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NOTICE:
FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING and Potluck

• Date: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2013
• Time: 1:30 pm
• Potluck, 2:15 pm
• Program

• Location: 7th Day Adventist, 1500 Old Sheridan Rd, McMinnville

The Joseph Watt Saga

In the spring of 1844, Joseph Watt left his parents and seven sisters in Ohio to make the trek across the Great Plains and Rocky mountains. This young man of 27 was looking for opportunities that did not seem available in Ohio. His goal was to check out this Oregon Country. Stories from the West sounded too good to be true and he had to see for himself.

Getting there was not an easy trip. Joseph had signed on - as many young men did - to help with the stock, make roads and provide protection. The trip had been relatively easy as far as Fort Boise, but then, as supplies ran out and stock died, Joseph found himself without a job, money, supplies or his horse. So, at the Grande Ronde Valley - near present day La Grande - he took off ahead of the wagon train hoping to arrive in The Dalles in time to hire on a boat down the Columbia River. With a light pack and worn-out shoes this ambitious young man traveled through the snow of the Blue Mountains and sand of the Columbia River country. He arrived at The Dalles with supplies and money gone and feet bleeding.

Joseph went looking for a boat down river. There were no large boats as he had envisioned, only log rafts loaded beyond capacity by the emigrants. He asked dozens of families if he could join them, but, since each raft was heavily loaded, they couldn’t afford to take on one more person.

Finally, he managed to get one emigrant to talk to him. It wasn’t a particularly encouraging conversation. The emigrant said “Work? Why you’re worse off than my worn-out oxen back there. No, you’d just be in the way! I’ve got troubles enough already.”

“Let him come, Paw”, the women said, “his mother would thank us for it and his voice is so good, we would enjoy his singing.”

Down the river he went, singing and telling yarns for his supper. It was a tough trip, especially the portage around the Cascades, but he made it to the valley and was among the first to arrive in Oregon City that year. What a spectacle! According to James Robertson in his article, A Pioneer Captain of Industry: “His buckskin pants reached to his knees and were patched with antelope skin. He had a red blanket for an overcoat and a woolen hat so worn it hung about his neck rather than on the

Hutchcroft School Gets a Roof

Continued on page 6

Photos by John Lewis and Cynthia Christensen
Members,

The Holiday Season has passed and I hope that you all had a very enjoyable holiday. It’s now on to the New Year and the expectations and challenges it holds for us. You have elected two new Board Members for 2013. They are Katie Baker and John Lewis, who have both been sworn in at the General Meeting on January 13. We welcome them to the Board and look forward to the wisdom that they will bring to our deliberations. In addition, we have a completely new slate of officers. Elected by the Board on January 9, we now have Cliff Watts as Vice-President, Katie Baker as Treasurer, John Lewis as Secretary and Steve Leonard as President. You can find our contact information to the left of this article. I can speak for the President. You can find our contact information selection to the left of this article. I can speak for the President.  You can find our contact information Lewis as Secretary and Steve Leonard as Vice-President, Katie Baker as Treasurer, John Lewis as Secretary and Steve Leonard as President. You can find our contact information selection to the left of this article. I can speak for the President. You can find our contact information selection to the left of this article. I can speak for the President. You can find our contact information selection to the left of this article. I can speak for the President.  You can find our contact information selection to the left of this article. I can speak for the President. You can find our contact information selection to the left of this article. I can speak for the President.  You can find our contact information selection to the left of this article. I can speak for the President. You can find our contact information selection to the left of this article. I can speak for the President.

Handmade Holidays, held on December 1 and 2 was a success again this year. Thanks to Karen Sitton-Saxberg and Kathy Burden. During that event we saw the dedication of the Hutchcroft School, which was led by Cynthia Christensen and was very well done.

The Hutchcroft School project has continued to progress under the active leadership of Cliff Watts and John Lewis, with work being done by our contractor, Cliff Jensen. The roof structure is now complete and we expect to see the cedar shingled roof installed by Harold Washington this month. We are actively looking for siding that matches so that we can fully enclose the building. We will then begin to move on with restoration efforts. We have enough funding to complete the near term needs and will be looking for additional funding in the form of donations and grants for the restoration.

Recently, under Carolyn Meeker’s direction, we have formed an ad hoc committee to review the YCHS Business Plan and amend it as necessary to be current and suitable for submission with grant applications as we move forward with the completion of the Heritage Center buildings. We are focused on the center section of the building. Its completion will upgrade our venue for all of our currently planned activities and provide additional space for community outreach.

As part of our New Year efforts, we will be looking at our many committees and coordinators. We need help in several areas and ask that you consider where you may be able to assist. We have committee chair vacancies on the General Meeting Programs and Farm and Harvest Fest committees. We also need a Newsletter Editor. We want to thank Jo McIntyre for volunteering to chair the Freezer Committee.

We look forward to a busy and successful new year.

Steve Leonard
YCHS President
Phone: (503) 472-6908
Email: sleonard15@frontier.com
Submitted: January 13, 2013

We have been “buzzing” around the museum re-organizing files, improving signage, cleaning, replacing light bulbs, moving furniture and files and updating the kitchen area. All the chores you normally do before “company comes”. We hope our company (members and visitors) will stop by for a visit and enjoy our improvements. We are open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10—4.

Recently a member said, “You sell a lot of books at the Lafayette site”. Yes we do, and along with our new additions our used book section has grown and the price is always right. The guest speaker at the January meeting, Laura McMasters has written an interesting and useful book on local points of interest in and around Yamhill County. The book, Kaleidoscope, provides directions for many self-guided tours including that “erratic rock” we learned about thanks to Laura. Her book is available at the Lafayette museum.

Jean Sartor, Publications Coordinator
Board Meeting Recap ~ January 9, 2013

The following recap is a condensed version of not-yet approved minutes from the board meeting.

**Election of Officers:** Nominees for the 2013 Board Officers were presented to the Directors and a vote ensued. Passing unanimously, new board officers Steve Leonard as President, Cliff Watts as Vice President, Katie Baker as Treasurer and John Lewis as Secretary took office.

**Committee Reports:** All committee reports are filed in the record book with the minutes in the Lafayette Log Cabin.

- **Business Plan Review Committee**—It was discussed that the original plan should not be rewritten. An addendum to the plan will be prepared and will concentrate on what can be accomplished in the next two years with a focus on programs, services and events that serve the community utilizing a completed Administration Building.

- **Education Committee**—Cynthia Christensen reported that she will be attending a meeting of state wide museum educators in hopes to reactivate the group.

- **General Meeting Committee**—Seventh Day Adventist Church has notified the board of an increase to the meeting room rental rate. After discussion it was concluded that this location would be used for three additional months after which the general meetings will be moved to the Activities Building at the Heritage Center. The heating will be completed in time for this change.

- **Lafayette Site Committee**—Marge Owens presented concerns about the Korean Collection. After discussion and review of the donation document, it was agreed that the collection is owned by YCHS. No issues for resolution and no action is required on this issue. Marge and Katie will create a cleaning contract for Lafayette. The Genealogical Society has offered to replace the floor covering in the kitchen. The offer was accepted.

- **Heritage Center Committee**—Cliff Watts reported that acquisitions are still being received on a selective basis. A new flag has been ordered to replace the existing damaged flag.

- **Hutchcroft School Committee**—Cliff Watts and John Lewis provided a summary of the status of the school relocation. The roof framing is complete and the sheathing is scheduled within the next couple of weeks. Planning for the restoration work has started.

- **Property Development Committee**—Cliff Watts reported that the committee is reviewing the use of available funds. The renaming of the Administration building is gaining favor. The proposed name would be Heritage Hall. Jo McIntyre suggested using the Native American name “Chinuk Wawa”.

- **Sawmill Committee**—Don King reported that the sawmill crew worked a total of 729 volunteer hours producing lumber for the Heritage Center and the Hutchcroft School. The board decided that there is a need to develop a dollar value for donated volunteer labor from the sawmill.

**President’s Report:**

- A review of the society’s committee structure and their leadership is needed. The bylaws require that all committee chairs are to be elected or reelected at the beginning of each year and the committees are to prepare and submit an annual budget to the board. It was discussed that all committees need to have a charter.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

- Kim presented the treasurer’s report, which is filed with the committee reports in the record book in Lafayette.

**Unfinished Business:**

- No unfinished business.

**New Business:**

- New Outreach Committee formed to develop an outreach program. Kory Knutz is the chair.

- Jo McIntyre has taken on the Freezer Committee. Jo will research the potential of renting freezer use.

- Steve announced several committee chair openings. General Meetings Program, Farm and Harvest Fest, Newsletter Editor.

- It was decided that loans of items from the collection are to be elected or reelected at the beginning of each year and the committees are to prepare and submit an annual budget to the board. It was discussed that all committees need to have a charter.

- Jo McIntyre suggested using the Native American name “Chinuk Wawa”.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
John Lewis, Secretary
Across
2. Listed on the National Historic Registry, this park features the remains of the old locks that once permitted boats to navigate up the Yamhill River to McMinnville.
7. Located on the Willamette River’s “Newberg Pool”, _____ Landing Park is especially popular with waterskiers.
10. A mature Western Red Cedar grove along Turner Creek provides a charming setting for a secluded picnic in this small out-of-the-way park. (Donated in 1978)
11. _____ Landing Park is located on the Willamette River at the confluence of the Yamhill River and Palmer Creek. (Donated in 1966)
15. _____ Falls is a minor waterfall located along a tributary of small Sourgrass Creek along the Three Rivers Highway near the small town of Dolph.
16. This undeveloped park on Baker Creek contains the relics of a dam that was part of McMinnville’s first electric generating plant. Donated in 1975, its name honors _____ Barber.
17. _____ Creek Park is a nature lover’s delight, containing the largest wet prairie ecosystem in the lower Willamette Valley. (Donated in 1957)
18. These falls sit on private land and share the name of a creek, river and town in the county.

19. Located at Whiteson Landing on River Bend Road, undeveloped _____ Landing Park is named for John _____ who held the donation land claim on this site.
20. Hurtling 112 feet, _____ Creek Falls is the superior attraction of the paired waterfalls at the end of Oregon’s Niagara Falls Trail.

Down
1. Refreshing Willamina Creek bends around a shady grove of Oregon White Oak before cascading over sculpted bedrock formations. The creek pools invitingly next to a river rock bench at this park. (Donated in 1957)
3. _____ Grenfell, a founding member of the Yamhill County Parks Board, generously donated this 5 acre parcel of land for a park on Baker Creek bearing his name. (Donated in 1962)
4. The site of the old Happy Valley School is adjacent to this park which is tucked inconspicuously along Baker Creek. (Donated in 1956)
5. This undeveloped park’s name was selected by the Cove Orchard community to honor long-time resident _____ Cruse.
6. This gated park is dedicated to youth and nature, and is deed-restricted to chaperoned, organized youth or school groups only. (Donated in 1962)
### Upcoming Events

- **March 10, 2013** — General Meeting 1:30 pm
- **March 13, 2013** — Board Meeting 5:30 pm
- **April 10, 2013** — General Meeting 1:30 pm
- **April 13, 2013** — Farm Fest
- **April 14, 2013** — General Meeting 5:30 pm
- **May 8, 2013** — Board Meeting 5:30 pm
- **May 14, 2013** — General Meeting 6:00 pm
- **June 12, 2013** — Board Meeting 5:30 pm
- **July 2013** — TBA Ice Cream Social and Summer Picnic

### Event Locations

- **February 10, 2013** — **GENERAL MEETING** — 7th Day Adventist, 1500 Old Sheridan Rd, McMinnville
- **February 13, 2013** — **Board Meeting** — Lafayette Museum

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### Crossword Continued

8. A popular Willamette River beach access and boat ramp, this 0.8 acre undeveloped park (_____ Landing Park), located next to the Wheatland Ferry, serves as a gateway to recreation opportunities along the nation's thirteenth largest river. (Donated in 1966)

9. Providing easy access to Mill Creek, Maple, Cottonwood and Ash trees greet visitors traveling to and from the coast at _____ Grenfell Park.

12. It is possible that these historic falls may have been more significant before 1900 and 1954. Unfortunately this feature can no longer be considered a waterfall.

13. Far from the grandiosity of its eastern counterpart, Oregon's _____ Falls evokes a sense of serenity as it sprays 107 feet over a dark basalt escarpment.

14. This undeveloped park contains the relics of McMinnville's first electric generating plant. A 26” wooden pipe connected the dam at the current Juliette Park site to this generating plant which produced 200 kW of power.
The Joseph Watt Saga continued

top of his head.”

Soon Joseph had all the work he could handle. A carpenter by trade, he found many construction jobs in this new country. The best was an offer of three dollars per foot to build 700 feet of cornice for the Catholic Church on French Prairie - now in the town of St. Paul. This was his “stake” and by buying and trading clocks and wheat, he had the capital to start work on his dreams.

By the spring of 1847, he had a good feel for the country and enough savings to return for his family. So back to Ohio he went with dreams for the future! Joseph would buy a band of sheep - over four hundred - and herd them to the valley. The sheep were American Merinos; the best of breed at that time, producing excellent soft wool. And he would bring a carding machine and spinning wheel to make cloth from the wool. He envisioned a profitable wool industry in the Willamette Valley.

One year later, in the spring of 1848, Joseph put together two well-equipped wagons with ten yoke of oxen. He also had purchased 435 sheep, a carding machine, equipped the family for the trip and was headed back to Oregon. Joseph, his mother, father and eight sisters herded their sheep across the western horizon. This made many old “seasoned” emigrants shake their heads. A brother, Ahio Watt, stayed in Ohio for another year to finish up some business, following the family later.

Their first Indian “encounter” was with the Sioux along the Platte River. They came - two hundred strong - to check out this strange “procession.” They were amused by the sheep and their tender herders.

The next day they were back with many presents and advice on good water and grass. It was this way all through the Indian country. Not one sheep was lost to the Indians. In fact, their help with guiding Joseph to good grass and water probably saved the whole herd. He did lose 25 sheep when crossing the Snake River but arrived in Oregon City with almost 400.

Joseph, his parents and sisters with their sheep, had made it to the end of the trail. They arrived almost two months before others by a ditch from the Santiam River. The mill was soon to process four hundred thousand pounds of wool annually and pay $100,000 per annum for the wages of the workers. But this was not automatic. The first year was discouraging. Joseph was anxious to see wool become one of these products.

Finally, the mill, under Joseph’s supervision, was built in Salem in 1856. Being the first mill on the Pacific Coast, it was called the Willamette Woolen Mill. Its machinery was run by water power brought in by a ditch from the Santiam River. The mill was soon to produce four hundred thousand pounds of wool annually and pay $100,000 per annum for the wages of the workers. But this was not automatic. The first year was discouraging. Joseph was not a miller but he was a good salesman. He offered to buy the output of the mill for the first three years and sell it himself. So up and down the trail to California he went” selling wool products. In only three months he had such orders that the mill was in the black. Joseph then sold his contract back to the mill for a “large consideration.” Robert Ormond Case, in his book, “The Empire Builders,” tells us: “The opening ceremonies (of the Mill) were culminated by a grand ball attended by the leading citizens of the valley, including the Governor and other State Officials. Joe Watt’s mother and sisters walked proudly behind the Governor and his Lady in the Grand March.”

In addition to the mill, Joseph was a farmer, stock grower and owner of 3,640 acres of land just north of Amity. In 1868, he shipped the first load of wheat around Cape Horn from Oregon to Europe. This was the beginning of world trade that ended Oregon’s industrial isolation.

In 1860, Joseph Watt married Miss L.A. Lyons, daughter of Hon. Lemuel Lyons. They had five children: John L., Maria L., Arlington B., Earl B and Mary C. By 1887 he and his family resided in Amity, Oregon. This Empire Builder and his family have gone down in history as the originators of the Oregon Wool industry.

Tales From the Past by Jim and Reita Lockett

Crossword Answers

Theme: Waterfalls, Parks and Open Spaces of Yamhill County

Across:

Down:

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Pheasant

Black Swan

Crossword Answers

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Theme: Waterfalls, Parks and Open Spaces of Yamhill County
Honors and Thanks to Board Members and Officers

Outgoing officer President Carolyn Meeker has stepped down from her position, but will serve out the remaining two years of her second term as a board member and Past President.

Secretary Theresa Berthelsdorf, and newsletter editor Tami Spears, and past-president Shirley Venhaus ended their tenures on the board as of Dec 31. All departing officers and board members received heartfelt thanks, appreciation and applause from historical society members and board members this month.

Longtime Meeting Program Chair Joanne Watts is also resigning. At the general meeting she asked for a volunteer to take over the job. She, too, was honored for a job well-done during the January board meeting and subsequent general meeting and potluck.

After welcoming newly-elected board members Katie Baker and John Lewis, the board then elected new officers: President Steve Leonard, Vice President Cliff Watts, Secretary John Lewis, and Katie Baker as Treasurer.

Additional thanks have been extended to Matt Dunckel, who has undertaken responsibility for mailing the newsletter.

Most chairmanships have now been filled, but still needed are a new newsletter editor, volunteer coordinator and a general meeting program chair. Theresa Berthelsdorf will help John Lewis with paperwork, and she has agreed to help Carolyn Meeker with the Treasures in the Attic event in September.

Jo McIntyre

Hutchcroft School Project

We continue to need your help in the form of donations. All funds received as a result of this request will be used for the Hutchcroft School. The Society needs your support and involvement for this project to succeed. Email HutchcroftSchool@gmail.com to receive more information.

Alternatively you may call one of the listed Committee members: Shirley Venhaus 503-434-0567, Cynthia Christensen 503-421-5303, Steve Leonard 503-560-2676

Should you wish to help, please fill out the donation form and mail it to the Yamhill County Historical Society.

Hutchcroft School Project Donation Form

I want to help the Yamhill County Historical Society advance their mission of historical preservation and education by restoring the Hutchcroft School. I understand that my gift will be used exclusively for this project.

Please find enclosed my gift of $__________________ to support the Hutchcroft School Project.

Name _____________________________
Address ___________________________
City ____________________________ State ________ Zip _______________
Phone __________________________ Email _________________________

Please make checks payable to YCHS and mail donations along with this form to: Yamhill County Historical Society, 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: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________ State: _______ Zip Code: _______
Phone: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________

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

□ Please check 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