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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 4:30, plus 4 days a week during the tourist season

DECEMBER 1990



MEETING At NOON, MONDAY, December 10, in the V.F.W. Hall, East Main, Willamina. If you need a ride from McMinnville, call 472-4547 on Sunday or before 10 am Monday morning. Dinner is pot luck. Bring your own table service. Visitors always welcome.

*you 191
Dues?*

Program This will be a special Christmas present: Charles E. Poling from Newport will be with us. All old-timers know that our Museum is housed in the pioneer church named for Dan Poling, world famous religious worker and minister, who spent his boyhood and received his education in Lafayette.

Note from our Historical Society President:

The name Poling is very familiar to us. Who would have thought we would ever have a Poling with us? I'm told he will be bringing us a special gift. This will be a very merry Christmas program, I'm sure, so I hope you will all be there. . . This will be the last time I have to stand up before you and conduct a meeting, as the new president, Lois Brooks, will take over in the new year. Looking back, the past 2 years seem to have gone by pretty fast. I'll have more to say about that in person. . . A Merry Christmas to those who cannot be present at this meeting. M.W.

MUSEUM NOTES

Don't forget that the Museum has books for sale that make good Christmas gifts for any one interested in Yamhill County or history in general. OLD YAMHILL, the Early History of Its Towns and Cities is still available at \$15.00. SCHOOLS OF OLD YAMHILL is a bargain at \$8.00 and includes the history and pictures of all the old school districts--all 101 of them. Anyone who has ever gone to school in Yamhill County would find the book interesting--so would anyone interested in finding what is left of some of the old one and two room schools, since they are all located in the book.

The museum also has three volumes of cemetery listings: Yamhill-Carlton-Lafayette and Vicinity; Sheridan-Willamina and Vicinity; Amity-Dayton-Hopewell and Vicinity. These are helpful for anyone doing family research in Yamhill County.

THE HANNA FAMILY

(From Jennie Heffy's manuscript of "Memories of Oregon from 1873".)

My mother's school days were very few. Only three months of school a year were possible in that pioneer town of Dayton, Oregon. My mother, her sister, Mary, and their friend, Molly Alderman, had to go to school walking on the muddy roads in winter, then down the slippery clay bank to the ferry boat to cross to town, and up the steep clay hill to the school house. Emma and Mary wore boots and Molly wore black stockings, both of which were most disgraceful to the sophisticated members of the town. Molly was called "Black Legs" and Emma and Mary were "Boots".

The school hours were from nine to four. When Emma and Mary got home they found the dinner dishes to be washed. Often as amny as sixteen had dinner at noon at that home. In those days of no telephones anyone passing at meal time was a guest at table. The first college in Oregon was at a place called Forest Grove which was the distance of perhaps 25 miles from Dayton. It was a Congregational denominational college. The happiest memory of my mother's early life was of the few months she was allowed to attend this school. Molly Alderman and Emma Hanna's families arranged for these young girls to go to the school beginning, of course, in the preparatory classes which do doubt began with even as low as fifth grade grammar study, there being no high schools in the country. The pioneers worked hard, lived well, but had little money to spare for the private school board and tuition needed to pay for going away from home to school. The custom was for girls to board and live in a home as helper in the household duties. My mother liked the people she lived with and the classmates she met, especially a girl older than she, Mertie Gee, who took her under her personal care and made little Emma very happy in her strange surroundings. When Emma went home for vacation, the family kept her home. They had decided that no girl of that family should "work out" or be a "hired girl". So Emma's school days were over.

Quite likely the main reason for keeping Emma home was that the family missed the help of her ever willing hands to do the drudgery of house work. Her older sister, Mary was of delicate build. All clothing, even underwear, was made at home then. So it seemed the natural thing for May to sit and sew all day while Emma did the house work. With four girls and the mother to sew for, as well as two boys and the father, the needle and some sort of hand run sewing machine must have been in use by someone every day, except of course on Sunday when not even a button should be sewn on. Mary like to sew and wear the pretty clothes she made for herself. She must have been a bit selfish and vain, for the story was that if she did not like her shoes she would sit by the fire and burn out the toes on the hot coals. She married when she was 20 and died within the year with tuberculosis. Her husband, Martin Ramsey, was a very fine person who finally married a dear little lady named Sultana. We called her Aunt Sultana and he was Uncle Martin. Many happy days we were entertained at their lovely home in the town of Lafayette which was about 4 miles up the Yamhill from the Crawford farm.

R.S.

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