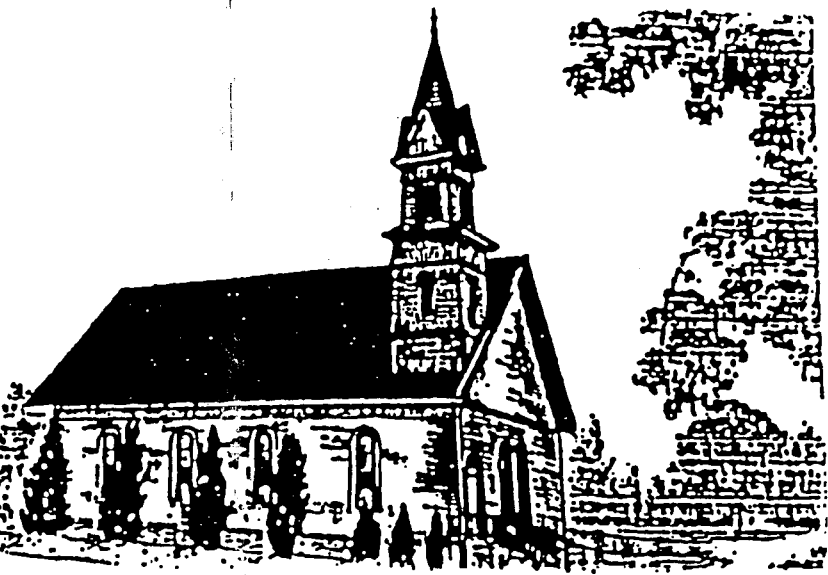


YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MUSEUM, Lafayette, OR, since 1969
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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

1993

OCTOBER

MEETING: Tuesday evening, October 12, at the community Christian Church, 2831 N. Newby St., McMinnville.
POT LUCK 6:30 p.m. Bring own table service. Visitors welcome.
PROGRAM Eileen Plowman, granddaughter of the Balthazer Duerst's, will acquaint us with history of that family.

Mary Ogden, financial secretary, is taking dues for 1994.
DUES are \$7.50 per individual.

TREASURES FROM THE TRUNK: QUILTS OF THE OREGON TRAIL, a forty-five minute slide presentation by quilt historian Mary Cross will be given October 30, 1993 at 2:00 pm in the Carnegie Room of the McMinnville Public Library. The lecture features quilts made for people going over the trail, made while on the trail, and made after a trail experience, and includes photos and histories of the makers.

Those attending are invited to bring quilts they think relate to the Oregon Trail for sharing and further appreciation. She can help date your quilt, as well as give you added information on textiles and patterns.

This lecture is sponsored by the Latimer Quilt and Textile Center of Tillamook through a grant from the Oregon Council for the Humanities. It is locally sponsored by the Yamhill County Historical Society and the McMinnville Public Library.

CORRECTION from last issue: Harvey Stoller mows the grass at the Museum grounds, and Erle Parker did some spraying.

PEARSON AND KNOWLES
Hupmobiles — You Never See One Junked
Vacuum Tires — "Sing-Song of Safety" — The Wetter
It Is, the Louder They Sing — We Sell 'Em
Newberg, Oregon Phone Black 112

1924

PEOPLE'S MARKET
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BLACK WALNUT TREES IN OREGON

by George W. Williams

We have wondered why we find huge black walnut trees on the Donation Land Claims. The natural range of this tree is Massachusetts to Florida, west to Minnesota and Texas. So the nuts, or seedlings, had to be brought here from the eastern half of the U.S. I found a few references in the Oregon Historical Society Quarterlies. William Barlow's REMINISCENCES OF SEVENTY YEARS (Vol. 13, page 285) contains what seems to be the logic for the settlers wanting to plant black walnuts on their claims. They found that "there were not nut-bearing trees of any kind, except for some small hazel nuts". The wood of black walnut was highly valued for making furniture and gun stocks, and the nuts as food for both man and animals. And so, the word got back to the east by letter and traveler that black walnuts should be brought along in the wagons.

Barlow's "First Bushel of Black Walnuts" were not planted until 1859. However, the Benton County Pioneer Historical Society account (OHQ Vol. 57 page 283) has a planting date of 1847 for the walnut trees in Pioneer Park Corvallis. This would seem to be a logical date since many of the settlers came before that time (and would probably have brought small quantities of black walnuts with them).

Excerpts from Barlow's HISTORY OF THE FIRST BUSHEL OF AMERICAN BLACK WALNUTS EVER BROUGHT TO Oregon: When I arrived here, I found there were no nut-bearing trees of any kind, except some small hazel nuts, which were of a very different kind from those which grew wild in Indiana. So I made up my mind that I would send back, the first good opportunity, and have a bushel of black and white walnuts sent out. In 1858, Mr. John Dement, a good friend of mine, was going back by way of the Isthmus and he said he would send me a bushel by Adams Express.....He hurried the walnuts on, so I would get them in time for Fall planting.....So I made a box, put sand and dirt in it, planted the nuts in the box and buried them all in the ground....(The next Spring) About 760 came up and such a growth I never saw before. I kept the ground well watered and well worked and the roots were larger and longer than the tops. A large portion of the roots went down three feet deep. Later in the Fall, I took them all up, set out about 100, gave away a great many to my particular friends and put the balance on the market at \$1.50 a each. I allowed a big commission to the nursery man who handled them, and the whole venture left me a net profit of \$500.00. (OHQ Vol/ 13 page 285)