

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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- PRESIDENT . . . . . Miriam Blair  
472-9140
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- TREASURER . . . . . Gil Ogden
- HISTORIAN . . . . . Ruth Stoller
- BOARD MEMBERS . . . . . Harvey Stoller,  
Ed Roghair, James Vincent,  
and Robert Kuykendall



- 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)

APRIL YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1993  
NEWSLETTER

MEETING Tuesday evening, April 13 at the Methodist Church, 203 Amity Street, Amity.  
POT LUCK 6:30 p.m. Bring own table service. Visitors always welcome.  
PROGRAM Follows supper. Arlie Holt, Polk County Historian, speaker.  
Subject: The Applegate Trail -- where did it start? Where did it end?

MUSEUM NEWS

We have had several school groups visit the museum in the past couple of months. Without exception, the children are a real credit to their teachers and schools.

We have recieved information on the Century Farm program. The material, including guidelines and applications, are available at the museum and will be be at the society meeting in April.

Helping to outfit the Yamhill County Oregon Trail committee's covered wagon has been one of our projects. Knowing just what to include has been a problem. The following excerpt from Keturah Belknap's journal tells us how she outfitted hers in April of 1848. She had had experience in traveling long distances by wagon, having moved from Ohio to Iowa in 1839 and camping out every night along the way. Keturah spent the winter of 1847-48 getting ready for the Oregon trip--making enough clothes to last a year; dipping candles to last through the first Oregon winter; spinning enough linen thread to make the wagon cover and the sacks to hold the supplies (her in-laws wove the cloth). Keturah's family was small (Keturah, her husband, and one small child) in comparison to most young families who came to Oregon.

Ruth Stoller

President's Message: At the March meeting we voted to leave the regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, exc. no meetings in June, July and August. A change is the November meeting will be at noon rather than evening. . . The burglar alarm system has been installed in the Museum. Anyone attempting to enter or exit must be aware of the proper procedure for doing so. Please contact Ruth or Harvey Stoller, Ed Roghair or Bob Kuykendall for procedure if you need the combination. MB

DUES: \$7.50 per person, annually. Memorials welcome, too.

## PACKING FOR OREGON

From the journal of Keturah Belknap.

Mon. April 9th 1848. I am the first one up, breakfast is over and our wagon is backed up to the steps we will load at the hind end and shove the things in front. The first thing is a big box that will just fit in the wagon bed that will have the bacon, salt, and various other things. then it will be covered with a cover made of light boards nailed on two pieces of inch plank about 3 inches wide, this will serve us for a table. there is a hole in each corner and we have sticks sharpened at one end so they will stick in the ground then we put the box cover on, slip the legs in the holes and we have nice table then when it is on the box George will sit on it and let his feet hang over and drive the team. it is just as high as the wagon bed.

Now we will put in the old chest that is packed with our clothes and things we will want to wear and use on the way. The till is the medicine chest then there will be cleats fastened to the bottom of the wagon bed to keep things from slipping out of place. Now there is a vacant place clear across that will be large enough to sit a chair--will set it with the back against side of the wagon bed there I will ride--on the other side will be a vacant where little Jessie can play. he has a few toys and some marbles and some sticks for whip stocks for oxen and I tie a string on the stick and he uses my work basket for a covered wagon and plays going to Oregon.

The next thing is a box as high as the chest that is packed with a few dishes and things we wont need till we get thru and now we will put in the long sacks of flour and other things. The sacks are made of home made linen and will hold 125 pounds--4 sacks of flour and one of corn meal. Now comes the groceries--we will make a wall of smaller sacks stood on end, dried apples and peaches, beans, rice, sugar, and coffee--the latter being in the green state. we will brown it in a skillet as we want to use it. everything must be put in strong bags--no paper wrappings for this trip. There is a corner left for the washtub and the lunch basket will just fit in the tub the dishes we want to use will all be in the basket. I am going to start with good earthen dishes and if they get broken have tin ones to take their place. I have made 4 nice little table cloths so am going to live just like I was home.

Now we will fill the other corner with pick ups. The ironware that I will want to use every day will go in a box on the hind end of the wagon like a feed box now we are loaded all but the bed. I wanted to put it in and sleep out but Geo said I wouldnt rest any, so I will level up the sacks with some extra bedding then there is a side of sole leather that will go on first then two comforts and we have a good enough bed for any one to sleep on. At night I will turn my chair down to make the bed a little longer so now all we will have to do in the morning is put in the bed and make some coffee and roll out.

The wagon looks so nice--the nice white cover drawn down tight to the side boards with a good ridge to keep from saging. its high enough for me to stand straight under the roof with a curtain to put down in front and one at the back end. now its all done.