

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS 1995

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472-7328  
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NEWSLETTER . . . . . Margaret Roghair  
MUSEUM, LAFAYETTE, OR since 1960  
Hours, Sat. & Sun. 1-4 p.m.

~~BOARD MEMBERS: Ed Roghair, James Vincent, Robert Kuykendall, Harvey~~  
Stoller

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 1995

MEETING Tuesday Noon, January 10, Methodist Church, Amity. Location, 203 Nursery Street.  
POT LUCK 12 o'clock. Bring own table service. Visitors always welcome.  
PROGRAM will be presented by a great-great-granddaughter of the Matheny family, Margaret Shipman of Eugene, Oregon.

MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT:  
Happy New Year, Everyone! Our new year's resolution is to increase membership and activity in the Yamhill County Historical Society.  
I would like to invite ALL 1994 and 1995 Board Members and Officers, committee members and their officers, publicity and newsletter people, and members of the Log Museum committee, to my home, Thursday, Jan. 19, at 1:00 . The address of my home is 8500 N. Hwy. 99W, in the St. Joe area. Our time will be spent transferring responsibilities and materials, discussing and going over projects from the past year and direction for 1995. I would appreciate it if you could bring a half dozen cookies to share.  
We will soon be forming committees for the many upcoming projects and activities coming up. My hope is that you all can come and join in, and my request is that each of you can bring in one or more new member. I ask for your patience while I learn the ins and outs of this organization---and your names. Am looking forward to a busy and productive year, together with fellow officers and board members, and the general membership.

Shirley Venhaus

BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

Let me live in a house by the side of the road,  
Where the race of men go by,  
They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong.  
Wise, foolish, so am I.  
Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat  
Or hurl a cynic's ban?  
Let me live in a house by the side of the road  
And be a friend to man.  
- Sam Walter Foss.

*A Thank you to our going Officers. Dues. Dues. \$7.50*

## 1871 YAMHILL COUNTY AS SEEN BY AN AMBITIOUS EDITOR (Part 1)

The article below written by editor G. W. Snyder appeared in the February 24, 1871 edition of 'THE WEST SIDE', then a weekly newspaper published at McMinnville.

"The following letter of inquiry has been handed to us by Hon. J. D. Fenton, Co. Commissioner, for a reply through the columns of our paper, and we propose to mail a half dozen copies to the writer of the letter, and suggest to our friends this would be a good number to send East, or to any of their acquaintances or friends. The writer of the letter is evidently the right kind of man for a settler. He desires to come, but enquires and gets posted in advance. One man of that brand is worth half a dozen reckless adventurers who start out on a rush without time even to take breath and are just as likely to rush away again on finding this is not a veritable garden of Eden:

"GREENFIELD, DADE CO., MISSOURI)  
JANY 15.. 1871)

Sir :- Please give me some information regarding your town and surrounding country; the distance to the coast; the population of your town; number of churches and social houses; openings for business in mercantile trade; number of dram shops; railroad prospects; health; realty; etc. Could you send me a paper printed in your town? I intend moving to that part of the world soon. Please answer or hand it some one that will.  
-- W. B. HAYDEN.

"In reply to the above we'll state that Yamhill County lies on the West Side of the Willamet River, and extends from that stream to the summit of the coast mountains. The topography of Washington on the north and Polk and Benton on the south are very similar; these four counties constituting what is called the West Side country. The soil is rich, climate moist and favorable to vegetation, lands are well watered and sufficiently timbered for all farm purposes; indeed in many parts there is more timber than we want. This county is principally valley land which is all good grain land; part of it requires clearing, but it is all taken up. There are 28,000 acres in cultivation and the assessable property valued at \$1,500,000. A second class farm, one that requires clearing or is, say, ten miles from the river, can be bought \$5 to \$10 per acre; the best lands

average from \$15 to \$20. These prices are expected to advance when the Willamet Valley Railroad is completed to here, which is expected in 1871 - meantime produce is taken away and merchandise brought back by steamboats on the Willamet and Yamhill river, which is navigable at certain seasons to this place - McMinnville. As for health, this side of the river has an advantage over the other, being less subject to the ague. With the exception of that disease, which is never severe, the entire valley is considered very healthy. There are several towns, or properly speaking; villages, which we shall attempt to describe from memory.

"McMINNVILLE is geographically the center of the county; surrounded on all sides by grain growing country accessible by water, and prospectively on the line of the W.V..R.R., with fine water power in use and a still larger one in process of construction, it claims to be the future commercial center of the West Side. The business of the place supports 5 general merchandise stores, 2 drug stores, 2 wagon shops, 4 blacksmith shops, 2 shoemakers, 1 furniture store, 1 barber shop, 1 saloon, 1 hotel, 2 boarding houses, 1 livery stable, 1 photographer, 2 doctors, 1 dentist, 2 lawyers, 1 general agent, 1 jeweller and watchmaker, 1 butcher shop, 1 tin store, 1 saddle shop, 1 glover. There are 2 flouring mills, one steam and one water; planer sash and door factory, 1 warehouse, 1 college building in which a first class Academy is well sustained, 2 churches, Cumberland Presbyterian and 'Christian', 1 public hall, Lodges of Masons, Odd Fellows and Good Templars, and 1 newspaper - the WEST SIDE, published every tuesday, at \$2 per annum in advance.

(To be continued. The conclusion of this article with comments upon the "villages" of Lafayette, Dayton, Amity, Sheridan and North Yamhill will appear next month ..... (JW)

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lafayette, OR 97127

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Lafayette, Oregon