



Yamhill County Museum, 6th and Market Street, Lafayette, Oregon

OFFICERS, 1985

President	Doris White
Secretary	Mildred Renne
Financial Secy.	Evelyn Nieman
Treasurer	Mike Boundy
Historian	Ruth Stoller
Museum	Roma Sitton
Board:	Austin Bowen, Ed Roghair
	Harvey Stoller, L. Schreiber
Newsletter	M. Roghair

MEETINGS: First Tuesday of
each month

MUSEUM HOURS (summer) Wednes-
days thru Sundays, 1 - 4.

Drop back to weekends the last
week in September.

SEPTEMBER

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

1985

MEETING: PICNIC, Tuesday, September 10, 6 p.m., Shelter Area of Wortman
Park, McMinnville. Bring table service and friends, enjoy your
selves.

The mailing list has been revised. Mail dues to the Financial Secretary:
\$3. per individual membership, \$10. to affiliate with State Hist. Society.

The Museum now has a new supply of Donation Land Claims. Will soon have
a new supply of Geo. F. Walker's A Slice of Country Life, his interesting
recollections of a small boy in this county the first part of this century.

MUSEUM NOTES: We have been busy at the Museum: donations received in-
clude a complete large spinning wheel, cameras, a compass, muff and shoes.
Also a family tree picture of the Newby family, with locks of hair as
well as statistics. . . The "News-Register" pictures have helped adver-
tise our collection. A Dr. Taylor from Virginia was here researching Ew-
ing Young. We don't have his grave sight, but wish we did. . . I dis-
played antiques from the Museum at the Mid-Wmette Valley Sr. Heritage
Days' kickoff luncheon at the Sr. Center; a beautiful lunch and program
with about 45 present. . . I have missed Marie
Winters, who has worked with me since we start-
ed the Museum in '69. Recording, marking and
placing articles has been a great joy to both
of us. Marie has been in and out of the hos-
pital with a very difficult problem, and now I
feel very much alone. Our hope is that her
health will soon be improved. My thanks to
all who have helped during the four days each
week this summer at the Museum.

Roma Sitton

THE FIRST SOLDIERS IN OREGON (from W. L. Toney's
handwritten little notebook filled with his
reminiscences of early Oregon.) See reverse
page. Ruth Stoller

Historical Society profiles Handley

To the Editor:

People who are interested in local
history will want to see the spring
edition of the Oregon Historical
Society Quarterly. Among other in-
teresting articles is an article about
former Yamhill County Surveyor
Captain Charles Handley.

It has been suggested that the
Handley home between Baker and
Covels streets on Handley Street be
made into a memorial park.

HELEN WEBB

1849 was the year that Zachary Taylor the President of the United States ordered soldiers to Oregon. They got as far as Fort Hall and provisions gave out. The Government appointed J.W. Scott as captain of volunteers to take these soldiers supplies. There were about 30 or more of the volunteers. They used ox-teams and wagons. I remember Bill Martin sold them an ox-team and wagon. I can only remember three of the men, James Beashom (Beauchamp), William Rodgers, and Pliny Garrison.

They reached the Fort and delivered the provisions in time to save some emigrants and the soldiers of starvation. On their return they had some trouble with Indians near Mud Lake, Nevada. Their company was mostly boys or young men. They saw two Indians carrying an antelope and as they were out of fresh meat the Captain of the company decided to take the oldest of the men which was Pliny Garrison and leave the rest of the company with their teams in a secluded place and overtake the Indians and buy their game from them. When they reached them they seemed very friendly. The Indians had their bows and arrows but did not seem to (know) the use of the men's guns so they wanted to examine the guns. The men would not let them take the guns out of their hands but tried to show them how they were used but they were not satisfied and grabbed the guns but the men were able to overcome them in the scuffle. So the Indians ran and began shooting with their bows and arrows. The men were able to dodge most of the arrows. Pliny Garrison shot one of the Indians and had to reload his gun. On turning to look for a large rock, which he knew was behind him, in order to find shelter for reloading, the Indian shot him with a poisoned arrow in the shoulder which caused his death in a short time. Captain Scott had several scalp wounds which were very shallow and he recovered from the poison. Some of the company that was left to hold their horses in concealment, heard the report of the gun, went to them and taken them in to camp. Pliny Garrison was buried in the center of the crossroads, one leading to Oregon, the other to California. The ox-teams were driven over the grave several times in order to destroy indications of a grave for fear the Indians would take the body up.

These soldiers were the first U.S. Troops stationed at Vancouver and one company of them deserted that (fall) or the first of the winter and started for the California mines and were taken in Southern Oregon. On my way home from the mines in June 1850, I saw their camping grounds in several places.

(Pliny Garrison was married to Martha Rogers, a sister of Mrs. Charles Fendall and Mrs. N.K. Sitton. After Pliny's death Martha married John Carlin. A daughter of Wm L. Toney married Pliny's son, Lewis, in 1871. It is a descendent of this daughter who owns the original notebook.)