

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

May 1998

“WALK THROUGH CARLTON STREETS” A BIG HIT

A near overflow crowd attended the YCHS April 14th meeting held in the Miller Log Museum in anticipation of hearing Grant Youngberg vividly relate his boyhood memories of Carlton. They were not disappointed. Beginning with a brief autobiography and a bit of the town's history for background, Grant embarked upon a verbal tour of nearly every home, business and service organization that ever existed in the community. Relying upon a seemingly

faultless memory, he noted dates of events as well as recalling anecdotes related to some of the town's more colorful characters. From Carlton's founding in 1874 as a railroad flag stop to the demise of the local logging industry in the 1940s, Grant Youngberg painted a verbal picture of his home town that will be long remembered and appreciated by those in the audience.



Grant Youngberg

HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM UPDATE

In response to the internal evaluation now being undertaken by the Board of Directors, George Williams has submitted the following report on behalf of the YCHS Heritage Tree Program:

In 1991, our historian, Ruth Stoller asked Maxine and myself to sit in on a tree talk by Maynard Dawson of Salem about the Marion County Historical Society's Heritage Tree Program, as well as the American Forests' Big Tree Register. We found Marion County's program was consistent with our society's purpose.

After some discussion with Dawson, we recommended to our then president, Lois Brooks, that we sponsor a similar program using the procedures developed by Marion County. Thus the Yamhill County Heritage Tree Program came into being.

Heritage trees are those individual trees and groves of trees that have been identified as significant in national, state or regional history. Our Society's program is limited to trees in Yamhill County. For a tree to be considered for inclusion in our program it must satisfy at least one of the following criteria:

- The tree is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- The tree is associated with the life of a person or group of historic significance.
- The tree represents a significant and distinguishable entity within a community or location.
- The tree has age, size or species significance that contributes to its heritage status.

The program is simple. The Society solicits tree nominations and keeps an inventory of those trees screened and accepted by a small committee of interested persons. A certificate signed by our president is presented to the owner and/or nominator of those trees that satisfy the "heritage" criteria. The approved nomination form and attachments are kept in a notebook in the museum office where they can be reviewed by developers and those interested in our heritage.

To date, the YCHS Heritage Tree inventory lists a total of twenty three trees which met the criteria. The most recent of these is a Douglas fir on Powell Lane in McMinnville.

Since getting the program underway George and Maxine Williams have been the only members directly involved with the program, but recently a third committee member Ben Frum, has been added to the group.

A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The editor has been wishing for more space to include more items of interest to the membership so this month I will make my greetings short. I want to wish you a wonderful summer with family and friends. I will see you at the May 15th meeting in Dayton or the August picnic in Amity if not before.

.....Shirley

At left YCHS President Shirley Venhaus accepts an endowment check from the estate of life member Frieda Schreiber recently presented by her son Phillip Schreiber.



The Yamhill County Historical Society is a nonprofit tax exempt educational and public service corporation established to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County

OFFICERS - 1998**President**

Shirley Venhaus
472-7328

VP/Program

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843-2069

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Betty Baltzell
472-7746

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Don Crawford
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Volunteer Coordinator

Maxine Williams
472-4547

Librarian

Olive Johnson
472-6070

Newsletter

John White
665-5376

Publicity

Elaine Rohse
472-6827

MUSEUM HOURS

605 Market Street
Lafayette Oregon
Phone: 864-2308

June 1 to Aug 31:

Fri & Sun 1 to 4 PM
Sat 10AM to 4 PM

Sept 1 to May 31:

Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM
or

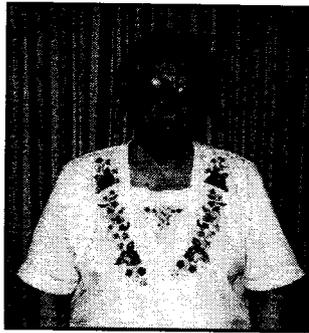
By Appointment

ANNUAL DUES

\$7.50 per person

Mail to:

Financial Secty
2430 North Baker
McMinnville OR

**OUR CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

Delores Robertson is a native of Yamhill County having been raised in Newberg and completing high school there. Many may remember her father's business, Gibbs Electric, that served the community for a number of years from the corner of Meridian and First Streets. Returning to her home town a few years ago, Delores is now enjoying retirement there.

The job of Corresponding Secretary is one of those behind-the-scenes activities that are so necessary in an organization such as ours but seldom receive deserved recognition. Requiring timely attention are all the thanks for help and donations, and by adding a bit of a personal touch, Delores regularly writes masterful acknowledgements on our behalf. We are indeed fortunate to have her serving us so well in this important post.

SUMMER MUSEUM HOURS

Members are reminded that summer hours at the museum will take effect Friday June 5th. This year, in lieu of Wednesday and Thursday openings, the Saturday hours have been extended to 10:00am through 4:00pm with additional volunteers on duty that day. Therefore, those usually serving on Wednesdays or Thursdays during the summer are being asked to take either a Saturday morning or afternoon shift instead.

This change is taking place because the majority of our summer visitors come on the weekends and this should provide more efficient use of volunteers' time as well as better service to the public.

KEEPER of SOCIETY HISTORY

Patsy Miller of McMinnville has volunteered to take over the long vacant position of Society historian. It will be her job to set up and maintain a scrapbook or other files relating to YCHS activities and affairs. Once established for the present, she will work to retroactively to fill in earlier periods

SPRING CLEANING DAY

Friday May 15th has been declared YCHS Spring Cleaning Day. Helping hands should arrive at 9:00 AM suitably armed with cleaning supplies.

FLOWERS OF SPRING

Many visiting the museum during the past few weeks have praised the well manicured and colorful plantings. Ruth Crawford, who managed to squeeze in foot surgery during spring gardening activities, deserves full credit and a special round of thanks.

ALONG THE TRAIL OF THE OBSIDIANS

At the request of an early scout the Obsidians of Eugene, a hiking and out of doors group, spent Tuesday morning March 31st at the museum gathering information on our Heritage Trees as well as the life and events of an early Yamhill family.

George and Maxine Williams along with Elma Shuck were hosts for this visit. Maxine told of planning and construction of the Miller Log Museum while George, a retired professional forester, used pictures and maps to tell of the Heritage Tree program in Yamhill County. Elma gave a verbal sketch

MAY GENERAL MEETING & POTLUCK DINNER

"Pioneer Garden Flowers" is the title of the program to be presented by Erica Calkins at the **May 12th** meeting to be held at the **Christian Church, 302 Fifth Street, Dayton**. Ms. Calkins will also be autographing her new book "Hatchets, Hands and Hoe" as well as a recent issue of Sunset Magazine in which she had a feature article. All of this to follow potluck dinner at **6:30 PM**. It promises to be a memorable evening, so bring a guest to share it..

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members and hope to see them often:

Juanita Dean - Coos Bay

Maryellen Schwarzmann - Yamhill

QUILT SALE BEGINS

Drawing tickets are now available for the quilt donated by the Piecemakers of McMinnville shown below. Done in shades of blue using the Ohio Star pattern the quilt is now nearly completed and may be viewed upstairs in the Miller Log Building. Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00.



of the Mallery family which resided in her home town of Yamhill.

The trip was made in honor of Mary Mallery who was an Obsidian member while a teacher in Eugene and during her retirement there. Many of her favorite spots were being visited during this day.

Coffee and homemade cookies were served to the 34 visitors before they continued on to the Flying M Ranch for lunch. This was the second visit of this group and we look forward to their coming again.

.....Elma Shuck

A "YAM HILL" SETTLER WRITES TO NEW YORK IN 1846 (Part 2)

By John White

Part 1 of William Dawson's 1846 letter to a friend in New York related a newly arrived settler's observations of commerce as conducted in an Oregon Country where the Hudson's Bay Company was still a principal factor. In this concluding segment he turns his attention to matters concerning selection of a homestead site and starting farming. [Editorial comments will again appear within brackets].

"The part of the country I have seen the land is very good. I think it will bear well. The soil appears to be deep with a clay subsoil. It is not such a loose black soil as some of <illegible>. The Twalatin Plain where the first settlers located is prairies with large forests of fir timber between. South west is the Yam Hill river & branches. The country there is not to thickly timbered but the land I think some better. The country is wider there from the Wallamette River. To the mountains on the coast is some 20 miles and I don't know how far from the Wallamette River to the Cascade M. South of the Yam Hill is the Rickreall which I have never seen. Where the country gets wider and the land still better for some 100 miles on both sides of the Wallamette Riv. I am told there are a great deal of good land, but timber convenient to prairie you wont find in many places - that is fencing timber OK for fire wood can be got mostly anywheres & as to where fir timber is, is on the <illegible> & mountains.

[Something not often mentioned by historians is the lack of structural timber located in the Willamette Valley. The Indians had for many years annually burned tens of thousands of acres in order to clear all brush and more easily harvest camas roots, a food staple. Thus for the settlers, desirable readily tillable land was often at a distance from timber suitable for building cabins.]

There are generally a range of bald hills between the plains & mountains. Those hills are all covered with fine grass. It is a different kind of grass altogether from what is in the States. What fine pastures it would afford for sheep. There are few or none here among the settlers. The Hudson's Bay Co. has a large herd of them and a Scottishman for shepherd. They have a large herd of cattle upwards of a thousand head of Spanish cattle. There are a great number of them here. Some of the settlers here have also large droves from 500 head down. I dont like them. They are too wild and savage looking. They are mostly yellow white & and a mixture of both with brindle. They wont weigh as much as our cattle but the beef is very fine. I believe I have eat better beef here than I have ever eat in my life.

[Many of the Spanish cattle in Oregon at this time descended from the herd driven from California to the Chehalem Valley during 1836 by Ewing Young.]
The country best information is 150 miles long & about 60 broad on the south side of the Columbia River. There are also some country on the coast but small I believe. I dont exactly know what I will eventually turn my attention to. Have seen little or nothing here. The weather has been too wet. It has rained two thirds of the time since I came here. The roads & ground very wet. Water high and a few bridges yet. I cant get about much. I looked over the Twalatin plain and the Yam hill Country and took a claim of 640 acres / what every one takes here in the Yam hill Country. It is now pretty thickly settled. Some have been here for two years some more. I have one mile to haul my sacks, have engaged a man for a pony I traded for on the road to make me 3000 sacks. Have got a comfortable cabin made of fir, hen house calf house & hog house is the extent of my improvement. A young man that came part of the way through with us stays with me. He helped

me with our house &c. He is a carpenter from the state of N York and a small fellow

[Dawson arrived in Oregon during mid October 1845 and by February 1846 he had located a claim and erected a house and outbuildings-a rather remarkable achievement in itself]

. Have sown no wheat as yet. What wheat is sown looks fine and the quality is good. They raise from 10 to 20 bush per acre. The most of garden stuff does well here I believe, have seen better turnips here than in the States. My brother in law has taken a claim joining with me & we will put a field of wheat in together. It will do to sow until May. If I can raise wheat for sale will have 18 miles to haul. Am 25 miles from Oregon City 12 miles from the Wallamette River and 7 miles from the falls on the Yam hill River where boats can come.

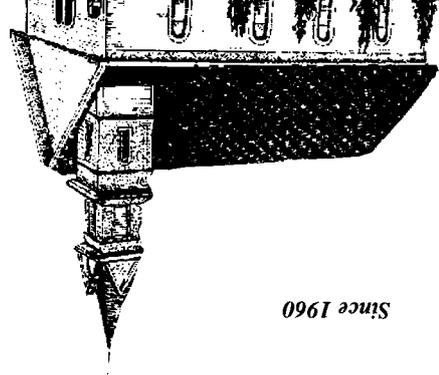
As I have a number of letters to write must come to a conclusion. Would be glad to hear from you when you can conveniently write me There will probably be some way of sending letters from NY by sea. I will write you whenever an opportunity offers. I will write Hall by the same express. I am waiting sadly to hear from you all and in hopes there are a letter on the way now for me. Have not yet heard from home. Give kind regard to all the family and in hopes this will find you enjoying good health. Will close by wishing you and Mrs. Faile many happy years yet.

Your
Affct Friend
Wm Dawson

William Dawson claims 640 acres of land in Yam Hill County, situated on Baker's fork of the Yam Hill river, as follows, to wit: Commencing about 80 poles S. of Baker's fork, at a 1st Oak ab. out 15 in. diam. and E. of a 11" Oak, 12 in. diam. 2 poles 6 links dist. and S. W. of an Oak 20 in. diam. 2 poles 7 links dist. thence N. crossing Baker's fork 320 poles to a stake or stone, that is 55 poles N. of a branch running into Baker's fork, thence W. 320 poles to a stake or stone N. of an Oak tree 1 pole 19 links. & also S. of an Oak 2 poles 13 links thence S. recrossing Baker's fork 320 poles to a stake or stone, S. of an Oak tree 8 poles 18 links, thence E. to the place of beginning, which he claims by personal occupancy
Wm Dawson, Nov. 11th 1846

Courtesy Oregon State Archives

Copy of William Dawson's land claim as filed with the Provisional Government at Oregon City November 11th 1846. The site is given as being situated on "Baker's fork of the Yam Hill river". Also of note are the terms "poles" and "links" used as a units of measure. A pole was the equivalent of a rod or 16½ feet and a link was 7.92 inches. Thus Dawson's corner monument located "S. of an Oak tree 5 poles 18 links" works out to a distance of 94.38 feet from the reference tree.



Since 1960

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 1998 Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, MAY 12TH, 4:30 PM

Board of Directors - Christian Church - 302 Fifth Street - Dayton

TUESDAY MAY 12TH, 6:30 PM

Potluck Dinner - Christian Church - 302 Fifth Street - Dayton

Bring Your Own Table Service Guests Always Welcome

(See page 2 for Program Details)

FRIDAY MAY 15TH, 9:00 AM TO NOON

Spring Cleaning Day at the Museums

Notes for the Coming Summer

As in the past, there are no regular membership meetings scheduled for June, July or August

Summer Hours at the Museum (*see page 2*) will begin Friday June 5th.

The annual picnic will be held in August at the Amity City Park. The date is not yet confirmed, but will be announced in the Summer edition of the WEST SIDE due out in early July