

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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and Robert Kuykendall



PUBLICITY Ed Roghair
NEWSLETTER. Margaret Roghair

Hours - Sat & Sun 2 to 4 pm
(or by appt: 864-2589; 472-9140)

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

1994

MEETING Tuesday, January 11, at the United Methodist Church,
203 Nursery Street, Amity.
POT LUCK NOON. Bring own table service. Visitors always welcome.
PROGRAM Jim Lockett, local historian, will tell of the Watt Family,
and early history of Amity.

From our President -

I don't have a message for you this month. Just hope that ALL had a wonderful Christmas and that you received the gifts you wanted from Santa Claus. Hopefully, you will have a great 1994.

The new officers were installed at the December meeting and will take office on January 1st. Those reelected were Barbara Knutson, Vice President and Eunice Noyes, Secretary. Lila Jackson has been elected Financial Secretary to replace retiring Mary Ogden. James Vincent has also agreed to continue as a Board Member for another term of four years.

DUES ARE DUE! Please give or send \$7.50 (individual membership for '94) to Lila Jackson, 2430 N. Baker St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!! MB

On Saturday, December 18, Board Members and others who were involved in the construction of the new log building being erected on the Museum's grounds met with the builders to select stain colors for the logs, as well as the roof, window frames and the caulking between the logs. Pictures of log buildings were shown to give an idea of the appearance of the finished building. After discussion, a consensus was arrived at satisfactory to those present.

EARLY DAY MCMINNVILLE
BY Julia Lee Johnson Ramsey
(continued from last month)

(In this part Mrs. Ramsey describes the interior of McMinnville's first church building.)

There was one church owned by Cumberland Presbyterians and built by the community with the understanding that all were to use it. Baptists had one Sunday, Campbellites one, Methodists one, C. Presbyterians one and they had the fifth Sunday when there were five in a month.

The seats were arranged with two aisles. Short seats next the walls and long seats in the middle with a partition down the middle that came just above the top of the seat backs. That was to divide the men from the women. The men went down the right hand aisle and the women went down the left side. It would be scandalous for men and women to sit together in meetin'.

Uncle Billy Burnett used to stump down the right side to the seat next the front and go in to the partition and sit down. Aunt Sidney, his wife, would move majestically down the left aisle in her shaker bonnet with black bands on it and carrying her turkey tail fan. She would go up to the seat next the front and next the partitions so they sat there side by side but with the partition between.

The pulpit was up several steps and a platform about fifteen feet across below that. The platform extended several feet in front of the pulpit and old Mr. Cornwall and Long John Osborn used to sit there facing the people. During the sermon they would tilt their rawhide bottom chairs on their hind legs against the pulpit. They were preachers so sat on the platform. Cornwall was C.P. and Osborn Baptist.

There were two long seats on each side the church running lengthwise on each side of the platform. Mr. Pettigrew, Bill Arthur and other men sat there on the men's side. Bill Arthur liked to lead the singing and so did Billy Burnett. The preacher would read two lines of a hymn and then it was nip and tuck to see who could start first. The preacher "lined" the hymns and they were sung two lines at a time. There was no organ till I was about twelve. Then on a special occasion a small organ was borrowed. Mr. Burnett stumped down, pounding his cane at every step as usual. He got to his place and sat down before he discovered the "instrument". Then he got up and stumped back whacking his cane to the door. He did not believe in praising God with "instruments". Later "Uncle Neil Johnson" the C.P. preacher did not want an organ. "As long as I'm able to preach I cal'late to lead the singing myself", he said.

Mr. William Rogers was one of the deacons and a good man with a nice family. Mr. Richard Booth was another.

Evening service was announced for "early candle lightin" and "will everybody please bring candles".

The End

R.S.

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 484
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