APRIL 2014
Volume 46, Issue 4

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NOTICE:
April Potluck and General Meeting

• Date: April 13, 2014
• Time: 1:30 pm Potluck, 2:00 pm Program
• Program: George Fox University by Dr. Ralph Beebe
• Location: HERITAGE Center, Hwy 18 & Durham Lane, McMinnville

Farm Fest & Plowing Competition

Saturday, April 12, 2014
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
10:00 am—4:00 pm

Largest Gathering in Oregon of Draft Horses & Mules
to compete in plowing competition

Rare opportunity to watch 20+ teams of draft horses & mules in a plowing competition, see demonstrations & meet the teamsters.

11275 SW Durham Lane, McMinnville, Oregon
(Intersection of Hwy. 18 & Durham Ln.)

Plowing, Demos and Activities throughout the day
Plowing Competition Awards 3:30 pm
Opening Ceremonies & Flag Raising by VFW 10:00 am
Sawmill, Blacksmith, Horseshoeing Demonstrations
"Agriculture in Art" photo and art competition
Pioneer Kids' Area with Hands-on Activities & Animals
Historical Displays & Demos: Tours of the Museum
Old-Time Music, Food, & More!

$5 admission—Kids 12 & under FREE
Come back for the harvest & old-time family fun at Harvest Fest — August 16 & 17

For more information: 503.434.0490 or www.yamhillcountyhistory.org

The Yamhill County Historical Society is a nonprofit educational and public service corporation established to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County
info@yamhillcountyhistory.org ♦ www.yamhillcountyhistory.org
President’s Letter

YCHS Members,

The big news this month is that we have begun construction on the Heritage Hall. This is the portion of the main buildings of the Heritage Center that sits between the Restoration Shop and the large Exhibit Hall. With the completion of this project, we will have a fire suppression system for the entire building which will give us a permanent occupancy permit, and walls, ceilings, flooring, environmental control, etc, in that center section of the building to include a meeting room and community convening space. Upon completion, we will be able to offer this space to the community for various events and meetings as well as our own General Meetings and events.

In this photo, you can see that the area has been cleared out for construction, and materials are beginning to arrive.

This project requires substantial funding and we have been able to begin with the money that has been so generously donated by our membership and community benefactors. We do not have all of the funding required as yet and have scheduled the construction effort to stay within existing available funding. We’ve had some good news recently as the Ford Family Foundation has approved a $75,000 grant to help us complete the Heritage Hall. There is a proviso, however, that we must complete the funding for the project before they will issue their funds. In order to complete the funding and gain access to the grant, we have set a goal of $75,000 to be raised locally. The Oversight Committee has set to work on this.

Please stop by the Heritage Center and see the work in progress. If you can help in reaching our goal of $75,000 to ensure completion, we would like to hear from you.

Farm Fest is coming up on April 12th. Hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. As always, a substantial effort is under way to make for a fine spring event. Be sure to mark your calendar and come out and join the festivities.

We want to continue to raise community awareness of our Lafayette facilities. There was a nice turnout for the Oregon State Birthday Party that was held at the Lafayette Poling Church on February 14th. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and many commented on the site.

At the Board of Directors we continue to refine budgeting and committee structure. I have previously noted the projects that have been approved by the Board, including continued restoration of the Hutchcroft School, lighting of the sign on the Heritage Center, a storage building for the Steam Engine and a tool and fuel shed. It will be a busy and productive year.

Thank you for your support of the YCHS.

Steve Leonard
YCHS President
Phone: (503) 472-6908
Email: sleonard15@frontier.com
Submitted: March 15, 2014
Board Meeting Recap ~ February, 12 and March 12, 2014

The following recap is a condensed version of not-yet approved minutes from the board meeting. All committee reports are filed in the record book with the minutes at the Lafayette Site.

Committee Reports:
- Activities & Events Committee—The new charter was discussed and minor changes added.
- Audit Committee—The new charter was discussed and minor changes added. Cynthia Christensen resigned from the committee.
- Education Committee—Cynthia Christensen reported on the well-received YCHS exhibit at the Portland Ag Show. International Harvester expressed interest in participating in Harvest Fest. YCHS will participate in the Salem Ag Fest. Pioneer Days start April 28. More volunteers are needed for Pioneer Days. New rubber tires for the Covered Wagon will be purchased. The Education Committee charter was presented.
- Heritage Center and Property Development—Tony Meeker provided a list of projects and projected budget for 2014, as well as additional projects to be considered for 2015. McMinnville Water & Light sent a notification of a rate increase due to the level of usage at the site moving it to a different classification. Todd Holt will research the issue. The Ford Family Foundation grant was approved for $75,000 towards the completion of the Heritage Center if YCHS can provide matching funds. The Heritage Center Committee charter was presented.
- Insurance Committee—The new insurance policy was presented.
- Lafayette Pioneer Cemetery—Todd Holt reported that arrangements have been made to repair damage to the cemetery sign. The gopher issue is being resolved.

President's Report:
- Meeting Cancellation Notification—Sarah Miller will compose a policy to include means of notification of General Meeting cancellations. Notifications to include email, press release to local radio station and word of mouth.
- Comcast expressed interest in filming at the Lafayette site.
- Committee chairs need to start on the next level of committee charters.

Secretary's Report:
- Rick Fieldhouse reported that the new scanner was set up at the Miller Museum.

Treasurer's Report:
- John Lewis provided the treasurer’s report which is on file in the record book in Lafayette. The annual Financial Review is in progress. John is providing the accounting firm with all information they request. An electronic card reader, Square, will be tested out at Farm Fest allowing credit card purchase for art being sold. The cash register initially to be used at the Lafayette site and is no longer needed there, will be used at Farm Fest.

Unfinished Business:
- Telephone and Data Service—Rick Fieldhouse will be negotiating with the service providers to get the best rates available. March update—There will be no changes to the Lafayette site service. Frontier will provide service to the Heritage Center.
- Copier Requirements—Kim Courtin reported that a photocopier has been donated for the Heritage Center. She is monitoring the copy machine at the Miller Museum for usage to determine what level of service contract is needed.
- Divestment of Korean Artifacts—The Board of County Commissioners have formally requested the return of the Korean artifacts including framed photos of veterans, gifts by a Korean trade delegation, and other miscellany. The board felt that aside from the photographs, these items were unrelated to the YCHS mission and would be returned. Prior to returning the photos, reproductions will be made and archived for future research.

New Business:
- Miller Museum Computer—John will discuss the need for a new computer with Tom Cattrall. March update—Tom has been too busy to review this issue. Kim Courtin recommended her brother, Jeff Monahan, review the computer and existing software needs.
- Mail Policy—An amendment to exclude junk mail from the current mail policy was discussed.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Fieldhouse, Secretary
Submitted March 15, 2014

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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<td>Business Plan &amp; Grant Review:</td>
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The name Darling Smith has intrigued us for some time. A story in the News-Register edition of March 6, 1989, written by Barbara Smith Bodeen, acquaints us with the important contribution he and his family have made to Yamhill County.

Darling Smith was one of the sons of Andrew D. and Polly Porter Smith, originally from New York State. They married on September 18, 1817; had Elizabeth in 1818, William in 1820, Andrew in 1822, Darling in 1824, Ezra in 1826, Jane in 1827, Riley in 1829, Almond in 1831 and Adaline in 1835.

They lost William and Ezra as infants and went on to lose Riley, Almond and Adaline after coming to Oregon (Riley drowned at Yamhill locks).

Andrew and Polly were not happy with their situation in New York. They dreamed of a place where they could have a better life with a nice home, green pastures, fat cattle and friendly neighbors. They saw a chance for this when Dr. Elijah White happened by their church expounding on the wonders of Oregon Territory.

Elijah White was born in New York in 1806 and was educated at the medical college in Syracuse, N.Y. In 1836, the Methodist Church appointed him physician to a mission in Oregon’s Willamette Valley. Over time, disagreements with Jason Lee, who ran the Salem-based church mission, led to White’s resignation and return East. He hurried back to Washington, D.C. where he was able to secure appointment as sub-agent for the territory’s Indian tribes.

He was encouraged to gather a group of emigrants to take with him to settle the area. The next year, he led the first wagon train bound for Oregon—the first ever to include more than 100 people.

Andrew Smith and his family were excited about the promise of this new land, so prepared to join White. Theirs would be the first emigrant train to cross the Great Plains to the Willamette Valley. They began their trip in the spring of 1842, a full year before the first great emigration of 1843 which brought so many early pioneers to Yamhill County. They counted about 20 wagons and nine people associated with the Smith group.

While the trip went smoothly, rumors of Indian atrocities frightened the emigrants. Rumor had it that the Ogallala Sioux were on the warpath; torturing to death any whites trying to pass through their lands. White hired Thomas Fitzpatrick to guide the group to the Willamette Valley because he was known for being able to broker deals with the Indians.

Another fortunate event was having F.X. Mathieu along as he could speak the Sioux language. He was bound for Oregon with a party of six French-Canadian trappers. The only trouble came near Independence Rock where 5,000 Indians descended on their camp; going from tent to tent, looking in at the occupants. Dressed in little more than war paint, they began scouting the young women. They soon turned their focus on the Smith group: deciding that either Elizabeth or Jane would be an appropriate gift for their war chief. Andrew Smith Sr., near panic, sent his oldest surviving son, 20-year-old Andrew Smith Jr., to fetch Matthieu who soon explained that neither girl was for sale!

The Indians expressed surprise: noting that white men commonly bought Indian women to take as wives. Before they could press the matter further, the wagon train staged a pre-dawn departure to put the trouble behind.

Passing through Sioux country and heading up the North Platte and Sweetwater rivers to the Green River, proved full of difficulty: the problems were with nature, not Indians. Fitzpatrick and Matthieu were able to get all the people through in good shape, but not the wagons. Most had to be cut apart and turned into carts.

At Fort Hall, even the carts were abandoned. The party loaded their remaining goods on pack animals and proceeded on foot.

Arriving at Oregon City—which was just a Judson Bay outpost at the time—the Smith family spent the next few months recovering and assembling the wherewithal to develop their own place. Before long, they were ready to claim a tract of land and start building.

They followed the advice of a friend to go west across the Willamette River. After paying Medorem Crawford $12 to cross the river, they found their “Eden” at the end of a two-day journey. Their new home was where the town of Dayton had its beginnings.

Andrew Sr., Andrew Jr. and Darling Smith all filed claims in 1844. They soon built a log cabin on good land that included about half of present-day Dayton. Their closest neighbors were Francis Fletcher, James O’Neil, Amos Cook, Joseph McLaughlin, Louis La Bonte and George Gay—all among the area’s earliest settlers. There weren’t many people around, but, nonetheless, wonderful lifelong marriages and friendships were made.

Upon arriving in Oregon, none of the Smith children were married. The eldest, Elizabeth, at 24 was courted by Frances Fletcher and married on December 28, 1843—raising five children. Two years later, Pleasant Armstrong

Continued on Page 6
Old Big-Foot

Back in the 1880's, Yamhill County had its own version of the “Big Foot” tale. Although the ‘beast’ was different, the story was the same. No one had really seen anything but the tracks, but these were familiar to a lot of people.

Hunting has always been a popular sport in Yamhill County, and one of the favorite spots all through the years has been the Fairdale area and what became the Meadow Lake area. The Petch Mill, mentioned below, was near Fairdale.

The following news item was published in the Telephone Register August 10, 1888:

“Old Big-Foot” the elk with the large track has been heard from again. His track has been seen in a band of about 50 that crossed the trail above Petch’s Mill last week. Mr. Keyes thought he had killed the old fellow but his peculiar track is seen once more. The elk has never been seen by any living person although his track is familiar to every man who has ever hunted in the mountains. From all signs he is a monster.

Author Unknown
The Heritage Center is being prepped for Farm Fest April 12, Pioneer Days and the new construction on the Heritage Hall!

Heritage Center Happenings….

About this time, Smith Sr. and Palmer decided to plat a town, with both contributing property. They named it “Dayton” (probably after a town with the same name in New York’s Cattaraugus County.)

Darling Smith married Ellen Texanna Gerrish on November 27, 1851. Their child, Pleasant Smith, was born in 1853. The exciting part of this story is how those early pioneers became fast friends and were able to support and help each other. As they intermarried, the blood lines of these early heroes worked their way down into many of our present families.

Andrew Smith Family Continued

began courting Jane Smith. They married on October 30, 1845 but had no children.

Armstrong died in the Indian wars of 1854 in Southern Oregon. Two nephews helped Jane farm the land for a time, but she eventually was forced to sell out. Known as The Armstrong Farm, her original tract is now owned by Ray and Barbara Kauer.

In 1847, new neighbors moved in near the Smiths: General Joel Palmer, his wife and their eight children. Polly Smith was ecstatic at having such close neighbors; the families became fast friends.

Palmer hired Andrew Smith Jr. to help him build a sawmill. Soon, a new romance was in the works. Andrew married Joel Palmer’s daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, on June 28, 1848.

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Tales From the Past—Andrew Smith Family by Jim and Reita Locket
Invest in a piece of Yamhill County History

Imagine a new brick pathway inviting visitors to the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center. You, your family, or honored loved ones’ names can become a part of Yamhill County history.

These engraved Heritage Bricks will be incorporated in various architectural projects, such as walkways, walls, and the base of a flag pole now erected at the Heritage Center. For a donation of $100, your brick will be engraved to your specifications and become a permanent part of the Heritage Center, creating an amazing tribute to our ancestors, town fathers, loved ones and Yamhill County families. With your donations, you partner with us in building the future of our society.

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Address _____________________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State ________ Zip _______________________
Phone ___________________________ Email ______________________________________

$100 per Brick

BRICK #1

BRICK #2

Inscription (one character per box—include spaces and punctuation in boxes)

Make checks payable to: YCHS
Detach and Mail form to: YCHS Attention Heritage Bricks
P.O. Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127
YCHS Membership Application

Membership Categories

[ ] NEW MEMBERSHIP  [ ] RENEWING MEMBERSHIP

Members receive The West Side newsletter (10 issues per year), free admission to the Lafayette Museum and Library, access to genealogical and historical files, access to the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, monthly potluck and program for members, invitations to special programs and events, and 10% off photo orders and gift shop purchases.

Membership runs from July 1 to June 30 of each year.

☐ Senior/Student/Educator $15  ☐ Family (Basic) $30  ☐ Community Builder $250+

☐ Senior Family (65+) $25  ☐ Friend $55  ☐ Community Benefactor $500+

☐ Individual $20  ☐ Supporter $125+

Name: ____________________________________________

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I would prefer to receive the YCHS newsletter via:  [ ] Email  [ ] Postal Mail

☐ I would like to volunteer to help with activities of the YCHS. Please contact me.

☐ Please click here if you do not wish to have your name and contact information released to the Yamhill County Cultural Coalition and/or for the purpose of obtaining grant funding. Member information will never be sold or released for any other purpose unless written consent is provided by the member.

Please make checks payable to YCHS and return with this printed form to:

YCHS, P.O. Box 484, Lafayette, OR 97127

Questions? Call Membership Coordinator Carlene Kadell (503) 474-0480 or email: amity1956@yahoo.com