



Yamhill County Museum, 6th and Market Street, Lafayette, Oregon  
Built in 1892 by Rev. C. C. Poling, Ph.D., president of Lafayette Seminary, the Yamhill County Historical Society purchased the building in 1969 for a museum. It is open every Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4:00, plus 4 days a week during the tourist season.

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NEWSLETTER Margaret Roghair

MUSEUM HOURS: Saturdays &  
Sundays, 1 - 4 o'clock  
(except by appointment)

#### YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY

1989

MEETING: Wednesday NOON, January 11, Community Christian Church, 2831 N. Newby, McMinnville. NOTE: The date will be a WEDNESDAY, and the winter hour is changed to NOON.

POTLUCK Will be at 12 noon. Bring own table service. Guests welcome.

PROGRAM This will be your opportunity to tell (briefly) about your ROOTS! When did the first members of your family settle in Yamhill County, and why?

Reminder: Are your DUES paid?

#### MUSEUM NOTES

Although the weather has not been the most pleasant, the museum has been surprisingly busy this past month. Lois Brooks, Frieda Schreiber and her sister, George and Maxine Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kuykendall have all made it possible to keep the museum open. Roma Sitton still has to act as our principal advisor.

Two interesting collections of artifacts for the museum have come in this past month. The Paul Youngman's who are moving to the Hillside Manor in January brought over some interesting things, including an old ink bottle used by Maude when she was in school, a cobbler's stand with three different sizes of lasts, an authentic old glass Daizey butter churn, and three different egg scales from one of the simplest to one of the later models.

Louise Youngberg moved into the Hillside Manor recently and also sent us some fascinating things which included a very old sunbonnet with wooden slats and some beautiful old hand-knitted white, lacy, stockings along with the metal needles used to knit them. Also included were a small lard press and a sausage grinder.

Don't forget that we need all kinds of volunteers at the museum--from janitors to file clerks!

As members of the Yamhill County Historical Society we are committed to accumulating and preserving all the information we can discover about the people, places and events that have made this county what it is today. I am very optimistic that we can raise the \$3750. necessary to pay for the reprinting of the first 500 copies of Old Yamhill, the history of its cities and towns. If every member will agree to buy 2 copies at \$10. each, we can meet the cost easily.

On the reverse side of this, you will find your opportunity to make this commitment. Please fill it out and bring to the January meeting, or send it to the Financial Secretary:

Evelyn Nieman, 1501 S. Baker Sp.49, McMinnville, OR 97128

DO NOT send money at this time. You will be notified when it is required.

Maxine Williams, President

The following article had a NEW YORK POST--1945 date on it. Daniel A. Poling was a member of the Poling family for whom the old church, that houses our museum was named. Apparently he wrote a column that appeared in the New York Post and this is probably one of his contributions for that column.

Ruth Stoller

AMERICANS ALL by Daniel A. Poling

One of the earliest settlements in the Oregon Country was Lafayette. Once it was a center of pioneer activities. It became the first county seat of Yamhill County. When I knew it as a small boy, the seat of government had been removed to McMinnville although the ancient courthouse and jail were still standing. Later, those buildings were used for the classes and activities of Lafayette seminary--a small co-educational institution to which I owe a great debt.

The Grand Ronde Indian reservation in the Coast mountains some 40 miles to the west was the early proving ground for West Point graduates, "Phil" Sheridan, Ulysses S. Grant, O.O. Howard and, I believe, Robert E. Lee did their first soldiering in this section of the Pacific Northwest. (Ed. note: Grant, Howard, and Lee were never at Grand Ronde although Grant and Howard were in the Pacific Northwest at one time.)

I would give a good deal to know what happened to the hitching post that used to stand by the town watering trough. Tradition had it that the dashing lieutenants from the reservation when they rode to the trading post, hitched their ponies there. The Yamhill river was a treacherous little stream but its swimming holes with sandy banks and swift currents were unsurpassed in all the valley. Long since they disappeared when the Locks were installed.

Until it burned, years ago, the "Burbank Mansion" was the great house of the region, the first with bay windows. One man insisted that they were "sorrel" windows.

I became acquainted with my father when he was the pastor of the Evangelical church in Lafayette. The first church in the town was a Methodist church that boasted a clear-toned bell that came around the Horn. The second was a Presbyterian church. I knew them all but now only the church that my father built remains. There are many changes but this little house of prayer stands firmly on its central corner. In it, on occasion, people of all churches and faiths gather to worship. Two weeks ago I sat again in the front pew. I met old friends and talked about other friends gone but not forgotten. Later I lifted my grandson into the limbs of the tree that my father planted and that I used to climb and I took him down to the stream where I caught my first fish.

Some things never change--the things that really matter. Lafayette, in the shadow of the red hills, beside the little river is not a place of buildings and streets but a spirit immortal.

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 484  
Lafayette, OR 97127

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