

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

October 2004

From our President

Hi everyone. It was good to see all your smiling faces at the September meeting. I am leaving on the 22nd for Nebraska and a Rendezvous in my home county. I will be meeting with my brother and sister and heading for Hayes Center, NE. I have yet to look up the difference between buffalo and bison.

Hope to see you at the Harvest Festival on October 16th. We were scheduled to have it on September 18th. If you remember that day it was rainy and cold so I was happy we had changed the date.

If you have any questions, comments (good or bad), feed-back, concerns, input, or discussion, please contact a Board member or Officer. That is the only way we can have the opportunity to address it. What we don't know can hurt us. Sincerely Shirley

The Sheridan Graves family

Our September program in Sheridan was presented by Janet Graves Smith (pictured below). She read Ellen McCain Graves' diary, written when Ellen was 90 years of age, regarding her passage over the Oregon trail in 1851.



The diary had been rumored to exist for many decades, and Janet assumed it was lost until it turned up one day in a trunk. James Buchanan Graves and Diana Newton Graves had arrived in Oregon 1847 and settled near the Falconers claim before the town of Sheridan existed. Diana died the following year, and James married Catherine Bewley, the widow of John W. Bewley. Ellen married George Washington Graves, one of James sons, in 1855, and she died at age 96 in Sheridan in 1927. She was the mother of ten children and delighted in retelling her adventures on the trail westward when she was only seventeen. We thank Janet for her wonderful presentation.... She is rightfully proud of her heritage.

September Board Meeting Highlights

(Read the full minutes on the bulletin board in the Museum hurch in Sheridan. The following officers and board members were present; Marjorie Owens, Francis Dummer, Carol Reid, Kathy Peck, Annita Linscheid, Barbara Knutson, Shirley McDaniel, Shirley Venhaus and Dan Linscheid. **The Treasurers Report:** given by Carol Reid, showing a beginning balance of \$6,002, expenses of \$20,513, and deposits of \$18353, resulting in a balance of \$3,843. **Correspondence Secretary:** Marjorie Owens reported twenty-eight separate pieces of correspondence including e-mails, thank you notes, and sending out books that had been ordered. **Membership Chairperson:** Kathy Peck updated the board on the progress of the December Victorian Tea. She stated things are coming along well in the planning of that event and will give an update next month. **Volunteer Chairperson:** Carol Reid reminded everyone of the September 22nd orientation meeting. **Old Business: The Oregon Preservation Grant Report:** The grant has been applied for and \$2,682 has been received to pay the outstanding debt on the insulation for the Church. The Church is being repainted, for a total cost of \$12,000. **Waterproofing:** Additional wiring was required to get the sump pump in the church operating. John's Waterproofing is going to submit a bid for a curtain drain for the building. MNP, Inc has already submitted a bid for \$500 for this drain. **Nice Electric bill settled:** The extra charge on the bill has been paid after it was explained that it was for a fourth lamp and a light switch placed away from where it was originally planned. **Garage Sale:** The garage sale was a great success making over \$13,000 for the new museum project. The Board will send a personal thank you to the Armstrong's for their help. **CPA Problem:** Carol and Shirley V. will be looking at several CPAs to replace the one currently being used. **Final Nomadic Teacher Accounting:** the \$412.00 remaining in that account will be sent back to Trust Management. The interest accrued in the account will be used to pay the accountant for charges pertaining to the Nomadic Teacher program. A total of \$2,847.00 is left in the oral history account. Dan noted the fact that we have no contract with Ms. Doyle for those services, and either one should be negotiated or the program should be halted. **Harvest Festival:** Marjorie has made fliers for the October 16th Harvest Festival. **Share Day Report:** We had fourteen helpers from George Fox, two of which were supervisors for the girls. They worked in the yard, cleaned the church and the barn. Shirley V. gave Steering Committee and Nominating committee reports. On the nominating committee this year is Ken Knutson, Pat Williams and Margaret Brixey. Respectfully, Annita Linscheid, Secretary

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 - 2004President

Shirley Venhaus
472-7328

VP/Program

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843-2069

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Annita Linscheid
843-2625

Treasurer

Carol Reid
472-9631

Membership Secretary

Kathy Peck
472-6562

CorrespondingSecretary

Marjorie Owens
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835-7531

Francis Dummer
864-2637

Dan Linscheid
843-2625

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662-3528

Volunteer Coordinator

Carol Reid
472-9631

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

Email: yamhillhistory@onlinemac.com

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YCHS



Ann Wheeler, who was until recently the Curator of Collections for the Oregon Historical Society, was a recent special guest at our Volunteers meeting, on September 22nd. She impressed everyone with her quick wit, professionalism and vast knowledge of artifact preservation. She mentioned that the OHS has three Fanning mills similar to the one in our Barn, but none of theirs are made in Oregon (ours was made in Salem)

She mentioned the fact that the biggest danger posed to artifacts in most museums is neither light, temperature or humidity.... It is the volunteers themselves! Sweat and oils on the hands damages artifacts. We should not work if we have colds or other illnesses. We cannot make artifacts last forever, all we can do is our level best to prolong their destruction due to the environment they are kept in and the effects caused due to human interaction on all levels. She recommended we NEVER display original photos, since every exposure to natural and artificial light has some deleterious effects on them.

While visiting the Church, Ann noticed that the display cases were unlocked. She jokingly remarked, "I think I'd really like to have an antique gold watch like that one there", and reached over, slid the door open and pretended to pocket the watch. Security should be a major concern of our museum. All keys should be checked out, with notation of the date, time, volunteer, purpose, and date and time returned. Exterior doors should be re-keyed with non-reproducible keys. She recommended we formulate a collections policy. Exhibit planning is a 3 to 5 year process at OHS. Good displays take lots of research, planning and thought regarding layout and environment. Ann touched on much more during her presentation, and her input was greatly appreciated by our volunteers. She was happy to answer many questions after her talk, and our volunteers enjoyed her immensely.

Sheridan—A Family Affair

By Jim Lockett

Sheridan was originally laid out by Absolom B. Faulconer in 1865. It would include parts of four different claims. One section was part of the Faulconer farm, then the rest were parts of the James B. Graves and Catherine E. Bewley Graves place, William Chapman and Lorinda Bewely Chapman claim and C.B. Graves place. These four families were all related to each other in some way.

A. B. Faulconer had arrived in the present Sheridan area some time in 1846 or 1847. He was accompanied by his wife Mary Ann Graves Faulconer and his brother-in-law C.B. Graves. Absolom set up his claim on the North shore of the South Yamhill river.

Absolom Bainbridge Falconer was born June 8, 1816 in Kentucky, to John N. Faulconer and Elizabeth Bainbridge Faulconer. Absolom was a distant cousin to Commodore William Bainbridge of the U. S. Constitution.

In 1849 James B. Graves and Mrs. Catherine B. Bewley's family with William Chapman arrived and staked out their claims on the South Yamhill river. The trip west was very difficult for this group and it was a great relief to find friends well established on the South Yamhill river. The trip went well until crossing the Blue Mountains. William Chapman "had his eye" on Lorinda Bewley who seemed happy to receive this attention. However, Lorinda's brother, Crockett, now 17 years old, had caught mountain fever coming over the Blues and was very sick. Arriving at the Whitman mission the "good Doctor" advised Crockett to remain there until he was able to travel, then he could join another train and go on to the Willamette valley. His sister, Lorinda, now age 21, decided to stay at the mission and care for her brother.

This happened in the fall of 1847, the time of the Whitman Massacre. The John Bewleys had traveled on down the Columbia river planning to have their children follow when Crockett had recovered. But it not to be. Crockett was killed along with the other people at the Mission. Lorinda was taken captive and given to Five Crows, a Cayuse Indian Chief. Five Crows had always wanted a white wife and his dreams had come true.

The people in the valley were horrified and Dr. John McLoughlin sent his best man, Peter Skene Ogden, to secure the release of the captives. Ogden was able to do this but the hardest part was getting Five Crows to give up Lorinda. Five Crows said that he would be willing to go to Lorinda's parents place and become a white man if he could keep her. Of course, Lorinda refused this offer. Five Crows relented after Ogden promised more than he could possibly deliver.

Sheridan—continued

Lorinda reports that the chief, who had become a Christian, had been a gentleman throughout her captivity. Although he could not understand why a white woman would not want to marry an Indian chief, he nor any of his tribe assaulted her. On the day she left with Peter Ogden, Five Crow fixed her a fine breakfast, gave her a new blanket and Buffalo robe, and bid her farewell. She was taken to Oregon City and was reunited with her family.

In the meantime, John Bewley, Lorinda's father, came down with the "Mountain fever" and died somewhere near the Cascades. (Some accounts say that John heard of the tragedy at the Whitman Mission and died of a broken heart.) He was buried there. Mrs. Catherine B. Bewley then continued on to Oregon City where they resided for the winter. The following year she moved her family to a claim on the South Yamhill.

Lorinda learned, upon arriving at Oregon City, learned of her father's death. The next few months were recovery time for the Bewleys. It was not long before Lorinda secured a position as a teacher in town. William Chapman, her suitor on the Oregon Trail, also was living in Oregon City so they continued their courting ways. Marriage was not to be at this time as young William had joined the Oregon Rifles and was preparing to avenge the death of Lorinda's brother, Crockett.

Later the next summer, when William returned from the Cayuse War, he found the city wild with news of the California gold strike. So, off to California he went to seek his fortune. This was probably good as it gave Lorinda time to gather her wits and plan a new life. They were finally married October 3, 1849. Their first two children were born at Oregon City. It was then they decided to move closer to family and onto their 640-acre donation land claim. Later this DLC provided property for the southwest portion Sheridan.

At about this time James Graves family arrived in the area. He had lost his wife, Diana Newton Graves in 1847. Soon he was to marry the widow Bewley. Now we see how the four settlers of the South Yamhill river were all related. This is where the future Sheridan would grow. The town had already started to grow with a store and a post office. However, according to Fred Lockley's, "Impressions" in the Oregon Journal, for several years the post office was a large can nailed to a post. The place was called "Ab's Corner", after Absolom B. Faulconer. The development of the town was to wait until the families had legal title of their land. This happened first on December 14, 1866 when President Andrew Johnson approved the transaction in Washington, D.C.

The first true Post Office was started April 4, 1866 but the town had already been platted by Absolom Faulconer. Even before the development of an official Post Office the area had become a center for the people along the river. A store appeared in 1852 and a blacksmith shop in 1860. Absolom was the "proprietor" of Sheridan and ran a hotel and livery stable during the early years. Of course the name Sheridan came from U.S. Army officer stationed at Fort Yamhill, Lt. Philip H. Sheridan who was highly regarded by the settlers in the area.

A McMinnville paper in 1871 reported that "Sheridan 16 miles southwest of McMinnville lies at the base of the Coast mountains and among some of the best fertile lands in the world. There are two general stores, one wagon shop, two blacksmith shops, one hotel, one boarding house, one photographer, one church a good school, two doctors. At this point the McMinnville Ditch is filled by water from the South Yamhill and when finished will afford a fine water power."

Actually, the ditch started up in Willamina Creek and was a William T. Newby project. He had the line for the ditch laid out by a surveyor and hired Chinese coolies to dig the canal. It was designed to carry freight between the two towns. Ironically the survey left the ditch 8 feet to low to reach McMinnville and the project was abandoned after reaching Sheridan.

The Sheridan fire is another amazing story reported by Ruth Stoller in her book, "Old Yamhill" She says: "Since July 18, 1913, Sheridan has been known as a new city, the entire business section as well as many residences being razed to the ground by fire on that date. A \$300,000 fire in a town of 1400 people is demoralizing enough at its best but in six short months the business men of Sheridan had re-established themselves in substantial brick business houses and not a man dodged the responsibility of rebuilding the stricken city. Where one-story frame buildings once housed the mercantile business of the town, more up-to-date two-story brick stores and office buildings stand in their places."

Ruth goes on to say, "Sheridan people believe in their town and community and like every town in the Willamette Valley, they are confident that their section enjoys unique advantages not found elsewhere."

VICTORIAN TEA & MUSEUM-TOUR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11TH,
2004 AT THE MUSEUM

THERE WILL BE A MORNING AND AN AFTERNOON SETTING AND TOUR. TICKETS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 12TH. PROCEEDS GO TO A DEDICATED PRESERVATION FUND. THIS IS PART OF OUR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE, SO IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING, PLEASE INVITE A NON-MEMBER.

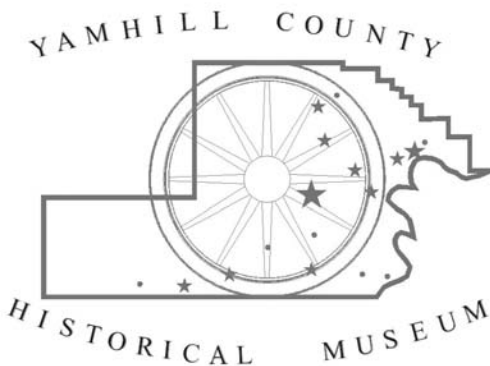
IF YOU CAN HELP BY BAKING SOME OF THE DECADENT DESERTS OR WITH DECORATIONS, ETC., PLEASE CALL KATHY PECK OR CAROL REID.

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Lafayette Oregon 97127

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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES **Effective May 31, 2002**

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25
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<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: 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 12th. Our next **regular monthly meeting** will be held Tuesday, October 12th at 6:30 p.m. Both meetings will be held at the Yamhill County Public Works Conference Room, 2060 Lafayette Ave., McMinnville. Our program will be given by Marilyn Dell Worrix, on the history of the Chinese in McMinnville. Don't miss this one... it promises to be a real eye-opener!

Harvest Festival: October 16th, 10-4 at the Museum. Please bring goodies or fingerfood to share.

Victorian Tea: December 11th at the Museum, please mark your calendar. If you have card tables and/or Christmas decorations (plum or Burgandy colored) which can be used for the event please call Carol Reid or Kathy Peck.

New Members/Renewals: We welcome new members Doris Cruickshank and Jean Sundborg, and renewing members Marietta Rankin and Joe & Doris Dancer.