American people brought on by railroad development, gold mining and the fevered frenzy of westward immigration. Sheridan discusses his impressions of the Native American people in his memoirs. In later years, he was pleased to see the native people dressed as other US citizens and living in towns as equals. This commentary serves as an incredible insight into his personal thoughts. It helps to understand his position as a representative of the revolutionary generation of Abraham Lincoln, which worked toward equality for all ethnic groups within the framework of the US Constitution.

*Sue Sherman owns and breeds historical type military horses, and writes military equestrian history for Law Enforcement Technology, Paso Fino World Magazine, At A Gait Magazine, and Gaited Horse Magazine.*

## Executive Director's Log



Snow blanketed Peavine Road on Christmas day 2007.

On Christmas day I woke to snow, which continued to fall for a couple days and measured about a foot before the rain came causing it to melt down to about four inches just in time for it to freeze and begin snowing again for the New Year's weekend! This will certainly be a memorable end to December 2007. Do you remember an exceptionally cold winter, a silver thaw, building a snow man, making snow angels, an inner tube or sledding adventure or other winter-related experience? If so, please email or mail your memories for publishing in the next issue of the *West Side*.

As construction on the Agriculture and Timber Building continued during December's inclement weather, a crew of volunteers created the framework, for the building that will house our vintage 1910 Deloach Sawmill building. Volunteers working on this project include Chuck Kaddell, Alan Tessman, Don King, Vince Haworth, Jim Lee and sons.

Behind the scenes, several committees continued planning during December, including the Events and Restoration Committees. The Events Committee is busy coordinating the activities for Farm Fest 2008. We've invited other community organizations, including the Kiwanis, Grand Ronde Tribe and Linfield College, to join in partnership for a fun-filled

event that will feature crop planting demonstrations including planting with hand cultivators and vintage agriculture equipment; hands-on children's activities and other educational programs, and a food booth with donuts, hamburgers, hotdogs and warm drinks! We plan to grow this event a little every year. Do you have ideas for future activities during Farm Fest? Let us know.

Our Restoration Volunteers held their first meeting on December 15 at the SW Durham Lane warehouse building. This team will address, as one of their first projects, the creation of stanchions and signage boards for the Agriculture and Timber Exhibit Hall. We will begin developing story lines for these exhibits early in the year. Please let me know if you'd like to serve on the Agriculture and Timber Exhibits Committee. This committee will work with Restoration and Education Committee members to create story lines of interest to all ages, and exhibits with hands-on elements to inspire children and involve family and group activities. Interns will soon join our volunteers on the exhibit project, and will perform the necessary research tasks on our agriculture and timber machines in preparation of writing exhibit scripts for the new displays.

Speaking of interns, we are developing a great partnership with Linfield College in this regard. The plan is to serve as a learning center for the students, where they can apply their course work to real life activities. There are many opportunities for interns in all areas of our organization, including artifact collections management, newsletter work, administration, agriculture and timber practices, events, and more! We are very happy to provide them with a place for learning and welcome their input and viewpoints for the future.

As President Shirley's note indicates, we lost a great friend on December 15. Dennis Hoisington was very excited and passionate about the direction the Society has taken in building its new facility and expanding its programs. A gifted photographer, Dennis captured and framed history as he saw it. His photographs



When complete, the Sawmill Building, constructed by volunteers, will house the operational 1910 Deloach Sawmill.

Continued from page 3

reflect Yamhill County's historic sites, people, animals, agricultural and timber artifacts - among other things. He also spent many hours documenting the Society's activities. We miss you, Dennis.

Until next time, enjoy the beautiful Yamhill County winter scenery from the warmth of your favorite indoor place . . .

Cheers, Katherine



K. Huit / YCHS

## Thank You to Our 2007 Donors!

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## Welcome New Members!

### Individuals:

Gordon Zimmerman  
 Dixie Jewett  
 Kris Lutsock  
 Arthur Van Uchelen  
 Lea Burcham

### Family:

Bill and Jane Moore  
 Michael Hafner

### Friend:

Verne Duncan

### Supporter:

Samuel and Virginia Graham

**Snowbirds:** please notify Gloria Lutz if you are heading south for the winter by calling (503-472-7563), writing (YCHS, PO Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127) or emailing (glutz@onlinemac.com). She can forward newsletters to your temporary address or hold them until you return to the cold climes. Otherwise, they come back to YCHS and we have to pay additional postage. Thank you!

# YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 484

Lafayette Oregon 97127



*Preserving our Past, Enriching our Future*

**Dated Material - Return Service Requested**

## *Become a Member Today!*

Membership year is July 1 - June 30

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
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Please make checks payable to the Yamhill County Historical Society and mail them to YCHS, PO Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127. Annual memberships are tax deductible.

Members receive *The West Side* newsletter and access to the YCHS Museum and Ruth Stoller Research Library free of charge. If you have questions about your membership, please contact Gloria Lutz: 503-472-7563 or [glutz@onlinemac.com](mailto:glutz@onlinemac.com).

## *Upcoming Events*

### General Meeting:

**Date & Time:** Sunday, January 13, 2008, 2 PM

**Location:** Seventh Day Adventist Church  
1500 Old Sheridan Road, McMinnville

**Speaker:** Ben Frum

**Subject:** Yamhill County Heritage Trees

*The Board of Directors meeting will follow at 4 PM.*

### General Meeting:

**Date & Time:** Sunday, February 10, 2008, 2 PM

**Location:** Seventh Day Adventist Church  
1500 Old Sheridan Road, McMinnville

**Speaker:** TBD

**Subject:** TBD

### General Meeting:

**Date & Time:** Sunday, March 9, 2008, 2 PM

**Location:** Seventh Day Adventist Church

**Speaker:** TBD

**Subject:** TBD