

The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

January 2005

Farewell 2004

Our last meeting of the year was held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in McMinnville. Elections were held for a Board Member to replace Frank Dummer, who is retiring from that position, as well as for the positions of Treasurer and Secretary. Nancy Mahi was nominated for the Board position, Annita and Carol agreed to continue as Secretary & Treasurer, respectively. Lois Brooks nominated Dan Linscheid for President, Shirley Venhaus having been nominated last month. In this tight race, Shirley was elected for another two year term, and there being no other nominations for the other positions, Nancy, Annita & Carol were also given the nod.

Our program was presented by Shirley Venhaus, accompanied by Frank Dummer and Dan Linscheid. Shirley offered thanks to the many volunteers who help make our organization a success. Many improvements have been made at our existing facilities, and Shirley touched on most, if not all of them.

Also discussed was the proposed new Museum at Durham Lane and Highway 18. There is a 60' x 60' storage building going up at this time, which also includes a 20' lean-to on the highway side. This will be used to store the old lumber which was donated to us, and currently lies wrapped in tarp on the property. No decision has been reached yet regarding the use of this old lumber.

A steering committee was formed last February to assist in the planning and design of the new Museum. Shirley anticipates we will be submitting grant applications to help fund the structure, with additional funds coming from caring people and firms around the county.



To top the evening off, a select group of highly talented vocalists gathered to sing Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. These were members of our organization, and the attendees received a real treat from this group. The grand finale was Crystal Rilee entertaining us with a couple more of her jokes.

From our President

Dear Friends,

Looking back at 2004: Where did the time go?? Can it almost be 2005? Did we accomplish anything? Answers: 365 days, Yes & Yes. This has been one of the busiest years at the museum and Historical Society. I'm not going into details: if you keep your Newsletter you can just read the minutes to see what the Board has been up to. As President I'm so proud of all the Volunteers and their efforts to make things better and easier. To see the condition of our buildings is encouraging even though there never seems to be an end to the needs.

I want to thank Frank Dummer for his years as a Director on the board. His input and suggestions were always based on what was best for the Society. We will miss you, Frank.

I want to welcome back those who chose to spend another term on the board: Annita Linscheid & Carol Reid. Also, Welcome to Nancy Mahi who is on the Board of Directors. We look forward to working with Nancy.

At this time of the year everything seems to be rush, rush, rush!! You rush to work, appointments, visits, shopping, lunch, projects, family, home, the museum, meetings, Christmas shopping, Christmas cards, visits with friends, lunch, and rushing to finish this letter.

When everything is finished I hope you have time to kick back, relax and enjoy the results of all your rushing. May your Blessings be many. I look forward to a busy and productive 2005. Shirley

You Never Know Till You Ask

I'm always looking for answers in our Reference Library, but now I need help—do you have any of the following items that we can have for our Library?

1. Old phone books or directories for our county (older than the 1950's and '60's).
2. Newspaper obits or funeral programs that we can keep or copy.
3. Information about the Roosevelt 1930s projects like WPA, CCC, PWA, Government Housing, etc.
4. Information about the county project at the old armory, where families made their own mattresses and quilts during the 1940's.

Thanks for your help on this. Marjorie Owens

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 - 2004

President
Shirley Venhaus
472-7328

VP/Program
Barbara Knutson
843-2069

Secretary
Annita Linscheid
843-2625

Treasurer
Carol Reid
472-9631

Membership Secretary
Kathy Peck
472-6562

Corresponding
Secretary
Marjorie Owens
843-3081

Board of Directors
Eileen Lewis
835-7531
Nancy Mahi
(newest Board member!)
Dan Linscheid
843-2625
Shirley McDaniel
662-3528

Volunteer Coordinators
Carol Reid &
Annita Linscheid
472-9631

Newsletter
Dan Linscheid
843-2625

Car Pool Coordinator
Joanne Watts
835-5893

Librarian
Jean Sartor

MUSEUM HOURS

November 13 - May 31:
Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

or

By Appointment
(Friday openings after
May 31st depend on
finding volunteers)
605 Market Street
Lafayette Oregon
Phone: 864-2308
Email: yamhillhistory@
onlinemac.com

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YCHS

A Different Kind of Visitation

Recently, Millie Armstrong donated a lovely china cabinet to the museum. It was missing the glass shelving, so I made up a template and placed the order at a local glass company for four shelves.

When I picked up the shelves, I was writing out a check for payment when the guy I discussed the order with stepped into the office. He said, "There's something I've been meaning to ask someone connected with the Museum about". I thought, oh oh, what's this about? But he went on to explain that a year ago when he and one of his co-workers were working on the windows at the Church building, something strange happened, and he wanted to ask me about it. Shirley Venhaus and another lady were in the building as the workers began replacing broken panes.

His co-worker (I'll call him Tim) was up on a ladder, working away when he noticed a lady smiling at him from inside the building. He smiled back, and went about his business. A minute or two later, he saw her again, still smiling at him, from a different position. He glanced away for a second to pick up his hammer and in that brief time he was surprised to see she had completely disappeared.

At that moment his co-worker came around the corner, and noticing the perplexed look on Tim's face, asked what had happened. Tim explained what he'd seen and related how quickly the lady had disappeared, and his partner said that was sure strange, since Shirley and the other lady had left over half an hour ago!

I asked where Tim had been working at the time, and was told that he was near the S.W. corner of the church. I asked if Tim noticed her approximate age. To my amazement, I was told that she was young, and she was dressed in 1880 era clothing. Wow, I thought, this is sure strange.

This visitation took place near the grand piano, donated by the heirs of A.R. Burbank. A.R. and his wife, prominent citizens in Lafayette in the late 1800's, tragically lost their daughter Eva to the sea in August of 1880, when she was only 18½ years old, at Ilwaco, a bathing resort near the mouth of the Columbia. She was an accomplished and talented pianist, and her father had the piano brought around the horn for his daughter. Her body was never recovered. The piano was donated to us on the condition that it never be played. The workers at the glass shop were amazed as I related Eva's story, and they told me that to this day, "Tim" will not discuss this matter. Ghosts in our Church? Hm.... ed

Board Meeting Highlights

Note: below is a summary of the December 2004 Board Meeting; see the full minutes at the Museum. The Treasurers' report was given by Carol Reid with a starting balance of \$ 14080, deposits of \$ 1,715, expenses of \$10957, resulting in a balance of \$ 4,838. Correspondence Secretary: Marjorie Owens reported that she has dealt with a total of 17 pieces of correspondence. Membership Secretary: Kathy will give a report at the general meeting tonight on the Victorian Tea. Volunteer Chairperson: Carol Reid had no report.

Old Business: Cultural Trust, MACA: Marlena Bertram explained what MACA is, how it works and how it can benefit YCHS. This year YCHS is participating in that program. Budget: Ken Williams spent some time going over the 2005 budget with the board. Time did not allow him to complete this, so another meeting was scheduled for 12/28. Cemetery: Debbie Clark presented the deed to the Lafayette Cemetery to YCHS and a proposed contract for its maintenance. Four items need minor changes, and Dan will file the Deed and propose changes in the contract. City of Lafayette water hookup: Shirley contacted the City again about having the water for the two buildings put on one meter. Johns Waterproofing has submitted a bid for \$2,500.00 to install a curtain drain next to the church to carry the water out to the street drains. After many phone calls and letters to Morgan Magee in the past year with no response it was decided to take legal action in small claims court on the matter of the work agreed and not being completed. We will also contact the Builders Board. N o m a d i c Teacher Letter: A letter from the Nomadic Teacher confirms she will no longer be involved in Oral Histories for YCHS as of the end of 2004. Boring Beetles: We have received one bid and expecting a second at any time for the bug problem in the barn. New Business: Linda Countryman CPA: Shirley and Carol met with Linda and it was decided to have her do our books. Copier: Due to a problem with the copier when Dan was doing the newsletters last month he would like the board to consider a maintenance contract. The board will meet again on the 28th to complete the agenda and have time to go over the budget with Ken Williams. Newsletter deadline is December 23rd.

Another Mountain Man—William Doughty

William Doughty was one of several mountain men who settled in our county before settlers began arriving. Little is known of his background, with some sources reporting his birth in North Carolina and some in Tennessee. He most likely came from a frontier family, one of those who could not resist the call of "new country".

In his will, he appointed his nephew, Lee Laughlin as one of his administrators. Lees father Samuel had married Nancy Doughty in Missouri in around 1830. The Doughty and Laughlin claims were just two miles apart The family must have moved from North Carolina to Tennessee, where William was born, and then moved on to Missouri, following the frontier.

About the time Nancy was married to Samuel, William joined one of the Fur Companies as a trapper. He trapped with Joe Meek, Doc Newell, George Eberts, Calem Wilkeins, William Craig, Jack Larrison, Phillip Thompson and Joseph Gale. He also knew Courtney M. Walker when he was the clerk at Fort Hall. Several of these men seem to have stayed together a good deal of time in the Mountains. Mountain men was an uncomplimentary term given the men who came out of the mountains and whose values and conduct were not believed to be the same as those of settlers who had come from the "States".

It is from Joe Meeks stories that we know more about William Doughty during his trapping years in the mountains. He was with Meek during the severe winter of 1832-33. Sometime in the next year or so found his Indian wife in the Green River Valley. Their first child, Lucy, was born in 1836. In 1835 Meek, Kit Carson, Joe Hawlins and doughty were trapping together on the Yellowstone River. They were making their temporary camp in the ruins of an old fort whose walls were about 6 foot high. One evening (according to the Meek story) after coming in from setting their traps, they saw three large grizzly bears in the river bottom, and Hawkins went out to shoot one. He killed one with the first shot, but the other two, taking fright, ran towards the fort. As they came near enough to show that they were likely to invade the trapper's camp, Meek and Carson climbed up the nearest tree, but Doughty was tired and decided to take his chances where he was, so he rolled himself up in his blanket and lay still. The bears, on getting to the fort reared up on their hind legs and looked as if they might like to take over the place.

The sight of Doughty lying rolled in his blanket, and the monster grizzlies inspecting the fort, caused the two cottonwood tree bound trappers to make merry, at Doughtys expense. Poor Doughty, agonizing between suppressed laughter and growing fear, contrived to lie still, however, while the bears gazed upwards at the trappers in wonder, and alternatively at the suspicious looking bundle

inside the fort. Not being able to make out the meaning of either, they gave up at last and with a grunt of dissatisfaction, ran off into a thicket to consult over these strange appearances, leaving the trappers to enjoy the incident as a very good joke. For a long time after, Doughty was reminded how close to the ground he lay when the grizzlies paid their compliments.

Within a few years the trappers would find little to laugh about. Game was getting scarce and the price of furs dropped lower and lower. The rendezvous' of 1839 was a sad affair, with the trappers in poverty and looking to a bleak future. Two of the men in the group, William Craig and Phillip Thompson (later to become one of Doughtys neighbors on Wapato Lake), had established a fort in Brown's Hole, called Fort Davy Crockett. Here they traded with Indians and welcomed their trapping friends. Trading goods were scarce because furs were scarce, and their new Fort was a miserable place. Late in the summer of 1839 the men were subsisting principally on dog meat—no wonder the place had been nicknamed Fort Misery. This was the fall that Amos Cook, Francis Fletcher and their two friends arrived at Brown's Hole and decided to spend the winter. Shortly afterward an incident occurred that probably led as much as anything to the breakup of the mountain men. Some of the trappers led by Phillip Thompson started horse stealing. The rest of the group was aghast and led by Newell, Meek, Craig and others returned the horses.

Thompson and his group left for California to more horse thievery (a man had to make a living some way!). Doughty, Jack Larison, Doc Newell and Joe Meek kept trapping during the winter. Their Indian wives prepared some 300 pelts but game was scarce and they were short of supplies. In Francis Fletchers remembrances he mentions meeting the four at Brown's hole, and that the entire group left for Fort Hall in February of 1840. Doughty never returned to Fort Davy Crockett and by the first of September he arrived in the Willamette Valley. We are not certain whether he built his first cabin on the Tualatin plains or at the western foot of the Chehalem mountains. Later that year his mountain friends, Meek, Newell, Wilkins and their families arrived at the falls, and Doughty was there to welcome them. He invited them all to winter in his cabin, which invitation they accepted.

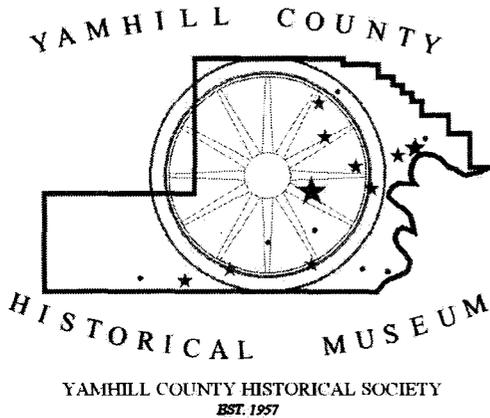
Doughty was no doubt present at Ewing Youngs funeral, and became an active participant in the Wolf meetings. He was appointed to several early legislative committees, but after this initial service, did not pursue his political career. His house was the center of church and community activities. Between 1850 and 1870 Doughty and his wife welcomed seven more children into their family.

William Doughty passed away on May 30th, 1872. None of his sons ever married, partially due to the fact that prejudice against half-breed sons of early mountain men ran very strong. They could not vote or take up land claims, and it took a long time for them to be accepted fully by Oregon pioneers. This article was written based on an earlier one prepared years ago by Ruth Stoller. DL

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Please make checks payable to the Yamhill County Historical Society. Annual membership gifts are tax deductible.

Members receive the Westside newsletter and access to our research library free of charge. We are an all volunteer organization, and are constantly on the lookout for new helpers. If you can assist us in any way, financially or with your time or talents, it will be greatly appreciated. If you are not sure if you have paid your membership dues, please contact Carol Reid at 472-9631, or check your mailing label, which should show this information also. (The month and year indicate your "paid through" period according to our records.) If you see a colored notice inside your newsletter, you're at the end of your membership term!

YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Calendar of Events

Board of Directors: 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 11th. Our next regular monthly meeting will be held Tuesday, January 11th at 6:30 p.m. Both meetings will be held at the McMinnville Seventh Day Adventist Church. Elaine Rohse will present "Secrets of Yamhill County".

New Members/Renewals: We welcome new members Christine Skelly, Marcia Mikesch & family, Katie Hill & family and Richard & Dorothy Ulrich and renewing members Opal Lahley, Marian Gray, Charlene Brown, Ed & Peggy Roghair, Farrel Fuerst, Frank & Lila Myers, Marie Schwab, Neva French, Lorna Grauer, Joanne Watts, Kathy Peck, Margaret Brixey, Margaret Evans, and Ann Helm. Thanks for supporting our organization.



Victorian Christmas Tea
Carol Reid & Kathy Peck

On December 11, 2004 the Yamhill County Historical Society hosted a Victorian Christmas Tea. Our goals were to show case the museum and log cabin, market the society to potential members and raise funds for on-going preservation projects. We were successful by all accounts, as 78 people arrived to enjoy a fine menu of finger sandwiches, savory madelines, scones and deserts carefully prepared by volunteers. We received many compliments on the decorations that truly transformed the log cabin into a tea parlor, and the museum into a Christmas wonderland.

Guests were surprised with Victorian themed door prizes and Zella Hisaw, Joanne Watts and Alene Moulton from Corvallis, Oregon were awarded prizes in the Best Desert Place Setting contest.

The volunteer efforts to put on this event were amazing. It would have been impossible without the Wednesday Work Group who made tree decorations, table favors and set tables for our guests. Marjorie Owens set up a display of her private collection of tea setting miniatures for the enjoyment of all. Amassing table settings for 80 people was no small feat and many members of the society helped by loaning table clothes, silverware, teapots, cups, saucers and serving plates. Many members took on the task of baking in their homes. This effort allowed us to serve an almost ending array of deserts to the amazement of our guests. In accordance with our food service permit the finger sandwiches had to be made on site in our small kitchen at the log cabin. Volunteers made over 300 sandwiches the night before the tea. We are grateful to all of you for your help and enthusiasm. You made this event happen.

We are grateful to our serving staff, headed up by Colleen Roth of the Yamhill County Youth Transition Program. She, along with three young people, kept the tea pots full and served guests their entrees and deserts.

Our Preservation Fund was increased by \$401.00, we shared the society's historical treasures with folks who had never visited the museum before and provided a delightful respite for our guests. If you missed it, make plans for our Mother's Day Tea to be held in early May 2005.





Apologies to those not pictured, and thanks to all of you!