

Feb 77

EVENT: February meeting
WHEN: Feb. 8, 1977
WHERE: McMinnville Presbyterian Church 2nd & Davis
PROGRAM: GRAVE RUBBINGS by Helen Taylor and Min Opperud

Come and bring a friend. Potluck at 7:00 P.M., business meeting and program 8:00.

MUSEUM NEWS

This month will see the burning of the mortgage that we have been paying on since 1971--on the property north of the museum. We have come a long way in this time. February 6 the museum will be open again on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The Lowell Hembree family of Portland loaned us pictures of Lafayette to copy. We now have that done.

Our books are still selling real well. They are at Banks and many other places, including the Museum.

For special appointments for clubs or schools call 472-7935.

Roma Sitton

We were hoping to have our February meeting at Amity but the Amity school has a Tuesday evening conflict, so it was necessary to move the meeting back to McMinnville.

EARLY YAMHILL COUNTY PLACE NAMES

Anyone who tries to find the location of the earliest pioneer settlements in Yamhill County soon finds himself in an unfamiliar world with place names like Clover Patch, Beans Hole, Wild Horse Corral, Batchelor Creek, Salt Spring Valley, Deer Prairie and Hubbard's Valley. All these names and many more are found in the old Provisional Land Claim books, which are still in existence in the State Archives. These claims were filed from 1845 to 1848 and the above place names were used to help locate claims in Yamhill County. None of these names survived the further settlement of the county and were mostly forgotten by 1850.

The locations of Provisional land claims were quite different from the later Donation land claims, so it would be a big help if we knew where these early-day places were. Some are easy to locate but the location of others will probably never be known.

Thomas McBride was the first known settler in the Clover Patch area. He was the Patriarch of the McBride clan which arrived in Oregon in 1846 and immediately settled in Yamhill County. In later years the McBrides became one of the best known and most influential families in the Pacific Northwest, especially in the fields of law, politics, and medicine. On October 2, 1847 Thomas McBride recorded his land claim in Oregon City. It read:

Thomas McBride claims 640 acres of land in Yamhill County, situated west of the N fork of the Yam Hill river and E of James McBride's claim and bounded as follows: Beginning at a stake in a valley known by the name the Clover Patch, thence running E 3/4 of a mile to a stake, thence N 1 1/2 and seven twentieth of a mile to a stake, thence W 3/4 of a mile to a white oak tree, thence S to the place of beginning, which he intends to hold by occupancy.

Since the whole Oregon Country was unsurveyed at that time, descriptions of this kind were the only alternative. If a certain claim did not border someone else's or begin at a known point on a creek or river, it was in the middle of nowhere! In this case, the river and the James McBride claim are the only clues to locating Thomas McBride's claim and Clover Patch. Evidently, Thomas McBride's claim did not actually border either that of James McBride or the North Yamhill River, but was somewhere in between. James McBride had settled on his land in October of 1846 and approximately the same land became his Donation claim, so we (continued on the back)

EARLY YAMHILL COUNTY PLACE NAMES continued

do know where James was living at this time. Nevertheless, we cannot be sure of the exact location of Clover Patch because "east of James McBride's claim" could be anywhere from the White Cloud school to a mile north. But it does seem to me that the most logical place for Clover Patch was the little valley just west and north of the McBride cemetery.

Ruth Stoller