

Nov-77

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEETING IN NEWBERG, OREGON  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
2ND AND COLLEGE STREETS  
NOVEMBER 8, 1977  
POTLUCK 7:00 P M

PROGRAM: DR. NELLIE MAZE ON THE  
MARKING OF THE LUKE McKERN HOUSE  
BY THE CHEHALEM VALLEY HERITAGE  
ASSOCIATION  
PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON-Mildred Renne

In working on the early history of Yamhill County and its pioneers, it pays to be careful! Confusing names and families is so easy! I did it recently--again. This time with the Garrisons. There were several families of Garrisons here in Yamhill County during our pioneer era. One of these does not seem to have been closely related to the rest. The Garrisons families most of us are familiar with were those of the two brothers, Enoch and Abraham. Abraham raised his family on a donation land claim just a couple of miles west of Amity. The old Briedwell School #7 was originally called the Garrison School. Descendents of this Garrison family still live in Yamhill County. William Jeptha Garrison was a son of Enoch and had an early livery stable which furnished horses for the stage running between Portland and Corvallis. The later built McMinnville(s Opera House. The Garrison family I forgot about, was that of Pliny Garrison who arrived in Oregon with the migration of 1845. Pliny had married Martha Rogers in Iowa. Martha was a daughter of Lewis Rogers who also came west and settled in the Chehalem Valley. She was a sister of Priscilla Rogers who married Nathan Sitton and Amanda Rogers who married Charles Fendall. Her brother, James William Rogers, was the father of the founders of the old Rogers Drug Store in McMinnville. Pliny and Martha Garrison came west with a daughter, Nancy. Two more children, Lewis and Milton, were born before Pliny died during the Gold Rush to California. Martha soon remarried to John Carlin and had several Carlin children. The daughter, Nancy Jane Garrison, married Norman C. Hembree, one of McMinnville's early and successful business men. Nancy's brother, Lewis, lived with them at least part of the time. It was Lewis R. Garrison whom I was misplacing by putting him into the Abraham Garrison family. When Lewis Garrison married Abbie J. Toney in 1871, he married into another old and well-known Yamhill County family. Abbie was a daughter of William Toney and his wife, Elsa Carlisle. William Toney came to Oregon with his parents and family in 1847 and settled in the Sheridan area. It was there he married Elsa who had come west with her family, the Peter Carlisles in 1849. The Carlisles also settled near Sheridan. Elsa was the only one of her family to remain in Yamhill County. The rest were gone by 1860. Her parents both died in the Golden-dale area of Klickitat County, Washington during the 1880's. As their children grew older, the William Toneys moved into McMinnville in order to provide better educational opportunities for them. William Toney ran one of the first hotels in McMinnville. Lewis R. and Abbie J. Garrison were living on a farm near McMinnville in 1880. I do not know what happened to them after that. However, the Museum received word within the last few weeks from someone in Malin, Oregon that a woman in that area was anxious to give some papers, diaries, and memorabilia of the Lewis Garrison family to a museum in the McMinnville area. Roma Sitton sent word immediately that the Museum would welcome the gift and she is presently awaiting their arrival. Now that I have gotten my Garrisons straightened out, I can hardly wait to see the diaries, and papers! We have so little here in Yamhill County that was actually written during the early days of our history.

Ruth Stoller

Our new printing of Old Yamhill is here and several of these copies sold. Books are at Amity, Carlton, and Yamhill again. Our last donor was a 7 year old, Tshann Gibson, a 2nd grade student who donated her rag doll. She is the 500th donor to the Museum. Remember the Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM. Phone 472-7935 for appointments for other times. We welcome clubs, schools, scouts etc.

Roma Sitton

Our constitution provides for three classes of membership. One of these is for persons under 18 years of age (who are classed as non-voting members). If you have a young friend, son, daughter, or grandchild who might be interested in the Yamhill County Historical Society, bring them to one of our meetings as a guest so they can learn about the workings of our Association. There should be many young people in the area who would enjoy delving into local history or working on one of our projects. Let's get the word to them and build up our membership in this category.

President, Elaine Rohse