

Apr '77

EVENT: April meeting  
WHEN: April 12, 1977  
WHERE: Amity Christian Church  
PROGRAM: Mrs. Lucille Dereave will bring some of her large collection of Indian artifacts and tell about them.

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MUSEUM NEWS--We are having school, senior citizens, and other groups on tour keeping us busy. This month we start a "White Elephant" table to defray expenses of photo copying that we have done for the benefit of our museum. Please price your articles.

The ten Willamette valley museums are thinking of a cook book--recipes of members. Would you like to share your specials? I'd like an answer at our meeting.

We will have an updated travel folder of Willamette valley museums. It will include a map, hours open, and charge, if any.

Call 472-7935 for museum appointments.

Roma Sitton

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At our May meeting we would like to have everyone participate in a program on the one and two room schools that used to be the backbone of our county educational system. At one time there were over a hundred school districts in Yamhill County, and the history of most of these will be completely lost if we do not do something about it now. Some of us were students in these schools, some were teachers, and some live in these old districts now and, perhaps, could gather information from someone who does remember. Let's gather as much information as we can by May and bring it to our meeting.

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EARLY YAMHILL COUNTY PLACE NAMES--SALT SPRING VALLEY

James O. Davidson came to Oregon in the fall of 1845, and with him was his brother, Albert F. Almost immediately the two men went into the Willamette valley looking for land claims. James seems to have been more easily satisfied than Albert and on January 9, 1846 filed on a claim in Yamhill County situated in Salt Spring Valley. Albert spent the rest of the winter traveling through out the Willamette Valley taking odd jobs as he could find them and recording his activities and impressions in a journal, which was later published by an eastern newspaper. In the spring Albert returned East to get his parents. He left James living on his Salt Spring Valley claim.

Albert and the parents returned to Oregon in the fall of 1847. They were shocked to find that James had disappeared under mysterious circumstances and was presumed drowned in the Willamette River near Wheatland, where his horse had been found. His body was never found. Albert also discovered that someone had jumped the Davidson claim in Salt Spring Valley. He managed somehow to have it returned to him, and filed on the same claim on December 21, 1847. By 1850 Albert had abandoned the claim and was living in Marion County.

But where was Salt Spring Valley? The claim as recorded by the Davidson brothers is no help in locating the place, but a claim filed on November 18, 1847 gives us the necessary clues:

R. Coddington claims 640 acres of land in Yam Hill county. Situate in Salt Spring Valley, and bounded as follows. To wit., Beginning at the NW corner of James O. Davidsons claim, thence running one mile S to a stake, thence E one mile to a stake, bounding on the northern line of A. Hendricks claim, etc.

By November of 1847 Abijah Hendricks had settled on the claim which became his donation land grant. Salt Spring Valley would have been just north of Abijah Hendricks' claim. The map made from the first government survey of the area in 1852 locates the salt spring that gave the valley its name. The road that leads to old Salt Spring Valley is about a mile east of the junction of the Mineral Spring's road and the Carlton-Newberg highway--turn north off of the highway.