Henry Hewitt, a rugged Oregon Pioneer, was born in Pennsylvania on November 19, 1822. At the age of 16, he accompanied his family to Missouri and settled next to the family of Daniel Matheny (pronounced Ma-thee'-ny.) He became acquainted with and married Matheny’s daughter, Elizabeth, in 1841.

Henry and Elizabeth were an enthusiastic couple. Listening to stories of the wonders of the West from an old mountaineer they had met set their imaginations on fire. At a large public meeting, Henry persuaded 36 men to make the journey. They formed the “Oregon Company,” with all participants signing a contract. They were to leave in the spring of 1842—a year before what’s come to be called the “Great Migration.”

Despite the Hewitts’ enthusiasm, 30 of the signers eventually reconsidered and reneged on their contracts. At best, the trip would be hazardous, for no wagon train had yet crossed the plains to Oregon.

The Whitmans and Spauldings had taken wagons as far as Fort Hall, but that was barely half way. The Meek trappers took
Letter from the President

D

ecember is proving to be an excellent month for donations. We were trying to assemble about $15,000 to complete the kitchen at the Heritage Center and, lo and behold, more than enough suddenly appeared given by two very generous donors allowing us to accomplish that task. Anonymity has been requested. So, we cannot reveal their names right now, but it was very much appreciated. The upgraded kitchen, which should have all construction finished by February, will allow a more diverse set of activities when renting the space. It will likely make a significant difference in revenue for the Society.

If you, your family or your company or organization need space for a meeting, a luncheon, a dinner, or any other activity, consider contacting the Society to see what is available and what it might cost. By the time you read this newsletter, we hope to have an Events and Rentals Coordinator hired to manage those activities. Every dollar we raise is put to good use preserving the past, educating for the present and planning for the future. And, we do have big plans.

The next project immediately needing a substantial amount of funds is for the planned Highway 18 signboard. The sooner, the better. Once in place, it will have an even larger impact on the number of visitors and therefore revenue. It will be partially historic looking (a giant metal operating farm windmill) and partially futuristic (programmable electronic signboards mounted on the tower so vehicle passengers going in either direction can see them and learn what is going on at the museum). Unfortunately, the money still needed for the two signboards alone will be around $35,000. Generous donors are sought. Can you be one? Small donations are welcome too. And, in any event, your renewed membership in the Society and your volunteerism at our many events are always vital. Give if you can. And, definitely participate.

There are other things you can be doing as well to further the cause of historic preservation. You are doing it right now with all the photographs you take and pass down to your family members. The Society has a large collection of photos displaying life in Yamhill County in the 1800s and early 1900s. You no doubt have enjoyed those images yourself. They are hung in various places and appear in this newsletter. It is as fun as well as important for research to look at those old pictures. What is needed to remember is that your descendants will feel the same way about the photos you yourself are taking today. You already know that just from looking back to the photos taken of you in your youth. They tell all kinds of things about life and people in more recent times.

Unfortunately, most of us are not very good at marking who, what, when, where and why as to the photos. While those family photos are useful all by themselves to future scholars and the curious, they would be infinitely more useful with notes explaining the photos. Someday, the Society hopes to have the facilities that would allow us to store and preserve modern day photos. When we do we will encourage you to donate the photos you are taking and make them available to all. Right now, we don’t. But in the meantime it is important for you and your family to preserve them anyway. Take the time this winter to go through your old photos and mark them as to what they are all about. Better yet, preserve copies electronically and load them somewhere they will be saved. Facebook and Shutterfly and Viewbug for instance are likely to be around for a while. Wherever you store them, be sure to alert whoever you plan to be trustee or executor for you as to where they are and how to access them. That includes whatever passwords you are using for those sites. Otherwise, they might be lost if stored electronically.
**The December 14 Board Meeting was postponed until after the publication of this newsletter. The President’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, Unfinished, New and Other Business reports will be publicized in the February issue of The West Side and will be on file in the record book with the minutes at the Lafayette Site.**

The following are reports submitted prior to December 14, 2016 for consideration at the board meeting:

Committee Reports:

- **Activities and Events Committee**—Pam Watts submitted the following report: Fall Pioneer Days had approximately 300 children attend. A big thanks to the Education Committee for coordinating Pioneer Days in the spring and fall! Halloween Event had over 400 people attend. Donations exceeded last year’s event. Discussion was had regarding the need for revenue from all activities. Veterans’ Day at the Heritage Center had over 120 visitors over the two days to view the special displays. Facility usage included Quilt ladies renting meeting rooms, Square dance lessons, 4-H Wagon Train meeting, ODHBA meeting, Society of Creative Anachronism building rental and Yamhill Farm Bureau annual dinner and meeting rental of Heritage Hall. Upcoming rentals by Yamhill County Master Gardeners for their awards dinner, the Chamber’s monthly Women in Business. Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation annual native plant sale, and the SCA. The committee is planning an Oregon’s Birthday Celebration at Lafayette in February. Sarah Miller graciously volunteer to become Chairwomen of the Activities and Events Committee!

- **Heritage Center Operations and Development Committee**—The committee submitted their proposed 2017 budget. Tony Meeker reported that money has been donated to aid in the processing and documenting of artifact inventory. The Accessions and Restoration Committee has requested an addition to the budget for restoration projects. The money for this additional increase has been donated. The committee is requesting that the board approve the expenditure for the construction of a second storage building. It will run north and south adjacent to the existing Steam Storage building. There is money in the account for a portion of this expenditure and the committee has received a commitment of the additional funds for the building. All funds were specifically dedicated to the building by the donor. Additional funds have been donated to complete the Heritage Center kitchen.

Presidents Letter Concluded

Someday, the Society hopes to be able to accumulate such photos as a continuing chronology of life in the Valley with a searchable database. Be ready for that day. Let one of your New Year’s resolutions be to start the task of identifying what you have captured by camera and preserving it somewhere safe and accessible.

Speaking of photos, the one attached to this letter is yours truly in costume with two other members of the Board of Directors just before an appearance on the “Local Matters” tv show hosted by Ken Moore on local access channel 11. He wanted to hear about the Society and the many great things it does. You can see a free podcast of the show at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qz6HNoSDrTs

Charles Hillestad
YCHS Interim President
Phone: (503) 687-1730
Email: charleshillestad@cs.com
Submitted: December 15, 2016
ever since recorded time, secret societies have fascinated and frightened us. Since mystery is encoded into their DNA, secret societies are easy fodder for conspiracy theorists or lazy students who seek simple explanations for history’s many catastrophes. These secret societies, however, did indeed influence the world around them, and the reverberations of their teachings and actions are with us to this very day.

Secret Six

Because it was one of the most glamorous moments in the history of American law enforcement, a lot of people wanted to take credit for bringing down Al Capone. From the Iowan attorney George E.Q. Johnson to the dashing G-man Eliot Ness, everyone involved in the case tried to make the argument that they were the real force behind the Chicago mob’s downfall. One group, however, kept their war against Capone quiet. Dubbed the Secret Six, they were a collection of Chicago businessmen who wanted to clean up the city for purely economic reasons. After all, the more Americans felt like Chicago belonged to the gangsters, the less likely they were to vacation in the Windy City.

Founded in October 1930 as the Citizens’ Committee for the Prevention and Punishment of Crime, the Secret Six included a federal agent named Alexander Jamie, the brother-in-law of Ness and one of Ness’s biggest supporters throughout his law enforcement career. With Jamie’s blessing, the relatively unproven Ness took charge of the case that was trying to nab Capone on various charges related to the Volstead Act, the primary law enforcement tool used to enforce Prohibition. After his success in Chicago in the 1930s, Ness brought the Secret Six to Cleveland in order to combat that city’s organized crime.

Secret Germany

Interwar Germany was an unstable place. Tied down by a sluggish economy and shackled to a punitive Versailles Treaty which blamed Germany for starting World War I, Weimar-era Germans were furious and took to politics in order to vent their anger. While communist, nationalist, and even centrist militias fought each other on the streets, other political groups met in pubs and saloons to discuss their philosophies. One such group was known loosely as Secret Germany, and their poet-messiah was Stefan George. Known simply as “The Master” by his circle of followers, George wrote some of the finest poetry in the German language during his lifetime (1868-1933). He also was a sort of political guru, and in his book The New Empire, George outlined the ideal of a “spiritual aristocracy,” which was an anti-political update on the enlightened despot figure of Germany’s past. George’s ideal dictators were both war-hungry and transcendental. Although much of George’s work was co-opted by the Nazis, many members of George’s Secret Germany would later become the leaders of the German Resistance movement during World War II, including Claus von Stauffenberg, the army officer who tried to assassinate Hitler on July 20, 1944.

The UR Group

Although the term “fascism” usually conjures up images of brown-shirted Nazis parading down the streets of Berlin, the political philosophy known as fascism actually started in Italy in the early 1920s. Before it became the political movement, fascism was a fragmented idea argued over by various right-wing intellectuals. One such man was Julius Evola, a Sicilian nobleman, occultist, and student of esotericism. To Evola, fascism had the potential to be a reactionary movement against the modern, which he considered to be a part of the Kali Yuga, or the Hindu Dark Age. As an expression of Evola’s brand of mystical fascism, he founded the UR Group in 1927. The society consisted of Italian intellectuals dedicated to magic, the Nietzschean “will to power” model, and Hermeticism. Because Evola’s thought was elitist and anti-modern, the UR Group found few adherents, even among members of Benito Mussolini’s National Fascist Party. Despite Evola’s critiques of Mussolini’s leadership, his UR Group remained an intellectual pillar of right-wing radicalism throughout World War II, and today they continue to influence certain segments of far-right thought.

Galleanists

Terrorism is nothing new, and the United States was an experienced hand when it came to battling terrorists even before September 11. During the early 20th century, the US and Europe fought what came to be known as the First War on Terror—an effort to quell the communists, socialists, and anarchists who had begun to take on the forces of capitalism in the late 19th century. While most were content with strikes, some radicals believed in something called “propaganda of the deed.” Most commonly held by the followers of Illegalism, a strain of anarchism that encourages criminality, “propaganda of the deed” became a way of life for the followers of Italian anarchist Luigi Galleani. Headquartered in Boston, the Galleanists were responsible for a string of bombings throughout the US during the “Red Summer” of 1919. One of their members is also suspected of perpetrating the still-unsolved Wall Street bombing of 1920.
## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### JANUARY 2017

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<td>8</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>General Meeting - Heritage Center - 1:30pm Potluck, 2:00pm Program</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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### FUTURE DATES to REMEMBER

- January 8, 2017—General Meeting
- January 11, 2017—Board Meeting
- February 8—Board Meeting
- February 11—Oregon’s Birthday Celebration at Lafayette
- February 12—General Meeting
- March 8—Board Meeting
- March 12—General Meeting
- April 8—Farm Fest
- April 9—General Meeting
- April 12—Board Meeting
- May 9—General Meeting
- May 10—Board Meeting
- June 14—Board Meeting
- June 18—Father’s Day at the Heritage Center
- July 12—Board Meeting
- August 9—Board Meeting
- August 19-20—Harvest Fest
- September 10—Vintage Base Ball Game
- September 16—Treasures in the Attic
- October 28—A Night at the Museum Halloween Event
- December 2-3—Handmade Holiday Bazaar

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**VISIT YCHS**

**HISTORIC LAFAYETTE MUSEUM & RESEARCH LIBRARY**
605 Market Street, Lafayette, OR 97127
Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm
Or by appointment (503) 864-2308

**YAMHILL VALLEY HERITAGE CENTER**
11275 SW Durham Ln.
McMinnville, OR 97128
Friday & Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm

**Mailing Address:**
Yamhill County Historical Society
P.O. Box 484
Lafayette, OR 97127

[www.yamhillcountyhistory.org](http://www.yamhillcountyhistory.org)  ♦  Email: info@yamhillcountyhistory.org
[volunteercoordinator@yamhillcountyhistory.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@yamhillcountyhistory.org)  ♦  Facebook Group: [yamhillcountyhistory.org/fb](https://www.facebook.com/yamhillcountyhistory.org)
The annual bazaar was another huge success. This event took place at the Heritage Center on December 3rd and 4th. Jean Sartor was the lucky winner of the raffle quilt which was created by the Gone to Pieces Quilt group. Thank you to all those that attended the event, bought raffle tickets, participated in the silent auction, our vendors selling their wonderful items and to the volunteers who tirelessly made this event possible. THANK YOU for supporting the Yamhill County Historical Society!
Oregon Pioneer Henry Hewitt Concluded

what was left of wagons—mainly running gear and spare parts—on to the Columbia River. Uncomfortable about taking such a long trip with such a small group, the Hewitts decided to wait. The next spring, they became part of the Great Migration of 1843.

Their small company, including Elizabeth's parents, Captain Daniel and Mary (Cooper) Matheny, arrived at the rendezvous point in early May. They were joined there by Applegate, Burnett, Martin and about 1,000 other “souls,” all bound for the Promised Land. Hewitt suggested the group divide into four columns and move across the land side by side. HE felt this would provide the best protection from Indian attacks, and create less dust. However, making four different roads was hard on animals and drivers. When no Indian attacks materialized, they abandoned that idea. We know that group did not stick together in one long line of 100 covered wagons but broke into two or three smaller companies, each having different experiences.

Crossing rivers was accomplished in several ways: some emigrants chained wagons to each other; some attached canoes to the sides of wagons; some, including the Hewitts, covered the bottoms of wagons with buffalo robes, making them into crude boats. Each method was probably tried by someone at each river crossing. Rules of behavior must have varied from column to column; some emigrants complained of constant bickering while others said it was a quiet, easy trip. Hewitt did not mention the name of his captain, so we’re not sure which group he was in. He did mention Grant, the famous mountain man hired to guide the train, and Marcus Whitman, who joined up at the Platt River and was a great help. He also mentioned Sticcus, an Indian guide held in particularly high regard after he got the emigrants though the Blue Mountains.

Try to visualize 100 wagons, 5,000 head of stock and 1,000 emigrants crossing 2,000 miles of roadless wilderness. Every type of behavior in the book was played out during six months on the trail. The trip produced 1,000 stories—each unique and heroic.

Hewitt always wanted to be first, pushing his team to the limit. His wagon was the first to cross the Blue Mountains—at least the first to do it successfully—with supplies, family and vehicles, all intact.

Upon arrival at The Dalles, a decision needed to be made. Which way to go? Daniel Matheny, Henry’s father-in-law, understood rivers and saw the Columbia as a dangerous one. He elected to stow his wagons at The Dalles and follow an Indian guide through the Cascades over an old Indian trail. After battling fog, snow and steep grades, he finally made it to Oregon City, settling in for a rainy winter in a leaky cabin.

Daniel’s daughter reported: “It was a bitter, hardy one for us. We had plenty of money, but there were no stores, and, of course, nothing in a new country to buy.”

“Dr. McLoughlin was not allowed to sell to the emigrants. In spite of that, he was the ‘good angel’ of the early Oregon settlers. He helped them over many a hard place by lending them whatever they needed. All he asked was that they return what they had borrowed when they had it to spare.”

That winter, the Mathenys survived on boiled wheat borrowed from the doctor.

The next year, the Hewitts joined the Mathenys in a move up the Willamette River to a point near Salem. The Mathenys settled where Wheatland now stands and launched a cross-river ferry service. Today, as you read this article, the Daniel Matheny V ferry is carrying traffic across the river.

Hewitt took an active part in the growth of Oregon; serving as a Yamhill County commissioner, attending County and state conventions and raising a fine family. He and his wife had 10 children, including nine boys—all born after the family’s move west. Ann Eliza, the oldest child and the only girl, was just an infant during the journey to Oregon. She later became Mrs. John I. Thornton of Yamhill County. The boys grew up to become farmers, jewelers, builders, doctors and judges.

Judge H.H. Hewitt—probably the most noted of Henry and Elizabeth’s children—served the state and region for many years. A bright child who received intermittent schooling early in life, he graduated from Willamette University in 1870 with an A.B. degree. He went on to teach at McMinnville College, to head public schools in Lafayette, Amity and Scio, and to teach Greek, Latin and Mathematics at the Albany Collegiate Institute. He married Maggie J. Rowland in 1872—the same year he was appointed Superintendent of Schools for Yamhill County.

He was admitted to the bar in 1877. After practicing with H. Bryant and O.H. Irvine, he was elected attorney of the Third Judicial District of the state of Oregon in 1888 and Judge of the same district in 1894.

The Henry Hewitt family spawned hardworking contributors to valley society and the state in general. It is an exciting privilege to learn about these strong families who were tempered by the trail. It’s no wonder Oregon is still noted for its national leadership and dogged individualism.

From Tales From the Past
Pioneer Stores of the Lower Willamette Valley
Written by Jim and Reita Lockett
The Guido Von List Society

Before the wars of the 1990s, the Balkans were a fractious, ethnically diverse region primed to erupt into war at any moment. Bosnia was particularly volatile due to its mixture of nationalities and religions. Furthermore, the centrally-located Bosnia was often the playground of larger powers who were interested in securing Europe's southern flank. After Austria-Hungary's occupation in 1878, the simmering tensions only grew, especially after a cadre of Serbian Army officers known as the Black Hand began funding pro-Serbian and pro-Slav movements throughout southern Europe. One such group was Young Bosnia, a heterogeneous collection of Bosnian Serb, Croat, and Muslim revolutionaries dedicated to an assortment of causes ranging from South Slav unification to Serb nationalism. Inspired by the essays of the Bosnian Serb radical Vladimir Gacinovic and working in conjunction with the Black Hand, Young Bosnia set out to rid Bosnia of Austrian rule. Their most infamous deed came when Young Bosnia member Gavrilo Princip assassinated the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg. While a violent anti-Serb and anti-Bosnian pogrom was the immediate reaction to Princip's crime, his legacy remains a point of pride for some in that turbulent region.

The Guido Von List Society

Founded in 1905, the Guido von List Society included the industrialist Friedrich Wannieck along with Karl Lueger, a notorious anti-Semitic, the leader of the Christian Social Party, and, in 1905, the mayor of Vienna. As society membership continued to increase, the group began to look more like a political movement and came complete with their own symbols (which included the swastika) and gestures (the Guido von List Society greeted each other with the Heil salute). With their avowed interests in ancient German mysticism and the supposed superiority of the Aryan race, the Guido von List Society sowed the seeds of National Socialism and gave the later movement many of its theatrics and symbols.

Young Bosnia

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The Bonnot Gang

Unlike the other organizations on this list, the Bonnot Gang, which terrorized France between 1911 and 1912, straddled the line between a secret society and a fairly straightforward criminal enterprise. Also known as the “Auto Bandits,” the Bonnot Gang became the first group to use a getaway car after their daring robbery of a Societe Generale bank in Paris.

The technological innovations didn't stop there, either. The Bonnot Gang utilized such high-tech weapons as semi-automatic pistols and repeating rifles during their daring robberies. They were named after Jules Bonnot, the so-called “Demon Chauffeur,” who once marched into the offices of La Petit Parisien in order to give a self-serving interview.

While other gangs committed crimes for pure profit, the Bonnot Gang, like the later Galleoneers, were driven by the philosophy of Illegalism. By the spring of 1912, after numerous gun battles that often involved the French Army, most of the members of the Bonnot Gang were either dead or in jail. Although their brand of illegalist anarchism found few adherents after their downfall, the gang is rumored to have inspired Les Vampires, an early silent film series that featured a shadowy criminal society known simply as The Vampires.

Young Bosnia

Before the Nazis came to power in Germany, Imperial Austria was ground zero for the strange confluence of racial nationalism, occultism, and anti-Semitism. One such practitioner of this demonic trifecta was Guido von List, a Vienna-born journalist, poet, and occultist who specifically focused on the study of runes, or the alphabet used by the Germanic peoples of pre-Christian Europe.

Despite the fact that List was something of a mystical charlatan who had given himself the aristocratic title of “von,” his brand of esoteric Austro-German nationalism (which is commonly called Ariosophy), was immediately lapped up by many of Vienna's elites. Founded in 1905, the Guido von List Society included the industrialist Friedrich Wannieck along with Karl Lueger, a notorious anti-Semite, the leader of the Christian Social Party, and, in 1905, the mayor of Vienna.

A society membership continued to increase, the group began to look more like a political movement and came complete with their own symbols (which included the swastika) and gestures (the Guido von List Society greeted each other with the Heil salute). With their avowed interests in ancient German mysticism and the supposed superiority of the Aryan race, the Guido von List Society sowed the seeds of National Socialism and gave the later movement many of its theatrics and symbols.
Having a Ball: The history behind American New Year’s Eve celebrations

In cities around the world, from Sydney to Amsterdam, the first seconds of the new year are marked by fireworks. But dropping a ball on New Year’s Eve is a wholly American tradition to count down the last fleeting moments.

The first ball dropped at midnight on New Year’s Eve remains the most famous: the one on top of One Times Square in New York City.

With the creation of standard time, time balls were invented so that sailors could adjust their chronometers, or timepieces, while at sea. With a telescope, they could scope the harbor and watch for a time ball to drop at a specific time, usually noon or 1p.m. The first time ball was installed in 1829 in Portsmouth, England. The U.S. Naval Observatory followed suit and began dropping a time ball in 1845 in Washington’s Foggy Bottom neighborhood. Soon many port towns and cities adopted the practice.

It was one of these time balls that became the inspiration for Walter Palmer, The New York Times’ chief electrician, who reimagined the maritime timekeeping ritual as a unique finale to the city’s end-of-the-year party.

In 1904, New York City’s New Year’s Eve celebrations moved up to the New York Times building at 46th St and Broadway. Crowds had previously gathered at Trinity Church in downtown Manhattan, near Wall Street, to hear the bells ring at midnight. In lieu of chimes, The New York Times company produced a midnight fireworks spectacle to lure more New Yorkers north. That proved effective but also disastrous when hot ashes, the remnants of the fireworks, rained down onto the streets.

When the New York Police Department banned fireworks, New York Times publisher and owner Adolph Ochs approached Palmer to find a new light display. He sought to combine the time ball tradition with electricity for an unforgettable welcome to 1908.

Upon Palmer’s design, Ochs commissioned the Artkraft Strauss sign company to create a 700-pound ball made of iron and wood with 100 25-watt light bulbs attached to its surface. At midnight, the ball descended down the repurposed mainmast of the battleship USS New Mexico, with a system of pulleys.

The ball was redesigned as new technology and materials became available, Jeffrey Straus noted. As president of Countdown Entertainment and executive producer for New Year’s Eve celebrations in Time Square, Straus organizes television and Web broadcasts of Times Square. Over the decades, aluminum has replaced iron and halogen lamps and then light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, replaced incandescent bulbs. Some balls have had rhinestones, strobe lights or rotating pyramid mirrors. Computer controls were added in 1995.

What distinguishes the current ball from earlier predecessors is the multitude of lights and crystals. At 11,875 pounds and 12 feet in diameter, the Big Ball has 2,688 Waterford Crystals that refracts the light of 32,256 Philips LEDs.

The crystals were all replaced with a new design in 2013 with a pattern called “The Gift of Imagination.” Though few see the ball up close, the crystals were carefully crafted with a special meaning for each year.

Technology may have changed since that first drop, but the resulting spectacle has not. At 11:59p.m. on December 31, the Times Square Ball will start to descend 70 feet. As it comes halfway below the numerals of the New Year, the ball will go dark, the numbers will light up and the new year will dawn in New York.

Written by Ellen Rolfes
And found on www.pbs.org http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/having-a-ball-the-history-behind-american-new-years-eve-celebrations/

Yamhill County Historical Society is hosting the McMinnville Area Chamber’s monthly Women in Business event on Tuesday, January 17, from 5:15—6:30 at the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center. The Chamber event’s purpose is to provide a networking opportunity for women, and we are pleased to have them visit the Heritage Center. To tie in with the YCHS’ mission to educate, preserve and share history of Yamhill County, we will be presenting a short presentation on “Life on the Trail, a glimpse of pioneer women on the Oregon Trail and how their strength endures.” If you would like to attend, please RSVP to

Pam Watts
at (503) 434-0490 or pwatts@onlinemac.com

Hosting Chamber Women in Business

This Month in History

1 January 1, 1776, During the American Revolution, George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first flag in America.

2 January 10, 1912, The first flying boat airplane, invented by Glenn Curtiss, made its first flight at Hammondport, New York.

3 January 24, 1848, The California gold rush began with the accidental discovery of the precious metal near Coloma during construction of a Sutter's sawmill. An announcement by President Polk later in the year caused a national sensation and resulted in a flood of “Forty-niners” seeking wealth.
10 Secret Societies Concluded

3 Thuggees

Amid the Sanskrit word meaning “concealment,” the Thuggees of India gave English the word “thug” as a way to describe an unsavory character. For their part, the Thuggees were far worse than any common street criminal or antisocial pest. Often posing as traveling pilgrims, packs of Thuggees would prey on fellow travelers all throughout the Indian subcontinent. After years of hearing fearful reports about missing villagers, family members, and friends, British administrators in the early 19th century began to finally realize that there was a murderous cult at work throughout the centerpiece of the British Empire.

It was at this time that they began finding mass graves all across the country. Worse still, each mass grave mirrored the other, with the bodies prepared and buried all in the same manner. Unlike the highwaymen of Europe, who killed for monetary gain, the Thuggees were religious zealots who ritualistically slaughtered their victims as sacrifices for Kali, the Hindu goddess of destruction. Because they did not want to spill blood, the Thuggees used a yellow sash known as a rumal to strangle their victims. The Thuggees were only stopped by a concerted effort led by Lord William Bentinck, the governor general of India, who helped to put thousands of these cult killers in jail.

2 The Eleusinian Mysteries

According to ancient historians, the Sacred Way—which ran from Athens to the holy city of Eleusis—was the best maintained road in all of Greece. The reason? The Sacred Way was the route taken annually by the participants in the Eleusinian Mysteries, a religious celebration and initiation ceremony that symbolically retold the story of Demeter and the abduction of her daughter Persephone by the god Hades.

Very little is known about the actual celebrations, for those participants who spoke about the secretive ceremonies were frequently killed by fellow initiates. Although commonly perceived today as an ancient orgy fueled by psychotropics (such as the concoction known as kykeon), the Eleusinian Mysteries lasted almost 2,000 years in the Greco-Roman world and may have represented the greatest expression of Ancient Greek religion.

1 The Cathars

Named after the Sanskrit word meaning “concealment,” the Thuggees of India gave English the word “thug” as a way to describe an unsavory character. For their part, the Thuggees were far worse than any common street criminal or antisocial pest. Often posing as traveling pilgrims, packs of Thuggees would prey on fellow travelers all throughout the Indian subcontinent. After years of hearing fearful reports about missing villagers, family members, and friends, British administrators in the early 19th century began to finally realize that there was a murderous cult at work throughout the centerpiece of the British Empire.

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During the 13th century, the Albigensian Crusade, led by Pope Innocent III, attempted to wipe out a heretical sect of Christians living in the mountains of southern France. These heretics were the Cathars, who were Gnostic adherents to the notion of Dualism, or the idea that there is both a good god and an evil god.

Inspired by other heretical movements such as Bogomilism and Manichaeanism, the Cathars rejected the bureaucracy of the Roman Catholic Church and refused to worship in temples or cathedrals. The Cathars also believed that men and women were equal in Cathar communities, women often held important religious positions. The Albigensian Crusade, however, successfully expunged the Cathars and their beliefs from Christendom. By 1229, the remaining Cathars had either been converted by the Inquisition or had been driven underground by a crusading army who fought with the same zeal against other Christians as they did against Muslims. Many centuries later, the Cathars became a favorite topic among conspiracy theorists who believed that they had possessed the Holy Grail.

Written by Benjamin Welton
And found on www.listverse.com
http://listverse.com/2015/03/14/10-secret-societies-who-influenced-history/?utm_source=more&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=n=default
2017 Membership Dues Renewal Notice

Dear Members,

THANK YOU for being a Yamhill County Historical Society member! Your contribution to the Society goes directly towards our activities, events, educational programs, building improvements and daily operations, all of which greatly benefit our community. We ask for your membership in the YCHS so we may continue with the valuable activities and events to increase and support our existing membership, and to foster potential visitors and new membership in our community.

Thank you for your continued support of the YCHS. You are important to us! It’s members like you that make all the difference.

RETURN THIS ENTIRE FORM WITH YOUR REMITTANCE

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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.

The membership year runs from January 1 (or date of new membership) to December 31.

Dues for 2017

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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
FOUNDED: Yamhill County Historical Society was founded in 1957 to encourage an appreciation and understanding of the events, customs, and traditions of the Yamhill County community by protecting, preserving and sharing its history and heritage. The society operates and maintains museums, historical properties and research facilities, advocates for preservation, and presents educational and public services in accordance with its mission.

COLLECTIONS: Yamhill County Historical Society’s collections include genealogical materials, letters and documents from the late 18th century on, documents from schools, businesses, and other community organizations, and well over 5,000 photographic images. The Lafayette Museum and Heritage Center collections include furnishings, household artifacts, tools, agricultural and manufacturing equipment, dairy, logging and other transportation vehicles, a steam engine, quilts, textiles, historically significant landscaping showcasing native plants and other items that illustrate the history of Yamhill County.

FACILITIES: YCHS operates two facilities: a museum and research library, and the Heritage Center. The Lafayette Museum and Research Library contains the historic Poling Church and log cabin which house an exhibit hall and research facility. The Heritage Center includes a one-room schoolhouse, exhibit hall, activities building, blacksmith shop, sawmill, space for educational programs, meeting and event spaces. Both locations are open year-round on a regular schedule.