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Murder Quilt Project

Have you heard about the Murder Quilt of Willamina? Perhaps you have read Charlene Brown's book, Fancy Work. She shares the true story of a rather sensational murder that took place in Willamina in the early 1900’s. During the murder trial, several of the local ladies decided to make a quilt to be raffled off as a money raising project to help with expenses. They each made a block which made up the bed-sized quilt. It was used for many years by the winner and then donated to the Oregon Historical Society. Due to its fragile condition, it is rarely loaned to other museums.

Several of us have wished that the quilt had a home right here in Yamhill County. It is part of our history. Shirley Venhaus had the idea and we rounded up some local quilt experts willing to take on the job of reproducing the quilt. Professional quilt instructor, Peggy Gelbracht joined the group. With tubs of donated fabric, the gals were on their way. We meet once a month to share our progress and lend support. Charlene Brown, our historian, always brings several stories and interesting facts about the trial from her research. The group recently visited OHS and had an opportunity to view the quilt up close and personal. Very different from the photos we were using.

It has proven to be an interesting journey through local history as we work to reproduce this antique quilt.

Wish us luck!
Jean Sartor

Madame Marie Dorion

A Western Woman for all Seasons

Madame Marie Dorion, Indian bride of two successive French Canadian fur traders, faced the tragic slaying of both husbands by hostile tribes with courage and determination. She eventually settled into a peaceful life in Oregon’s Willamette Valley with her third husband, another French Canadian.

A remarkable woman, she has been honored from St. Louis, Oregon, to St. Louis, Missouri. Buildings, dams and even a college dormitory have been named after her. Several plaques along the way have been put up to recognize her exploits. A member of the Iowa Nation, she has become one of the best-known and most respected Indian women in history; probably second only to the famous Sacajawea, who accompanied Lewis and Clark.

The Iowas were an unusual tribe among the Plains Indians. Not only were they noted for their physical strength but also for their positive relationships with French trappers, Jesuit missionaries and other new arrivals from Europe. Out of this atmosphere came Marie Dorion. Her history is especially important to the Northwest because she lived out her life here in the Willamette Valley.

She was born around 1790. Her known story begins with her marriage (less than 15 years later) to Pierre Dorion, a rough French Canadian guide and trapper. They had their first child, Jean-Baptiste, in 1805. A second, Paul, arrived in 1809. She loved her husband and sons, and was determined to stay by their side. The first big test came in 1810.

Wilson Price Hunt was planning to lead an overland trip for John

Continued on Page 4
President’s Letter

YCHS Members,

Our Handmade Holidays event was quite a success with a large number of vendors and a steady flow of visitors. The cold weather was a challenge but didn’t impede the Christmas spirit. Thanks to all of our volunteers who made this happen and particularly Karen Sitton-Saxberg and Kathy Burden who led the effort. I hope you were able to stop by and have had a wonderful holiday season and a Merry Christmas.

The ballots for our annual election of Board members have been counted and the results announced at the Annual Meeting on December 15th. All the candidates were elected to the Board for 2014. Please welcome new board members Jo McIntyre and Sarah Miller, and returning Board Members Cynthia Christensen and Rick Fieldhouse. They will be sworn in during the January board meeting and all of the board members that can attend will be at the January general meeting where you can meet them.

A few months ago the Hutchcroft School Committee applied for a grant from the Yamhill County Cultural Coalition for funding to assist in building the cupola / bell tower and chimney that will substantially complete the restoration of the schoolhouse. We are pleased to report that the YCCC granted our request. They will be funding approximately one half of the cash costs of that project. The balance of funding will come from the YCHS Hutchcroft School fund. We already have a school bell, and some volunteer labor will round out the effort. Thanks to Ursula Doud for organizing this grant application and the follow-through required.

We have met with a Ford Family Foundation representative and provided additional information on the Heritage Hall project. We will not know the results of our application for some time but are encouraged by our continuing communication with them.

In January Carolyn Meeker will be handing the leadership of the Activities and Events Committee to Pam Watts. Thank you Carolyn for the leadership that you have provided to the A&E committee. Pam will be an excellent person to continue with those efforts. Thank you Pam for taking this on.

I should also note that Todd Holt has taken on the management of the Lafayette Pioneer Cemetery. He has already made progress in organizing the care of the cemetery. If you can assist, I’m sure Todd would be happy to hear from you.

Thank you all for your support of the YCHS.

Steve Leonard
YCHS President
Phone: (503) 472-6908
Email: sleonard15@frontier.com
Submitted: December 15, 2013

COORDINATORS

Computer Coordinator:
Tom Cattrall
Corresponding Secretary:
Nancy Thornton
Freezer Coordinator:
VACANT
Funding Coordinator:
VACANT
General Meetings Program Coordinator:
Sarah Miller
Heritage Brick & Flagpole Coordinator:
Carolyn Meeker
Heritage Center Facilities Operations Manager:
Cliff Watts
Lafayette Activities Coordinator:
VACANT
Lafayette Operations:
Marjorie Owens
Membership Coordinator:
Carlene Kadell
Newsletter Editor:
Tami Compton-Spears
Outreach Coordinator:
Cynthia Christensen
Pioneer Days Coordinator:
Terry Nelson
Research Librarian:
Marjorie Owens
Visitor Service Coordinator:
Heritage Center—VACANT
Lafayette—VACANT
Volunteer Coordinator:
VACANT
Board Meeting Recap ~ December 11, 2013

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**—Pam Watts will become the new chair after the first of the year. It is requested that Pam attend the next board meeting.
- **Business Plan & Review Committee**—Annual Membership Drive is needed. More defined procedures are needed for rental space.
- **Education Committee**—Cynthia Christensen stated that they are preparing for the Portland Ag Show with a focus on the dairy industry. The event will be January 28-30. There will be a full size cow statue, dairy equipment, and portable walls with pictures.
- **Handmade Holiday Committee**—Karen Sitton-Saxberg reported that the event was very good and had a steady stream of visitors over the two-day period. Evaluations are being reviewed. Several vendors have already signed up for next year. Many volunteers helped make the event a success and many of the volunteers were not members.
- **Heritage Center and Property Development**—Cliff Watts reported that the committees are working on their annual budgets. A list of priorities are being worked on and will be ready after the first of the new year.
- **Lafayette Site Committee**—The museum will be closed during the month of January. The furnace will be serviced soon.
- **Nominating Committee**—The ballots have been counted and the records will be kept with the minutes. The original ballots will be kept for three months and will then be destroyed according to policy. The board members will be sworn in at the January meeting. Kim will prepare board books for the newly-elected members. The full board will be recognized at the January General Meeting, so all board members are requested to attend.

President’s Report:

- YCHS will be displaying historical equipment at the Dayton/Amity joint venture being held in February at the Stoller Vineyards as part of a fundraising event in conjunction with the Ford Family Foundation.
- The Ford Foundation grant is progressing with a possible presentation date in February.
- Committee charters must be submitted to Steve Leonard.
- E-Commerce capabilities will be researched by Tom Cattrall and Rick Fieldhouse.

Secretary’s Report:

- Kim will ensure that all records are transferred to electronic format and the reports will be completely indexed through the end of the year. She will also make sure that the incoming secretary has all information necessary to carry on the duties of the office. The electronic information will be saved on disk and given to the registered agent as well as being placed on the downstairs computer at the Lafayette site.

Treasurer’s Report:

- John Lewis presented the treasurer’s report, which is filed with the committee reports in the record book in Lafayette. The proposed budget draft will be presented at the January board meeting. Expected cash flow next year covers operating costs if the expected revenue projection comes true. This is a sustainable position but doesn’t allow a build-up of reserves. A discussion is needed about future funding sources for additional expenditures.

Unfinished Business:

- Voicemail and conference calling—We currently have voicemail and three-way conference calling. Rick will research options and pricing of our current phone/internet/conference calling options.

New Business:

- Yamhill County Cultural Coalition has approved our grant proposal.
- 2013 Audit Review—Steve has received quotes for an audit review. Kellie Mencke will be retiring.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Courtin, Secretary
Submitted December 15, 2013

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Madame Marie Dorion Continued...

As a volunteer organization, we depend on the kindness of our community to help us carry out our mission to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County.

Here is our current wish list. Your donation of new or gently-used items will be greatly appreciated.

**Membership**
- New members are always welcome!
- Volunteers with computer skills

**Lafayette Landscaping**
- Rakes
- Shovels
- Garden hose
- Hand tools

**Lafayette Accessions/Office**
- Fireproof filing cabinets (2-4 cabinets are needed)

**Heritage Center Landscaping**
- Bark chips and/or compost (please contact Gloria Lutz glutz@onlinemac.com or (503) 472-7563

Cash donations are always welcome!

If you can donate these items, please contact Marjory Owens at the Lafayette Museum (503) 864-2308, Wednesday, Friday or Saturday to arrange a time for delivery.
### Lafayette Buzz.....

Happy New Year from your friends at the Lafayette Museum and Research Center. Again, this January we will be closed to the public for the entire month. We will be busy cleaning shelves, display cabinets, etc. We will be organizing and updating valuable research files along with our extensive photo collection. Moving furniture and displays as well. Planning goals and ideas for the coming year. We welcome all ideas and suggestions to make our research center and museum more user friendly.

Please call and make an appointment if you need to visit the museum during January.

I work with the best volunteers, always ready to stop and help our visitors whether it is a request for research information or a tour of our museum.

With Marge’s guidance and these great volunteers, we provide a worthwhile community service. Thank you to all those friends!

We will see you in February.

Jean Sartor, Publications and the Lafayette Ladies
Fourth Annual
Handmade Holiday Bazaar
HUGE SUCCESS!

Handmade Holiday Bazaar for 2013 was very successful. Our success was due to many people. Starting with more great vendors, to access to the buildings and set-up earlier. We had many new volunteers, that helped with set-up and working at the event. Thank you to the cookie and bread bakers, money takers, food makers and server. We had a great group of 4-H kids who worked at the event. Also everyone in between. But a special thanks goes to the guys at the museum that are always there to help me.

Thank you, thank you!  
Karen Sitton-Saxberg  
Kathy Burden
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.

Name _______________________________________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________________________________
City _________________________________________ State ________ Zip _______________
Phone ___________________________ Email ______________________________________

$100 per Brick

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

BRICK #1

BRICK #2

Brick Inscriptions

Each brick may be inscribed with up to three lines, and up to 17 spaces on each line.

Typical inscriptions have included…

♦ In Memory of (or In Honor of)
♦ Family names
♦ Past or current business names
♦ Historic event
♦ Living or past family members

Inscriptions that are deemed inappropriate by the YCHS Property Development Committee will not be allowed.

Amount for Bricks $                          
Additional Donation $                      
Total Enclosed $                           

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

**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+

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Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: ____________________________  State:  ______  Zip Code:  ______
Phone: ____________________________  Email: ____________________________

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