

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PUBLICITY Elaine Rohse
 NEWSLETTER. Margaret Roghair

MUSEUM, Lafayette, OR, since 1969
 Hours - Sat & Sun 2 to 4 pm
 (or by appt: 864-2589; 472-9140)

JANUARY YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1993
 NEWSLETTER

MEETING Tuesday NOON, January 12, in Dayton at the Christian Church,
 302 5th St.

POT LUCK 6:30 Bring own table service. Visitors always welcome.

PROGRAM Eric Epperson of the Clackamas Historical Society, speaker.
 His subject will be "At the End of the Trail," -- the pro-
 posed destination in Oregon City.

Our New President says --

Thanks to everyone for voting for me as President of the Yamhill
 County Historical Society for the next term. It is indeed an
 honor. Lois Brooks will be a hard act to follow.

Although I wasn't there for the last meeting (in December), I
 understand that it was voted to raise the dues to \$7.50 per year
 from \$5.00 per year, effective January 1, 1993. It was also voted
 to purchase/install a burglar alarm system at the museum. This
 will be done as soon as a few details are ironed out.

Thanks again for your vote. With your help and support, I hope to
 do a good job for you. The other officers remain the same.

MB

The Y.C. Historical Society has lost a past president and faithful
 member with the death of Chester Hall, Oregon City. He was 91 years
 old. Sympathy is extended to his family.

*Happiness and Prosperity in this
 New Year!*

This is a continuation from the last news letter of a letter written by John Ward who had arrived in Yamhill County in the fall of 1850 by way of the Oregon Trail. It was written to his wife, whom he had left at home in the mid=West.

Bring rope enough to secure your cattle at night during the time that you are around the buffalo as there will be danger of loosing them if you do not. Get a Mormen guide and also an Oregon guide--leave home the 20th of March then you will cross the Missouri River about the first of May. You will need a tent and push along as fast as you can and made no delays. Write as soon as you get this and let me know what to depend upon. If you do come I will meet you on the latter end of the journey with fresh teams. Direct your letter to Lafayette, Yamhill County, Oregon. When you come to Cainesville you put a letter in the post office, and it will reach me in time to prepare to meet you, so no more, but remain your affectionate husband.

John Ward

P.S. If Lucy comes, she can do well with her needle, sewing is very high here and she will never want for a home while I live. You should travel about eighteen or twenty miles a day. No more.

John Ward

South Yamhill, Yamhill County Oregon
December 8, 1850

Dear Wife and children.

I take this opportunity to inform you that I am well and hope these lines may find you in good health. I wrote you a letter by the last mail desiring you to fix and come to this country next spring if you could possibly do it. If you can it will save me a great deal of trouble and expense. For if I have to go back, it will cost me a great deal as I shall have to go back by water and then I should not stay there for I think I can do better here, and I like the climate much better than I do the states and it will be better for me to stay here and have a place for you to come to and then to meet you on the latter end of the journey with fresh team. In my last letter I told you how much provisions would be necessary for the trip. Most of them you can bring from home and it will not be necessary to repeat them here. If you come, put your watch away and do not let it be know that you have a watch, if you do you will be sure to have it (stolen). Do not let your cattle drink any standing water as it will be very injurious to them. If you do, after you leave the Missouri river, you had better be carefull about the soda spring as I think the water is very harmful to cattle there. Be sure to inspect the water after you leave Platte River, before you let the cattle drink.

(to be concluded)

R.S.