

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 1984 12:00 NOON
LOCATION: Youth and Senior Activities Center, 2nd and Adams, LAFAYETTE
POTLUCK: Bring your own service
PROGRAM: A representative of the Taylor Publishing Co. will be our guest speaker and we will discuss publishing a book on the "History of Yamhill County, Oregon"

MUSEUM NEWS

We had quite a vacation over the holidays and bad weather too. We had 874 guests sign the book in 1983. That is a drop from the 1269 we had visit us in 1982. These are the adults as the children have another guest book that they sign. We look for a better year ahead as we will have a change in some of the materials. So make it a point to stop by and visit us on Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m..

We still have plenty of books to sell. If you would like to order one by mail, just send a check for \$11.00 (\$10.00 for the book and \$1.00 for postage) to: (Schools of Old Yamhill)

Roma Sitton
Rt. 2 Box 173
McMinnville, OR 97128

Or you can purchase the books at various locations throughout the county including:
MCMINNVILLE: The Book End (Town Center), The Book Shop (Downtown), Chamber of Commerce office. NEWBERG: Gray Mouse Bookstore YAMHILL: Hardware store
SHERIDAN: Sheridan Drug

DUES: 1984 dues can be mailed to: Evelyn Nieman, 1501 S. Baker St. Sp. 49, McMinnville, Oregon 97128. They are \$3.00 per individual per year. Oregon Historical Society affiliate dues are an additional \$10.00.

HISTORY NOTES

Our present record-setting rainy weather is similar to the winter of 1844-45. James Clyman left us a record of that fall and winter in Yamhill County. He had arrived in Oregon (ahead of most of the rest of the 1844 emigration) about the 21st of October and on November 5th came to Yamhill County. He spent that winter somewhere north of Hopewell in the Eola Hills. From the time of his arrival until the first of March it rained almost continuously, and Clyman soon discovered that a south wind brought rain!

A month after his arrival he wrote, "Scattering portions of our Emigration coming in through the rain, mud, and water--completely prostrated and tired out".

On November 27 his entry reads, "The south wind with its regular attendant rain still continues. The water much swollen and all the lowlands overflowed. I had been led to believe from previous information that the winter rains had not yet commenced on the 21st of October, but all the old residents were mistaken for once".

December 1: "It continued to rain through out the day in showers. The hills slippery and valleys muddy. Our Emigration getting in nearly downed and sufficated in mud. This season said to be the most rainy of any yet seen by the present inhabitants".

December 11: "Considerable injury was done by the late freshet--heard of 1000 or 1200 bushels of wheat being lost in the graneries on the low grounds of the Wilhamet. Likewise large lots of fencing and in some instances hogs and other stock being drowned or carried away by the water".

December 12: "Most of our Emigration arrived at Fort Vancouver".

January 3, 1845: "Water almost covers the low ground".

January 9: "The old settlers say that this is the wettest winter they have yet seen, some having been in the country for 8 or 10 years".

(Those who had been in the country for 8 or 10 years were men who had been connected with the fur trade, a few sailors who had deserted ships, and the people connected with the missions.)

On the 22nd of February Clyman said, "This day fulfills the four months rain and yet no immediate appearance of clear weather".

March of 1845 turned out to be a beautiful month with only four rainy days. On March 18, Clyman wrote, "Nothing can look more pleasant than clear weather does in this country". His entry for March 23rd included, "A person that has not seen this country can have no idea of the varieties of beauties exhibited here in a clear spring morning".

(The winter of 1844-45 was not only a wet one but a mild one as well. There were frosts but no snow that remained on the ground.)