

SAMUEL LAUGHLIN

by
Ruth Stoller

One of the treasures that has been given to the Yamhill County Historical Museum is a little leather-covered, pocket sized notebook that originally belonged to Samuel Laughlin, a Yamhill county pioneer of 1847. The accounts he kept in it, date back to 1851. Among them are the records of Samuel's expenses for a mail route from Portland to Mary's River. Evidently, Samuel Laughlin had the contract to carry the mail during the Spring of 1851. At the time of the first entry in February of 1851, there was but one postoffice in Yamhill county.

Early mail service in the Willamette Valley was considered poor and spasmodic. At that time no one could make the service pay and so there was a constant turn-over of mail contracts. Judging from the entries and other information, Samuel Laughlin did not carry the mail very long--two or three months at the most. However, during the time he had the route, mail service was regular. The mail came to Lafayette from Portland every week and to Mary's River and Nesmith's once a month. Mary's River was probably Marysville, the forerunner of present day Corvallis. Nesmiths was about two miles west of present day Dallas.

up to the 24th Feb 1851
what I furnished on the mail route

to five bushels oats to Lafayette
to twenty to Portland
to four trips to Portland or
five and one to Nesmiths
and one to Mary's River
on the 7&8 Ma(r)ch to
Portland

from 10th to 14th to Mary's River
on the 14 & 15 to Portland
on the 21 & 22 to Portland
on the 28 & 29 to Portland
furnished a horse to Nesmiths

on another page

Cash paid ha(n)ds for riding
paid to Henry Karney on
the 21 february 19.00
cash paid when David &
myself went to Mary's River
for forage & expences 4.75
for oats Balance on oats 3.00
for riding & expences paid
pette --4.50

31.25

The following note was provided by Neita Terry:

Isaac Staats and J.M. Forrest were awarded a contract for a postal route from Lafayette to Marysville May 2 1851.

Ref. Oregon Spectator.

From the Genealogical Forum of Portland Oregon Bulletin March issue 1973, Vol. XXII Number 72 Pg. 128.

Editors note:

Nesmiths postoffice was established Aug. 21, 1850 and closed Oct. 22, 1852. Marysville was established Sept. 9, 1850 and changed to Corvallis Feb. 18, 1854.

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSCAST, APRIL 1973

Event.....April Meeting
When.....April 10, 7:00 P.M.
Where.....Fernwood Grange Hall, Newberg
Speaker.....Lawrence C. Skoog
Field Historian
Oregon State Historical Society

COME, bring some good Yamhill County eatables, and one or more prospective members.

WELCOME to our new members:

Henry Clausen
815 South River St., Newberg

Lyla Elliott
1530 North 99W, McMinnville

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Lee
P.O. Box 104, Newberg

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis J. Saxberg
Rt. 1 Box 281, McMinnville

A VERY SPECIAL WELCOME to our first "junior" member:

Barry Saxberg
Rt. 1 Box 281, McMinnville

WE SALUTE our new life-members:

Dorothy Wortman Guinness
650 East 13th. St. McMinnville

Crystal Smith Rilee
Rt. 2, Box 250, Newberg

A CORRECTION: Committee on Membership - Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Warmington

RECEIPTS, February 13 - March 13:

Donations to Museum Fund.....	\$104.00
Lela H. Jones Memorial Fund.....	30.00
Life Memberships.....	100.00
Annual Memberships.....	108.00
Cottage Rent.....	85.00
"Coffee & Tea" money, February 13.....	10.40
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	437.40

WANTED: Suggestions for a Fund Raising Program to finance structure to house farm emplacements and improvements to museum building.