

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

October 2003

Falconer Roots

Our September meeting attendees received a special presentation on the founder of Sheridan, Absolom Faulconer and family. Nancy Cline, a direct descendant of Absolom, discussed her pioneer roots. Faulconer arrived in the state in the fall of 1846 and settled on the north bank of the Yamhill river the following spring. There he established his town: a hotel and livery stable. He was known as the "Proprietor" of Sheridan long before it officially became an incorporated city. Younger brothers Marcellas and Thomas arrived in town a few years later and became associated with the business side of the new town.

Nancy has also done extensive work on another family member, Grant Teats, who gave his life defending our country in the Battle of Midway on June 4th, 1942. Grant was Nancy's uncle, and his loss was so heartbreaking for her mother and grandparents that Grant was not discussed when Nancy was growing up. The Battle of Midway was a major turning point in the war. Grant, an Oregon State graduate from Sheridan, was a pilot in Squadron 8. The squadron's ill-fated initial attack resulted in the loss of the entire squadron save one pilot. However, the position of the Japanese fleet was known for the first time, and our warships were able to win the battle on the 5th, surprising the enemy.

Our members were very appreciative of Nancy's efforts in researching her roots. Nancy had numerous photographs and articles she has collected supporting her presentation.

Changes at the Museum

Volunteers and visitors may have noticed the nearing completion of the remodeled "back room" in the Church building. The carpet has been laid and the project is nearly complete.

Morgan Magee has been working on the Log Building, so it will soon sport a new sealer coat on the outside and a sealing out of the bats from the inside.

A new coat of paint for the Church will wait until next summer, but the windows should soon be repaired and the UV resistant filters applied. In the meantime, we still need to keep those counters containing delicate artifacts covered.

By the second week of October a new Dell desktop computer will be installed in the Ruth Stoller Reference Library, along with a multi-purpose printer/scanner/copier. We opted to buy a thin screen monitor given the limited desktop area at that workstation.

Money cannot buy good volunteers! If you can spare three hours a month volunteering at the museum, please let Carol Reid know, as we are in desperate need of new helpers. (phone 472-9631)

From our President:

September 10th was spent with a busy and ambitious group from the George Fox University working at the Museum. It was good to see the museum looking so nice and clean. We do appreciate their "Share 'Day'".

I met with Carol Reid concerning the Barn Calendar for the year 2004 and a Barn Tour". We have some suggestions for barns to be considered for this but we do need more. Please contact us with any new ideas. We also could use help with this committee and the event.

Harvest Festival is shaping up to be an extra fun day. Be sure and give the flyer enclosed in last months newsletter to someone and encourage all you know to attend.

We are happy to announce Carol Reid has agreed to serve as volunteer chairperson, with Annita Linscheid helping her as needed.

As the result of an injury I received in an automobile accident I will undergo surgery on my shoulder on Thursday, September 25th. Hope it doesn't slow me down too much. Will see you at the Harvest Festival and the monthly general meeting. Sincerely, Shirley



George Fox University students and our volunteer assistants put in a day dusting, sweeping and mopping and washing windows in our three buildings as well as performing much needed yard work. Seventeen hard working students and three adult guides from the university were on hand for the fifth annual "Serve Day".

Also present were Patsey Miller, Linda Miller, Annita Linscheid and Shirley Venhaus. We want to thank the University for their offer to assist us each year. These young people represent the future of America, and their helpful spirits and untiring efforts are greatly appreciated by our society.

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

OFFICERS - 2003

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Annita Linscheid
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Carol Reid
472-9631

Librarian
Olive Merry Johnson
472-6070

Newsletter
Dan Linscheid
843-2625

Car Pool Coordinator
Joanne Watts
835-5893

MUSEUM HOURS

September 1 - May 31:
Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM

June 1—August 30:
Fri-Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM
or

By Appointment

605 Market Street
Lafayette Oregon
Phone: 864-2308

New Email:
yamhillhistory@
onlinemac.com

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YCHS

September Board Meeting Highlights

The meeting was called to order by President Shirley Venhaus, with eight officers and one visitor present. The minutes of the August meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Barbara and seconded by Shirley M. The Treasurer's Report was given by Carol Reid with a beginning balance of \$11,070.21, income of \$291.21 with expenses of \$567.98 leaving a balance of \$10,793.44 for a net loss of \$276.77. Financial Secretary Lila Jackson reported two renewals. Correspondence Secretary Marjorie Owens was not present, so no report was given. Volunteer Chairperson Eileen Lewis was not present, no report given. Carol Reid offered to assume the position to replace Eileen as Volunteer Chairperson.

Nomadic Teacher Barbara Doyle noted a discrepancy between her totals and that of the YCHS for monies paid to the YCHS from the program. Treasurer Carol Reid will look through the records to verify if a mistake was made and if so correct it. Shirley passed out copies of a proposed contract between the Nomadic Teacher and YCHS for members to look over. Ms. Doyle noted that the Newberg Chamber of Commerce Leadership group will visit the log cabin October 21st between 1:15 and 2:15 p.m. The Board was updated on plans for the Harvest Festival. Neva French will ask members for donations of finger food and Joanne Watts will also be making phone calls to remind everyone to bring finger food to the event. Marjorie will be making corn husk dolls with the children attending and will probably need help in doing so. There will also be two new crafters doing demonstrations this year. They will both be making rugs, one hooking and the other doing rag rugs. A request that the crafters be moved downstairs and the musicians be moved outside for the event was turned down. This matter will be discussed with the musicians and crafters during the festival and it might be considered in the future.

Supplies for the Preservation Committee have been ordered so that group can continue it's work. The approved amount was \$982.92, approval given at the last board meeting. It was decided to wait until after the Harvest Festival to clean out the upstairs in the log cabin, as it will be a big messy job and probably take some time to sort everything out while the work is in progress. Shirley has given the people doing the window replacement in the Church a two week deadline to have the work done. She is also in the process of getting three bids to take care of the water drainage problem in the basement of the Church building and submit them to the board.

A bid by Morgan Magee to perform needed repair work on the log building (chinking, re-sealing the exterior) was approved for a total of \$2661.50, which includes all labor and materials. George Fox University will be sending out three to twelve students and advisors on September 10th for this years "Share Day 2003". There is a need for several more volunteers to direct their efforts. They will be cleaning all three buildings, laying carpet in the back room, and also doing some yard work. The balance of the money from the Miller Fund has been received and put into a money market account to be used on maintenance of the buildings. Carol and Shirley are going to set up a committee and have a meeting to work on the barn calendar and tour for 2004. The subject of the previously handed out contract between the Nomadic Teacher and YCHS was brought up. Several board members had questions about the contract, and after some discussion it was decided to have Dan go over the contract and change some of the verbiage to make it more acceptable to the board.

Shirley let the board know that a new sign will be replacing the old one for the Glacial Erratic rock on Highway 18. The new one will be put up in a safer location. The need for a CPA to advise us in the growing complexity of record keeping and accounting for YCHS was discussed and it was agreed to have Elaine Andrews give us the professional help needed if she would agree to do so. She has been consulted in the past on matters pertaining to YCHS. Carol will meet with her soon to discuss matters we need help with.

The five-acre property donation from Ray Kauer on highway 18 was then discussed. There will be a need for total commitment of all the board members and membership. Shirley will bring this up at the general meeting to let membership know what is happening and answer any questions and ask for any input. There will be a need to set up an organizational meeting and select a committee and work on getting grants and community support for improvements. The first order of business is to apply for a conditional use permit from the county. Dan also touched base with McMinnville City Water and Light concerning a water connection, and was told that we will need a waiver to the moratorium that was placed on new connections outside the UGB of McMinnville. All monies pertaining to this project must be kept in a separate account.

Respectfully Submitted, Annita Linscheid

David and Susan Ramsey were among the first members of the Quaker faith to settle in the Newberg area. They arrived in the Fall of 1847, after six months, on the Oregon Trail. Of their 5 children, the oldest child was Amelia Ann, age 7 and the youngest, William Marion Ramsey, age 1. (He was to become a prominent member of the Oregon Bar and Yamhill County Judge). Accompanying the Ramseys were Susan's parents, Jacob and Susannah Shuck. Jacob was the patriarch of the family which included Son-in-laws David Ramsey and Andrew Hagey.

The Ramseys, Shucks and Hageys settled on adjoining claims in the area West and Southwest of Newberg and were the "anchor" for that end of Yamhill County. However, we find little information about a school or church until Jesse and Mary Edwards arrived in 1880. They picked this area because they knew it was a "Quaker Settlement." The Edwards were the founders of Newberg. David's claim included the old sawmill site on Chehalem Creek that had been developed by Ewing Young. David and J. B. Rogers, his immediate neighbor to the East, had this mill up and running by 1850.

David and Susan were both born in Harrison County, Indiana where their parents had always been good friends. In 1835, when they decided to move their respective families to Iowa, David and Susan were married. They settled into farming and over the next 12 years, had 5 children. Hit with "Oregon Fever" about this time, they joined the 1847 emigration West.

After arriving in Yamhill County the Ramseys had 9 more children. In addition to the sawmill, David built a gristmill which was probably the first flour mill in that area. Between sawing, milling, and farming David and his family lived on this same Donation Land Claim for 44 years. David died in 1891 and Susan, fondly known as "Susanna," in 1898, both at age 76. In her later years, Susanna was having severe dental problems. Someone advised her that smoking a pipe would help. She complained that it did nothing for her teeth - just left her with a bad habit. Before the days of steam powered boats, transportation was a problem. The only way to reach the lower Willamette markets was by raft and small boat. There was a wagon road over the rough Tualatin Plains to the West hills of Portland. The land journey usually took two days each way if the wagons didn't get mired down in the mud.

In 1850, an enterprising young man, James Miller, started a water transportation service on the upper Willamette and Yamhill Rivers. He had a sixty-five foot flatboat capable of carrying 350 bushel of wheat. The boat was manned by four Indian oarsmen who received \$16.00 per trip which took one day to go down river and two days back. Charging 50 cents a bushel to carry wheat downriver and \$35.00 a ton for other goods upriver, was a lucrative business for Miller. However, in May of 1851, the Hoosier, a crude steamboat, appeared on the upper rivers.

This put Miller out of business. Then, in June of that same year, the Multnomah, a side-wheeler, took over most of the trade. Followed by the Canemah, these well equipped steam-powered boats were plying their trade on the river, providing a taste of civilization.

A boat ride was a great adventure for the early Pioneers. Good food and lodging was enjoyed on an easy trip to Oregon City and Portland. While water transportation was good, David Ramsey didn't see much improvement in roads in his life time. However he may have taken a train ride in his last days. Indians worried these early settlers and caused some freighting, sad times. For instance, as the children walked to school they often encountered Indians changing fishing spots. They were usually friendly but if they saw something they liked they took it from the children. The saddest loss to the Ramsey children was when the Indians took their dog "Popcorn." - never to see him again. Another scary thing in the area was wild pigs- an unknown in Oregon today.

All of this went with the "territory." Some of us think Recreational Vehicles (RVs) are unique to our times, but David and Susan had one! They loved the beach and tried to go there every year. David kept his "Prairie Schooner" and oxen. It was fitted with a stove, beds, tents, and all the necessities for camping. The beach trip took them up the Chehalem Valley, west between Yamhill and Carlton and, after paying a toll, over the Coast Range to Tillamook, on what was loosely called a "road". Usually, it took 3 or 4 days, with overnight camps along the way. Arriving on the beach the tents were set up, the stove set out, a latrine dug, beds made and, presto - a "self contained RV." Imagine this scene - camping with 9 children! We also suspect that this outing included the Hageys, the Shucks and maybe their friends, the Rogers. They fished, smoked fish, dug clams, enjoyed the sand, and ate lots of food!

As mentioned before, David and Susan's son, William Ramsey, was one year old when he came out on the Oregon Trail. He lived to be over 90 years and was an influential leader around the State. His parents had little education but saw to it that he was well schooled. After 12 years in the public schools, he attended and graduated from McMinnville College (now Linfield). At age 21, he was accepted to the bar and two years later elected Judge in Yamhill County. The young William Marian Ramsey practiced law for 10 years in Lafayette, the "Athens of the West." From there he went to Salem where he was once Mayor and Dean of the Law School. Then on to Pendleton, McMinnville, LaGrande and back to McMinnville where he was Mayor for 2 terms.

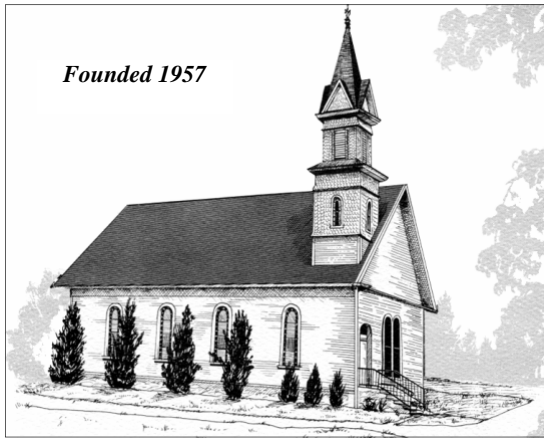
In 1870, he married Miss Mahala Harris of Lafayette, Oregon. Their four children were: Nellie, a Supervisor at the State Asylum in Salem; Frederick, a Captain in the Navy, serving on the Battleship Oregon; Rev. Horace M., Vicar of St. Stephen's in Portland; and Mary, who married S. D. Crowe of LaGrande. William lost Mahala after 22 years. He spent the next 41 years with his second wife, Julia L. Snyder before he died in 1937. They had one child, Margaret. She was a long time resident of McMinnville, having recently died at Rose Villa Retirement Home in Milwaukee, Oregon.

Hines in his book "History of Oregon" describes William: "Of quiet, unassuming habits, and a thoughtful turn of mind, combined with strict attention to business and conscientious care of his clients' interests, he has built up a good practice, and acquired the good-will of hosts of friends."

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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 Lila Jackson at 472-8510. Alternatively, check your mailing label, which should show this information also. (The month and year indicate your "paid through" period according to our records.)

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meeting Notice

Board of Directors:

Tuesday, October 14, 5:00 pm

Monthly Meeting & Potluck:

Tuesday, October 14, 6:30

Both at the Yamhill County Public Works

Auditorium, 2060 Lafayette Ave.,

McMinnville

This meeting will feature a tour of our Society's internet photo gallery as well as selected pioneer family photos which do not appear on the net. Please join us for dinner; bring potluck fare and your own eating utensils.

We Hope to See you There!

We welcome the following renewing members: Charlotte Filer, Audry Lippens, Frank & Lila Meyers, Joe McIntyre, Harry Demaray, Richard & Dorothea Ulrich, Maude Youngman and Ron & JoAnn Ross. Thanks for your support!