

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

March 2005

Laura Hawn Perkins Patterson

We were delighted to have Virginia Johnson as guest speaker at our February meeting. She is a direct descendant of Joel Perkins, founder of Lafayette. Joel married Laura, daughter of Jacob & Harriet Hawn, in 1850. Jacob ran the local meeting hall/tavern/hotel, and Laura, who was then a teenager, helped with the daily chores. Among the single men living in the hotel were Joel, who founded the town, and Matthew P. Deady, who went on to become the second Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Oregon. Jacob was also a successful millwright. At the time of their marriage, Joel was 29 and Laura was 15.

Joel was a businessman, purchasing land in Clackamas county, setting up a trading post at Sutter's Fort-Sacramento, building the first "white mans house" at Perkinsville (later Grants Pass), and buying a 100 acre ranch in El Monte (Los Angeles County). He also found time to establish a ferry on the Rogue river and purchase some real estate in downtown Portland.

In 1852, Laura gave birth to Harriet, who only lived until 1870. In 1854, Dan Hawn Perkins was born. Laura and the children accompanied Joel on many of his business trips up and down the west coast.

In late July, 1856, on a return trip north, one day after their 6th wedding anniversary, Joel was brutally murdered by one John Malone, and Laura was arrested as an accomplice. After John committed suicide while awaiting trial, she was released on bail, paid by her family. Before his death, Malone admitted to being in love with Laura, and named her as co-conspirator. One the last day of 1856, Laura gave birth to Joan, who survived until about 1873. Laura remarried at least two more times, giving birth to eight more children, and moving to The Dalles with her third husband, David Patterson. Over the years, when asked about the murder of her first husband, Laura would refuse to talk about it. Laura was to outlive seven of her eleven children, passing away in Portland in 1921.

Virginia continues to research her family history, turning up fascinating little tidbits of history and even donating some Hawn family artifacts to our Museum. When asked if she believes Laura was actually involved in Joel's death, Virginia admitted that the facts and all the testimony given after the murder would certainly point that direction, but this is a mystery that will never be resolved. We thank Virginia and her husband Wayne for their presentation, and wish them the best with future research into this family which was at the very roots of our county history.

WHO IS A VOLUNTEER??

Dictionary definition: One who enters into, or offers himself for any service of his own free will. Without solicitation or compulsion to offer his services.

The State Historical Society says the average hourly fee for volunteer services is \$15. You will never receive a paycheck. You drive your own vehicle, pay for your own gas, You either take your lunch or go out for something to eat. There are no medical or dental benefits or retirement funds. You do not get time and a half pay for overtime. But, here are some of the benefits: You are surrounded by exceptional, dedicated people who share the desire to see something done well. They understand what motivates you to do what you do because they have the same reasons. The working environment is conducive to production. They may question why they work the hours they do as there is a feeling that a big majority really don't care if it is done properly. If they did, they would be there helping too. But, you keep working knowing what you are doing is important to the overall purpose of the society and preservation of artifacts for future generations.

When the new museum opens it will be necessary to have a paid director. The benefit of this is there will be an organized effort to keep the museum open 5 or 6 days a week. They will see to it that volunteers are aware of their importance. The Evergreen Air Museum has several paid staff members but they also have a group of approximately 200 volunteers. These are people with interests in seeing the museum is staffed with tour guides, information, restoration of artifacts and etc. These are the same things the Historical Society volunteers do with as much or more dedication. Volunteers add to an organization the love of what they do and a warm and welcome attitude to all who enter the establishment. Volunteers are irreplaceable. Check your calendar and see if you might have a few hours a month to donate to volunteer Saturday at the Museum or the Wednesday Work Day.

YOU ARE NEEDED AND WOULD BE SO WELCOME.
Sincerely, Your President.

Blacksmith Shop Donated

Edna Trotter has donated her fathers blacksmith shop to our society. Mr. Weirich operated this shop for many years on his farm on the east side of Old Station Road, between Amity and McMinnville. Recently the Steering Committee and several Board members visited the shop, looking over the antique forge, shearers and tools used in the trade. We will feature more on this in the newsletter in the future, but we thank the family for keeping us in mind.

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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472-7328

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835-7531
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843-2625

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662-3528

Volunteer Coordinators

Position open

Newsletter

Dan Linscheid 843
-2625

Car Pool Coordinator

Joanne Watts 835
-5893

Librarian

Jean Sartor

MUSEUM HOURS

November 13 - May 31:

Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
or

By Appointment

(Friday openings after
May 31st depend on
finding volunteers)

605 Market Street

Lafayette Oregon

Phone: 864-2308

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Board Meeting Highlights—February

(Note—copies of the full minutes can be read in the Museum) The Minutes of the January meeting were approved, and Treasurer Carol gave her report showing a beginning balance of \$5,016, expenses of \$2,090, deposits of \$4,371, resulting in an ending balance of \$7,296. Correspondence Secretary: Marjorie reported nineteen items of correspondence. Membership Secretary: Kathy Peck stated the plans for the Mothers Day Tea are getting under way. It was decided that it will be held May 7th. Volunteer Chairperson: This position is currently vacant and we continue to have a problem with volunteers to staff the museum on Saturdays.

Old Business: Museum Report: Marjorie reported she is still pursuing her quest for more information on Louie Loy. The Wednesday work group continues to meet. Kathy and Annita reported the preservation committee is still working on the textiles, and the bibles will be stored in individual boxes. Johns Waterproofing completed the trenching project and will be paid his due balance of \$2,000. Shirley will meet with them on Monday so they can take care of a few minor details in the basement. Miller Foundation Report: The necessary paper work (due March 1st.) has been filled out, accounting for the expenses of this grant. Oregon heritage Grant Application: We will apply for a grant shortly. This will be for \$200.00 and there are no stipulations on how the money is spent.

Cultural Trust – MACA: The fact that this tax deductible contribution can be used all year long was discussed. Checks can be turned in through MACA or to our Treasurer; there is a need to get more information out on this opportunity. Lafayette Pioneer Cemetery: All the business is taken care of for the transfer of this cemetery to YCHS. Dan will do an article in the newsletter concerning this transaction. Bug Busters: The spraying of the three buildings has been completed along with the fumigation of the barn. Service Agreement for copier: the new maintenance contract is now in effect for the copier. Lafayette Water: we have not heard from the City on if we can have one water meter for both the church and cabin. It is thought that at one time there was just one meter for both and we need to find out why this was changed. New Business: Yamhill County Cultural Collation Proposal - River Awareness Week: The coalition has proposed that YCHS help sponsor a contest for school children focusing on the Yamhill River Basin. This would involve an art and literary competition. The Board decided to ask

some of the many retired teachers in the society to consider taking on this project. Yamhill County Heritage Center Report: (New Museum) (Note: this name, suggested by Shirley V., has not been approved by the Board) The Board received minutes from the steering committee and a map of the new site with a possible new five acres drawn in. There is an easement running between the two that would have to be dealt with if this is to be pursued. The committee is trying to get a site plan done for the county. This will need to be submitted to the county by the end of this year. Shirley would like the Board and the steering committee to meet with the architect in the near future concerning the building and site. Blacksmith Shop: Shirley asked Dan to prepare an article for the news letter about the blacksmith shop donation and its owner. A proposal was discussed regarding simplifying the yearly membership process. The Board agreed that we should find a way to have membership fees fall due for all members at one time each year, probably December. It would take a bit of time to phase in but it would certainly simplify bookkeeping. It was also agreed that when this is implemented it will be a good time to start issuing membership cards. Elma Shuck Memorial: Copies of checks or donations in memory of Elma need to go to Shirley M. to be included in memory book. The Board would like to see some kind of permanent memorial for Elma in the museum. Suggestions will be welcome. Date set for Summer Picnic: YCHS picnic will be Sunday August 7th at 1:00 pm at Shirley's house.
Annita Linscheid, Secretary

WANTED !

Old School year books, Class Pictures, and Photos of old Yamhill County Schoolhouses, for our Ruth Stoller Research Library.

Contact Marj Owens

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YCHS

45 Levi Lindsay Rowland Pioneer Oregon Preacher and Educator

Levi Lindsay Rowland was born in 1831 near Nashville, TN. At age 13 he immigrated to Yamhill County with his family; father "Judge" Jeremiah Rowland, already a two-time widower and his two older brothers, Green and John who were to live in the Carlton area all of their lives where they are buried. For Levi, life was different and interesting.

Levi attended the "Yamhill University;" a one room school started by Dr. James McBride. His teachers were William Lysander Adams and his wife, Frances. Many of our important pioneers came out of this 20 pupil school and Levi was one of them. Its hard to believe that of the 20 children in the school as successful graduates; a future Governor of Oregon, four very successful Physicians, a Representative to Congress, a Supreme Justice of Oregon, an Oregon Senator to Congress and a State Superintendent of Schools. Levi was the State Superintendent of Schools and held several other important educational positions.

After finishing his school work under tutelage of the Adams, he was encouraged by Glen O. Burnett to go on to Bethany Christian College in Virginia. Jerry Rushford reported in his book, "Christians on the Oregon Trail" that Burnett told this story about that advice.

"Whilst we spend a part of that rainy Sunday in that lonely house with open cracks on all sides, we proposed to him to go to Bethany College (in Bethany, Virginia), and promised to give him a letter of introduction to Bro. Campbell, if he would consent to go. He seemed almost enraptured with the idea of going to college, but said he, my father will not be willing, and I can't go against his will. It was agreed that I was to loan him a horse, and he was to visit his father, and leave an appointment at a school house near his father's for me to preach in ten weeks from that day.

"Monday morning found Levi at my house to get the horse; that obtained, he left for home. I expected him back in a few days, and punctual to the time he returned. As soon as I saw him he told me that he had mentioned it to his father himself, and to his great delight his father was very willing and anxious for him to go, and had agreed to take his cattle and sell them and forward the means to pay his way, 'and in two weeks I am to start.'"

Actually, Levi had traveled to the gold fields in California and acquired enough gold to purchase a good herd of cattle. This would be the source of money to finance his four-year education at Alexander Campbell's Bethany College.

Rowland went to Virginia to attend the school in 1853. At age 22 he was anxious to get on with his education. He completed the requirements for B.A. and M.A. degrees and then taught school in Tennessee and Alabama. He met and married Emma Sanders in November of 1858.

While attending college at Bethany, Mr. Rowland wrote back to his friend and teacher, William L. Adams: 'I left myself under many obligations to you for many favors, together with the profitable instructions you gave me in days past. The relation I once held to you as your pupil will never be forgotten.' -- Oregon Argus, July 12, 1855

In the fall of 1859 Levi felt the "call" to return home. Upon arriving in Oregon he found a teaching position at Bethel College, located about two miles East of present day McCoy, Oregon. Within a year he had become the college's president. In Bancroft's "History of Oregon" it was noted that "at this time Bethel school was prosperous. It had a well-selected library, and choice apparatus in the scientific

departments."

Later, it was found that the Bethel and Monmouth schools were too close together to serve the area population. The schools merged. Levi was selected as President of the Monmouth Christian College located in Monmouth, Oregon. He also was selected to be Polk County Superintendent of Schools and then Oregon State Superintendent of Schools.

Levi Rowland, however, wasn't through with his education. After three years at Monmouth he resigned and entered the School of Medicine at Willamette University. He not only completed the course for his medical degree, but in 1877 became Dean of the School of Medicine. (The Medical School was merged with the University of Oregon in 1913 and then transferred to Portland where it became Oregon Health and Sciences University.) In 1891 he moved on to be the superintendent of the Oregon Hospital for the Insane at Salem.

Doctor Levi L. Rowland had a long and varied life. In addition to preaching, running schools and medical work, he bred horses on an 800-acre ranch at The Dalles, winning many first premiums at fairs and horse shows. He also organized the *State Medical Society* and served as vice-president of the *State Agricultural Society* and as President of the *State Insurance Company*, which he founded.

Levi and Emma share a headstone in the *City View Cemetery* in Salem. There is a lifetime of valuable service packed into the "dash" that separates the birth and death of Levi, 1831 -1908 on that headstone. Emma J. Rowland's dates are 1839 - 1922. by Jim Lockett

Pioneer Cemetery now owned by YCHS

The Lafayette Pioneer Cemetery has been deeded to our society. This cemetery is located on the northeasterly outskirts of Lafayette. A separate maintenance agreement has been entered into with a group of folks who will keep it mowed and in good repair. The earliest burials here date to the early 1850s.

Elma Shuck

Last month we were saddened to learn of the passing of one of our most dedicated volunteers. Elma was a tireless worker for us for many years, and her smiling face and warm disposition will be greatly missed. She was 89 years of age.

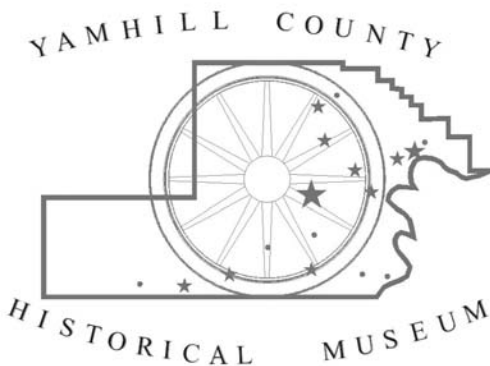
Elma volunteered for years at the Mission Mill Museum in Salem, but over the past decade spent more time working in our Museum. She gave freely of her time, talents and efforts, and it was not unusual for her to purchase much needed items for our Museum such as shelving, a kitchen and much more. She also donated much of the money for our kitchen. Some people slow down considerably with age, but not Elma: she continued to work with the Wednesday workgroup until last fall, when health issues finally precluded her attendance. In her last few months, she expressed, by email and letters, that she missed working with her many friends at the Museum. While we could sure use a few more volunteers like Elma, we are convinced she was one of a kind. She will be greatly missed.

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
EST. 1957

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES **Effective May 31, 2002**

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$50+
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$100+
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Builder	\$250+
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Please make checks payable to the Yamhill County Historical Society. Annual membership gifts are tax deductible.

Members receive the Westside newsletter and access to our research library free of charge. We are an all volunteer organization, and are constantly on the lookout for new helpers. If you can assist us in any way, financially or with your time or talents, it will be greatly appreciated. If you are not sure if you have paid your membership dues, please contact Carol Reid at 472-9631, or **check your mailing label, which should show this information also. (The month and year indicate your "paid through" period according to our records.)** If you see a colored notice inside your newsletter, you're at the end of your membership term!

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Calendar of Events

Board of Directors: 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 8th. Our next **regular monthly meeting** will be held Tuesday, March 8th at 6:30 p.m. Both meetings will be held at the Amity High School.

Our program this month will feature **Richard Engerman, with the Oregon Historical Society, on the 1905 Lewis & Clark Exposition, held in Portland in 1905.** **New Members/Renewals:** We

welcome new members Troy Haworth, Edwin Sharer, Ken Wright and Jay Stephens and renewing members Cynthia Oliver, Elizabeth Rhodes, Ken & Barbara Knutson, Betty Sherman, Iris Barr, Charles Burgess, and Evelyn York. Thanks for supporting our organization. We invite you to attend our meetings, visit our museum and become more involved in our local history!